

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Cascade π -Extended Decarboxylative Annulation Involving Cyclic Diaryliodonium Salts: Site-Selective Synthesis of Phenanthridines and Benzocarbazoles via a Traceless Directing Group Strategy

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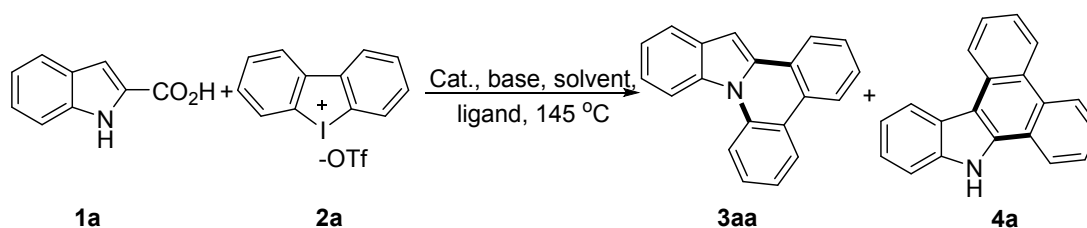
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I . General information

All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Yields for all compounds were determined by the column chromatography which was generally performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh) using petroleum ether 40-60 (PE)/EtOAc as eluent, and reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on a glass plate coated with silica gel with fluorescent indicator (GF254) using UV light. The ^1H and ^{13}C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker ADNANCE III 500 MHz using CDCl_3 as solvent with TMS as internal standard. Chemical shifts are given in ppm (δ) referenced to CDCl_3 with 7.28 for ^1H and 77.03 for ^{13}C , and to $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ with 2.50 for ^1H and 39.52 for ^{13}C . Signals are abbreviated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet, and coupling constants are expressed in hertz. Melting points were measured on a SGW[®] X-4B apparatus and uncorrected. HRMS were recorded on Agilent 6210TOF LC/MS mass spectrometer.

II. Conditions optimization of phenanthridine and benzocarbazole.

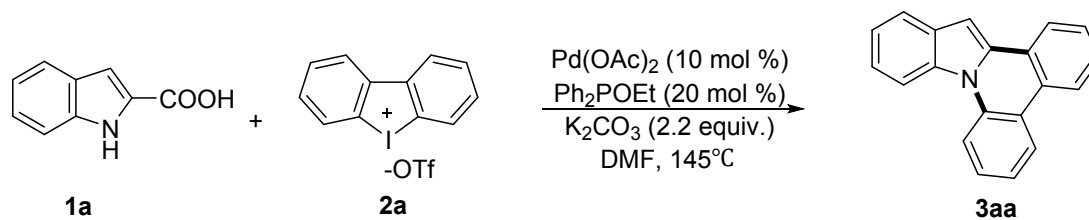


| Entry ^a | 2a (eq.) | Ligand | Catalyst | Base | Solvent | Yield(%) ^b | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----|
| | | | | | | 3aa | 4a |
| 1 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DMF | 30 | - |
| 2 ^c | 1.1 | - | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DMF | 40 | - |
| 3 | 1.1 | -- | -- | K_2CO_3 | DMF | - | - |
| 4 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | -- | DMF | - | - |
| 5 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DMA | 10 | - |
| 6 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DMSO | 30 | - |
| 7 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | toluene | 19 | - |
| 8 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | Ac_2O | - | - |
| 9 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | dioxane | 22 | - |
| 10 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DCE | 11 | - |
| 11 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | Na_2CO_3 | DMF | 18 | - |
| 12 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | Cs_2CO_3 | DMF | - | - |
| 13 | 1.1 | -- | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_3PO_4 | DMF | 19 | - |
| 14 | 1.1 | - | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | KOH | DMF | 19 | - |
| 15 | 1.1 | - | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | KO ^t Bu | DMF | - | - |
| 16 | 1.1 | 2,6-Bi(^t Bu) pyridine | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DMF | 15 | - |
| 17 | 1.1 | 2,2'-Bipyridine | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DMF | 22 | - |
| 18 | 1.1 | 1,10-phen | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DMF | 14 | - |
| 19 | 1.1 | PPh_3 | $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ | K_2CO_3 | DMF | 47 | - |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---|--|---------------------------------|------|----|-------|
| 20 | 1.1 | | Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 38 | - |
| 21 | 1.1 | PPh ₂ | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 36 | - |
| 22 | 1.1 | P(cy) ₃ | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 9 | - |
| 23 | 1.1 | S-Phos | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 6 | - |
| 24 | 1.1 | (<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄) ₃ P | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 23 | - |
| 25 | 1.1 | (<i>n</i> -C ₈ H ₁₇) ₃ P | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 26 | - |
| 26 | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 58 | - |
| 27 ^d | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 42 | - |
| 28 ^e | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 55 | - |
| 29 | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd ₂ (dba) ₃ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 38 | - |
| 30 | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(dppf)Cl ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 5 | - |
| 31 | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | DABCO | DMF | 30 | - |
| 32 | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | Et ₃ N | DMF | 46 | - |
| 33 ^f | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 43 | - |
| 34 ^g | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 43 | - |
| 35 | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ (5mol%) | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 49 | - |
| 36 | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ (2.5mol%) | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 25 | - |
| 37 ^h | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 66 | - |
| 38 ⁱ | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 72 | - |
| 39 ^j | 1.1 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 73 | - |
| 40 ⁱ | 1.3 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 73 | - |
| 41 ⁱ | 1.6 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 87 | - |
| 42 ⁱ | 2.0 | Ph ₂ POEt | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | DMF | 94 | - |
| 43 | 1.1 | - | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | 30 |
| 44 | 2 | - | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | 41 |
| 45 ⁱ | 2 | - | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | 84 |
| 46 ^j | 2 | - | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | 68 |
| 47 ⁱ | 2 | - | Pd(OAc) ₂ | - | HOAc | - | - |
| 48 ⁱ | 2 | - | Pd(OAc) ₂ | KOAc | HOAc | - | 19 |
| 49 ⁱ | 2 | - | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ HPO ₄ | HOAc | - | 31 |
| 50 ⁱ | 2 | Ph ₂ POEt (10%-20%) | Pd(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | 26-27 |
| 51 ⁱ | 2 | - | PdCl ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | 20 |
| 52 ⁱ | 2 | - | Pd ₂ (dba) ₃ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | 38 |
| 53 ⁱ | 2 | - | Pd(TFA) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | 51 |
| 54 ⁱ | 2 | - | [Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | - |
| 55 ⁱ | 2 | - | Cu(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | - |
| 56 ⁱ | 2 | - | Co(OAc) ₂ | K ₂ CO ₃ | HOAc | - | - |

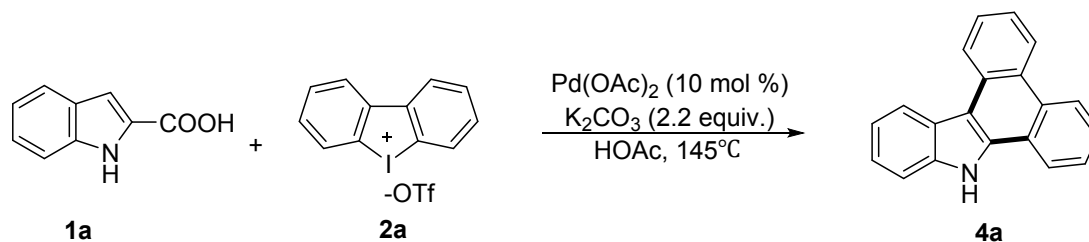
^aReaction conditions: indole-2-carboxylic acid **1a** (0.3 mmol), Pd catalyst (10 mol %), ligand (20 mol %), base (2.2 equiv), solvent (1 mL), 12 h, 145 °C, air atmosphere. ^b Isolated yields. ^c 24h. ^d N₂ atmosphere. ^eO₂ atmosphere. ^f 3.3 eq. base. ^g 1.1 eq. base. ^h 0.75 mL solvent. ⁱ 2 mL solvent. ^j 3 mL solvent.

III. General procedure to synthesize phenanthridine and benzocarbazole.



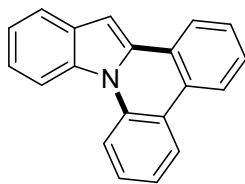
In a 15 mL thick-walled tube was charged with substrate **1a** (48.3 mg, 0.3 mmol), **2a** (256.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), K₂CO₃ (91.1 mg, 0.66 mmol), ethyl diphenylphosphinite (Ph₂POEt) (13 μL, 0.06 mmol) and DMF (2 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (10 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL x 3). The combined organic phase was washed with water (10 mL x 3) and saturated brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA = 500:1) on silica gel to provide the desired indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine **3aa** (75.4 mg, 94%) as a white solid.

For 1 mmol scale synthesize phenanthridine: In a 30 mL thick-walled tube was charged with substrate **1a** (161.1 mg, 1 mmol), **2a** (513.6 mg, 1.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (22.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), K₂CO₃ (303.6 mg, 2.2 mmol), ethyl diphenylphosphinite (Ph₂POEt) (43.2 μL, 0.2 mmol) and DMF (6 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (20 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (25 mL x 3). The combined organic phase was washed with water (20 mL x 3) and saturated brine (20 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA = 500:1) on silica gel to provide the desired indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine **3aa** (225.0 mg, 84%) as a white solid.



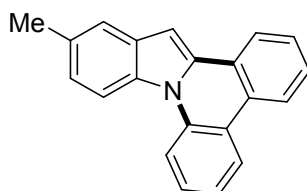
In a 15 mL thick-walled tube was charged with substrate **1a** (48.3 mg, 0.3 mmol), **2a** (256.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), K₂CO₃ (91.1 mg, 0.66 mmol) and HOAc (2 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (10 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL x 3). The combined organic phase was washed with water (10 mL x 3) and saturated brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA = 20:1) on silica gel to provide the desired 9*H*-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole **4a** (66.8 mg, 84%) as a white solid.

IV. Characterization of the phenanthridine and benzocarbazole.



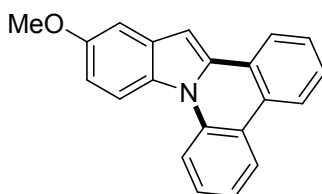
indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (**3aa**):

Following the general procedure, **3aa** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (75.4 mg, 94% yield); Mp = 149-150 °C; R_f = 0.40 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.59 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.46 – 8.39 (m, 1H), 8.37 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.31 – 8.24 (m, 1H), 8.21 – 8.14 (m, 1H), 7.90 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.31 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 136.0, 135.2, 133.9, 130.4, 128.7, 128.2, 127.8, 126.8, 126.1, 124.1, 124.0, 123.0, 122.4, 122.1, 122.0, 121.8, 121.0, 116.3, 114.2, 96.2. HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 268.1121, found 268.1109. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.^{1,2}



12-methylindolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (**3ab**):

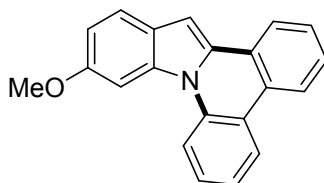
Following the general procedure, **3ab** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (70.1 mg, 82% yield); Mp = 184-185 °C; R_f = 0.4 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.52 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.25 – 8.20 (m, 1H), 8.16 – 8.10 (m, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 2.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.35 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 136.0, 135.3, 132.3, 131.2, 130.7, 128.7, 128.1, 127.7, 126.8, 126.2, 124.1, 123.9, 123.7, 122.8, 122.4, 122.0, 120.7, 116.2, 113.9, 95.8, 21.4. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.¹



12-methoxyindolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (**3ac**):

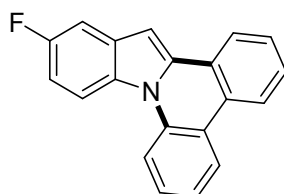
Following the general procedure, **3ac** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a yellow solid (72.3 mg, 81% yield); Mp = 173-174 °C; R_f = 0.20 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.50 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.3 Hz, 2H), 8.19 – 8.11 (m, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.55 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.37 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.04 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H),

3.96 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.2, 135.9, 135.8, 131.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.2, 127.8, 126.8, 126.0, 124.1, 124.0, 122.9, 122.4, 121.9, 115.9, 115.1, 112.0, 102.2, 95.9, 55.7. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.¹



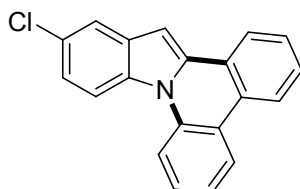
11-methoxyindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3ad):

Following the general procedure, **3ad** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a yellow solid (77.6 mg, 87% yield); R_f = 0.20 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); Mp = 131-132 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.42 – 8.37 (m, 1H), 8.25 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.18 – 8.13 (m, 1H), 8.07 – 8.00 (m, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.1, 135.9, 134.5, 134.4, 128.5, 128.1, 127.2, 126.5, 126.4, 124.7, 123.9, 123.6, 122.9, 122.3, 122.2, 121.3, 115.9, 110.8, 99.1, 96.0, 56.0. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.¹



12-fluoroindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3ae):

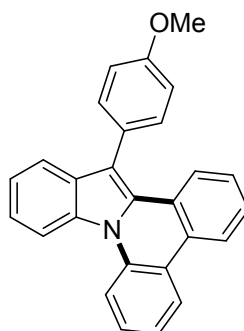
Following the general procedure, **3ae** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a light green solid (77.8 mg, 90% yield). Mp = 132-133 °C; R_f = 0.33 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.43 – 8.39 (m, 1H), 8.30 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 8.22 – 8.18 (m, 1H), 8.10 – 8.05 (m, 1H), 7.56 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.43 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.10 (td, J = 9.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6 ($J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 239.0 Hz), 136.7, 135.5, 131.2 ($J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 10.4 Hz), 130.5, 128.8, 128.2, 128.1, 126.9, 125.6, 124.2, 124.0, 123.2, 122.4, 121.9, 115.9, 115.0 ($J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.8 Hz), 110.0 ($J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 25.4 Hz), 105.5 ($J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 23.0 Hz), 96.0; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}\text{FN}$ [$M + H$]⁺ 286.1027, found 286.1027.



12-chloroindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3af):

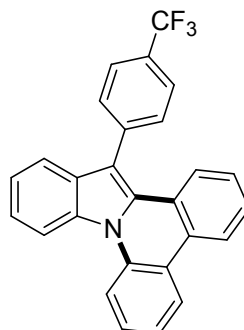
Following the general procedure, **3af** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (76.0 mg, 84% yield); Mp = 173-174 °C; R_f = 0.4 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.47 – 8.40 (m, 1H), 8.34 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, J = 9.0 Hz,

2H), 8.11 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.56 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.31 (dd, $J = 9.0, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 136.5, 135.6, 132.2, 131.5, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 127.0, 125.7, 124.3, 124.2, 123.4, 122.5, 122.2, 122.1, 120.2, 116.2, 115.1, 95.6; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+ 302.0731$, found 302.0734.



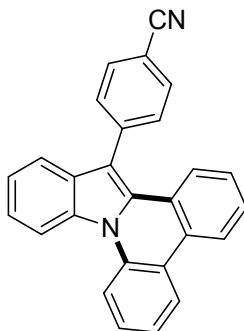
14-(4-methoxyphenyl)indolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3ag):

Following the general procedure, **3ag** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a yellow solid (104.2 mg, 93% yield); Mp = 198-200 °C; $R_f = 0.23$ (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.60 (dd, $J = 8.4, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.44 (dd, $J = 8.6, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.35 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.28 – 8.22 (m, 1H), 7.87 – 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.16 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.0, 135.9, 132.7, 132.1, 131.7, 128.8, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 127.0, 125.3, 124.1, 123.1, 122.6, 122.4, 122.3, 121.7, 119.9, 116.5, 114.6, 114.0, 113.5, 55.4; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+ 374.1539$, found 374.1535.



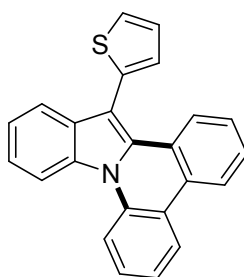
14-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3ah):

Following the general procedure, **3ah** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (122.2 mg, 99% yield). Mp = 175-176 °C; $R_f = 0.38$ (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.62 (dd, $J = 8.4, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.37 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.68 (m, 3H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.59 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.2, 135.7, 132.8, 131.5, 131.0, 130.4, 129.5 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 32.3$ Hz), 128.9, 127.9, 127.9, 127.8, 126.3, 126.1 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 4.0$ Hz), 125.3, 124.4 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 272.3$ Hz), 124.1, 123.4, 123.0, 122.7, 122.3, 122.2, 119.4, 116.6, 114.2, 112.2.; HRMS m/z (ESI) : calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+ 411.1229$, found 411.1231.



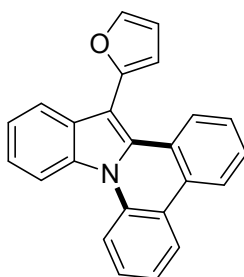
4-(indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridin-14-yl)benzonitrile (3ai**):**

Following the general procedure, **3ai** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a yellow solid (103.9 mg, 94% yield); Mp = 202-203 °C; R_f = 0.18 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.61 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.77 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.69 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 141.6, 132.9, 132.9, 131.9, 130.5, 129.0, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 126.0, 125.2, 124.2, 123.6, 123.1, 122.8, 122.3, 122.3, 119.1, 119.1, 116.6, 114.3, 111.1; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{Na}$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$ 391.1206, found 391.1210.



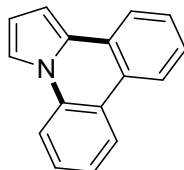
14-(thiophen-2-yl)indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3aj**):**

Following the general procedure, **3aj** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a yellow solid (99.6 mg, 95% yield). Mp = 161-163 °C; R_f = 0.38 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.61 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24 (dd, J = 3.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 135.6, 132.7, 132.2, 128.8, 128.4, 127.9, 127.9, 127.9, 126.9, 126.4, 125.6, 124.1, 123.4, 122.9, 122.4, 122.4, 122.2, 119.9, 116.6, 114.0, 105.3; HRMS m/z (ESI) : calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}\text{NS}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 350.0998, found 350.1002.

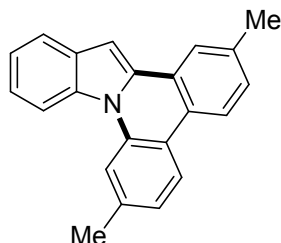


14-(furan-2-yl)indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3ak):

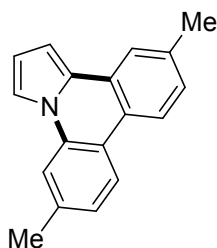
Following the general procedure, **3ak** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a brown solid (60.0 mg, 60% yield); Mp = 140-142 °C; R_f = 0.36 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.60 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.74 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 6.76 – 6.67 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.1, 142.3, 135.5, 132.9, 131.0, 128.8, 128.1, 127.9, 126.0, 125.4, 124.1, 123.5, 122.9, 122.5, 122.4, 122.3, 119.9, 116.7, 114.2, 111.6, 110.4, 102.5; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 334.1226, found 334.1232.

**pyrrolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3al):**

Following the general procedure, **3al** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (63.9 mg, 98% yield); Mp = 131-133 °C; R_f = 0.40 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.36 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, J = 2.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.42 (dddd, J = 18.7, 8.2, 7.1, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (dd, J = 3.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, J = 3.8, 2.9 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 133.2, 129.3, 128.5, 128.1, 126.3, 125.9, 124.8, 124.0, 123.8, 122.8, 122.5, 121.7, 115.0, 113.1, 112.2, 102.0. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.²

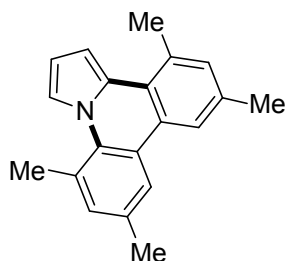
**2,7-dimethylindolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3ba):**

Following the general procedure, **3ba** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (44.3 mg, 50% yield); Mp = 132-134 °C; R_f = 0.34 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.43 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01 – 7.92 (m, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 22.0 Hz, 4H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 138.5, 137.6, 135.7, 135.6, 134.0, 130.5, 129.2, 125.7, 124.7, 124.2, 124.1, 123.7, 122.2, 121.8, 121.7, 121.0, 119.8, 116.7, 114.3, 95.9, 22.0, 21.5; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 296.1434, found 296.1438.

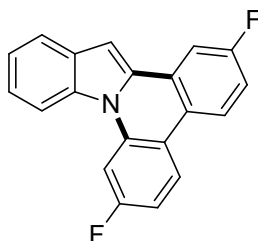


6,11-dimethylpyrrolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3bb):

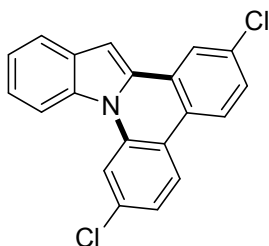
Following the general procedure, **3bb** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a light green solid (39.0 mg, 53% yield); Mp = 125-127 °C; R_f = 0.42 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.20 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.63 (m, 3H), 7.22 (dddd, J = 20.7, 8.2, 1.8, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 138.2, 137.5, 132.8, 129.5, 127.3, 125.9, 125.0, 123.6, 122.7, 122.6, 122.2, 119.3, 115.2, 112.9, 112.0, 101.6, 21.7, 21.5; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 246.1277, found 246.1279.

**5,7,10,12-tetramethylpyrrolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3bc):**

Following the general procedure, **3bc** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a yellow solid (43.5 mg, 53% yield); R_f = 0.44 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); Mp = 153-155 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (q, J = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.05 (dd, J = 4.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 4.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.49 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 134.4, 133.6, 133.3, 132.5, 132.3, 130.0, 126.8, 125.5, 123.9, 123.6, 122.5, 121.0, 118.8, 110.1, 106.0, 24.6, 24.6, 21.5, 21.0; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 274.1590, found 274.1593.

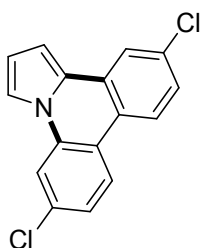
**2,7-difluoroindolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3bd):**

Following the general procedure, **3bd** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a light yellow solid (45.4 mg, 57% yield); Mp = 182-184 °C; R_f = 0.29 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.22 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 8.16 – 8.07 (m), 8.02 (dd, J = 9.0, 5.3 Hz), 7.85 – 7.79 (m), 7.65 (dd, J = 9.4, 2.6 Hz), 7.45 – 7.35 (m), 7.18 – 7.11 (m), 7.03 (ddd, J = 8.8, 7.6, 2.4 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 247.0 Hz), 162.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 247.0 Hz), 136.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 10.2 Hz), 134.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.3 Hz), 133.9, 130.2, 127.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.1 Hz), 125.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.9 Hz), 124.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 8.6 Hz), 122.9, 122.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.4 Hz), 122.4, 121.4, 117.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.0 Hz), 116.0, 114.0, 110.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.1 Hz), 109.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 23.2 Hz), 103.6, 97.6; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 304.0932, found 304.0931.



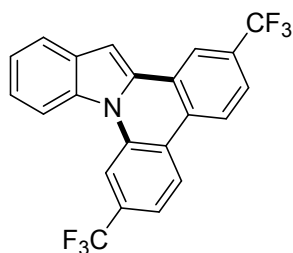
2,7-dichloroindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3be):

Following the general procedure, **3be** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a light yellow solid (46.4 mg, 46% yield); Mp = 208–210 °C; R_f = 0.34 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.51 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (dd, J = 8.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.10 – 8.07 (m, 2H), 7.86 (ddd, J = 7.8, 1.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.34 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 134.4, 128.2, 125.1, 124.0, 123.7, 123.4, 123.0, 122.5, 121.5, 116.4, 114.0, 97.7; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 336.0341, found 336.0347.



6,11-dichloropyrrolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bf):

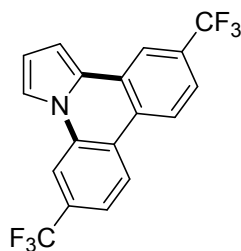
Following the general procedure, **3bf** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (70.4 mg, 82% yield); Mp = 178–180 °C; R_f = 0.37 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.15 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (ddd, J = 9.0, 7.5, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (dd, J = 3.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (t, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 134.6, 134.4, 133.8, 128.3, 127.5, 126.4, 125.2, 124.4, 124.1, 122.6, 122.4, 119.6, 115.2, 113.9, 113.1, 103.4; HRMS m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 286.0185, found 286.0192. The ^{13}C -NMR of **3bf** is not obvious due to poor solubility.



2,7-bis(trifluoromethyl)indolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bg):

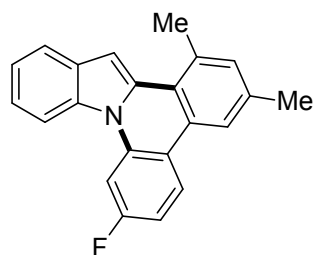
Following the general procedure, **3bg** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a yellow solid (56.8 mg, 47% yield); Mp = 187–189 °C; R_f = 0.4 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.73 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.27 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 136.4, 133.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32.2 Hz), 130.2, 127.1, 126.2, 125.1, 124.2, 124.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.3 Hz),

123.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.0$ Hz), 123.7, 123.6, 122.8, 121.8, 121.4 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 4.5$ Hz), 119.7 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 4.5$ Hz), 113.9, 113.4 (t, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 4.3$ Hz), 98.4; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_6\text{N}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 404.0868, found 404.0874.



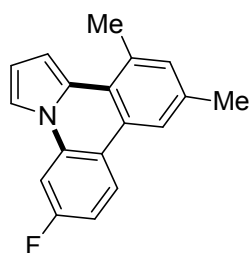
6,11-bis(trifluoromethyl)pyrrolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bh):

Following the general procedure, **3bh** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a green solid (44.5 mg, 42% yield); $R_f = 0.35$ (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); $\text{Mp} = 167\text{--}169$ °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.38 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.81 (dd, $J = 2.9, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (dd, $J = 3.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 – 6.78 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 133.4, 131.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 33.4$ Hz), 131.0 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 32.2$ Hz), 130.9, 128.2, 126.9, 126.0, 125.1, 123.6, 123.3, 122.9, 122.2 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.5$ Hz), 120.3 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.5$ Hz), 120.0 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.5$ Hz), 114.2, 113.3, 112.4 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 4.5$ Hz), 104.0; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_6\text{N}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 354.0712, found 354.0706.



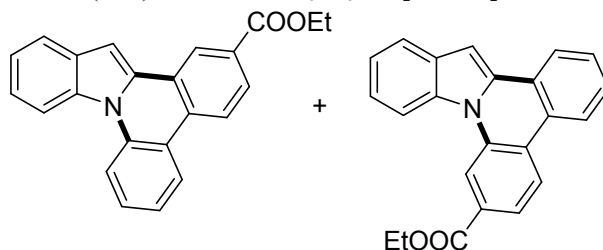
7-fluoro-1,3-dimethylindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bi):

Following the general procedure, **3bi** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (65.8 mg, 70% yield); $\text{Mp} = 144\text{--}146$ °C; $R_f = 0.48$ (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.20 (dd, $J = 8.8, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, $J = 11.2, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (ddd, $J = 8.6, 7.1, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.7 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 245.7$ Hz), 136.8, 136.6 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 11.0$ Hz), 135.5, 134.9, 132.8, 132.6, 130.5, 127.9, 126.1 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.8$ Hz), 122.6, 122.4, 122.0, 121.1, 120.5, 119.0 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.8$ Hz), 113.8, 110.1 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.0$ Hz), 103.3 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 27.1$ Hz), 101.9, 25.0, 21.5; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 314.1340, found 314.1339.

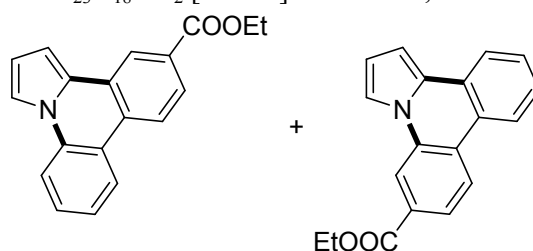


6-fluoro-10,12-dimethylpyrrolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3bj):

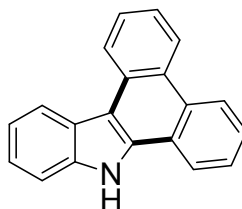
Following the general procedure, **3bj** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (48.2 mg, 61% yield); $R_f = 0.30$ (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); Mp = 144-146 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.30 (dd, $J = 9.0, 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.71 (dd, $J = 2.9, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, $J = 10.2, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.09 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 7.02 (dd, $J = 3.9, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.77 (m, 1H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.7 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 247.0$ Hz), 134.9, 134.3 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 10.5$ Hz), 134.0, 132.3, 129.2, 126.3 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.5$ Hz), 125.6, 122.8, 120.4, 118.4, 112.9, 112.4, 111.4 ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.1$ Hz), 107.6, 101.7, ($J_{\text{C-F}} = 25.2$ Hz), 24.7, 21.4; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{FN}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 264.1183, found 264.1186.

**The mixture of ethyl indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine-2-carboxylate (3bk) and ethyl indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine-7-carboxylate (3bk’):**

Following the general procedure, inseparable **3bk** and **3bk’** were purified by PE/EtOAc (2:1) and obtained as a yellow solid (66.2 mg, 65% yield); $R_f = 0.20$ (PE/EtOAc = 2:1); HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 340.1332, found 340.1332.

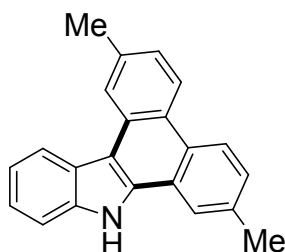
**The mixture of ethyl pyrrolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine-11-carboxylate (3bl) and ethyl pyrrolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine-6-carboxylate (3bl’):**

Following the general procedure, inseparable **3bl** and **3bl’** were purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a green solid (65.1 mg, 75% yield); $R_f = 0.3$ (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 290.1176, found 290.1177.

**9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4a):**

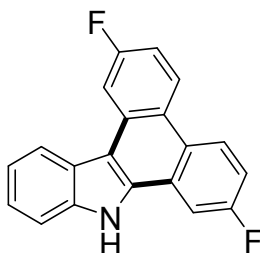
Following the general procedure, **4a** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (66.8 mg, 84% yield); Mp = 194-196 °C; $R_f = 0.20$ (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 12.42 (s, 1H), 8.95 – 8.87 (m, 2H), 8.82 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.63 – 8.55 (m, 2H), 7.79 (ddt, $J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.73 (ddd, $J = 8.3, 7.2, 1.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (ddd, $J = 8.4, 7.0, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 7.1, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (ddd, $J = 8.1,$

7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 138.5, 134.2, 129.6, 129.3, 127.6, 127.0, 126.5, 126.2, 124.0, 123.7, 123.6, 123.6, 123.4, 122.6, 122.3, 121.4, 120.1, 111.9, 111.3. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.³



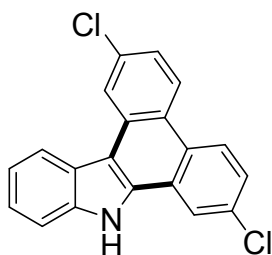
2,7-dimethyl-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4b):

Following the general procedure, **4b** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (120.2 mg, 88% yield); Mp = 223-226 °C; R_f = 0.20 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 12.32 (s, 1H), 8.72 (dd, J = 10.3, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.60 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.43 – 8.34 (m, 1H), 7.71 (dt, J = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.33 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 138.5, 136.5, 135.8, 134.2, 129.3, 127.3, 124.1, 123.7, 123.6, 123.4, 123.0, 122.3, 121.4, 119.9, 111.1, 21.4, 21.3. **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 296.1434, found 296.1441.



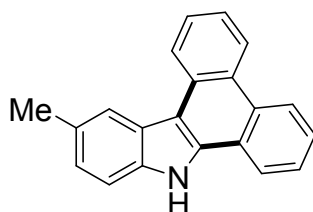
2,7-difluoro-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4c):

Following the general procedure, **4c** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (30.7 mg, 34% yield); Mp = 230-232 °C; R_f = 0.30 (PE/EtOAc = 10:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 12.47 (s, 1H), 8.99 – 8.87 (m, 2H), 8.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (dd, J = 10.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (dt, J = 8.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.35 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 161.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 245.2 Hz), 160.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 244.5 Hz), 138.5, 134.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.3 Hz), 130.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 8.6 Hz), 127.0 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.0 Hz), 126.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.2 Hz), 125.8, 124.2, 123.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.2 Hz), 123.2, 122.7, 121.4, 120.4, 115.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 23.2 Hz), 112.0 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.6 Hz), 111.9, 111.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.5 Hz), 108.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.0 Hz), 107.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.5 Hz). **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 304.0932, found 304.0928.

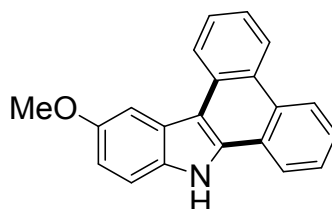


2,7-dichloro-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4d):

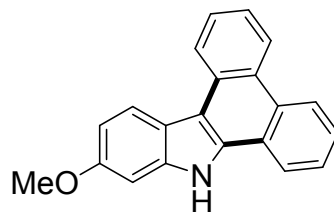
Following the general procedure, **4d** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (33.1 mg, 33% yield); Mp = 228-231 °C; R_f = 0.30 (PE/EtOAc = 10:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.55 (s, 1H), 8.87 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 8.68 (dd, J = 10.6, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 8.51 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.59 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 138.5, 133.7, 132.8, 132.2, 130.6, 127.3, 126.6, 126.4, 126.3, 124.3, 124.3, 123.8, 123.7, 122.9, 122.1, 121.6, 121.3, 120.6, 112.0, 111.2. HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 336.0341, found 336.0345.

**12-methyl-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4e):**

Following the general procedure, **4e** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (70.4 mg, 83% yield); Mp = 235-237 °C; R_f = 0.2 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.28 (s, 1H), 8.90 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 8.82 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.71 (td, J = 7.5, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 136.8, 134.3, 129.7, 129.2, 128.7, 127.5, 126.9, 126.3, 126.1, 125.1, 123.9, 123.9, 123.8, 123.4, 122.7, 122.2, 121.1, 111.5, 110.9, 21.5. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.⁴

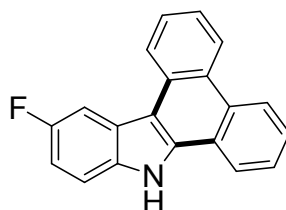
**12-methoxy-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4f):**

Following the general procedure, **4f** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (56.5 mg, 64% yield); Mp = 144-146 °C; R_f = 0.20 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.28 (s, 1H), 8.88 (td, J = 8.9, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 8.79 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dddd, J = 11.2, 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (ddd, J = 8.3, 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 154.1, 134.7, 133.5, 129.6, 129.2, 127.6, 126.9, 126.4, 126.0, 123.9, 123.9, 123.8, 123.3, 123.3, 122.8, 122.1, 113.2, 112.4, 111.1, 103.9, 55.8. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.⁴



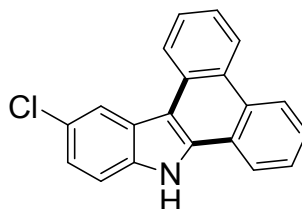
11-methoxy-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4g):

Following the general procedure, **4g** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (25 mg, 28% yield); Mp = 212-215 °C; R_f = 0.20 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.30 (s, 1H), 8.92 – 8.84 (m, 2H), 8.75 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (ddt, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (ddd, J = 8.3, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 157.1, 139.9, 133.6, 129.3, 128.7, 127.5, 127.0, 126.2, 125.9, 123.9, 123.5, 123.3, 122.7, 122.1, 121.9, 117.8, 111.6, 109.5, 95.1, 55.3. HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 298.1226, found 298.1240.



12-fluoro-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4h):

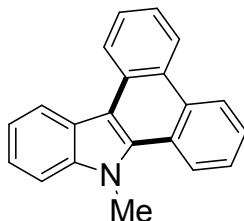
Following the general procedure, **4h** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (26 mg, 30% yield); Mp = 206-209 °C; R_f = 0.20 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.52 (s, 1H), 8.89 (ddd, J = 13.9, 8.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 8.76 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (dd, J = 10.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.68 (m, 4H), 7.59 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (td, J = 9.1, 2.5 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 157.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 231.7 Hz), 135.7, 135.1, 129.6, 129.2, 127.8, 127.1, 126.8, 126.2, 124.0, 123.9, 123.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 4.5 Hz), 123.6, 123.4, 122.5, 122.3, 112.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.2 Hz), 111.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 25.2 Hz), 111.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.8 Hz), 106.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 25.0 Hz). The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.⁴



12-chloro-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4i):

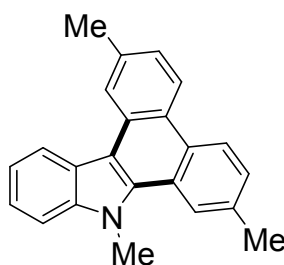
Following the general procedure, **4i** was purified by PE/EtOAc (20:1) and obtained as a white solid (29.8 mg, 35% yield); Mp = 208-211 °C; R_f = 0.20 (PE/EtOAc = 20:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.62 (s, 1H), 8.87 (ddd, J = 13.5, 8.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 8.76 (dd, J = 8.2,

1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.62 – 8.55 (m, 2H), 7.82 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.76 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.59 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, $J = 8.6, 2.0$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 137.0, 135.3, 129.6, 129.0, 127.8, 127.1, 126.9, 126.3, 124.6, 124.5, 124.0, 123.9, 123.9, 123.5, 123.4, 122.4, 120.5, 113.2, 110.7. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.⁴



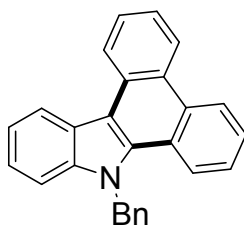
9-methyl-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4j):

Following the general procedure, **4j** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (106.5 mg, 76% yield); Mp = 142–144 °C; $R_f = 0.30$ (PE/EtOAc = 50:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 9.02 – 8.97 (m, 1H), 8.90 (td, $J = 8.2, 1.3$ Hz, 3H), 8.68 – 8.64 (m, 1H), 7.87 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.71 (m, 3H), 7.61 (ddd, $J = 8.3, 6.9, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (ddd, $J = 8.3, 7.0, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.45 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 140.4, 134.1, 130.2, 129.2, 127.7, 126.7, 126.3, 126.1, 124.2, 123.9, 123.8, 123.4, 123.3, 123.3, 122.4, 121.5, 120.4, 112.3, 110.4, 34.5. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.³



2,7,9-trimethyl-9H-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (4k):

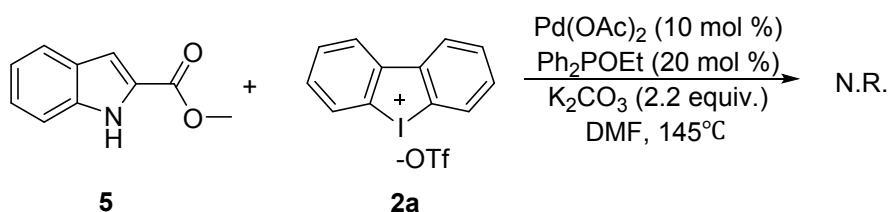
Following the general procedure, **4k** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (50 mg, 33% yield); Mp = 196–198 °C; $R_f = 0.30$ (PE/EtOAc = 50:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.72 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 8.63 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 4.42 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.65 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.8, 136.6, 135.3, 134.8, 129.7, 128.9, 127.2, 125.2, 124.9, 123.8, 123.6, 123.5, 123.4, 123.2, 122.8, 122.7, 121.8, 120.1, 113.3, 109.5, 34.6, 22.0. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.⁵



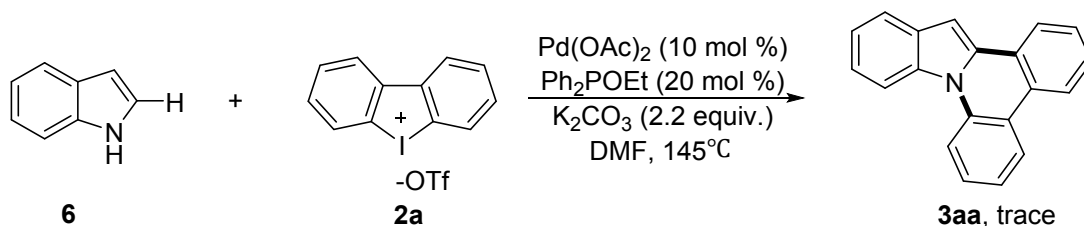
9-benzyl-9*H*-dibenzo[*a, c*]carbazole (**4l**):

Following the general procedure, **4l** was purified by PE/EtOAc (500:1) and obtained as a white solid (66.2 mg, 62% yield); Mp = 198-201 °C; R_f = 0.30 (PE/EtOAc = 50:1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.96 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.87 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.81 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.72 – 8.68 (m, 1H), 8.28 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (ddt, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.45 (m, 4H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 6.01 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 141.3, 137.5, 134.7, 131.0, 129.9, 129.1, 127.5, 127.4, 127.1, 126.4, 126.0, 125.7, 124.2, 124.1, 123.9, 123.9, 123.7, 123.5, 123.2, 122.9, 122.0, 120.9, 114.0, 110.0, 50.2. The spectra data matched with values reported in the literature.⁵

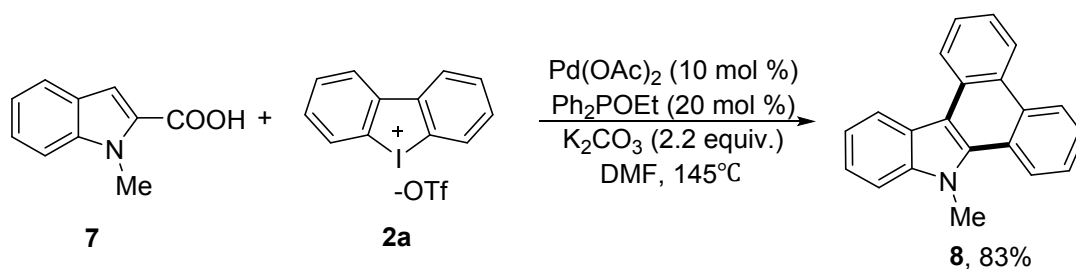
V. Control experiment:



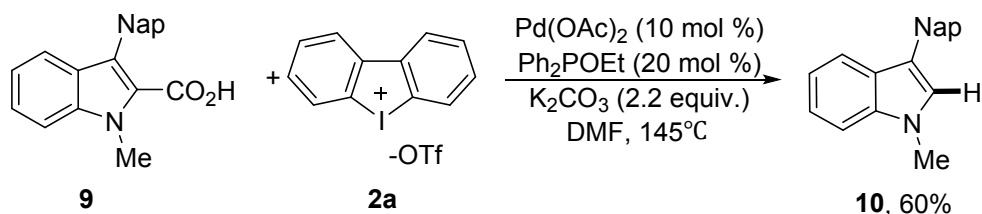
In a 15 mL thick-walled tube was charged with methyl 1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate **5** (52.6 mg, 0.3 mmol), **2a** (256.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (6.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), K_2CO_3 (91.1 mg, 0.66 mmol), ethyl diphenylphosphinite (Ph_2POEt) (13 μL , 0.06 mmol) and DMF (2 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (10 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL x 3). No desired product **3aa** was detected by TLC.



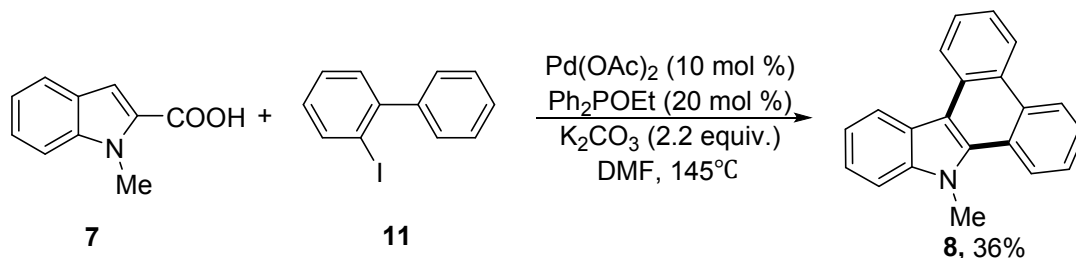
In a 15 mL thick-walled tube was charged with indole **6** (35.2 mg, 0.3 mmol), **2a** (256.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (6.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), K_2CO_3 (91.1 mg, 0.66 mmol), ethyl diphenylphosphinite (Ph_2POEt) (13 μL , 0.06 mmol) and DMF (2 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (10 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL x 3). Trace product **3aa** was detected by TLC.



In a 15 mL thick-walled tube was charged with 1-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid **7** (52.5 mg, 0.3 mmol), **2a** (256.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), K₂CO₃ (91.1 mg, 0.66 mmol), ethyl diphenylphosphinite (Ph₂POEt) (13 μL, 0.06 mmol) and DMF (2 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (10 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL x 3). The combined organic phase were washed with water (10 mL x 3) and saturated brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA = 500:1) on silica gel to provide the desired 9-methyl-9H-dibenzo[a,c]carbazole **8** as white solid (70.2 mg, 83%).

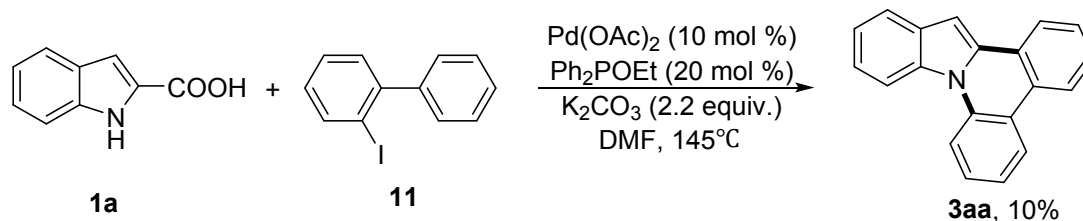


In a 15 mL thick-walled tube was charged with 1-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid **9** (90.4 mg, 0.3 mmol), **2a** (256.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), K₂CO₃ (91.1 mg, 0.66 mmol), ethyl diphenylphosphinite (Ph₂POEt) (13 μL, 0.06 mmol) and DMF (2 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (10 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL x 3). The combined organic phase were washed with water (10 mL x 3) and saturated brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA = 500:1) on silica gel to provide the desired 1-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indole **10** as white solid (47 mg, 60%).

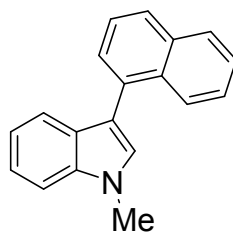


In a 15 mL thick-walled tube was charged with 1-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid **7** (52.5 mg, 0.3 mmol), 2-iodo-1,1'-biphenyl **11** (105.6 μL, 0.6 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), K₂CO₃ (91.1 mg, 0.66 mmol), ethyl diphenylphosphinite (Ph₂POEt) (13 μL, 0.06 mmol) and DMF (2 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil

bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (10 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL x 3). The combined organic phase were washed with water (10 mL x 3) and saturated brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA = 500:1) on silica gel to provide the desired 9-methyl-9*H*-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole **8** as white solid (30.4 mg, 36%).



In a 15 mL thick-walled tube was charged with substrate **1a** (48.3 mg, 0.3 mmol), 2-iodo-1,1'-biphenyl **11** (105.6 μ L, 0.6 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), K₂CO₃ (91.1 mg, 0.66 mmol), ethyl diphenylphosphinite (Ph₂POEt) (13 μ L, 0.06 mmol) and DMF (2 mL). The reaction tube was sealed and stirred at 145 °C (pre-heated oil bath) for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t. and diluted with water (10 mL) before it was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL x 3). The combined organic phase were washed with water (10 mL x 3) and saturated brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (PE/EA = 500:1) on silica gel to provide the desired indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine **3aa** (9 mg, 10%) as a white solid.



1-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1*H*-indole (**10**)

White solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dt, *J* = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.44 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.0, 134.0, 133.1, 132.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.6, 126.9, 126.6, 125.7, 125.6, 125.6, 121.9, 120.5, 119.6, 115.0, 109.4, 32.9. HRMS *m/z* (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₁₆N [M + H]⁺ 258.1277, found 258.1278.

Reference:

- Xie, C.; Zhang, Y.; Huang, Z.; Xu, P., *J. Org. Chem.* **2007**, *72*, 5431-5434.
- Yan, L.; Zhao, D.; Lan, J.; Cheng, Y.; Guo, Q.; Li, X.; Wu, N.; You, J., *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2013**, *11*, 7966-7977.
- Wu, Y.; Peng, X.; Luo, B.; Wu, F.; Liu, B.; Song, F.; Huang, P.; Wen, S., *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2014**, *12*, 9777-9780.
- Bhunja, S. K.; Polley, A.; Natarajan, R.; Jana, R., *Chem. Eur. J.* **2015**, *21*, 16786-16791.

5. Kitano, H.; Matsuoka, W.; Ito, H.; Itami, K., *Chem. Sci.*, **2018**, *9*, 7556–7561.

VI. Crystal data

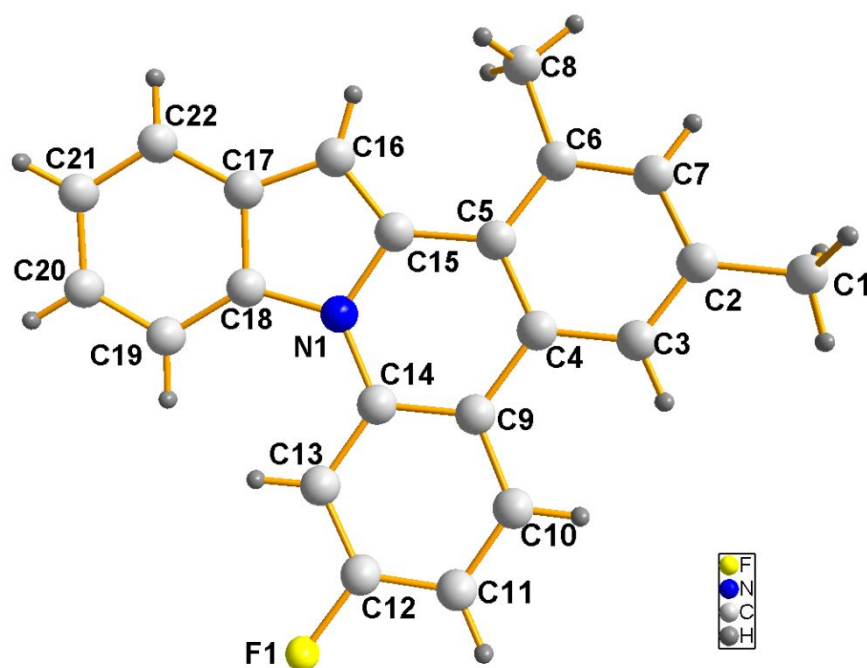
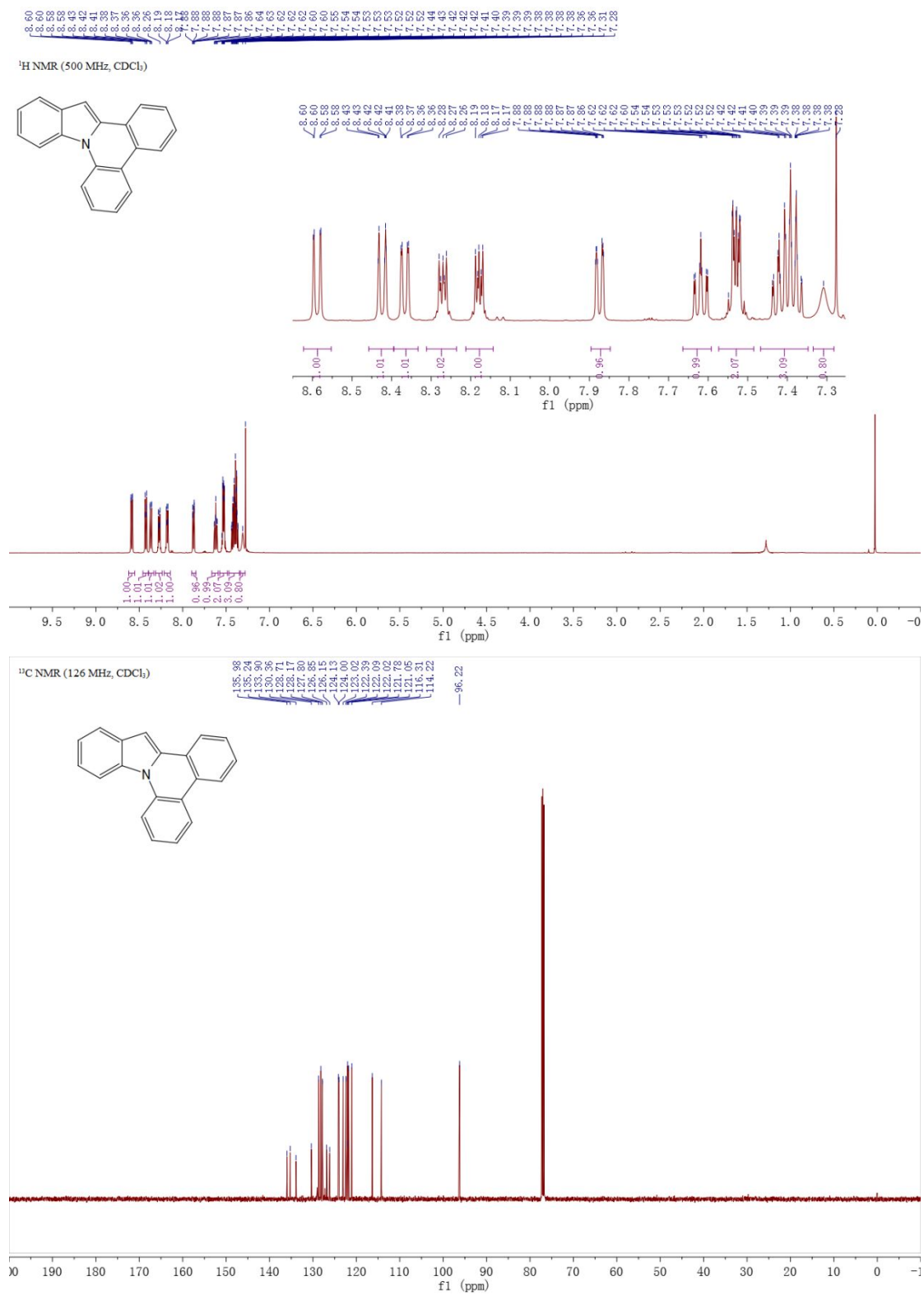


Table S1. Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for 3bi (CCDC 1951128)

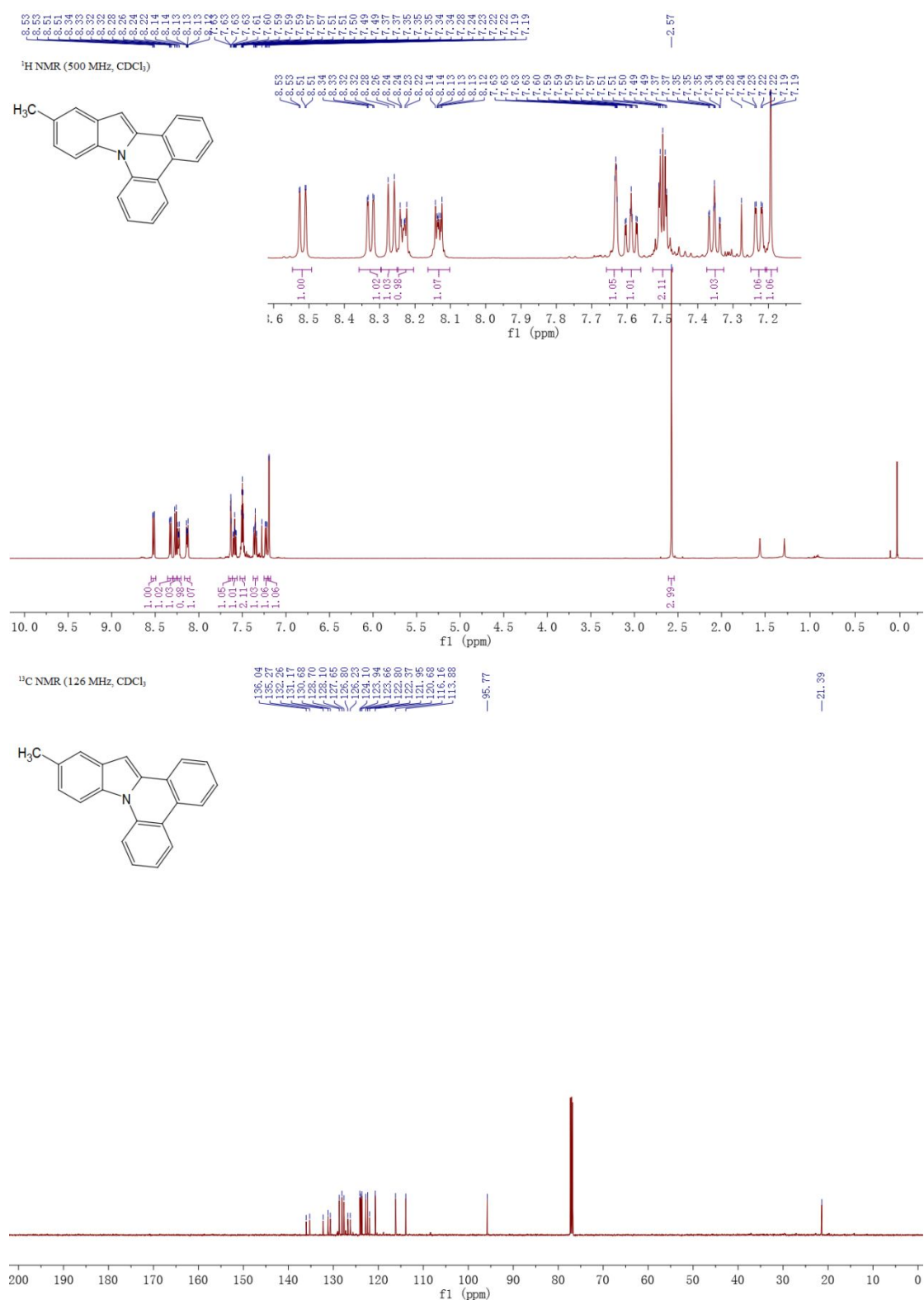
| | |
|--|---|
| Formula | C ₂₂ H ₁₆ FN |
| Formula weight | 313.36 |
| Temperature/K | 288 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic |
| Space group | P 2 (1)/n |
| <i>a</i> /Å | 10.4961(6) |
| <i>b</i> /Å | 7.6672(5) |
| <i>c</i> /Å | 19.0105(13) |
| α /° | 90 |
| β /° | 95.616(6) |
| γ /° | 90 |
| <i>V</i> /Å ³ | 1522.54(17) |
| <i>Z</i> | 4 |
| <i>D</i> _{calcd} /g·cm ⁻³ | 1.367 |
| μ /mm ⁻¹ | 0.088 |
| F(000) | 656 |
| Crystal size/mm ³ | 0.30 × 0.30 × 0.20 |
| Radiation | MoK α (λ = 0.71073) |
| θ range/° | 3.30-26.37 |
| Index ranges | -13 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 13, -9 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 9, -23 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 23 |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 3108/0/217 |
| <i>R</i> _I [<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)] ^a | 0.0518 |
| <i>wR</i> ₂ (all data) ^b | 0.1252 |

VII. NMR spectra of all compounds:

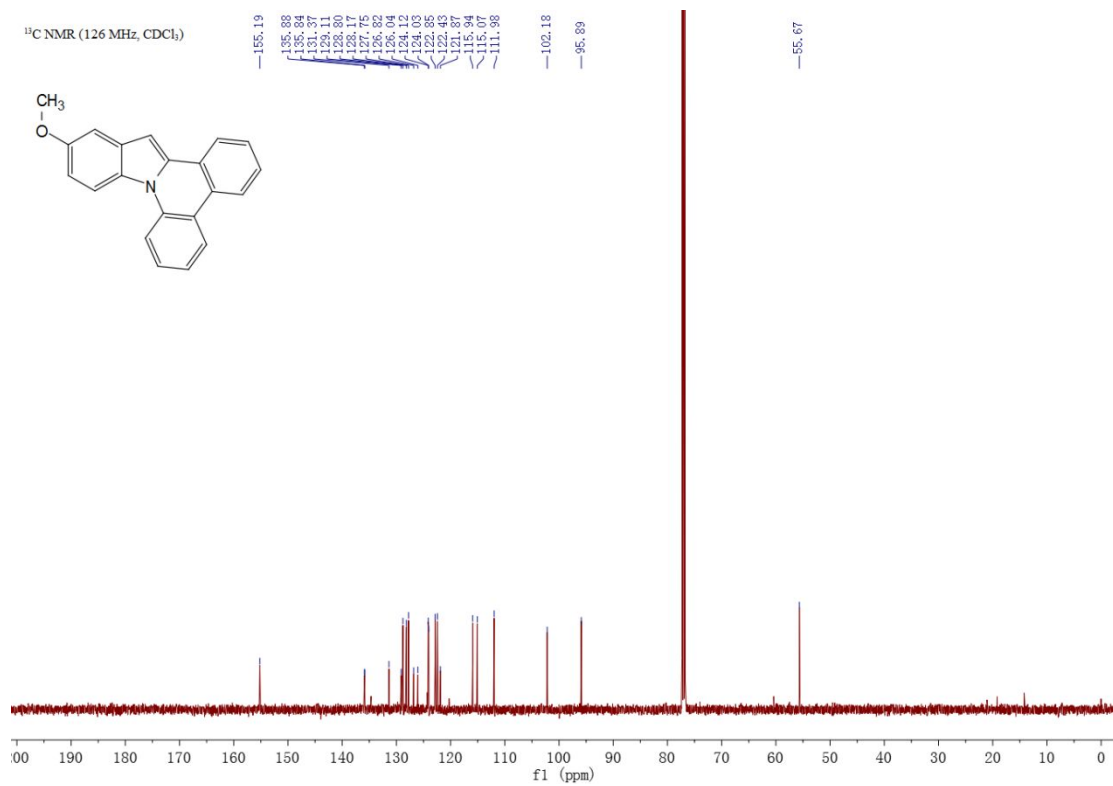
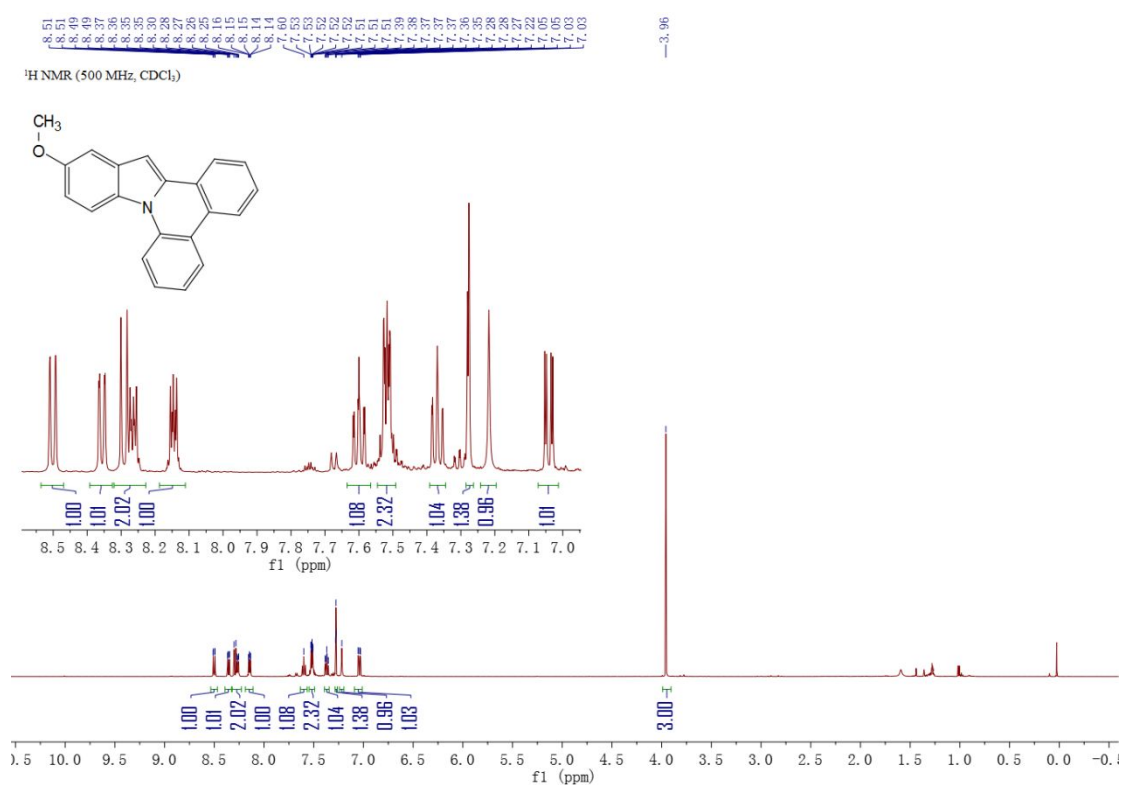
indolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3aa):



12-methylindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3ab)



12-methoxyindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3ac)

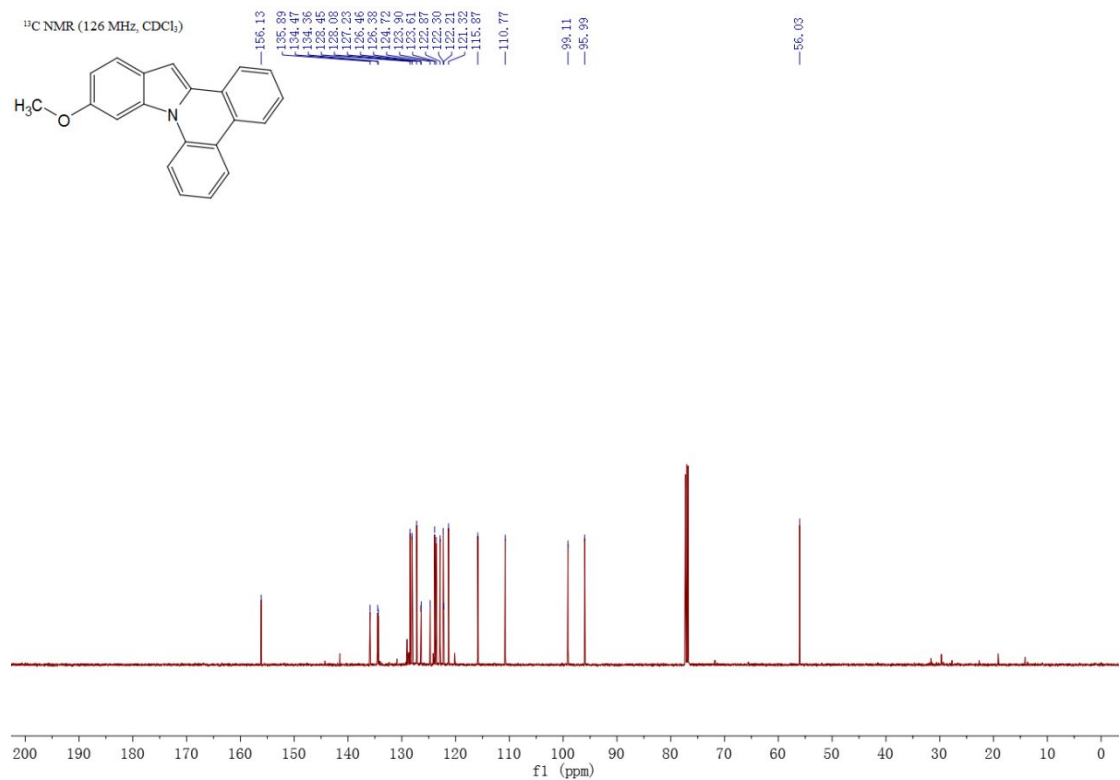


¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

COc1ccc2c(c1)c3ccccc3n2c4ccccc4

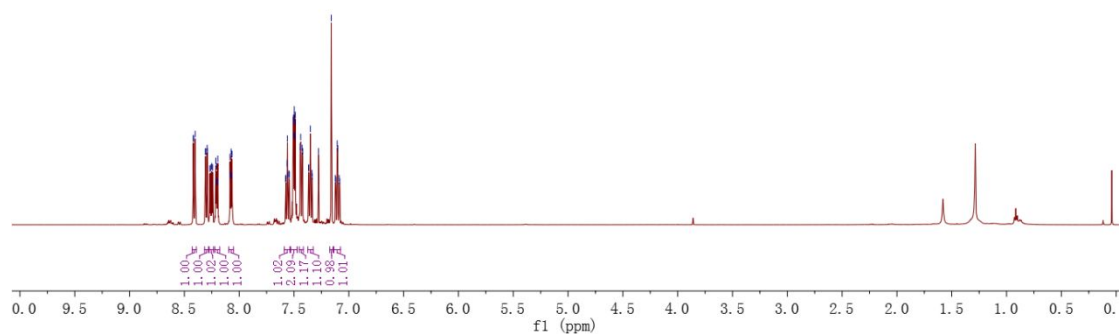
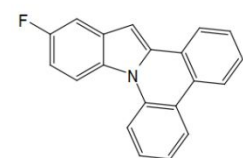
Chemical structure of 6-methoxy-9-phenylcarbazole is shown. The spectrum displays the following peaks and integration values:

| Chemical Shift (ppm) | Integration |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 7.10 - 7.15 | 1.00 |
| 7.20 - 7.25 | 1.02 |
| 7.30 - 7.35 | 1.00 |
| 7.40 - 7.45 | 1.01 |
| 7.50 - 7.55 | 1.00 |
| 7.60 - 7.65 | 1.17 |
| 7.70 - 7.75 | 2.33 |
| 7.80 - 7.85 | 1.22 |
| 7.90 - 7.95 | 1.01 |
| 8.00 - 8.05 | 1.00 |
| 1.00 - 1.10 | 1.00 |
| 1.20 - 1.30 | 2.93 |
| 1.40 - 1.50 | 1.00 |
| 1.60 - 1.70 | 1.00 |
| 1.80 - 1.90 | 1.00 |
| 2.00 - 2.10 | 1.00 |

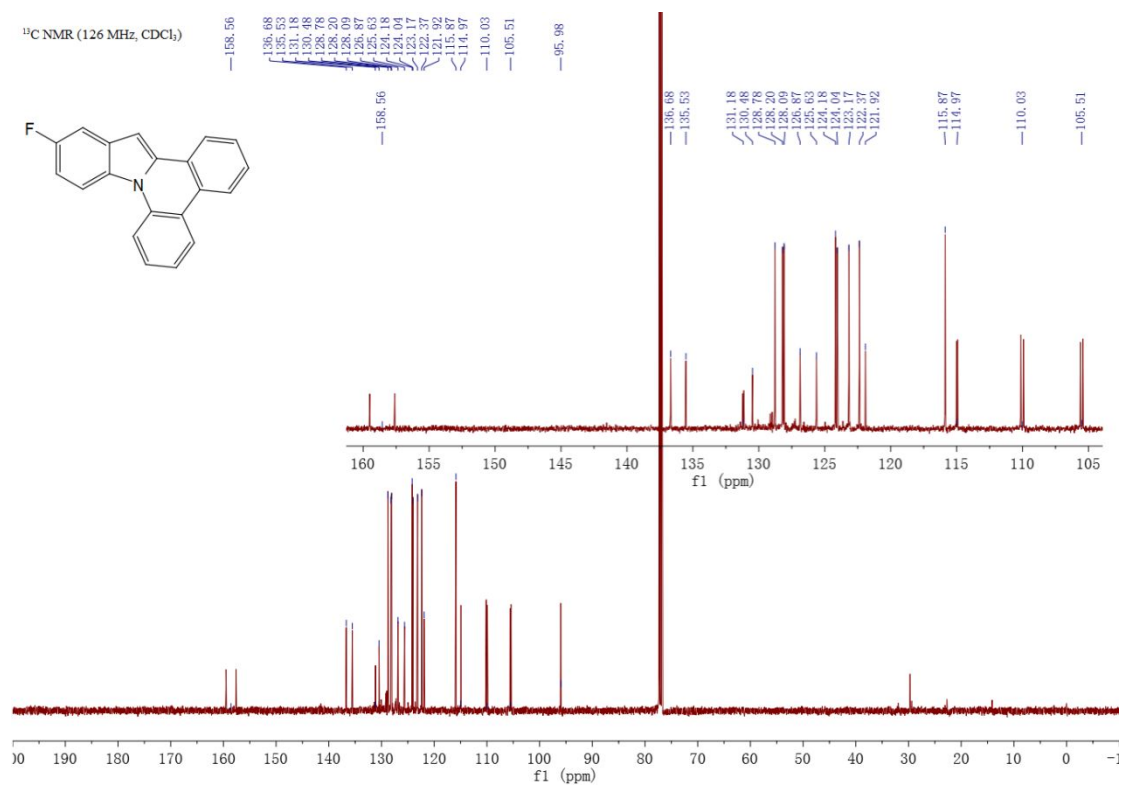
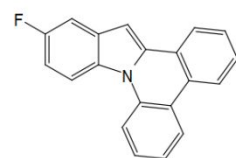


12-fluoroindolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3ae)

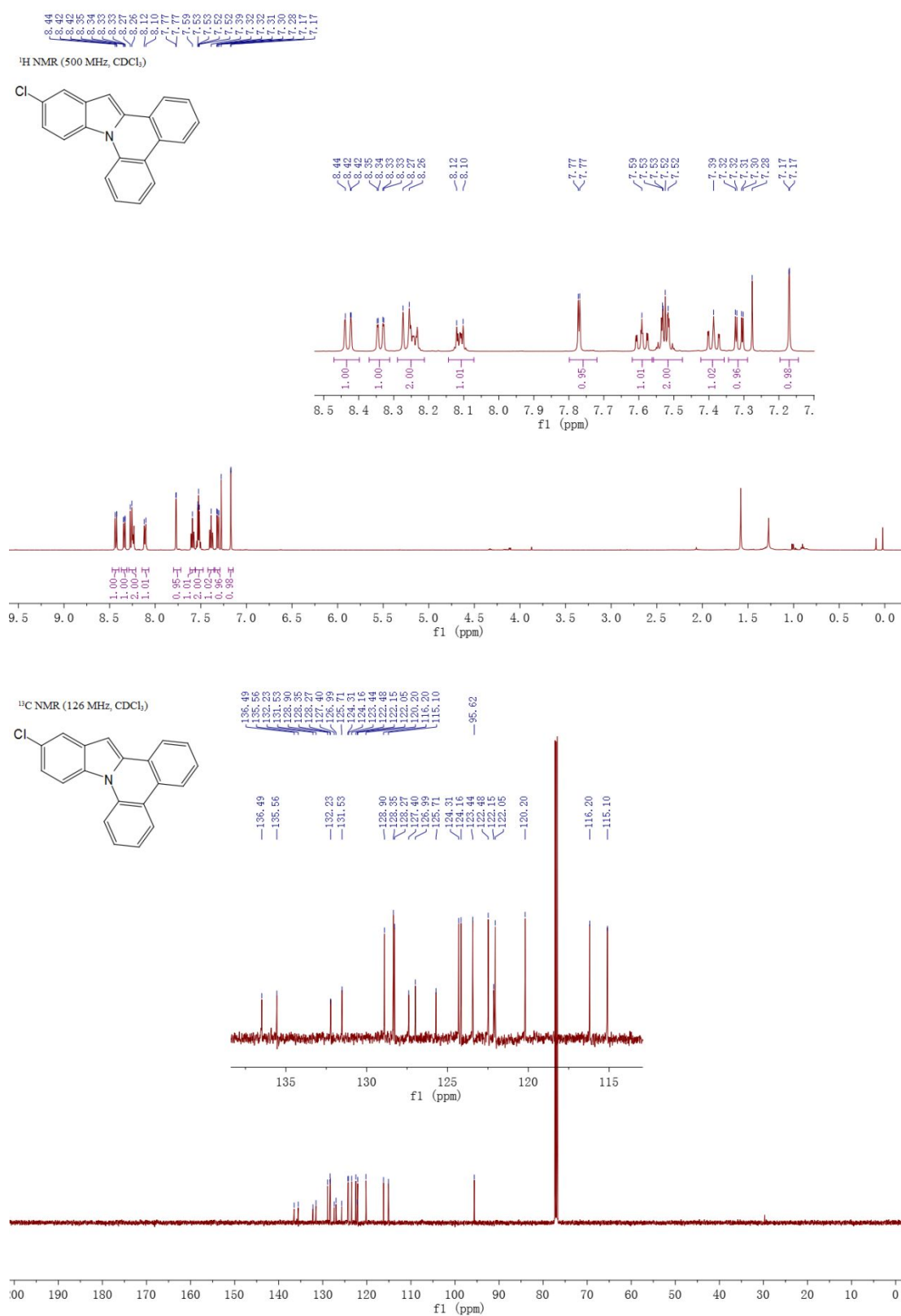
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



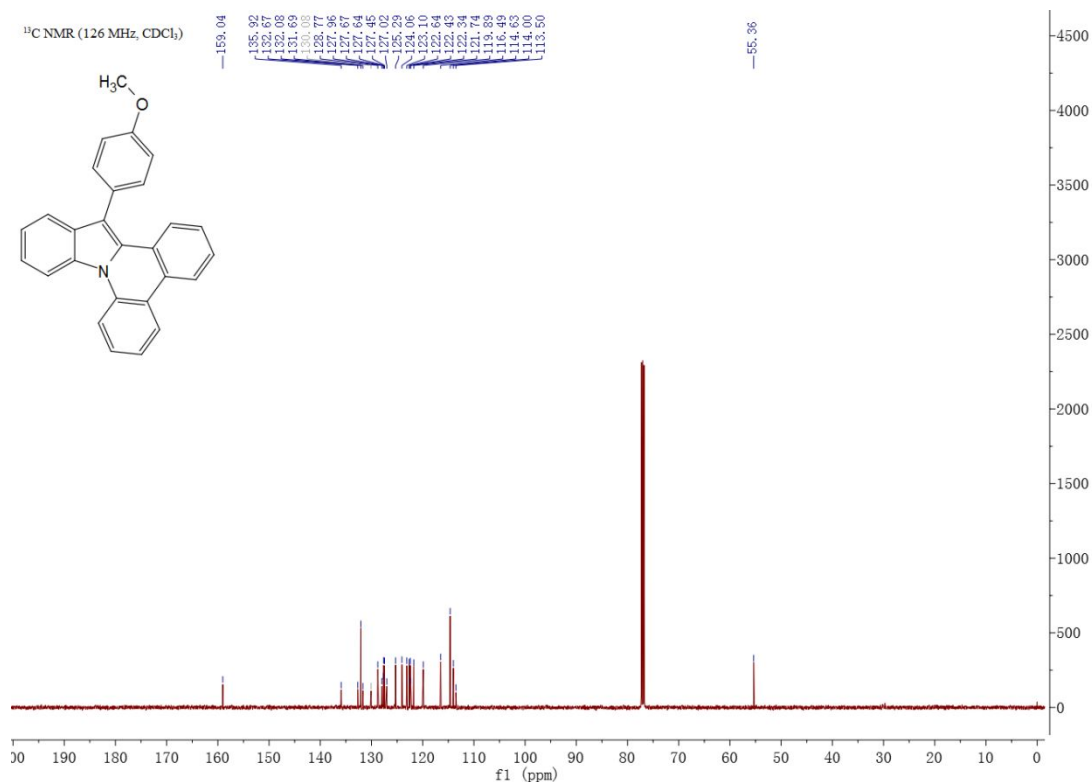
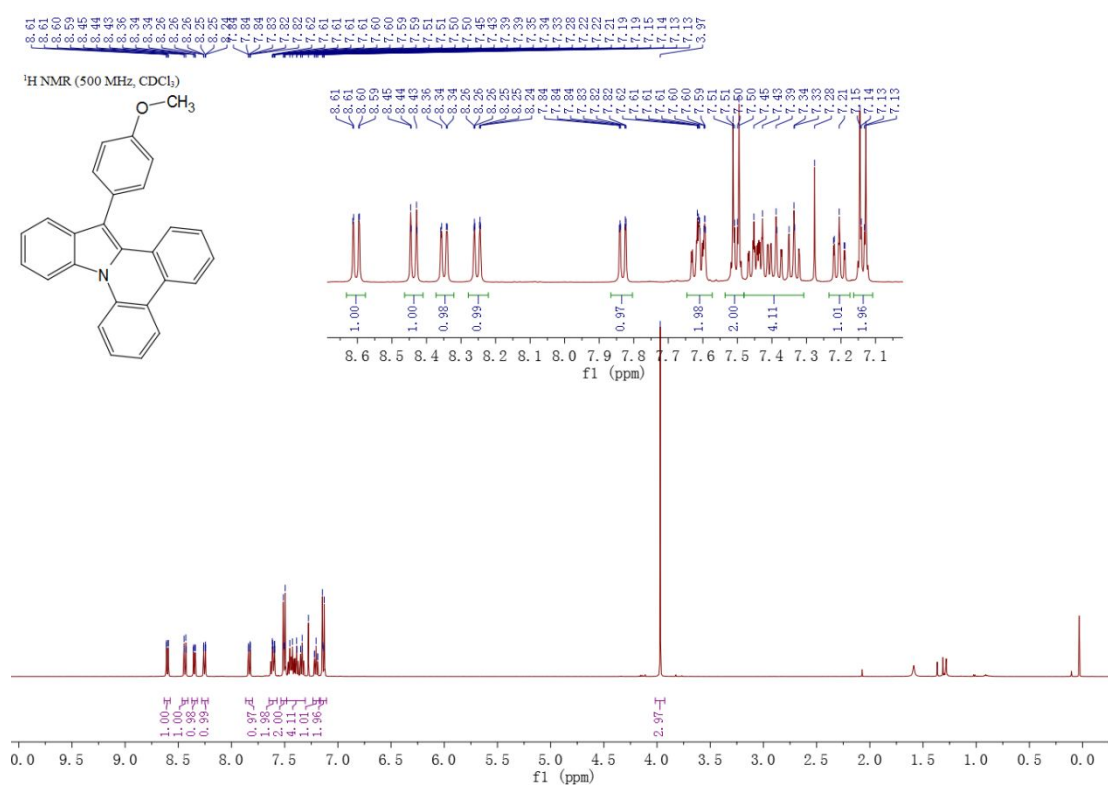
¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃)



12-chloroindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3af)

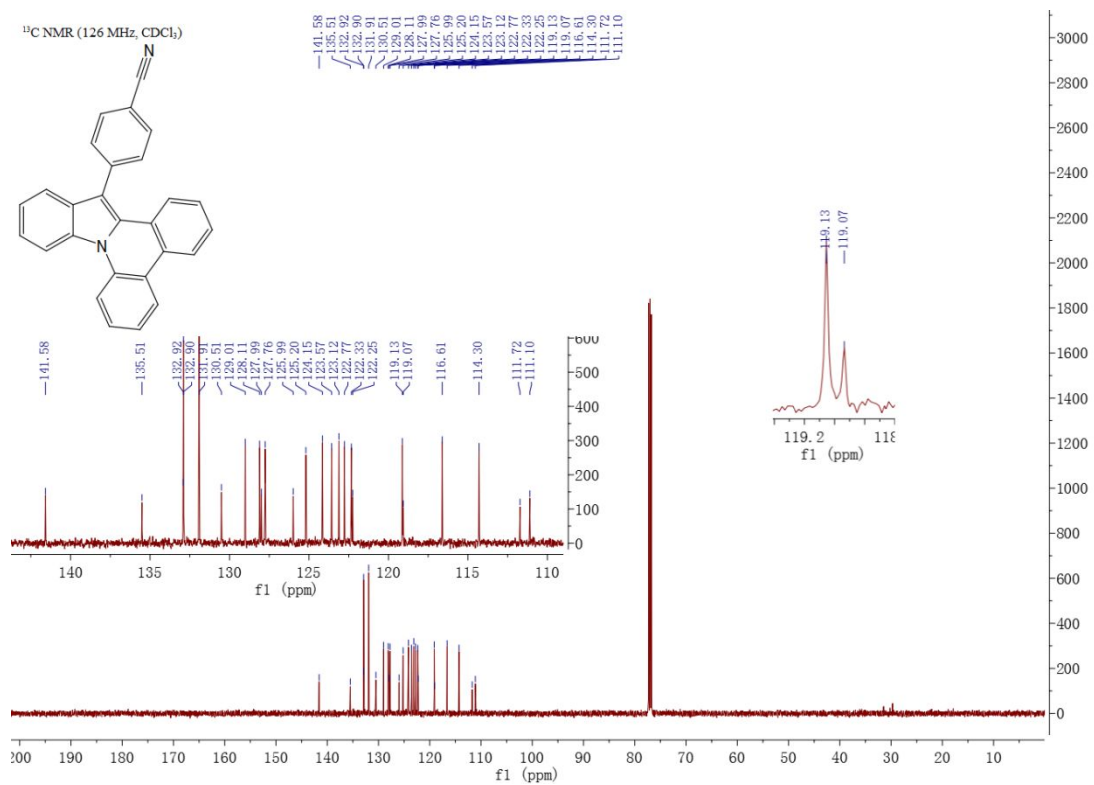
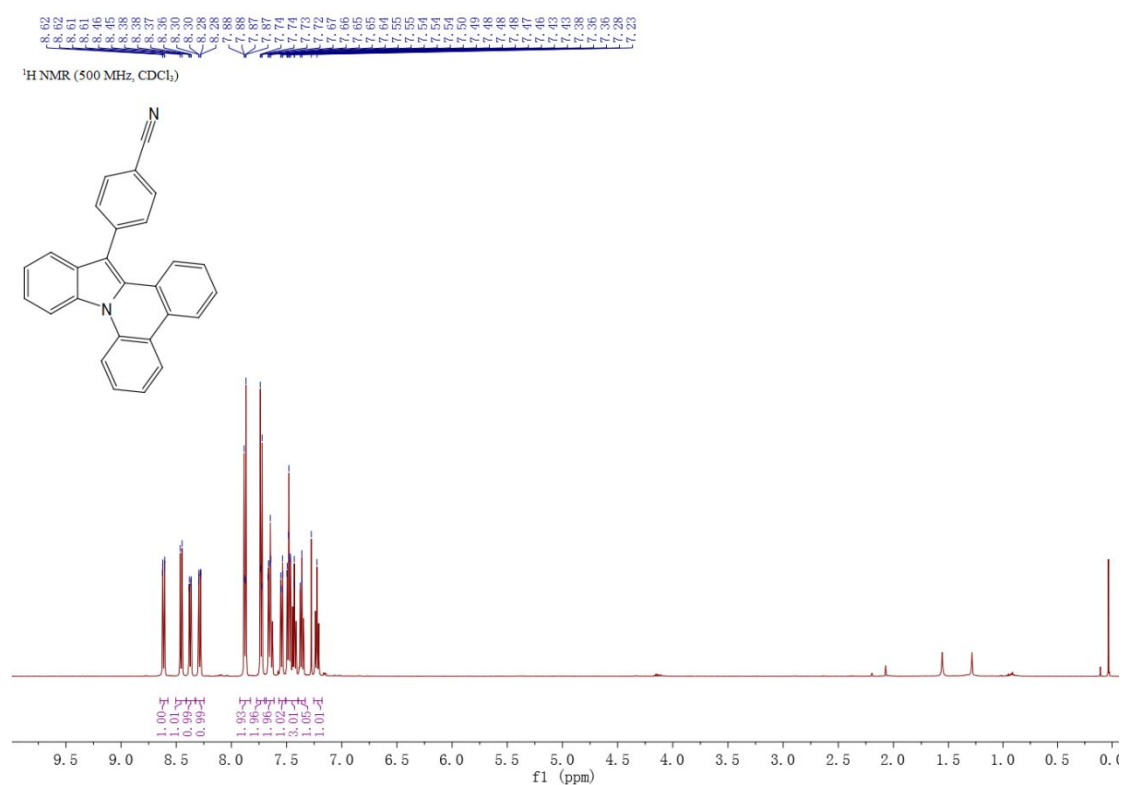


14-(4-methoxyphenyl)indolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3ag)

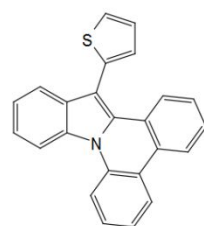
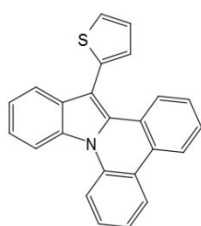


[illegible]

4-(indolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridin-14-yl)benzonitrile (3ai)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

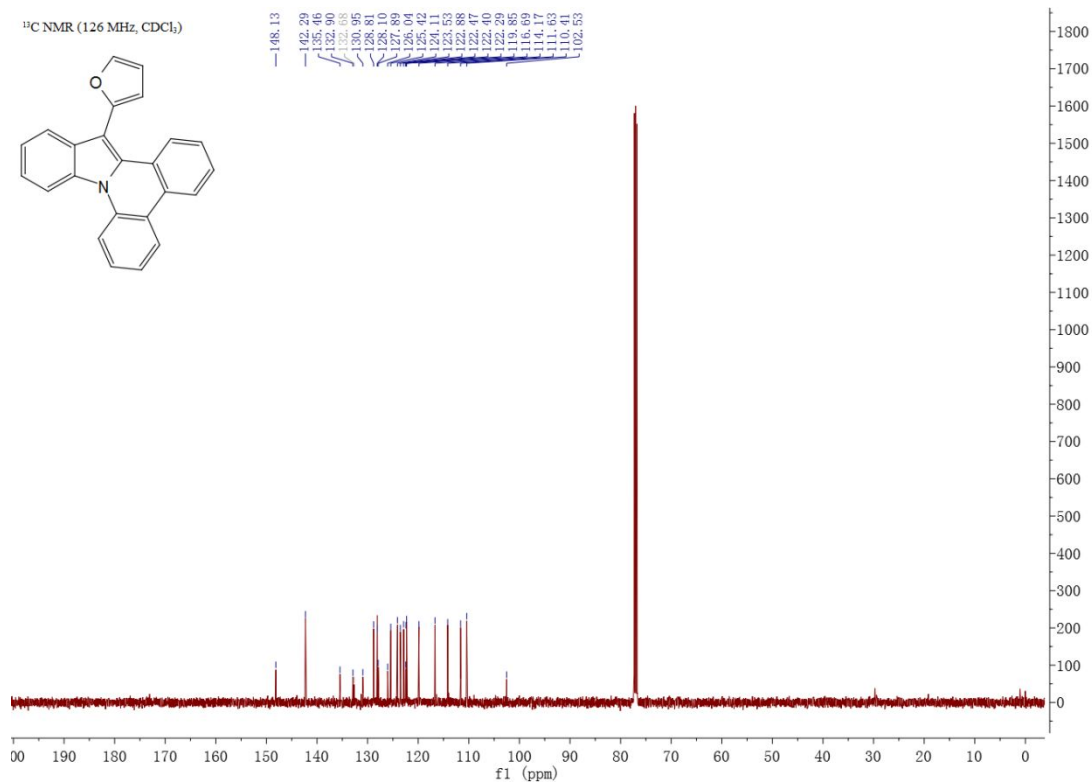


¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

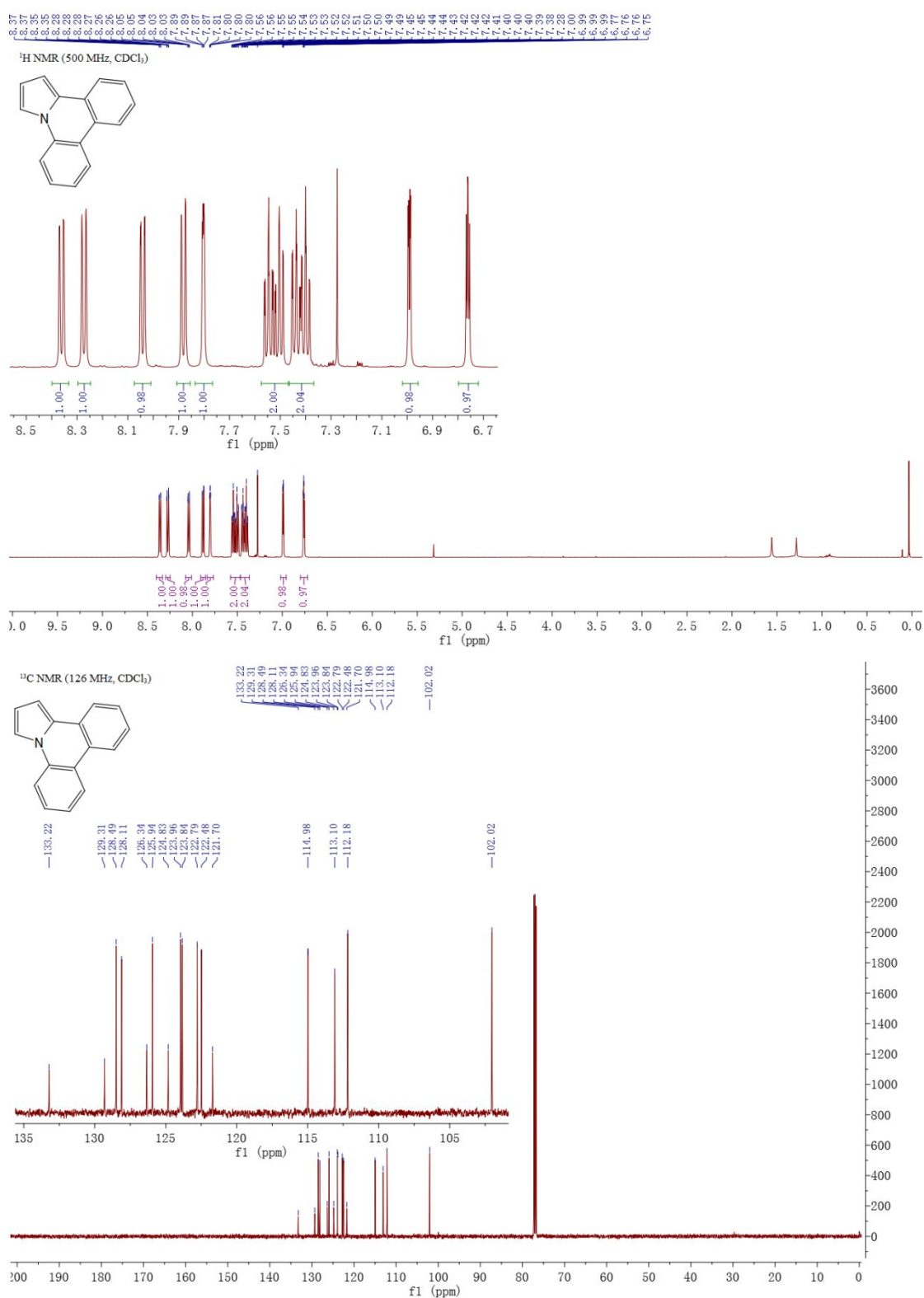
Chemical structure: c1ccc(cc1)C2=C(c3ccccc3N2C(=O)c4ccccc4)C5=CC=CC=C5

Peak list (ppm): 8.61, 8.61, 8.59, 8.59, 8.45, 8.42, 8.38, 8.36, 8.29, 8.29, 8.27, 8.25, 7.82, 7.81, 7.80, 7.72, 7.72, 7.72, 7.71, 7.71, 7.69, 7.62, 7.50, 7.46, 7.41, 7.41, 7.41, 7.39, 7.39, 7.37, 7.37, 7.28, 6.74, 6.73, 6.73, 6.70, 6.69, 6.69.

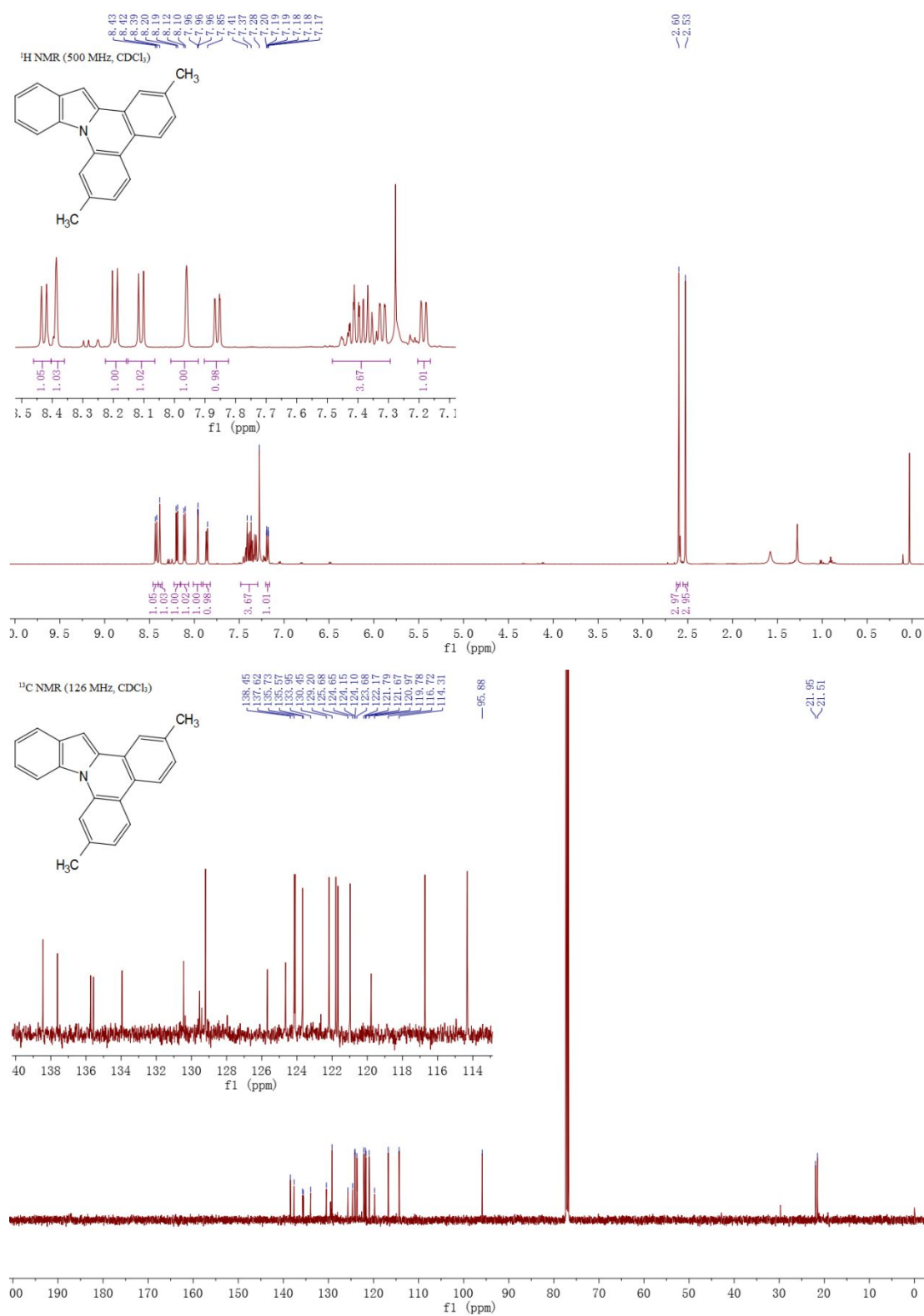
Integration values: 1.00, 1.04, 1.01, 0.91, 1.02, 1.02, 1.02, 1.78.



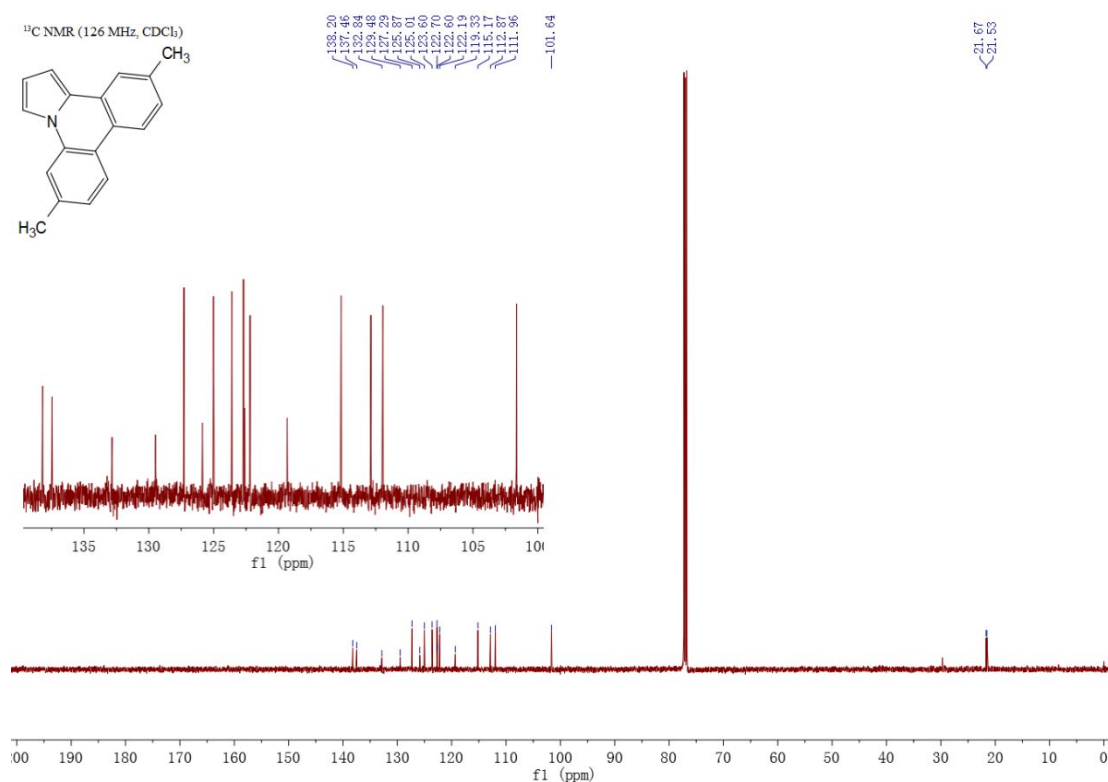
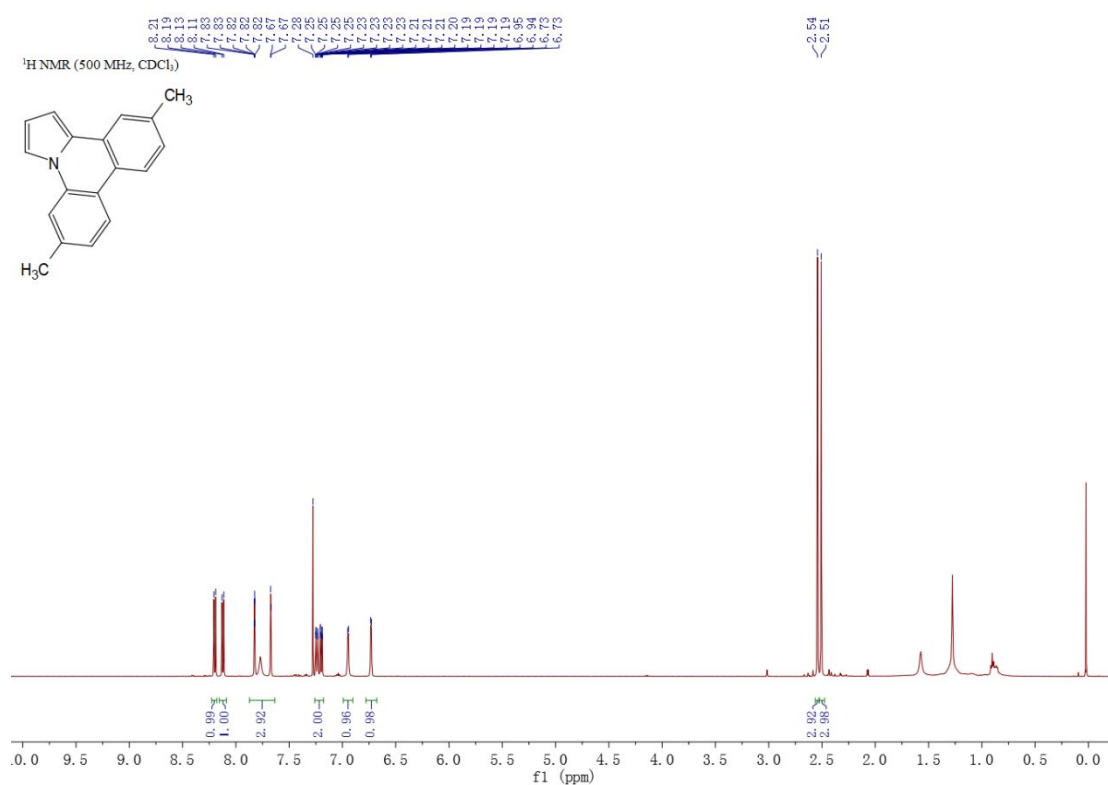
pyrrolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3al)



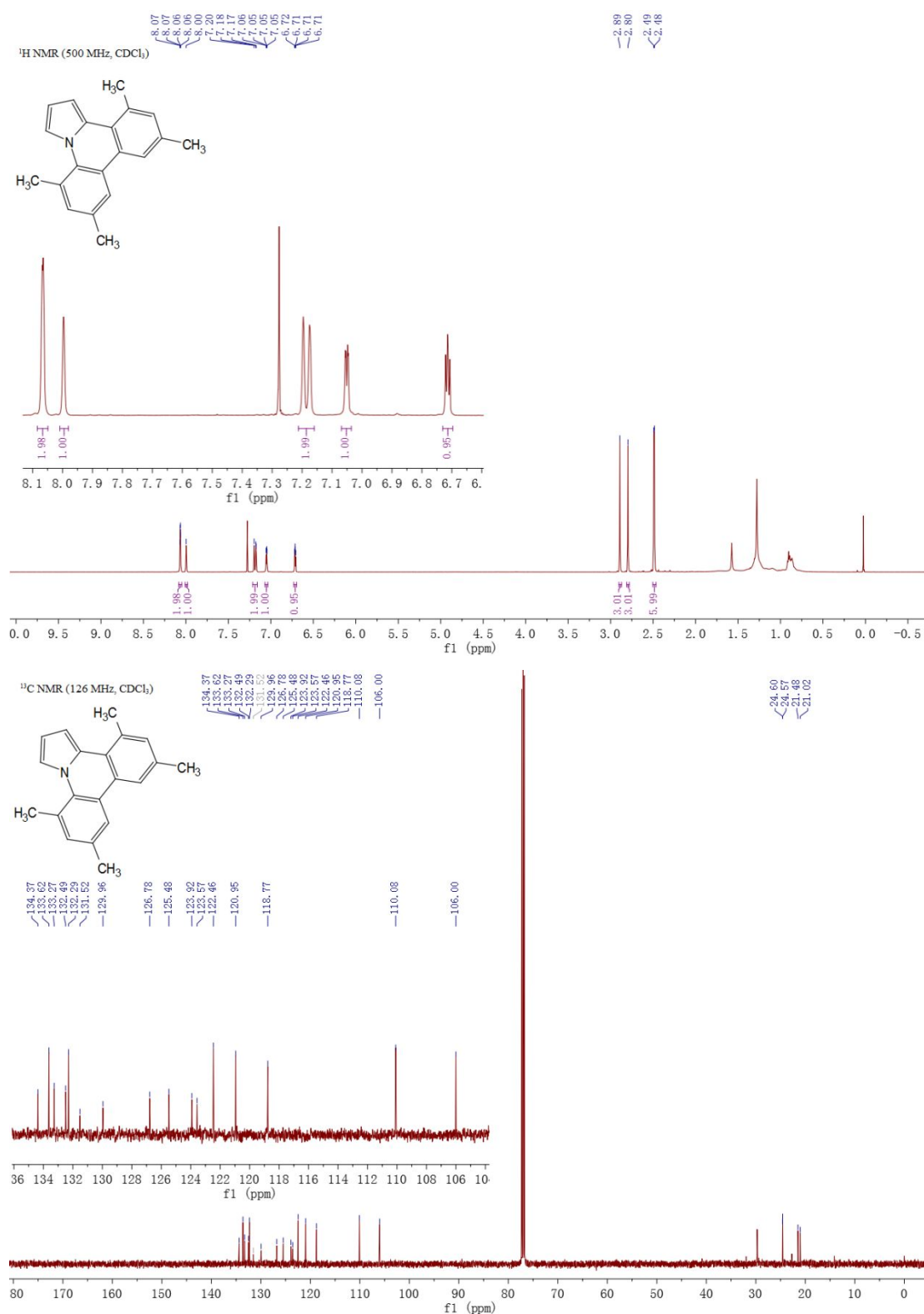
2,7-dimethylindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3ba)



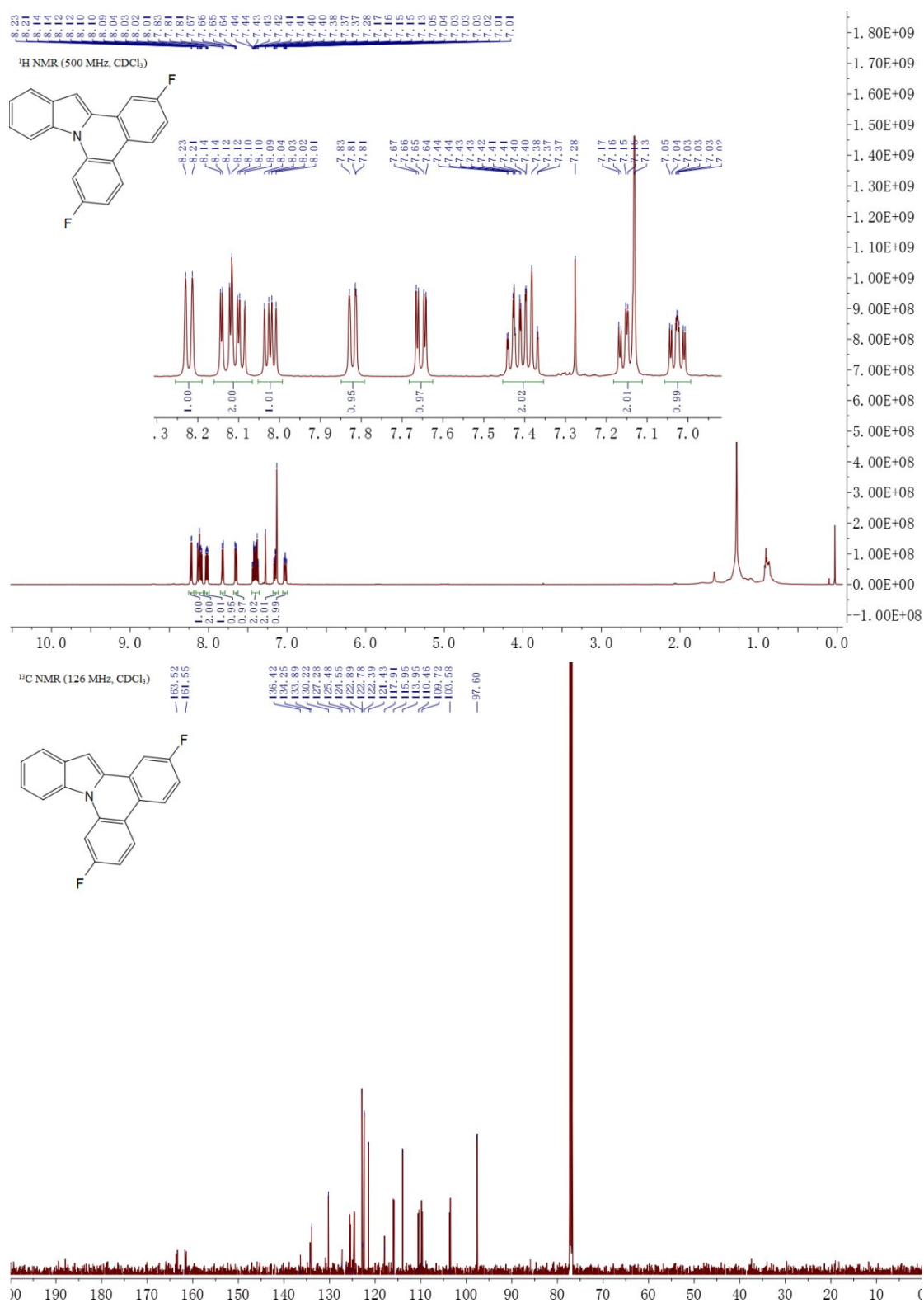
6,11-dimethylpyrrolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bb)



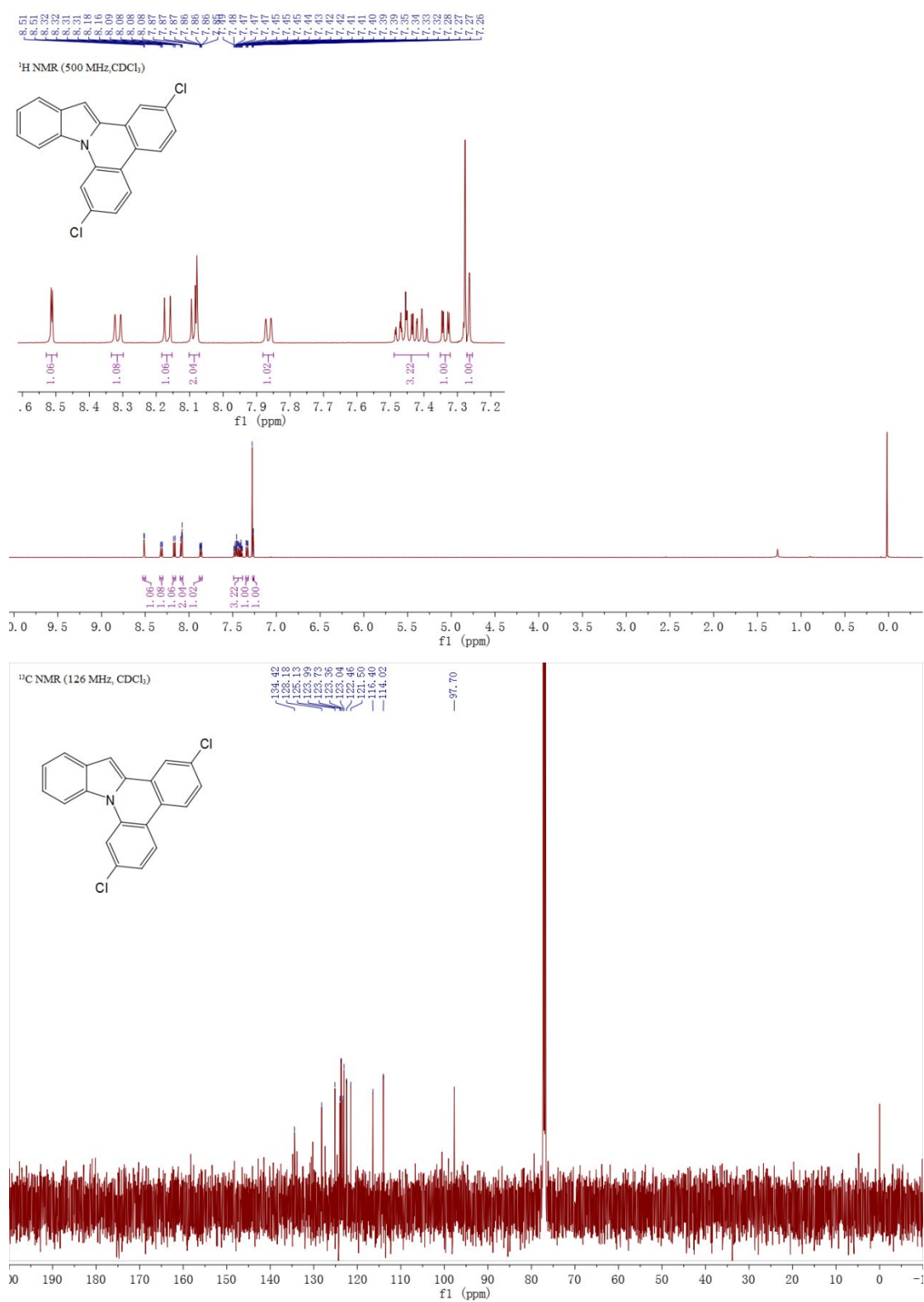
5,7,10,12-tetramethylpyrrolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3bc)



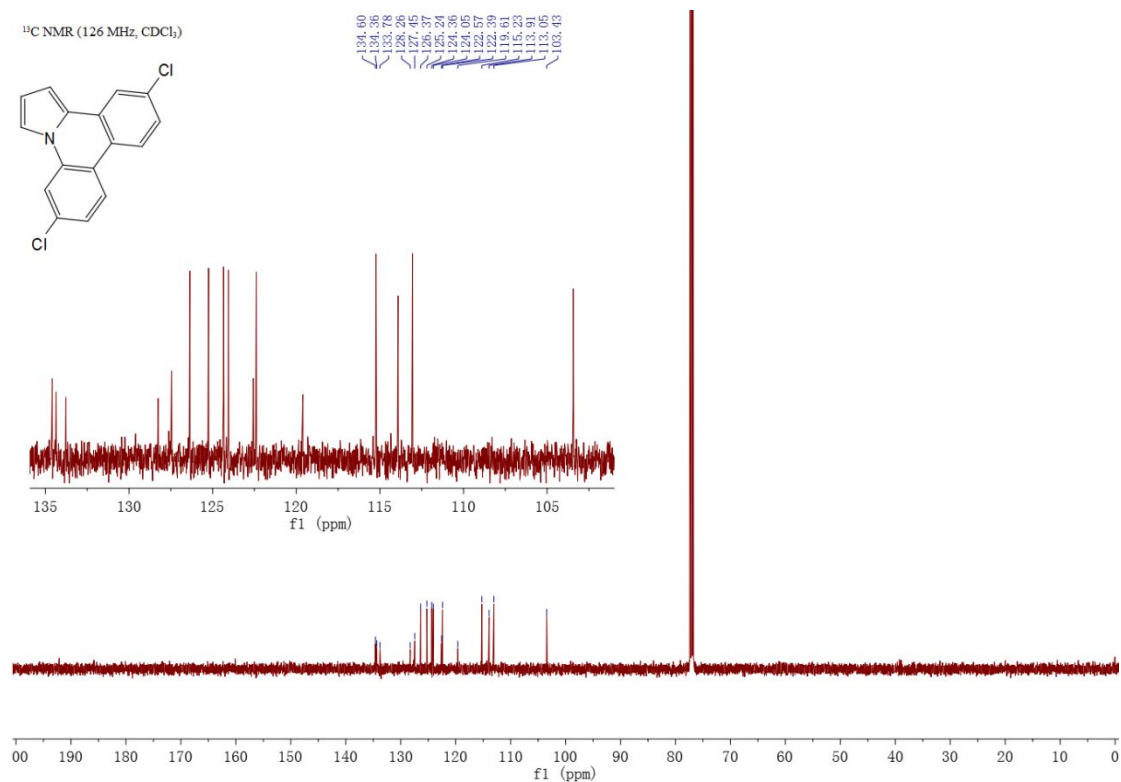
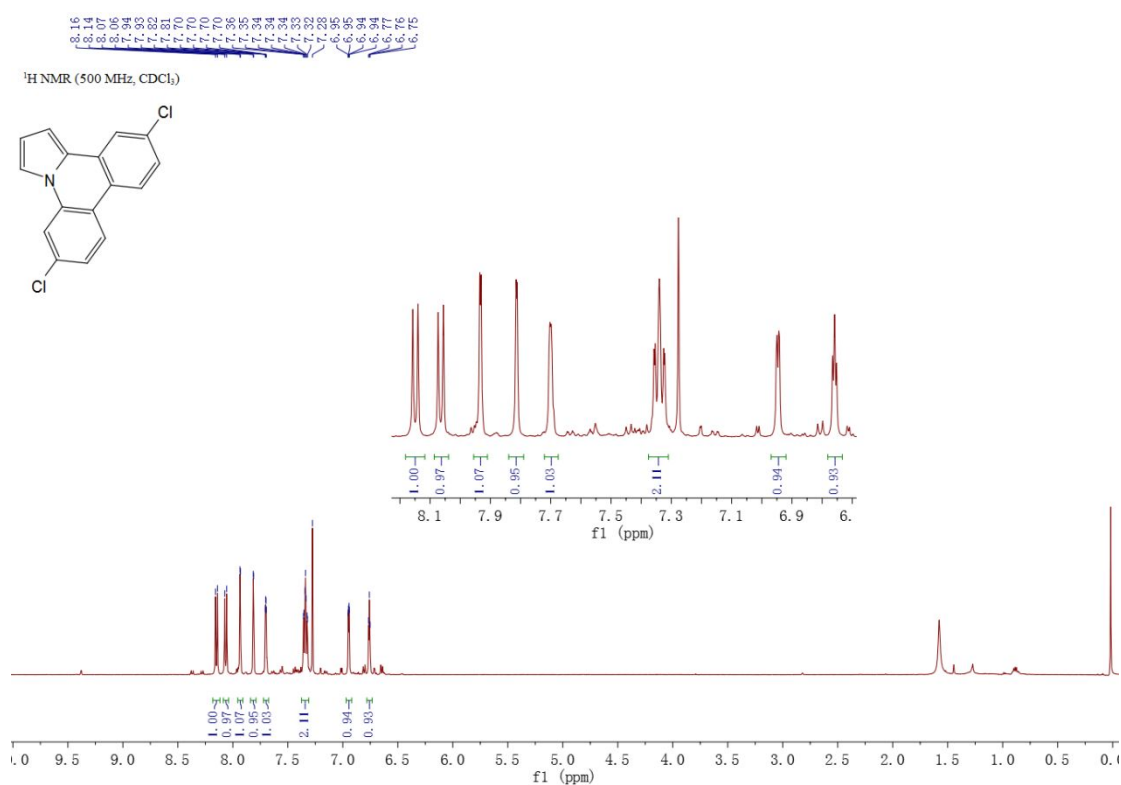
2,7-difluoroindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bd)



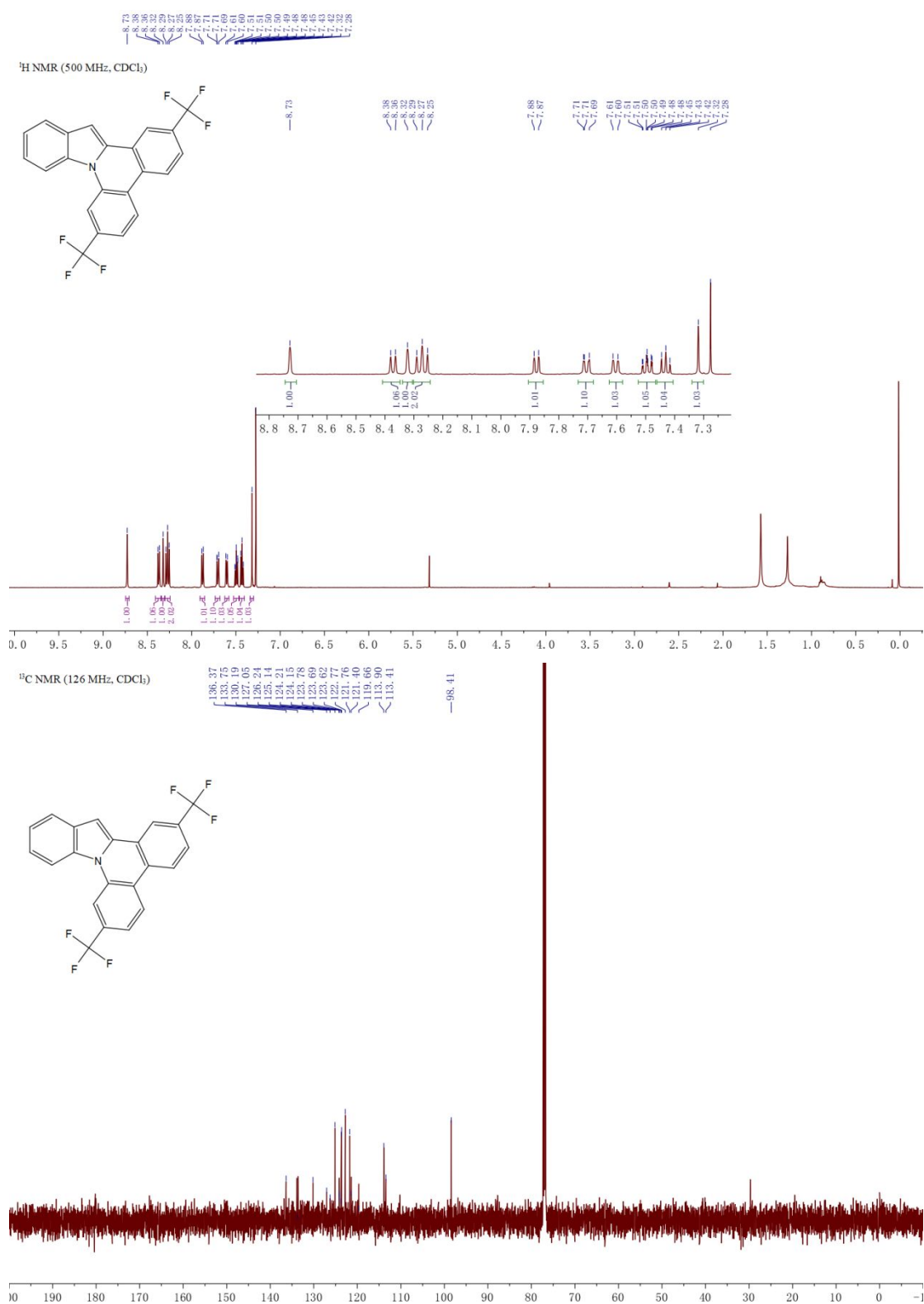
2,7-dichloroindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3be)



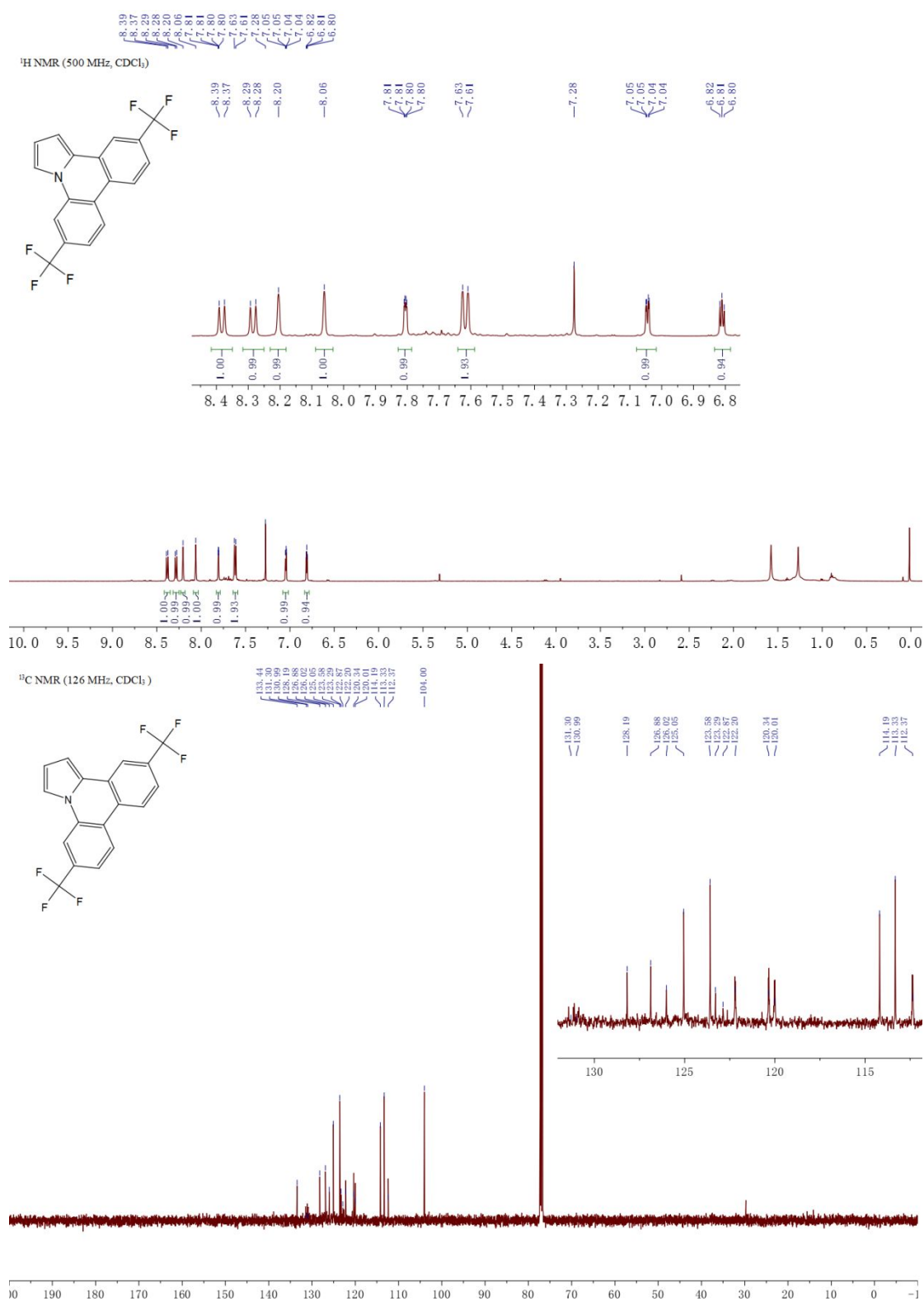
6,11-dichloropyrrolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bf)



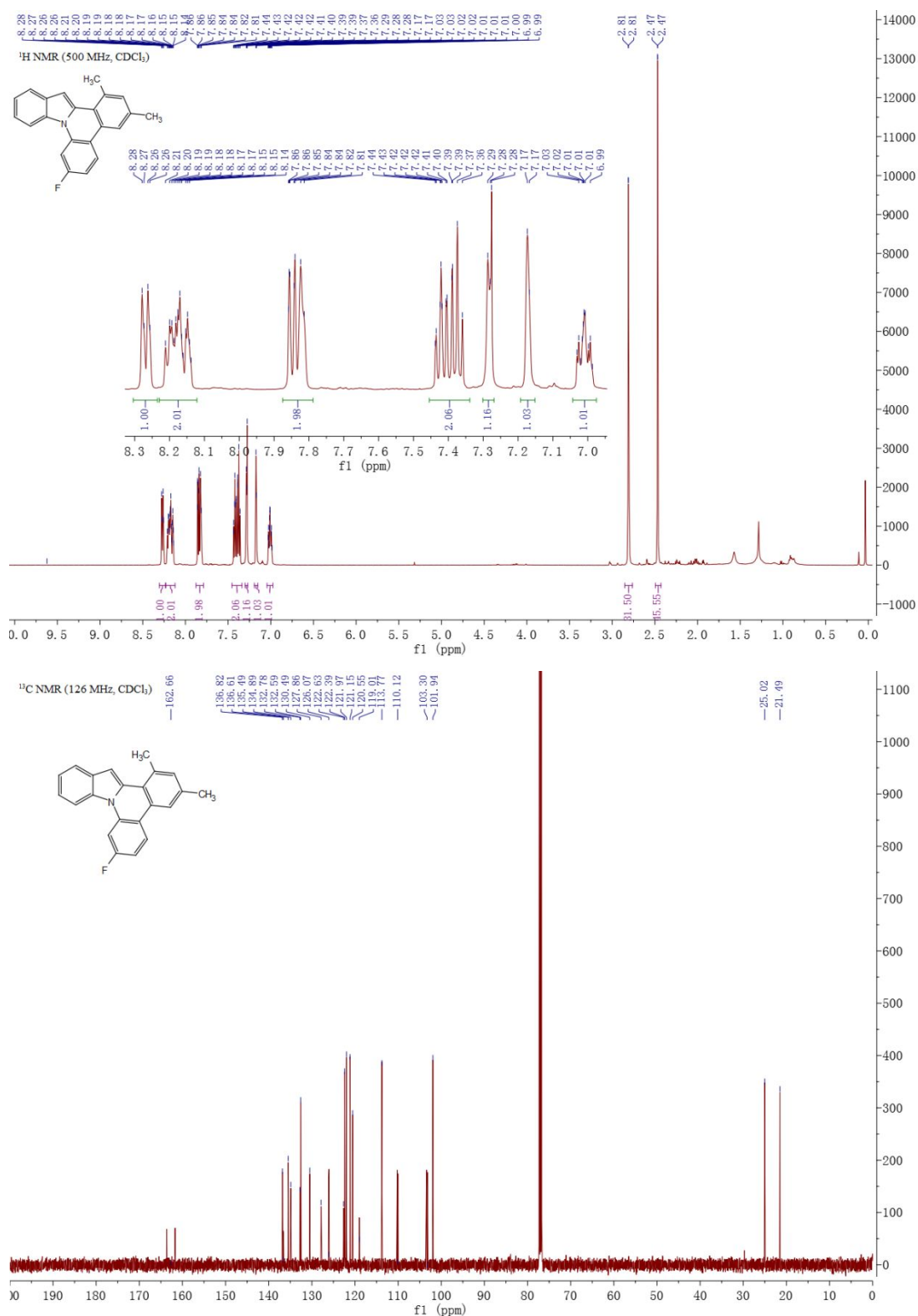
2,7-bis(trifluoromethyl)indolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bg)

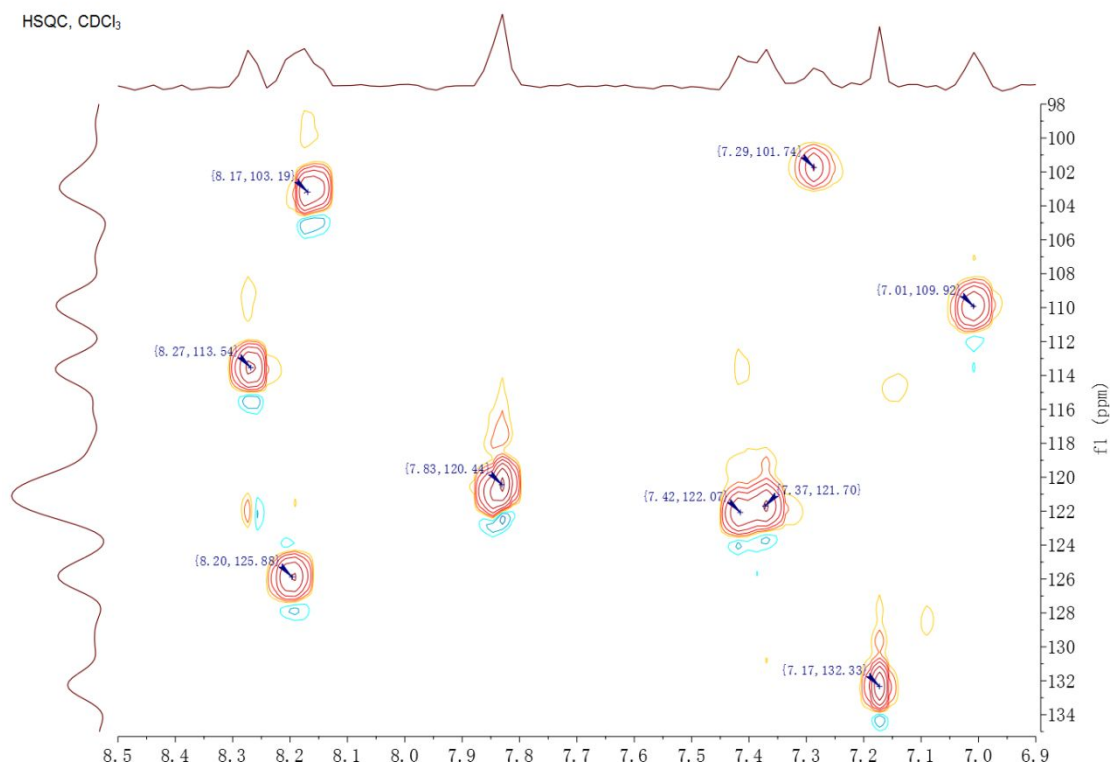
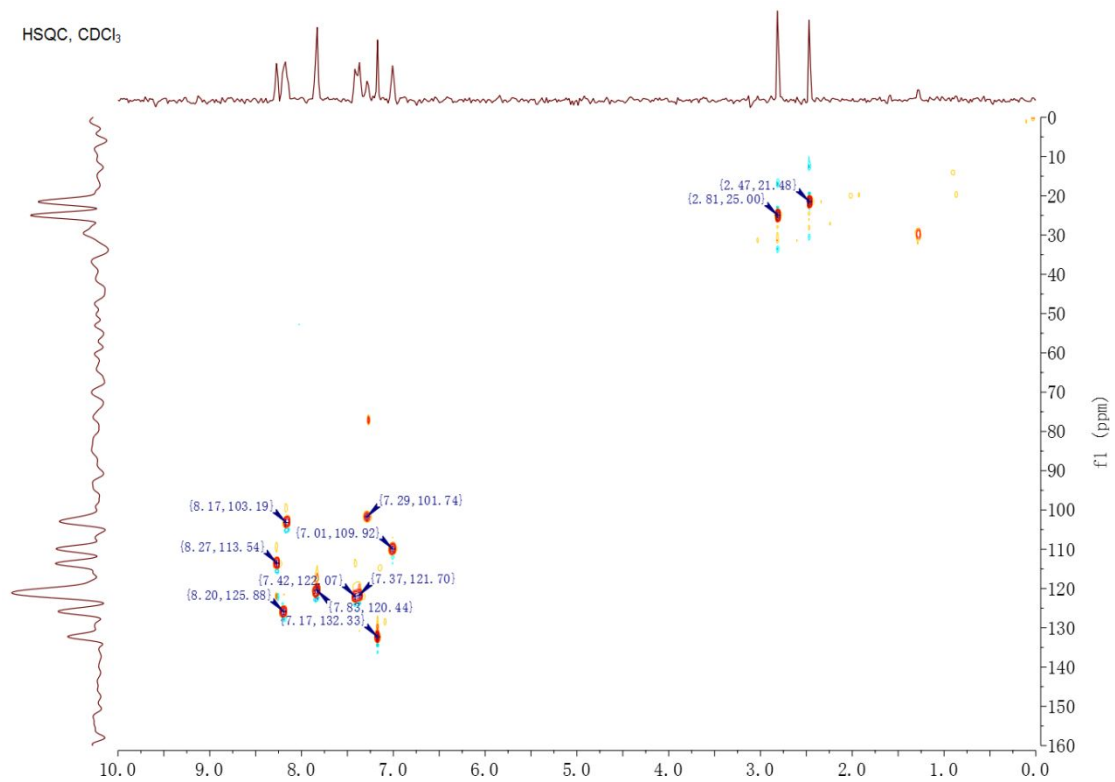


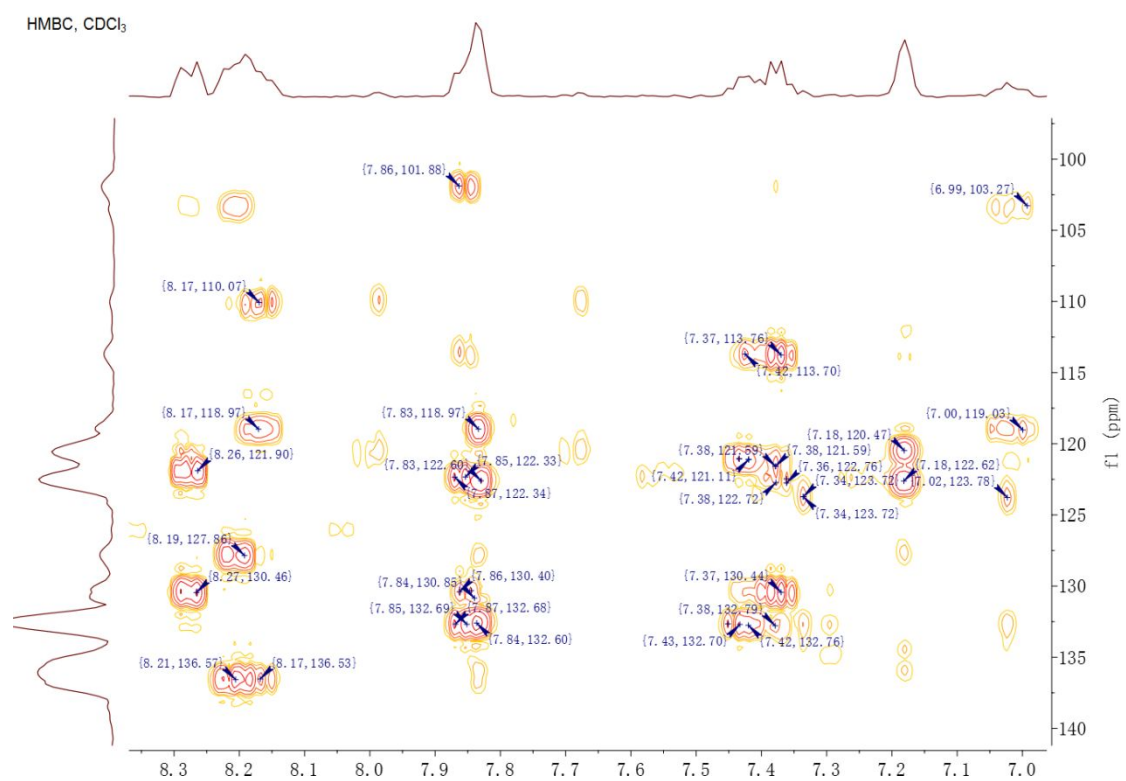
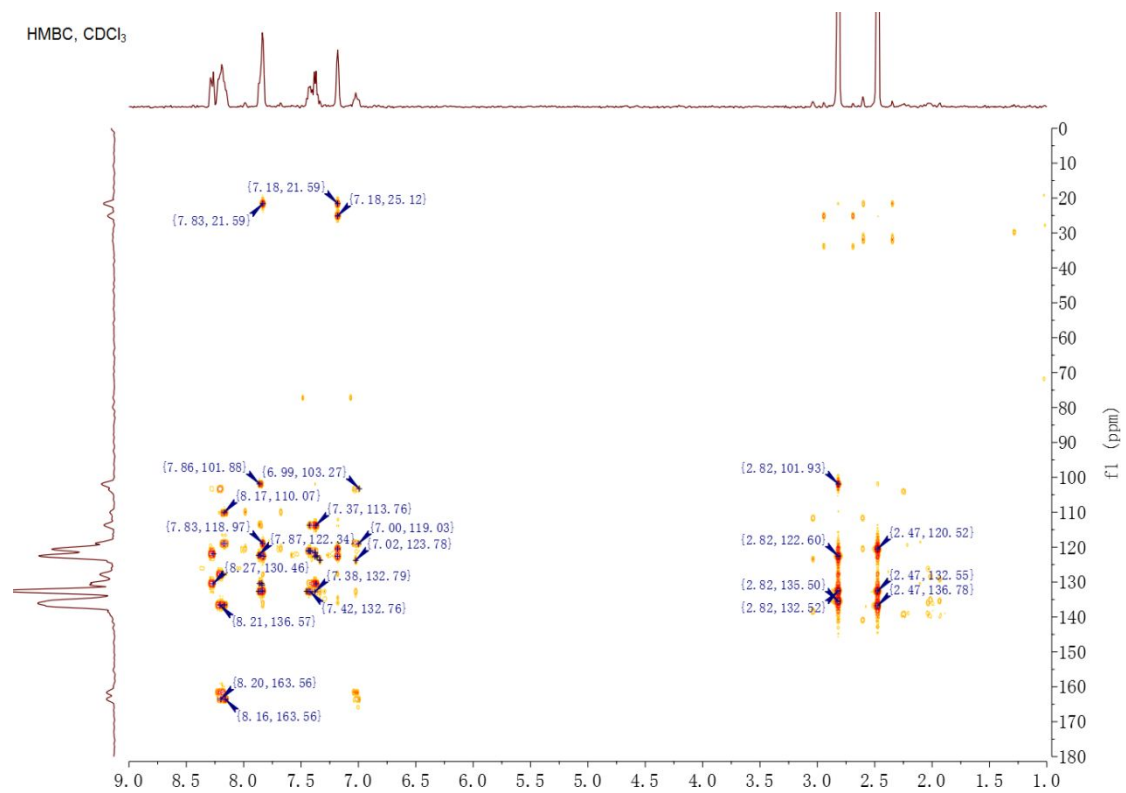
6,11-bis(trifluoromethyl)pyrrolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bh)

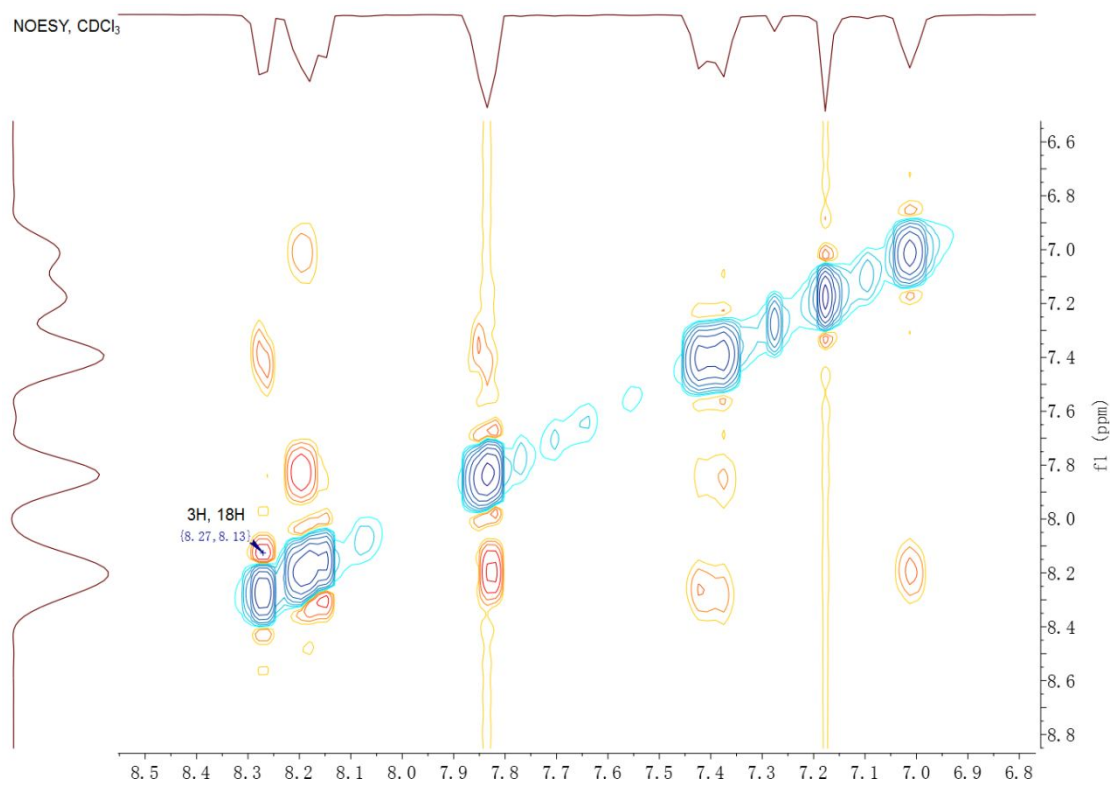
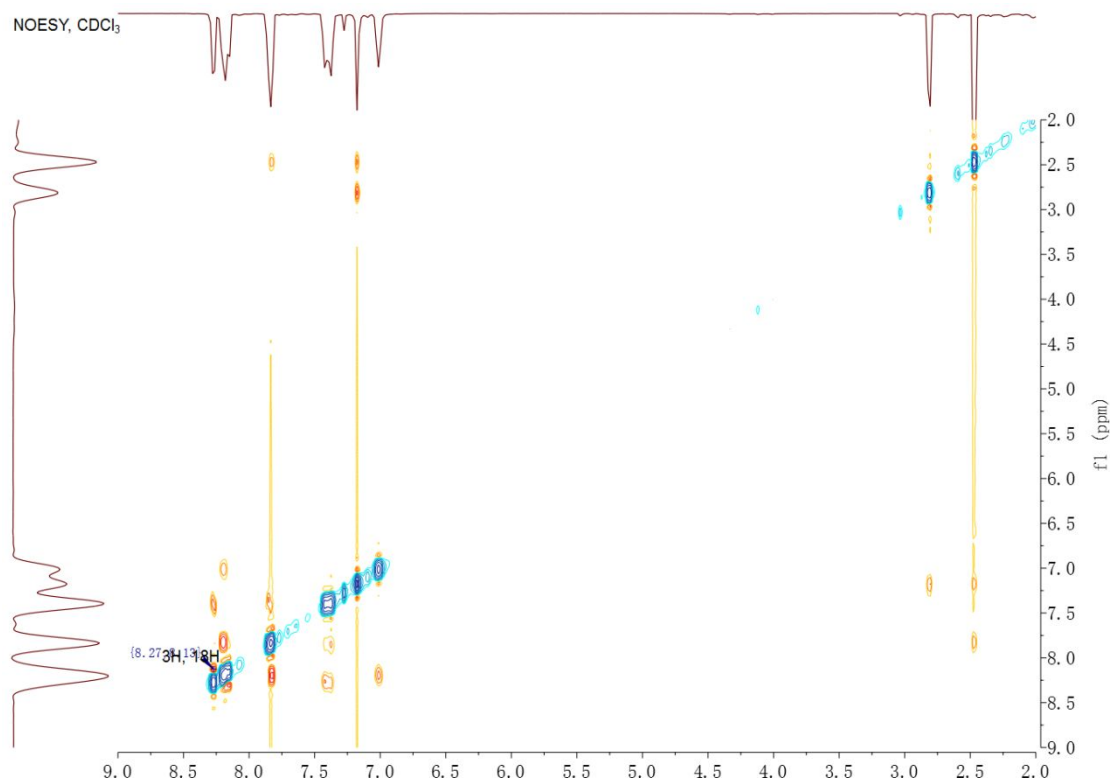


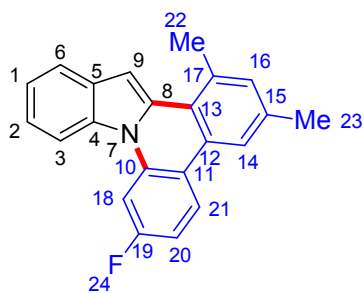
7-fluoro-1,3-dimethylindolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine (3bi):





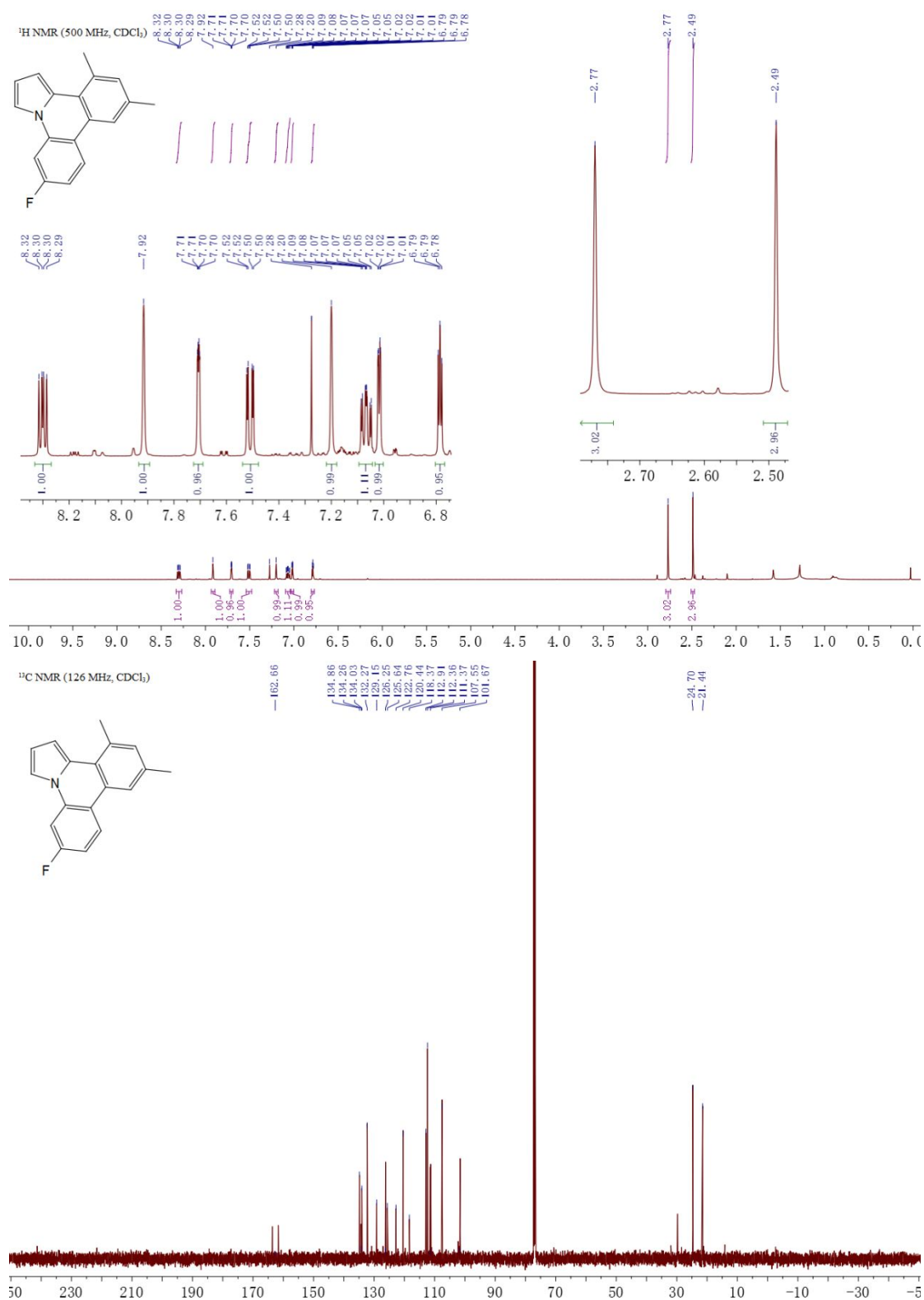




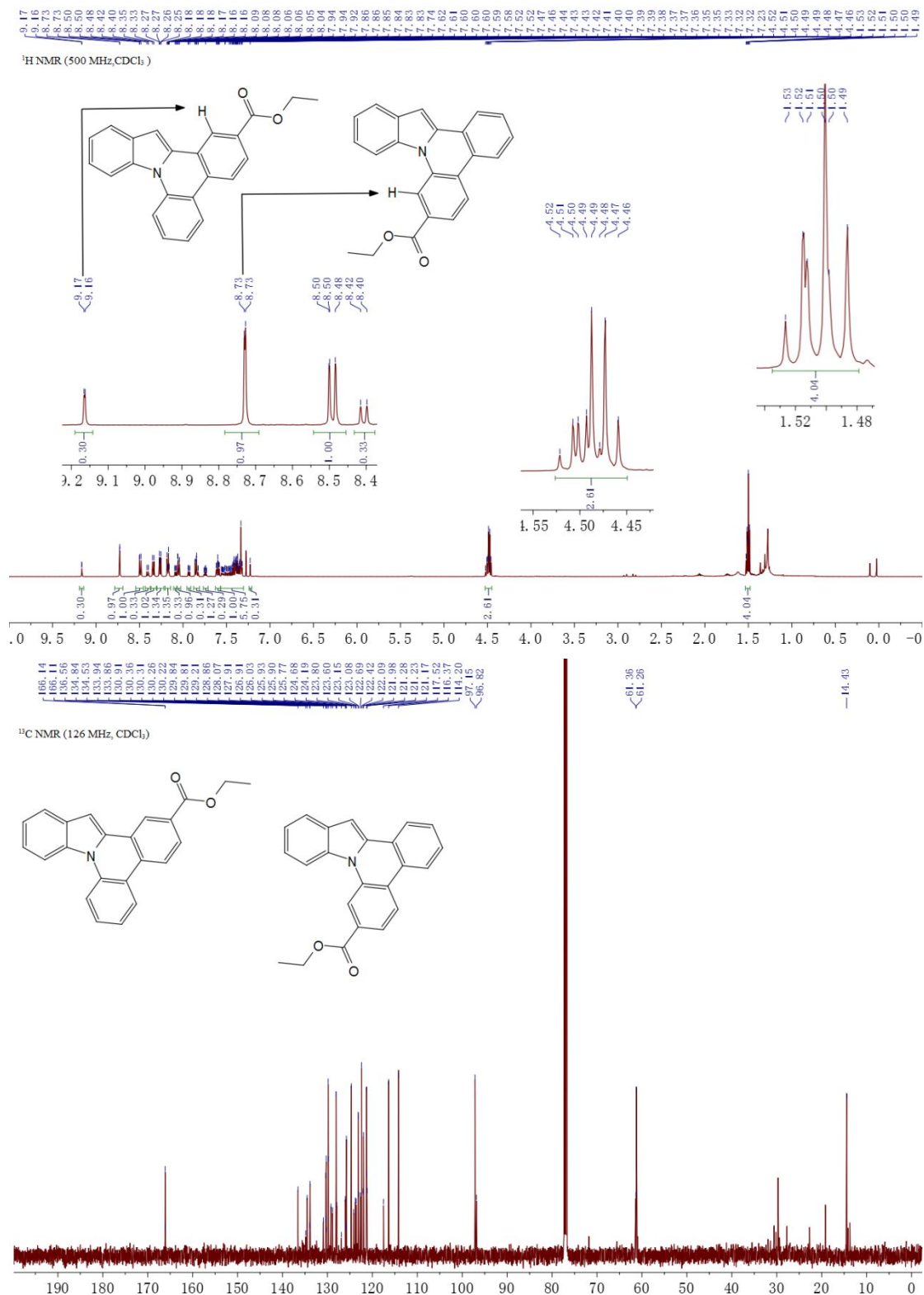


| Number | ¹ H | ¹³ C |
|--------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | 7.85 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz) | 121.2 |
| 2 | 7.42 (1H, ddd, <i>J</i> = 8.6, 7.1, 1.4 Hz) | 122.4 |
| 3 | 8.27 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> = 8.4, 2.8 Hz) | 113.8 |
| 4 | - | 130.5 |
| 5 | - | 132.8 |
| 6 | 7.37 (1H, t, <i>J</i> = 7.2 Hz) | 122.0 |
| 7 | - | - |
| 8 | - | 134.9 |
| 9 | 7.28 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 5.5 Hz) | 101.9 |
| 10 | - | 136.6 |
| 11 | - | 119.0 |
| 12 | - | 127.9 |
| 13 | - | 122.6 |
| 14 | 7.82 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 5.0 Hz) | 120.6 |
| 15 | - | 136.8 |
| 16 | 7.17 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 3.1 Hz) | 132.6 |
| 17 | - | 135.5 |
| 18 | 8.16 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> = 11.2, 2.4 Hz) | 103.3 |
| 19 | - | 162.7 |
| 20 | 7.03 – 6.98 (1H, m) | 110.1 |
| 21 | 8.20 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> = 8.8, 6.2 Hz) | 126.1 |
| 22 | 2.81 (3H, s) | 25.0 |
| 23 | 2.47 (3H, s) | 21.5 |

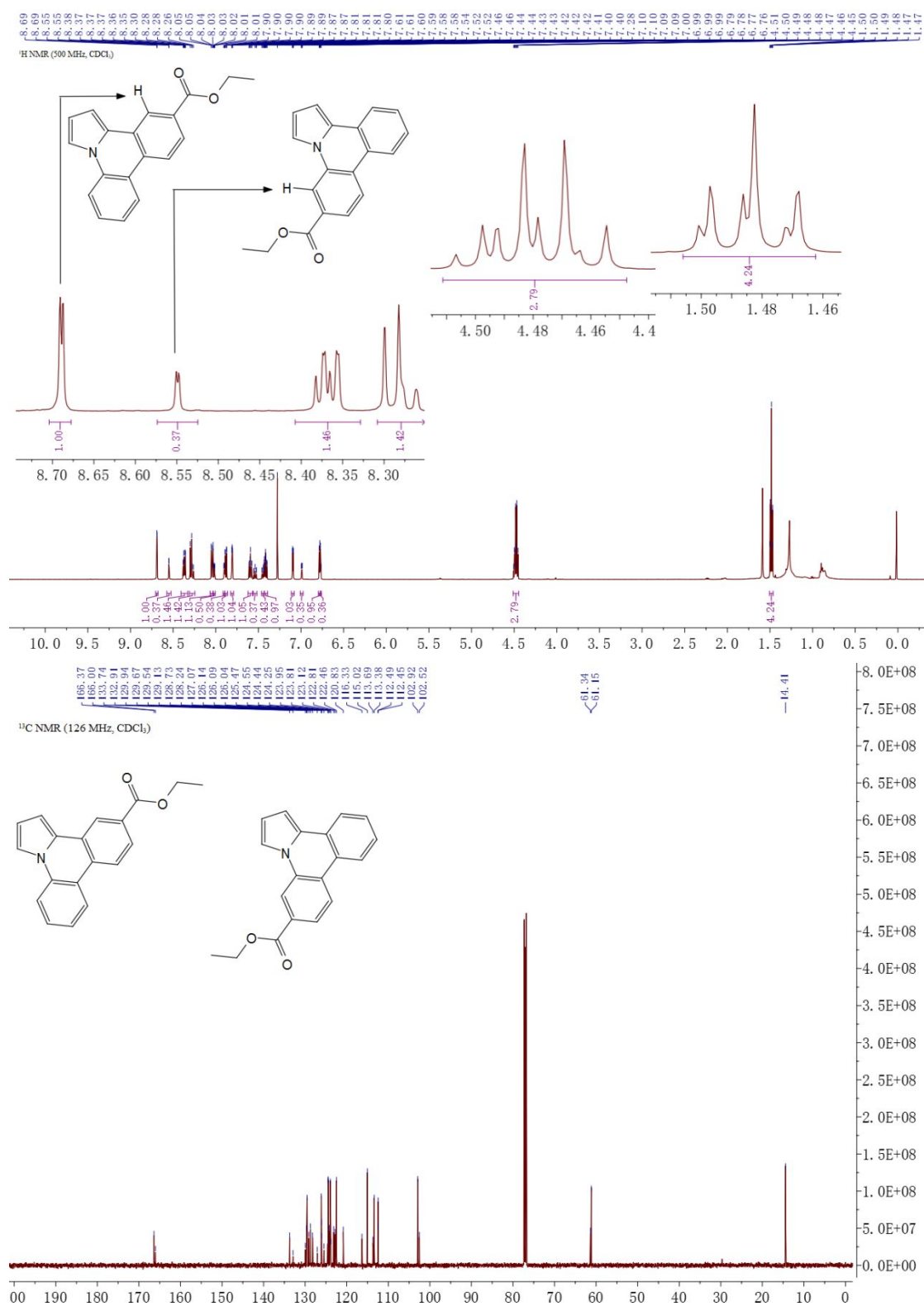
6-fluoro-10,12-dimethylpyrrolo[1,2-*f*]phenanthridine (3bj)



The mixture of ethyl indolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine-2-carboxylate (3bk) and ethyl indolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine-7-carboxylate (3bk')



The mixture of ethyl pyrrolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine-11-carboxylate (3bl) and ethyl pyrrolo[1,2-f]phenanthridine-6-carboxylate (3bl')



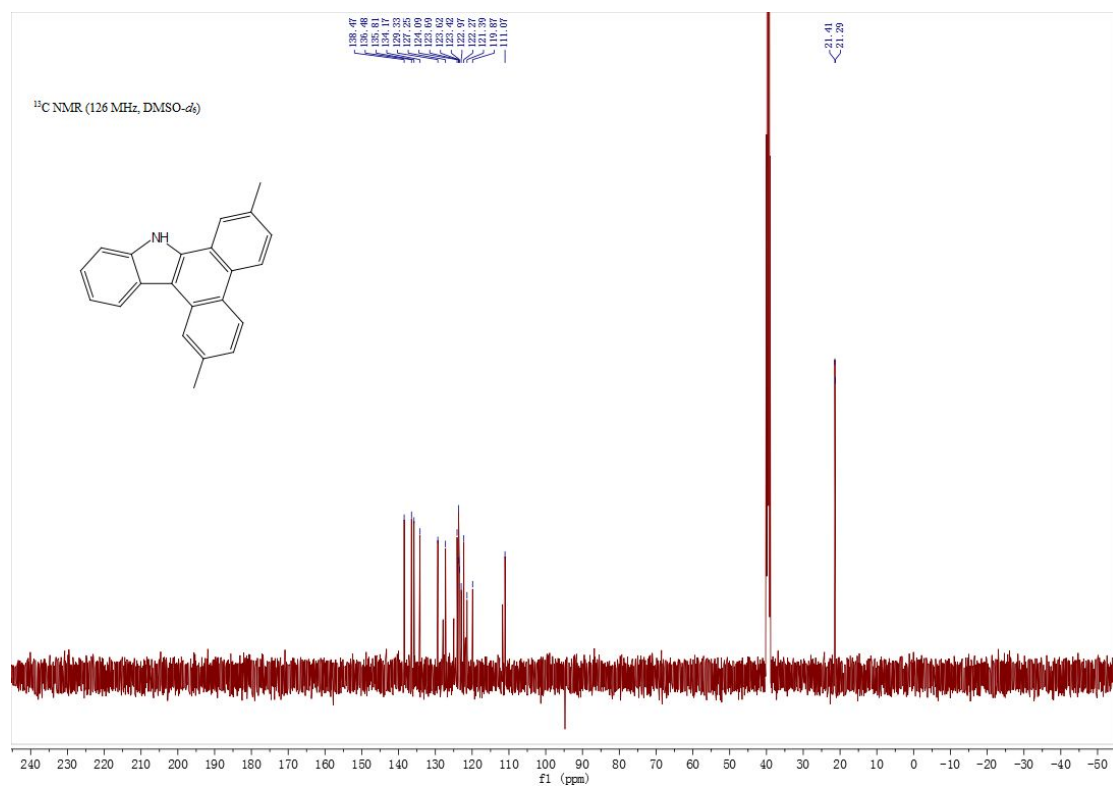
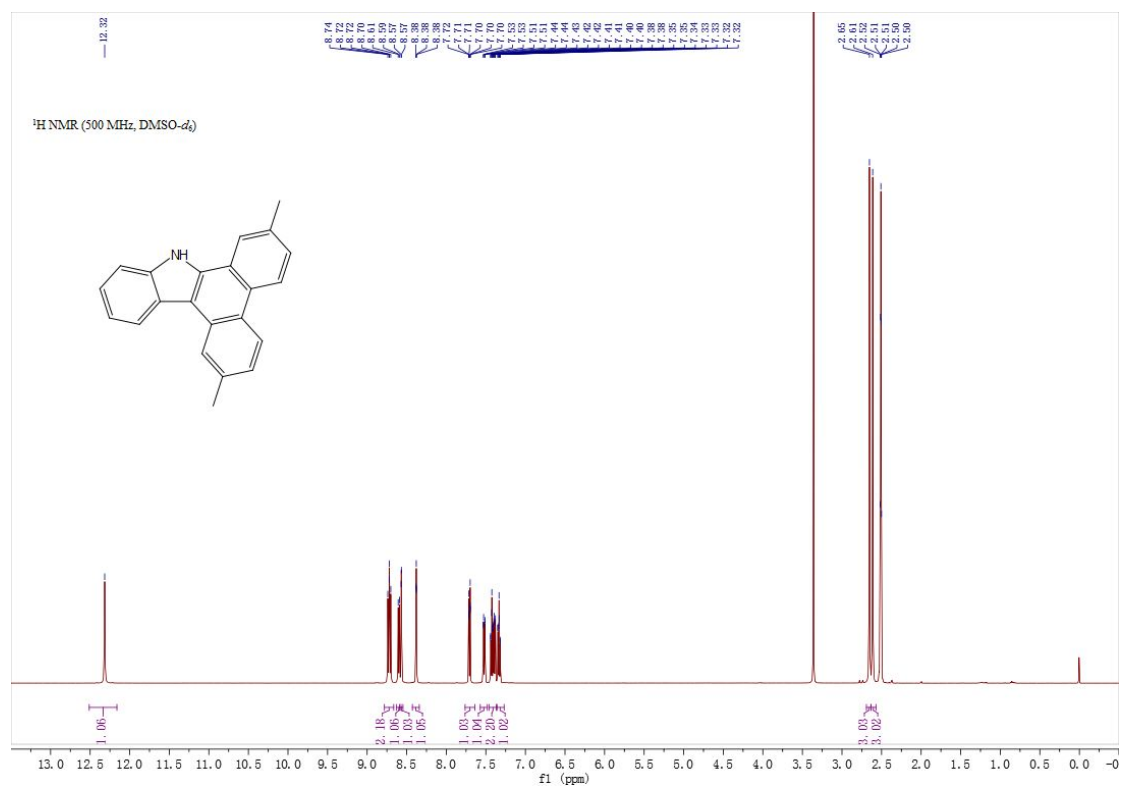
¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)

Chemical structure: Nc1ccc2cc3ccccc3cc2c1

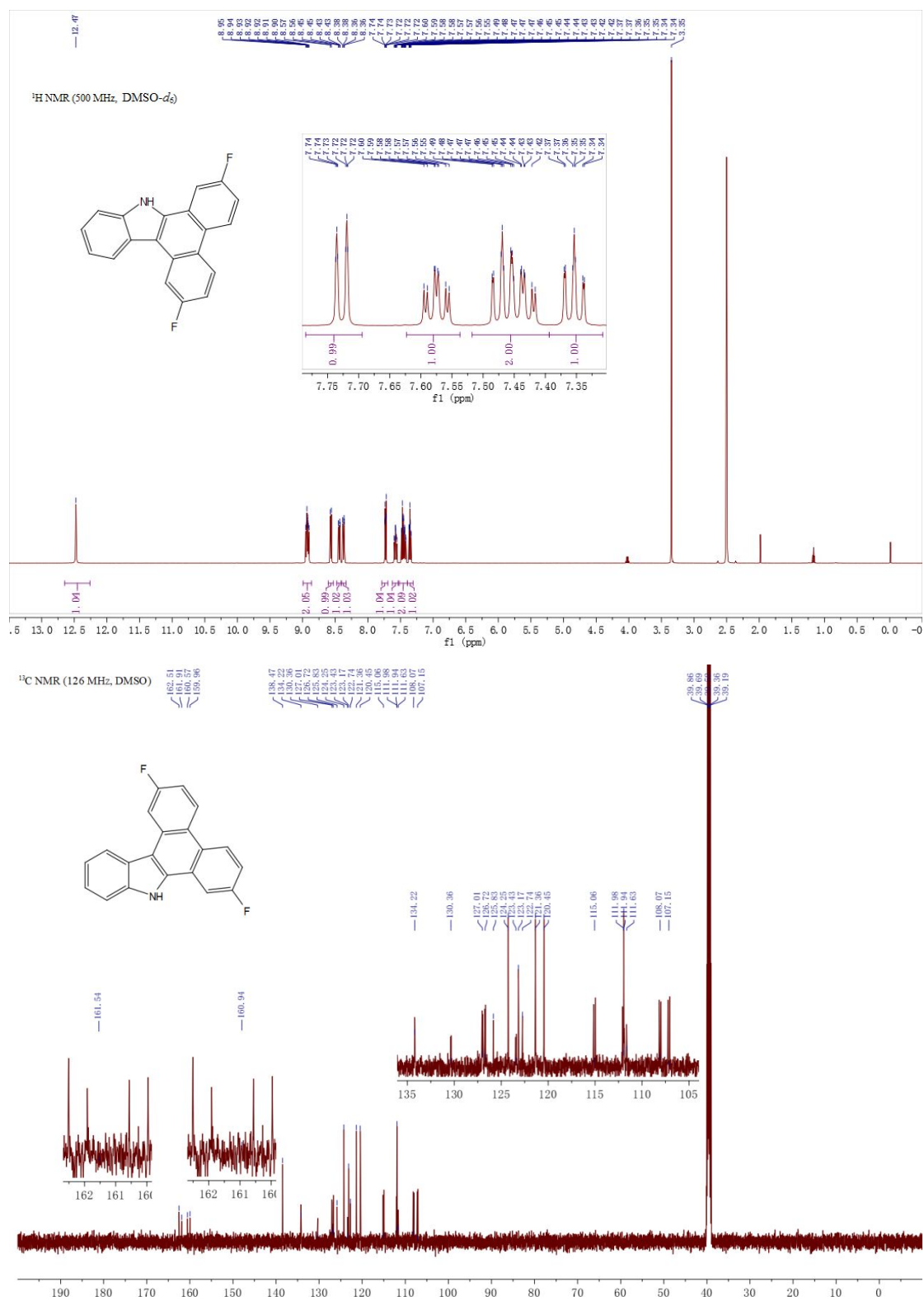
¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)

Chemical structure: Nc1ccc2cc3ccccc3cc2c1

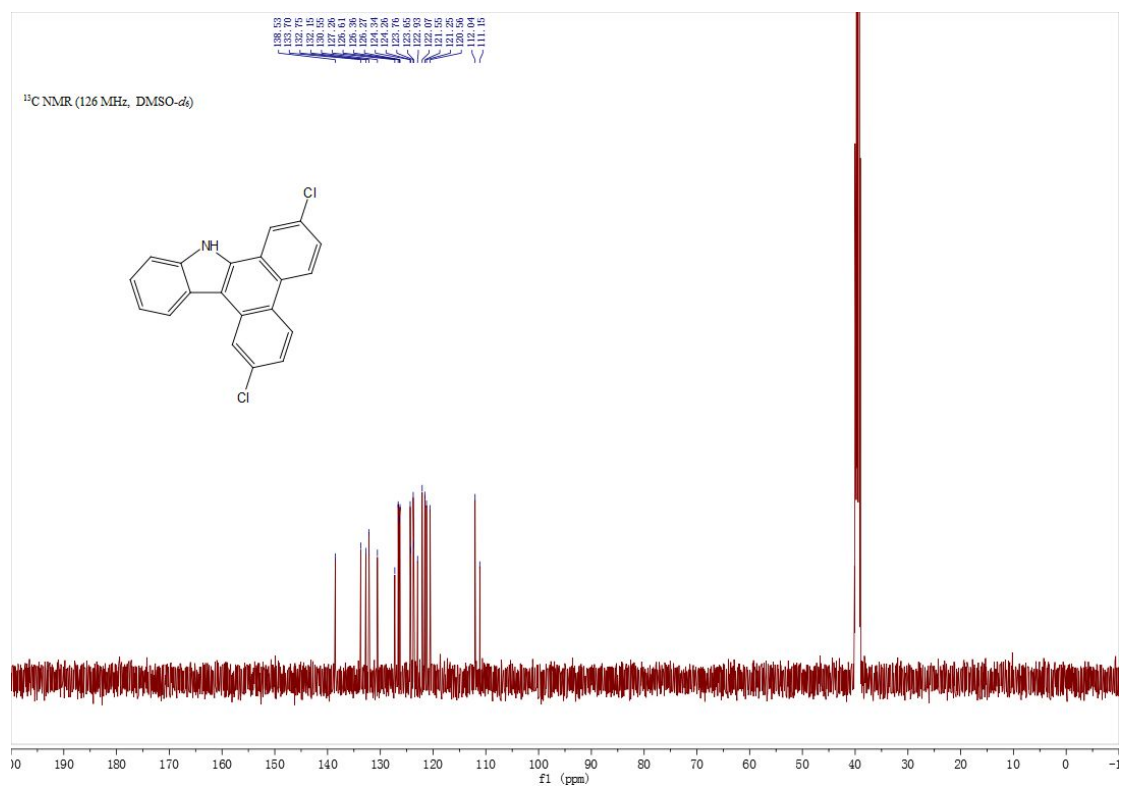
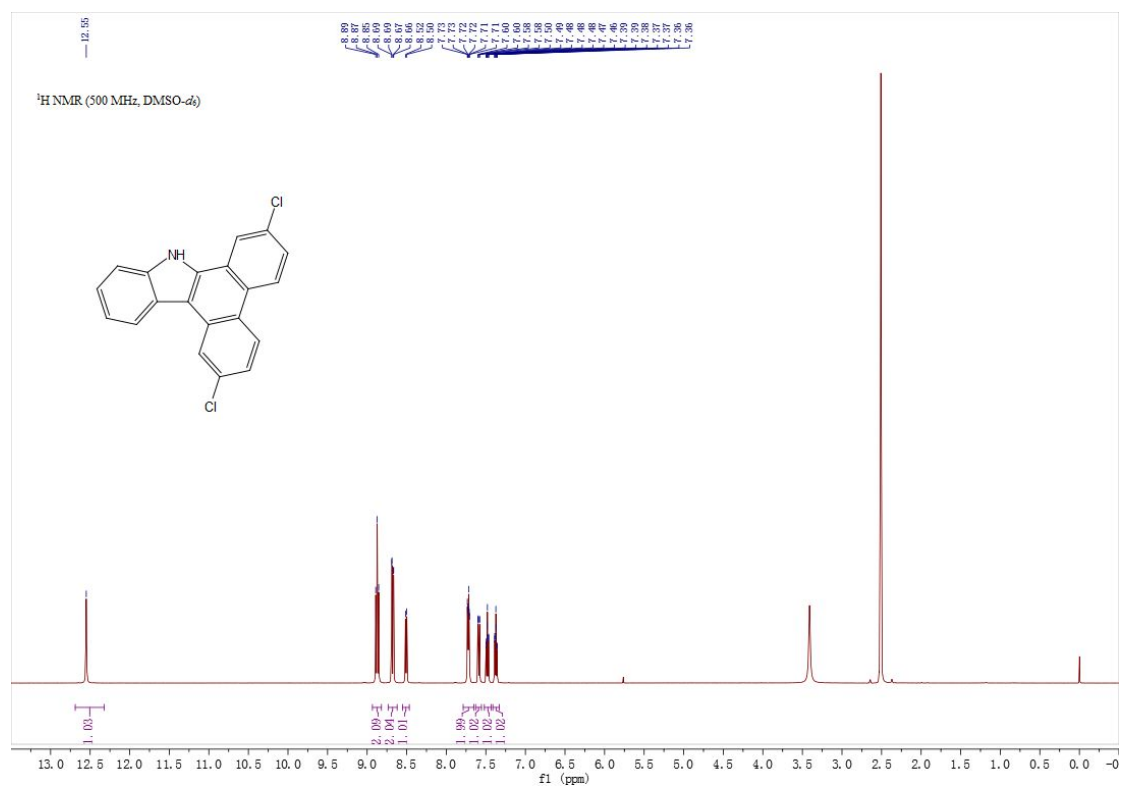
2,7-dimethyl-9*H*-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole (4b):



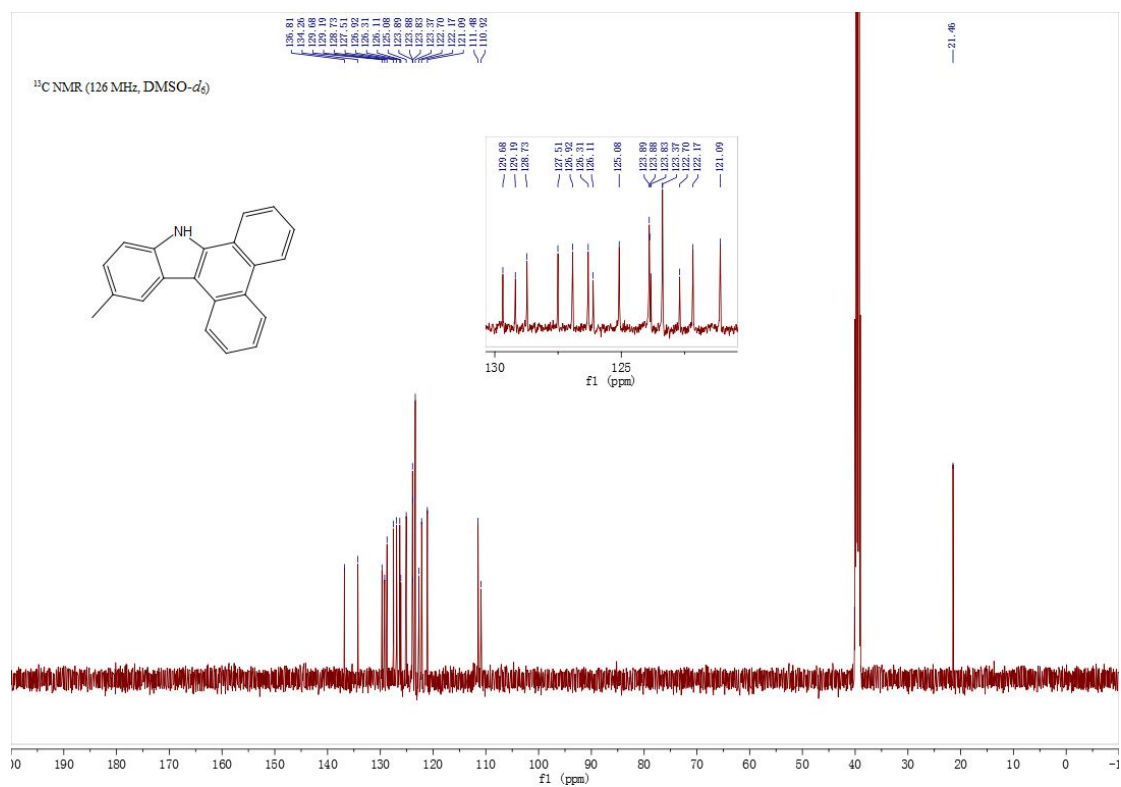
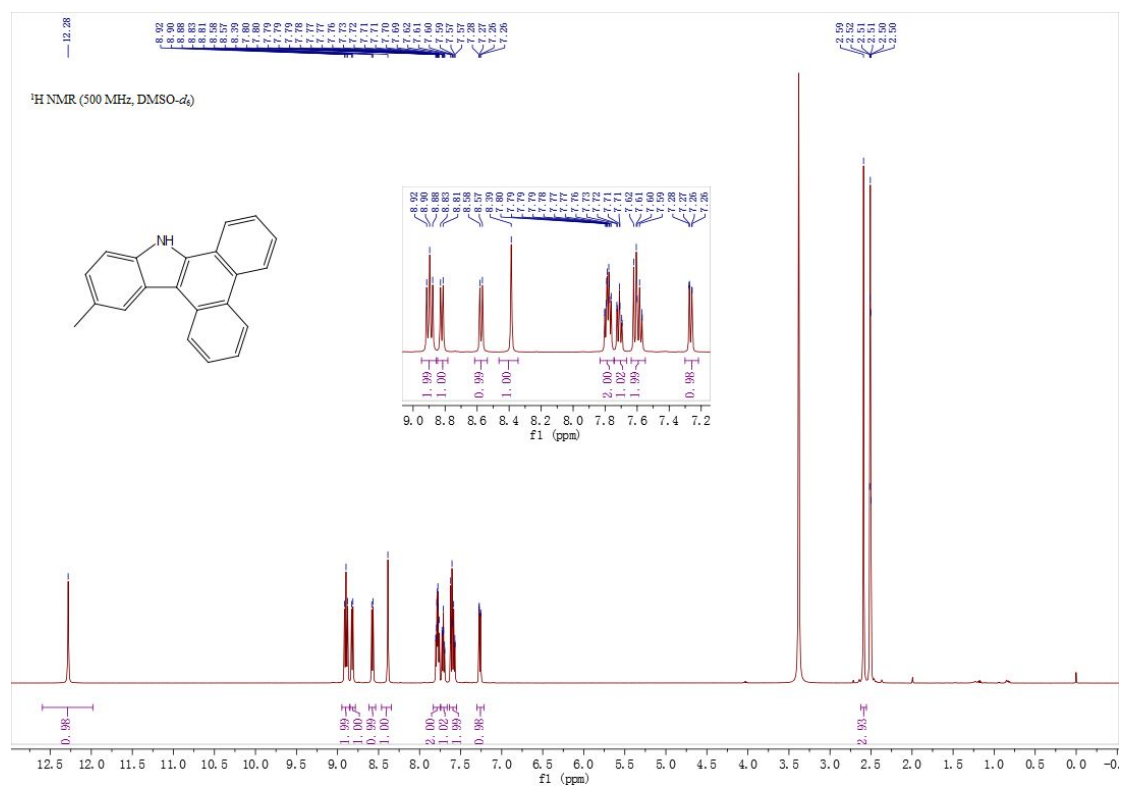
2,7-difluoro-9H-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole (4c):



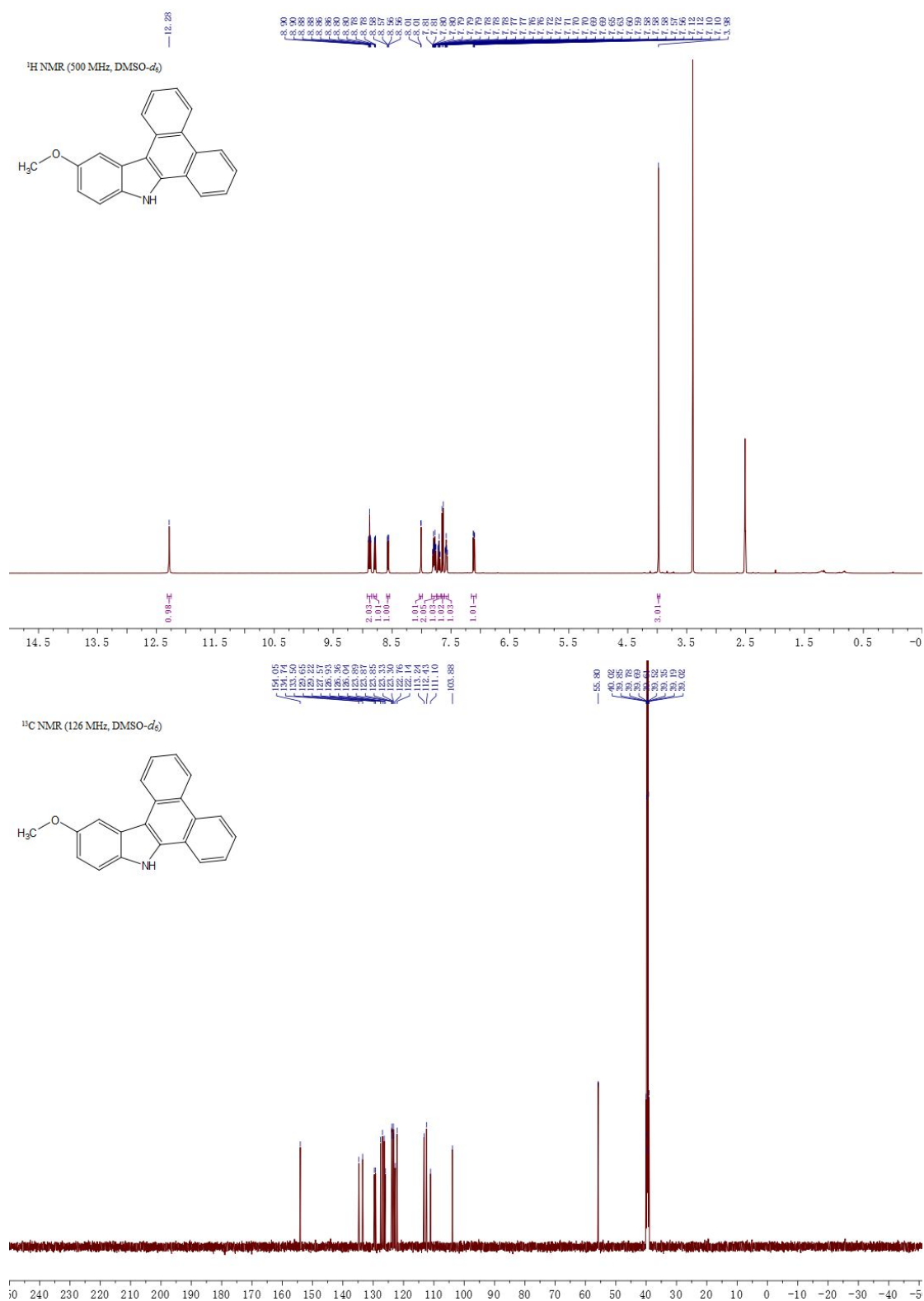
2,7-dichloro-9*H*-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole(4d):



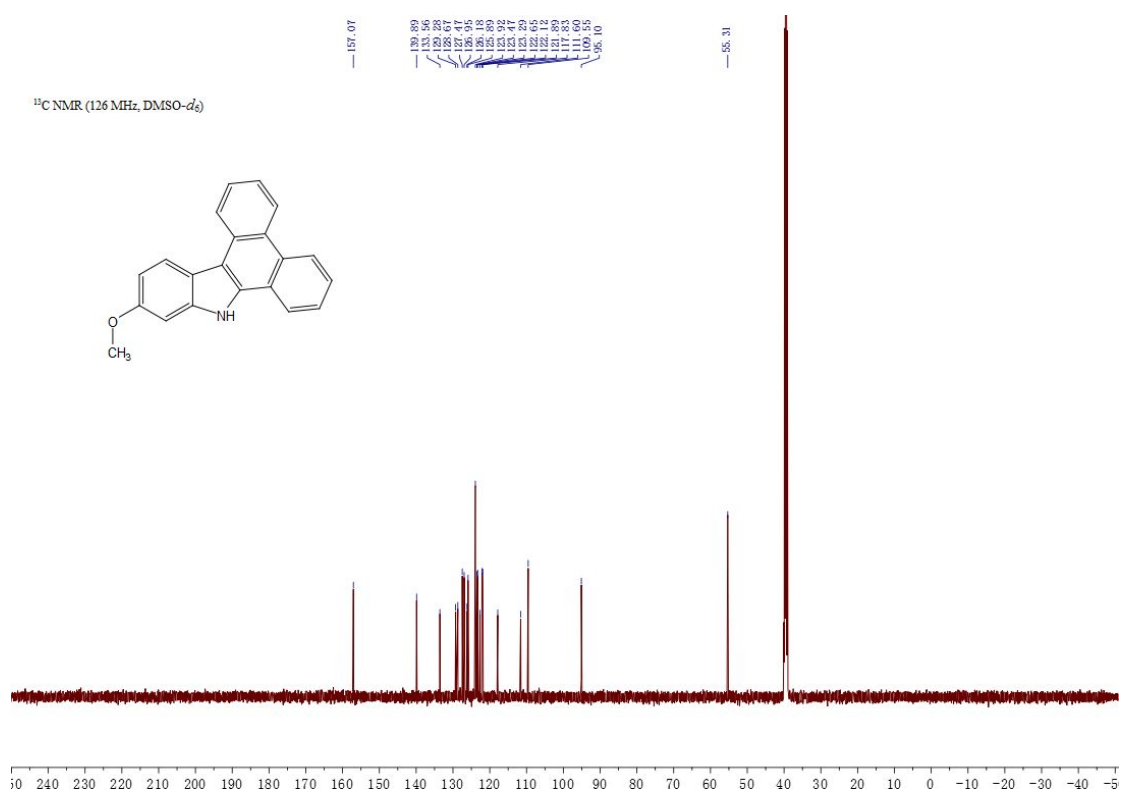
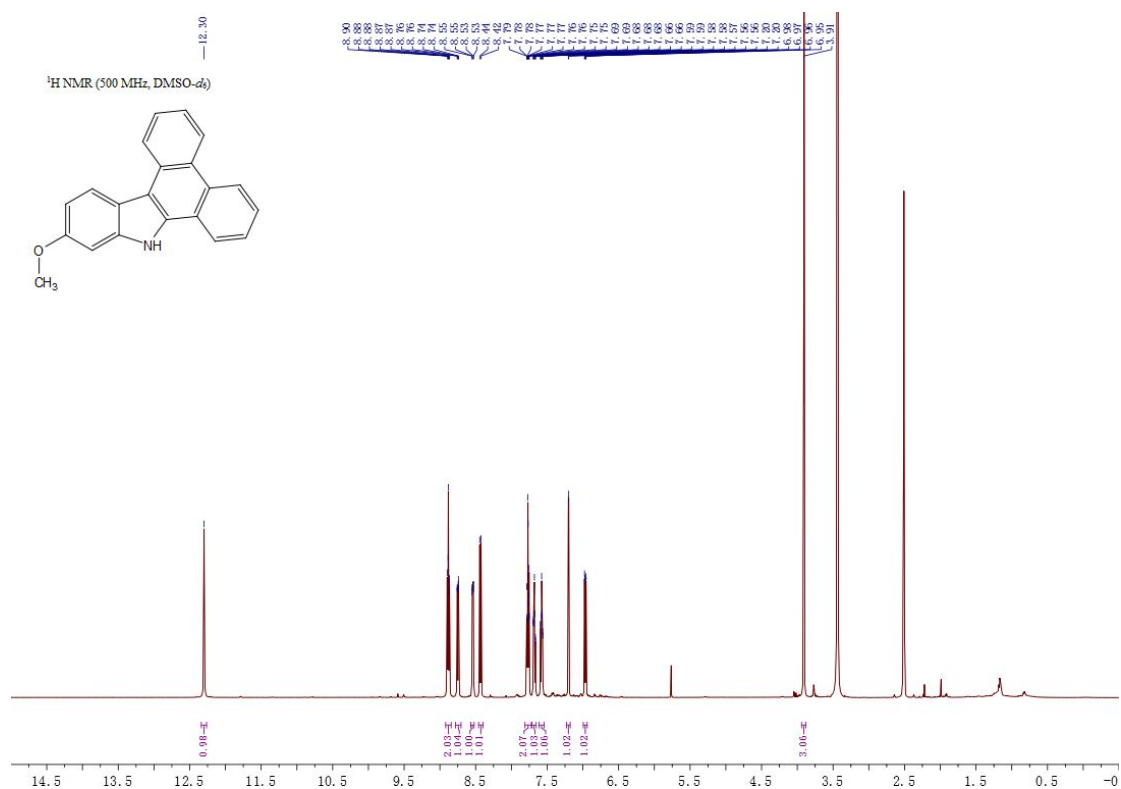
12-methyl-9H-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole (4e):

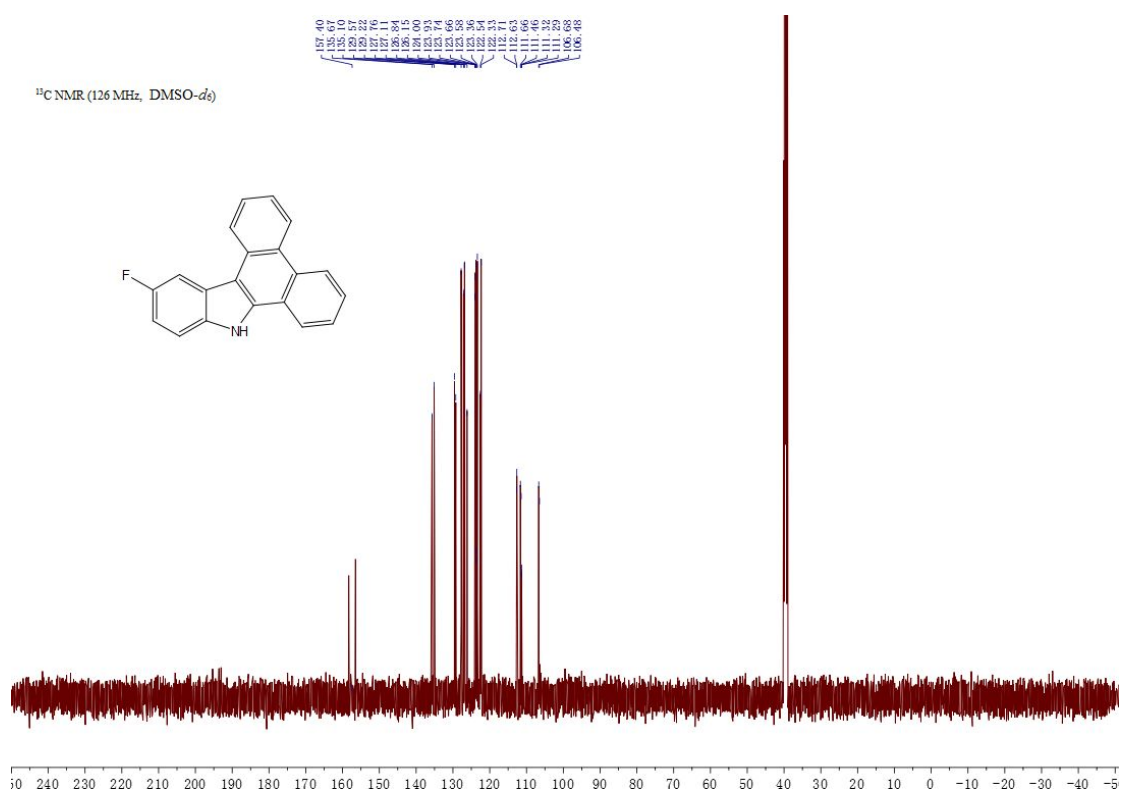


12-methoxy-9*H*-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole (4f):

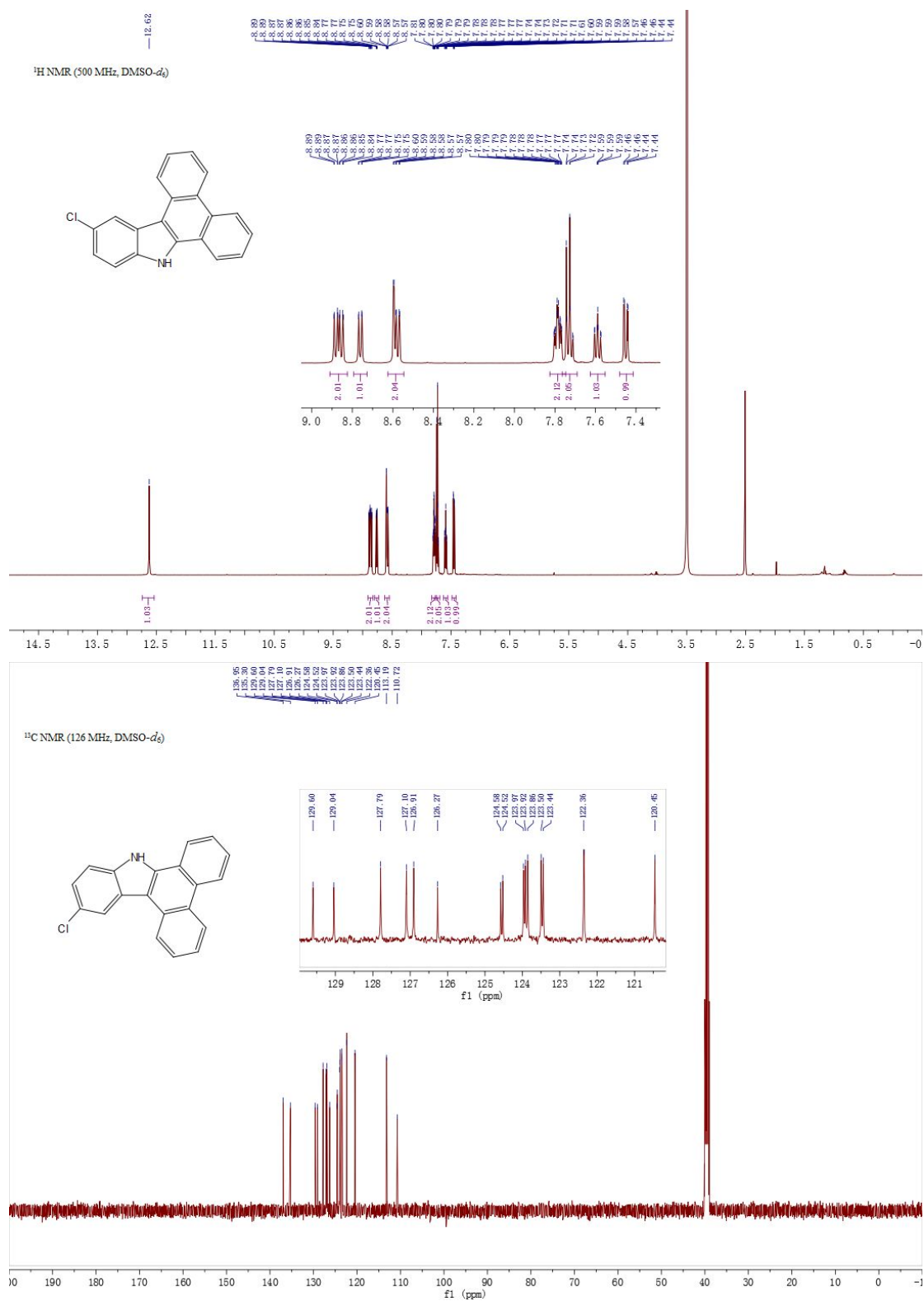


11-methoxy-9*H*-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole (4g):



[illegible]

12-chloro-9H-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole (4i):

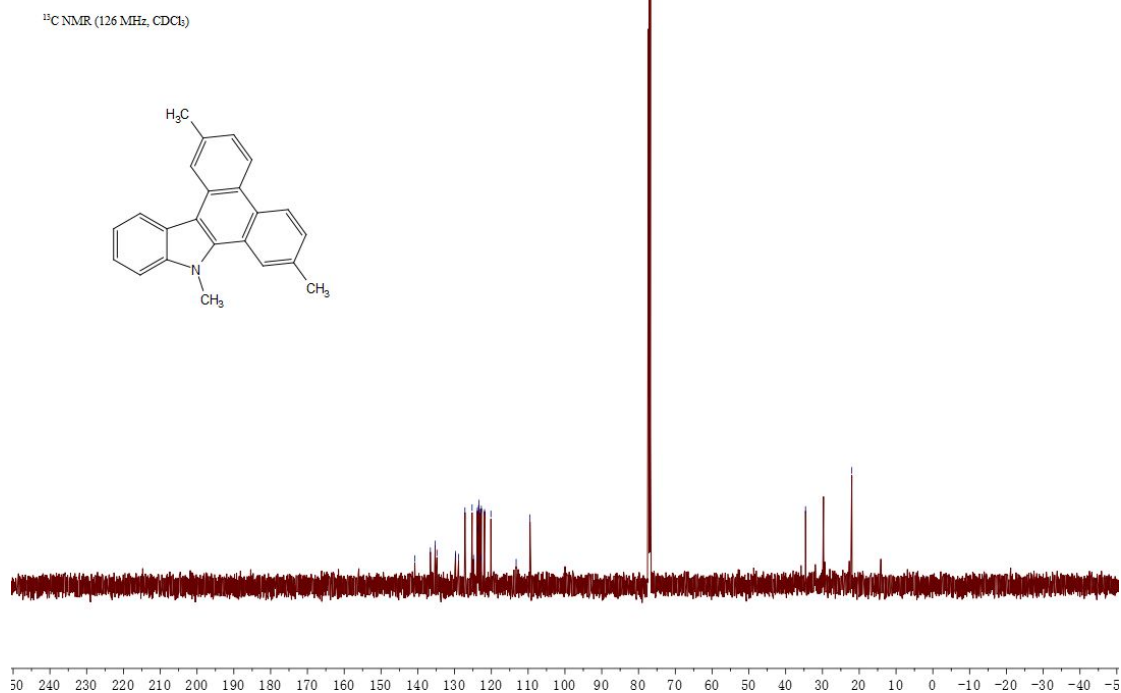
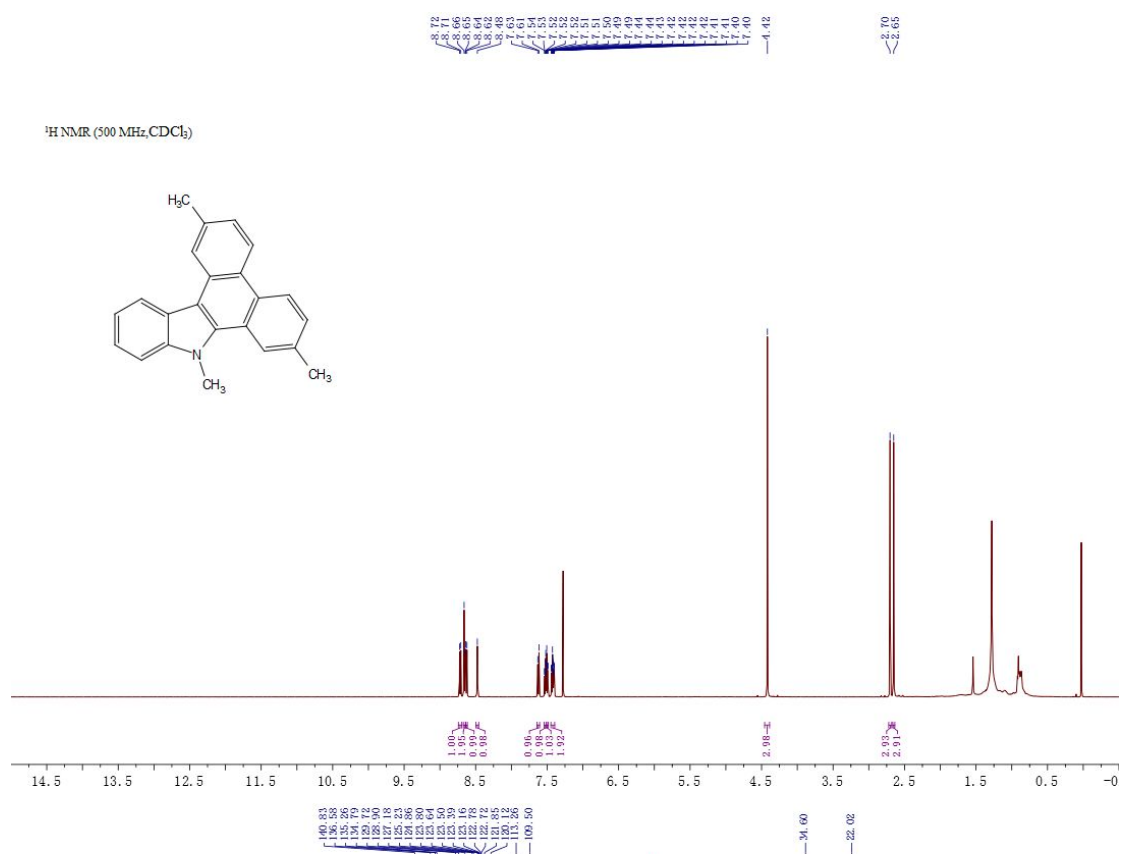


¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)

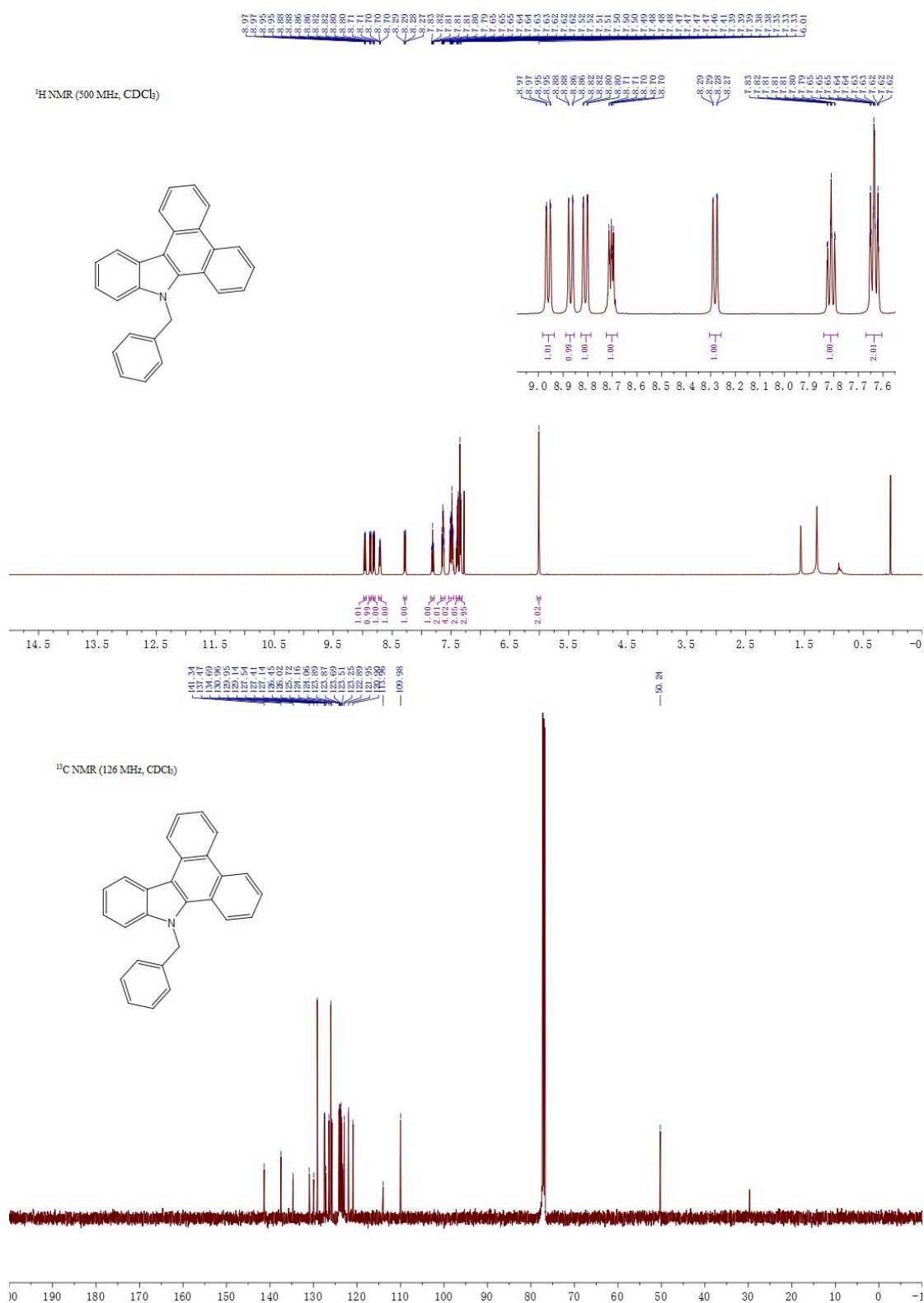
Chemical structure: CN1C(=O)C2=CC=CC=C2C3=CC=CC=C3C4=CC=CC=C41

Chemical shift data (ppm): 9.01, 8.99, 8.98, 8.97, 8.96, 8.95, 8.94, 8.93, 8.92, 8.91, 8.90, 8.89, 8.88, 8.87, 8.86, 8.85, 8.84, 8.83, 8.82, 8.81, 8.80, 8.79, 8.78, 8.77, 8.76, 8.75, 8.74, 8.73, 8.72, 8.71, 8.70, 8.69, 8.68, 8.67, 8.66, 8.65, 8.64, 8.63, 8.62, 8.61, 8.60, 8.59, 8.58, 8.57, 8.56, 8.55, 8.54, 8.53, 8.52, 8.51, 8.50, 8.49, 8.48, 8.47, 8.46, 8.45, 8.44, 8.43, 8.42, 8.41, 8.40, 8.39, 8.38, 8.37, 8.36, 8.35, 8.34, 8.33, 8.32, 8.31, 8.30, 8.29, 8.28, 8.27, 8.26, 8.25, 8.24, 8.23, 8.22, 8.21, 8.20, 8.19, 8.18, 8.17, 8.16, 8.15, 8.14, 8.13, 8.12, 8.11, 8.10, 8.09, 8.08, 8.07, 8.06, 8.05, 8.04, 8.03, 8.02, 8.01, 8.00, 7.99, 7.98, 7.97, 7.96, 7.95, 7.94, 7.93, 7.92, 7.91, 7.90, 7.89, 7.88, 7.87, 7.86, 7.85, 7.84, 7.83, 7.82, 7.81, 7.80, 7.79, 7.78, 7.77, 7.76, 7.75, 7.74, 7.73, 7.72, 7.71, 7.70, 7.69, 7.68, 7.67, 7.66, 7.65, 7.64, 7.63, 7.62, 7.61, 7.60, 7.59, 7.58, 7.57, 7.56, 7.55, 7.54, 7.53, 7.52, 7.51, 7.50, 7.49, 7.48, 7.47, 7.46, 7.45, 7.44, 7.43, 7.42, 7.41, 7.40, 7.39, 7.38, 7.37, 7.36, 7.35, 7.34, 7.33, 7.32, 7.31, 7.30, 7.29, 7.28, 7.27, 7.26, 7.25, 7.24, 7.23, 7.22, 7.21, 7.20, 7.19, 7.18, 7.17, 7.16, 7.15, 7.14, 7.13, 7.12, 7.11, 7.10, 7.09, 7.08, 7.07, 7.06, 7.05, 7.04, 7.03, 7.02, 7.01, 7.00, 6.99, 6.98, 6.97, 6.96, 6.95, 6.94, 6.93, 6.92, 6.91, 6.90, 6.89, 6.88, 6.87, 6.86, 6.85, 6.84, 6.83, 6.82, 6.81, 6.80, 6.79, 6.78, 6.77, 6.76, 6.75, 6.74, 6.73, 6.72, 6.71, 6.70, 6.69, 6.68, 6.67, 6.66, 6.65, 6.64, 6.63, 6.62, 6.61, 6.60, 6.59, 6.58, 6.57, 6.56, 6.55, 6.54, 6.53, 6.52, 6.51, 6.50, 6.49, 6.48, 6.47, 6.46, 6.45, 6.44, 6.43, 6.42, 6.41, 6.40, 6.39, 6.38, 6.37, 6.36, 6.35, 6.34, 6.33, 6.32, 6.31, 6.30, 6.29, 6.28, 6.27, 6.26, 6.25, 6.24, 6.23, 6.22, 6.21, 6.20, 6.19, 6.18, 6.17, 6.16, 6.15, 6.14, 6.13, 6.12, 6.11, 6.10, 6.09, 6.08, 6.07, 6.06, 6.05, 6.04, 6.03, 6.02, 6.01, 6.00, 5.99, 5.98, 5.97, 5.96, 5.95, 5.94, 5.93, 5.92, 5.91, 5.90, 5.89, 5.88, 5.87, 5.86, 5.85, 5.84, 5.83, 5.82, 5.81, 5.80, 5.79, 5.78, 5.77, 5.76, 5.75, 5.74, 5.73, 5.72, 5.71, 5.70, 5.69, 5.68, 5.67, 5.66, 5.65, 5.64, 5.63, 5.62, 5.61, 5.60, 5.59, 5.58, 5.57, 5.56, 5.55, 5.54, 5.53, 5.52, 5.51, 5.50, 5.49, 5.48, 5.47, 5.46, 5.45, 5.44, 5.43, 5.42, 5.41, 5.40, 5.39, 5.38, 5.37, 5.36, 5.35, 5.34, 5.33, 5.32, 5.31, 5.30, 5.29, 5.28, 5.27, 5.26, 5.25, 5.24, 5.23, 5.22, 5.21, 5.20, 5.19, 5.18, 5.17, 5.16, 5.15, 5.14, 5.13, 5.12, 5.11, 5.10, 5.09, 5.08, 5.07, 5.06, 5.05, 5.04, 5.03, 5.02, 5.01, 5.00, 4.99, 4.98, 4.97, 4.96, 4.95, 4.94, 4.93, 4.92, 4.91, 4.90, 4.89, 4.88, 4.87, 4.86, 4.85, 4.84, 4.83, 4.82, 4.81, 4.80, 4.79, 4.78, 4.77, 4.76, 4.75, 4.74, 4.73, 4.72, 4.71, 4.70, 4.69, 4.68, 4.67, 4.66, 4.65, 4.64, 4.63, 4.62, 4.61, 4.60, 4.59, 4.58, 4.57, 4.56, 4.55, 4.54, 4.53, 4.52, 4.51, 4.50, 4.49, 4.48, 4.47, 4.46, 4.45, 4.44, 4.43, 4.42, 4.41, 4.40, 4.39, 4.38, 4.37, 4.36, 4.35, 4.34, 4.33, 4.32, 4.31, 4.30, 4.29, 4.28, 4.27, 4.26, 4.25, 4.24, 4.23, 4.22, 4.21, 4.20, 4.19, 4.18, 4.17, 4.16, 4.15, 4.14, 4.13, 4.12, 4.11, 4.10, 4.09, 4.08, 4.07, 4.06, 4.05, 4.04, 4.03, 4.02, 4.01, 4.00, 3.99, 3.98, 3.97, 3.96, 3.95, 3.94, 3.93, 3.92, 3.91, 3.90, 3.89, 3.88, 3.87, 3.86, 3.85, 3.84, 3.83, 3.82, 3.81, 3.80, 3.79, 3.78, 3.77, 3.76, 3.75, 3.74, 3.73, 3.72, 3.71, 3.70, 3.69, 3.68, 3.67, 3.66, 3.65, 3.64, 3.63, 3.62, 3.61, 3.60, 3.59, 3.58, 3.57, 3.56, 3.55, 3.54, 3.53, 3.52, 3.51, 3.50, 3.49, 3.48, 3.47, 3.46, 3.45, 3.44, 3.43, 3.42, 3.41, 3.40, 3.39, 3.38, 3.37, 3.36, 3.35, 3.34, 3.33, 3.32, 3.31, 3.30, 3.29, 3.28, 3.27, 3.26, 3.25, 3.24, 3.23, 3.22, 3.21, 3.20, 3.19, 3.18, 3.17, 3.16, 3.15, 3.14, 3.13, 3.12, 3.11, 3.10, 3.09, 3.08, 3.07, 3.06, 3.05, 3.04, 3.03, 3.02, 3.01, 3.00, 2.99, 2.98, 2.97, 2.96, 2.95, 2.94, 2.93, 2.92, 2.91, 2.90, 2.89, 2.88, 2.87, 2.86, 2.85, 2.84, 2.83, 2.82, 2.81, 2.80, 2.79, 2.78, 2.77, 2.76, 2.75, 2.74, 2.73, 2.72, 2.71, 2.70, 2.69, 2.68, 2.67, 2.66, 2.65, 2.64, 2.63, 2.62, 2.61, 2.60, 2.59, 2.58, 2.57, 2.56, 2.55, 2.54, 2.53, 2.52, 2.51,

2,7,9-trimethyl-9*H*-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole (4k):



9-benzyl-9*H*-dibenzo[*a,c*]carbazole (4l):



1-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indole (10)

