

# Lewis Acid-Controlled Regioselective Phosphorylation of 2-Indolylmethanols with Diarylphosphine Oxides: Synthesis of Highly Substituted Indoles

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

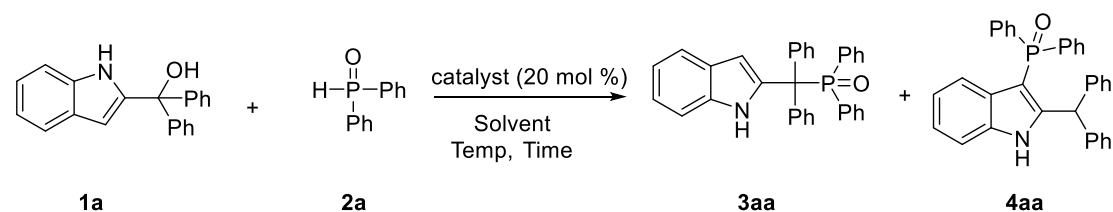
### Contents

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION .....	S2
1.1 Optimization of the Reaction Conditions.....	S2
1.2 Mechanistic Probes.....	S2
1.3 Crossover Experiment and LCMS Spectra .....	S3
Copies of <sup>1</sup> H NMR, <sup>13</sup> C NMR, <sup>19</sup> F NMR and <sup>31</sup> P NMR .....	S6
Crystallographic Data for Compounds <b>3la</b> and <b>4ag</b> .....	S95

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### 1.1 Optimization of the Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>

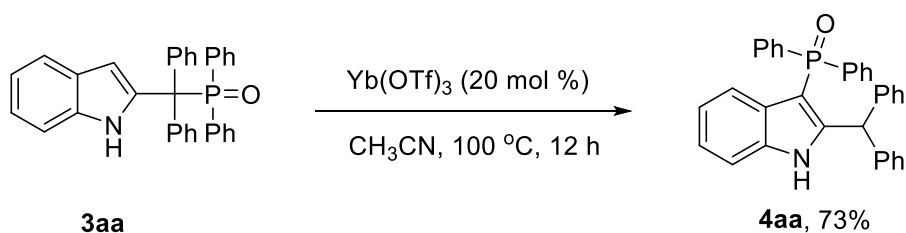
Table S1. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions.



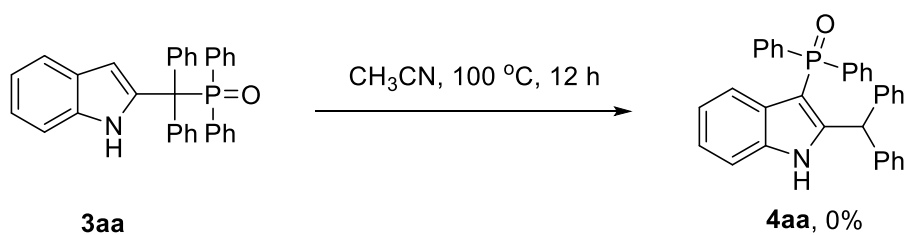
Entry	Catalyst (20 mol %)	Solvent	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	DCE	100	12	72/0
2	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	DCM	100	12	69/trace
3	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	100	12	84/0
4	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	100	12	53/0
5	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	DMF	100	12	69/trace
6	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	120	12	79/trace
7	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	80	12	62/trace
8	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	16	80/trace
9	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	8	83/trace
10	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub> (10)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	12	76/trace
11	Y(Pfb) <sub>3</sub> (30)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	12	88/trace
12	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	DCE	100	12	0/63
13	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	DCM	100	12	0/32
14	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	100	12	0/40
15	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	100	12	Trace/43
16	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	DMF	100	12	Trace/47
17	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	120	12	0/73
18	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	80	12	0/69
19	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	16	0/76
20	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	8	Trace/70
21	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (10)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	12	Trace/55
22	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (30)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	12	0/74

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.375 mmol), catalyst (20 mol %), CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL) at indicated temperature for indicated time, under air.

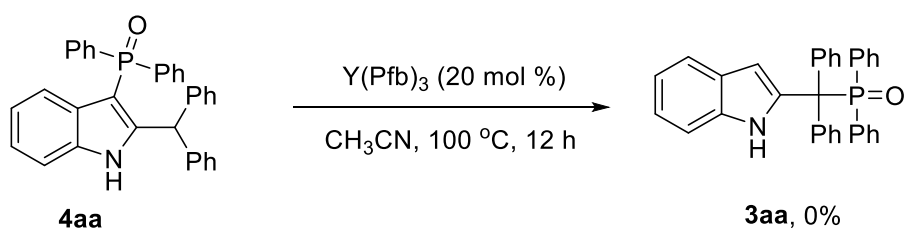
### 1.2 Mechanistic Probes



((1H-indol-2-yl)diphenylmethyl)diphenylphosphine oxide **3aa** (120.89 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1 equiv.), Yb(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (31.01 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.2 equiv), dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL) and a stir bar were added to a sealed tube. After being stirred at 100 °C for 12 h, the mixture was evaporated under vacuum. The corresponding product **4aa** was isolated by silica gel column chromatography with a dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (10/1) mixture as eluent to afford **4aa** (352.99 mg) in 73% yield.

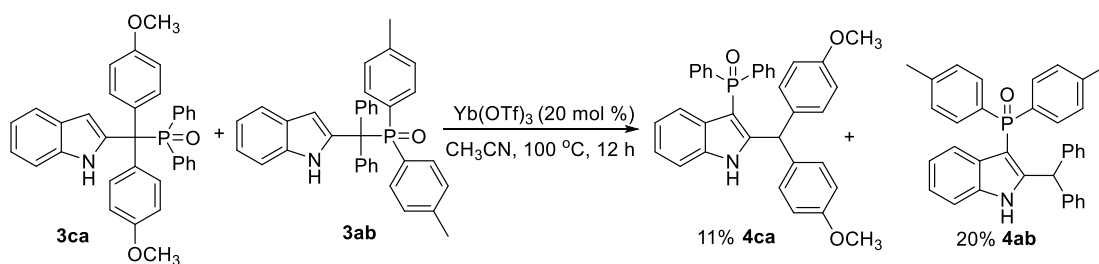


The same procedure was followed using **3aa** without adding Yb(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (31.01 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), no desired product **4aa** was detected.



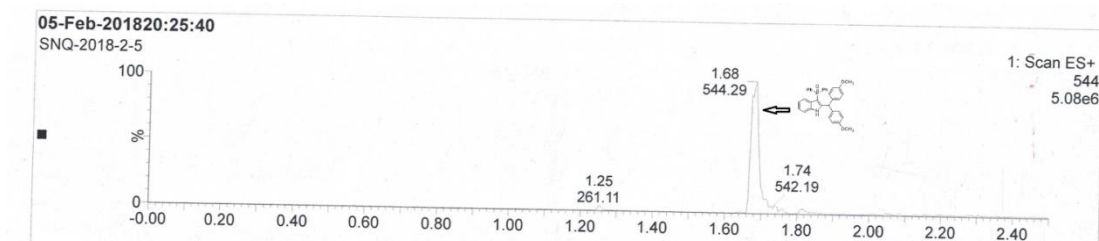
The same procedure was followed using **4aa** with adding Y(Pfb)<sub>3</sub> (36.10 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), no desired product **3aa** was detected.

### 1.3 Crossover Experiment and LCMS Spectra

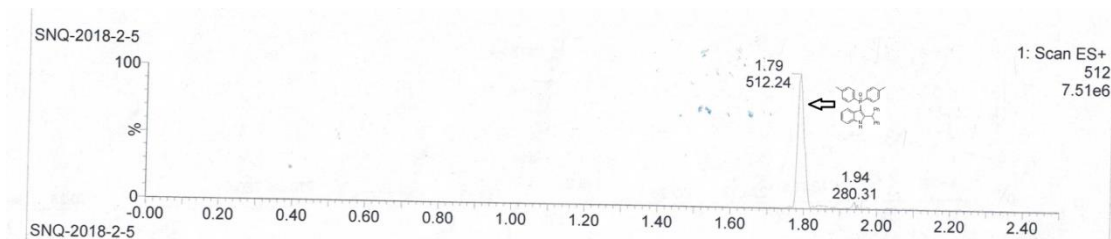


**3ca** (543.60 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), **3ab** (511.60 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), dry  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (2 mL),  $\text{Yb}(\text{OTf})_3$  (31.01 mg, 0.05 mmol, 20 mol %) and a stir bar were added to a sealed tube. After being stirred at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h, the mixture was evaporated under vacuum. The rearranged products **4ca** (59.80 mg, 11% yield) and **4ab** (102.3 mg, 20% yield) were isolated by silica gel column chromatography with a dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (100/1 to 10/1) mixture as eluent. No crossover products were observed by LCMS. (See below)

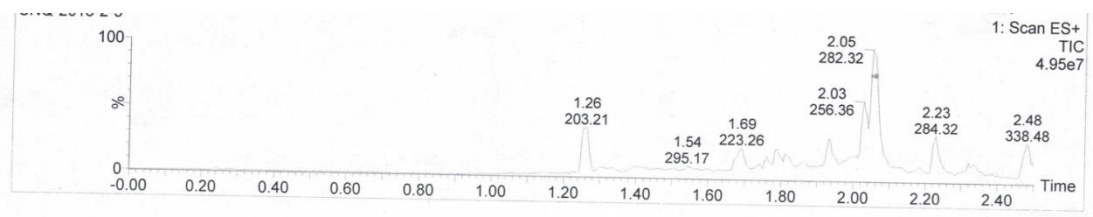
(a)



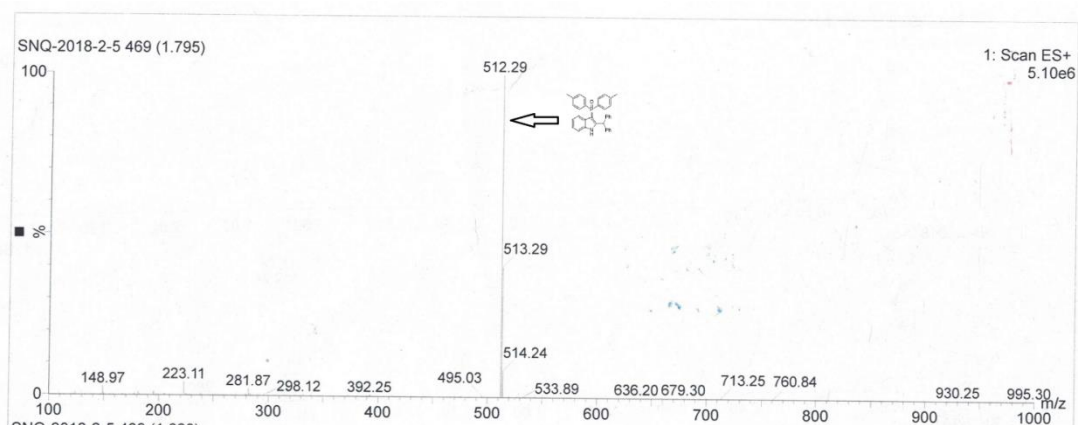
(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

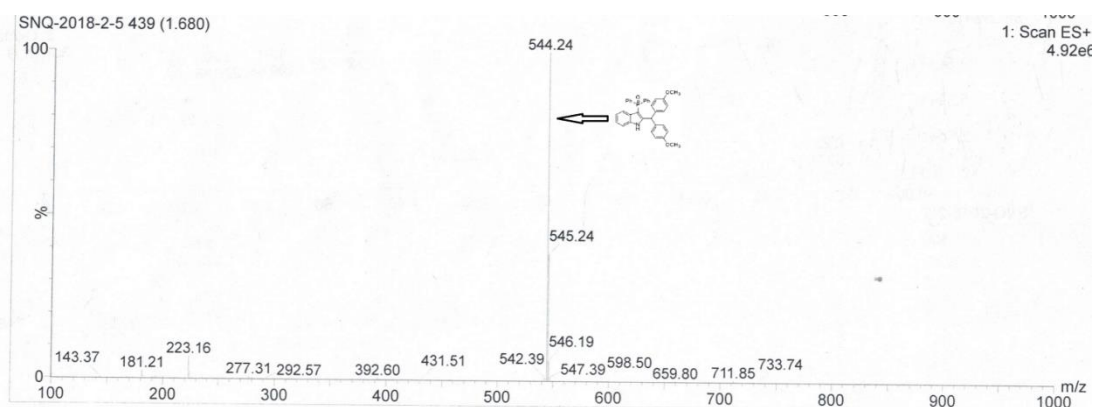
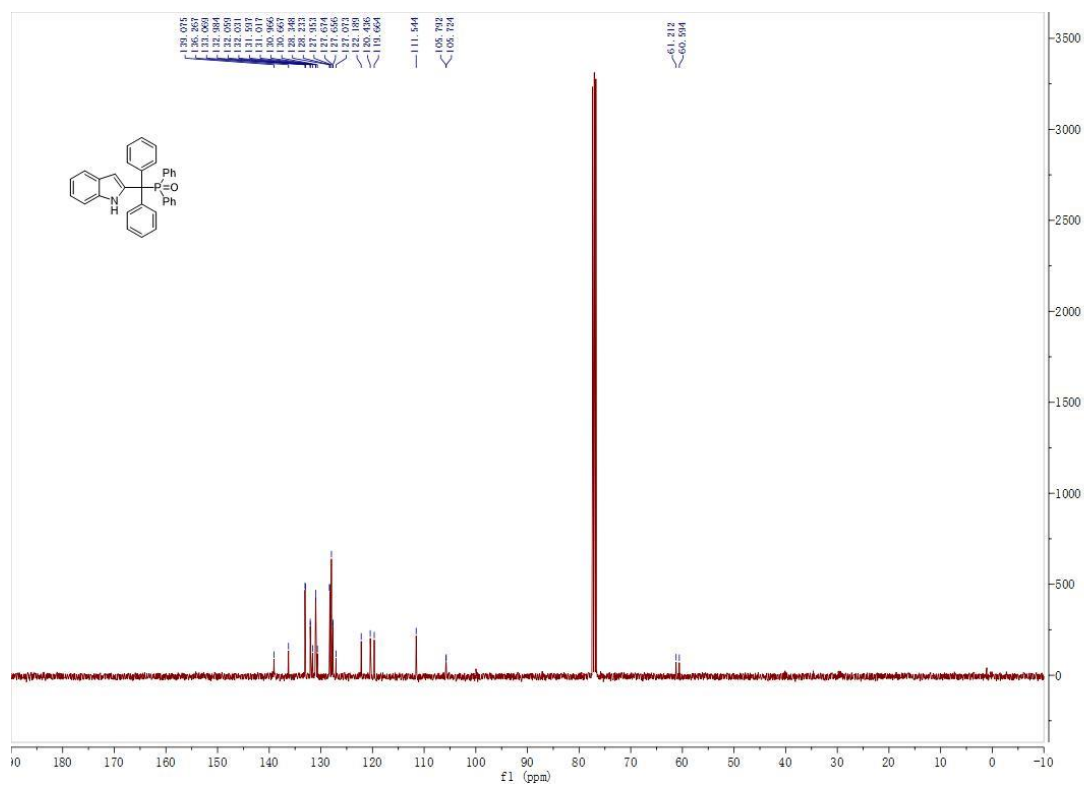
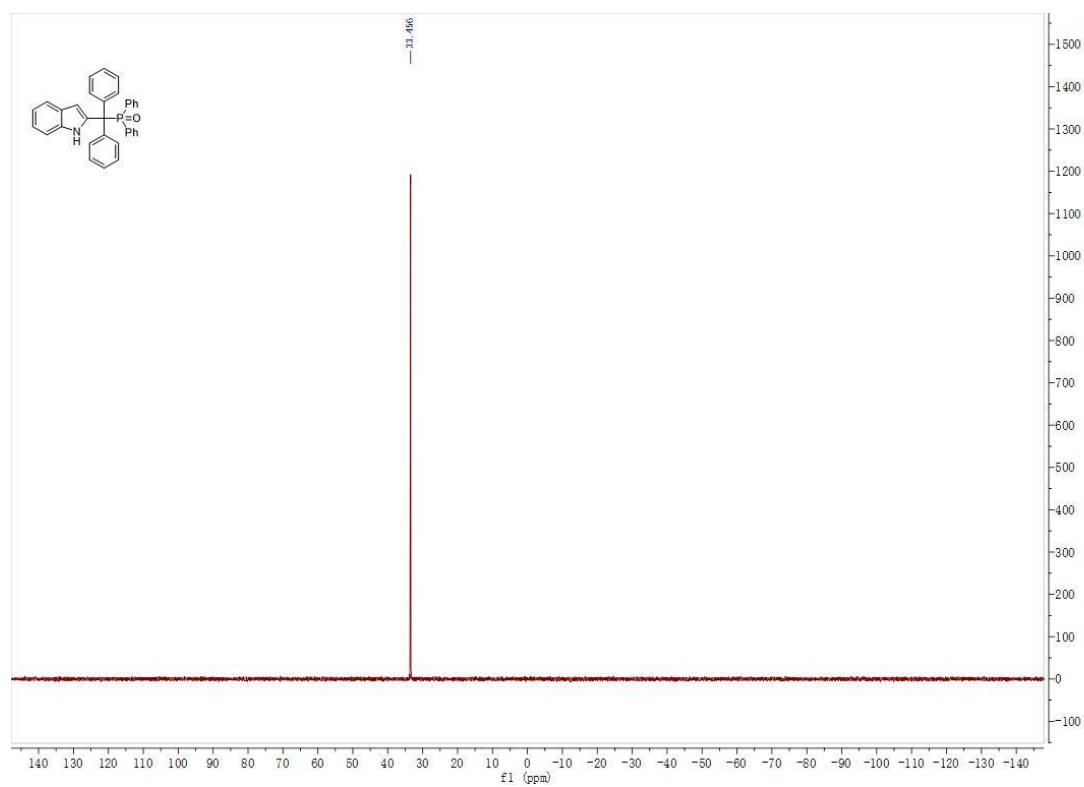


Figure S1. (a) Retention time of **4ca**. (b) Retention time of **4ab**. (c) Reaction LCMS (d) MS of **4ab**. (e)

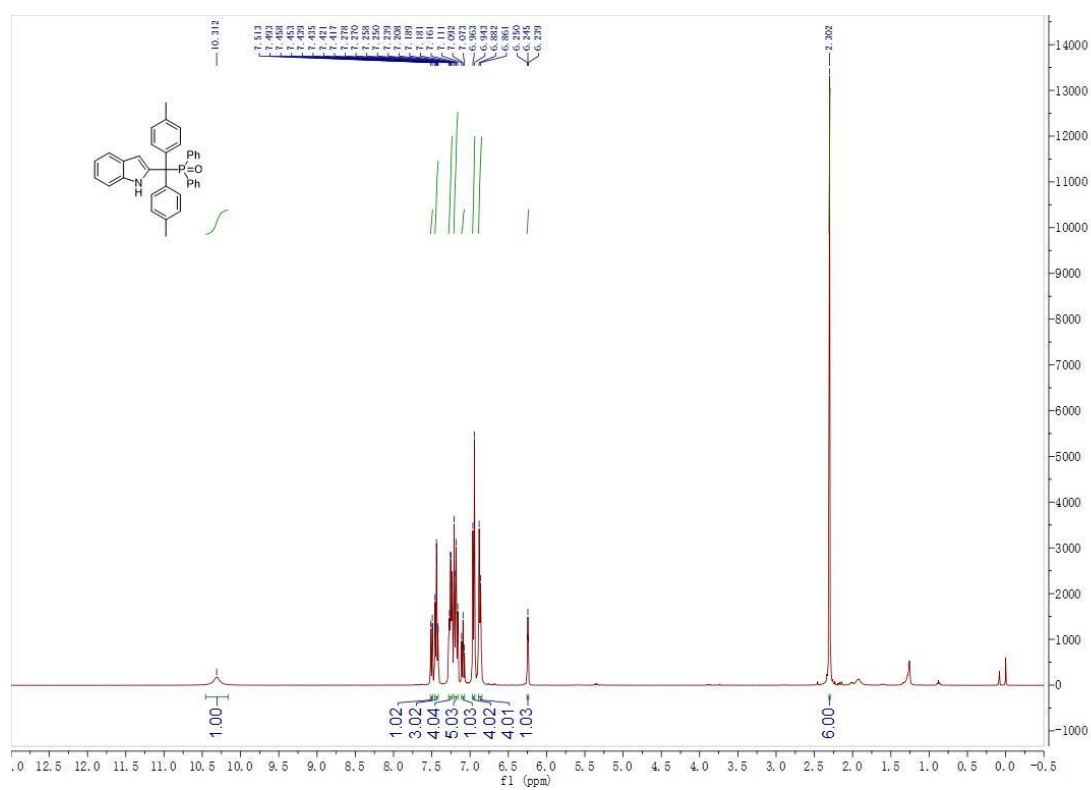
MS of **4ca**.

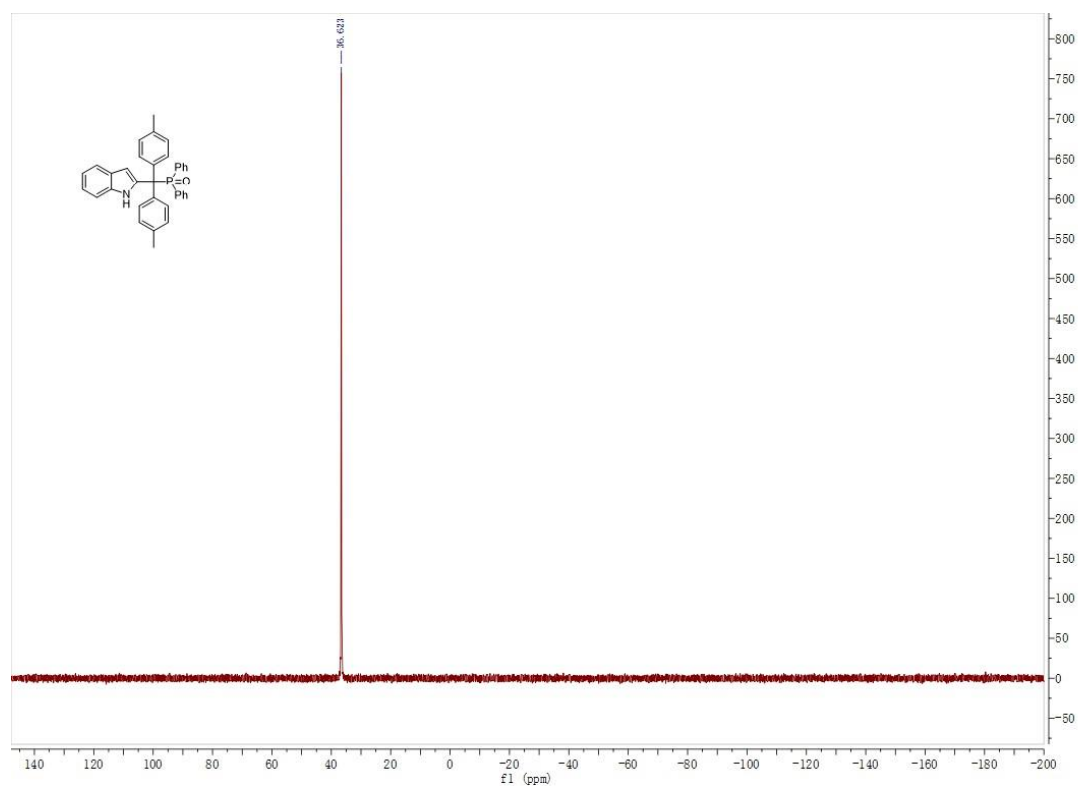
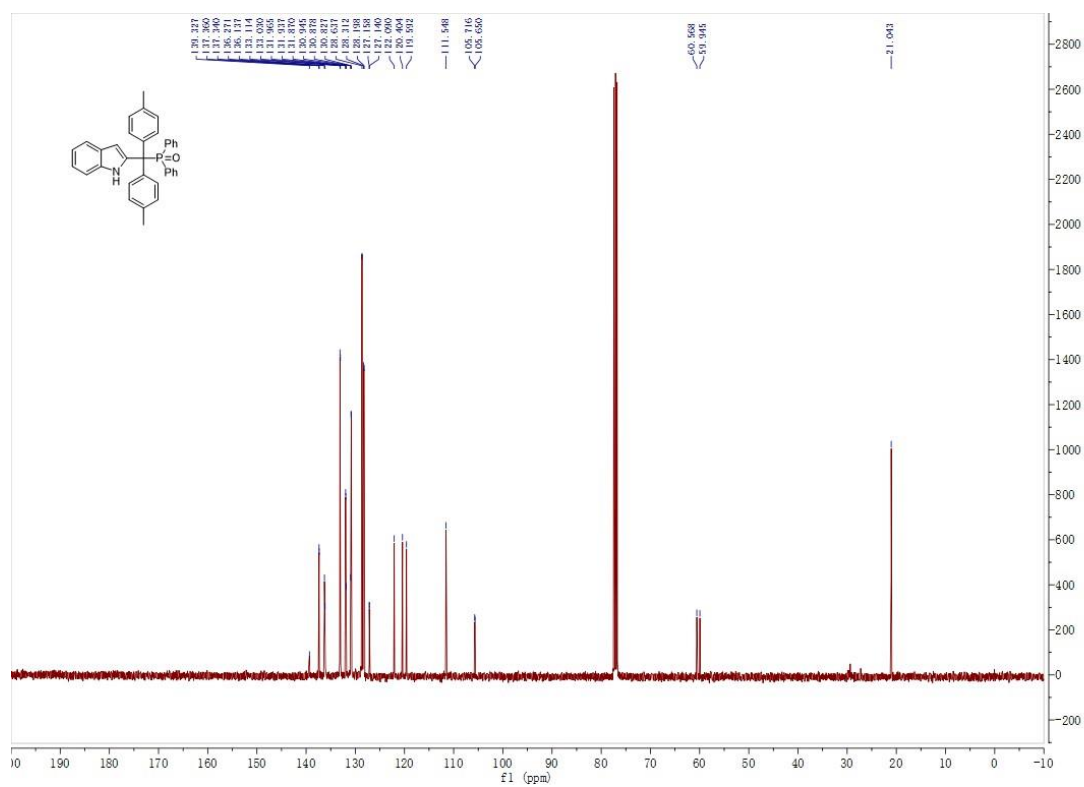
**3aa**





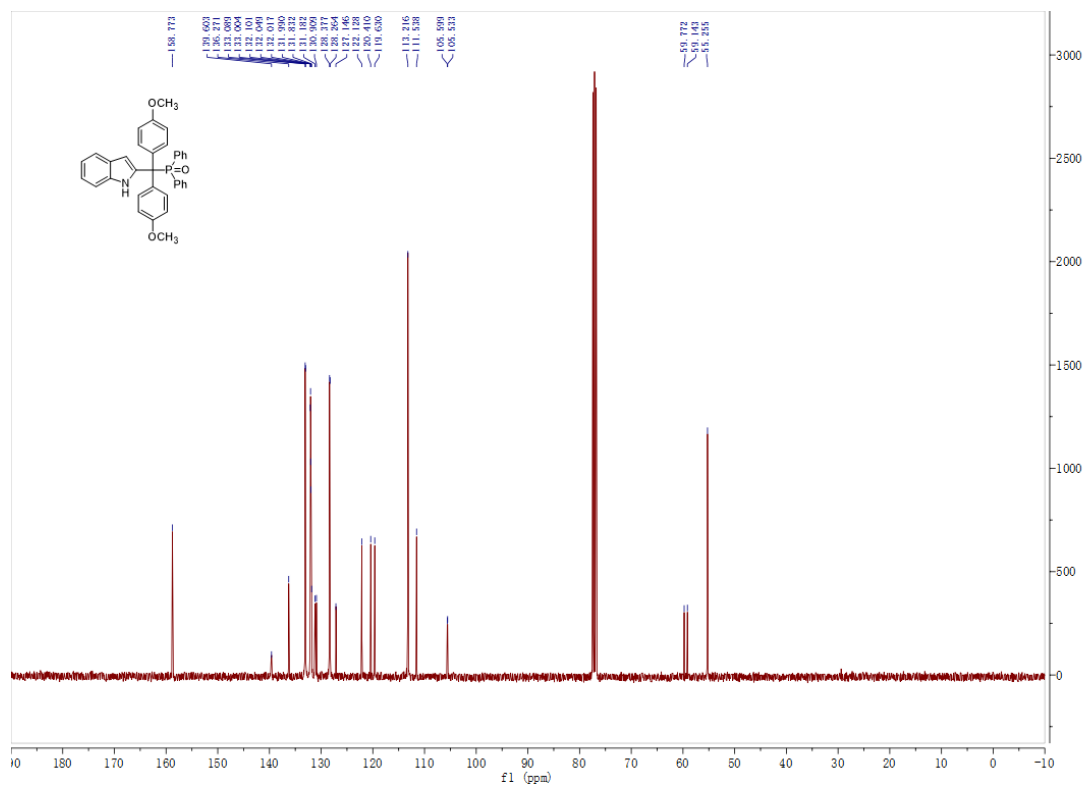
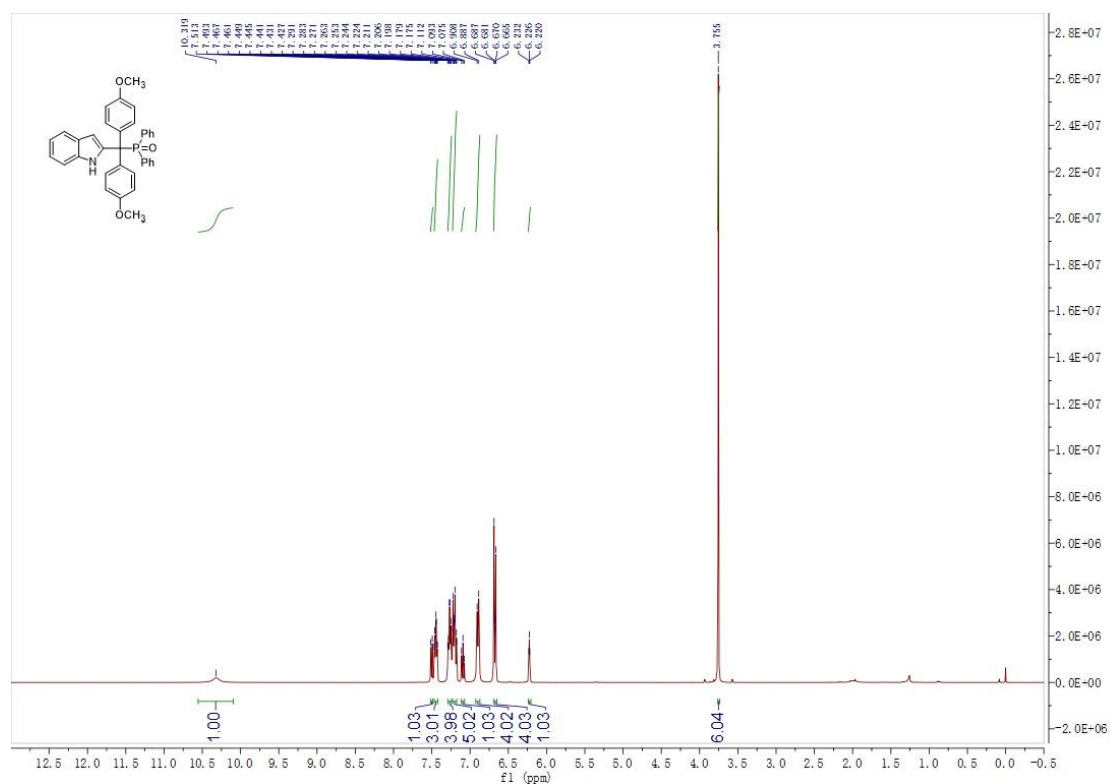
**3ba**

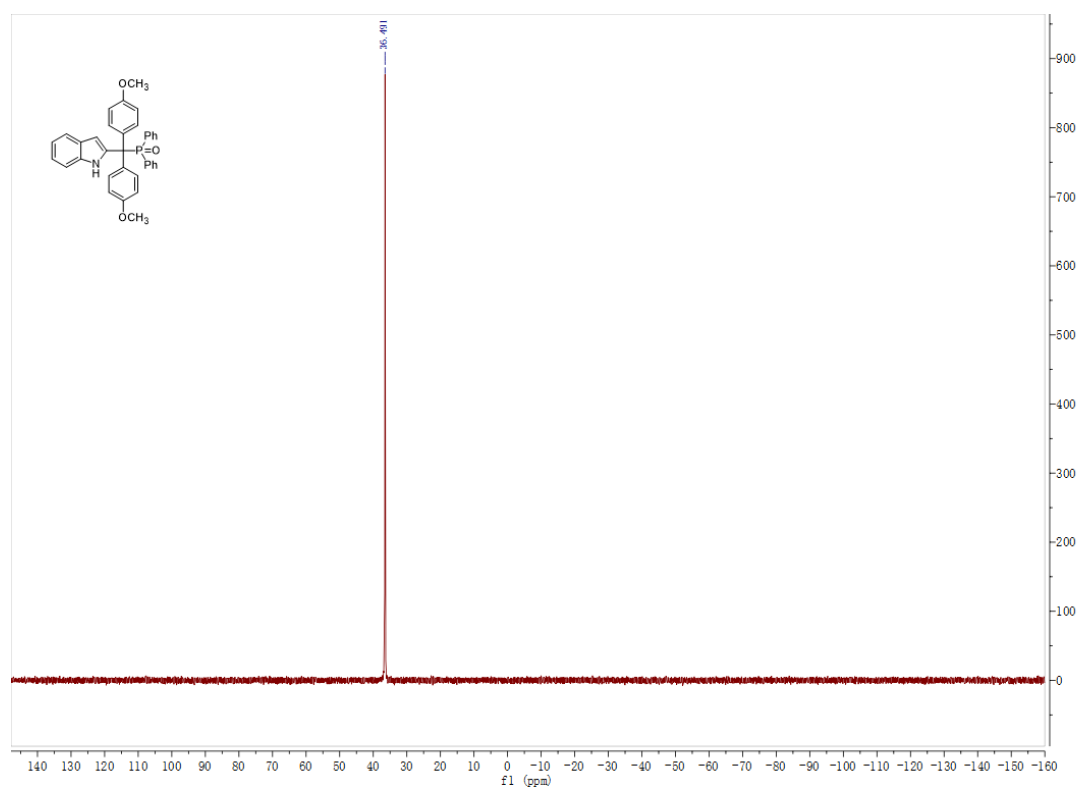




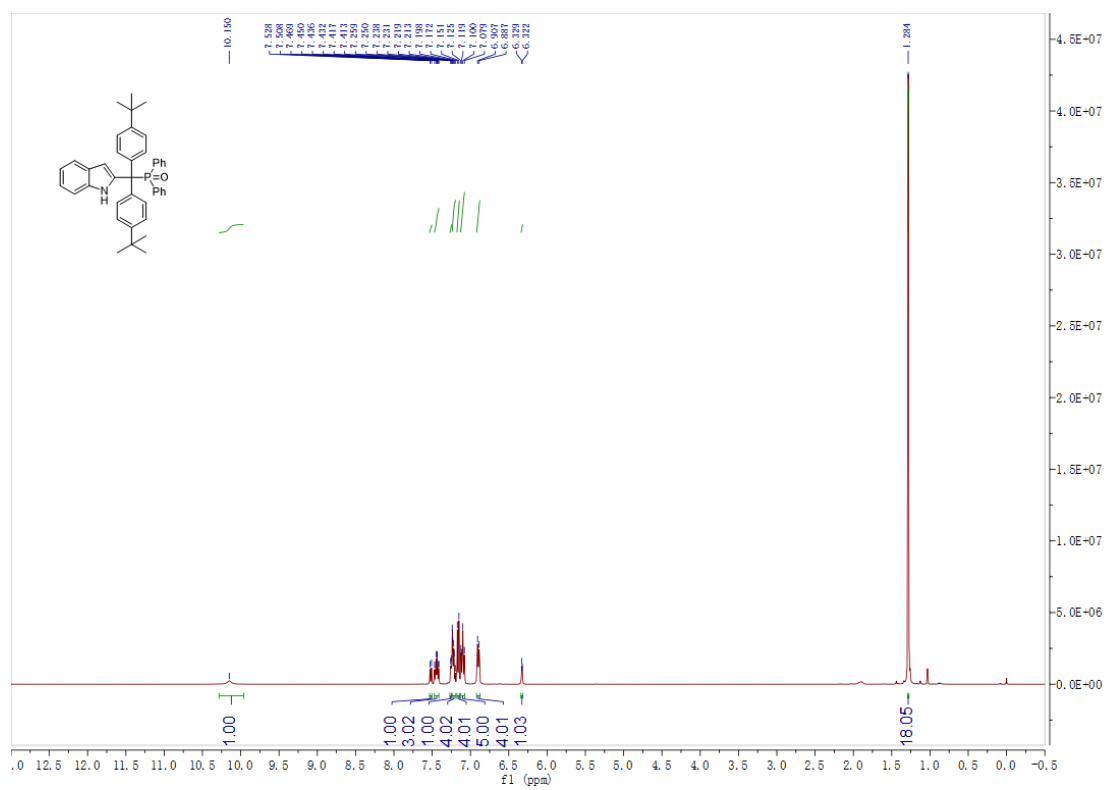
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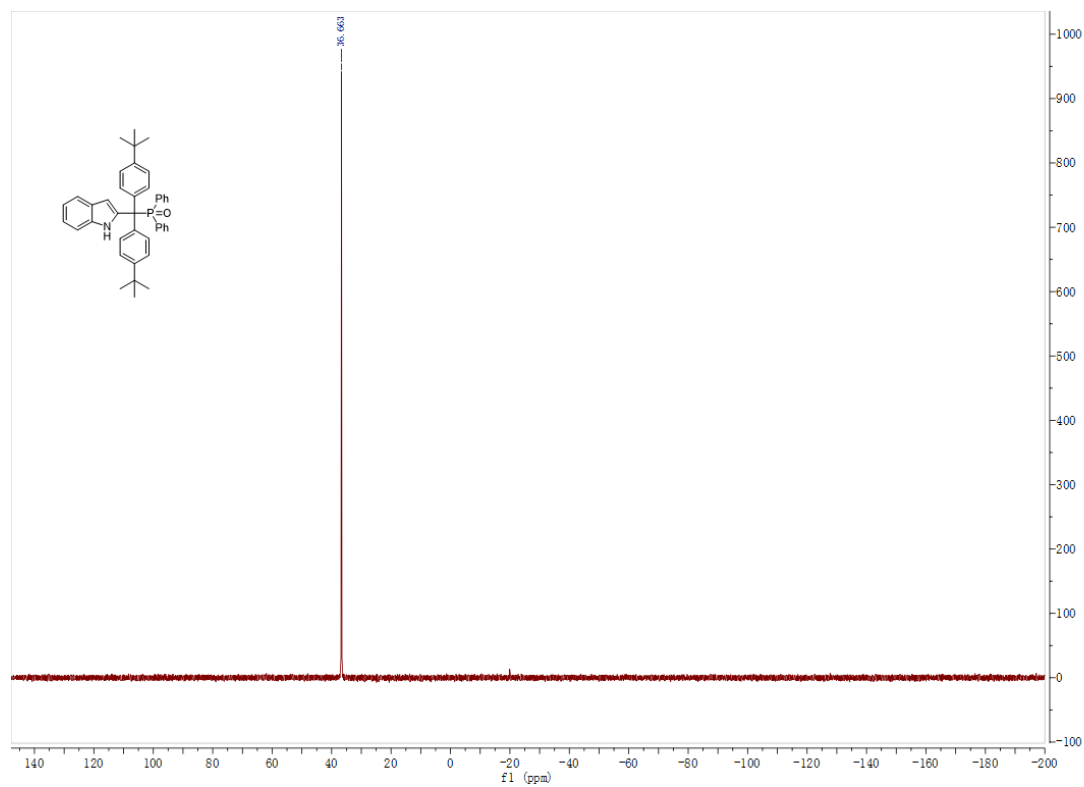
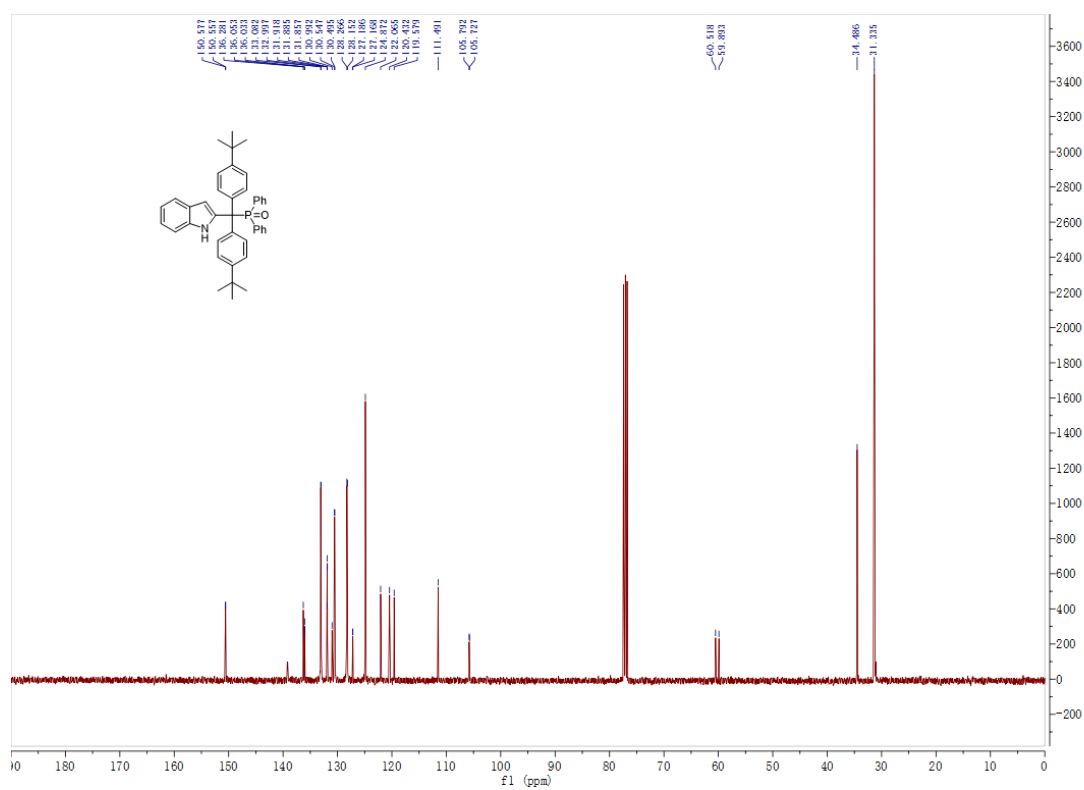




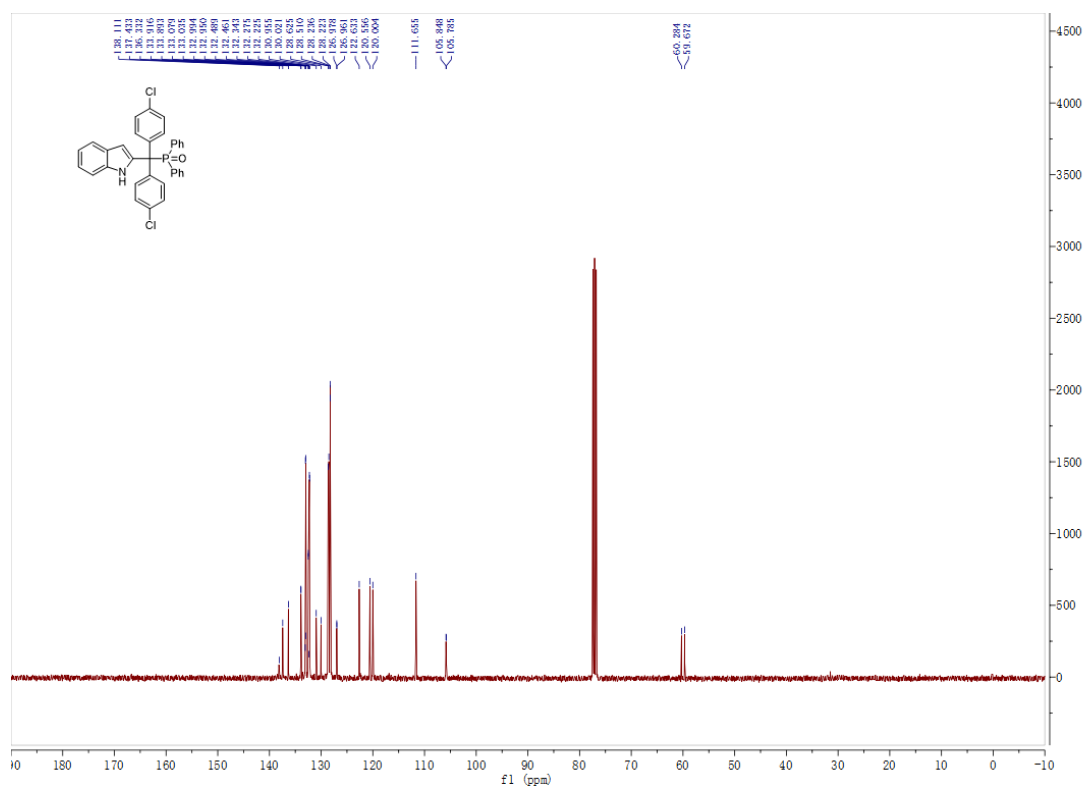
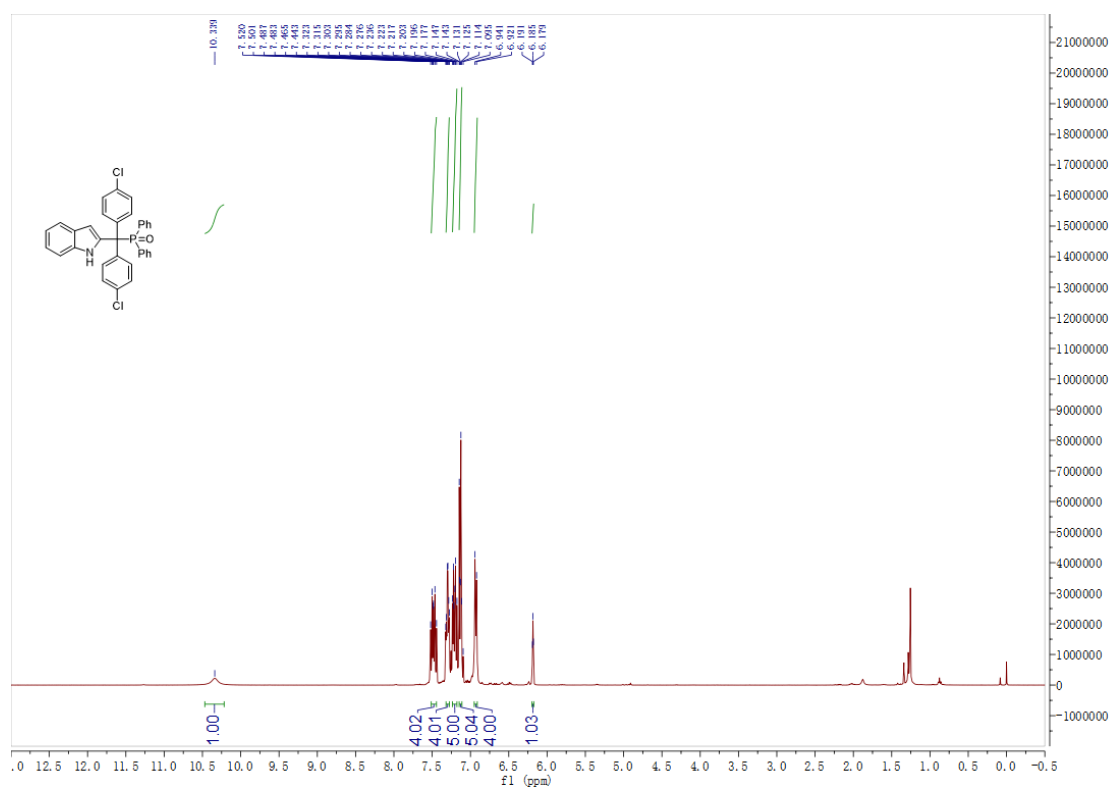


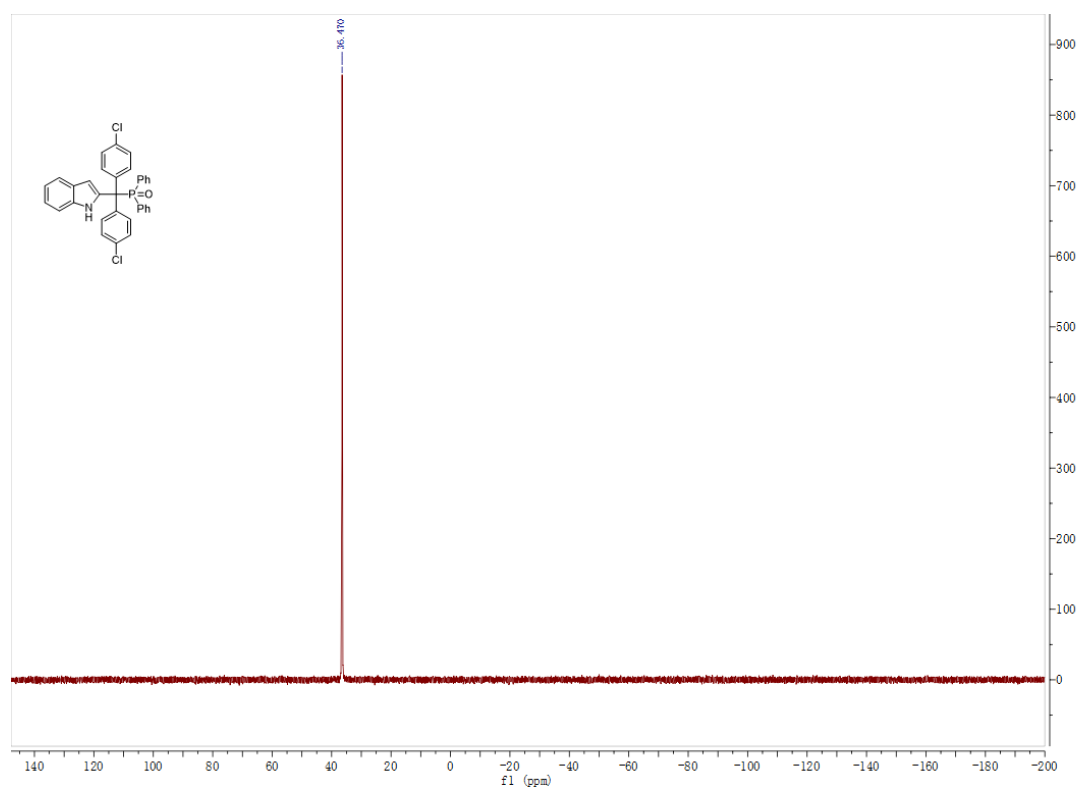
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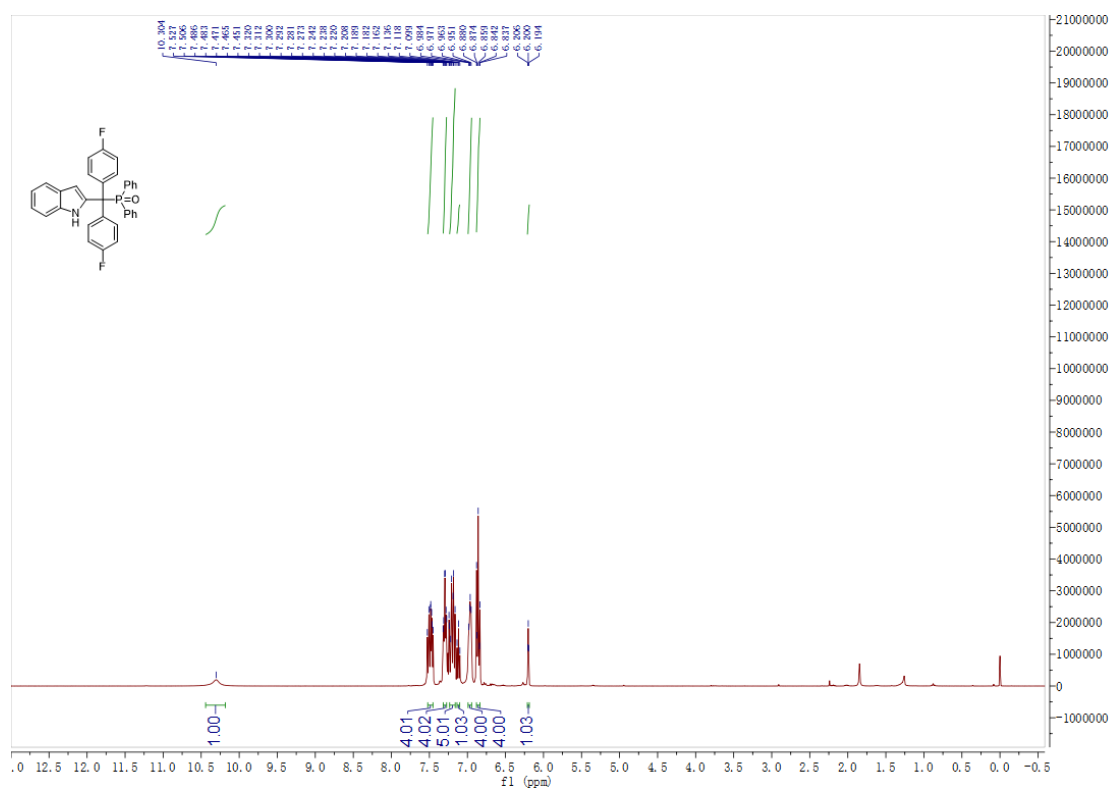


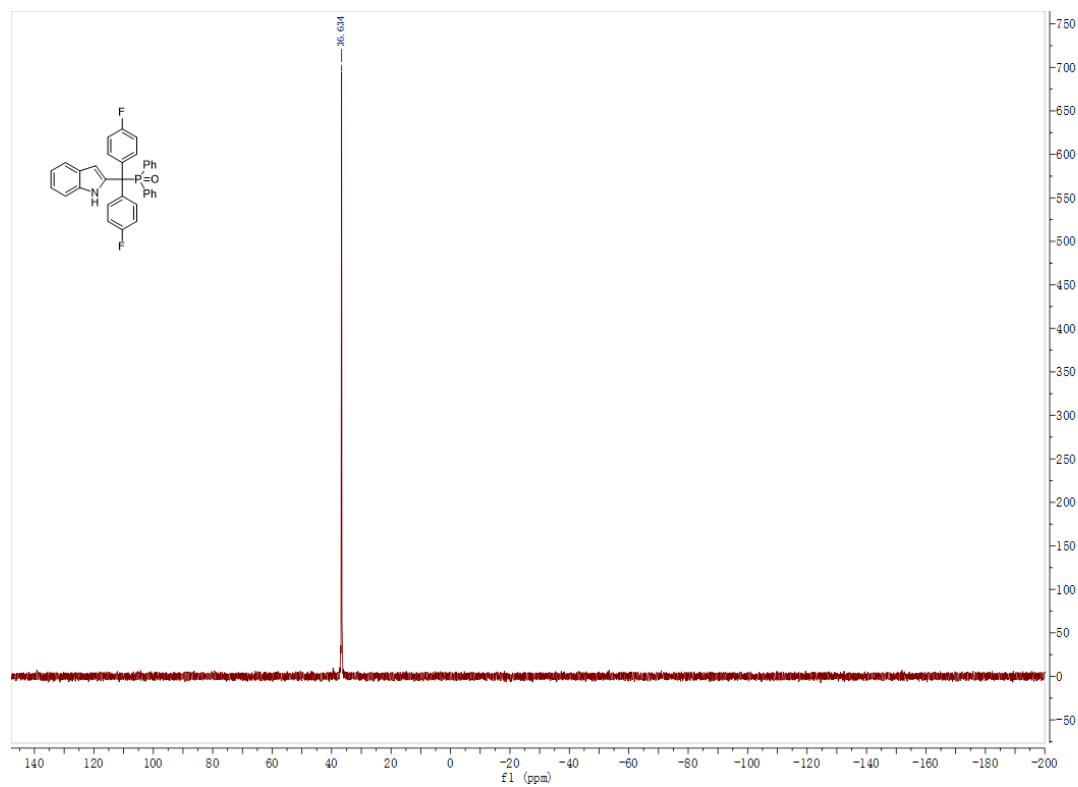
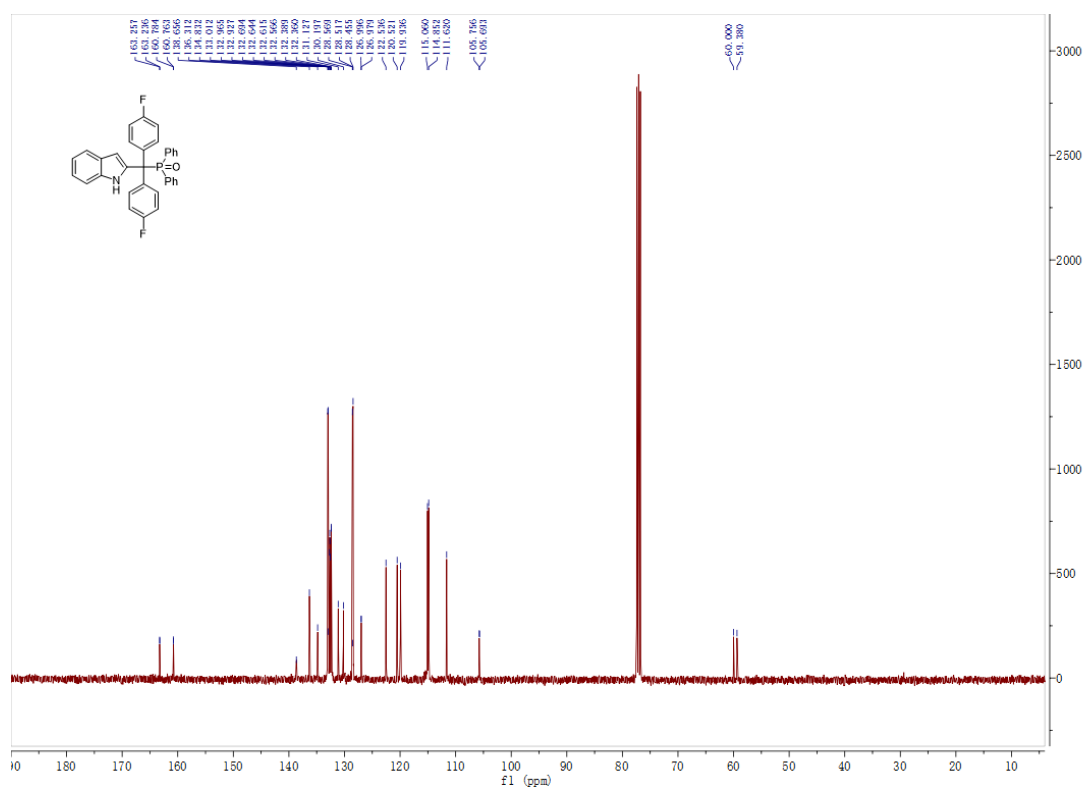
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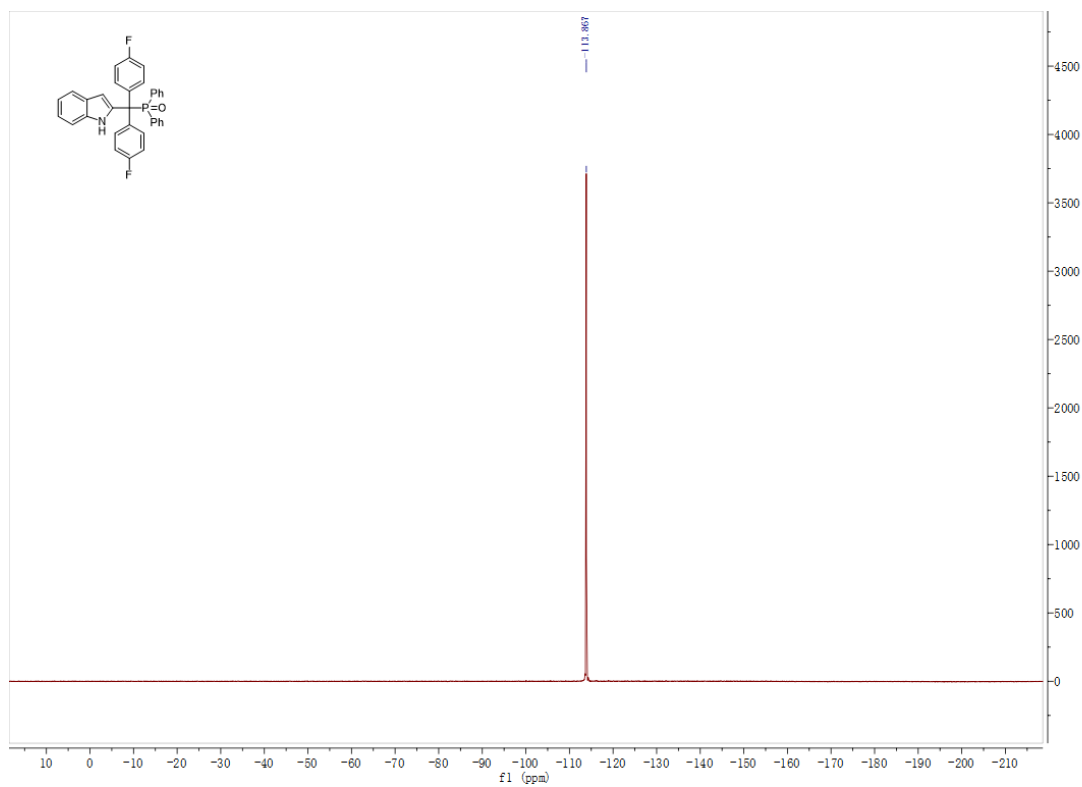




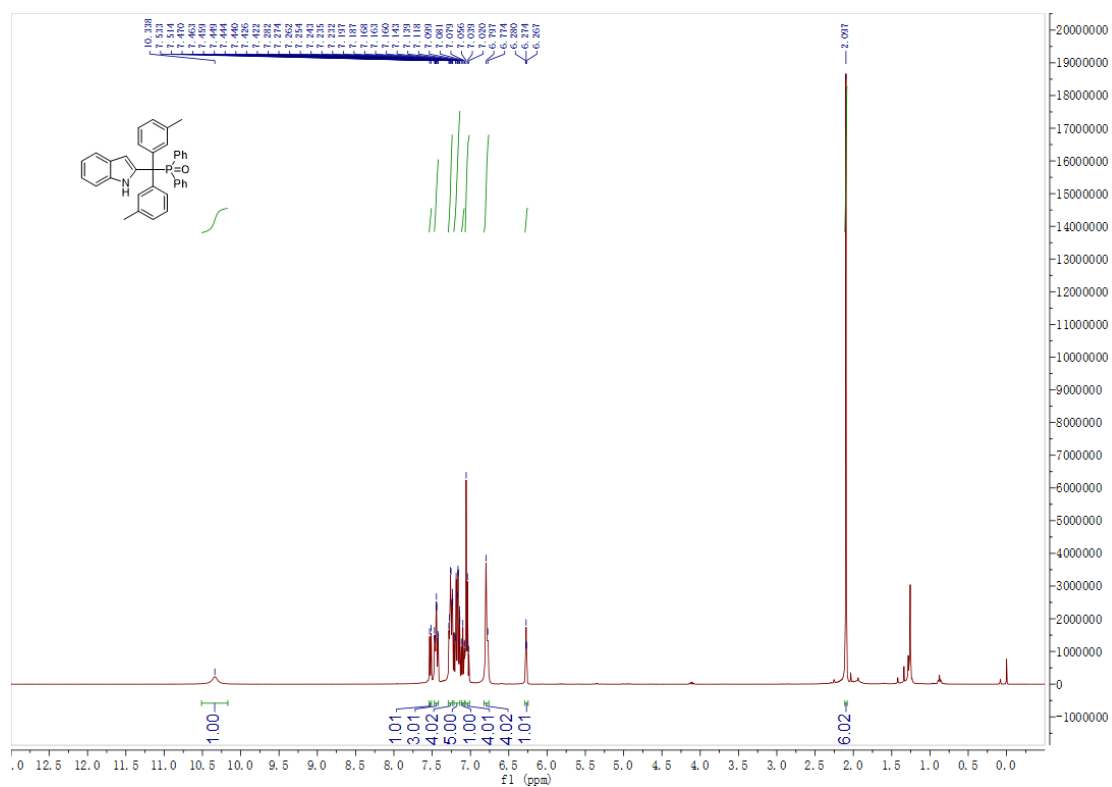
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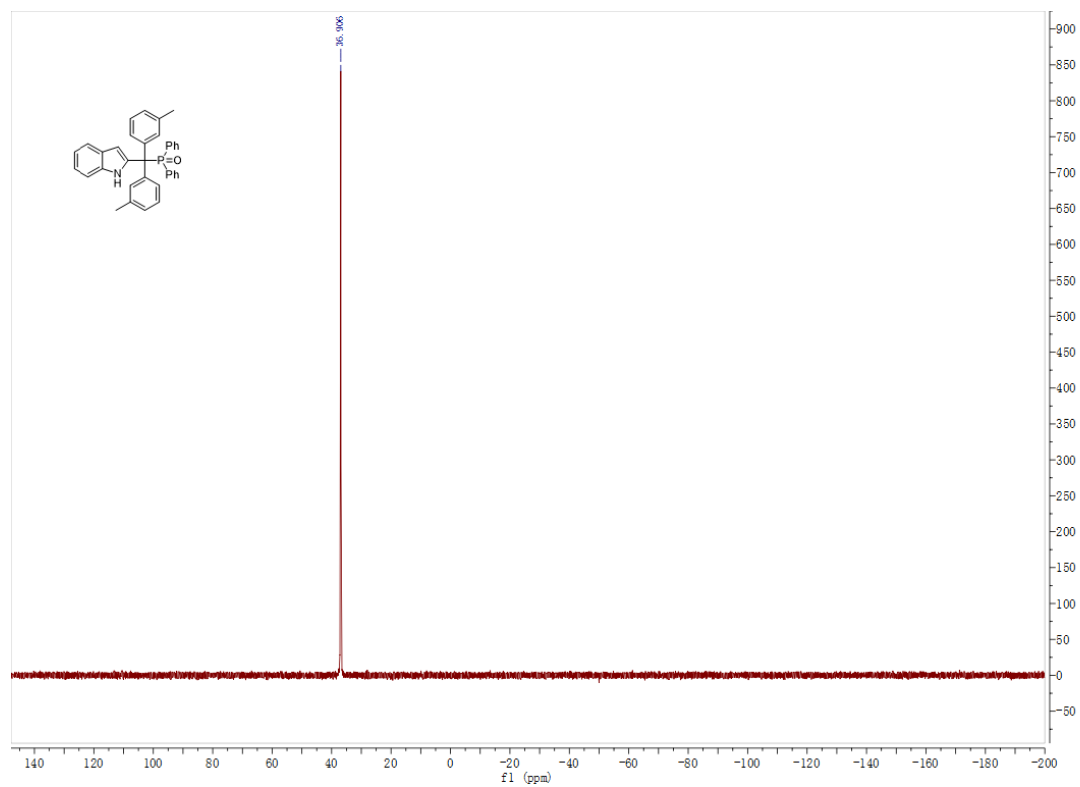
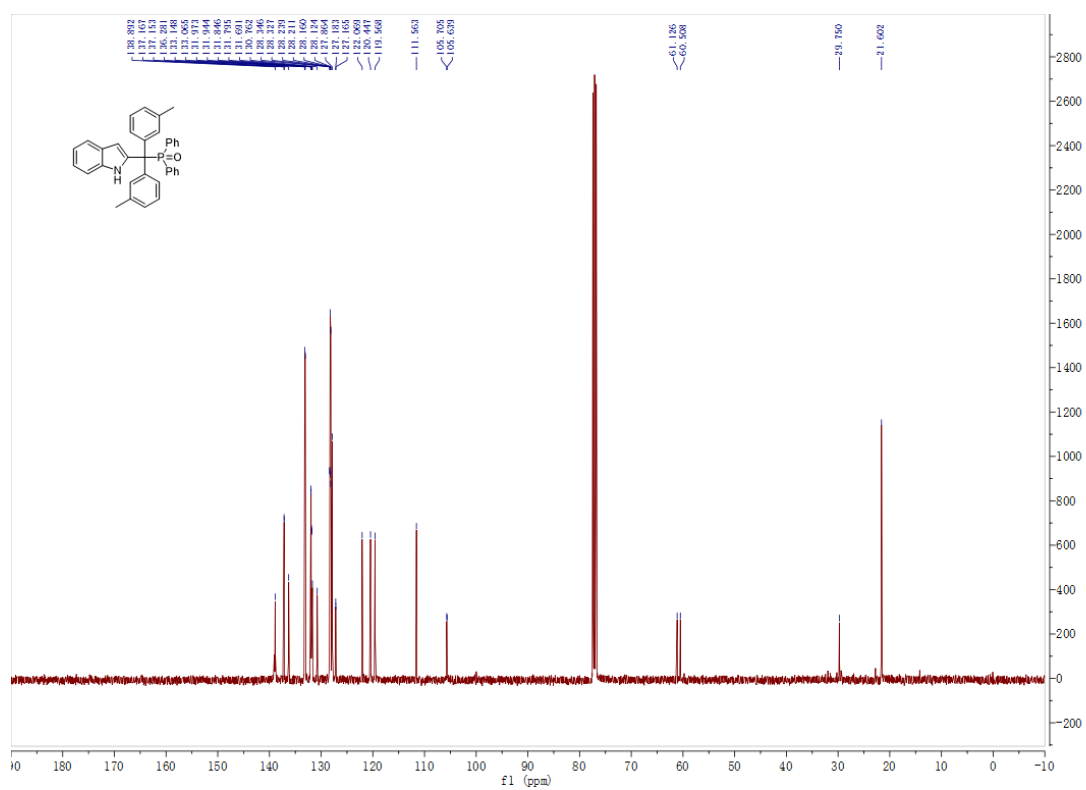






**3ha**

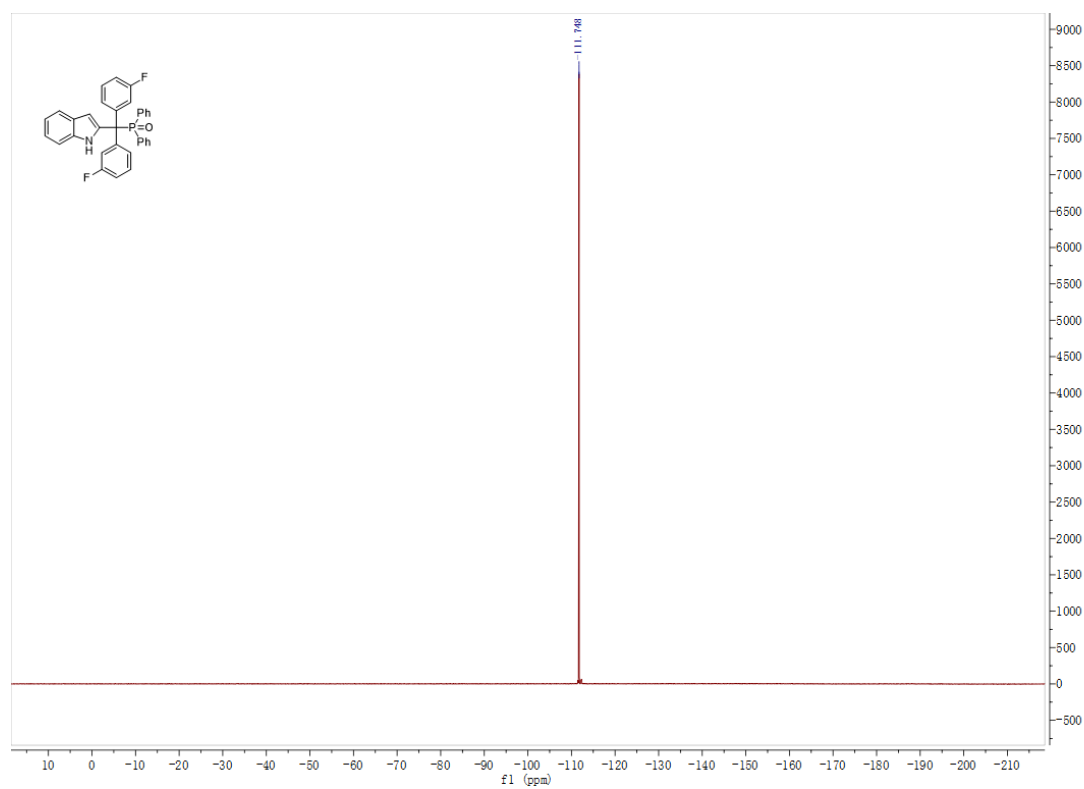
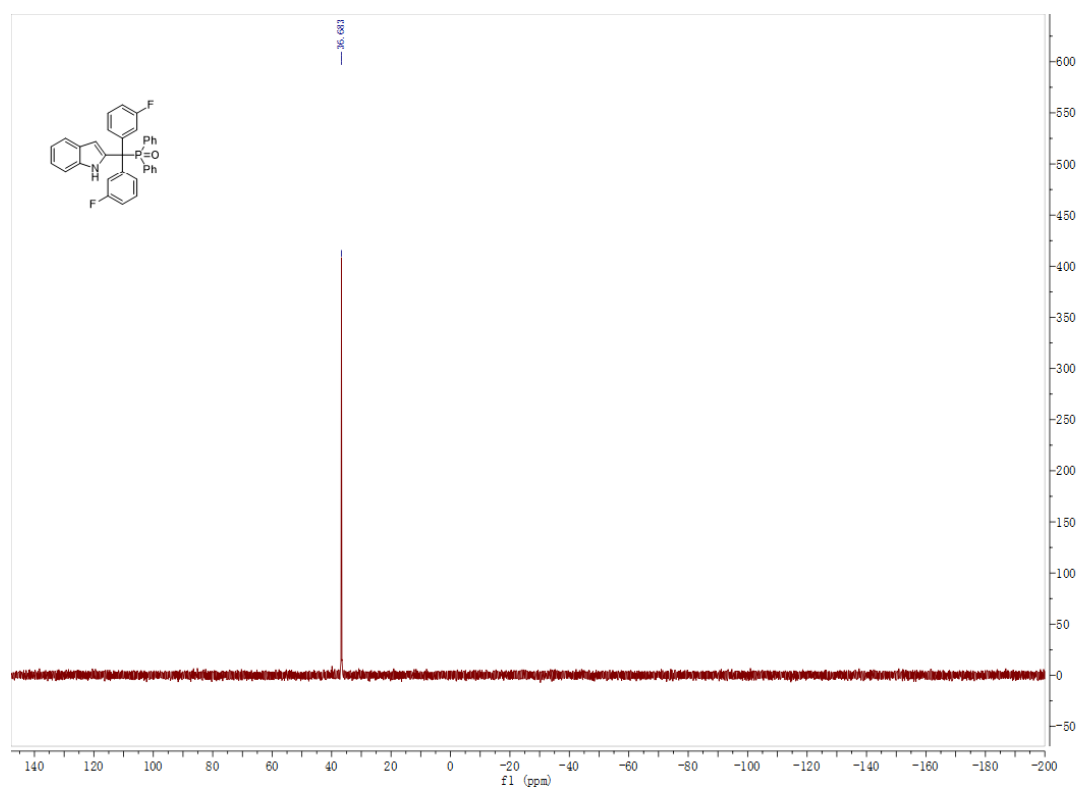




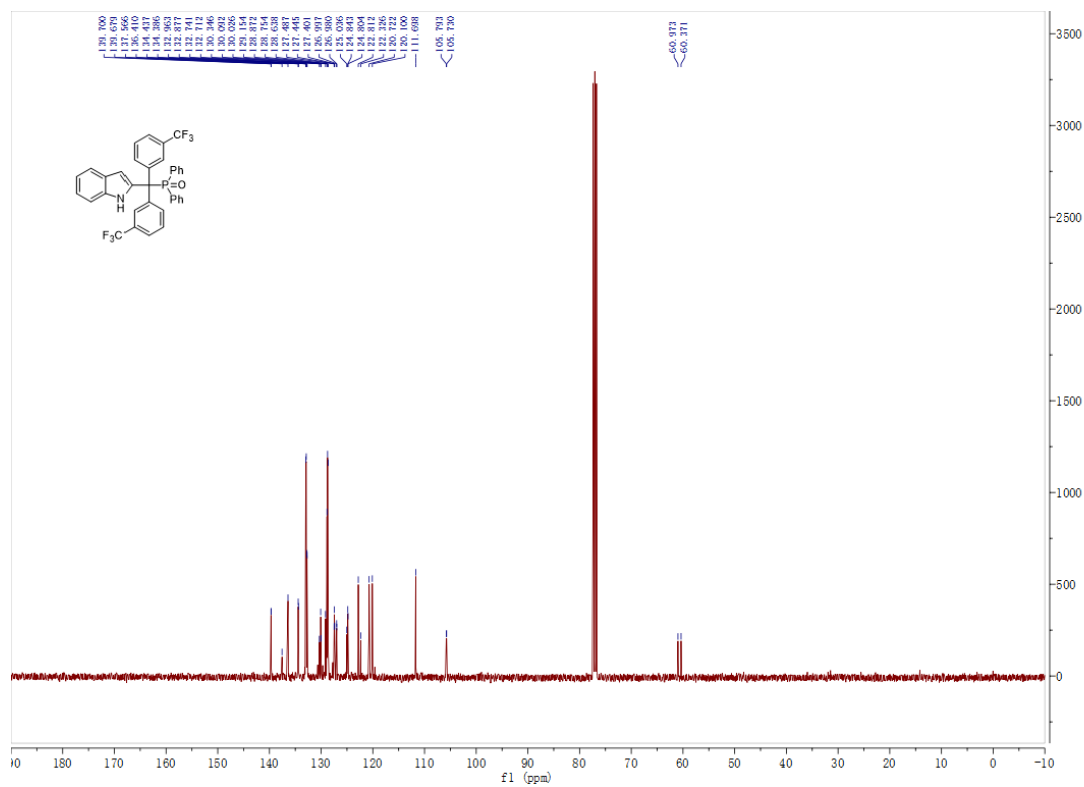
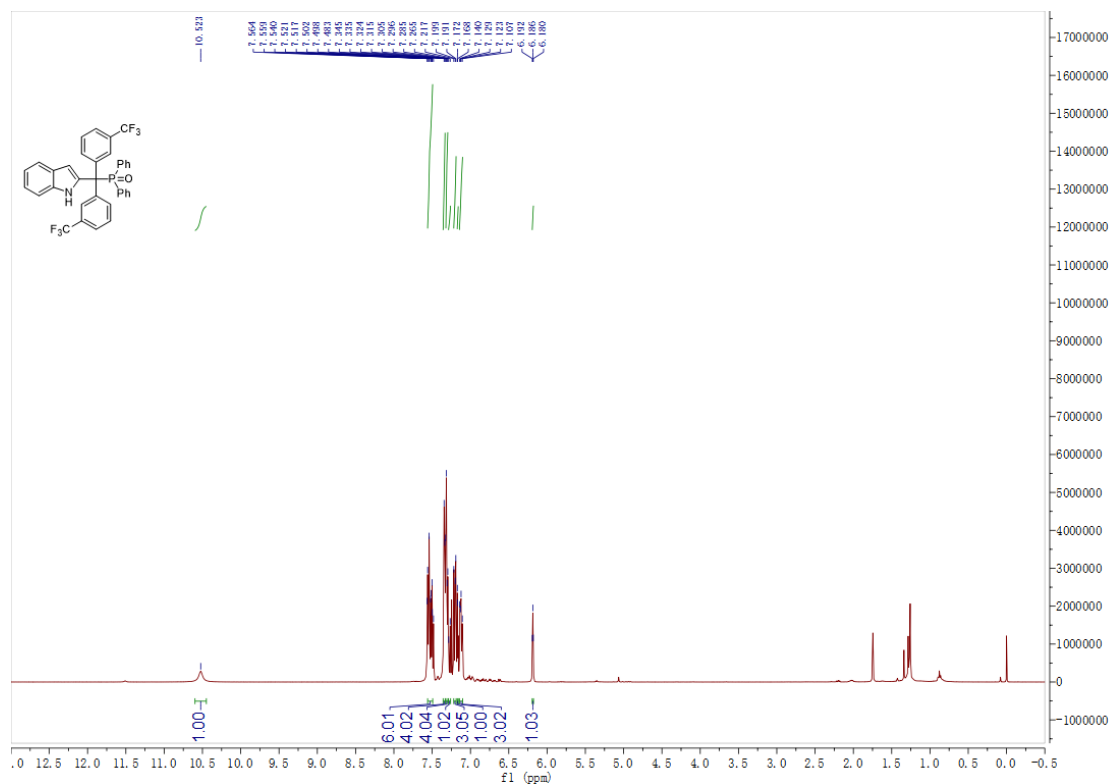
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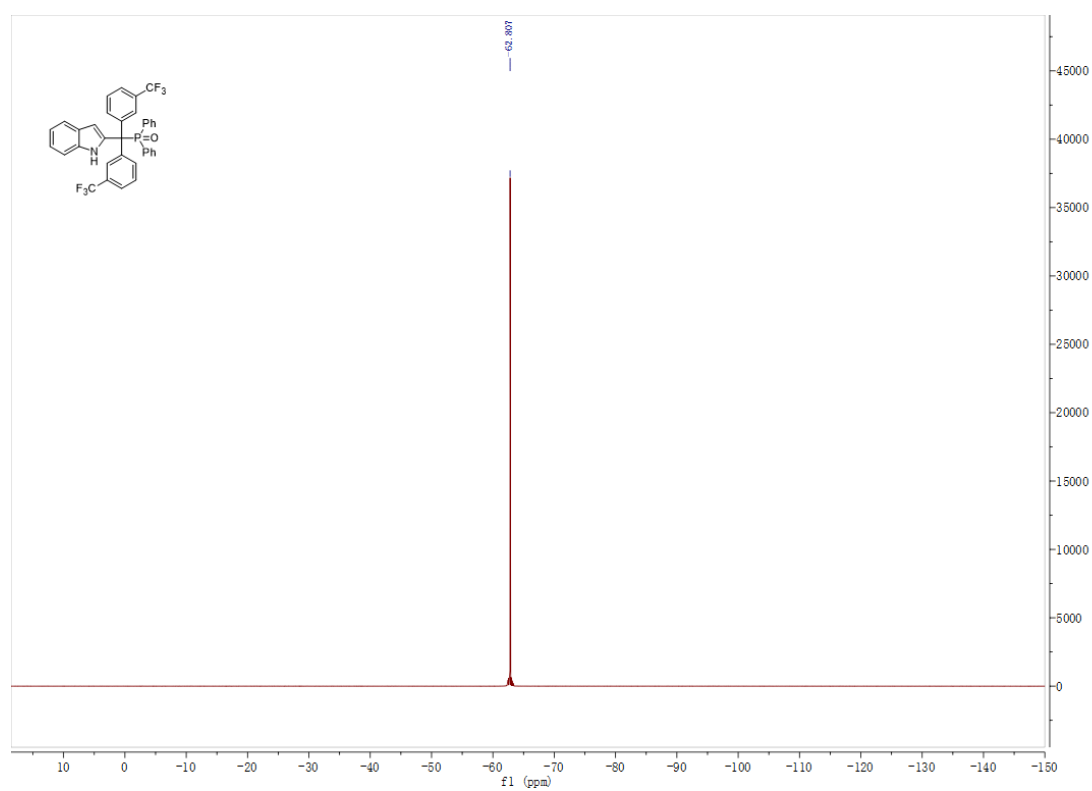
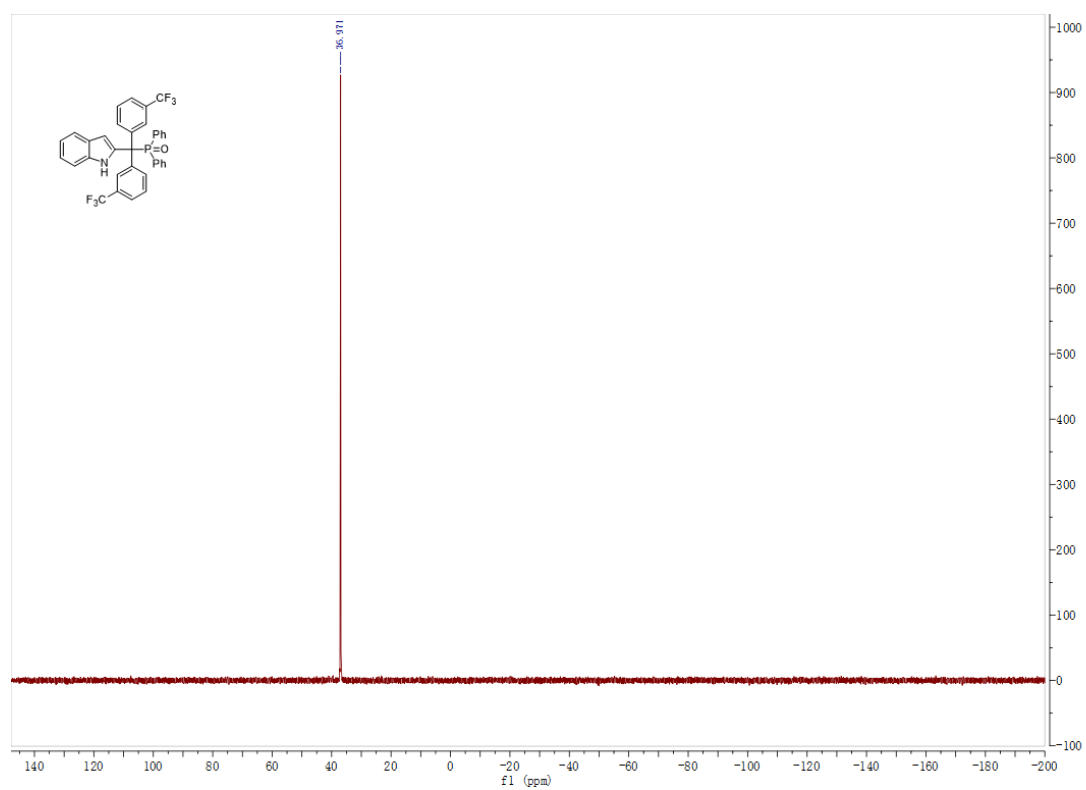




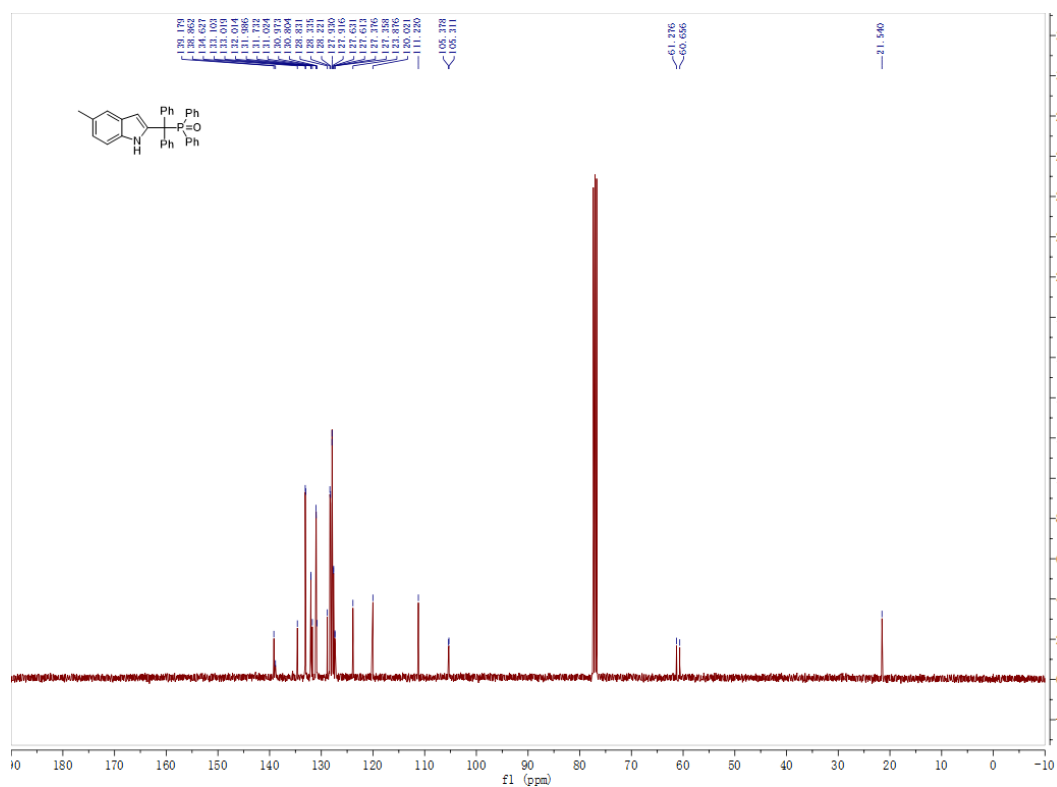
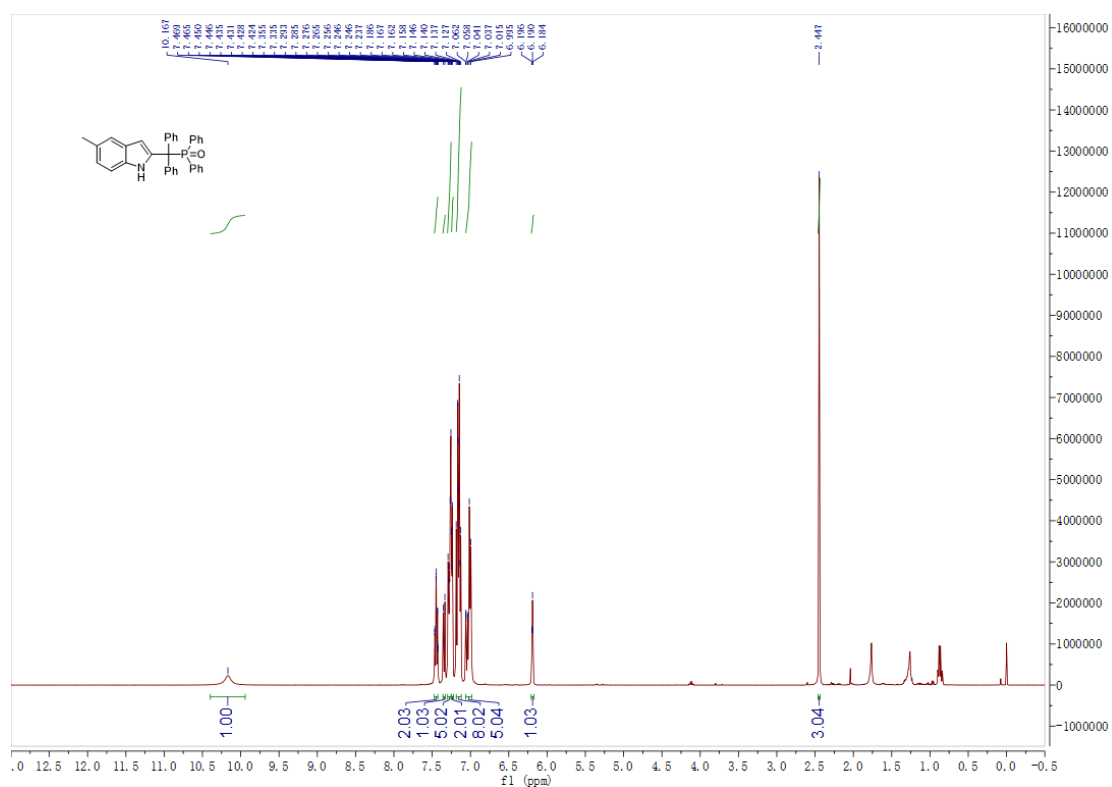


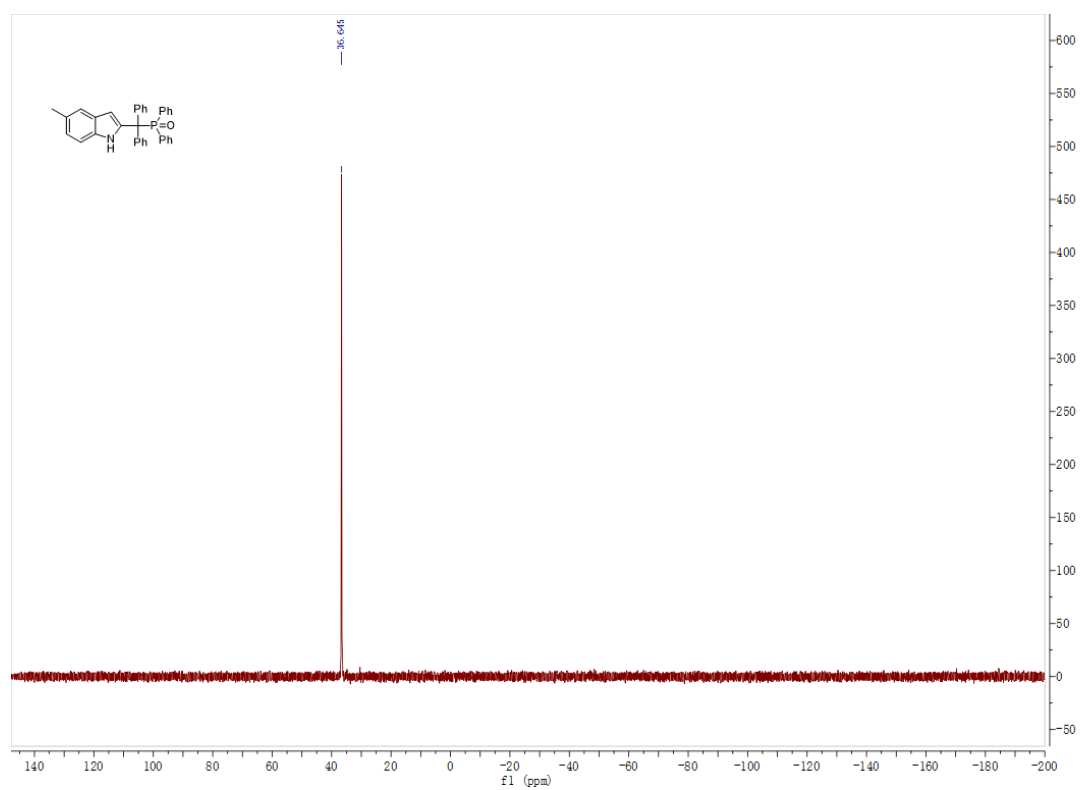
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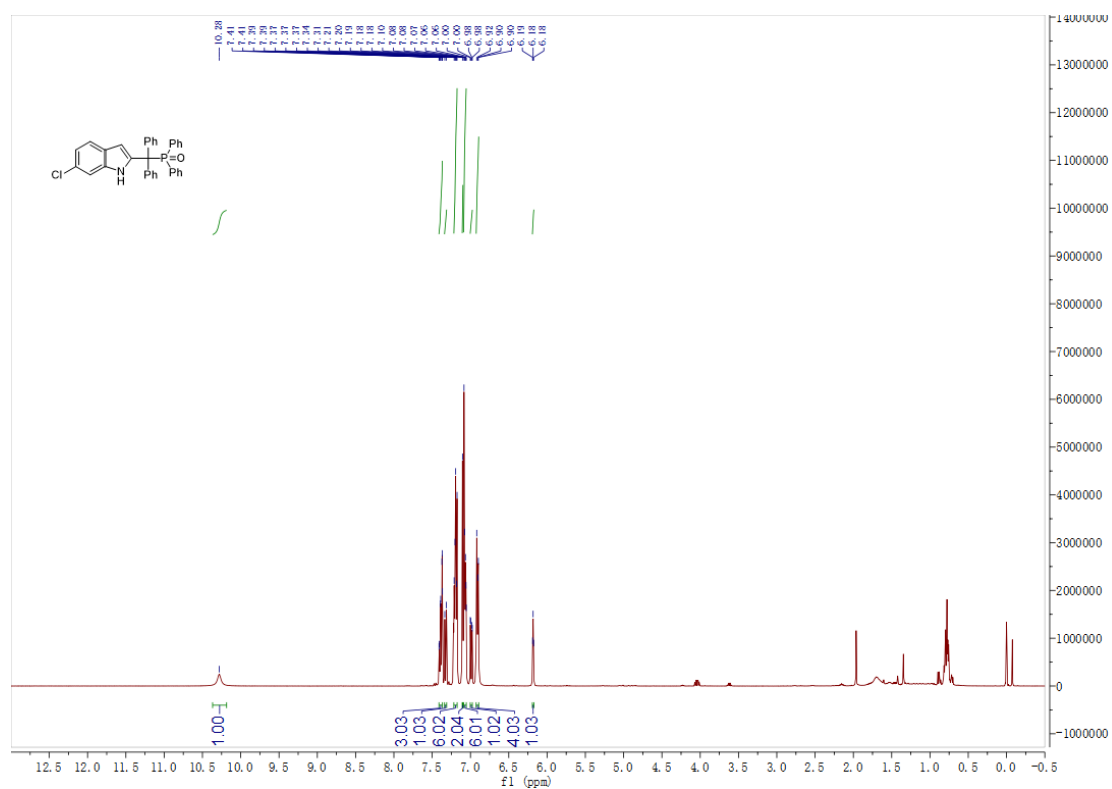


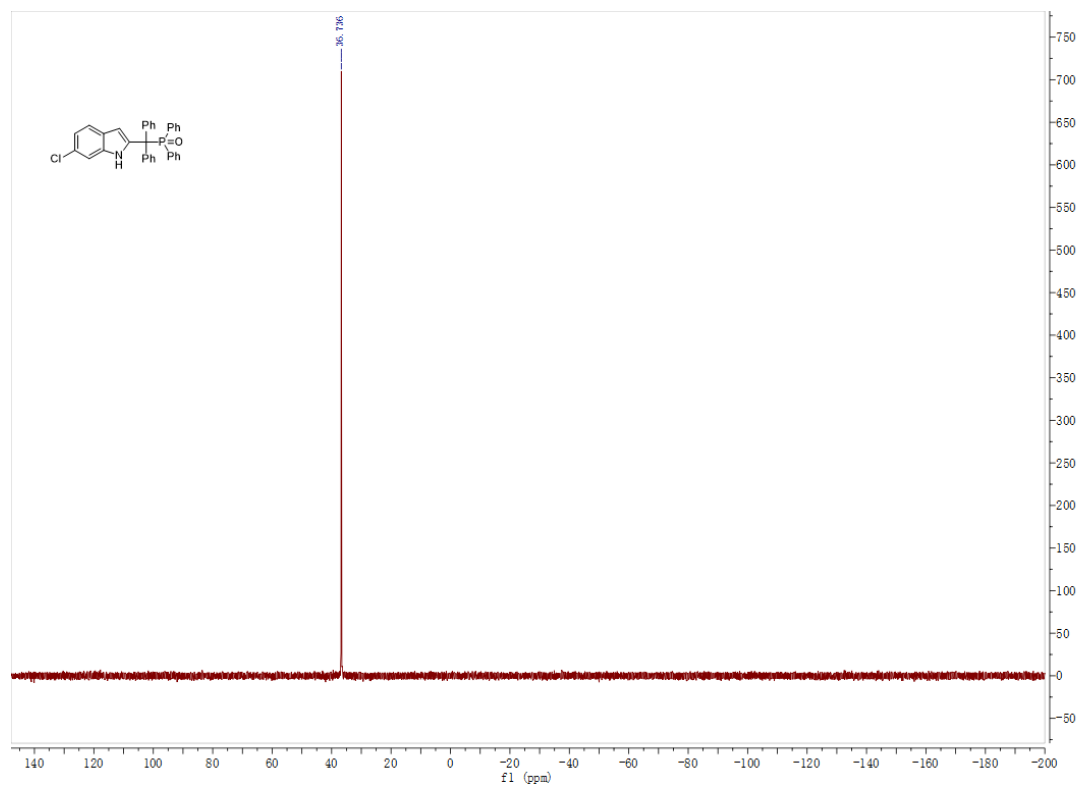
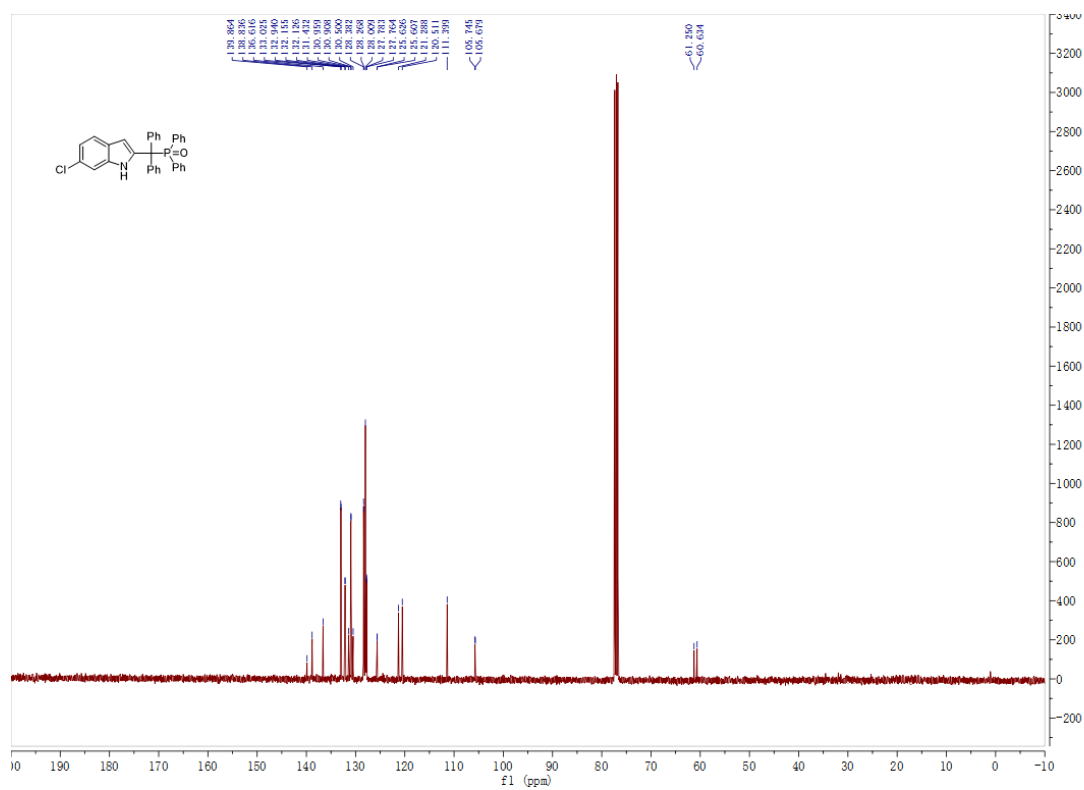
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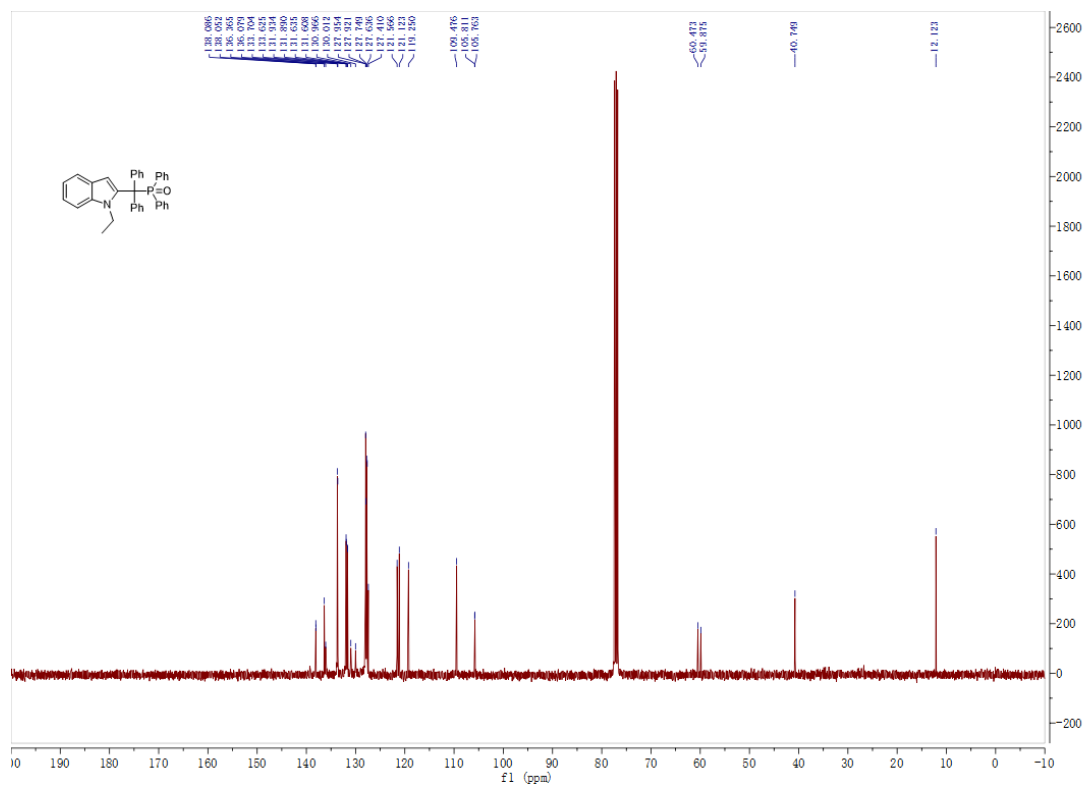
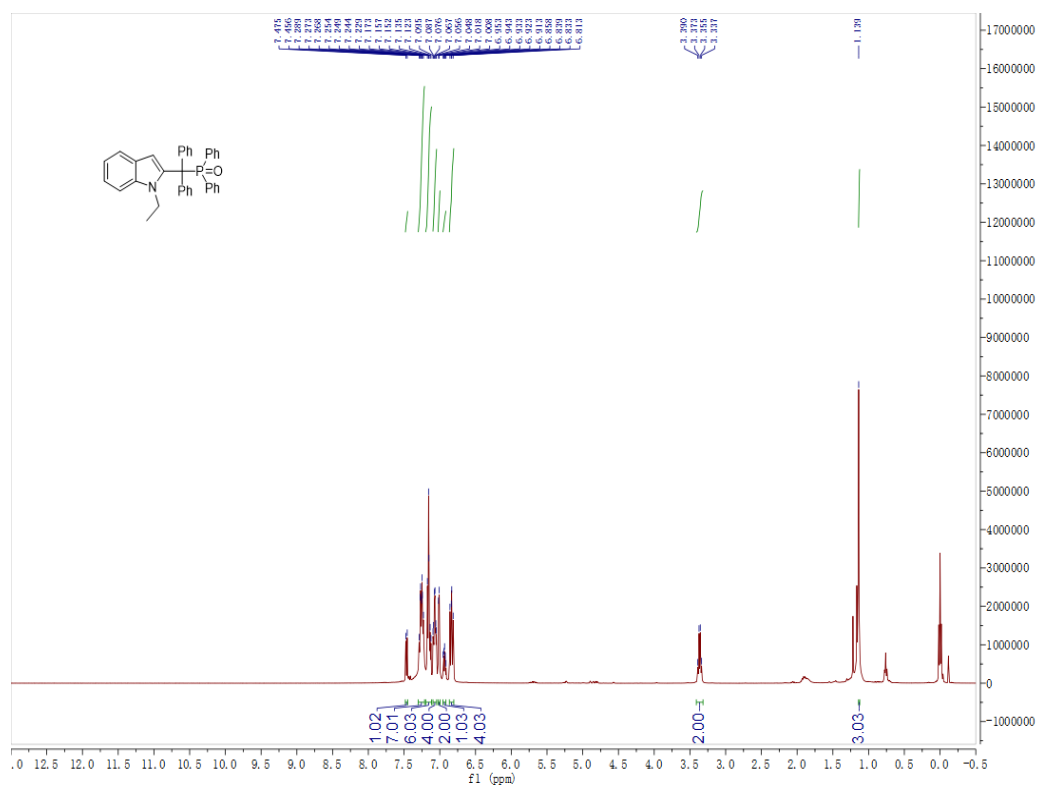


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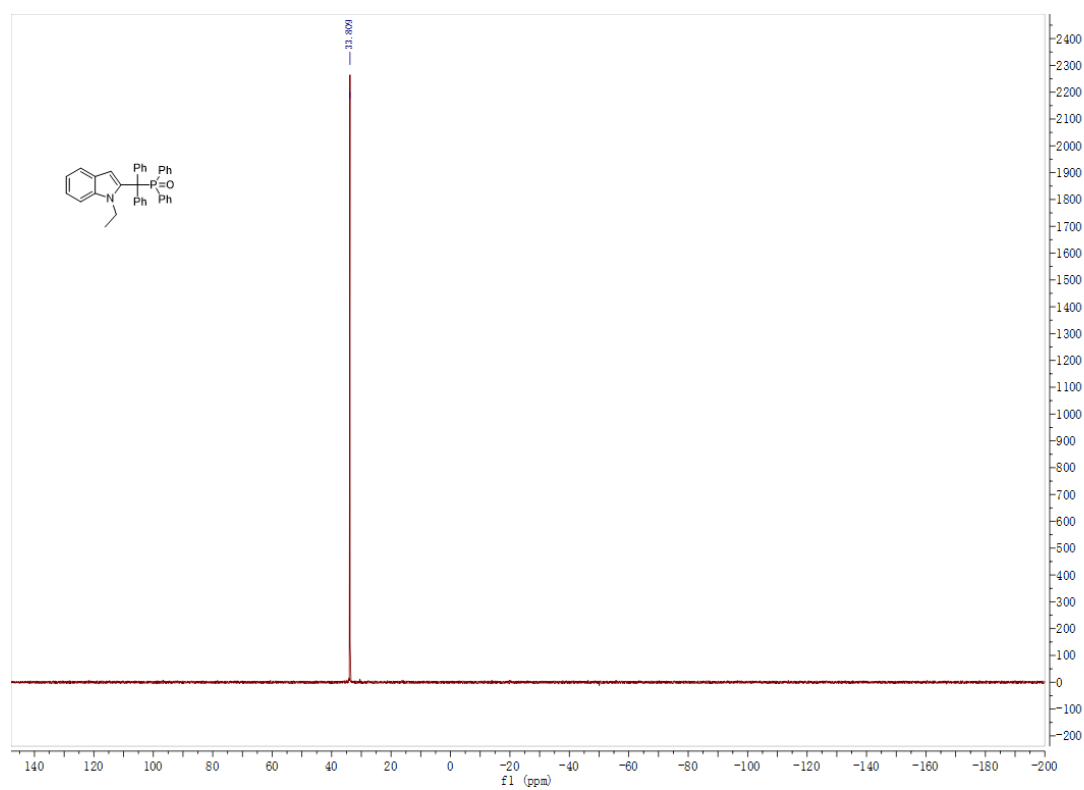




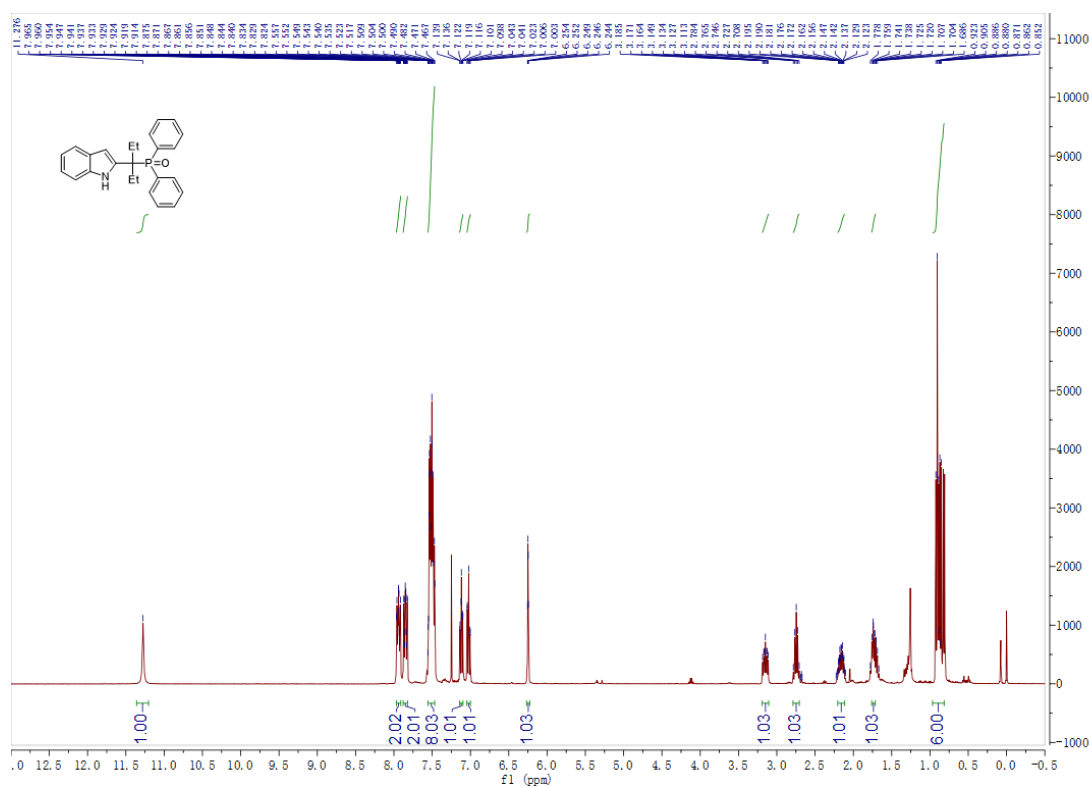
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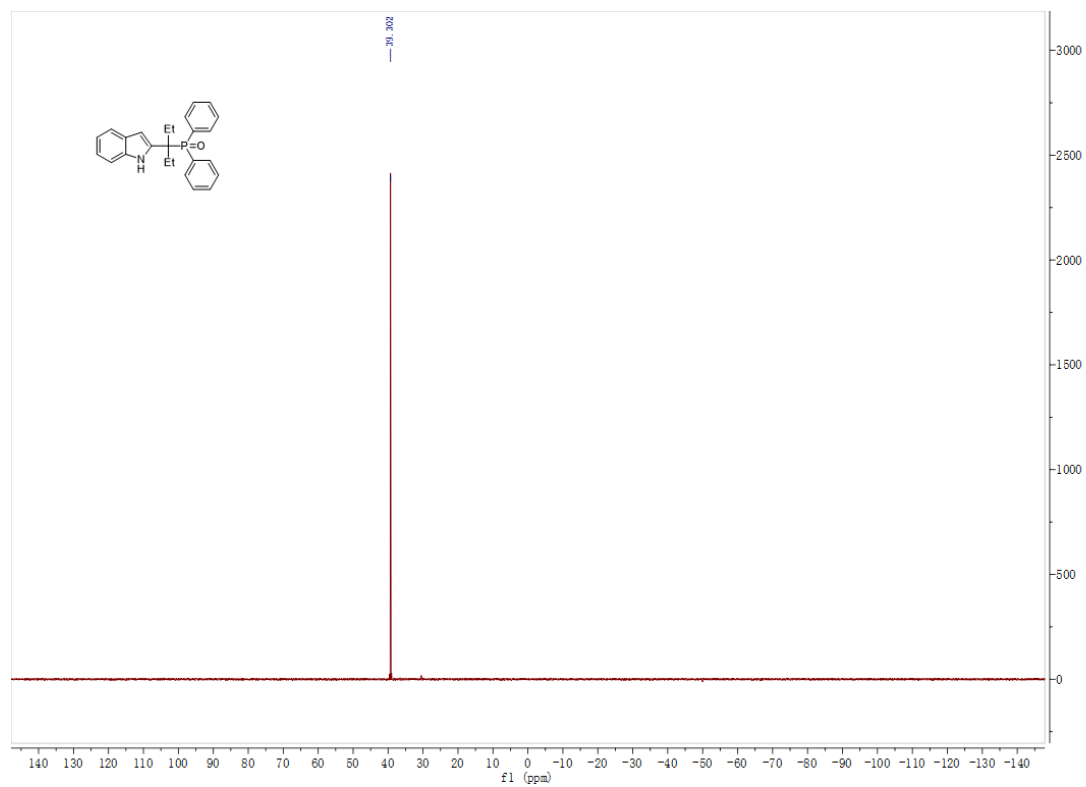
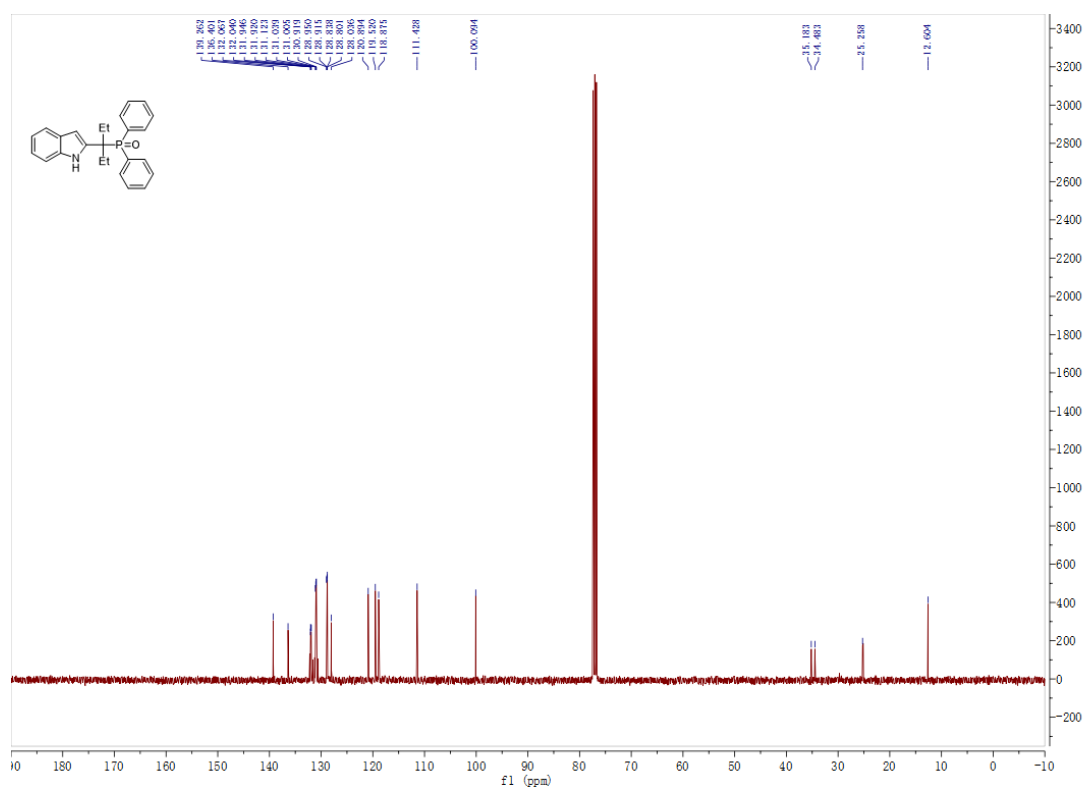






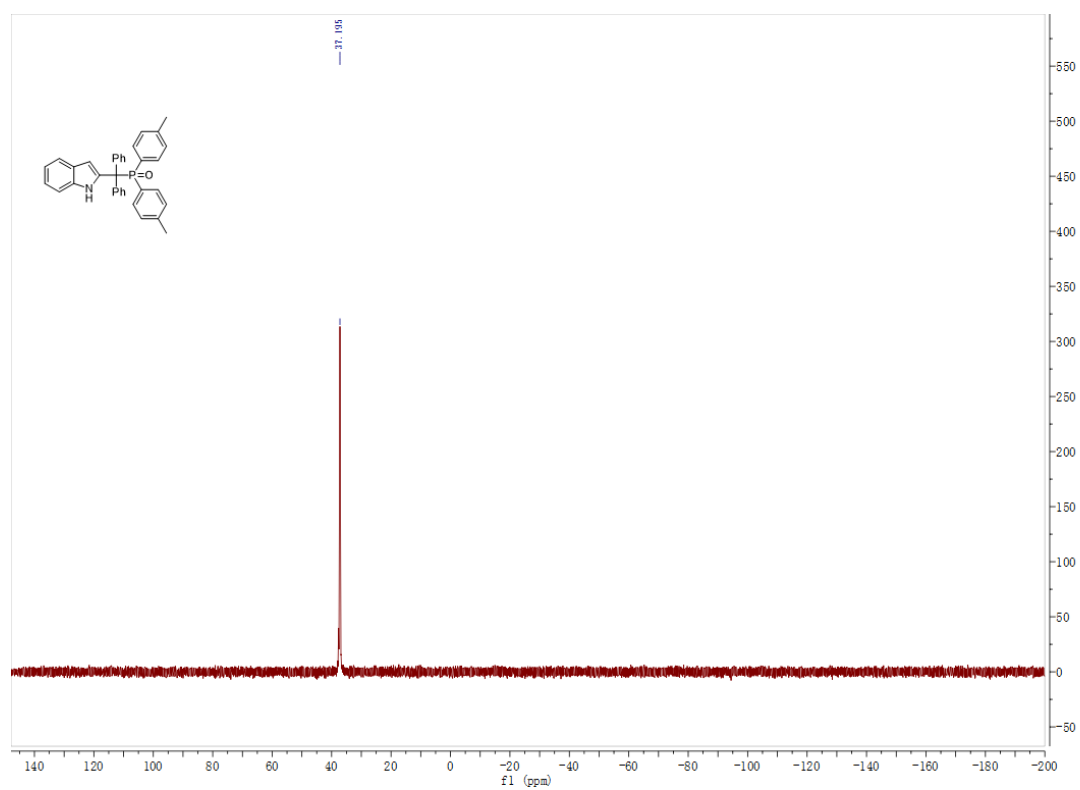
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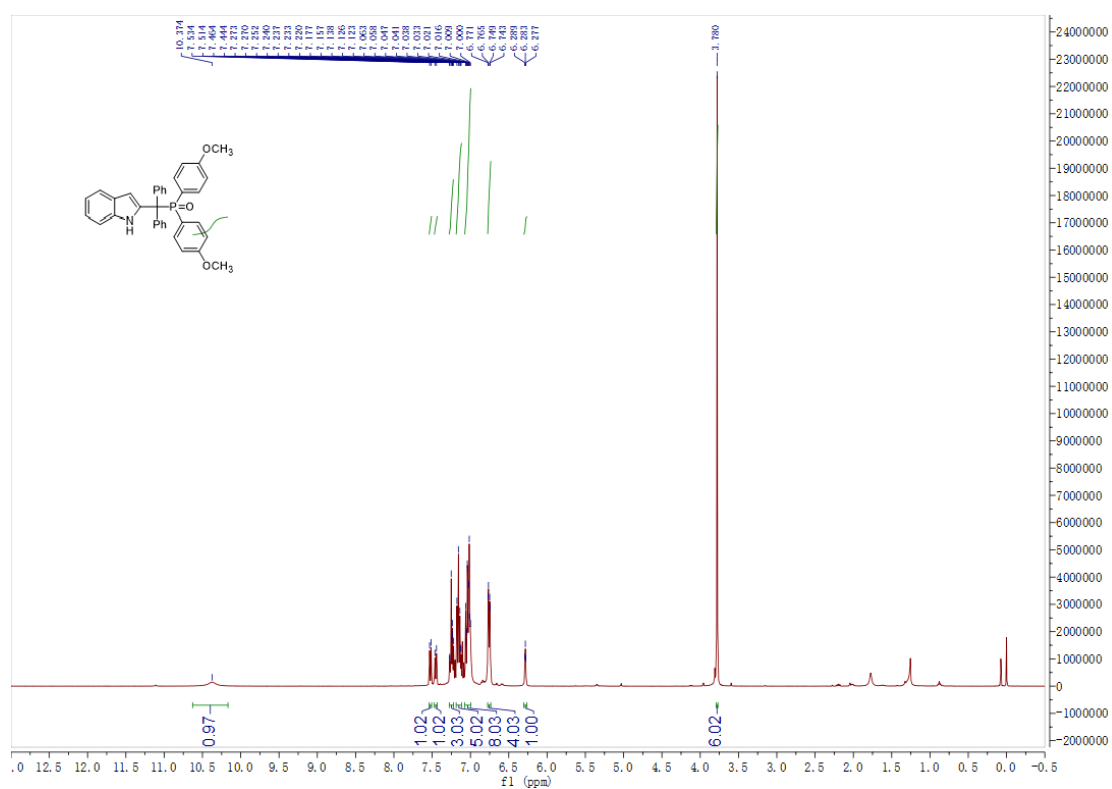


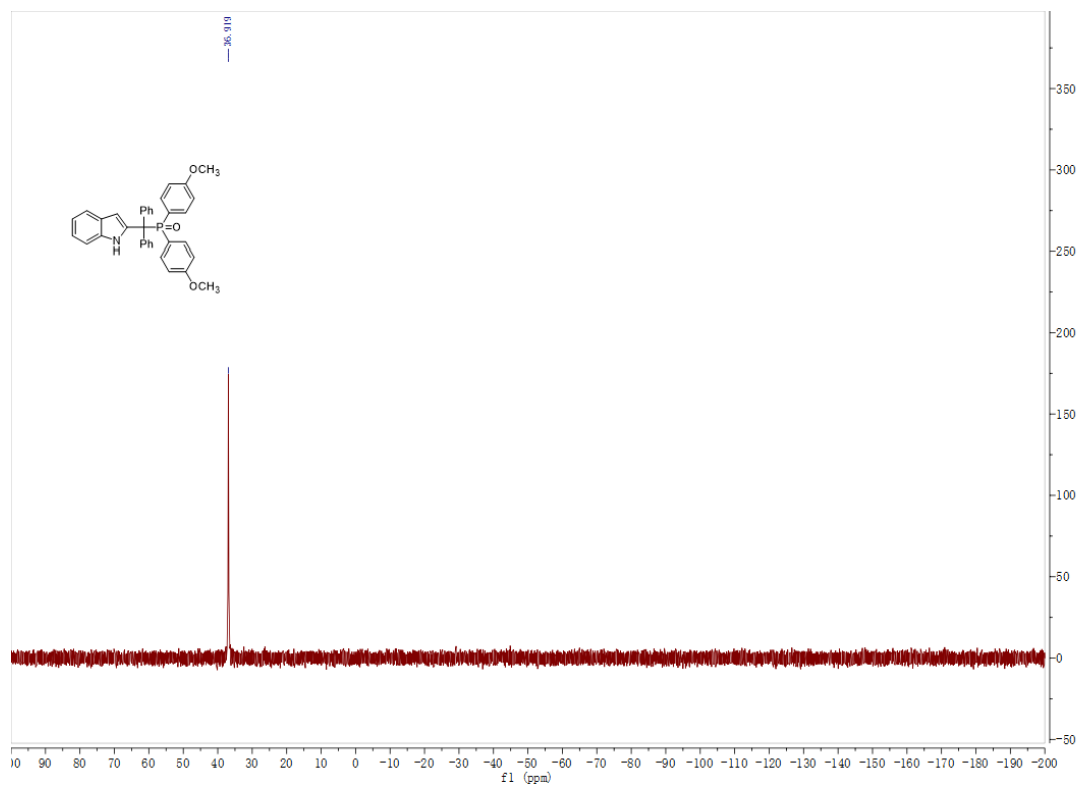
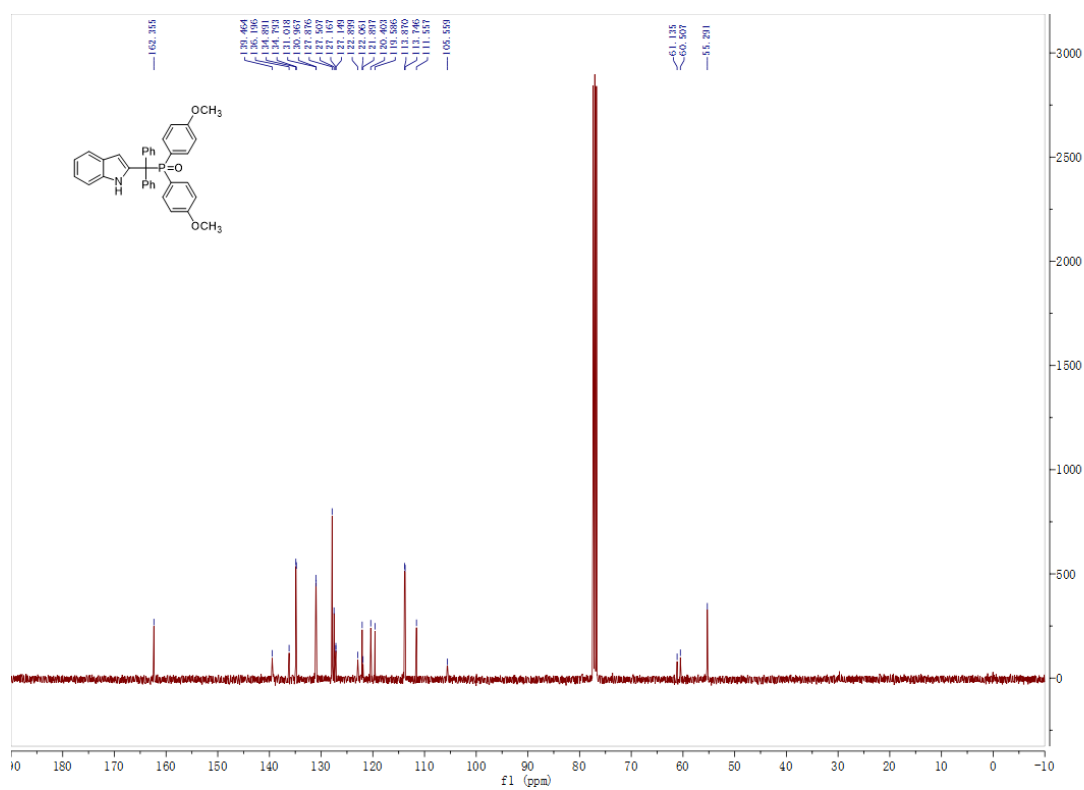
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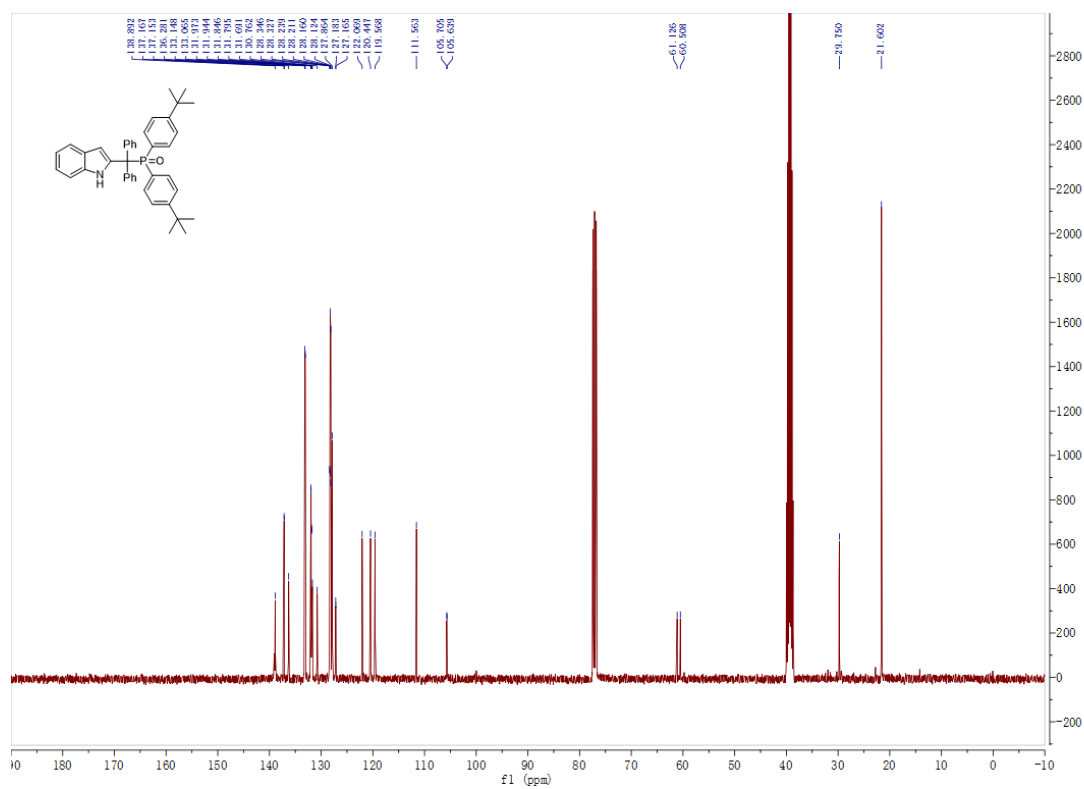
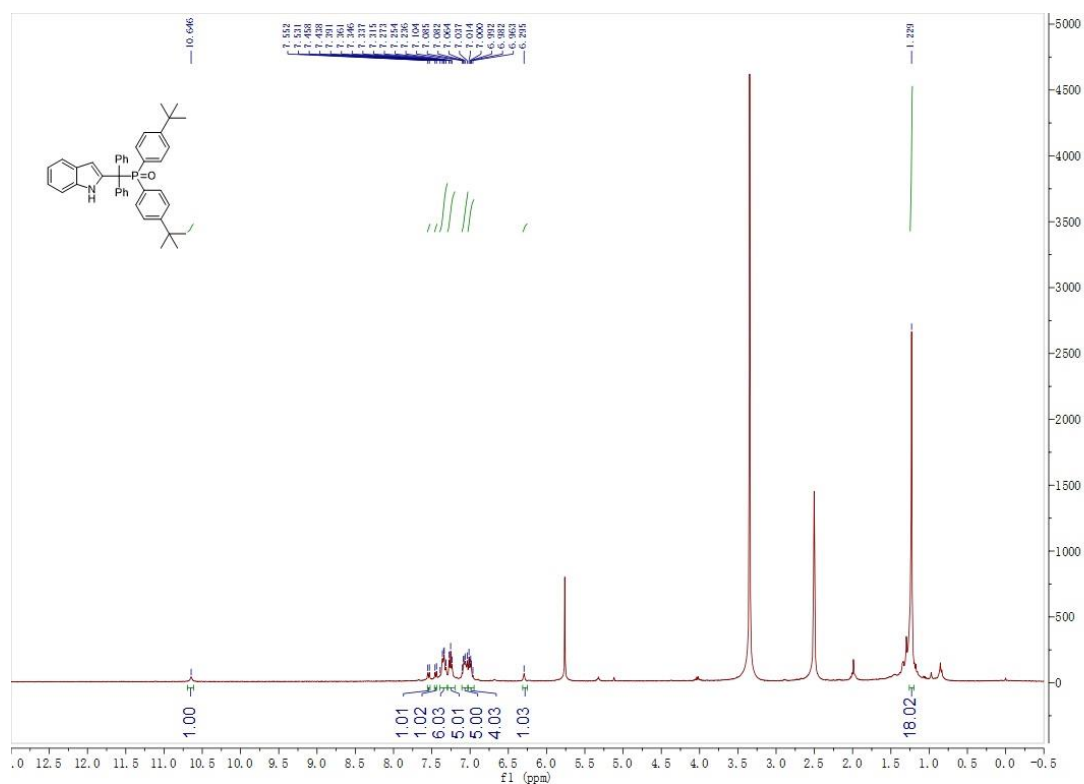


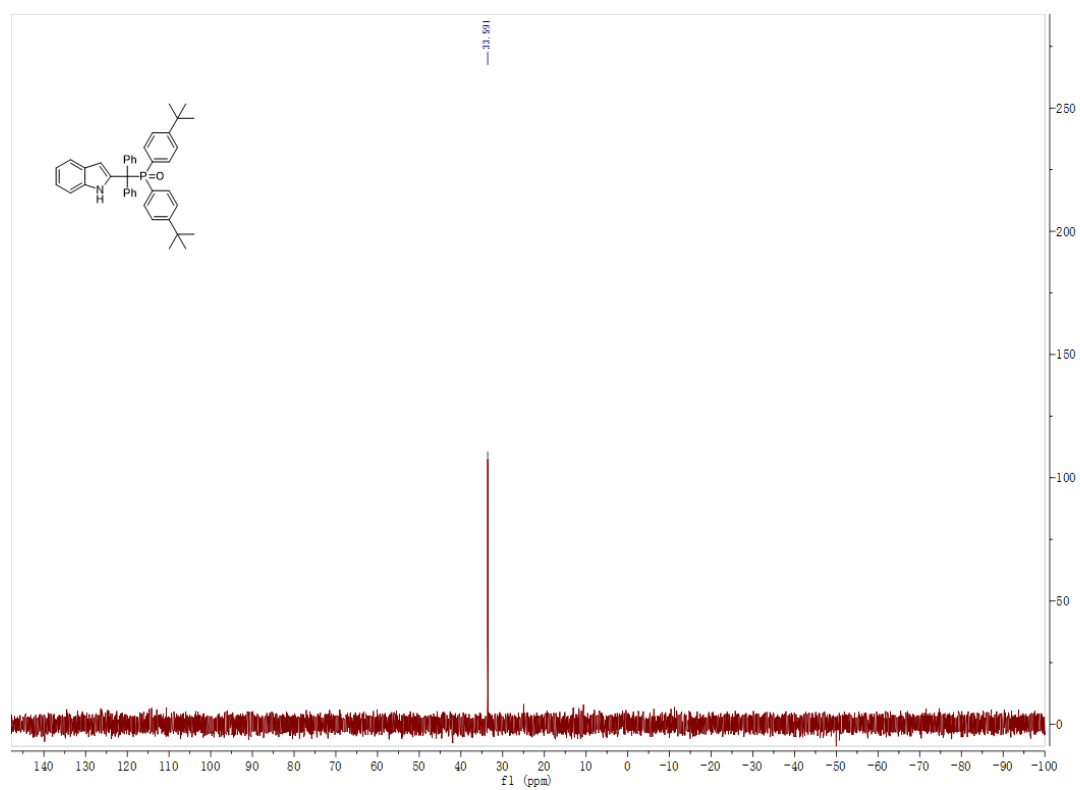
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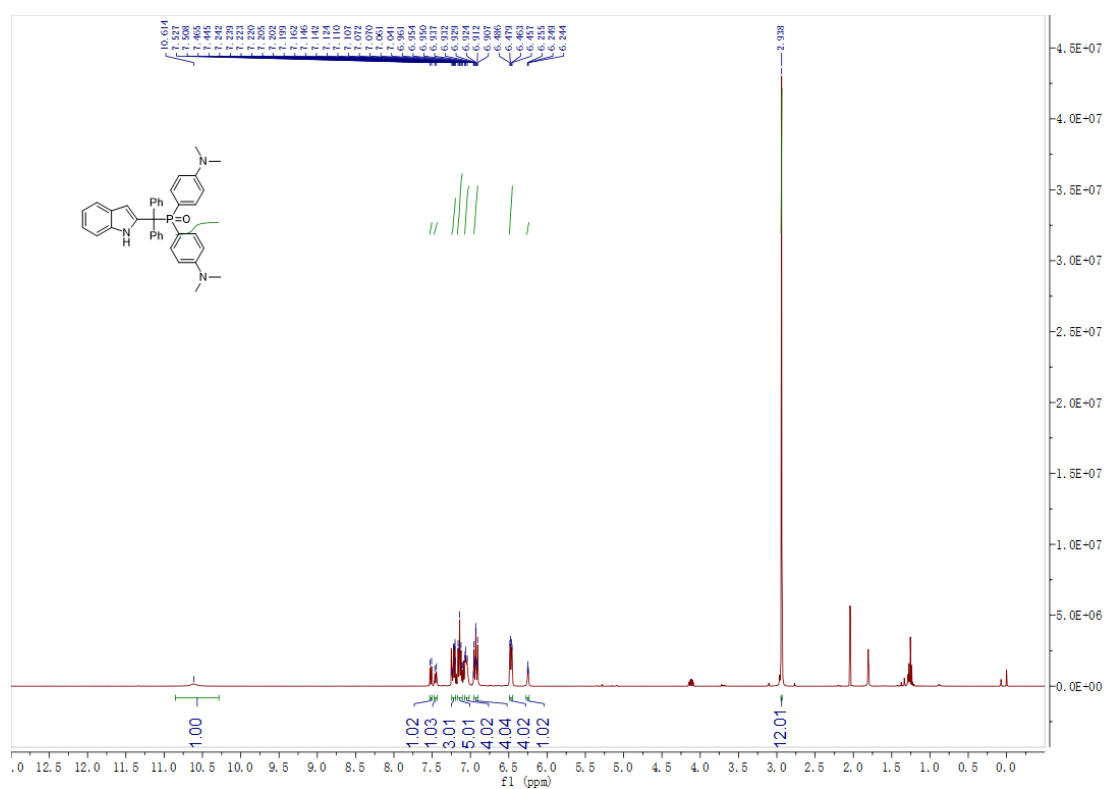


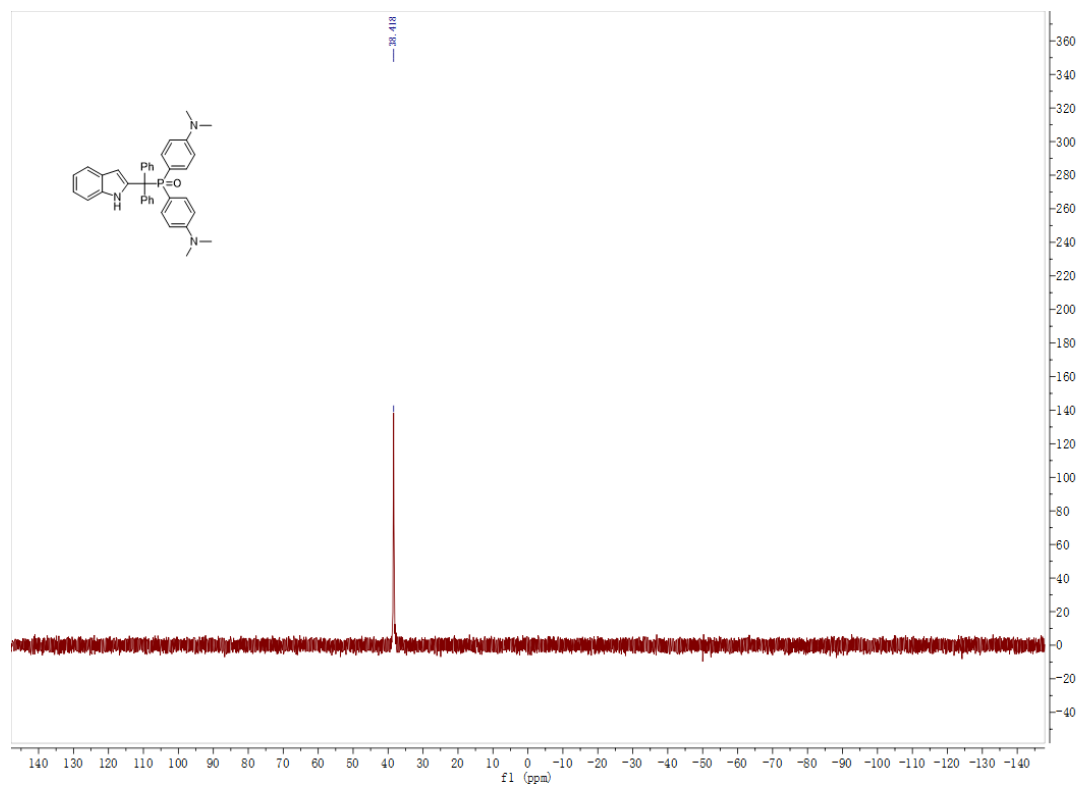
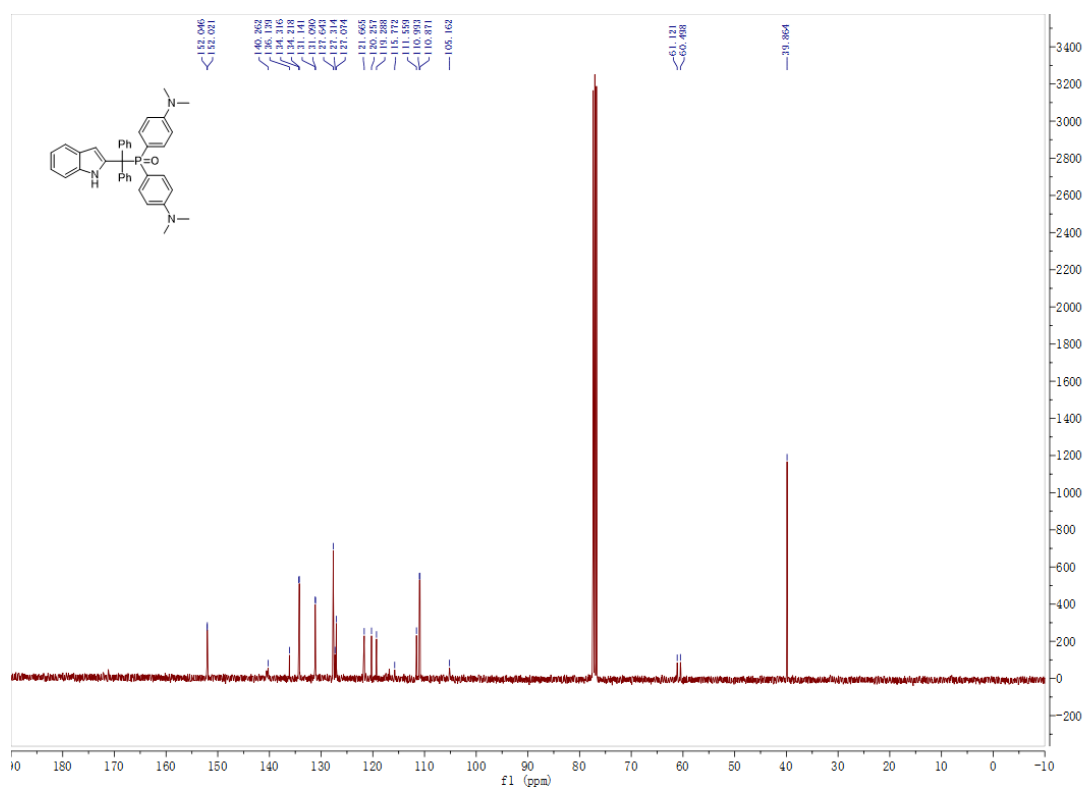
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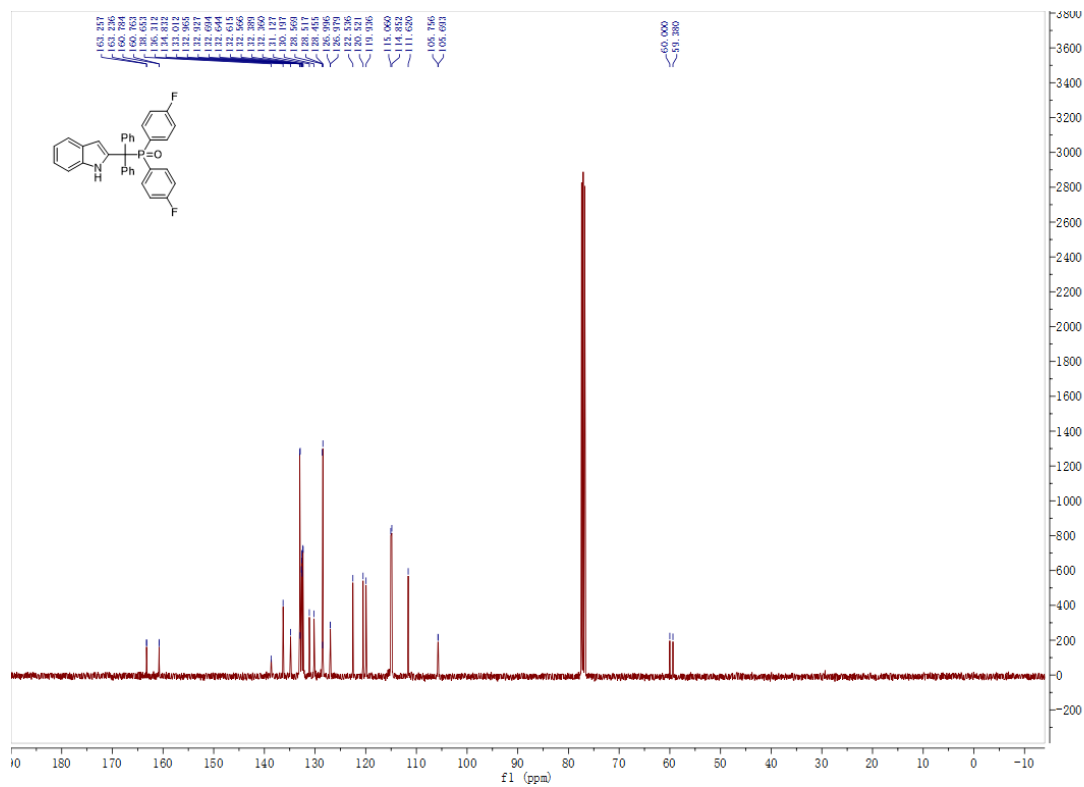
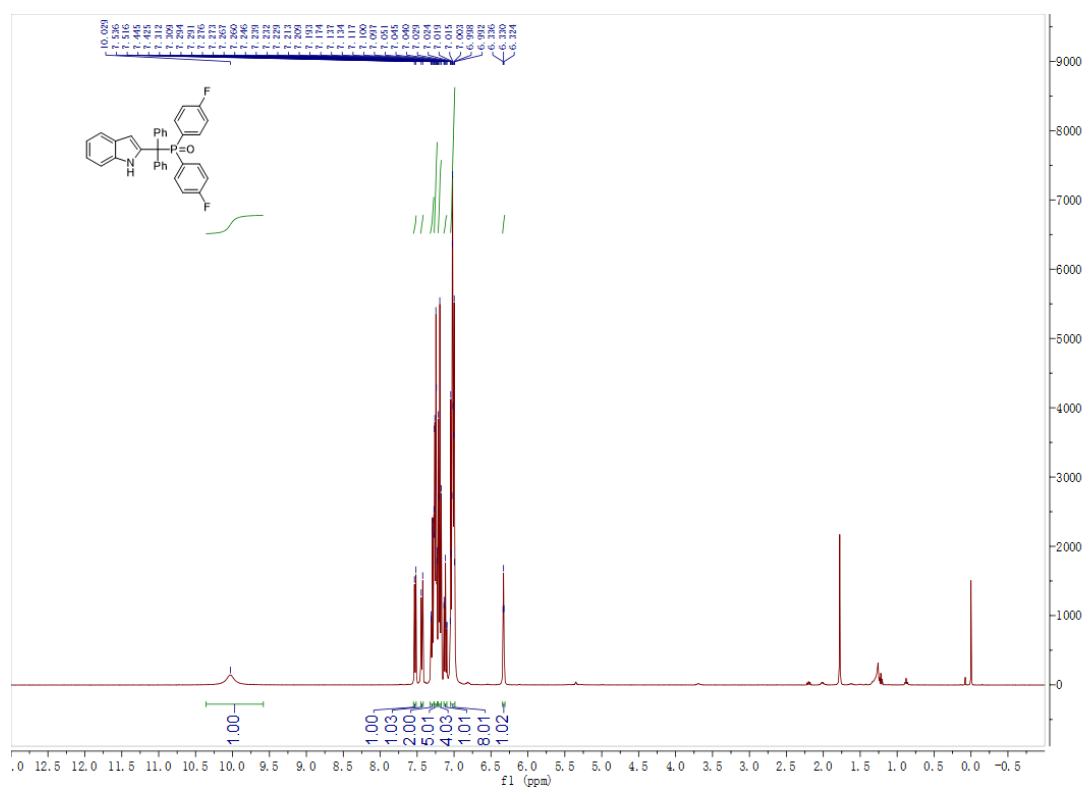
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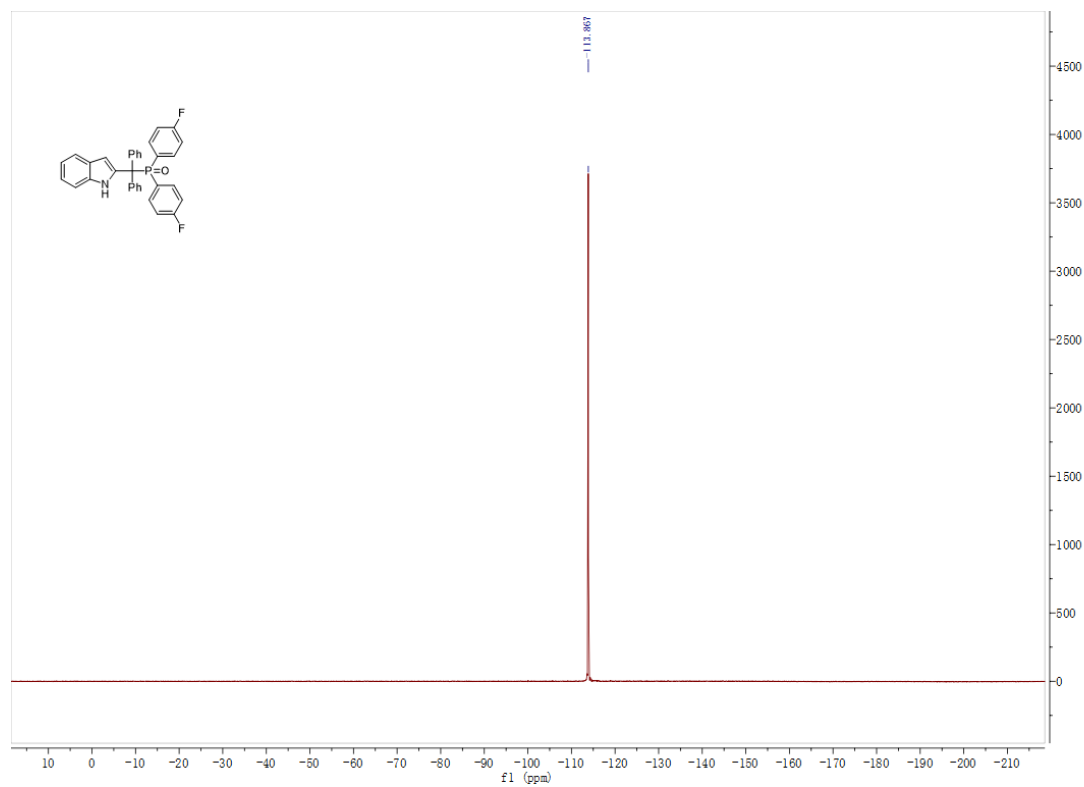
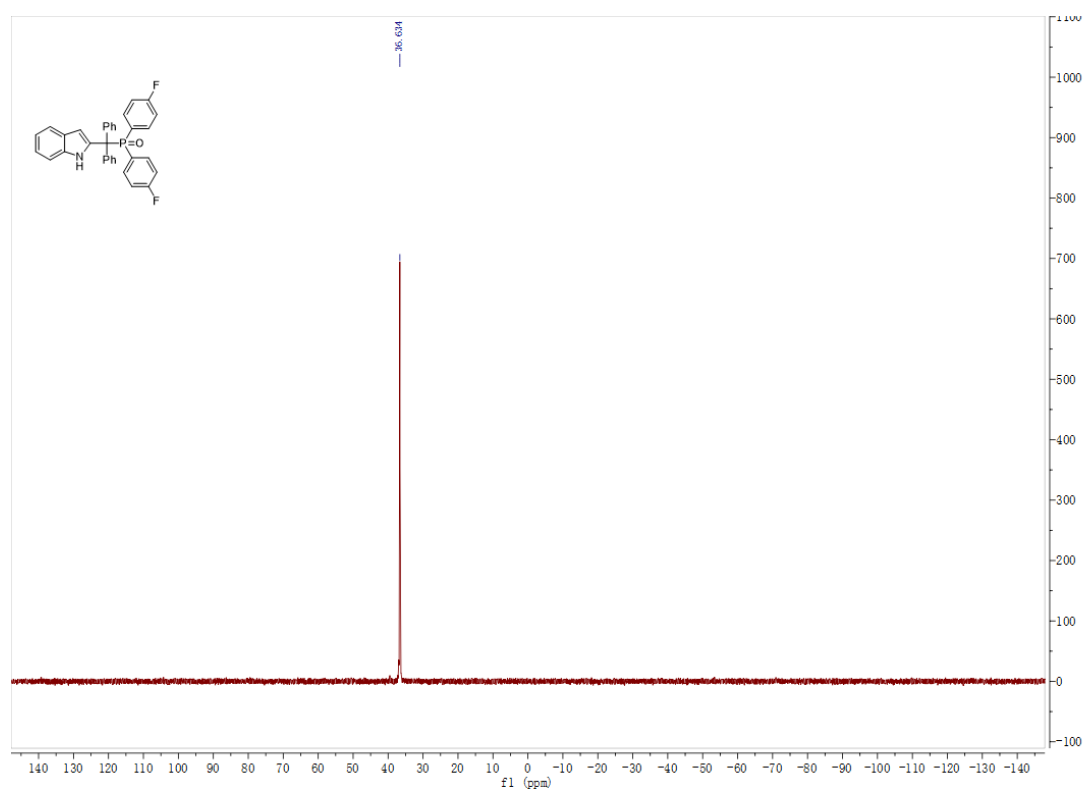




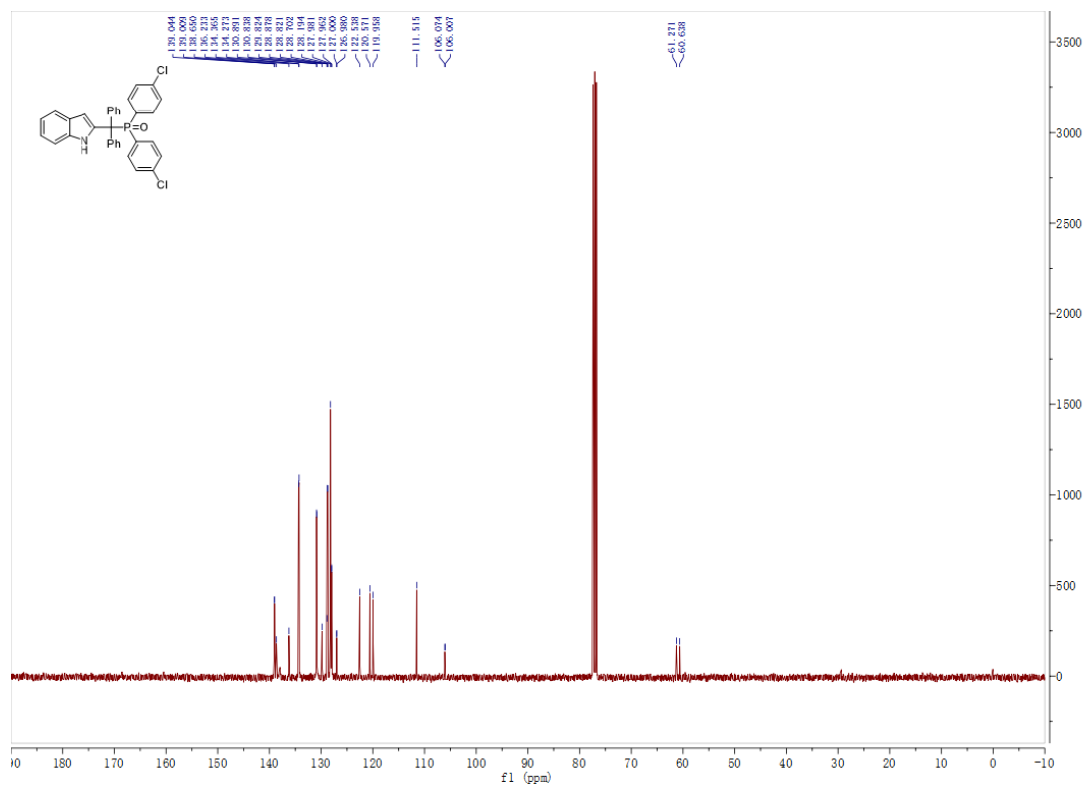
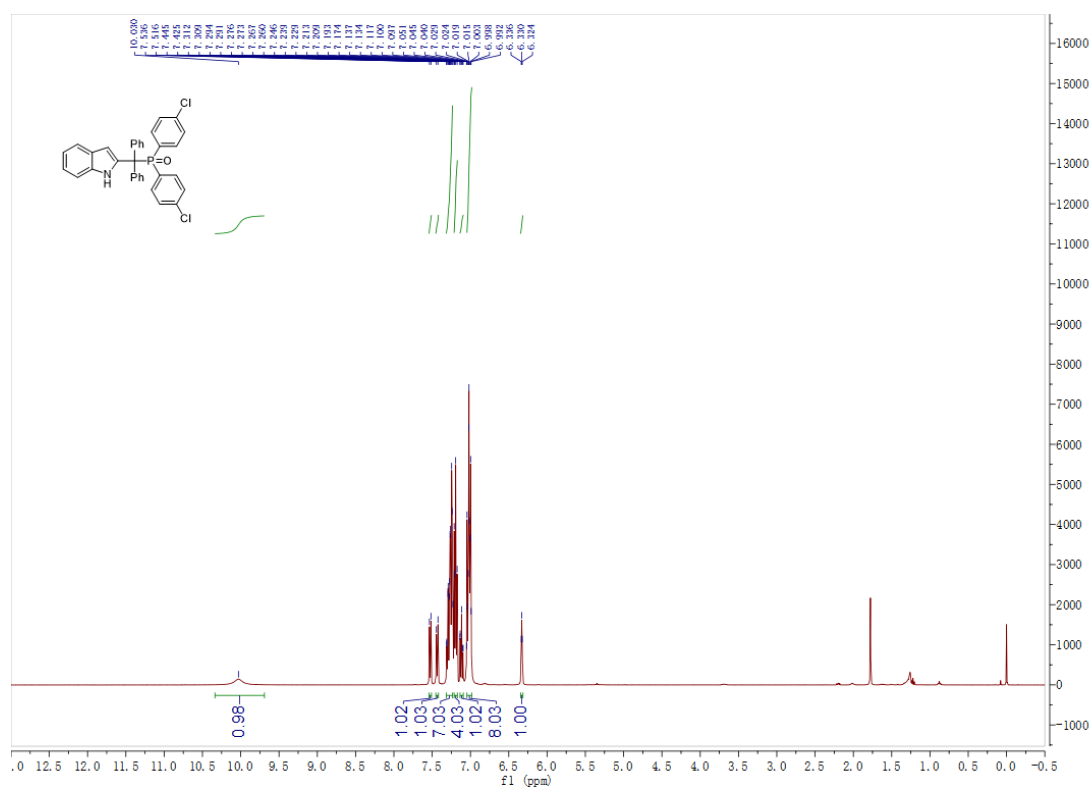
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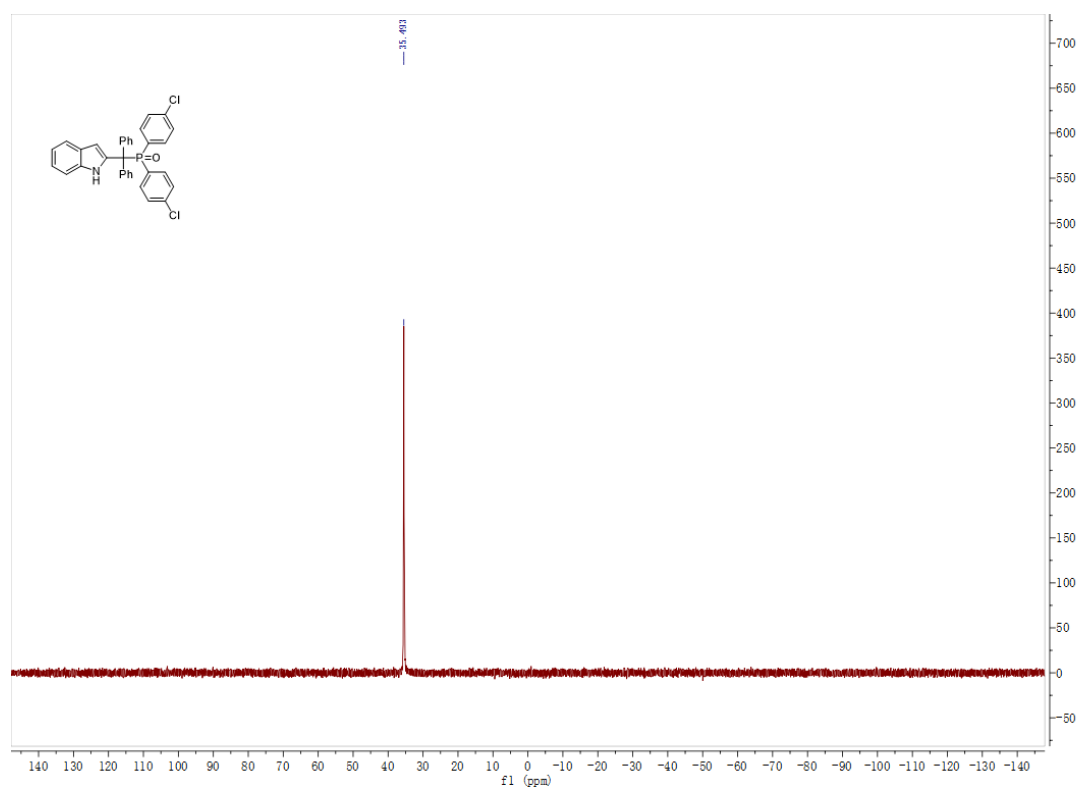




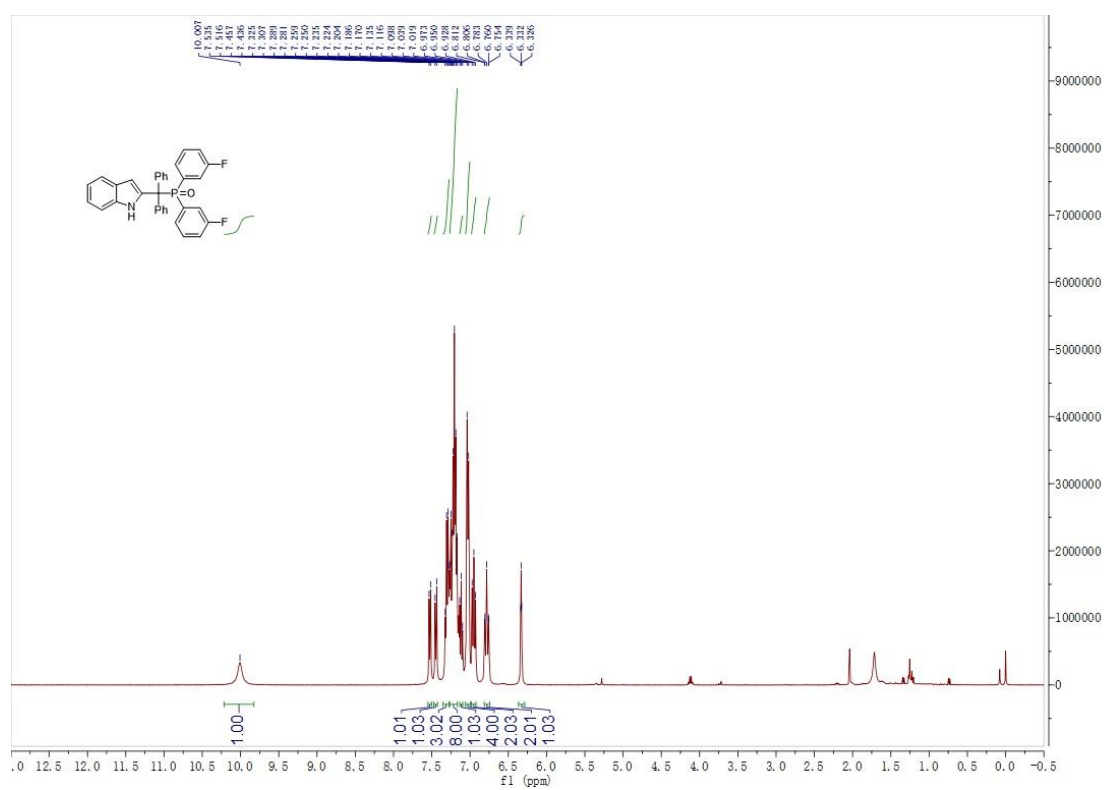


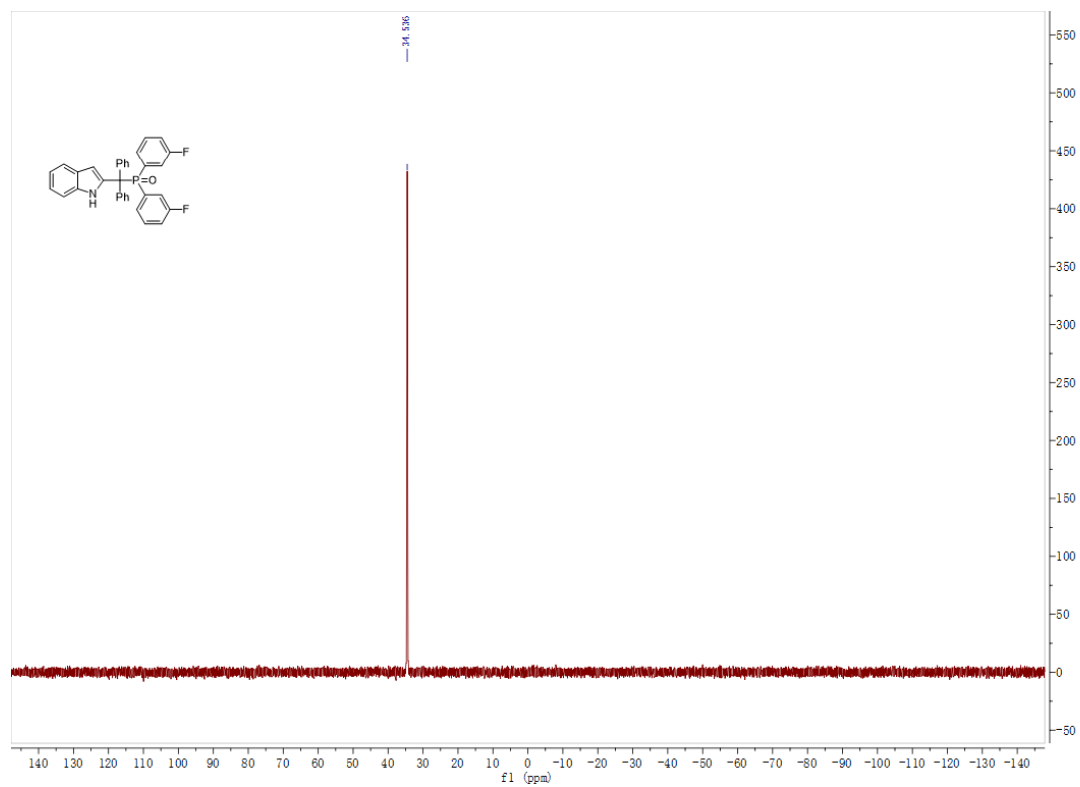
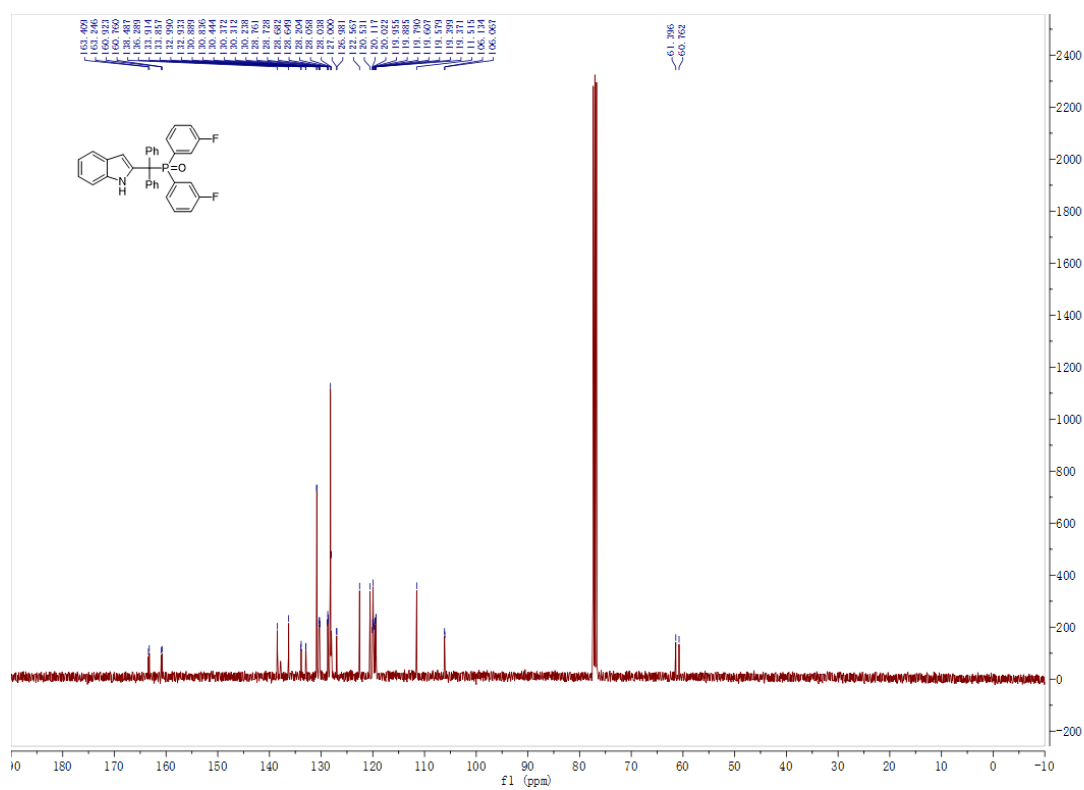
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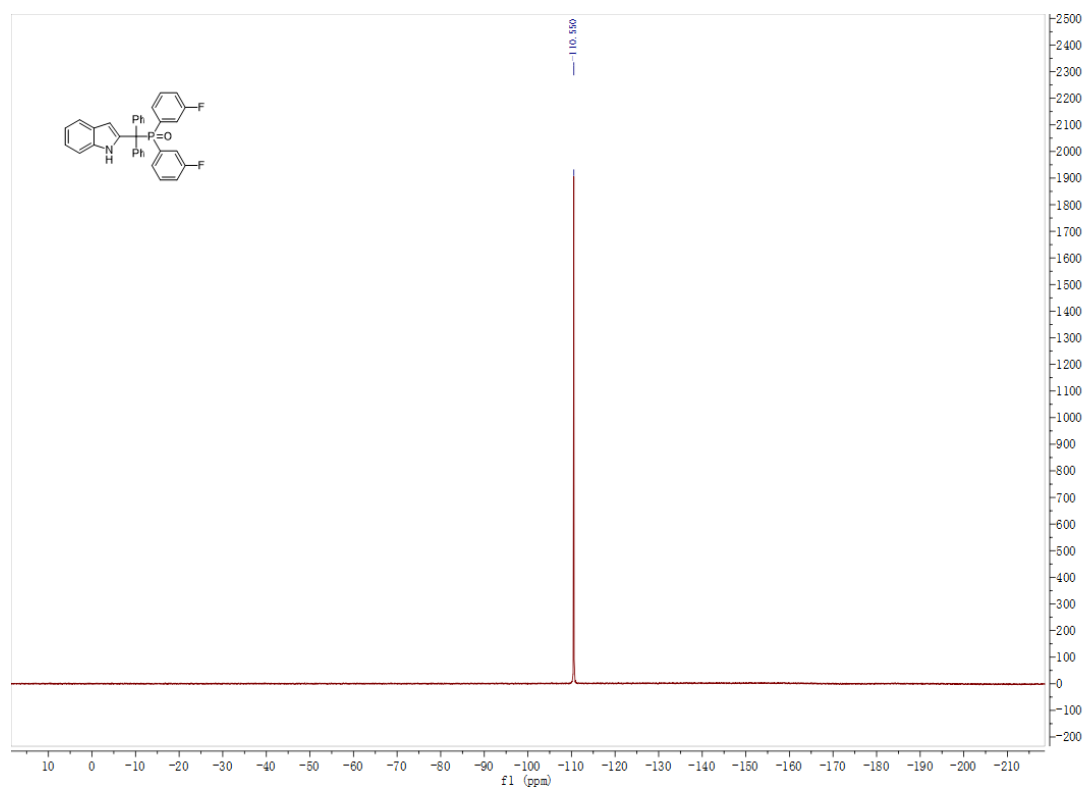




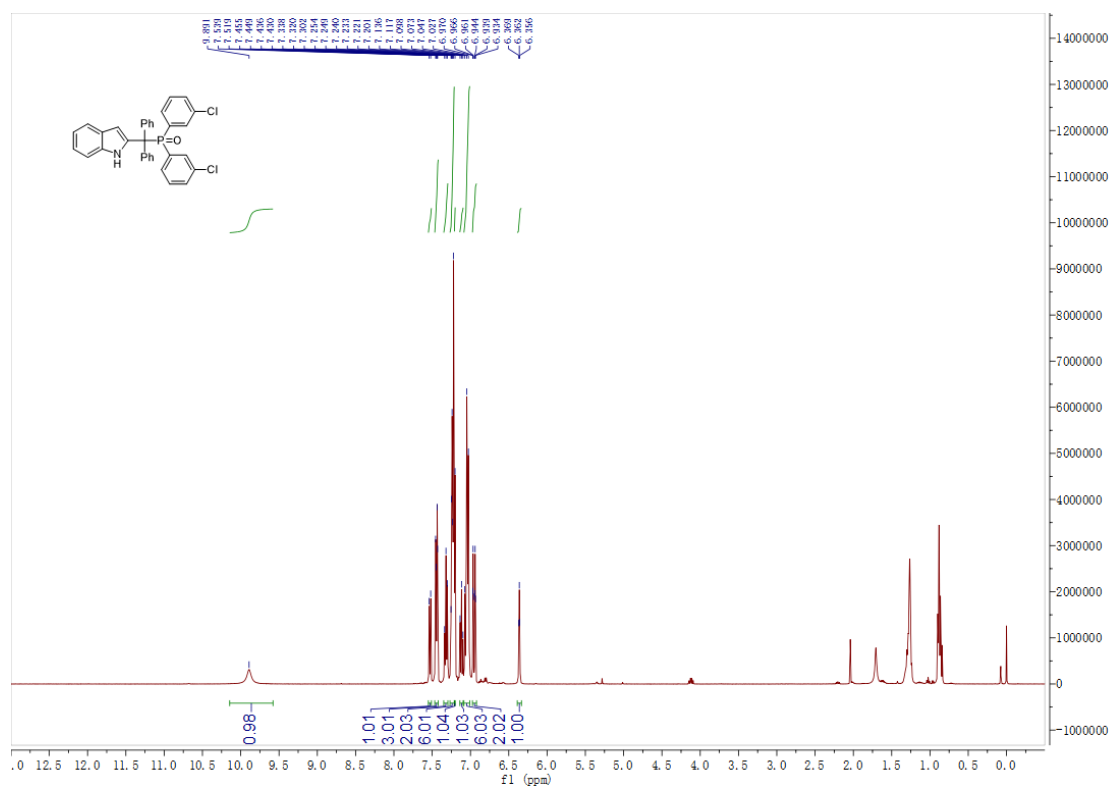
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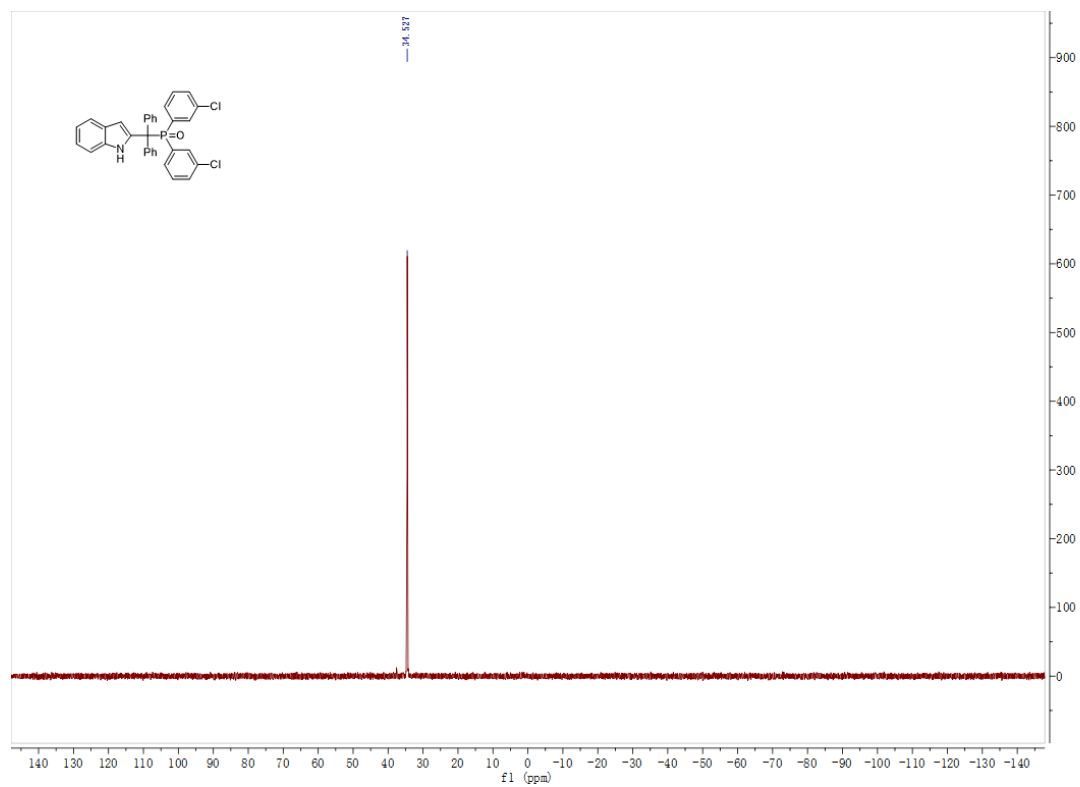
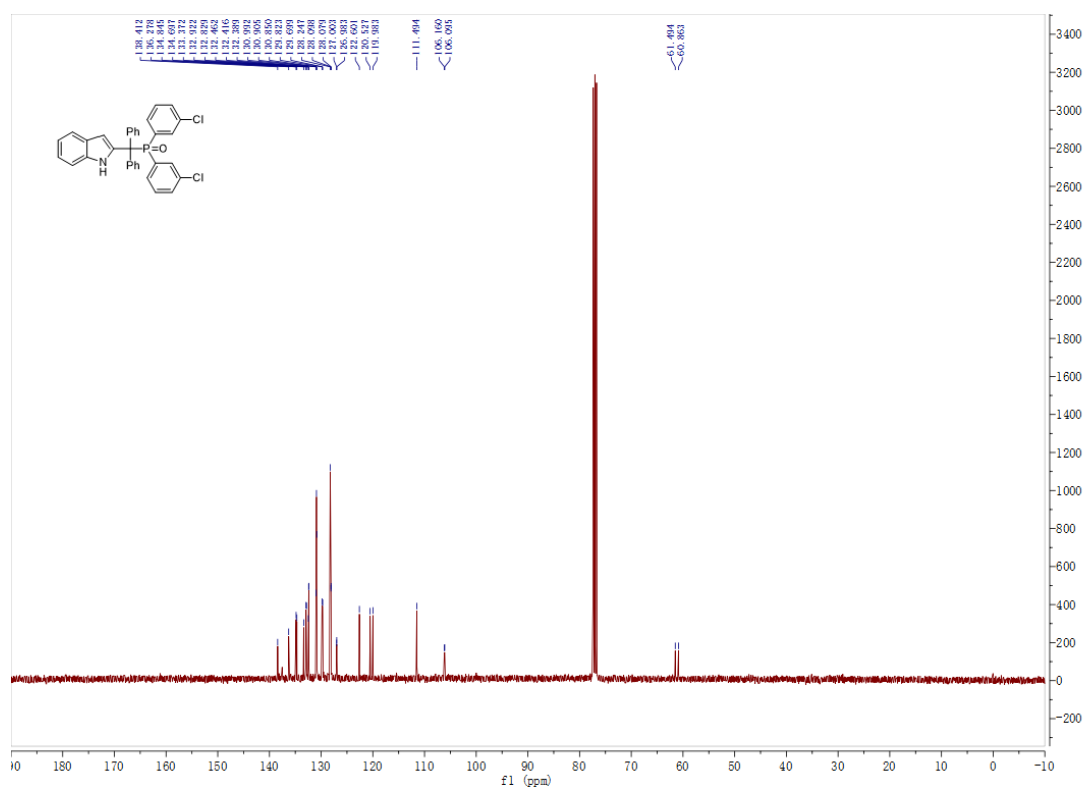




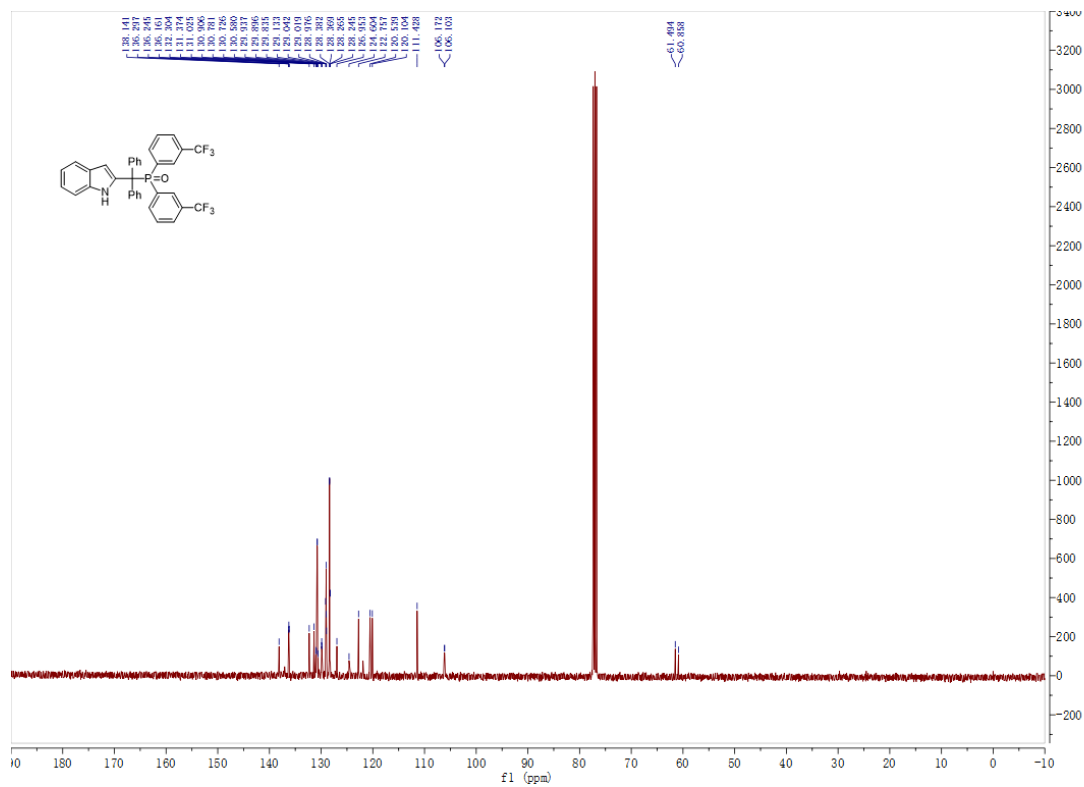
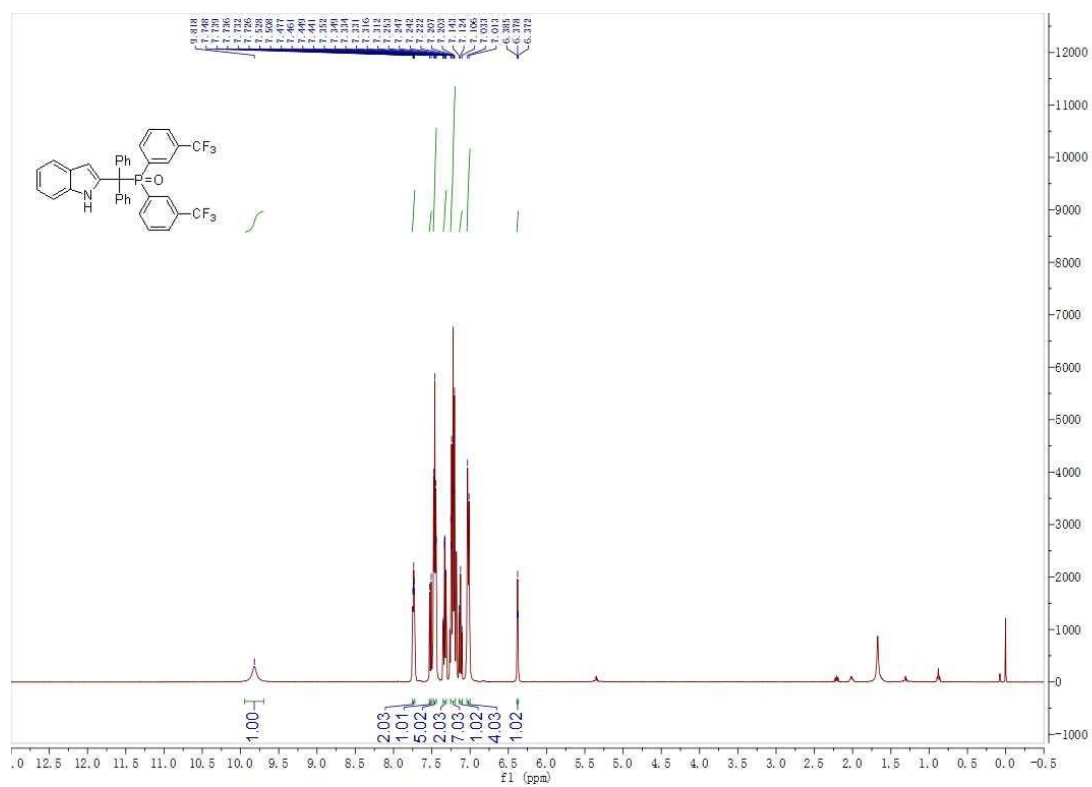


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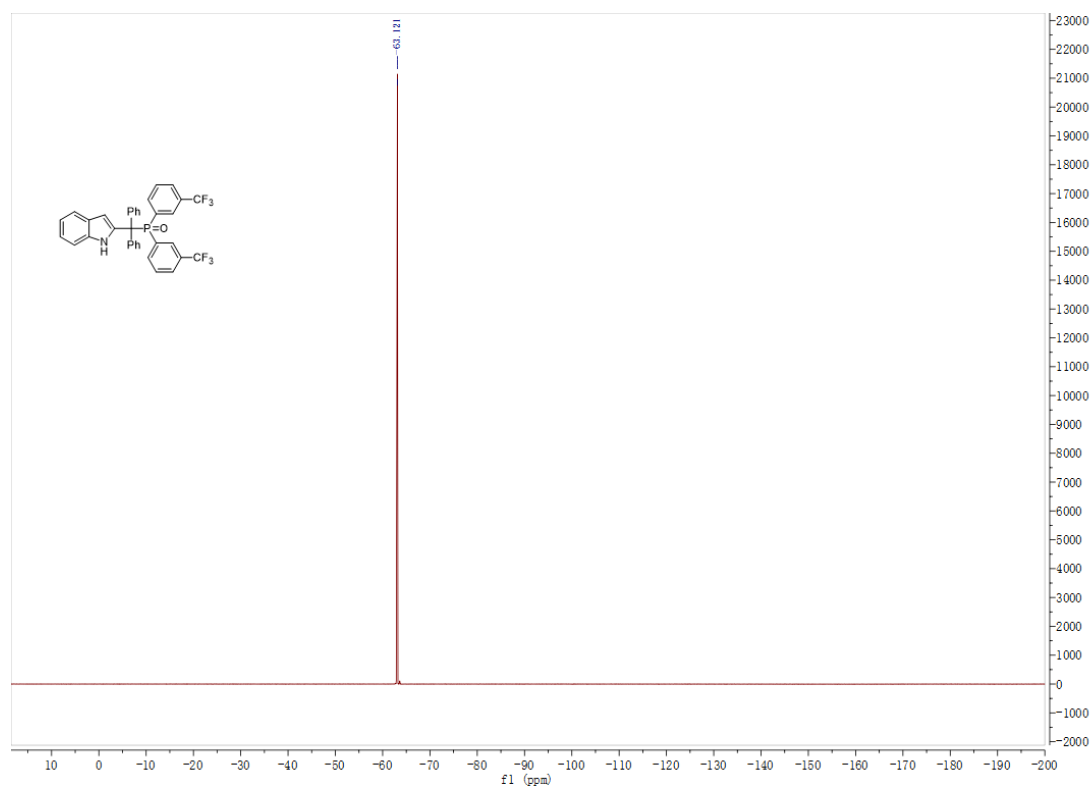
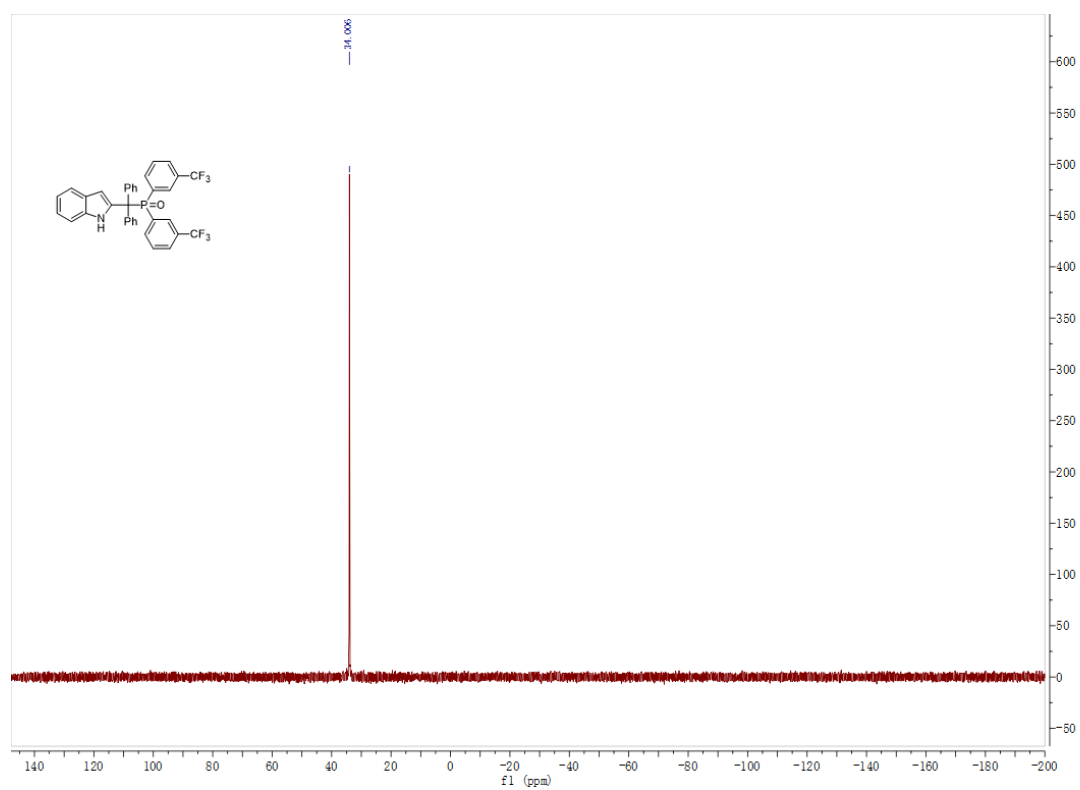




**3aj**

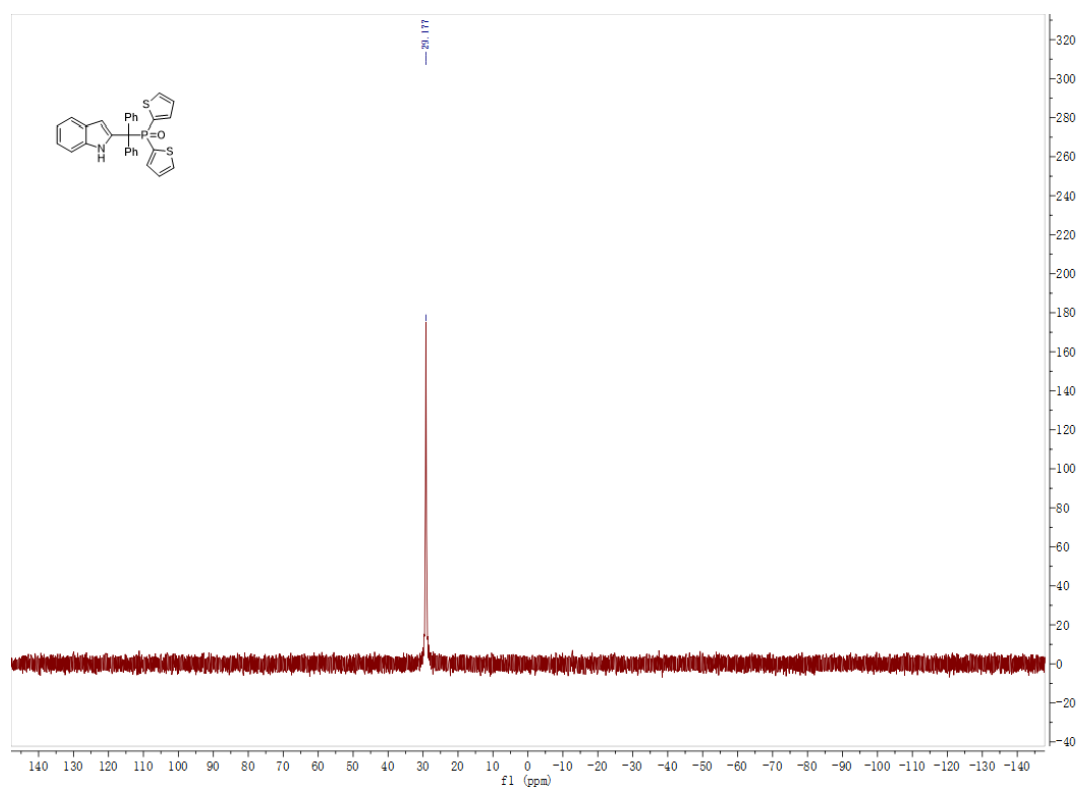




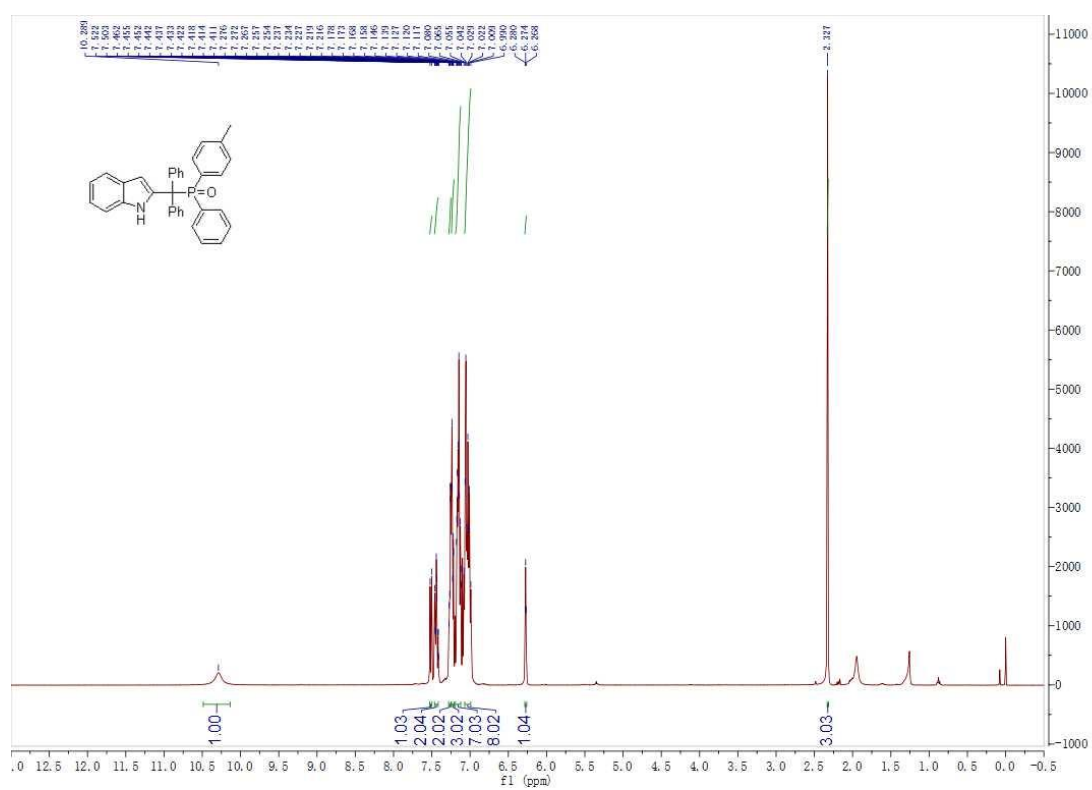


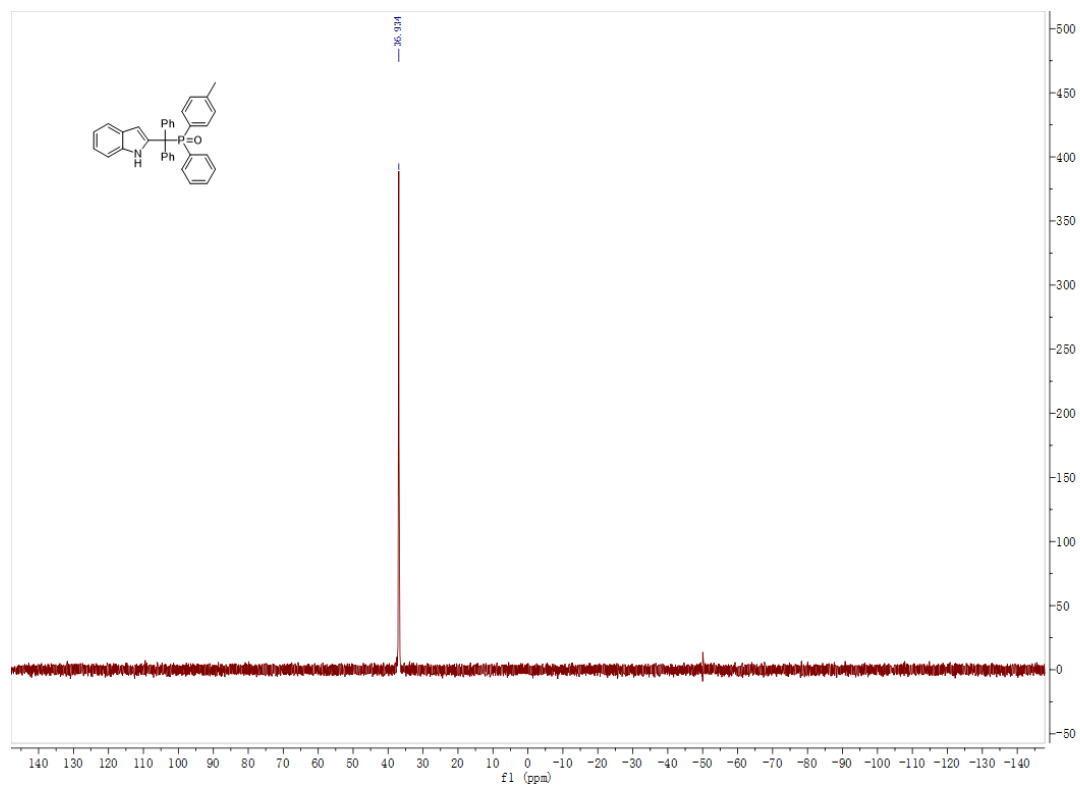
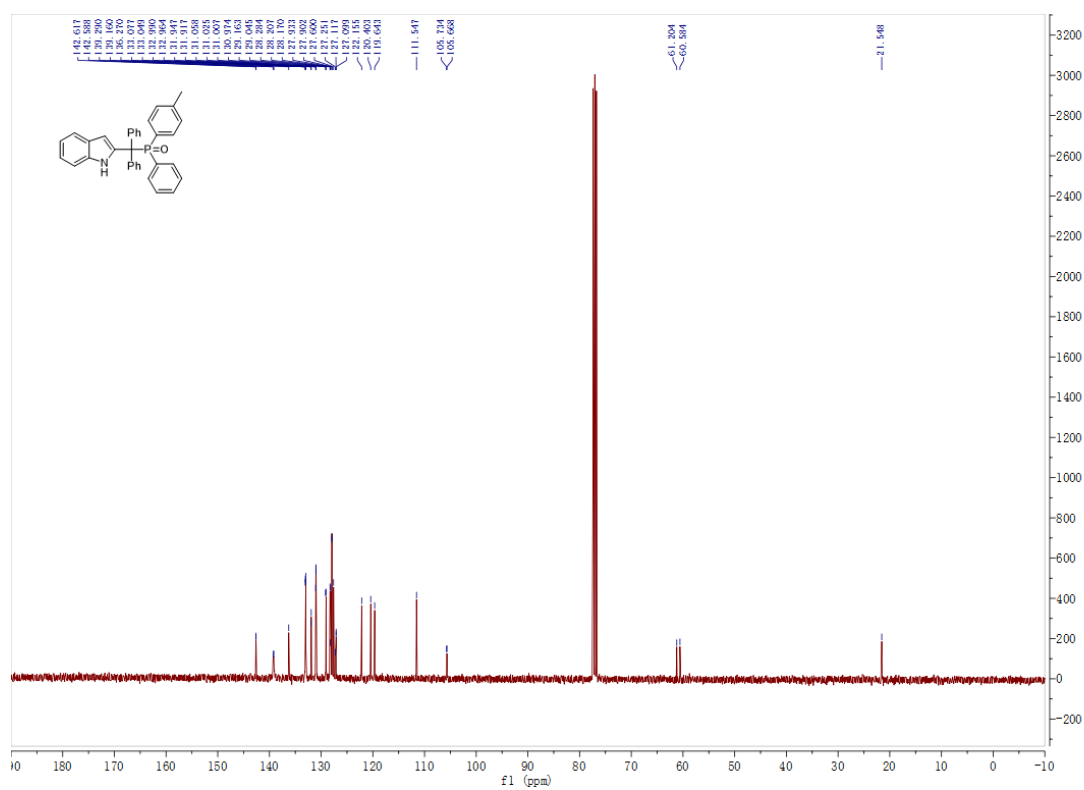
**3am**



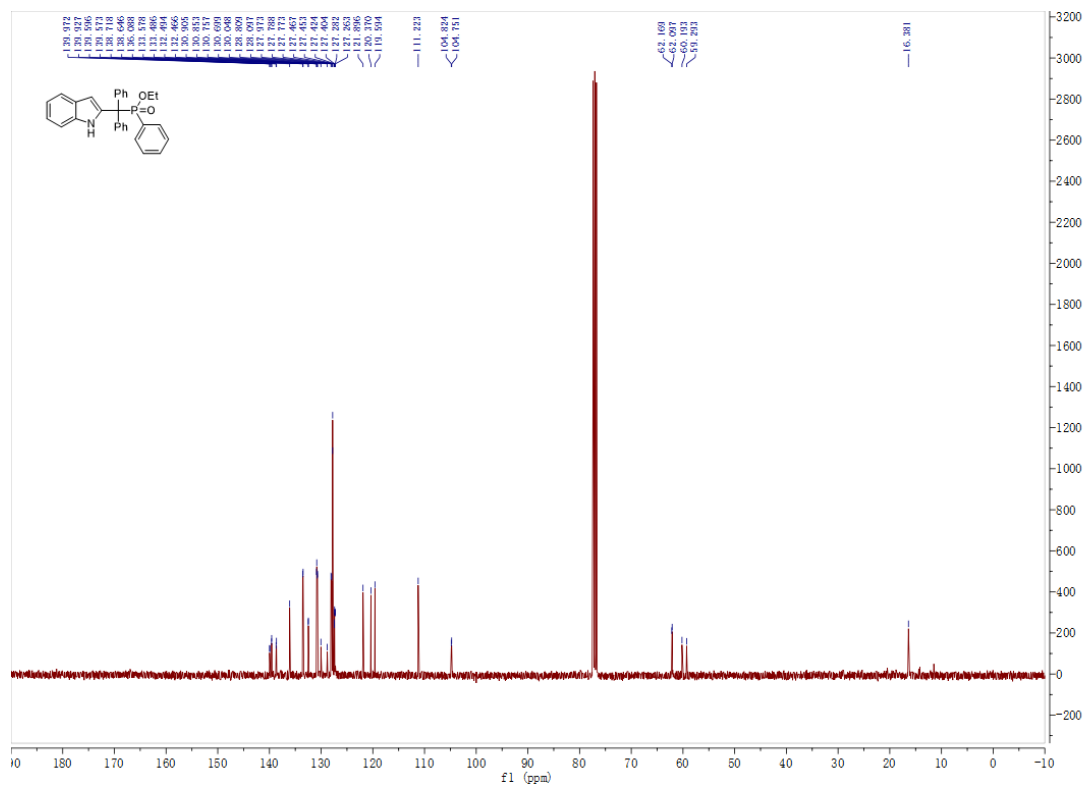
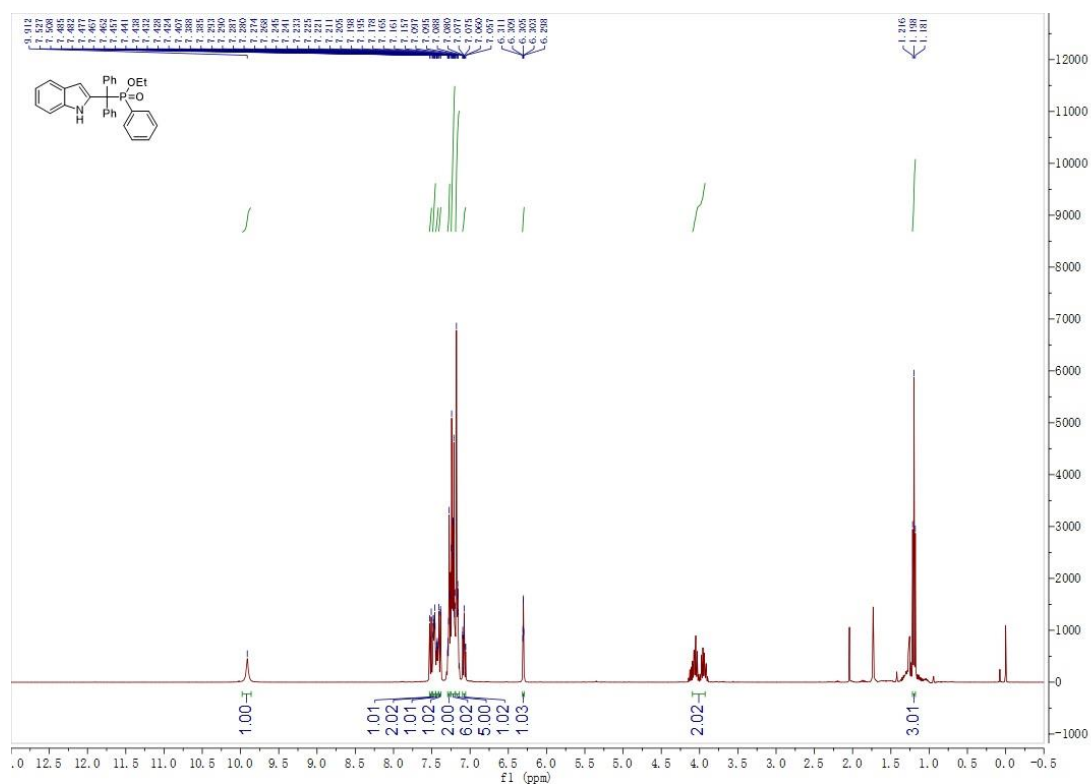


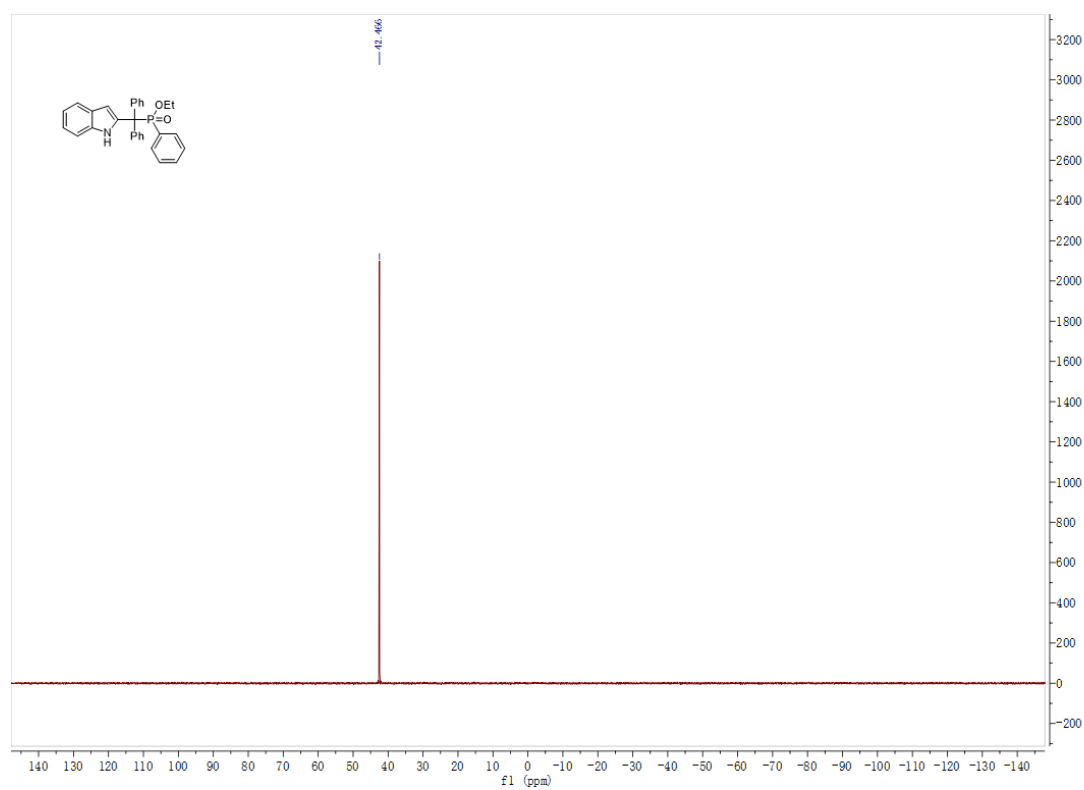
**3an**



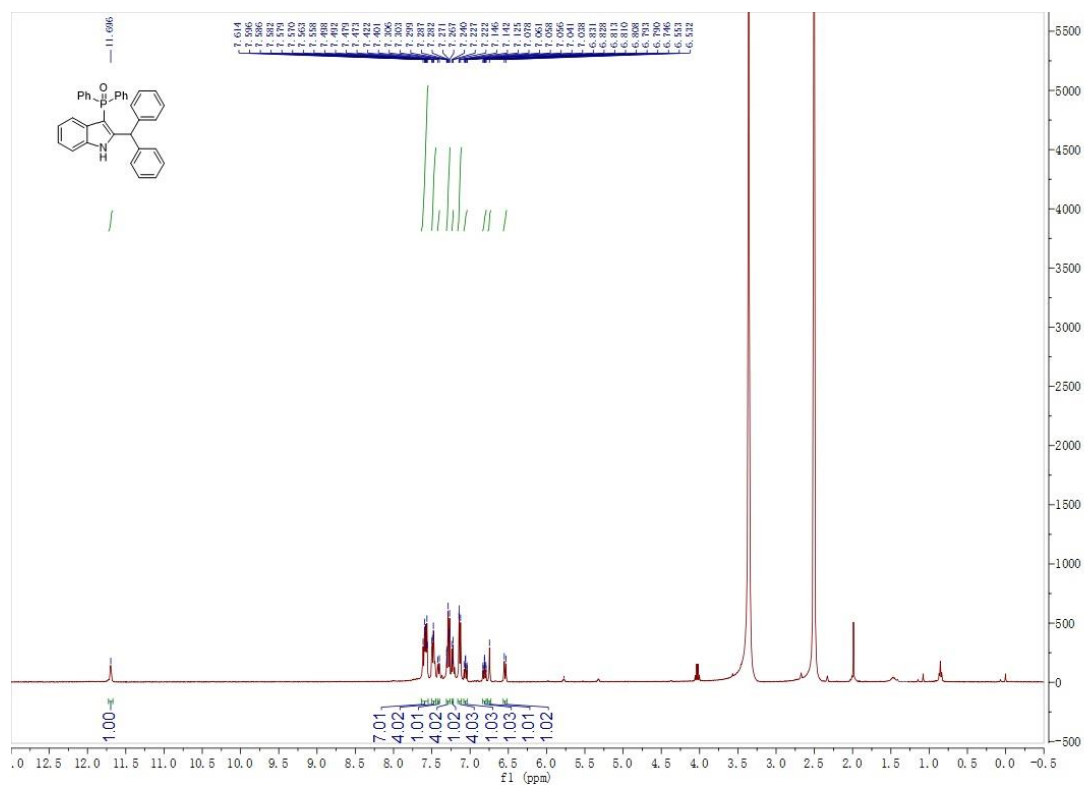


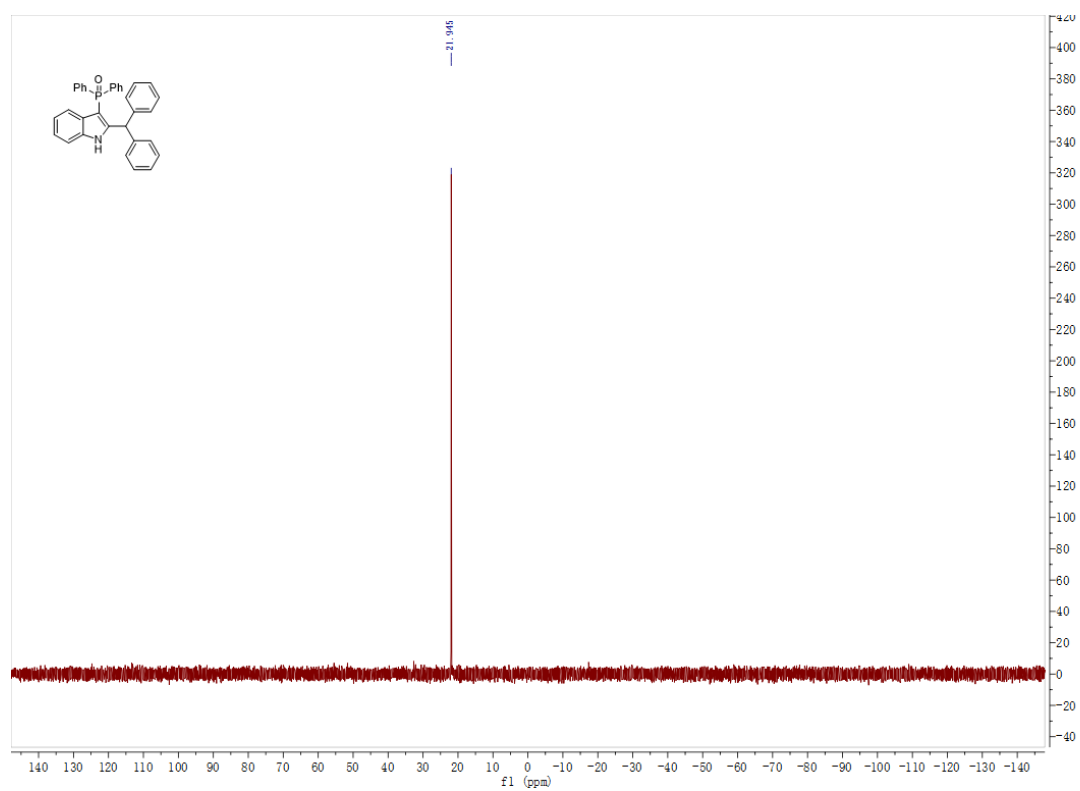
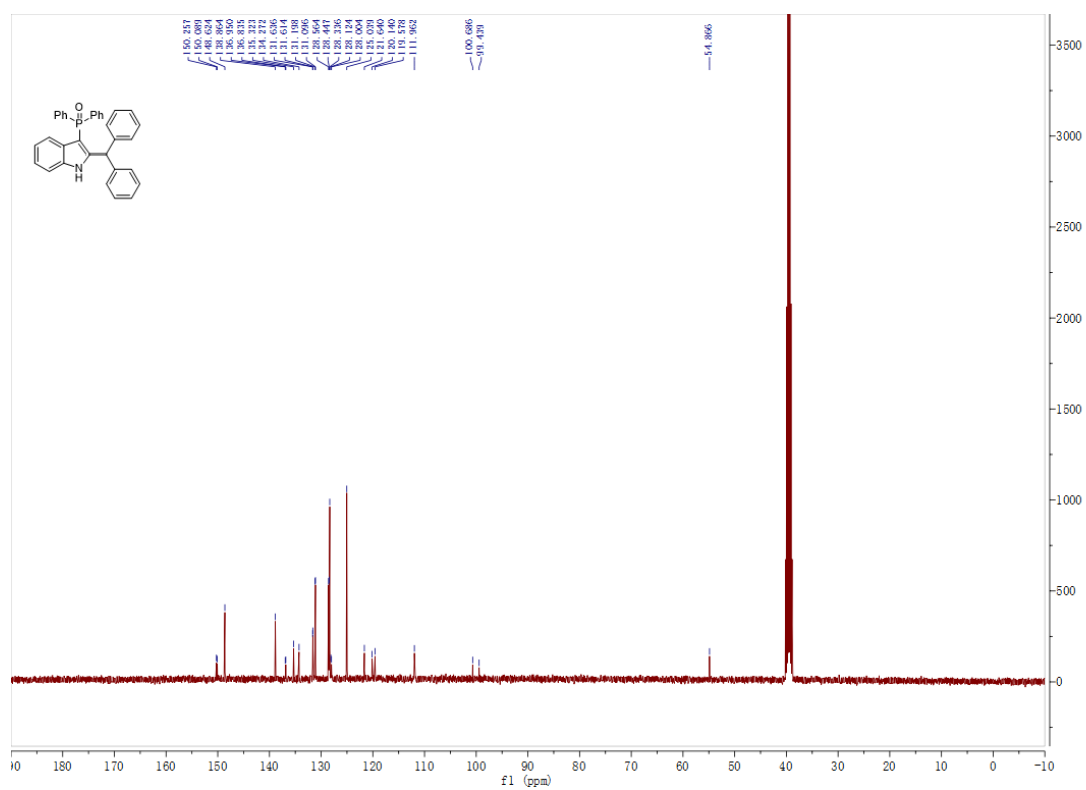
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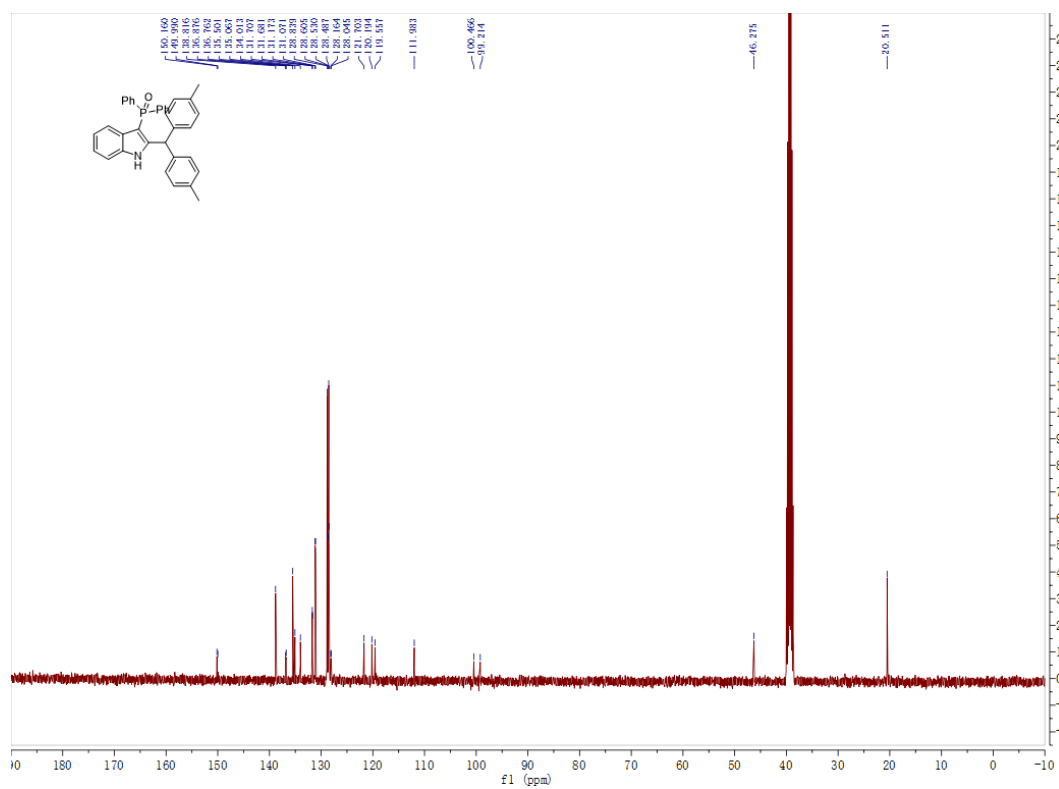
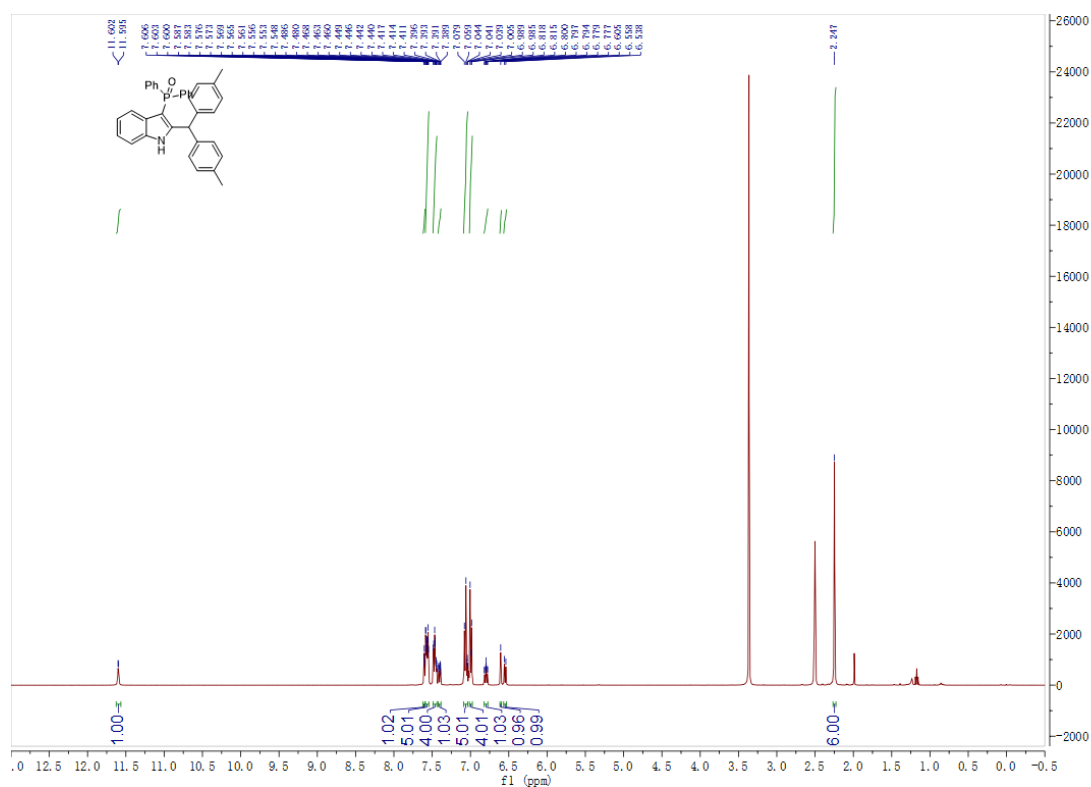


**4aa**

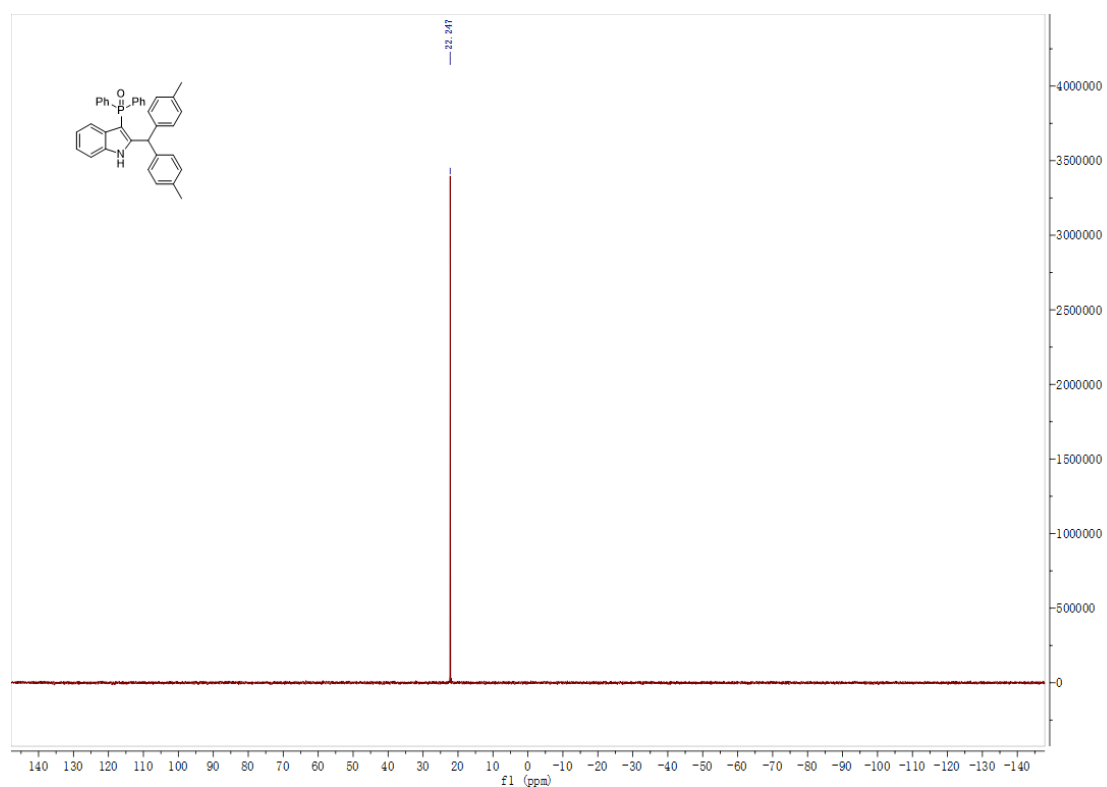




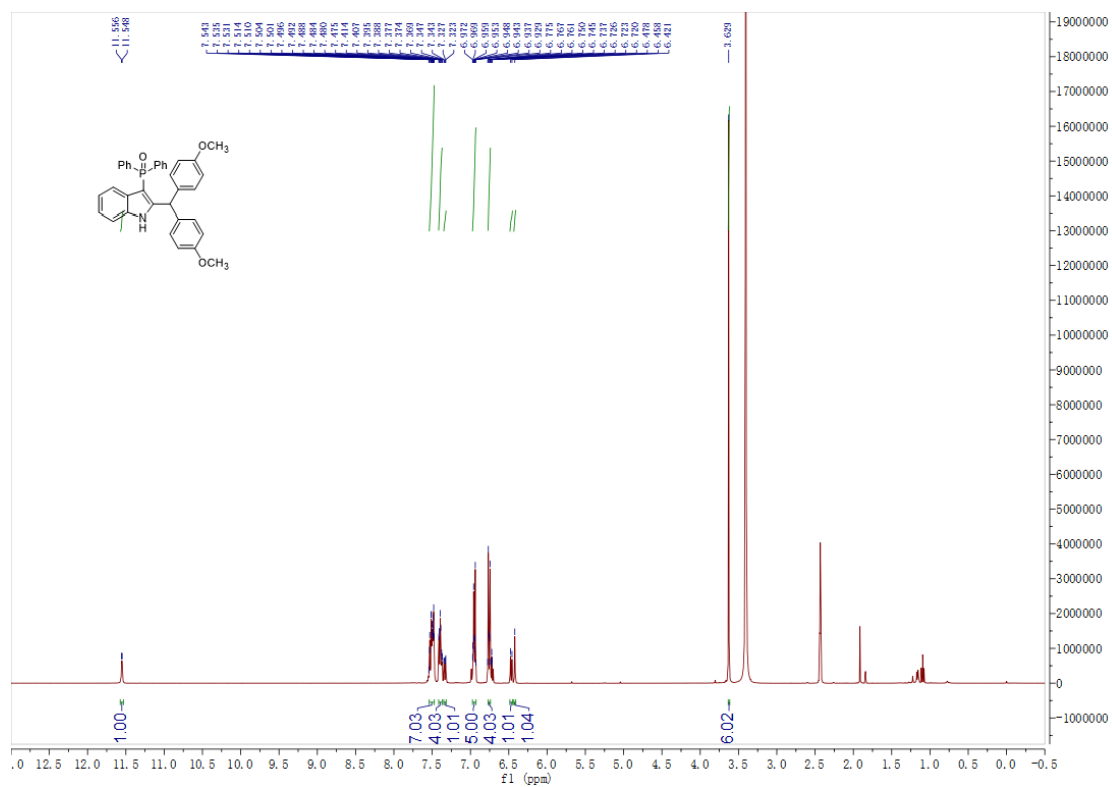
**4ba**

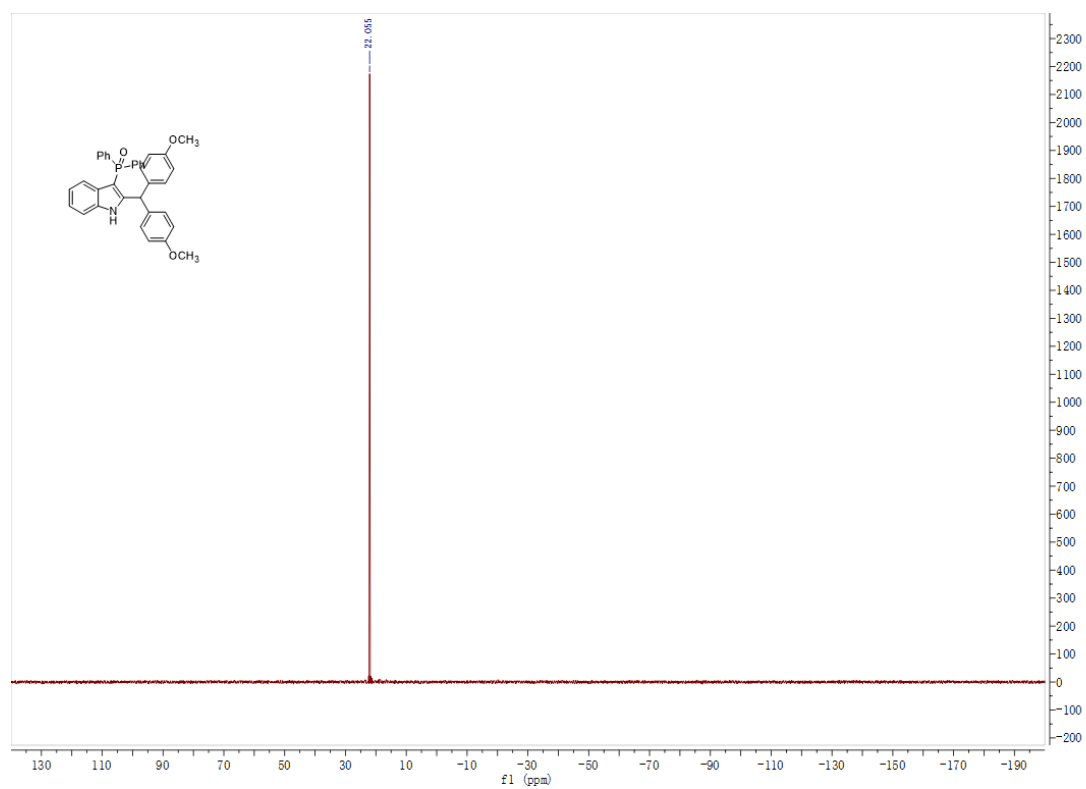
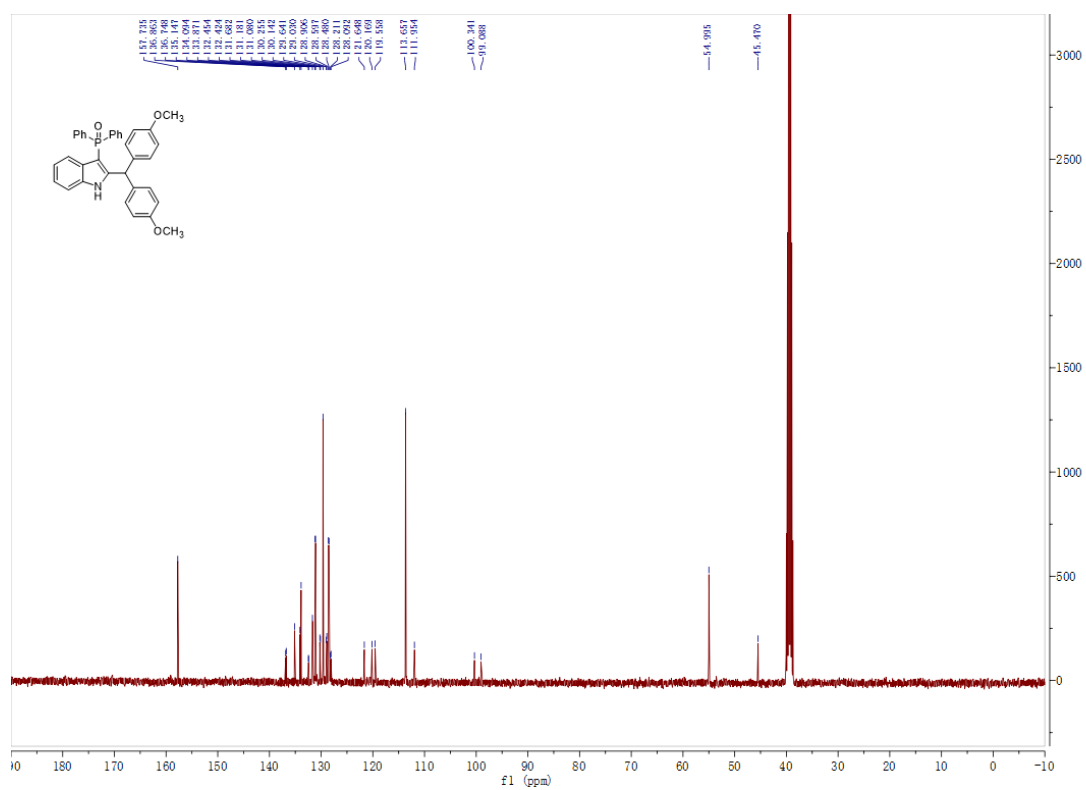




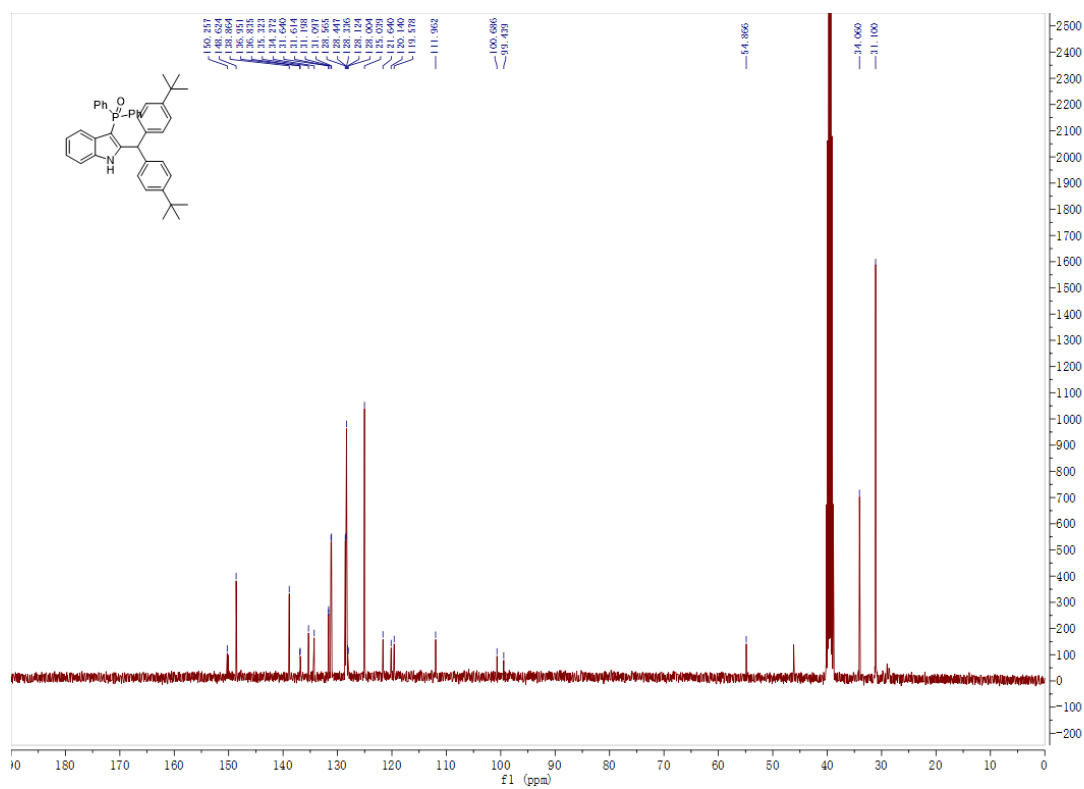
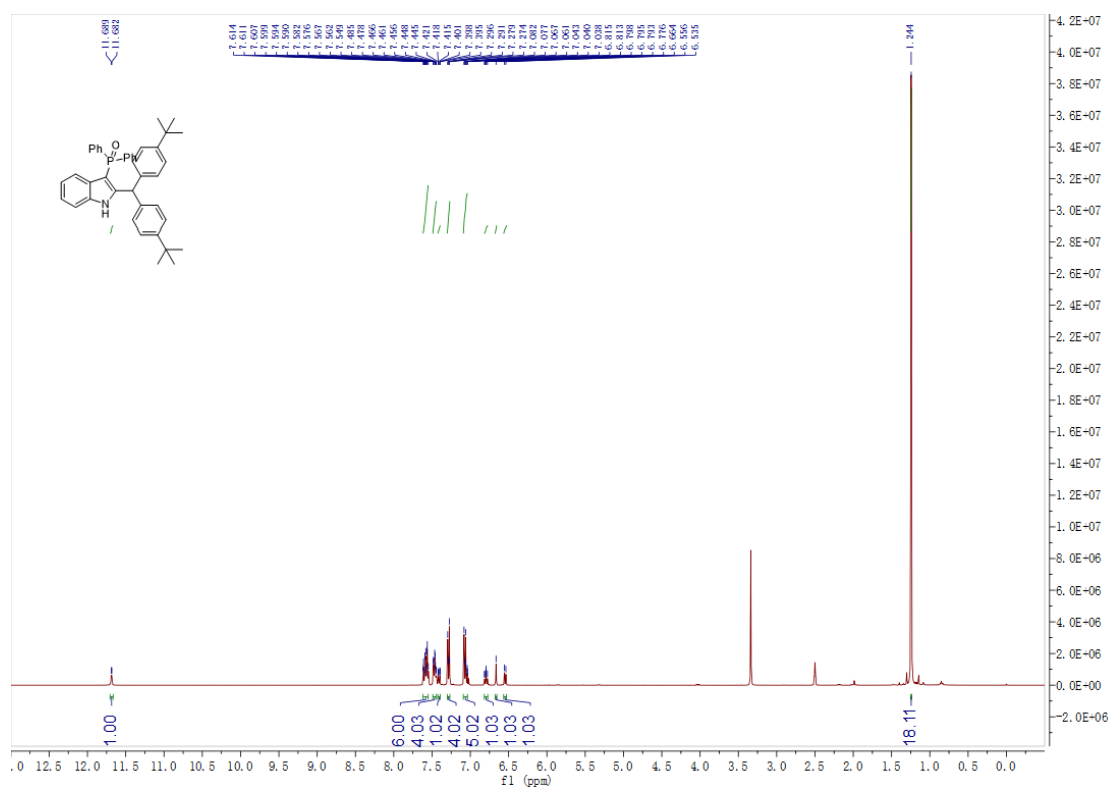


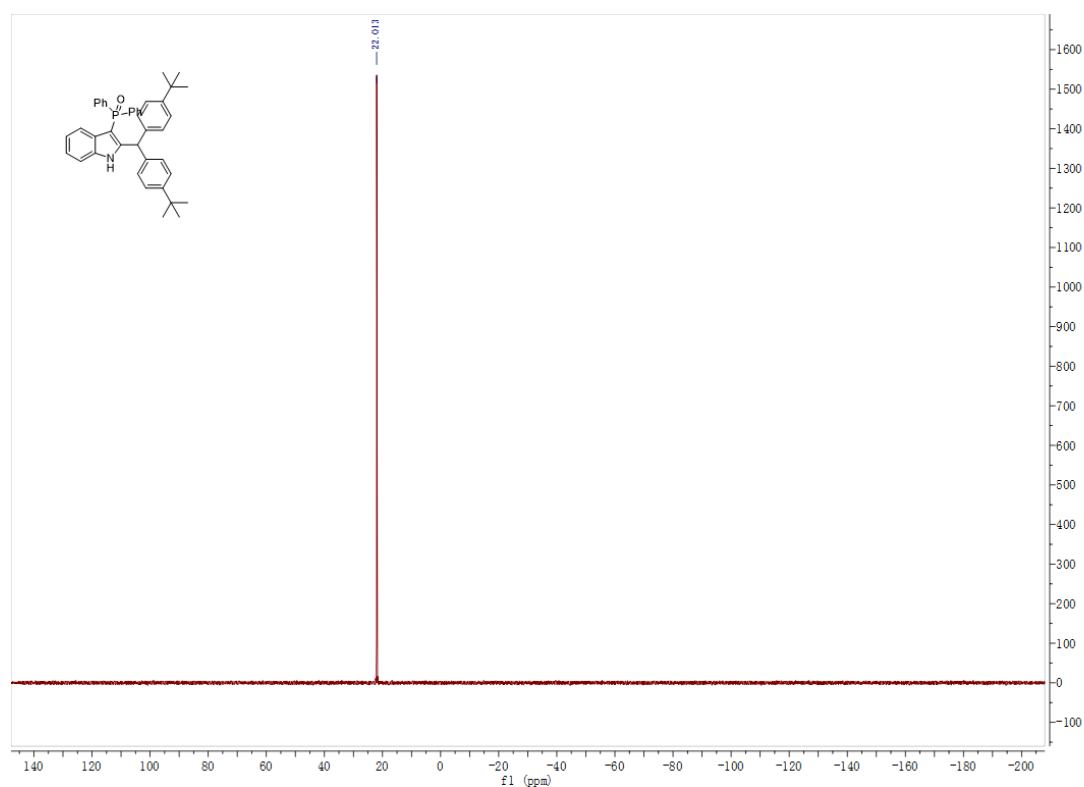
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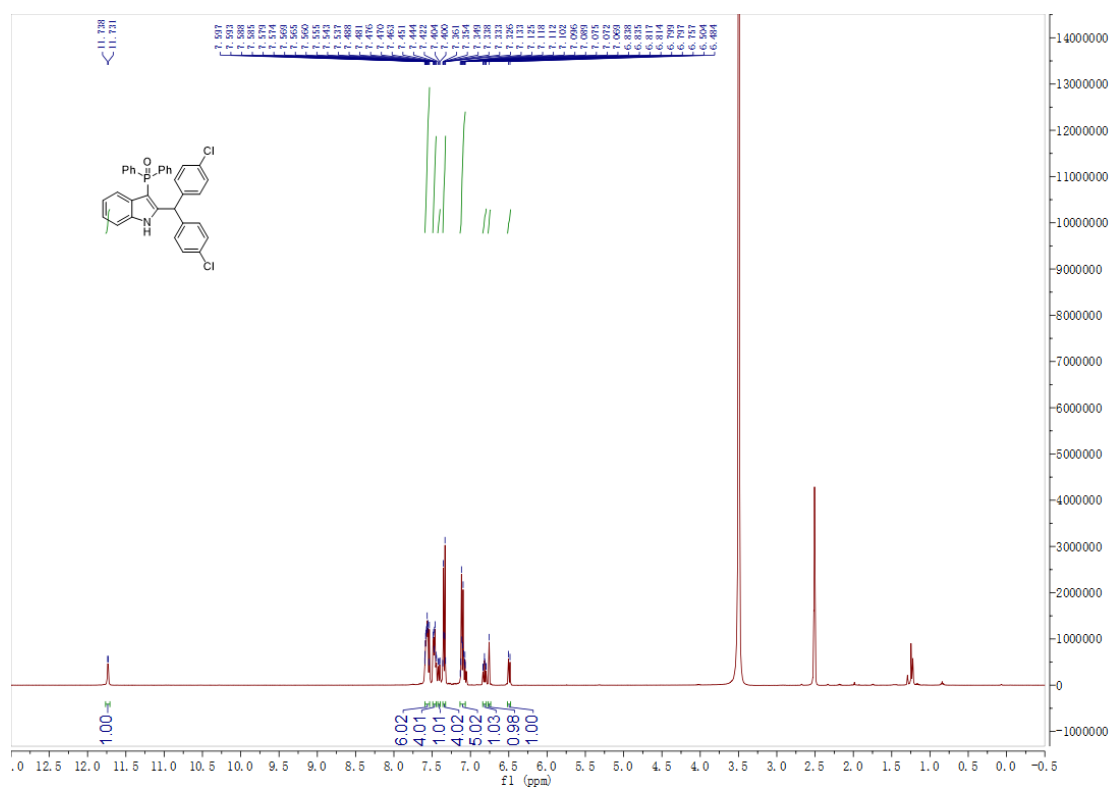


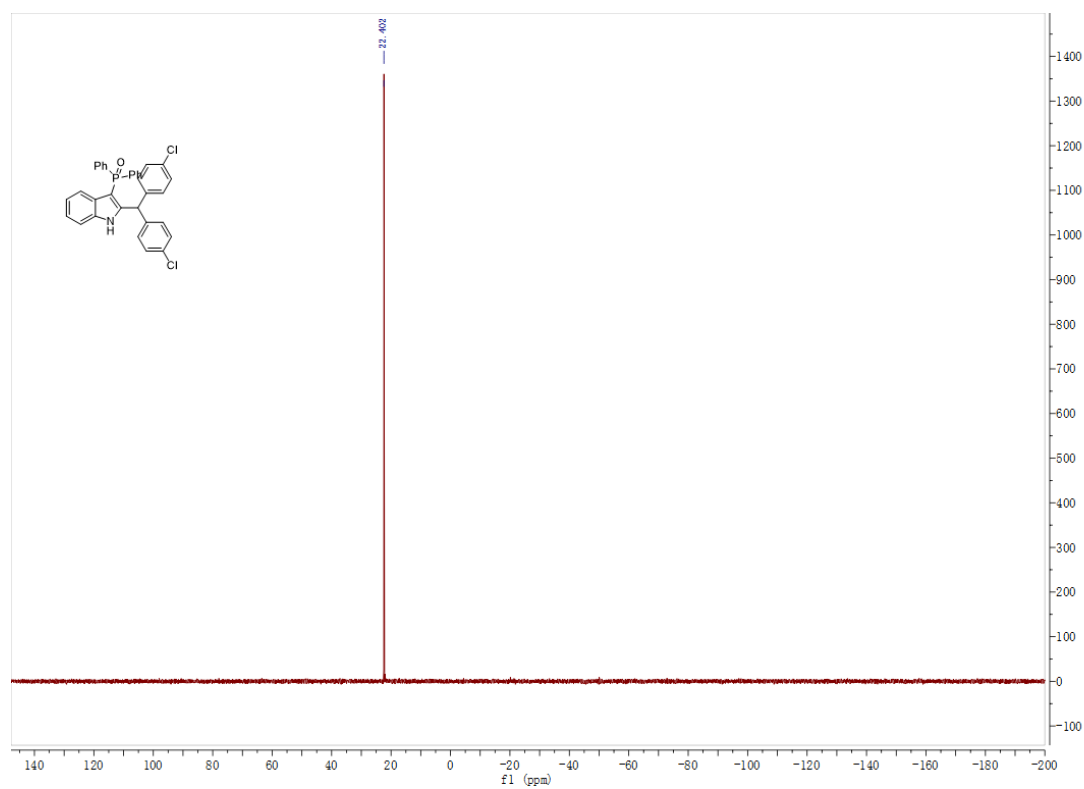
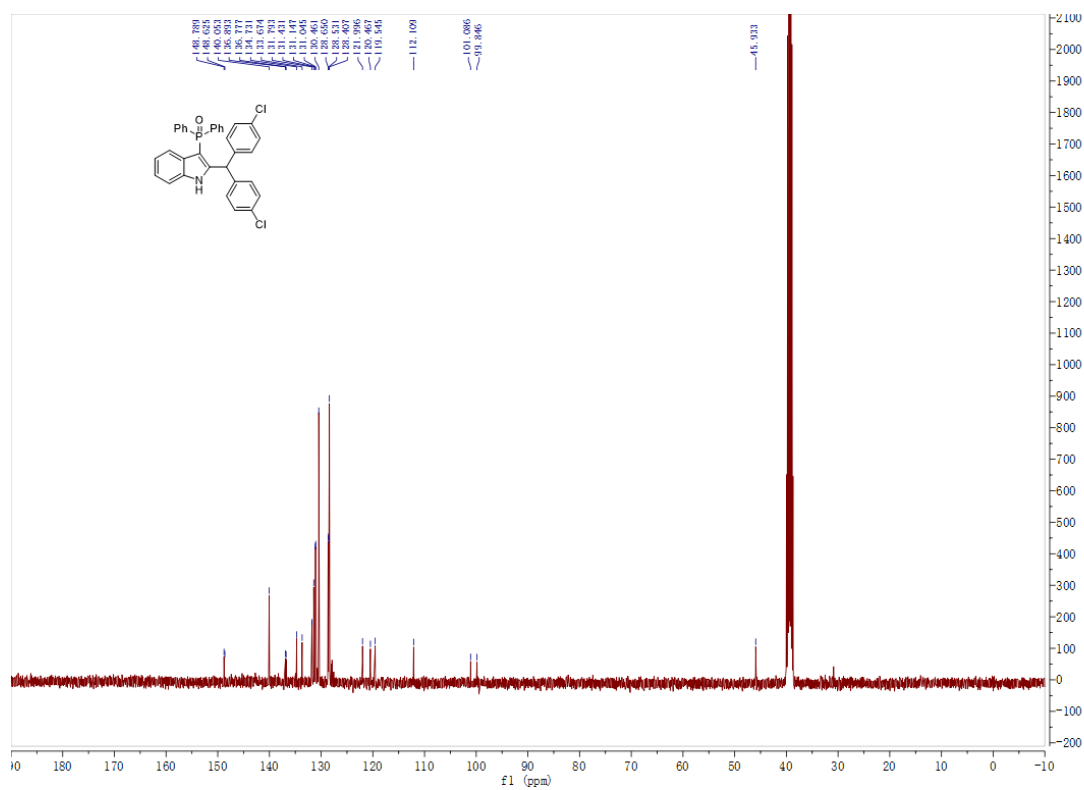
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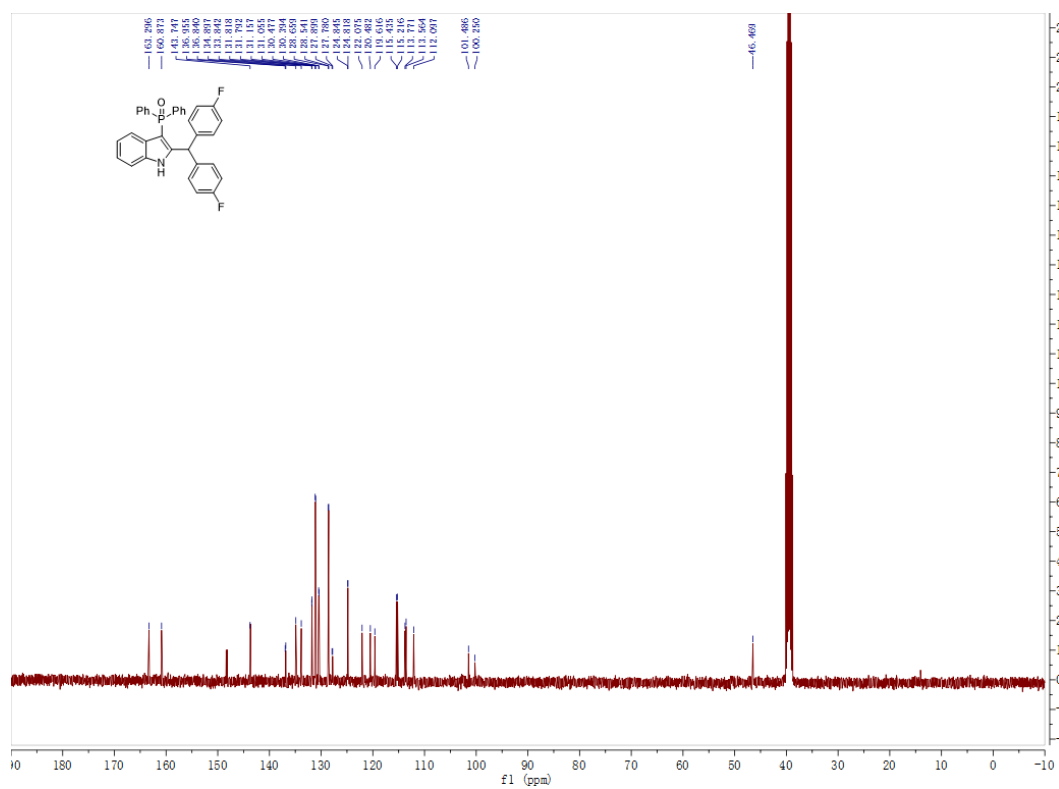
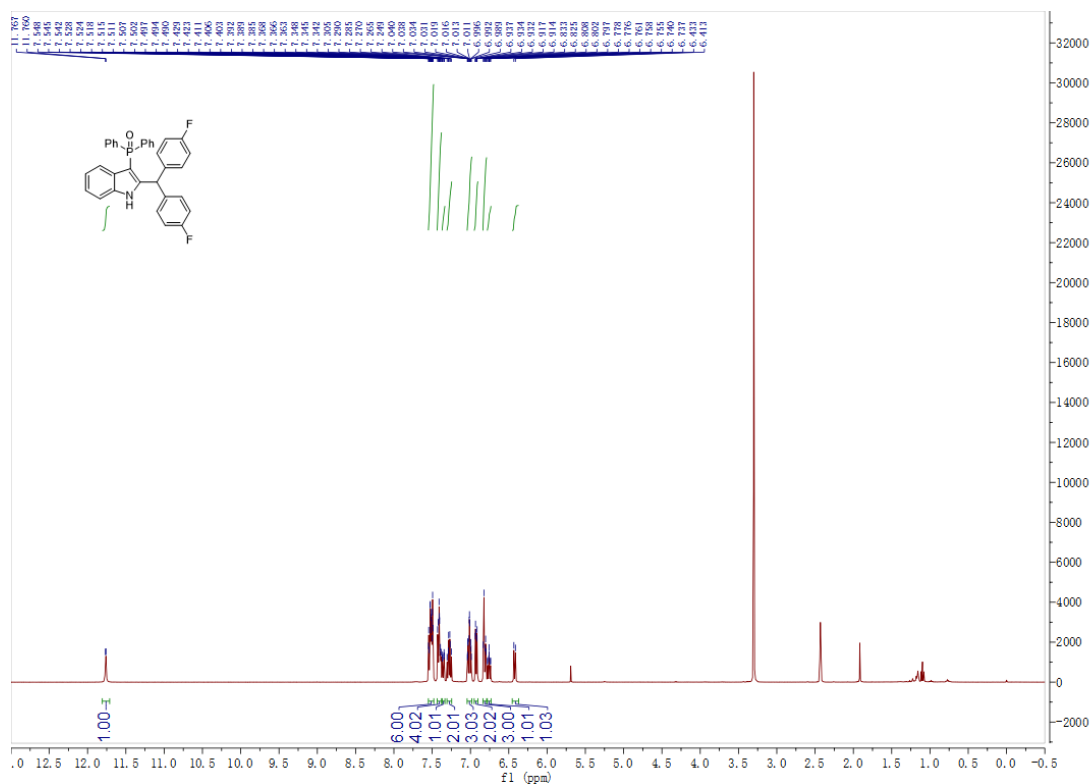


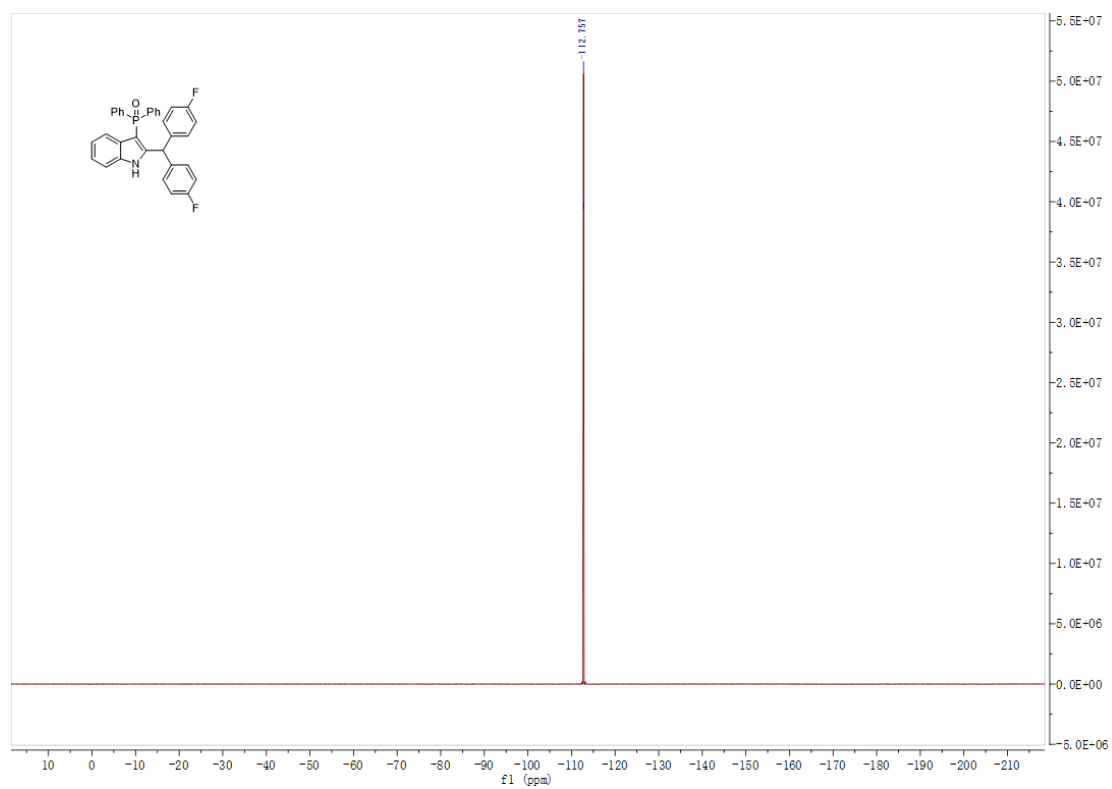
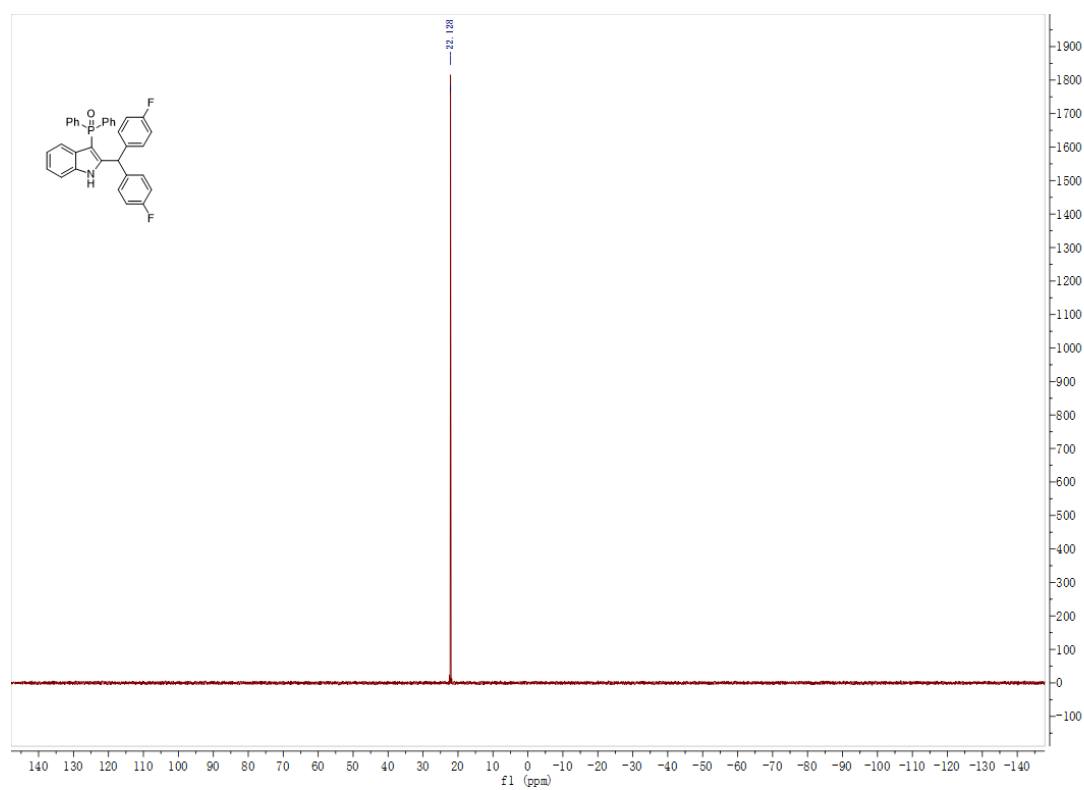
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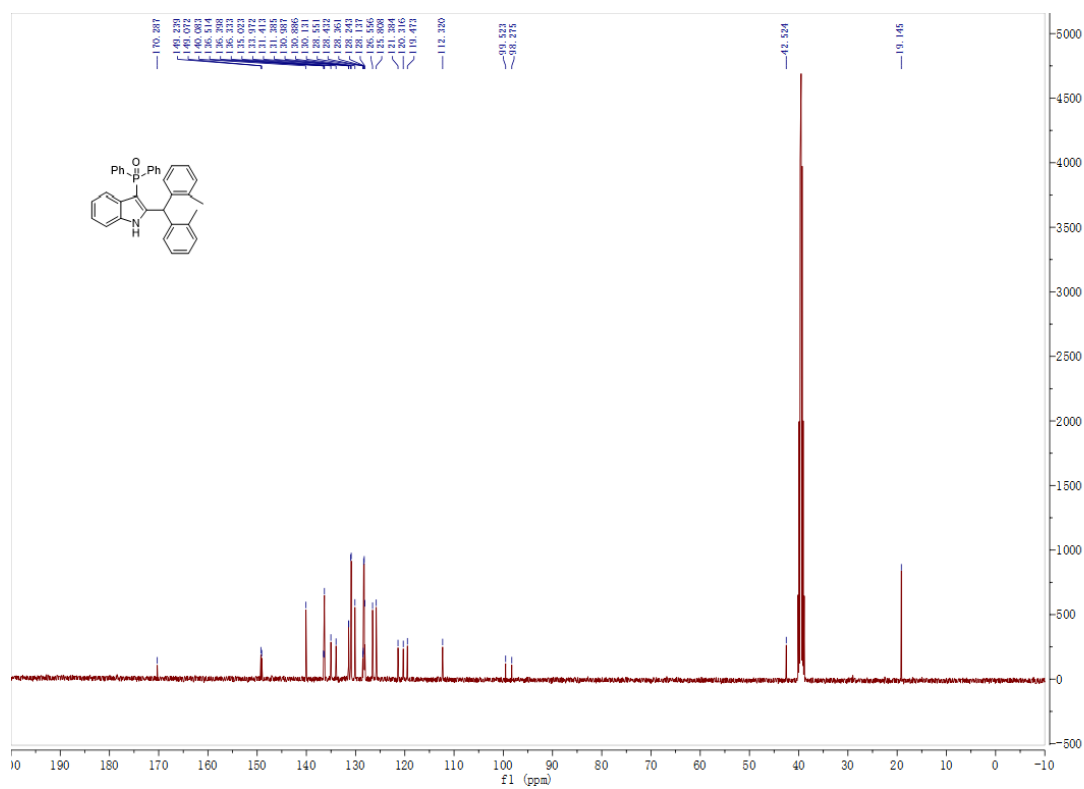
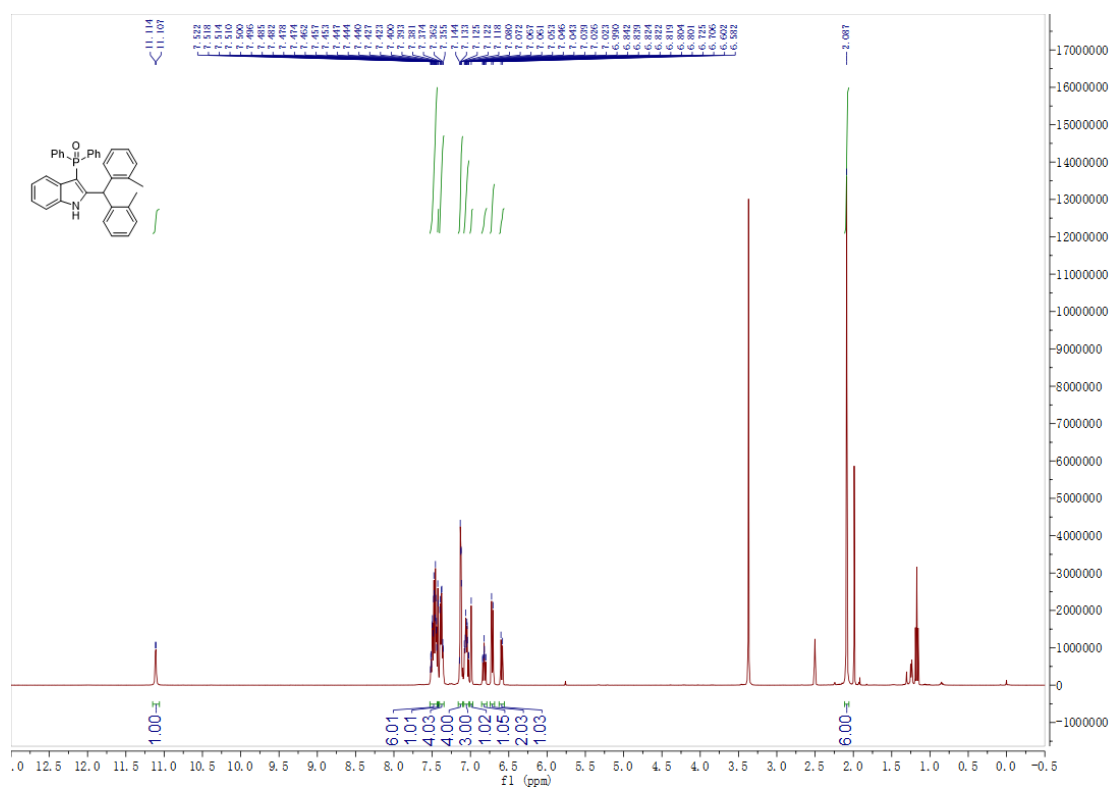


**4fa**

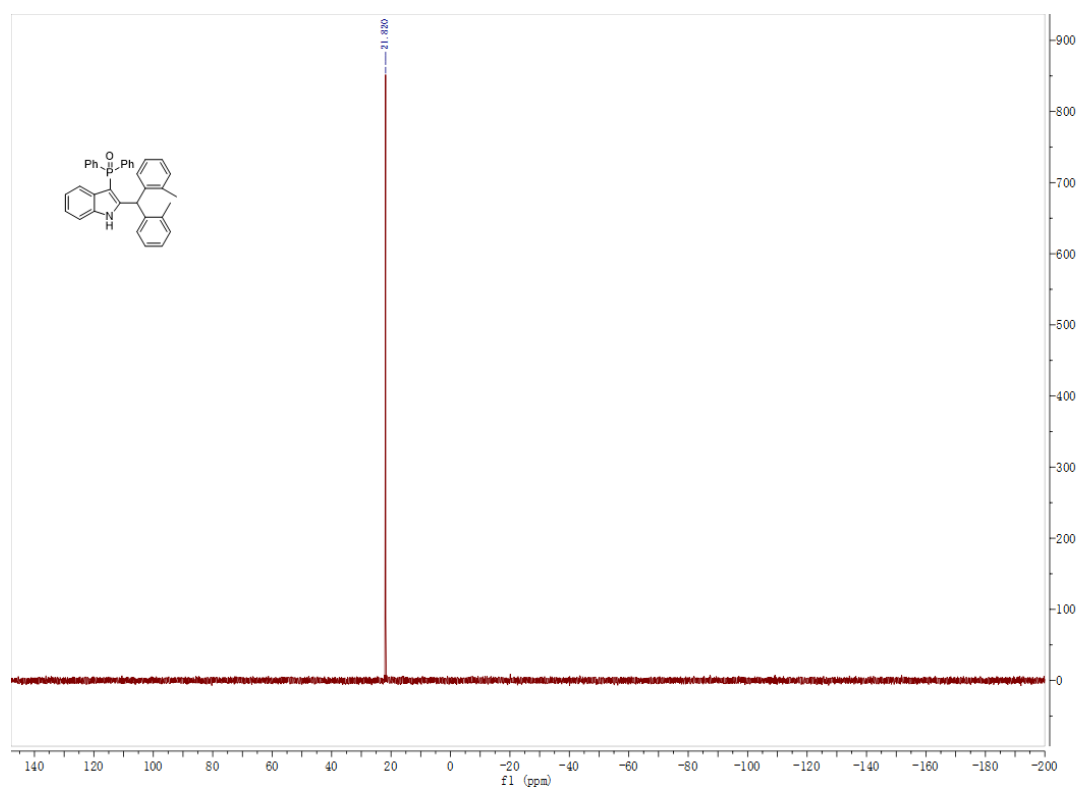




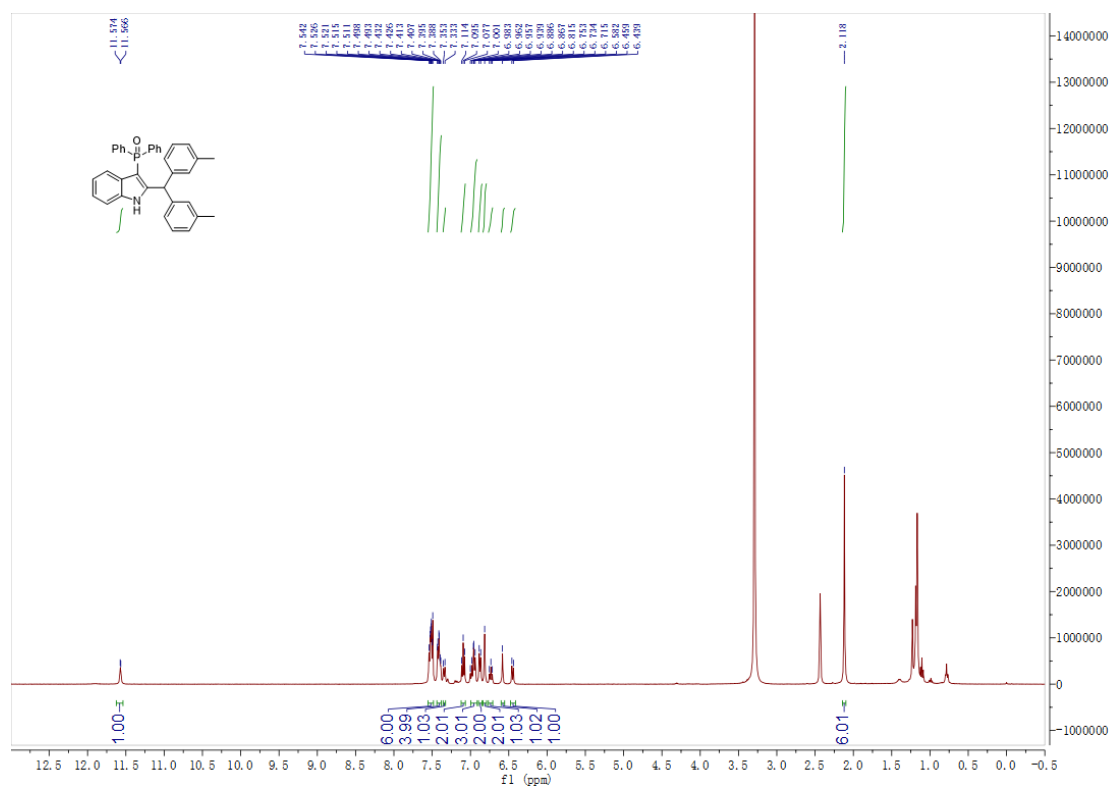
**4ga**

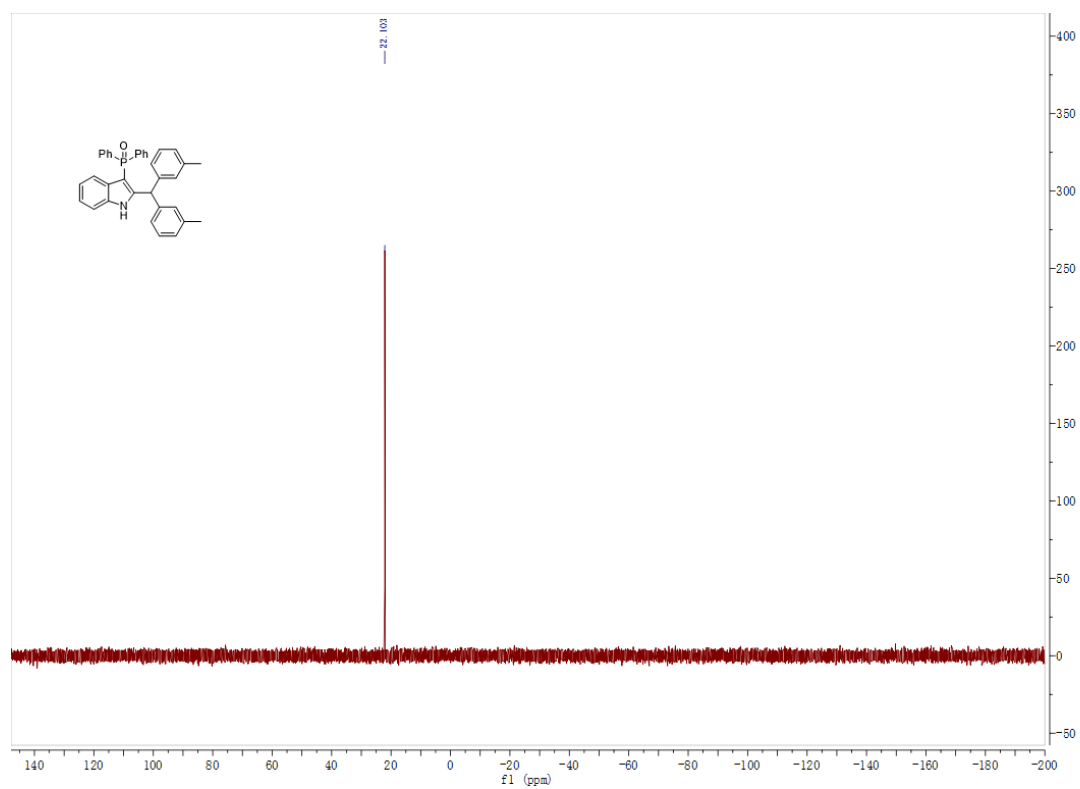
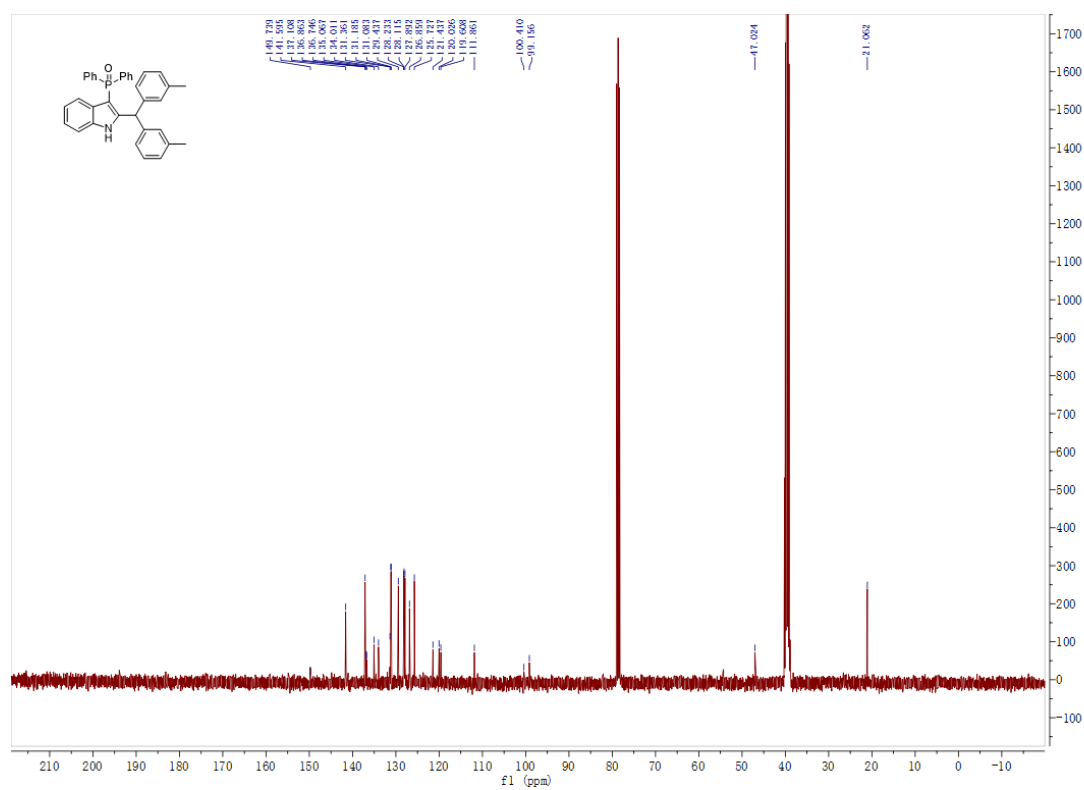




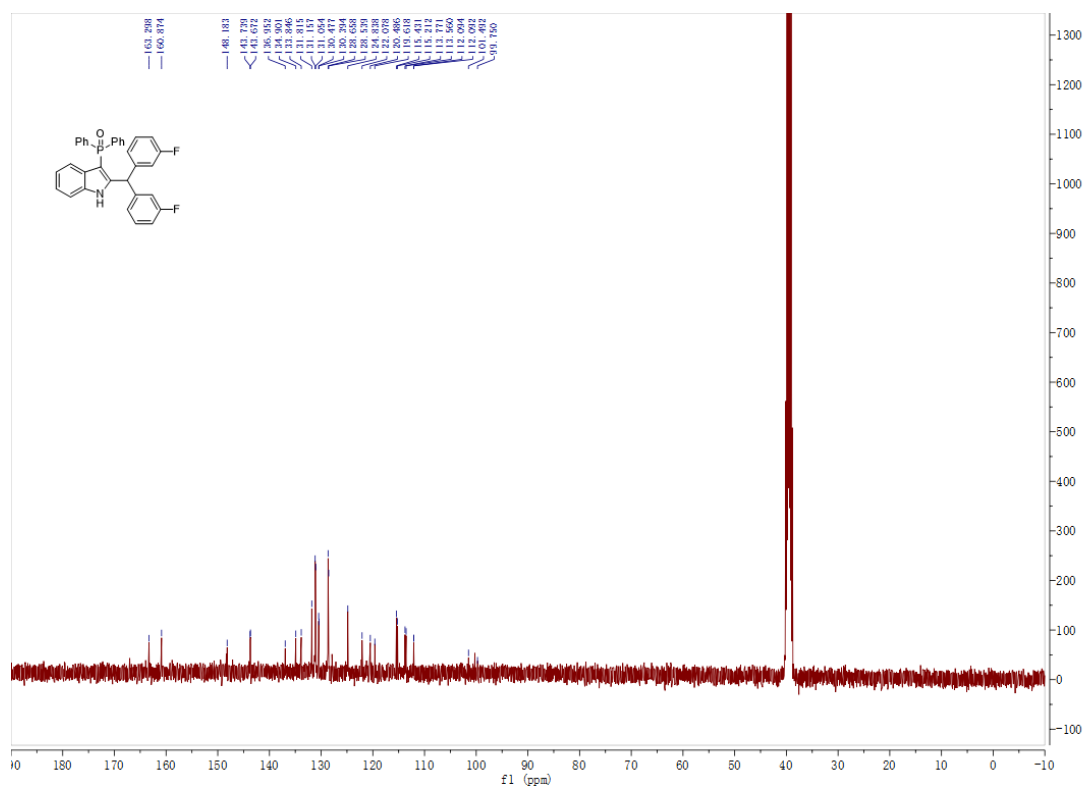
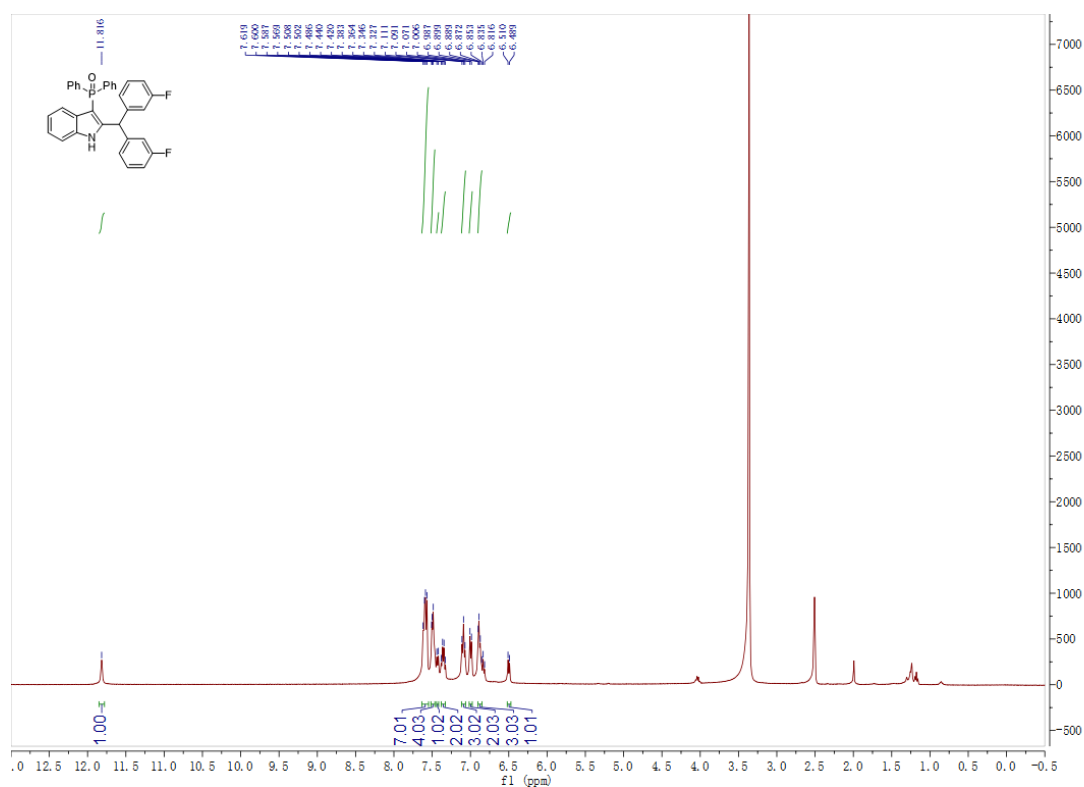


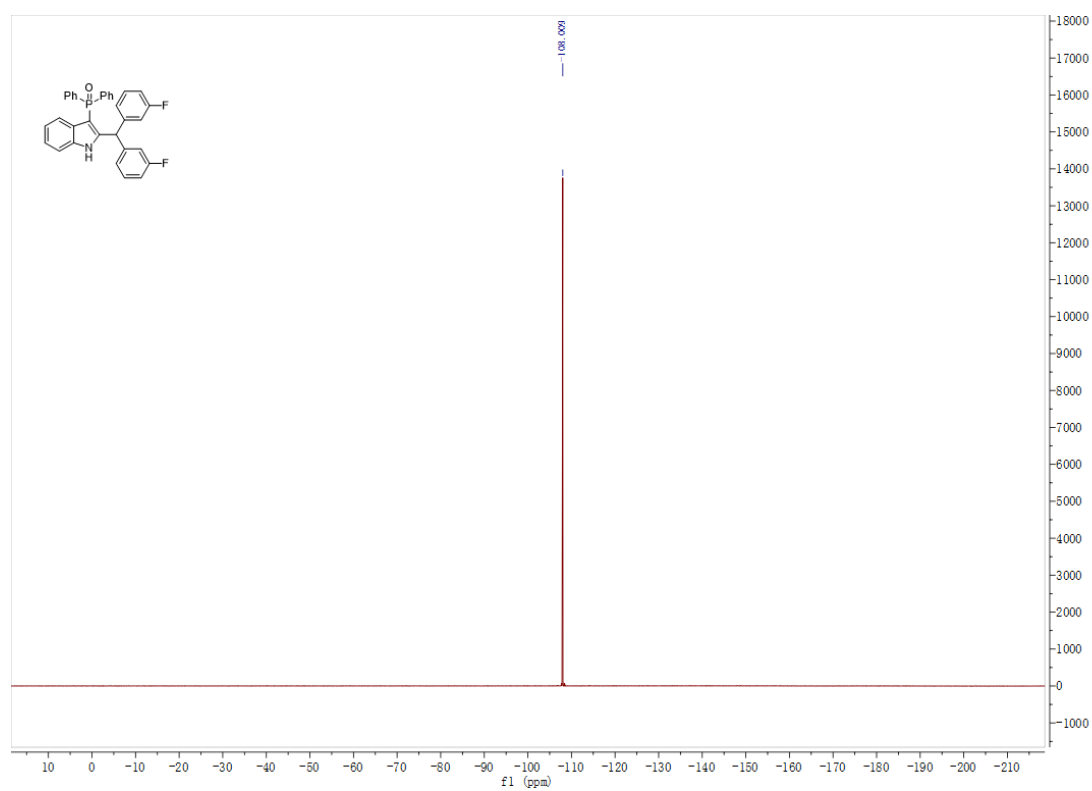
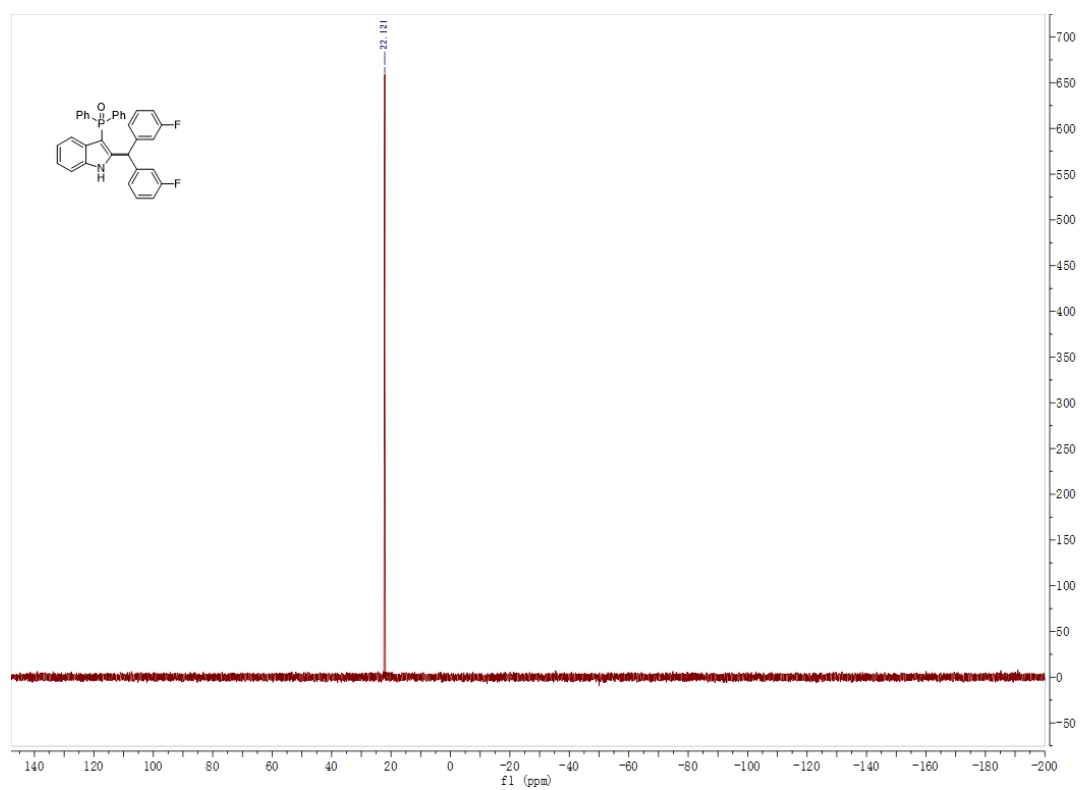
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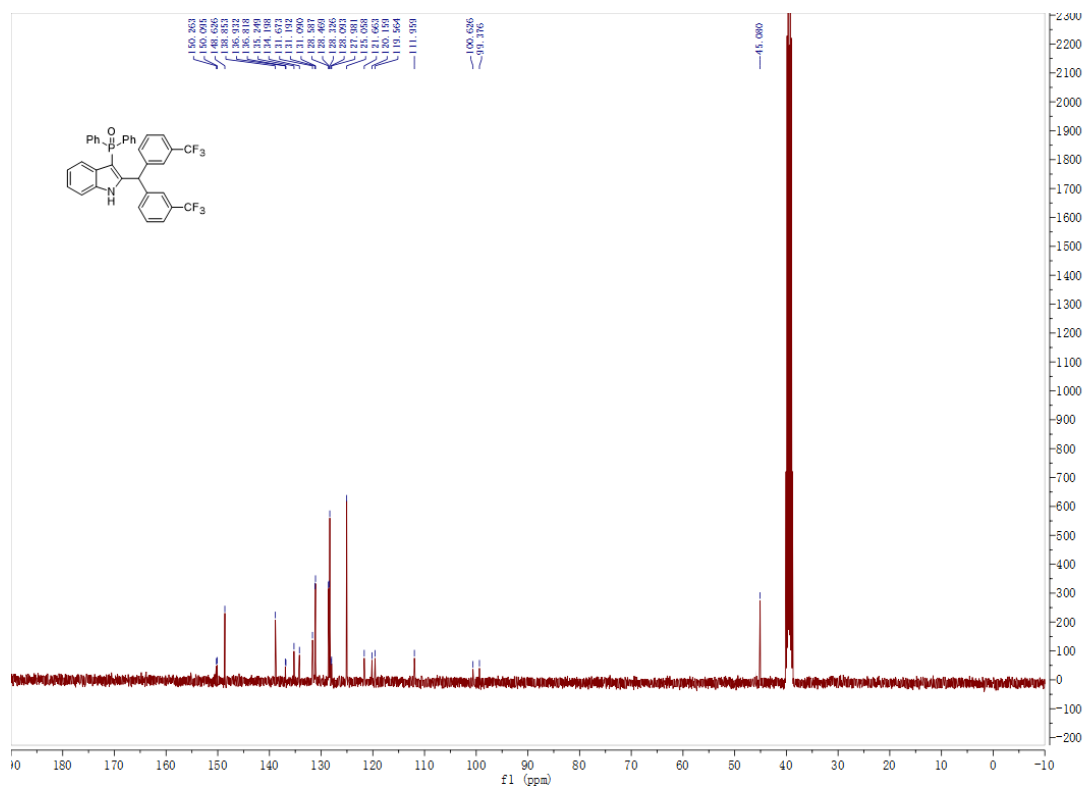
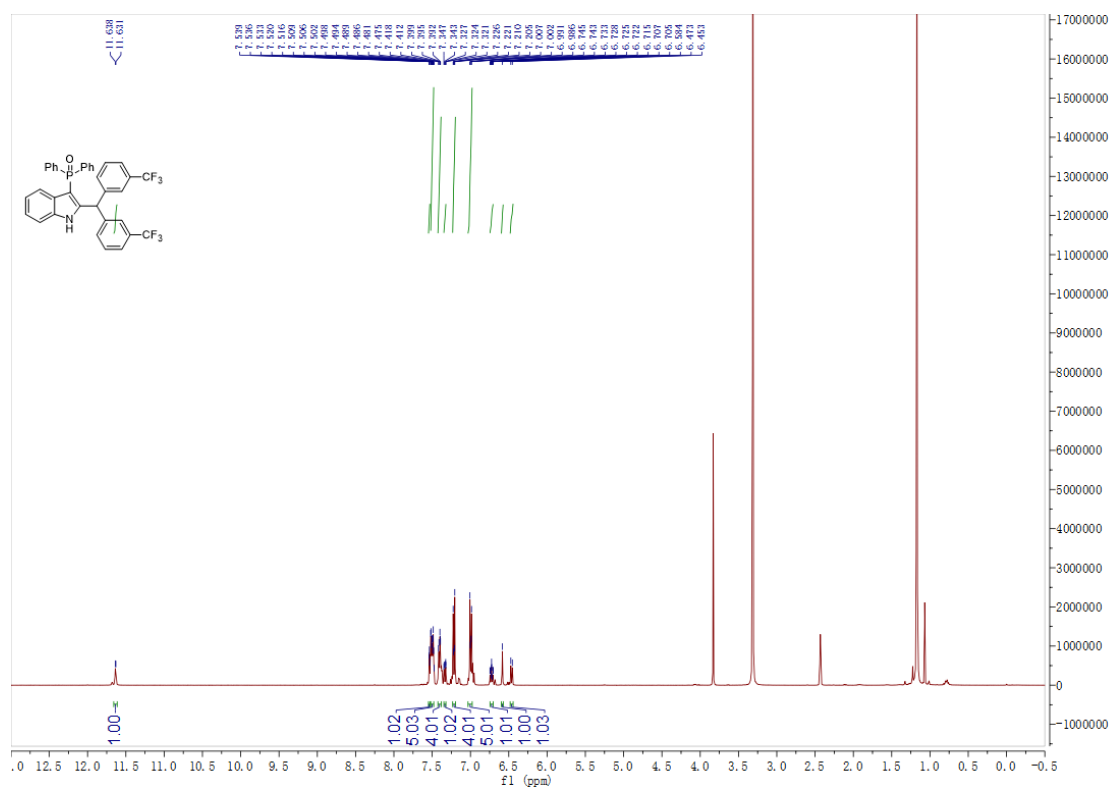


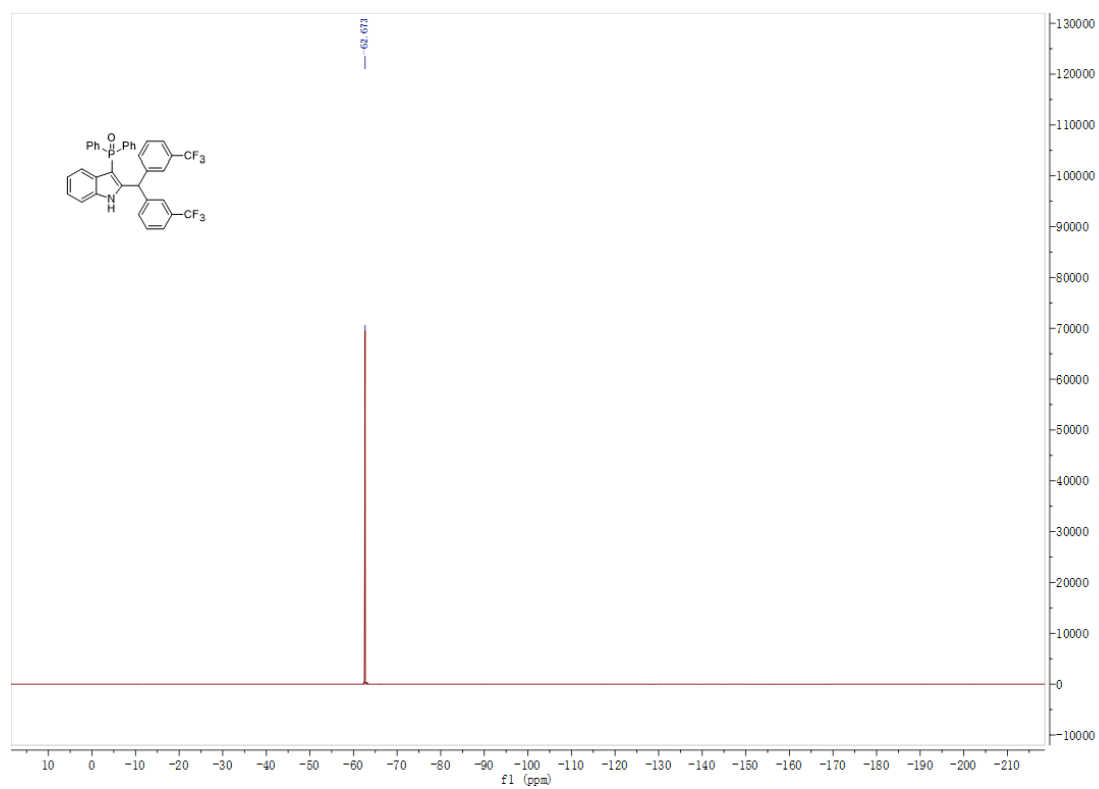
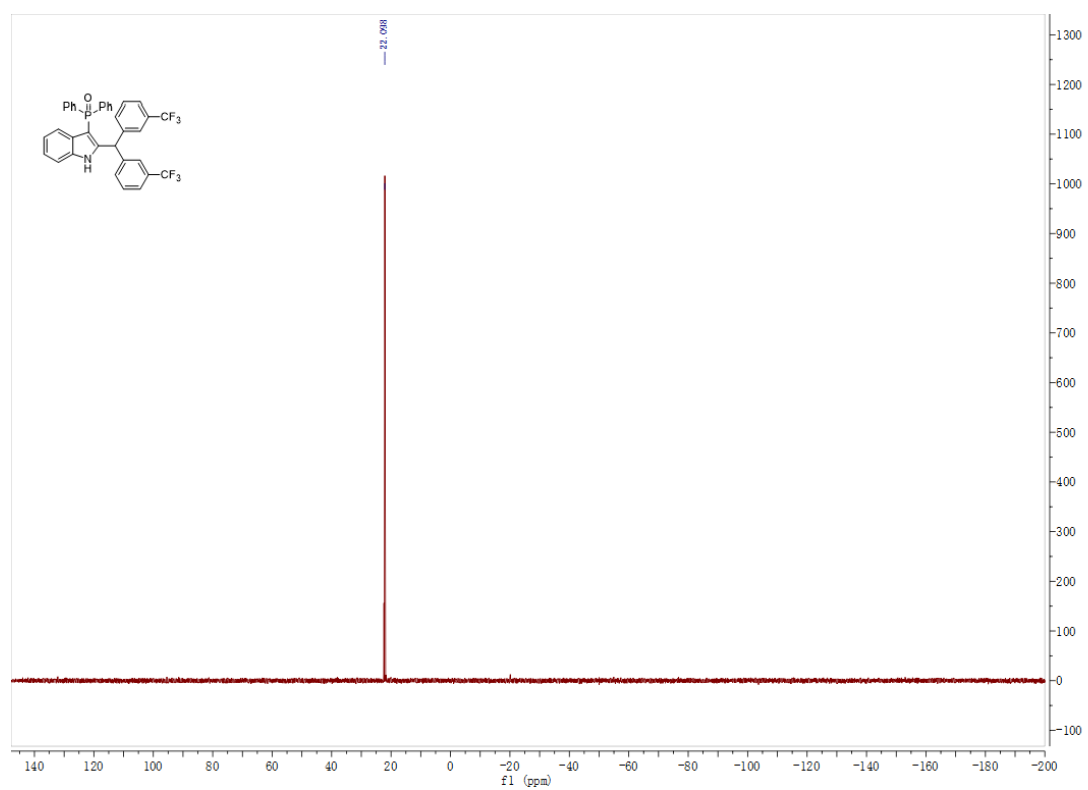
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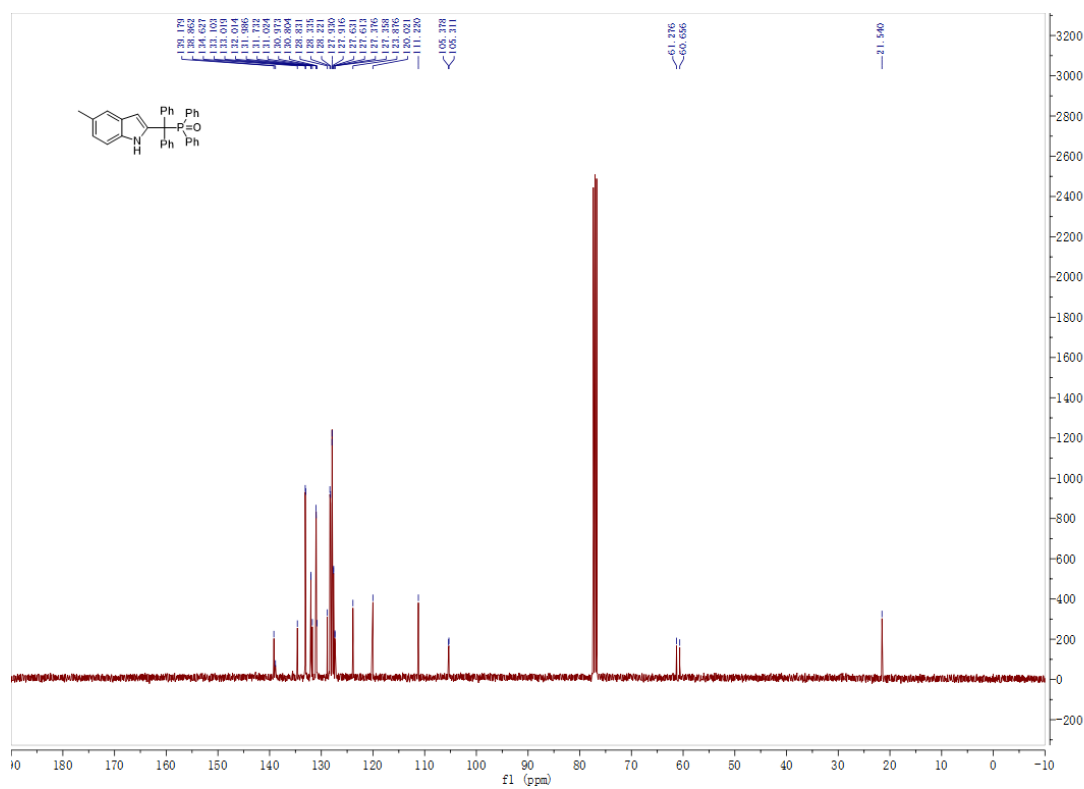
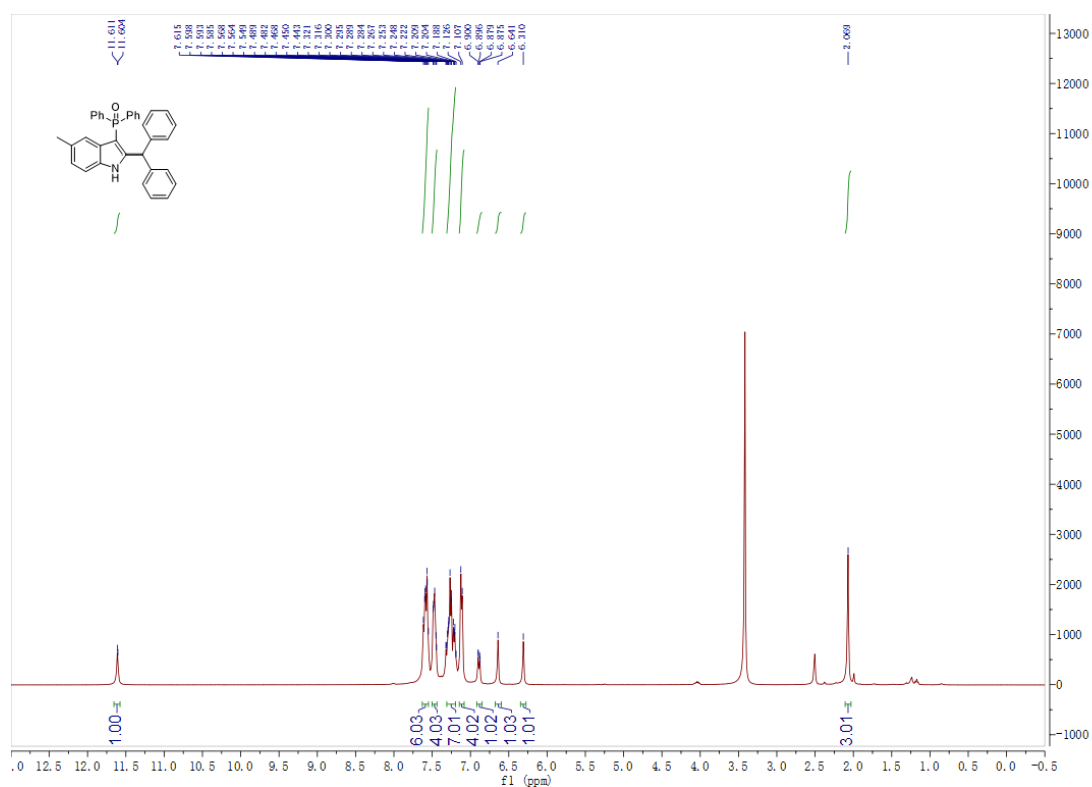


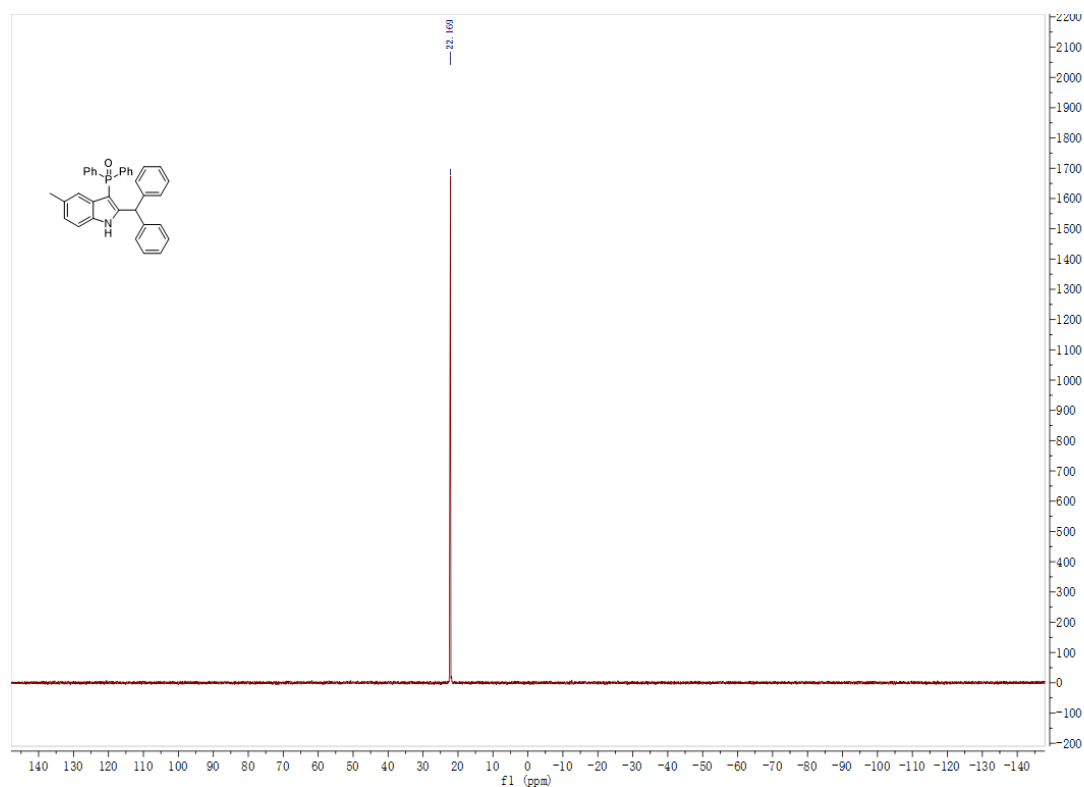
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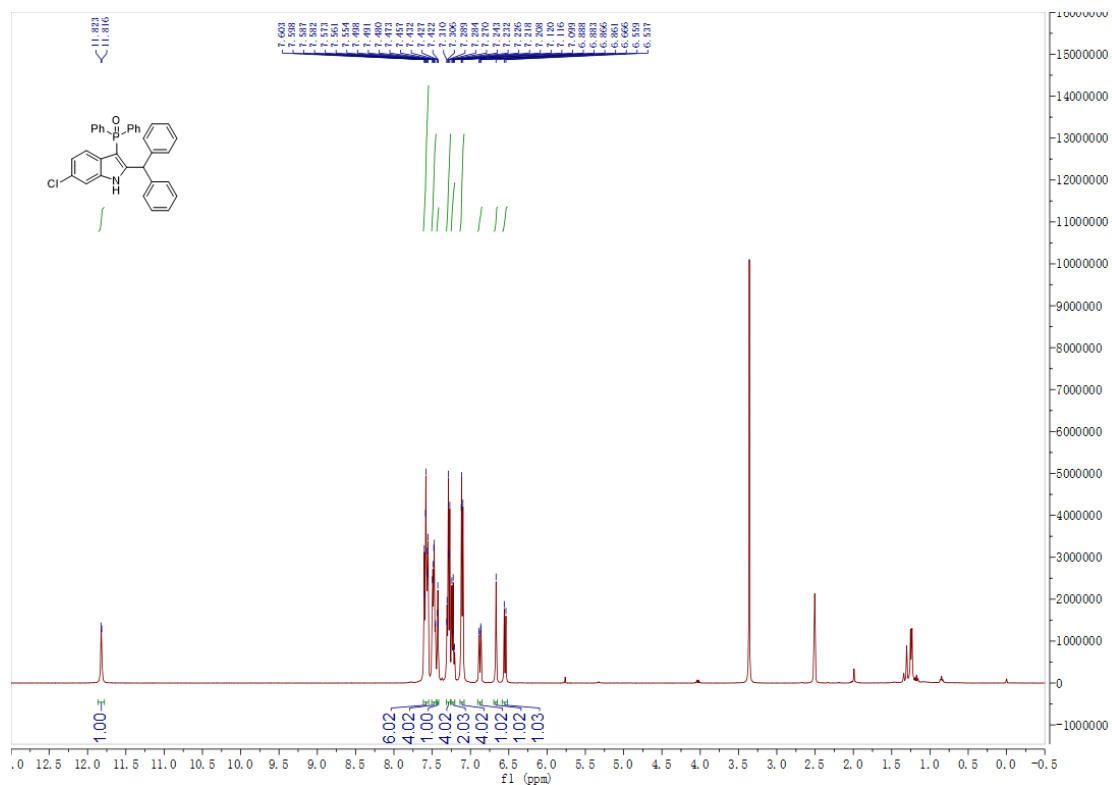


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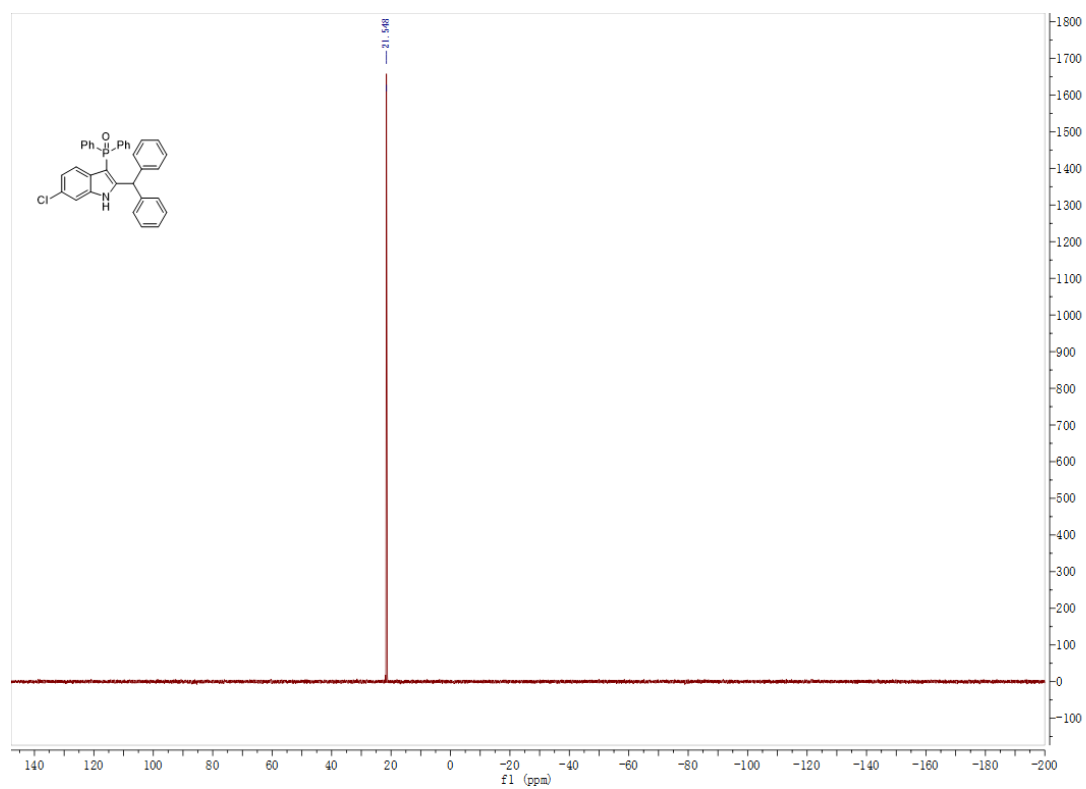
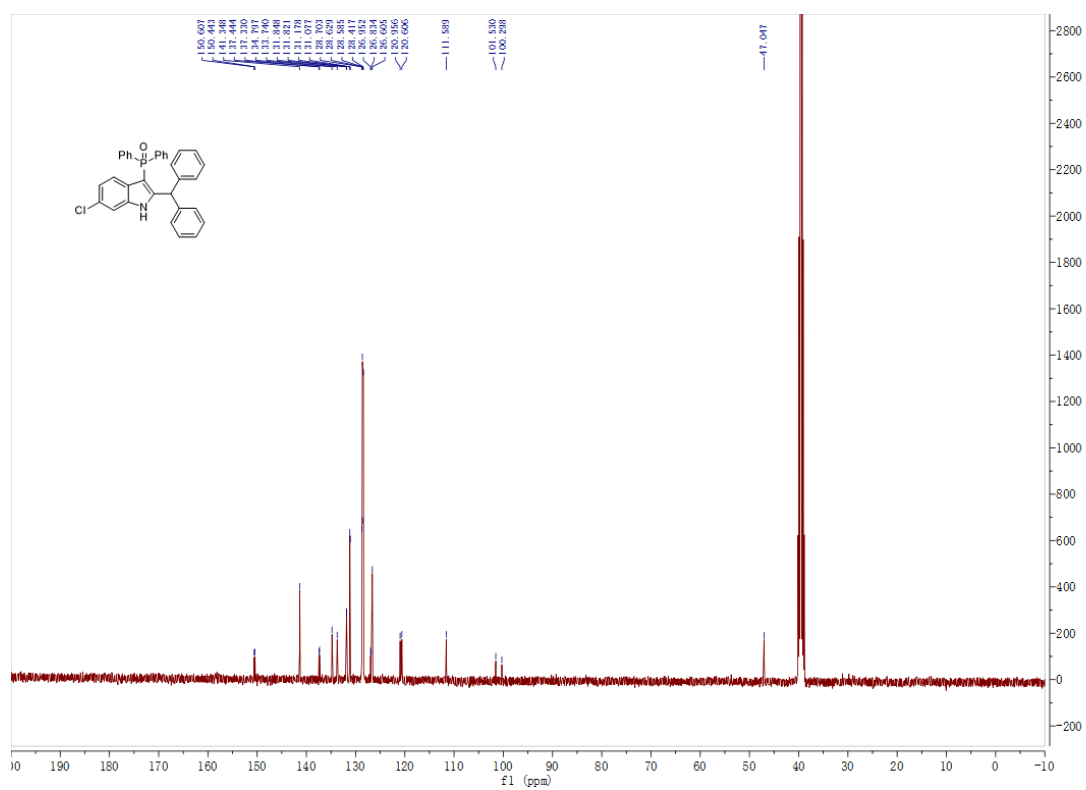




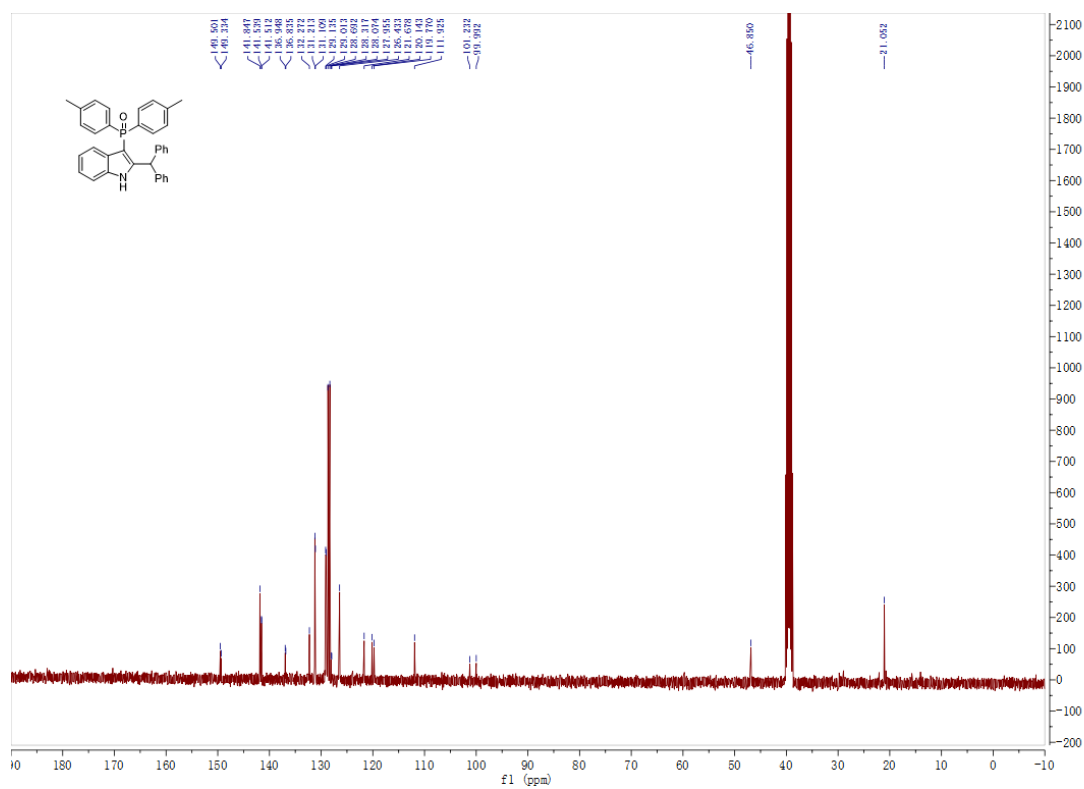
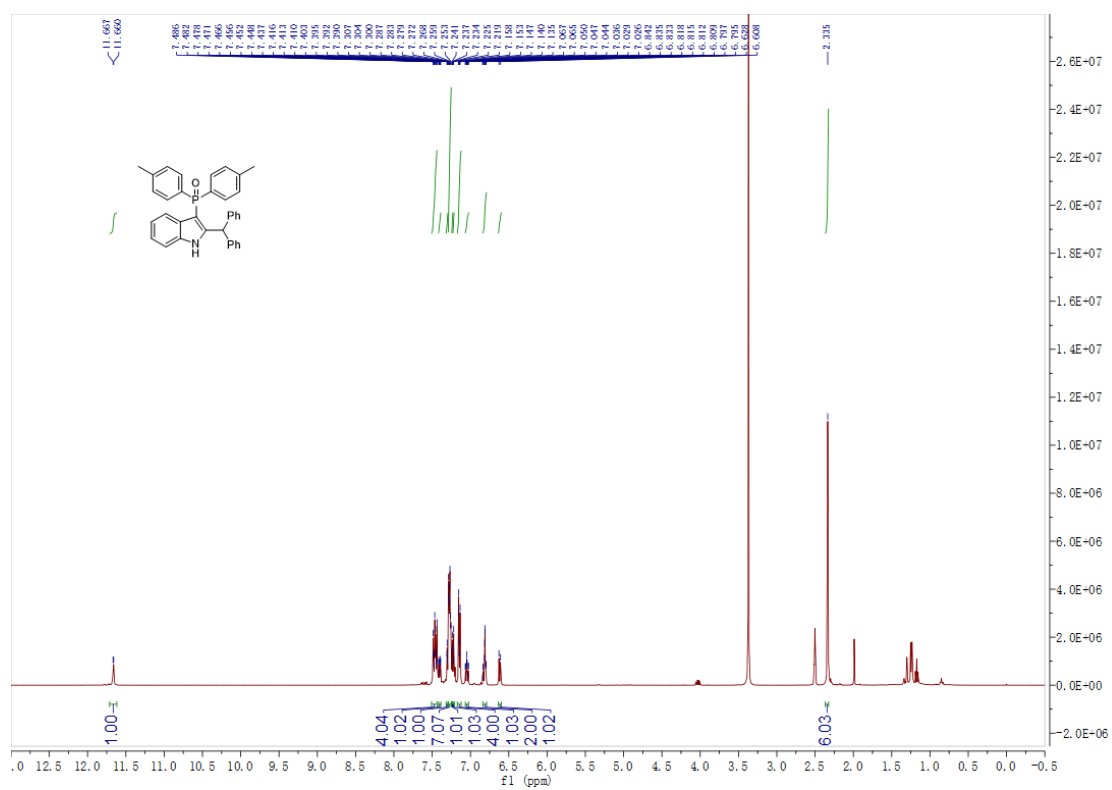
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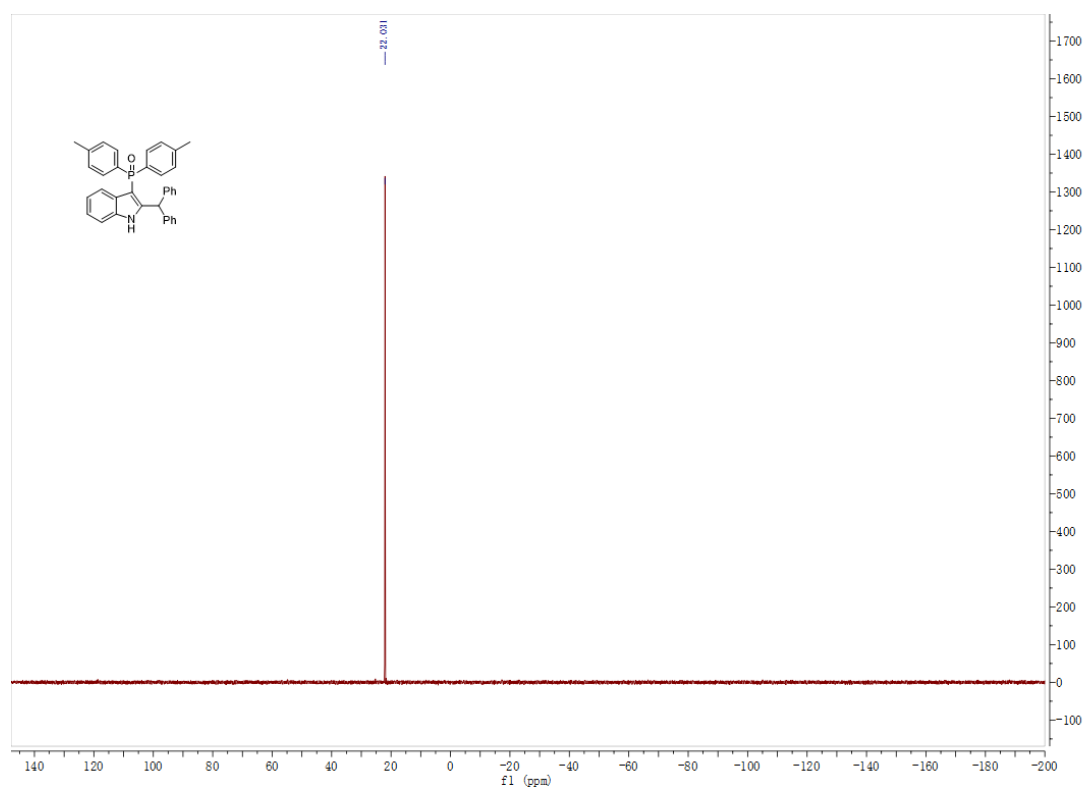




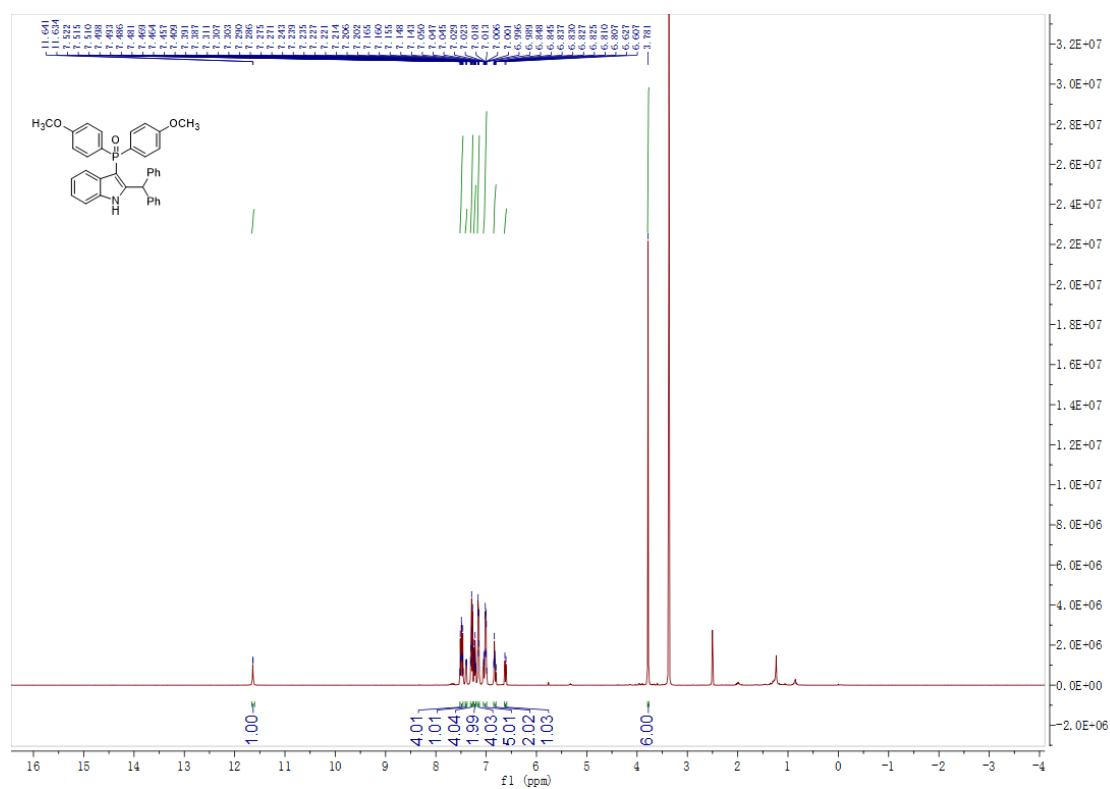


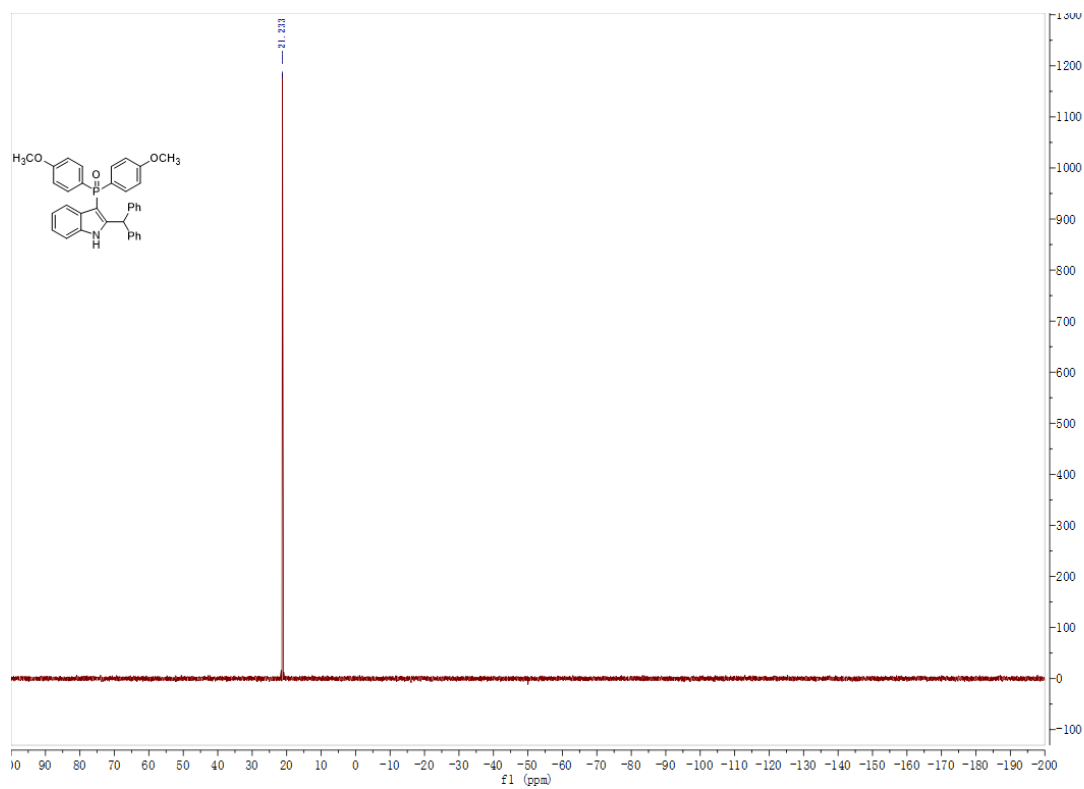
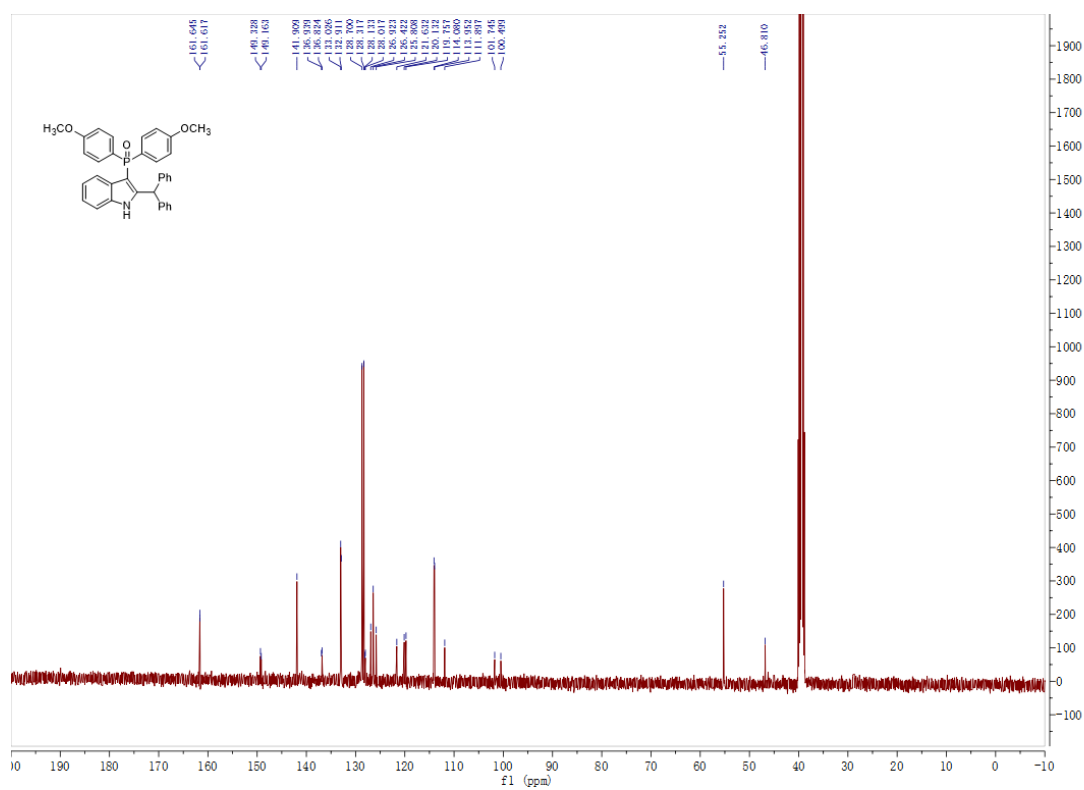
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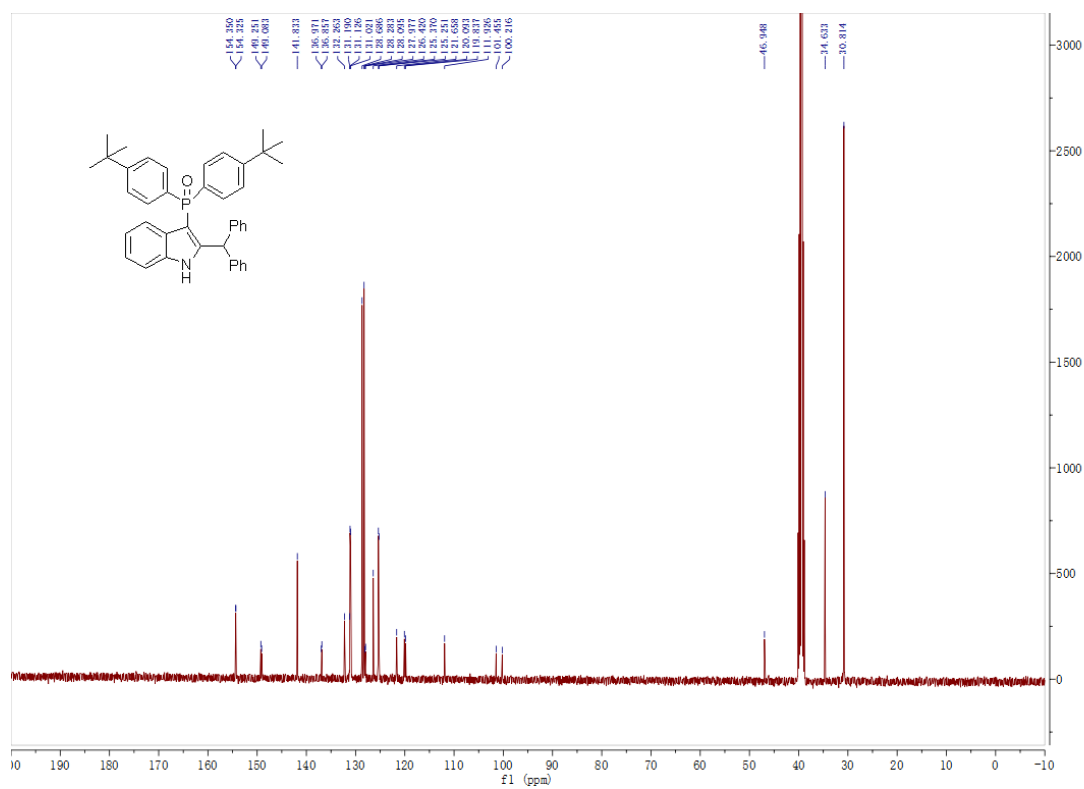
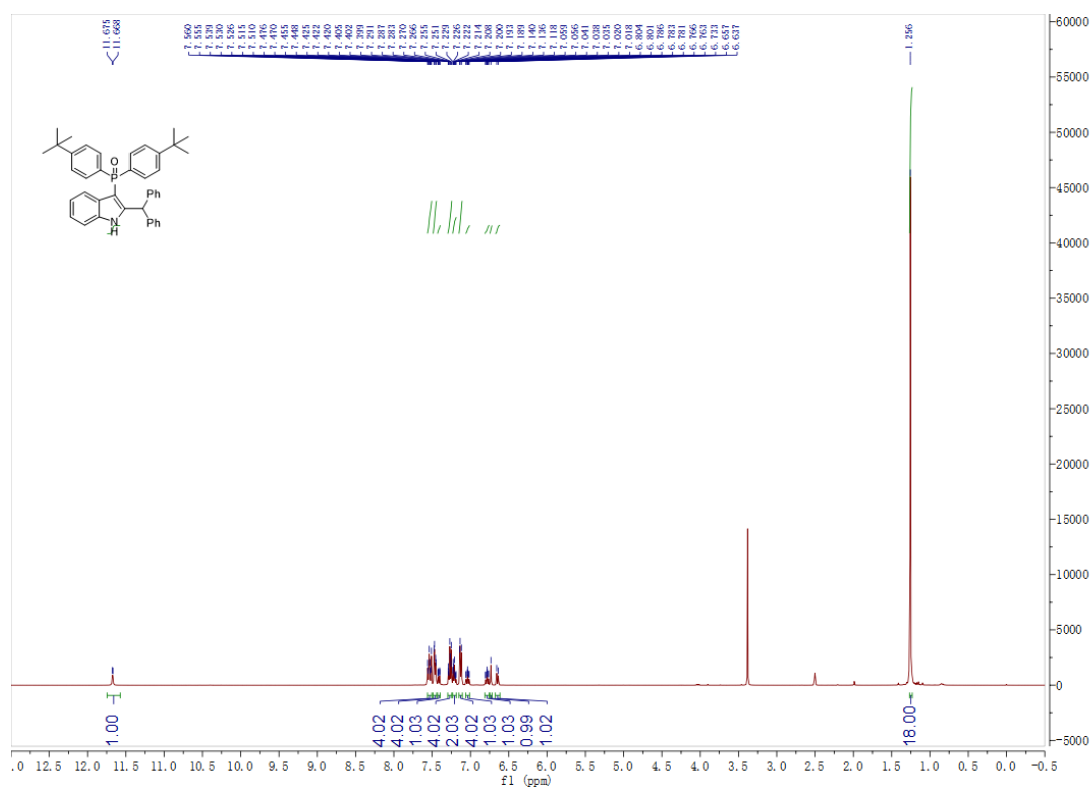


4ac

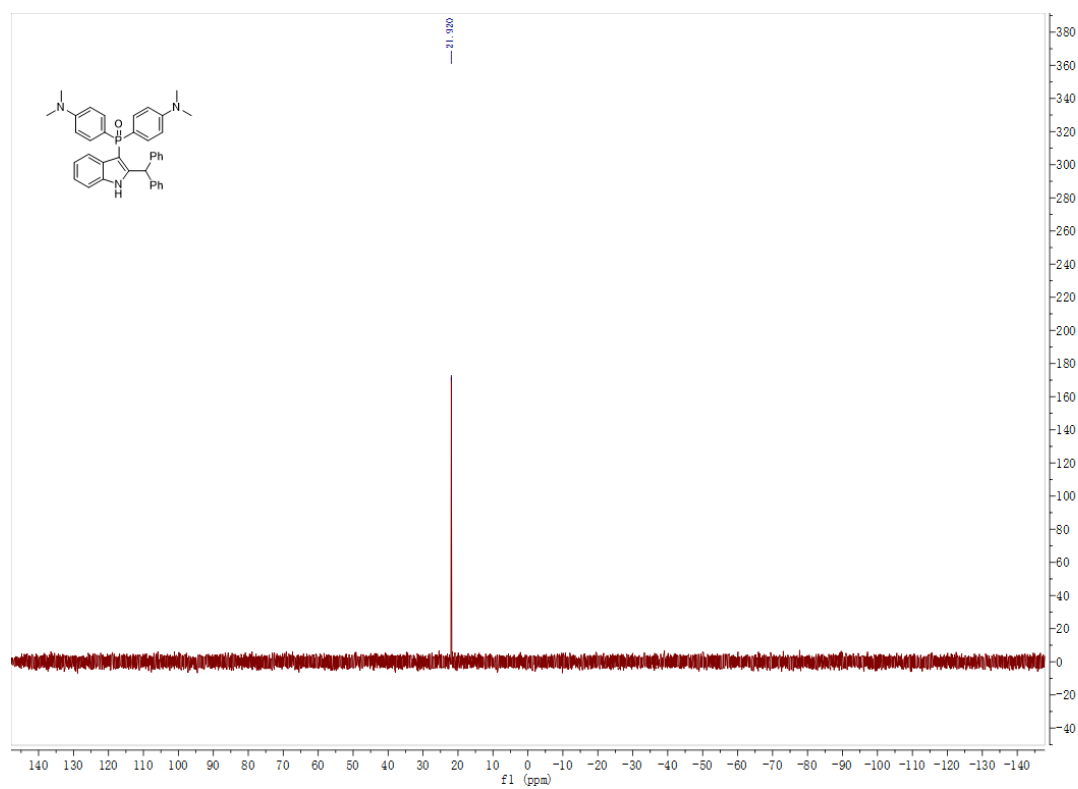
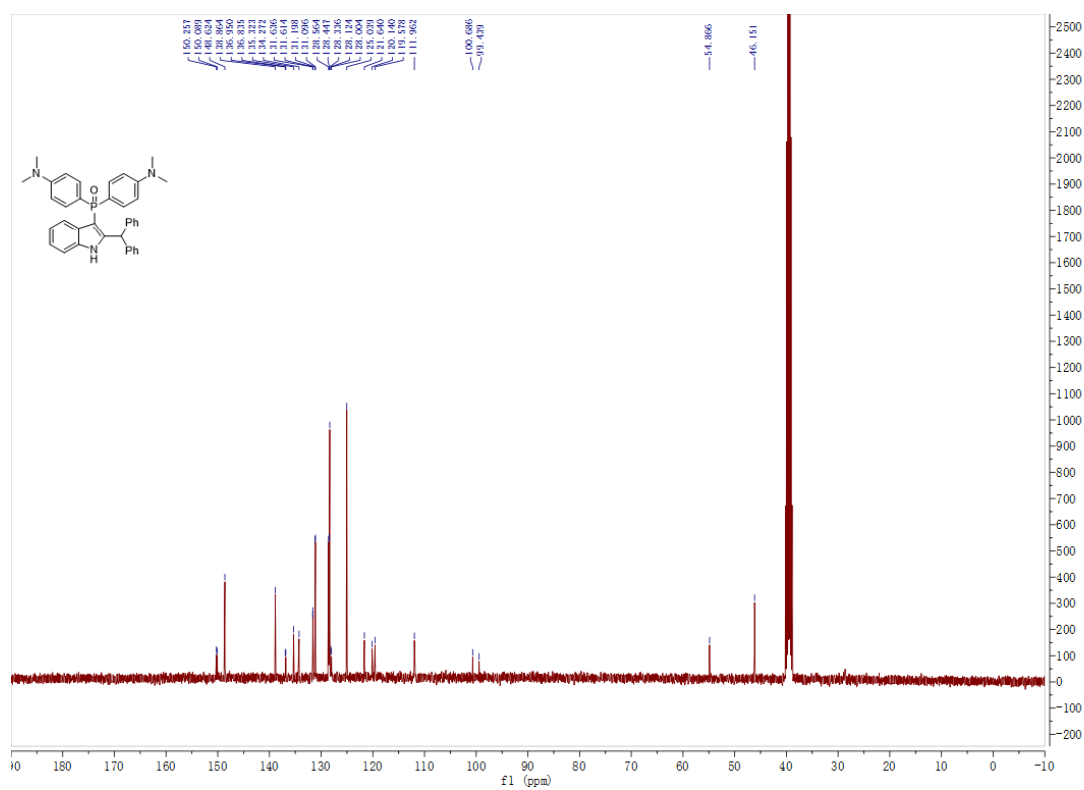




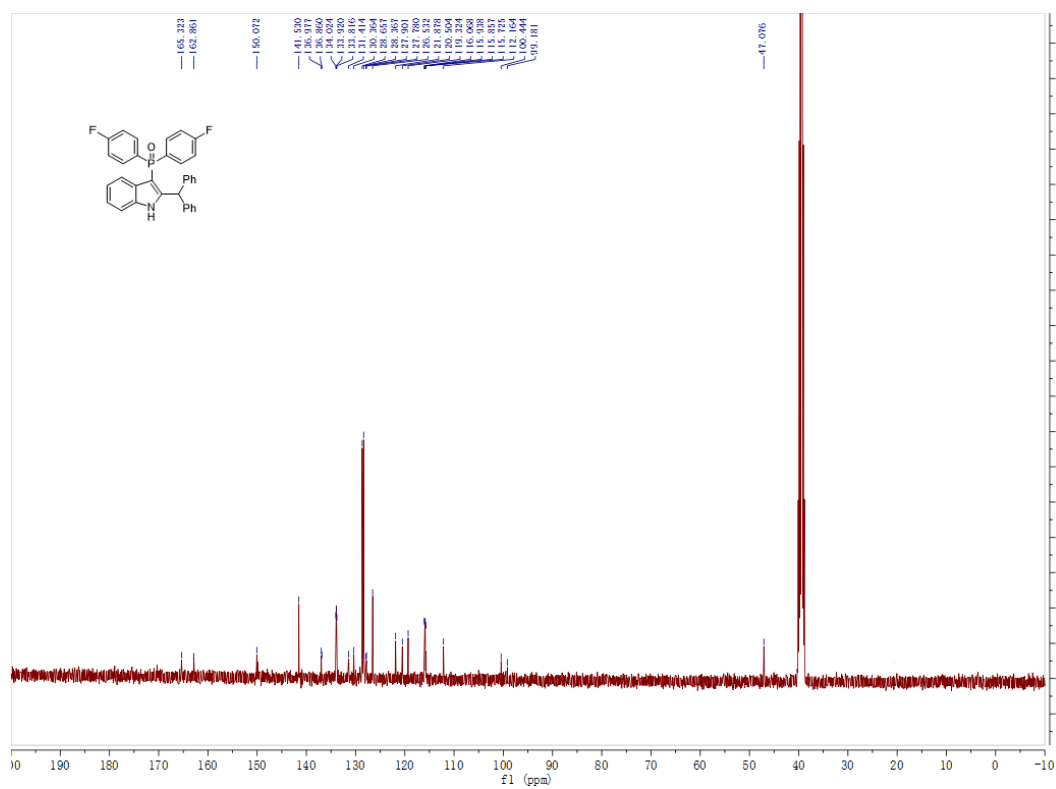
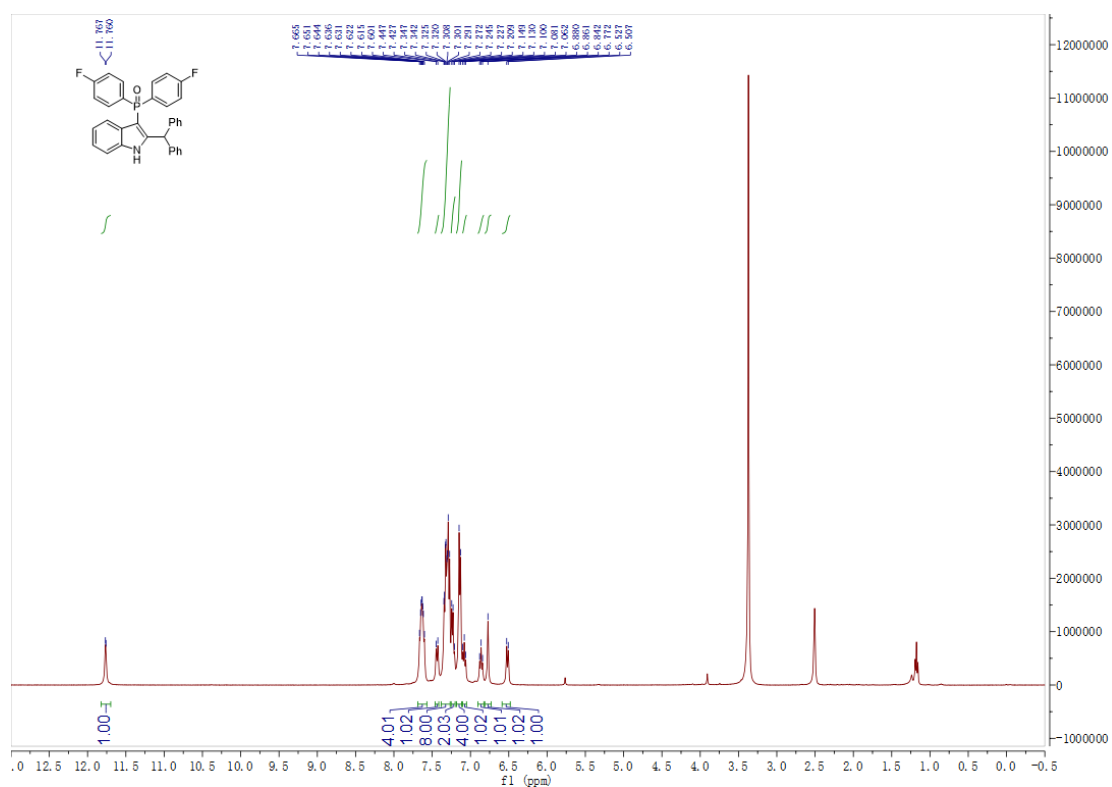
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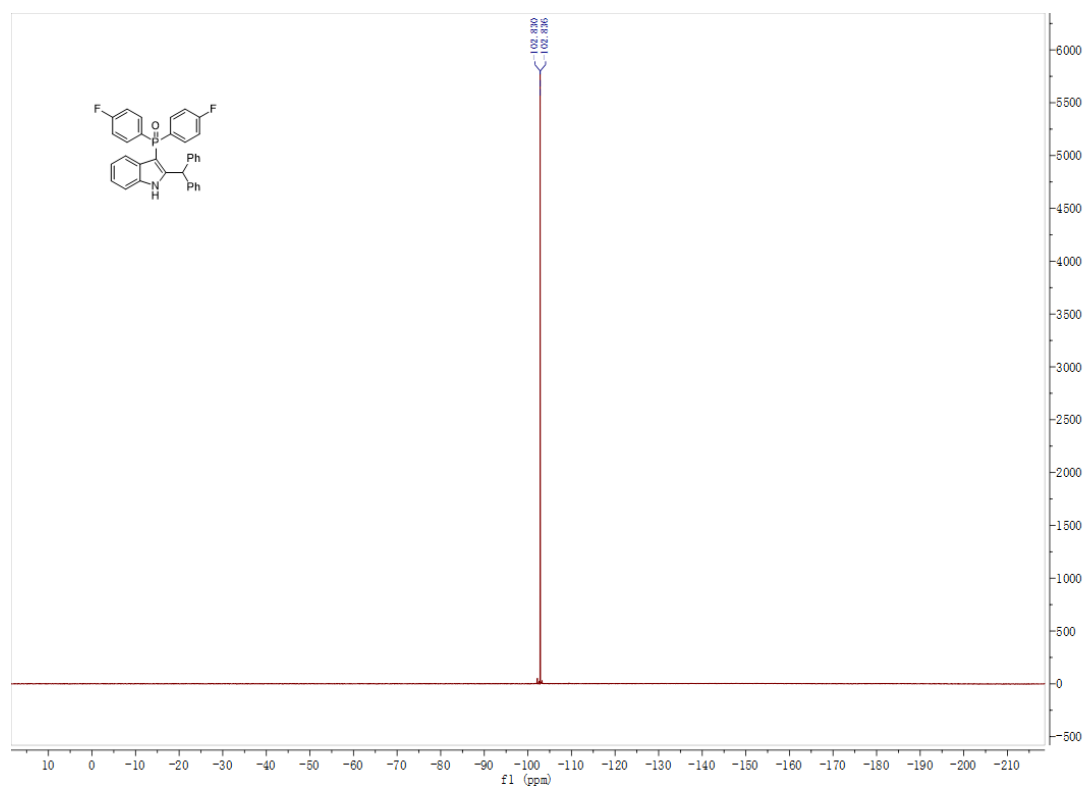
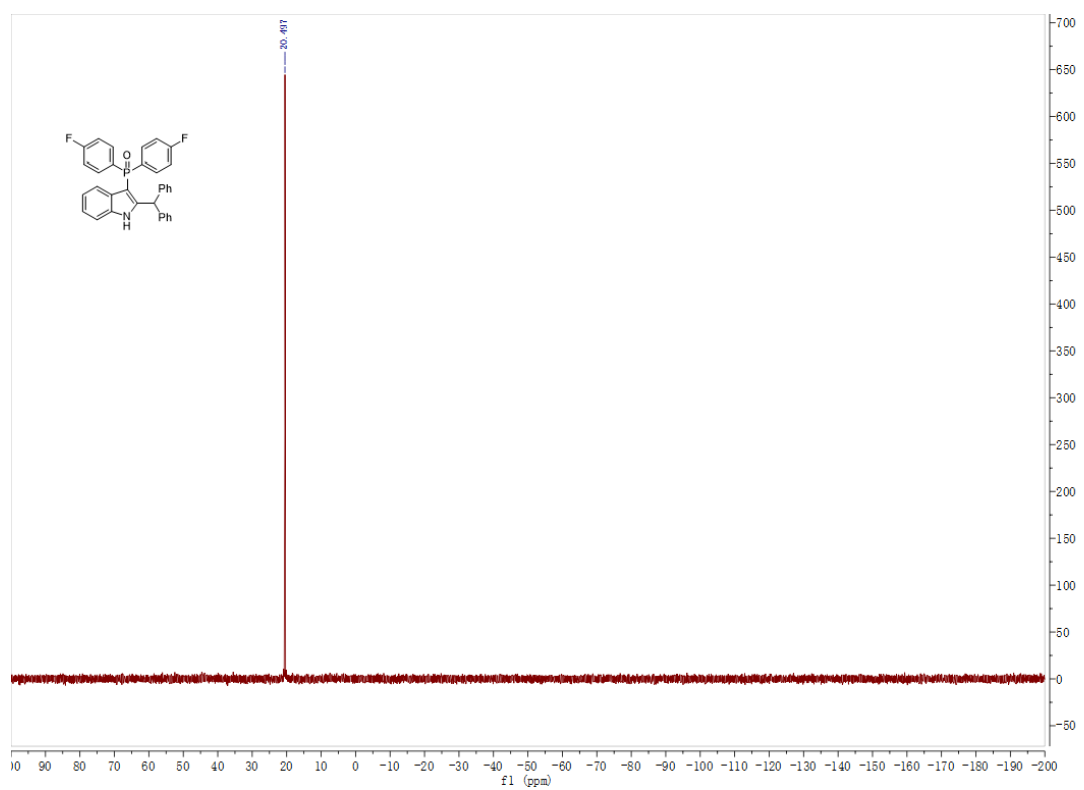




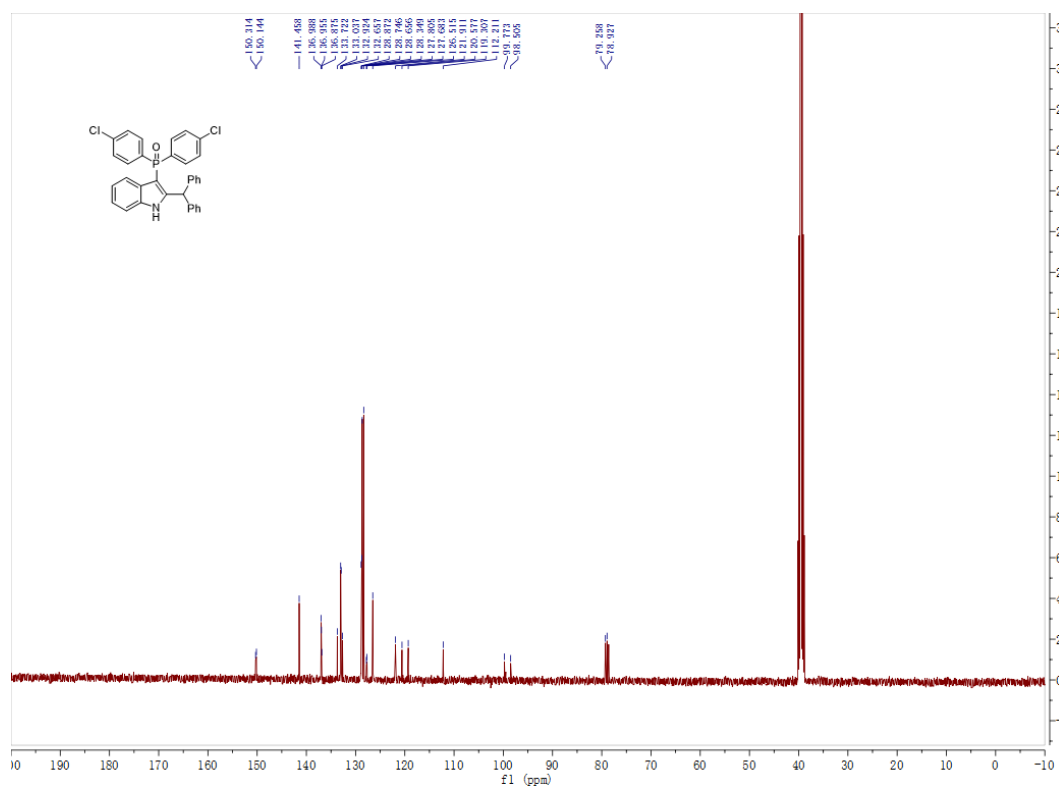
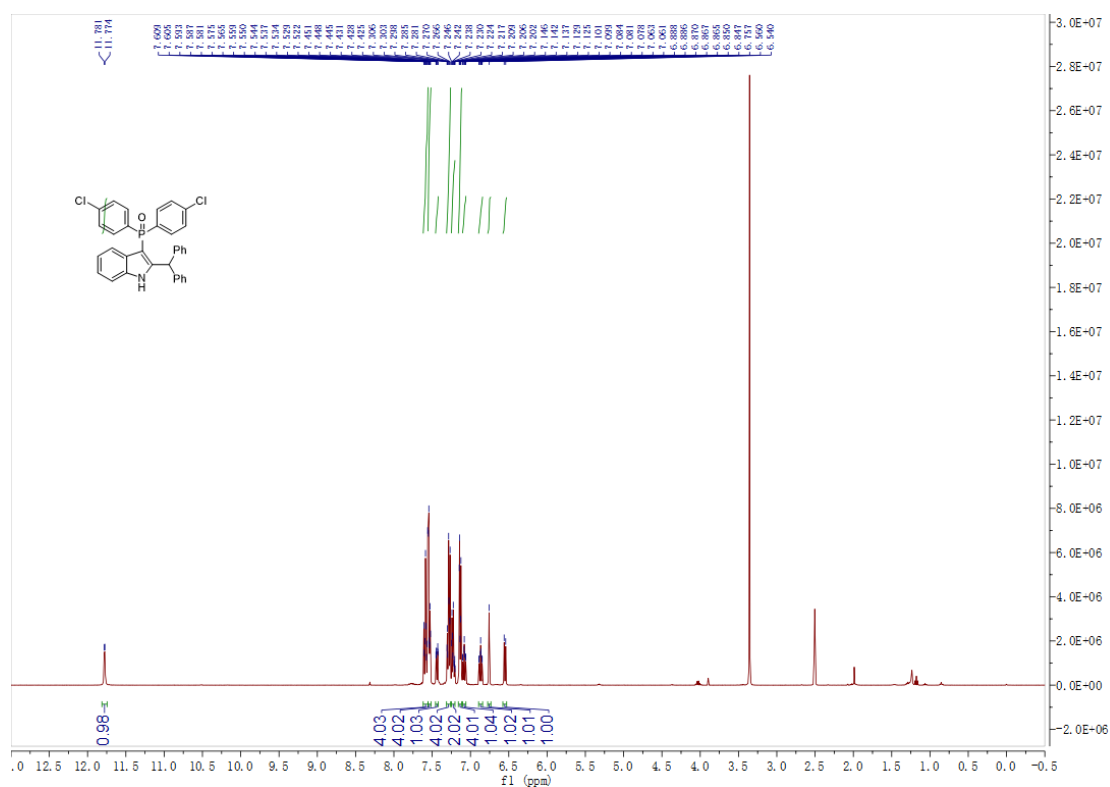
4af

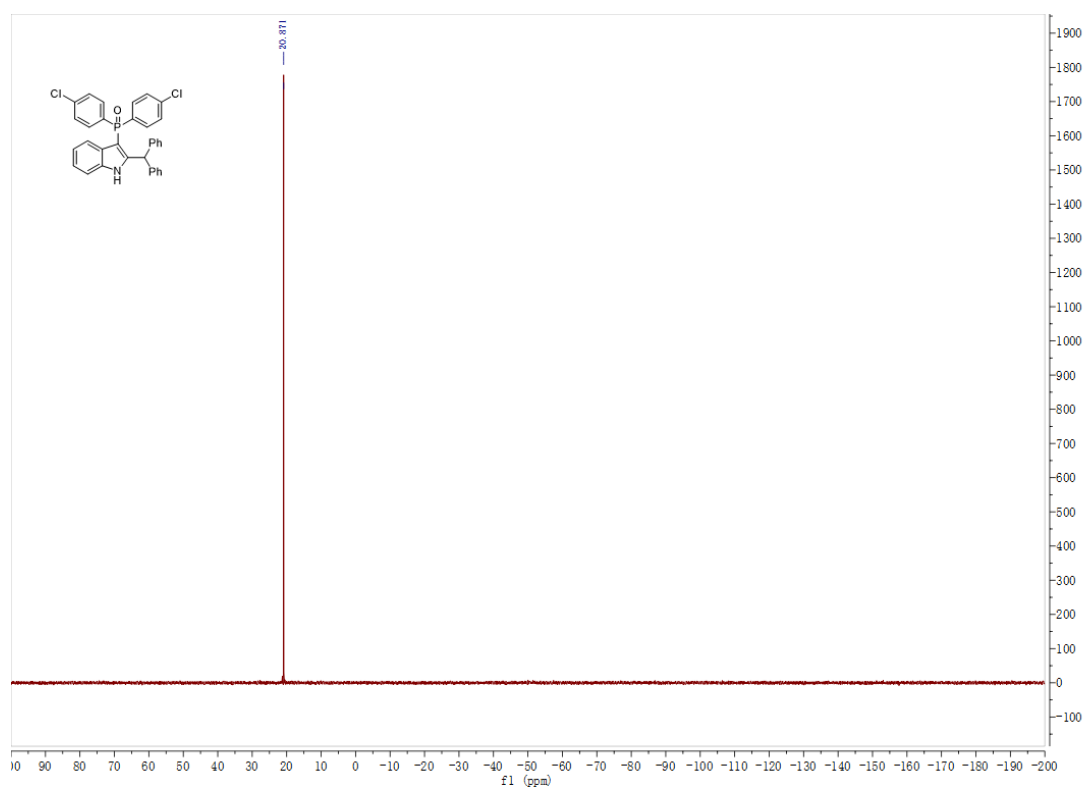




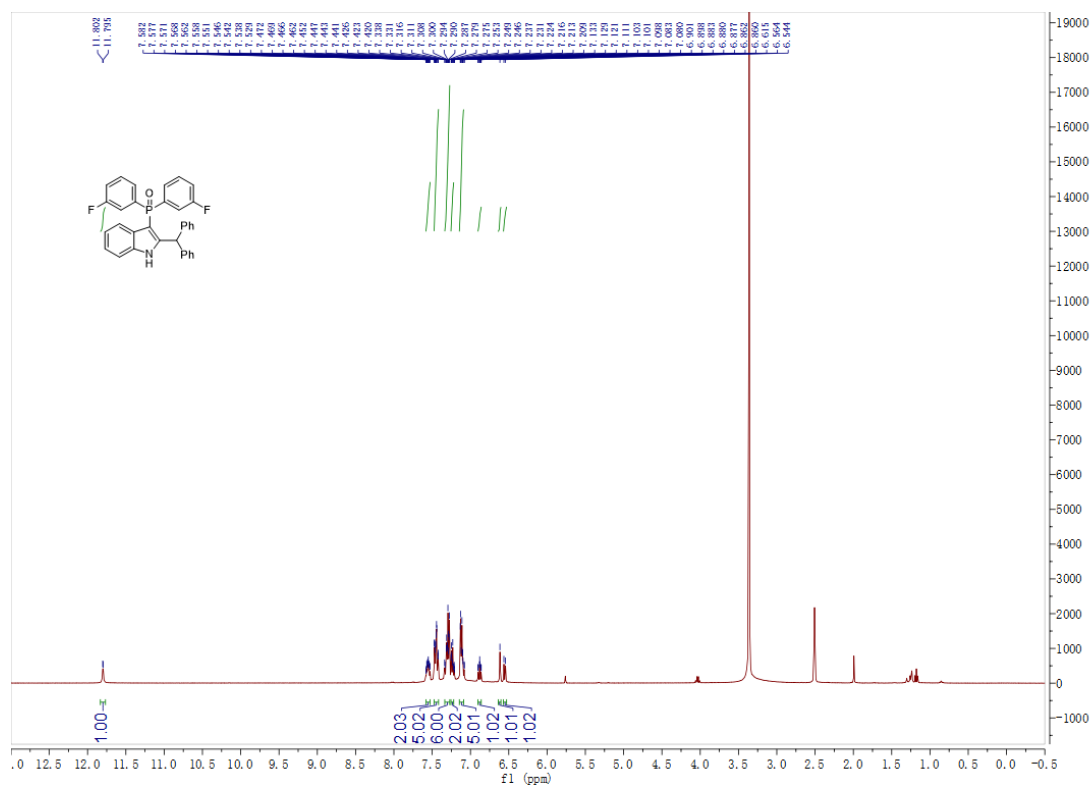


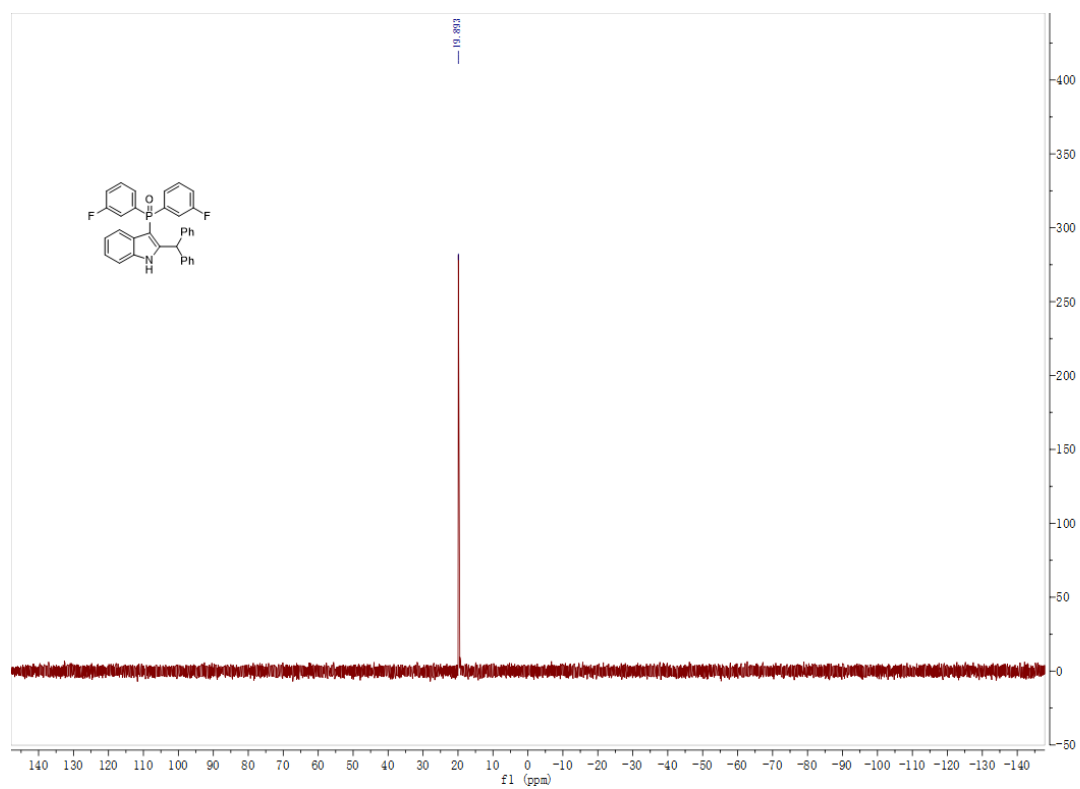
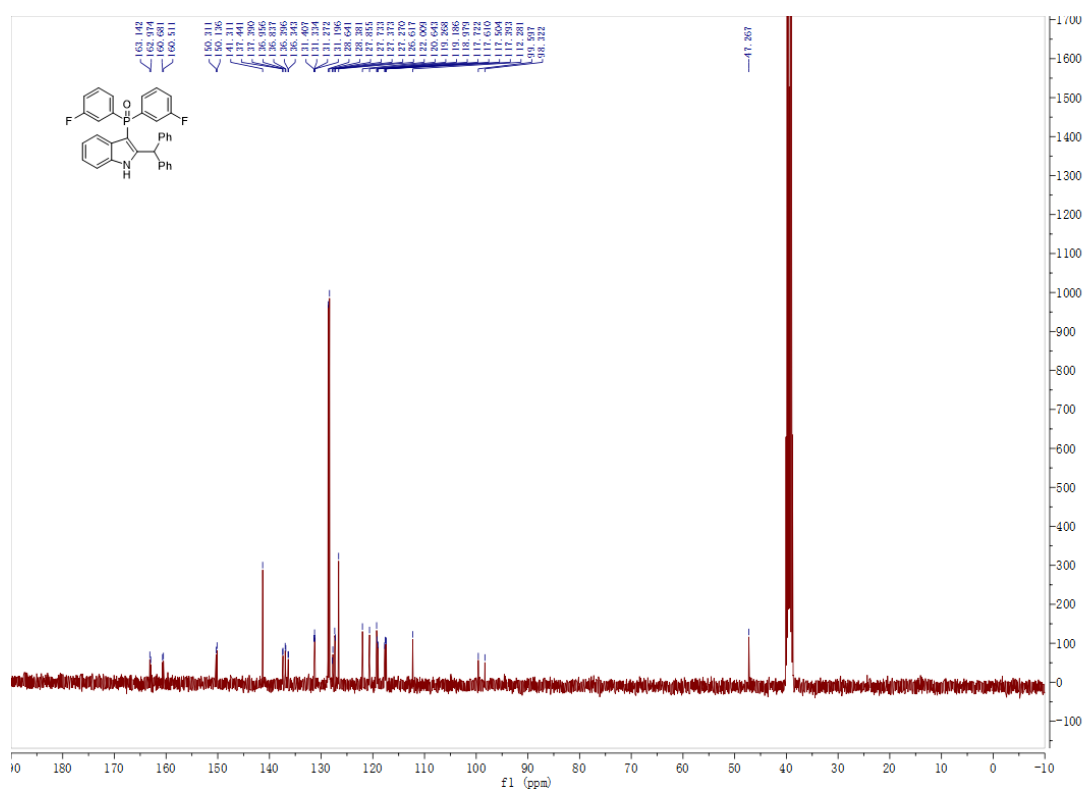
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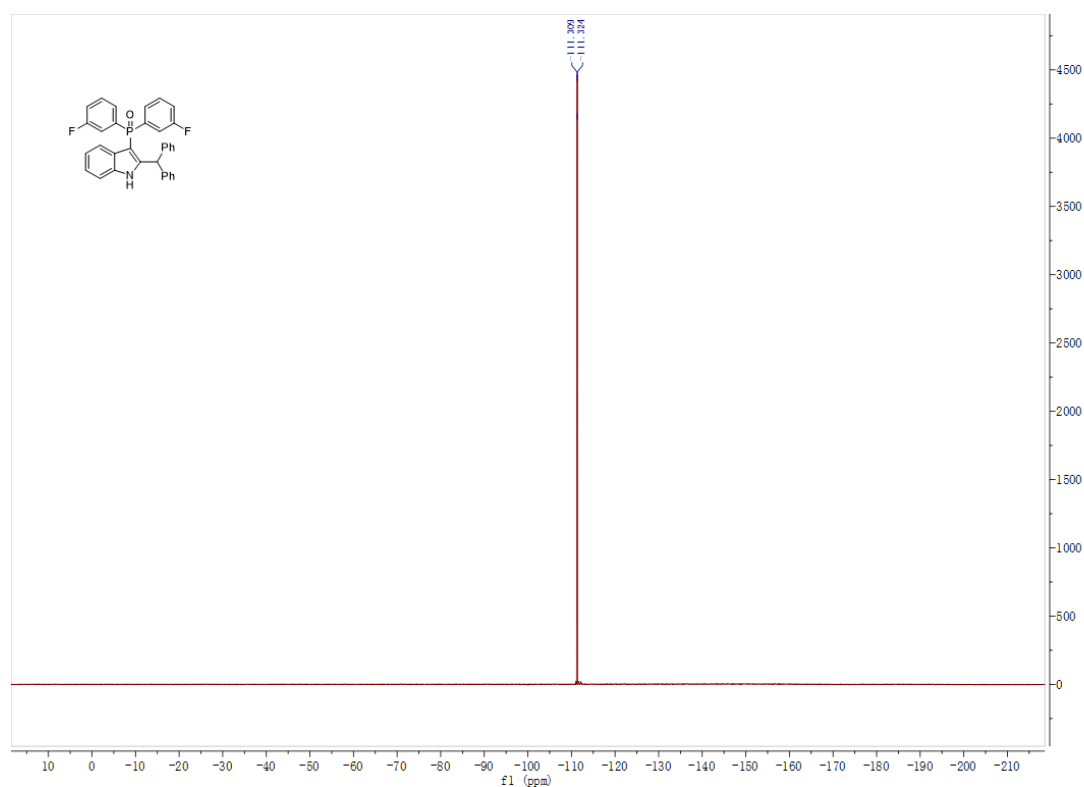




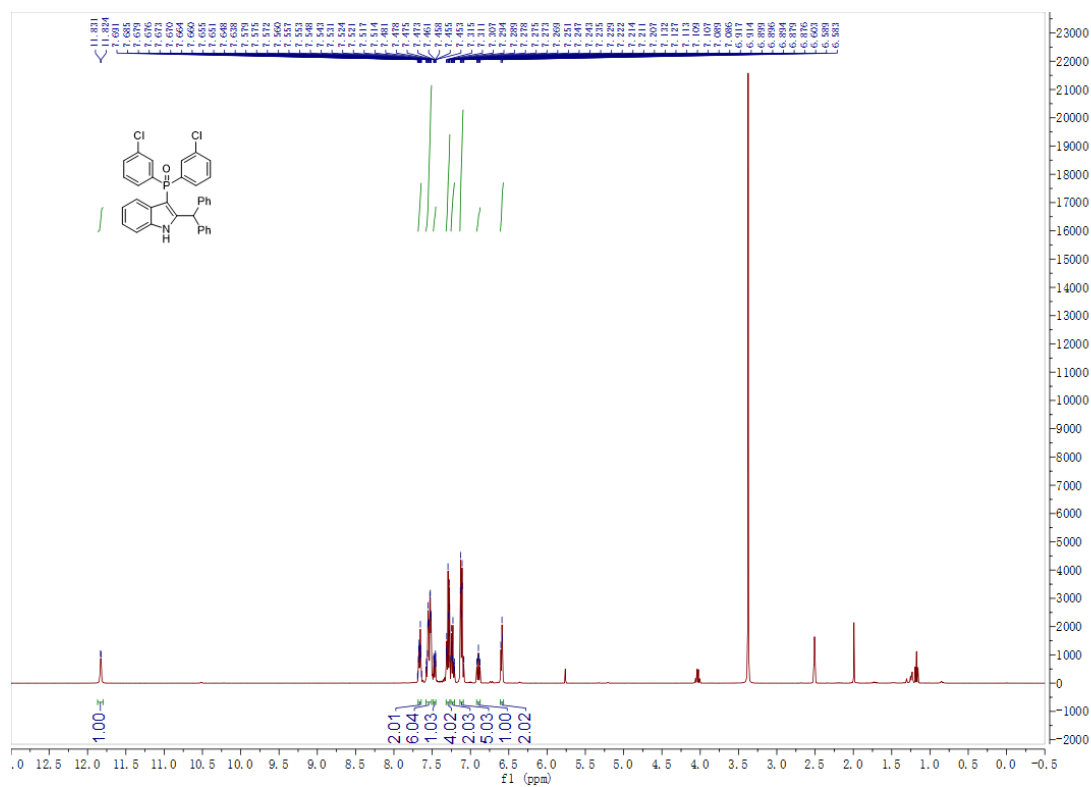
**4ah**

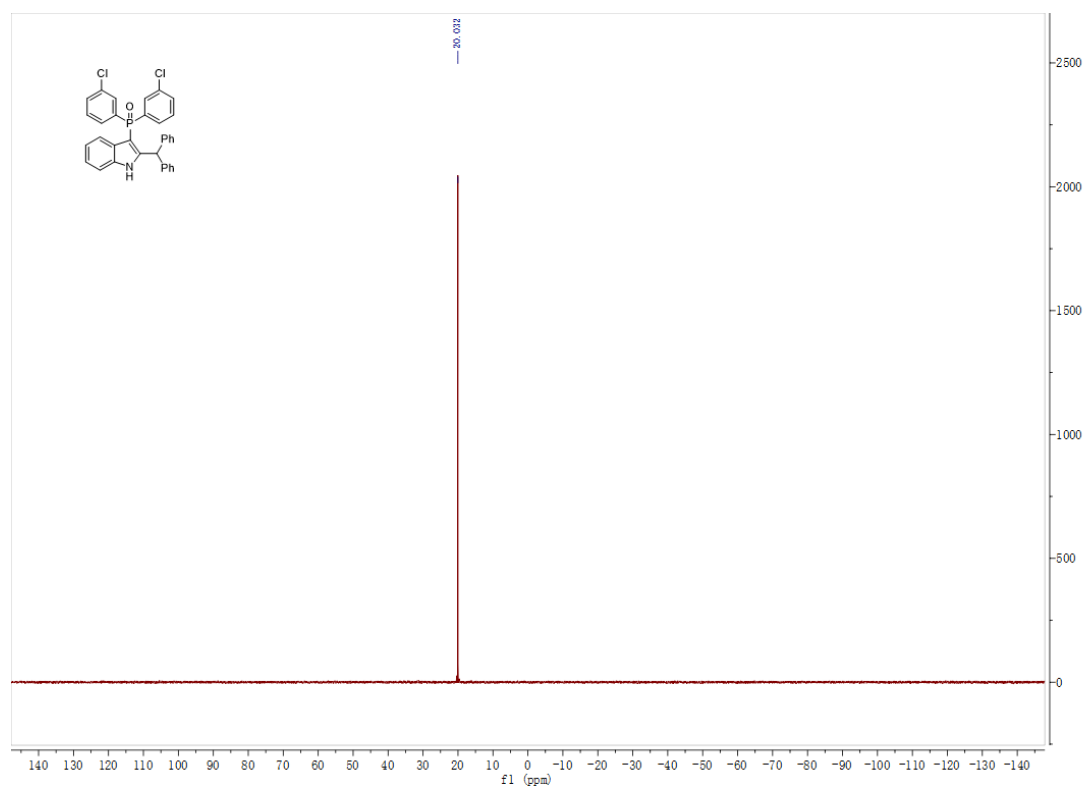
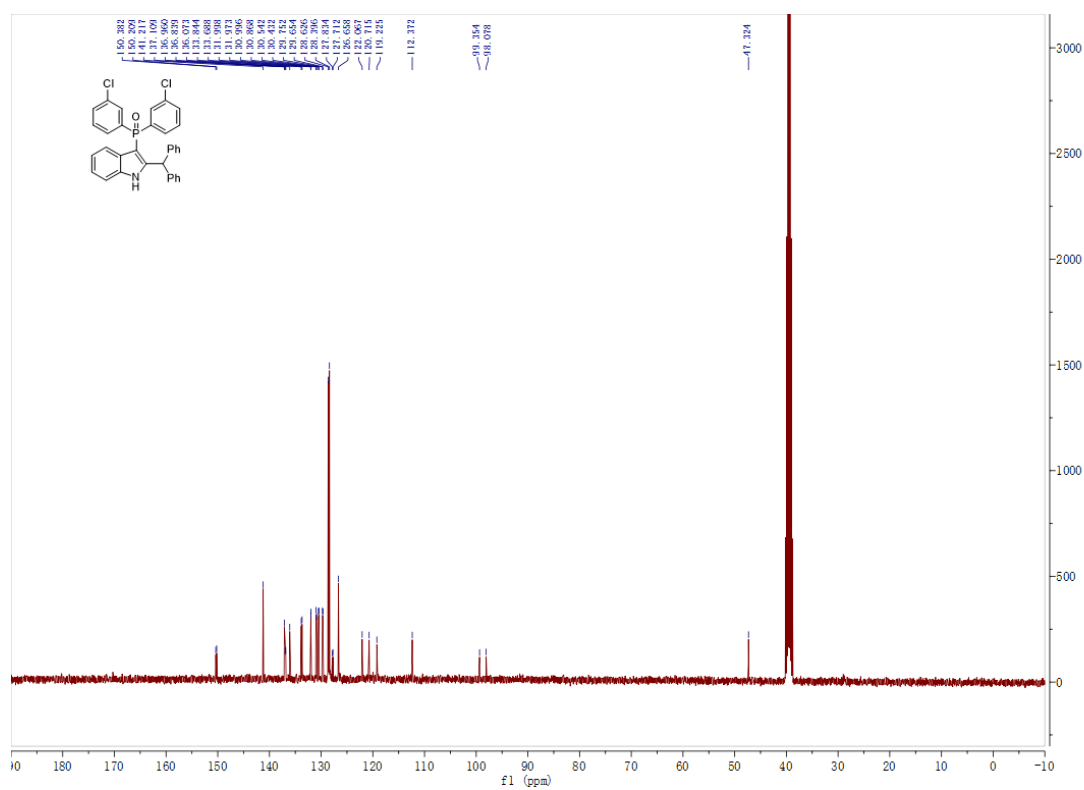




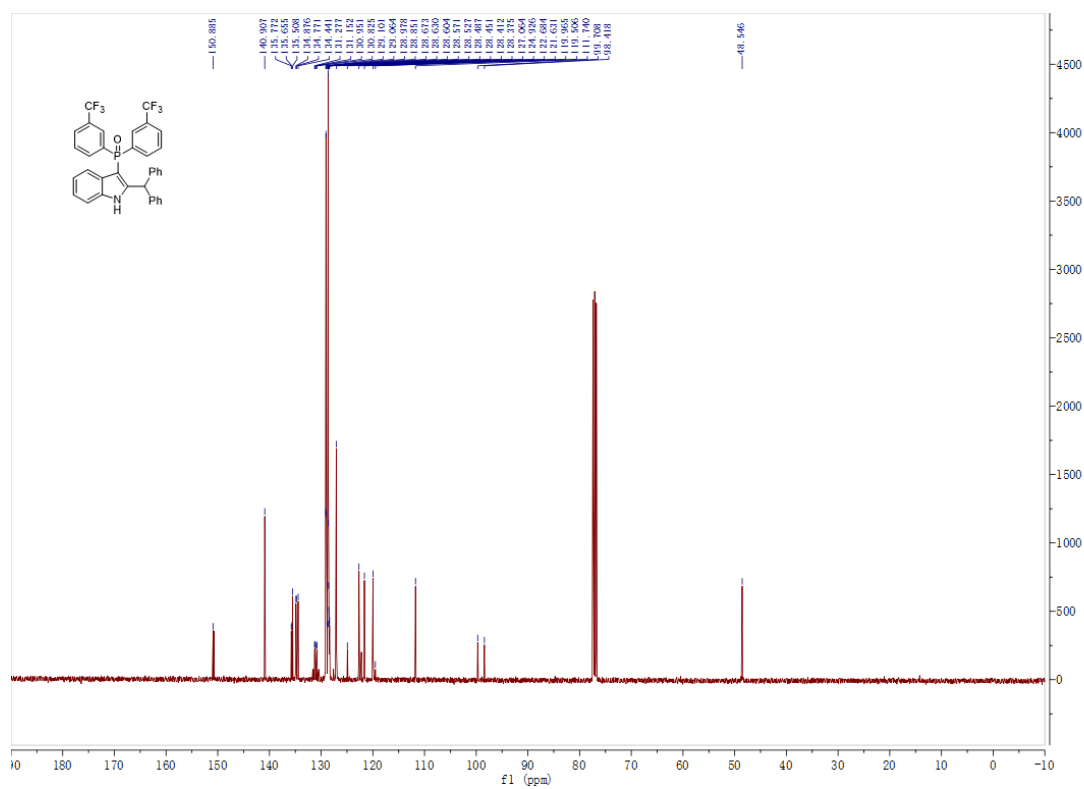
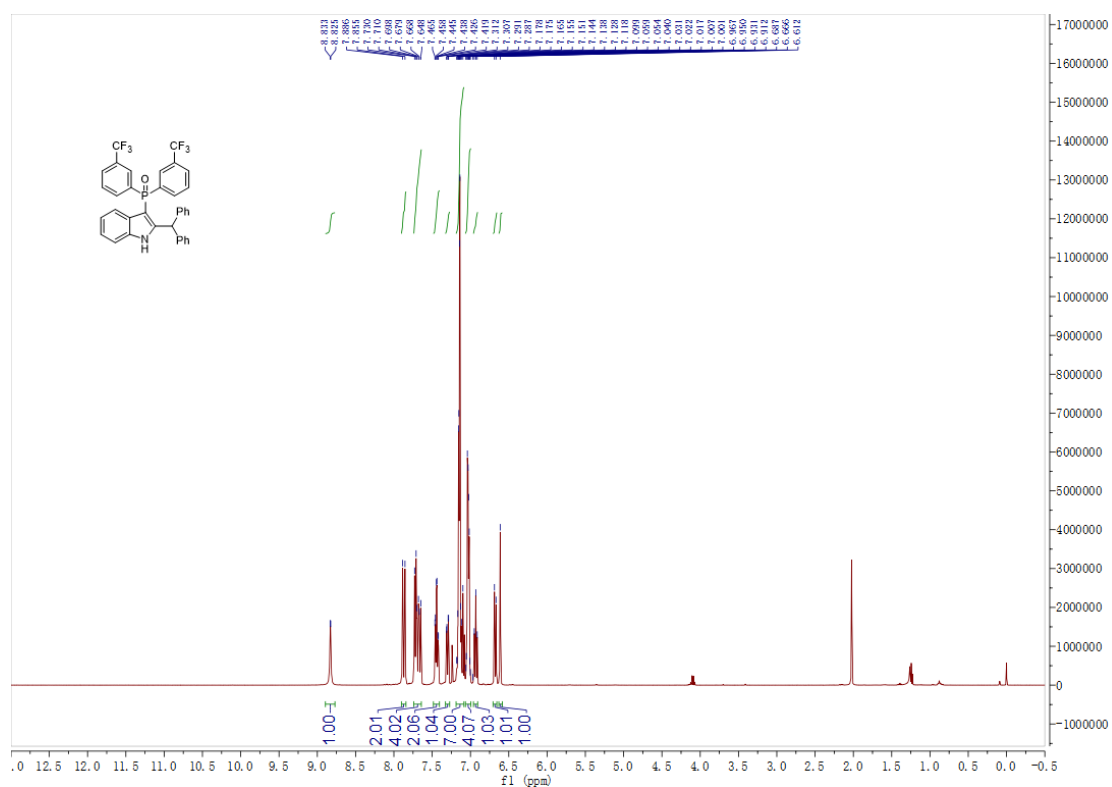


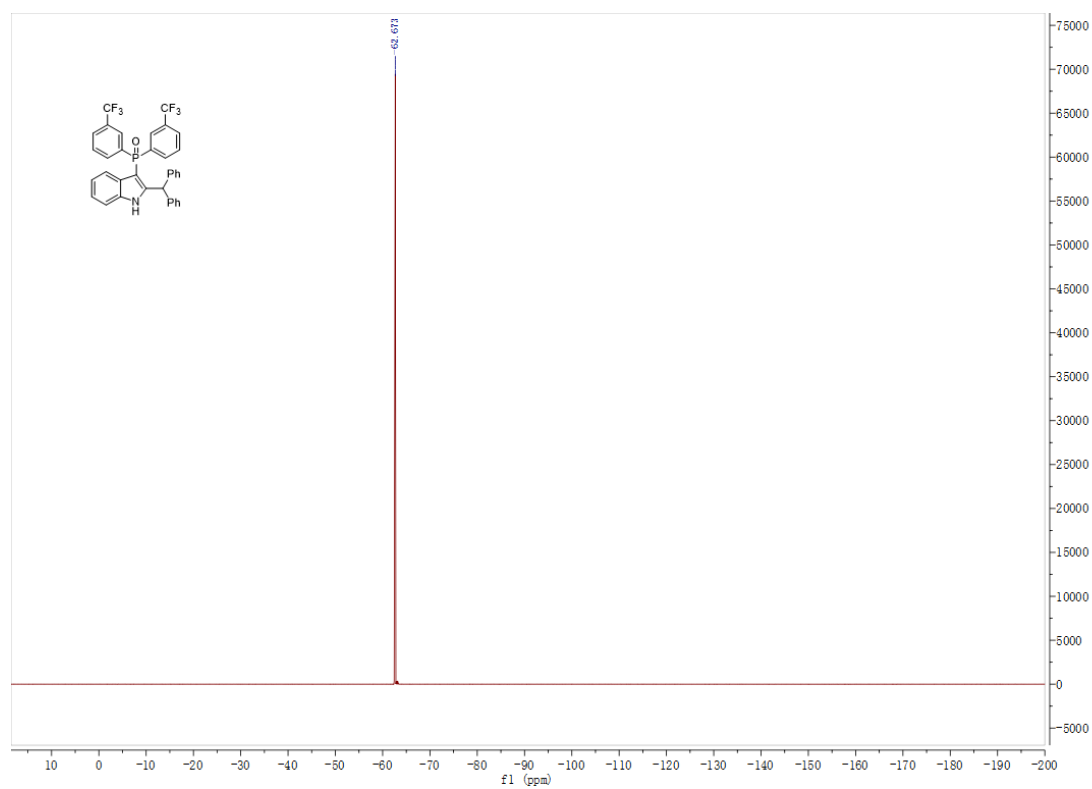
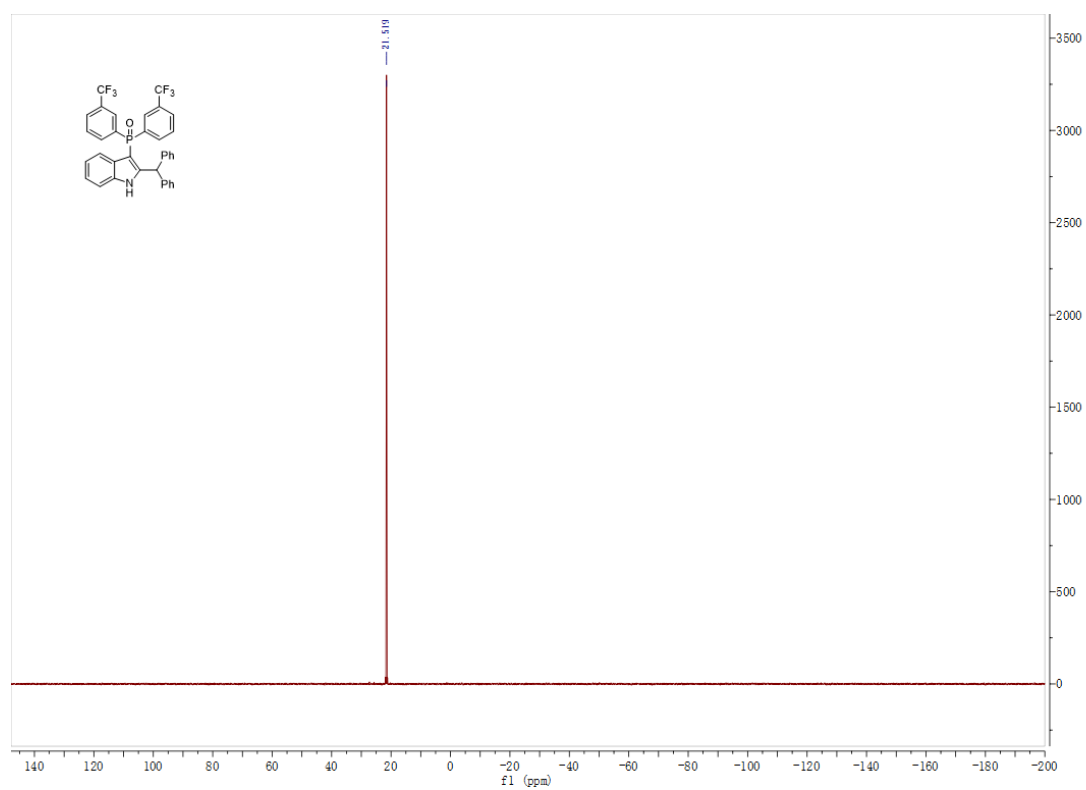
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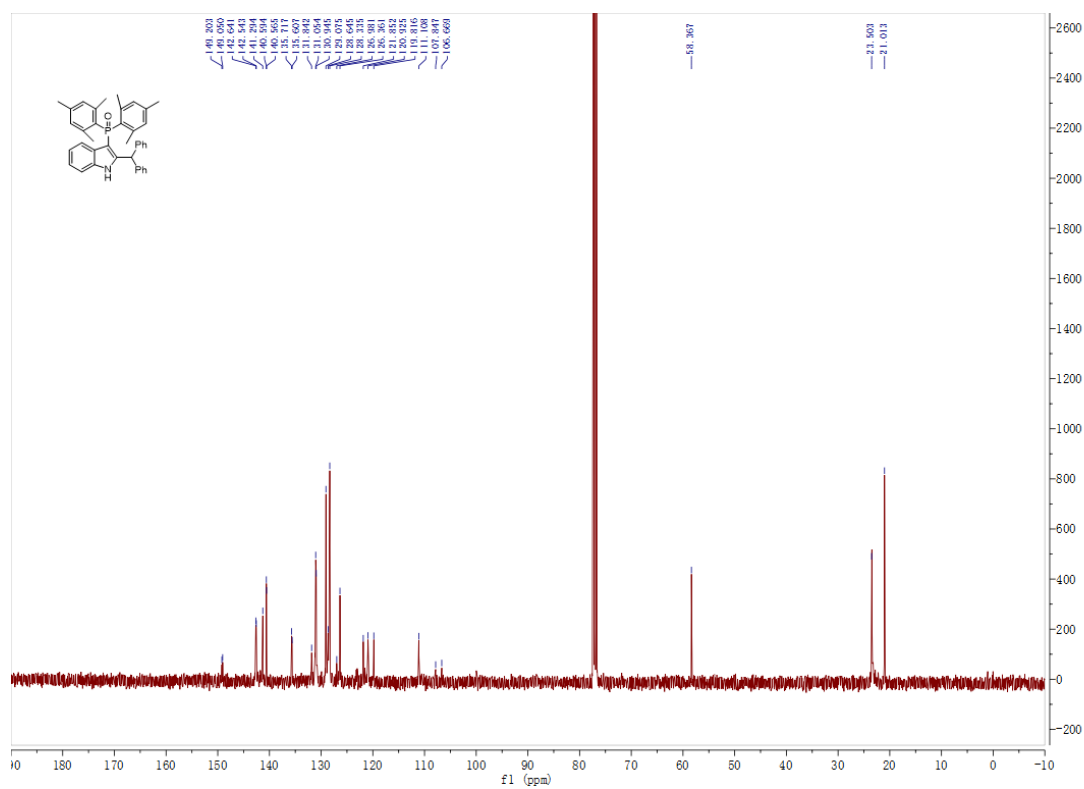
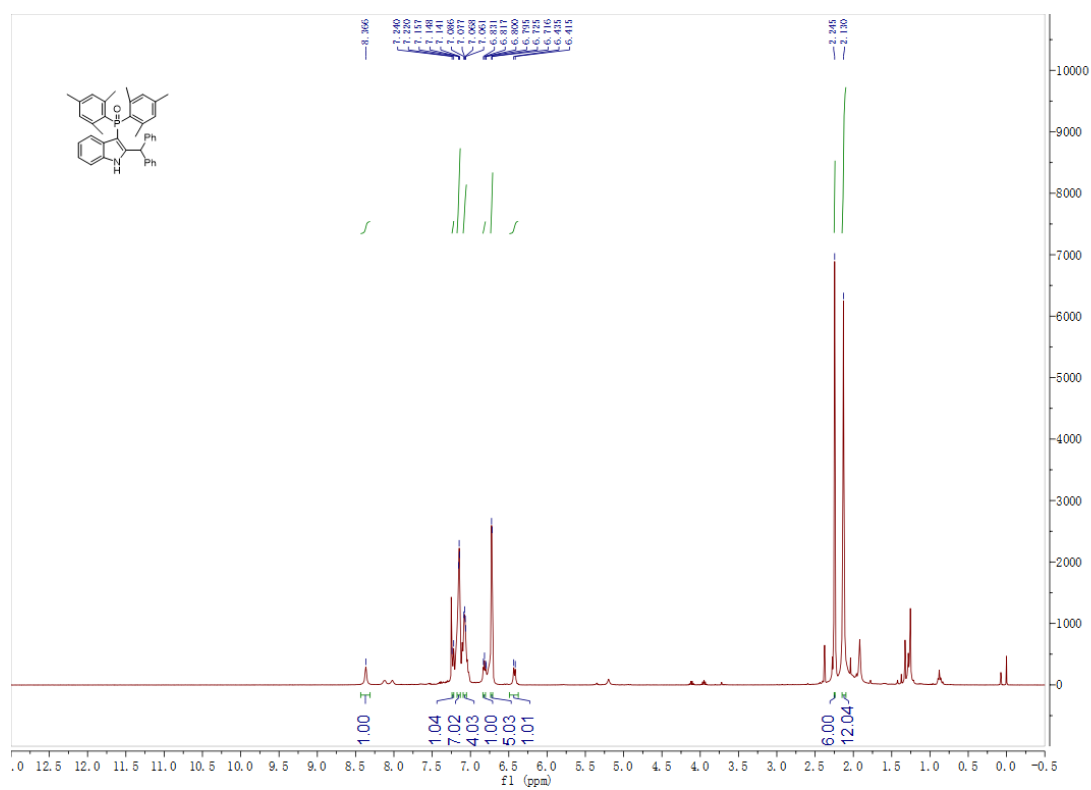
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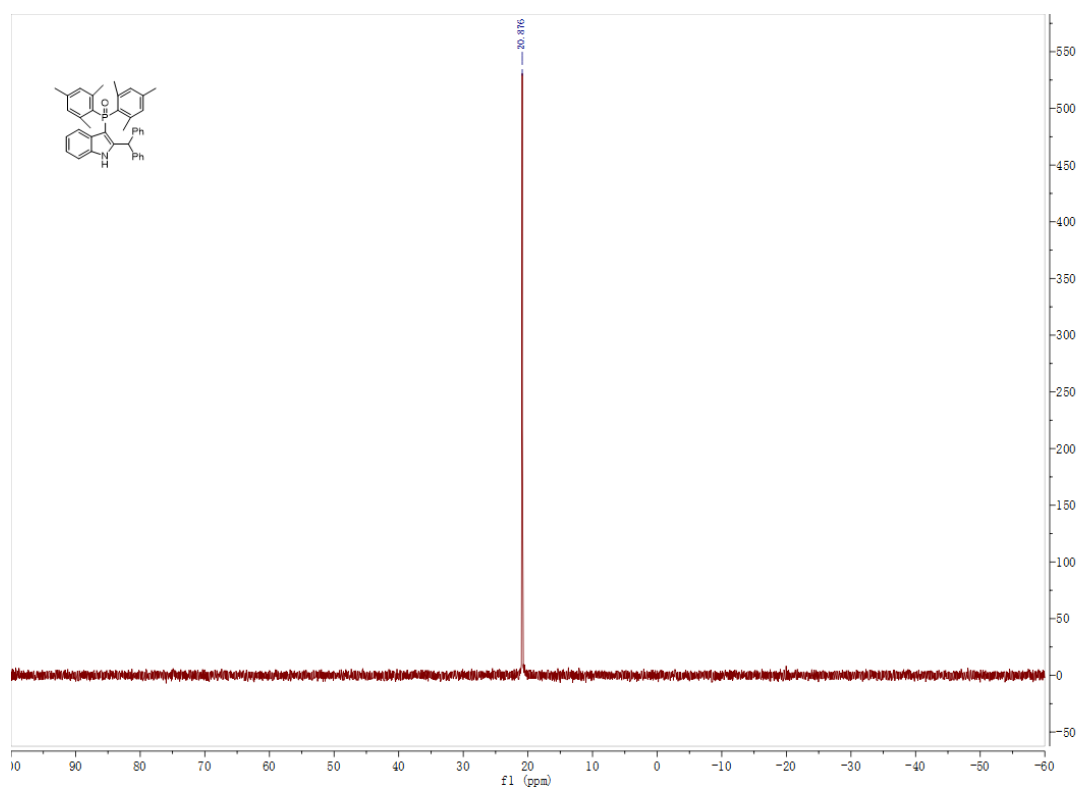




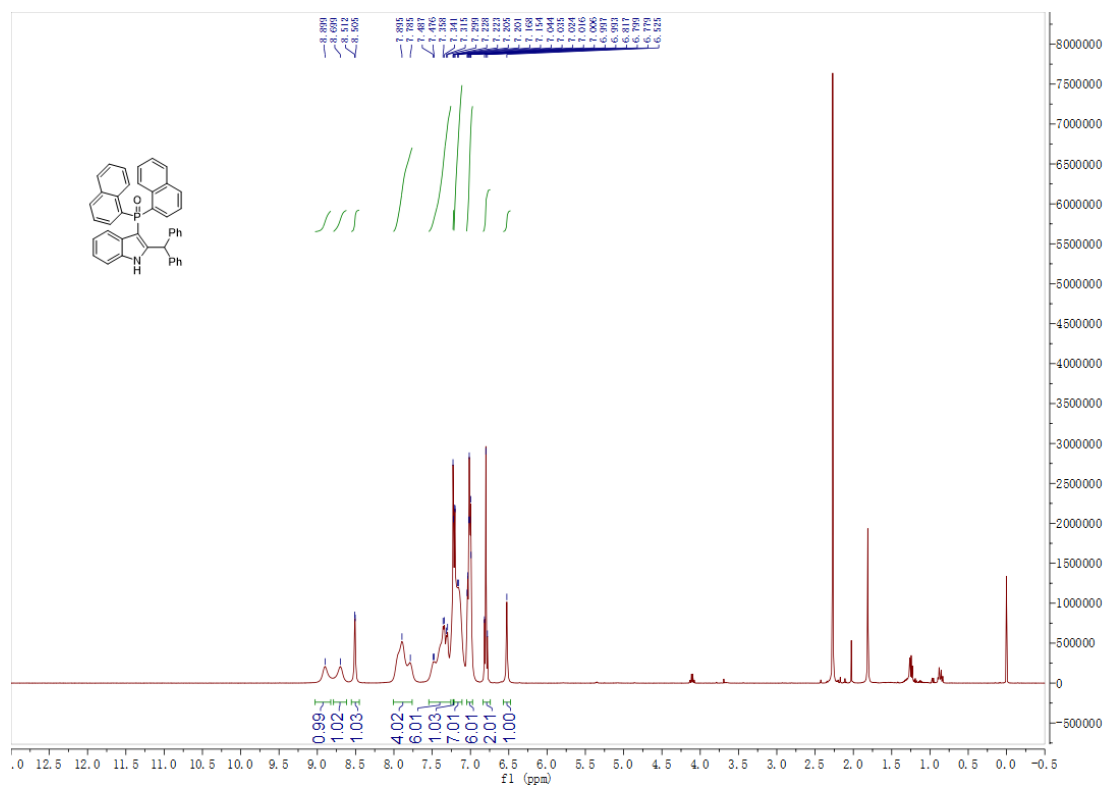
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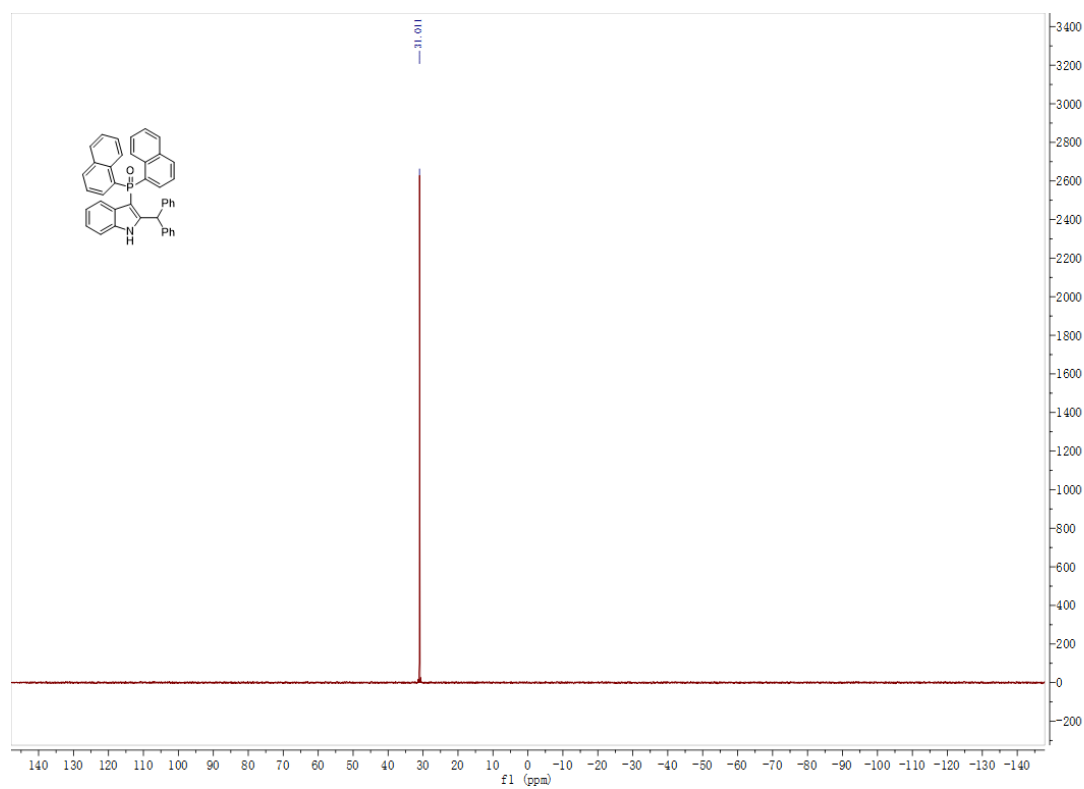
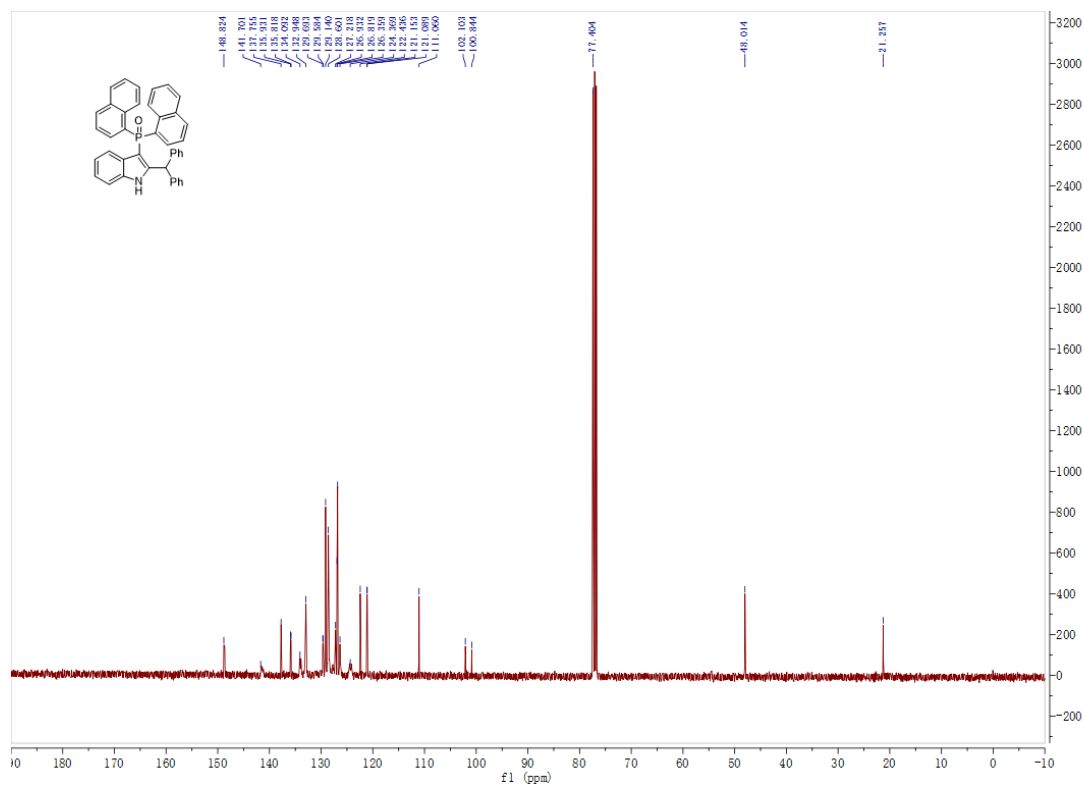




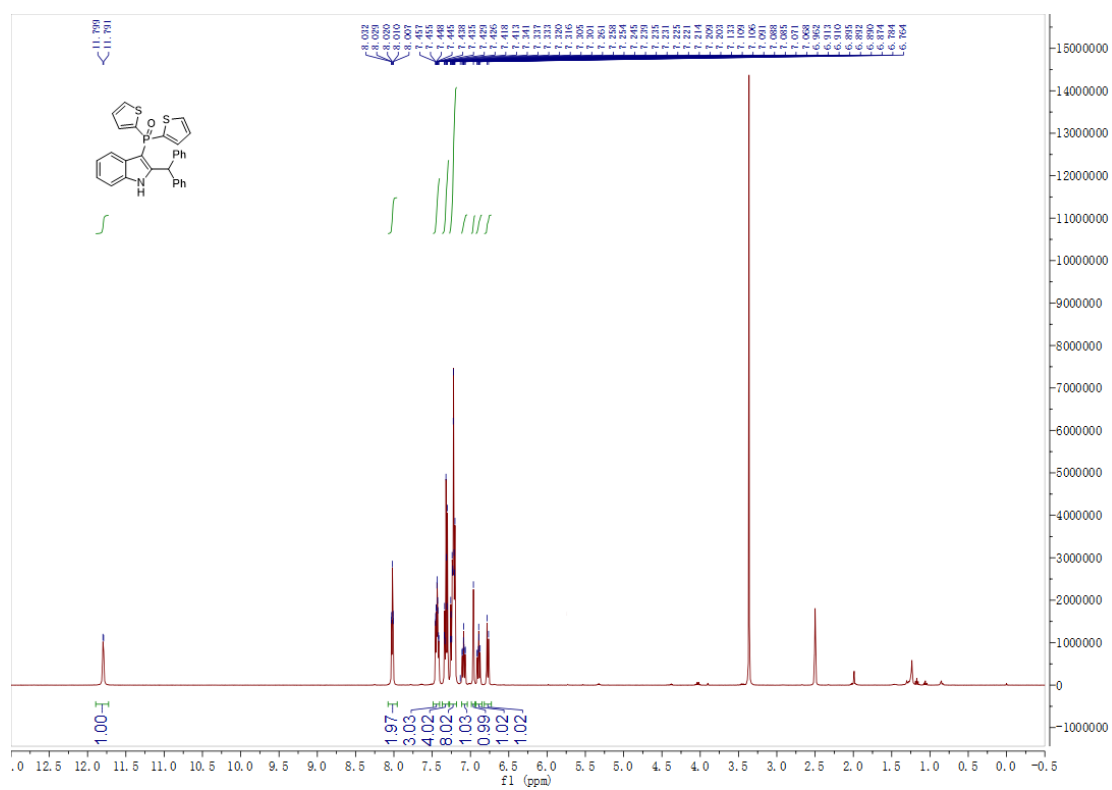


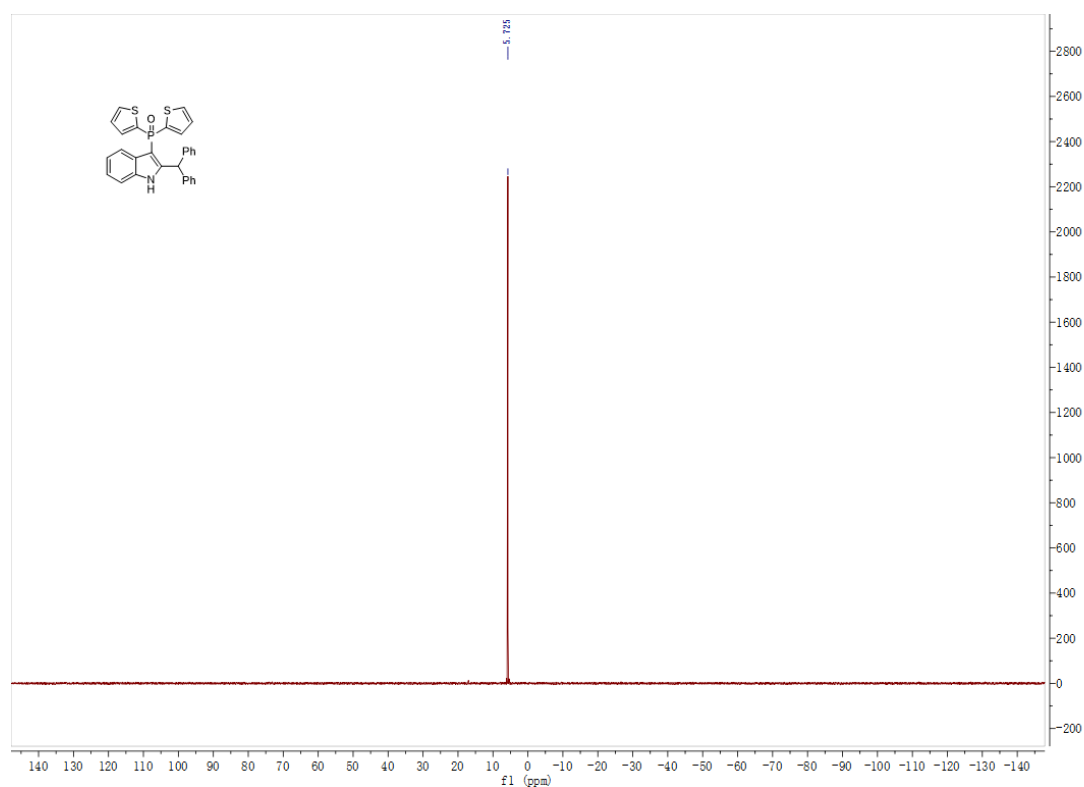
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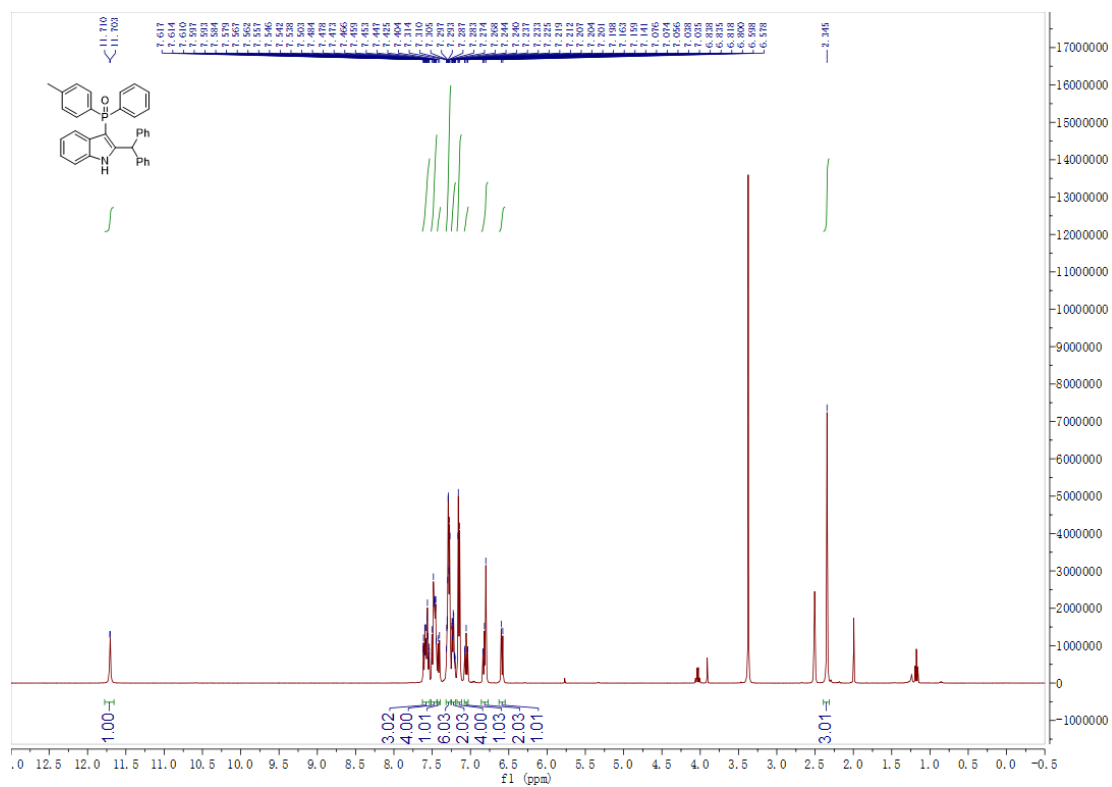


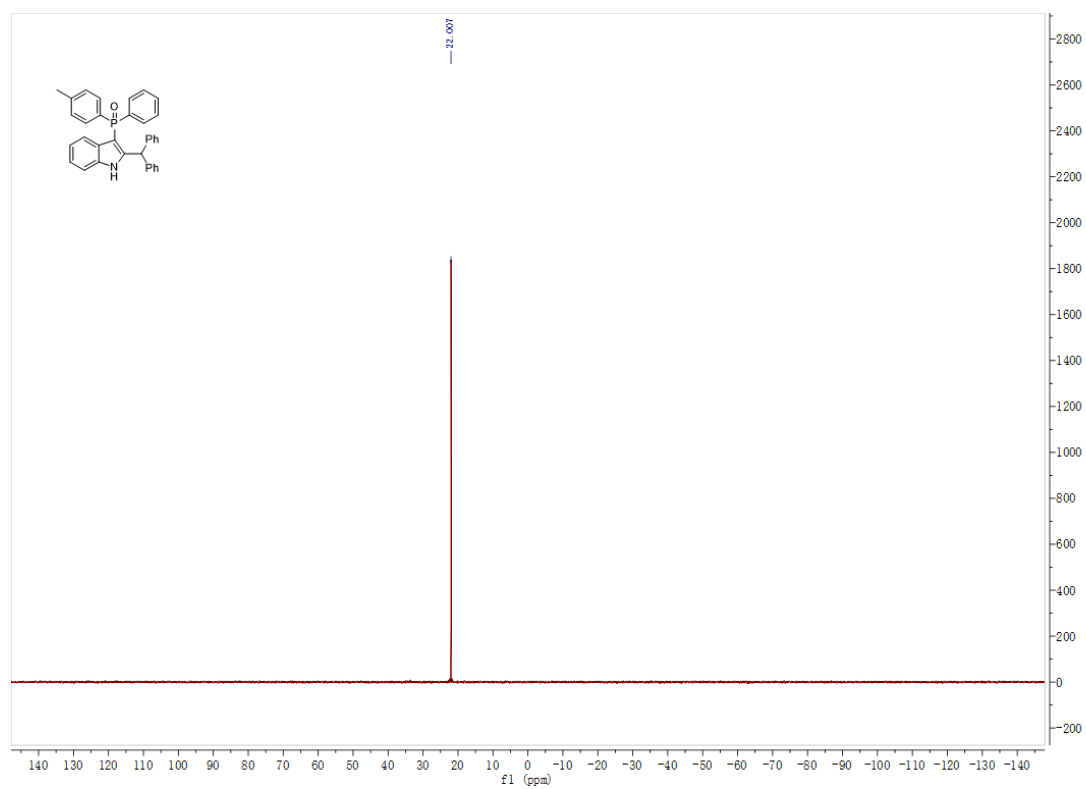
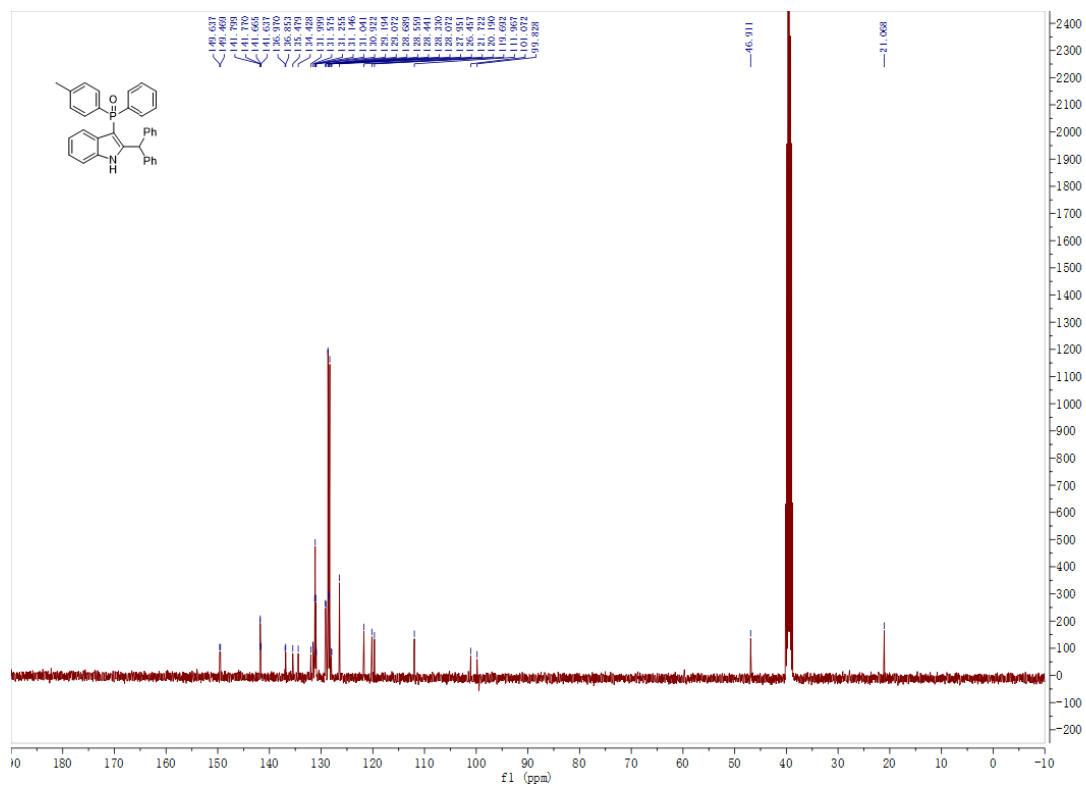
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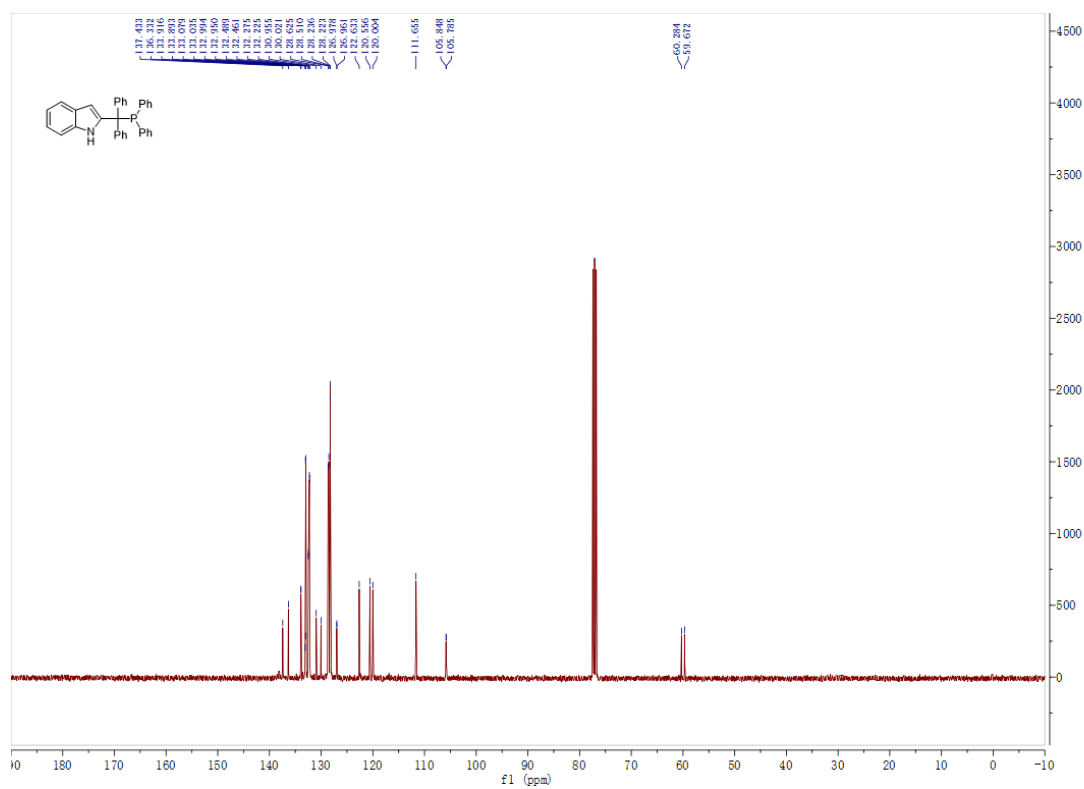
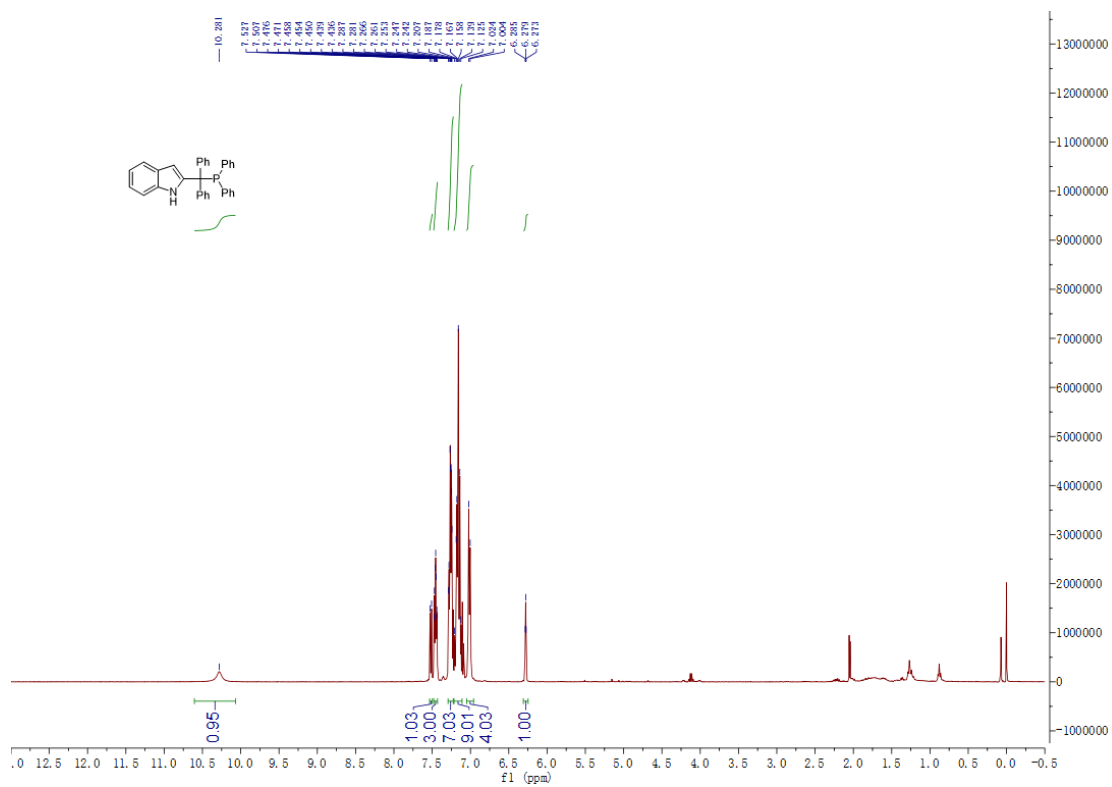


4an



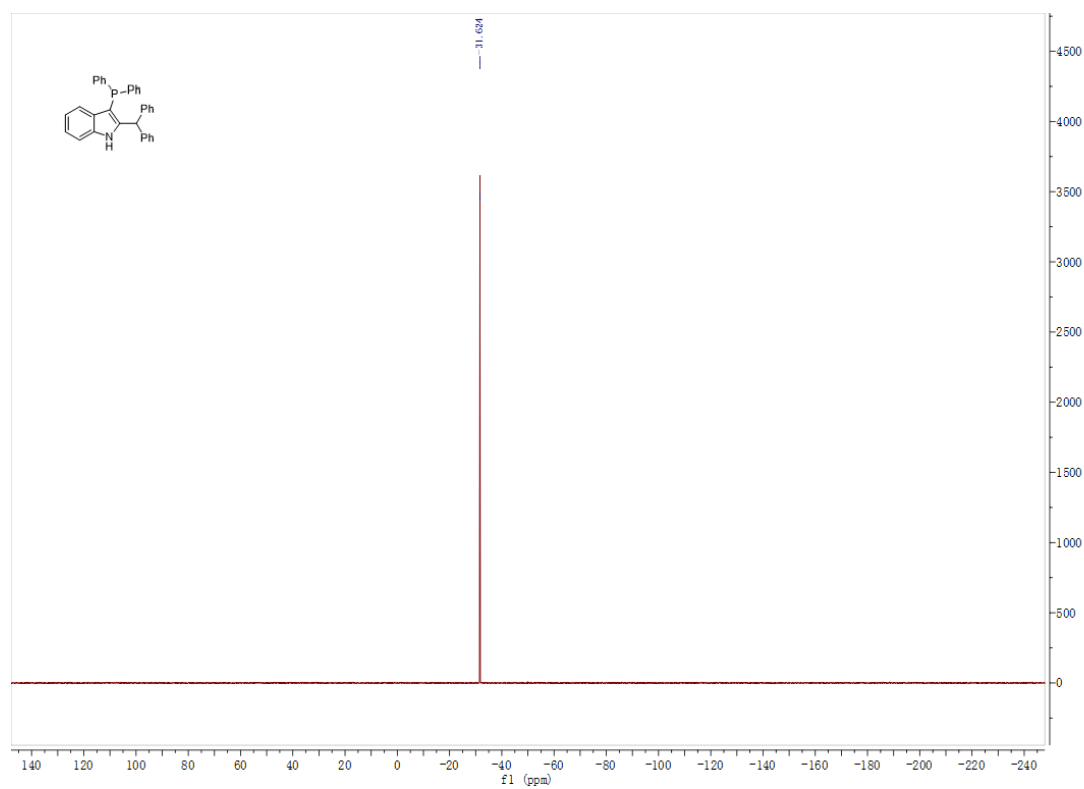
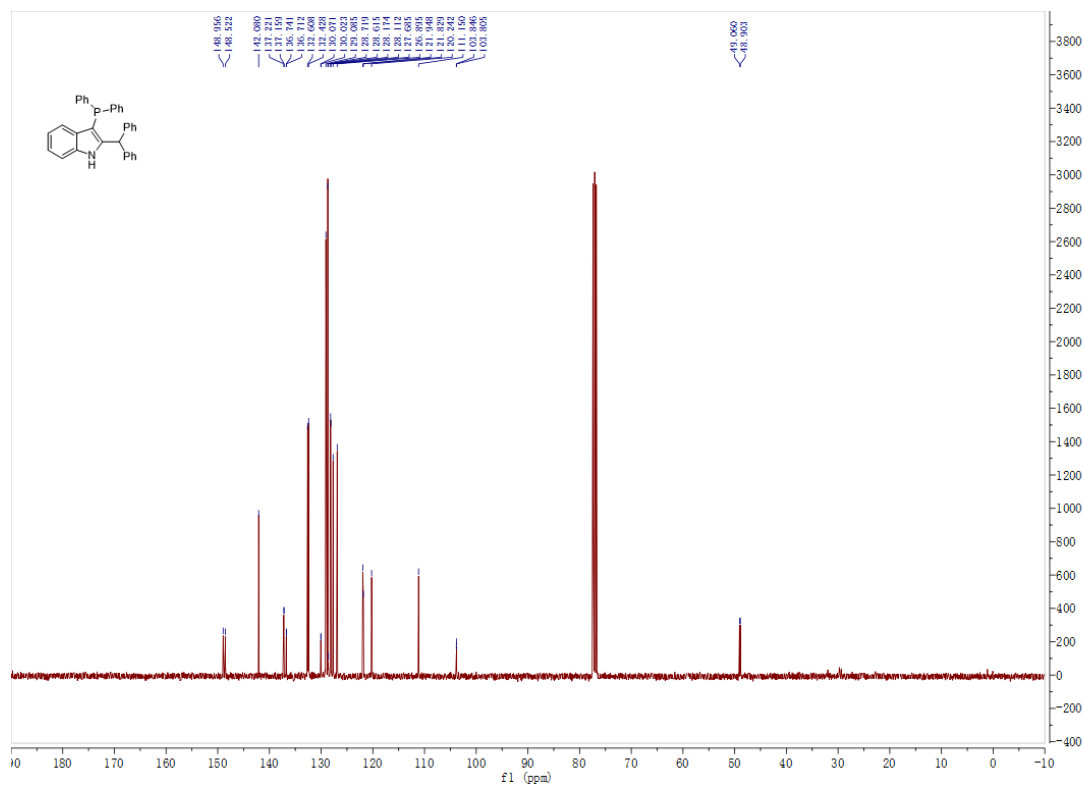


5

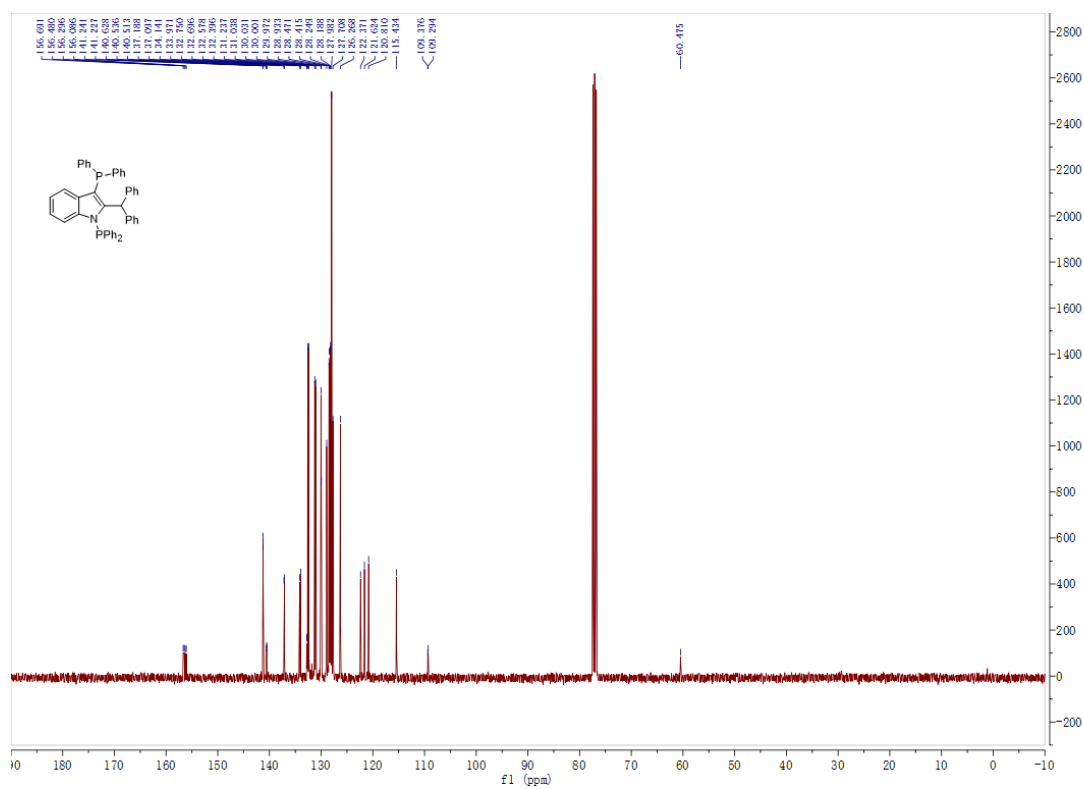
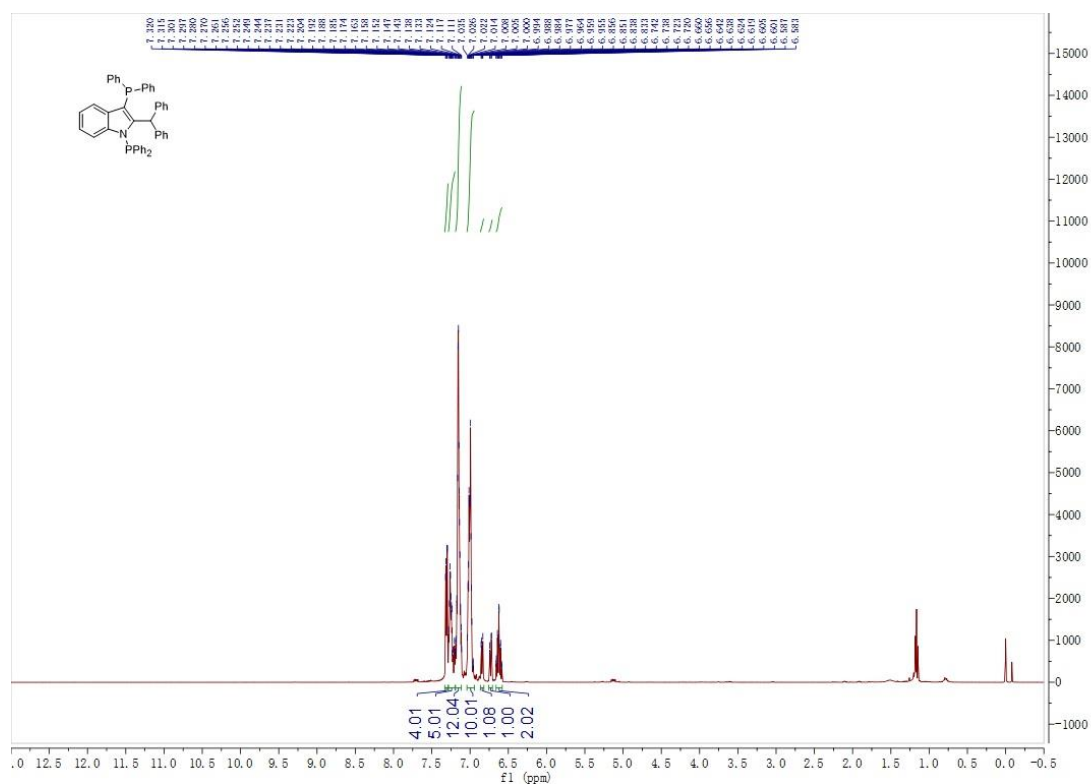


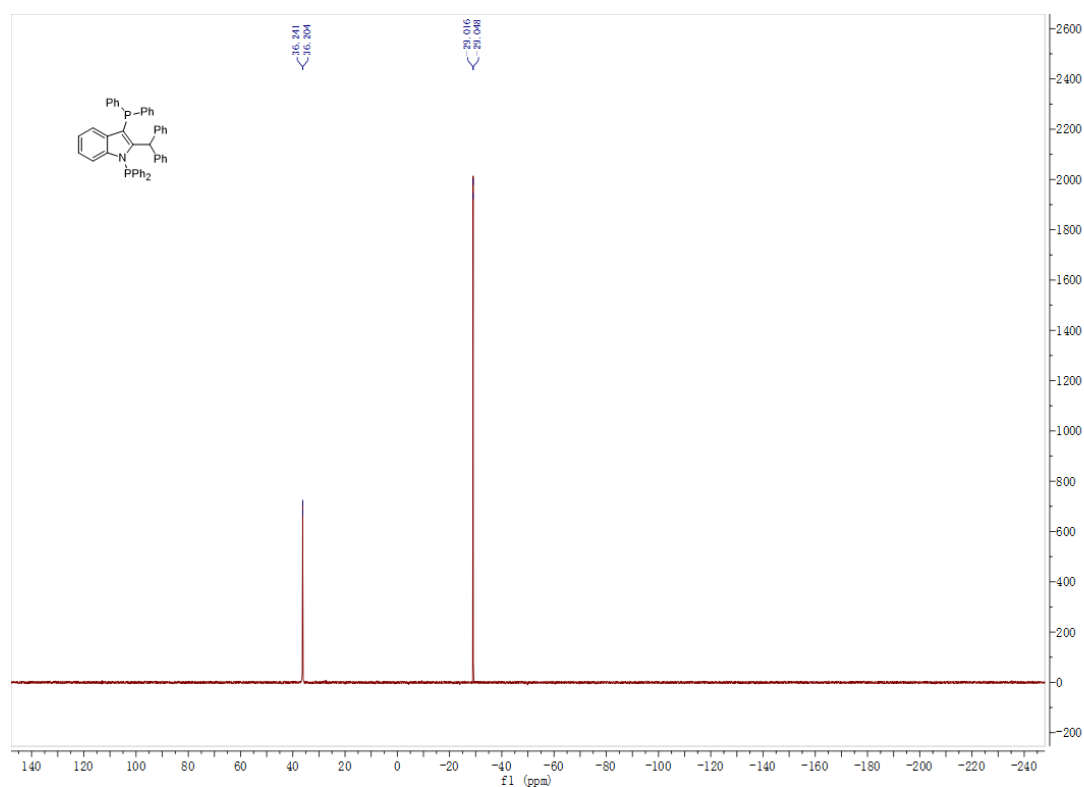




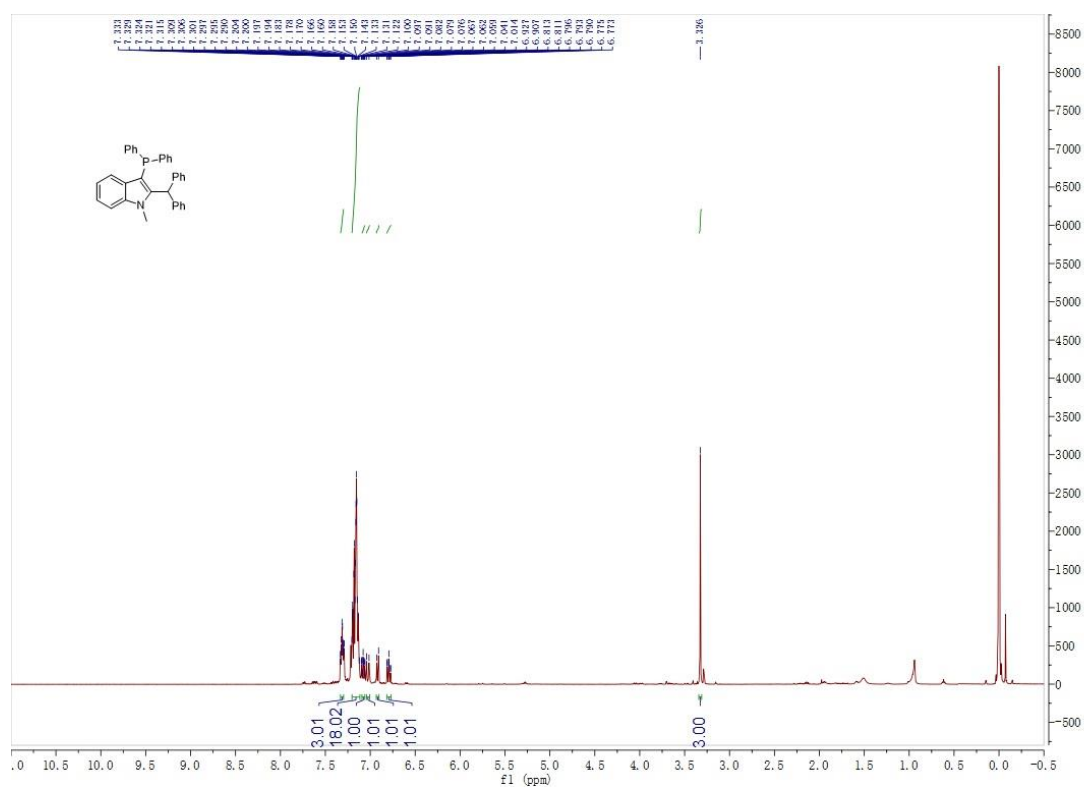


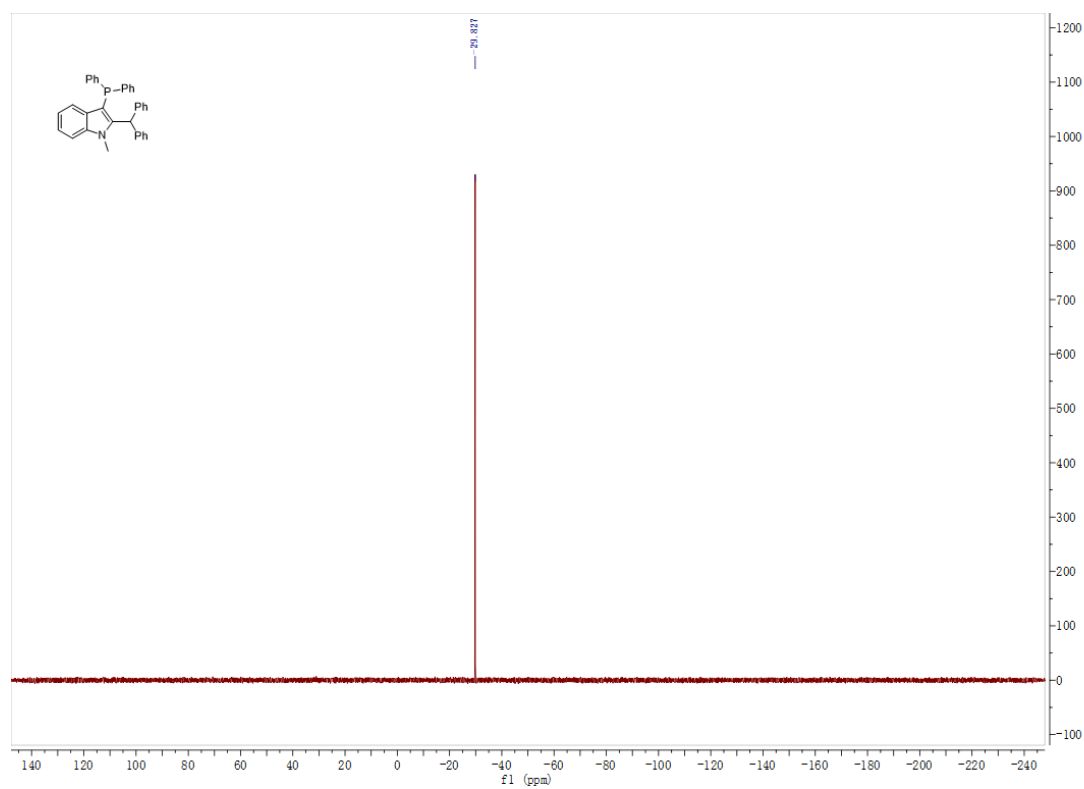
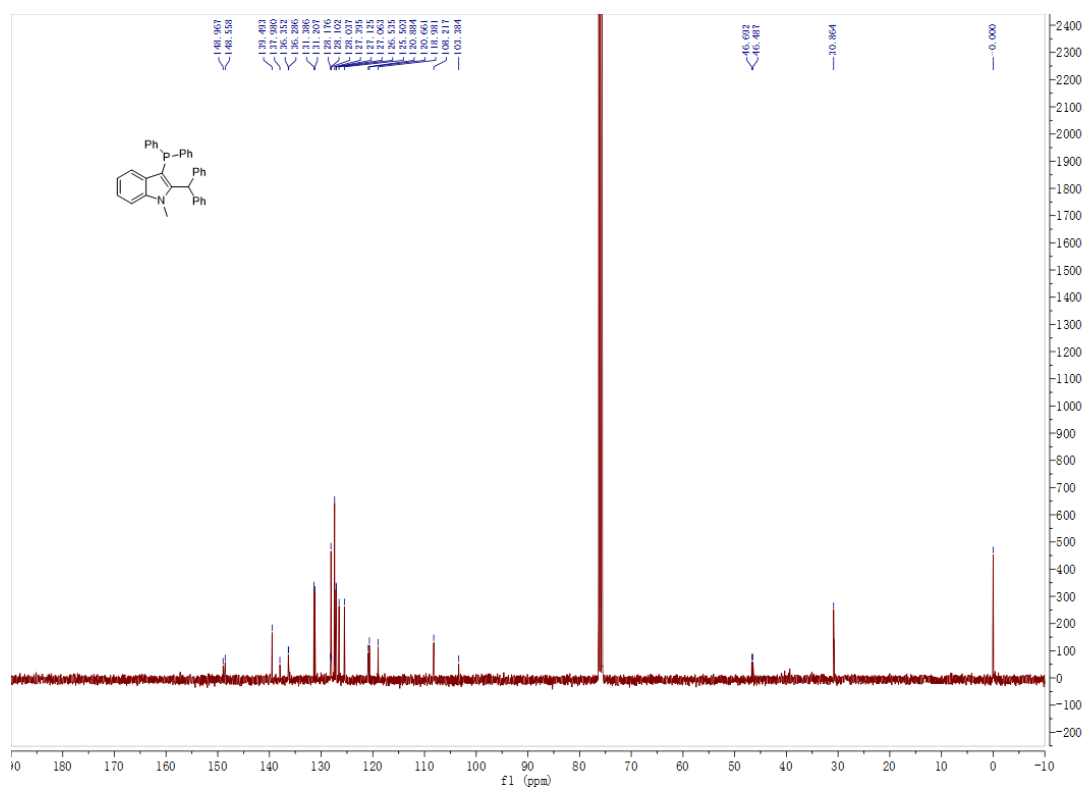
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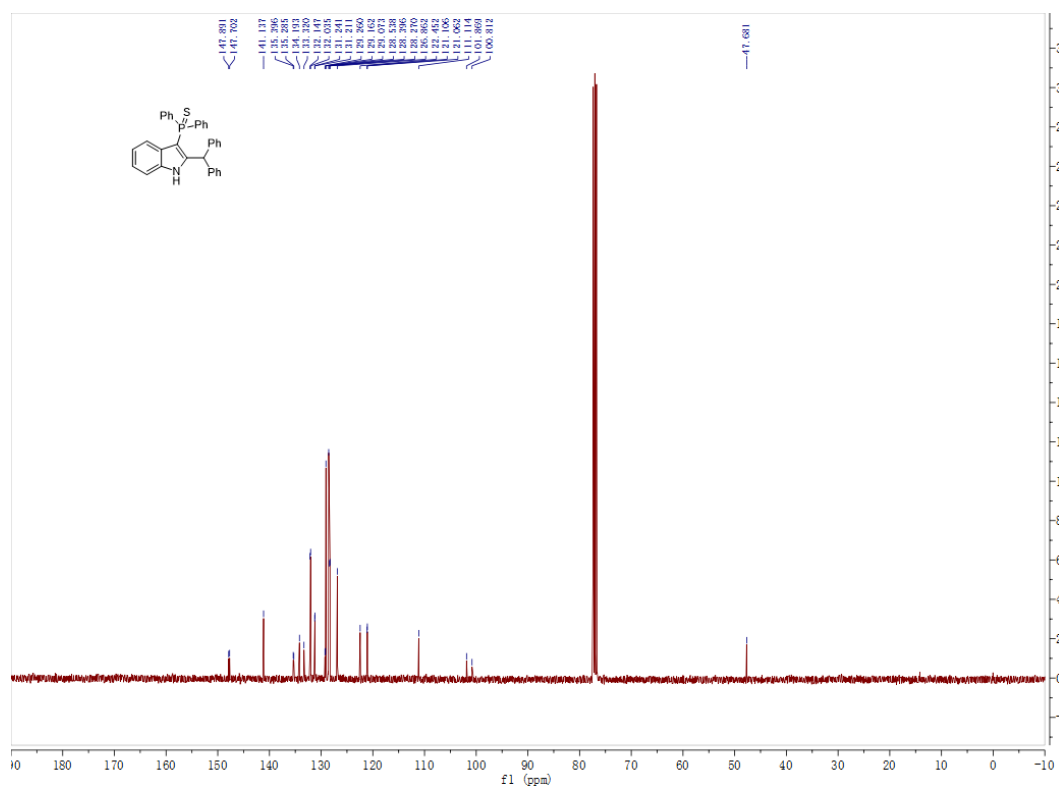
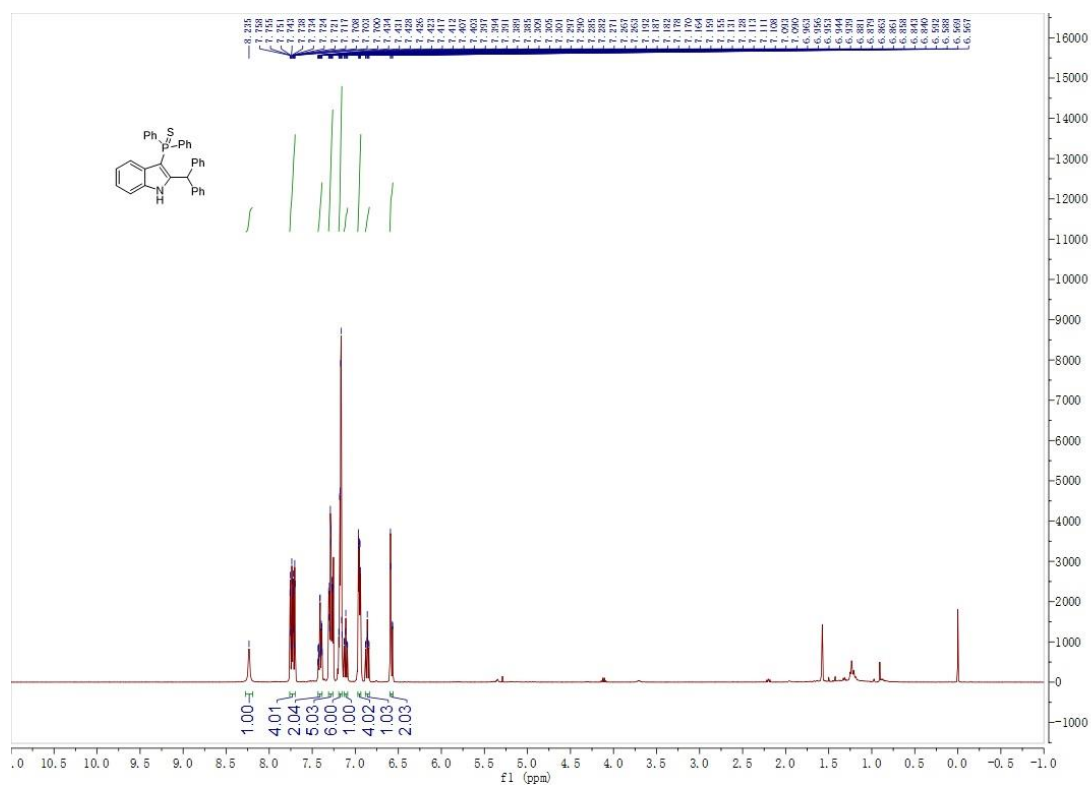


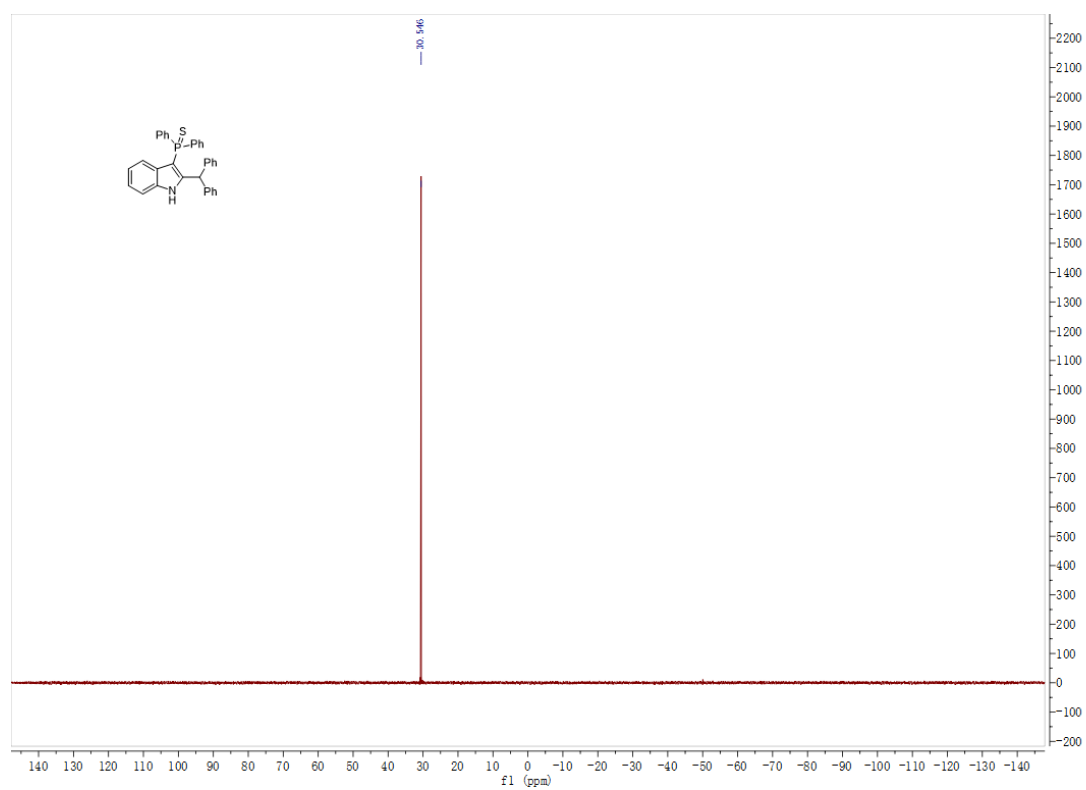


8

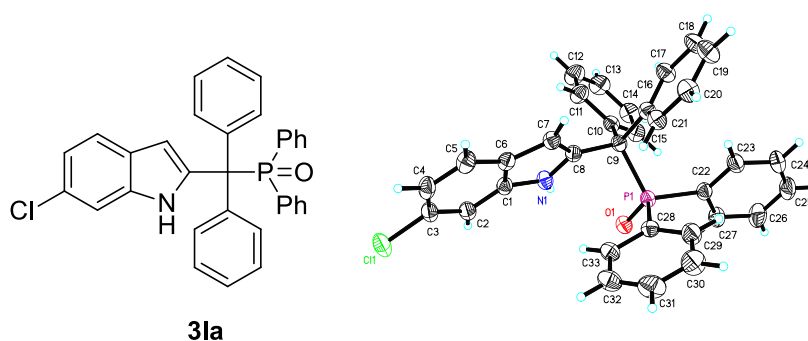








## Crystallographic Data for Compounds **3la** and **4ag**



The thermal ellipsoid was drawn at the 30% probability level.

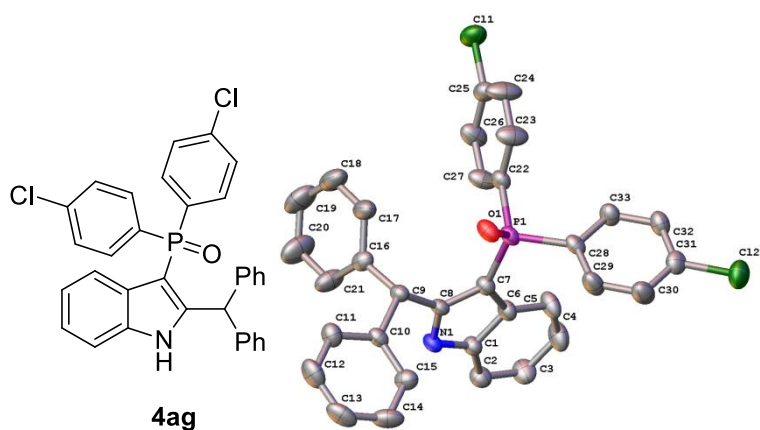
The crystal structure of **3la** has been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre and allocated the deposition number: CCDC 1824762.

Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for **3la**.

Identification code	mo_d8v17423_0m	
Empirical formula	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>28</sub> Cl <sub>1</sub> N O <sub>2</sub> P	
Formula weight	655.34	
Temperature	296(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /n	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 10.0969(3) Å	a = 90°
	b = 24.9962(7) Å	b = 110.0340(10)°
	c = 13.2961(4) Å	γ = 90°
Volume	3152.67(16) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.381 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.459 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	1352	

Crystal size	0.180 x 0.160 x 0.120 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	1.822 to 25.499°
Index ranges	-12≤h≤12, -30≤k≤30, -16≤l≤16
Reflections collected	55408
Independent reflections	5850 [R(int) = 0.0486]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.7 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.6724
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	5850 / 24 / 423
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.032
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0643, wR2 = 0.1730
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0798, wR2 = 0.1898
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.834 and -0.843 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>





The thermal ellipsoid was drawn at the 30% probability level.

The crystal structure of **4ag** has been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre and allocated the deposition number: CCDC 1824763.

Table 2. Crystal data and structure refinement for **4ag**.

Identification code	4ag	
Empirical formula	C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>32</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N O <sub>3</sub> P	
Formula weight	640.50	
Temperature	173.01 K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	
Space group	Pbca	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 13.4763(8) Å	a = 90°
	b = 18.3817(10) Å	b = 90°
	c = 25.4001(13) Å	g = 90°
Volume	6292.0(6) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	8	

Density (calculated)	1.352 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.296 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	2672
Crystal size	0.22 x 0.2 x 0.15 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	2.357 to 26.998°
Index ranges	-14 ≤ h ≤ 17, -22 ≤ k ≤ 23, -32 ≤ l ≤ 31
Reflections collected	32407
Independent reflections	6813 [R(int) = 0.1004]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.2 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.6053
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	6813 / 82 / 420
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.043
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0785, wR2 = 0.1926
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1197, wR2 = 0.2189
Extinction coefficient	0.0050(6)
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.187 and -0.425 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>