

# **Base Promoted Nitrile-Alkyne Domino-Type Cyclization: A General Method to Trisubstituted Imidazoles**

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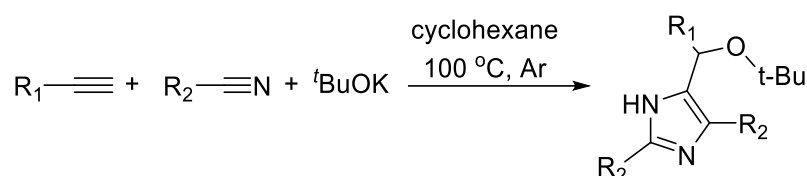
## 1. General Remarks

All commercially available organic compounds were purchased from adamas-beta, Alfa Asar, and accelachem in China. Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out under Ar atmosphere.

For Column chromatography, 200-300 mesh silica gel was employed. Analytical TLC was performed with silica gel GF254 plates.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz) were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  using TMS as internal standard. All new products were further characterized by high resolution mass spectra (HRMS); copies of their  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra are provided. All solvents (AR) were used directly. All reactions are heated with oil bath.

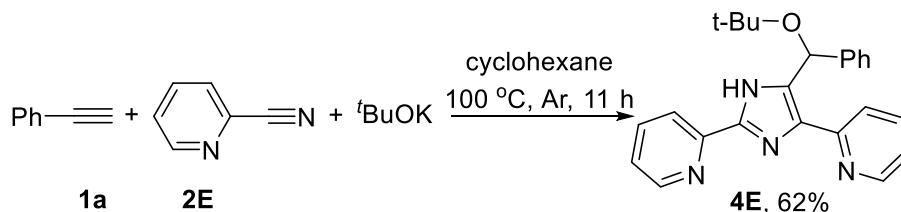
## 2. General Experimental Procedure

i) General experimental procedure for 0.2 mmol reaction.



An oven-dried tube was charged with alkyne (0.20 mmol), nitrile (0.40 mmol),  $\text{tBuOK}$  (2.5 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with Ar. Then, cyclohexane (1.5 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirring at 100  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 11 h. while the reaction finished, a small amount of silica gel was added into reaction system. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The aimed products of imidazoles were purified and isolated by flash column chromatography (acidic silica gel).

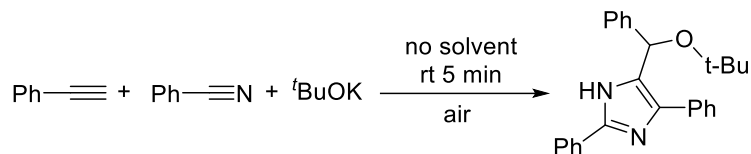
ii) General experimental procedure for synthesis of **4E** on 1.0 mmol scale reaction.



To a stirred solution of alkyne (**1a**, 1.0 equiv, 102 mg) and nitrile (**2E**, 4.0 equiv, 416 mg) in cyclohexane (20 mL) were added  $\text{tBuOK}$  (2.5 equiv, 280 mg) successively. The round bottom flask was evacuated and backfilled with Ar. The reaction mixture was stirring at 100  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 11 h. while the reaction finished, a small amount of silica gel was added into reaction system. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The aimed products of imidazoles were purified and isolated in 62% yield (238 mg)

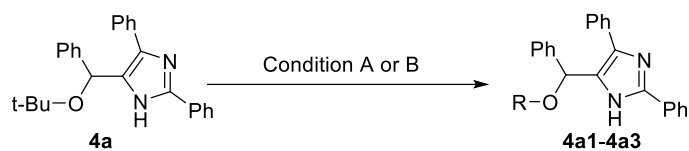
by flash column chromatography (acidic silica gel).

iii) General experimental procedure for solvent-free reactions.



A round bottom flask was charged with alkyne (1.0 equiv) and nitrile (4.0 equiv), And then <sup>t</sup>BuOK (2.5 equiv) was slowly added into the mixture with stirring. Then reaction system became thick and the stirring device could not continue to work well. Ethyl acetate and a little of silica gel was added into reaction system to help mix well. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The aimed products of imidazoles were purified and isolated by flash column chromatography (acidic silica gel).

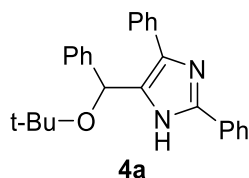
iv) General experimental procedure for synthesis of **4a1-4a3**.



Condition A: An oven-dried tube was charged with imidazole **4a** (0.20 mmol), concentrated hydrochloric acid and alcohol ( $V_{\text{HCl}}:V_{\text{ROH}} = 1:7$ ), The reaction mixture was stirring at 70 °C for 2 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The aimed products of imidazoles were purified and isolated by flash column chromatography.

Condition B: An oven-dried tube was charged with imidazole **4a** (0.20 mmol), ROH (5.0 equiv) concentrated hydrochloric acid and dichloromethane ( $V_{\text{HCl}}:V_{\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2} = 1:7$ ), The reaction mixture was stirring at 60 °C for 2 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The aimed products of imidazoles were purified and isolated by flash column chromatography.

### 3. Characterization Data of **4a-4y**, **4A-4E** and **4a1-4a3**.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(phenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**4a**)

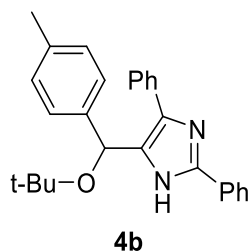
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 93% yield (71 mg, mp 200-202 °C.)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.45 – 7.33 (m, 9H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 1.18 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.7, 141.8, 138.5, 134.5, 130.0, 129.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 127.1, 126.9, 126.9, 125.1, 75.7, 67.6, 28.4.

**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 383.2118, found 383.2111.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3057, 2973, 1601, 1583, 1520, 1456, 1413, 1042, 1009, 772, 694.



**5-(tert-butoxy(p-tolyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4b)**

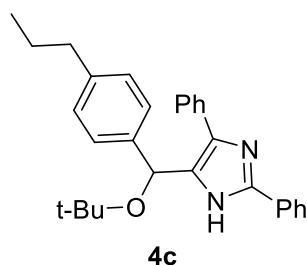
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 70% yield (55 mg, mp 144-146 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.62 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.66 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.30 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.6, 138.9, 138.2, 137.3, 134.5, 130.1, 130.0, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 125.1, 75.5, 67.5, 28.3, 21.0.

**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 397.2274, found 397.2273.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3053, 2974, 1606, 1583, 1493, 1457, 1390, 1190, 1043, 1008, 698.



**5-(tert-butoxy(4-propylphenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4c)**

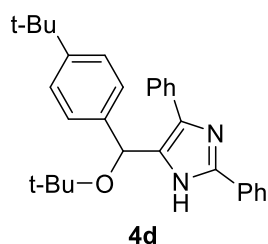
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow oil in 70% yield (58 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.54 (s, 1H), 7.89 – 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.68 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 2.57 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.62 (q,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (s, 9H), 0.93 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.6, 142.2, 139.0, 138.3, 134.6, 130.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 125.1, 75.6, 67.5, 37.6, 28.4, 24.5, 13.8.

**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 425.2587, found 425.2588.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3188, 2970, 1606, 1580, 1493, 1460, 1311, 1108, 1017, 696.



**5-(tert-butoxy(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4d)**

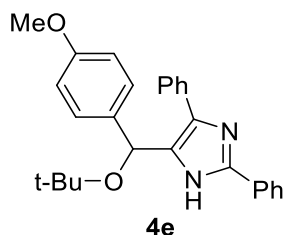
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a brown oil in 60% yield (53 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.60 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.24 (m, 10H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 1.30 (s, 9H), 1.15 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  150.5, 145.6, 138.8, 138.4, 134.6, 130.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.5, 127.1, 126.8, 126.6, 125.4, 125.1, 75.5, 67.4, 34.4, 31.3, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 439.2744, found 439.2742.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3208, 2966, 1697, 1606, 1493, 1447, 1365, 1266, 1191, 1017, 773, 737, 698.

**5-(tert-butoxy(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4e)**

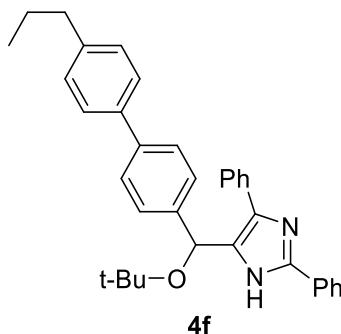
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a brown oil in 76% yield (62 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.74 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  159.0, 145.5, 138.1, 134.5, 133.9, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.2, 127.1, 126.8, 125.1, 113.9, 75.5, 67.3, 55.2, 28.4.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup> 413.2224, found 413.2221.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3060, 2970, 1608, 1585, 1511, 1461, 1248, 1174, 1031, 774, 736, 697.

**5-(tert-butoxy(4'-propyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4f)**

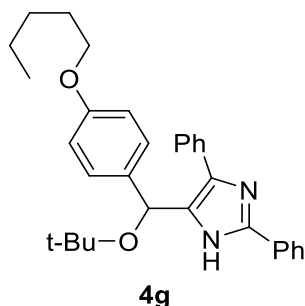
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (8:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a brown oil in 72% yield (72 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.67 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.55 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.38 (s, 4H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.65 (h, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (s, 9H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.7, 141.9, 140.5, 138.5, 138.0, 134.5, 131.4, 130.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0, 126.9, 126.8, 125.1, 75.7, 67.5, 37.6, 28.3, 24.4, 13.8.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 501.2900, found 501.2900.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3415, 3215, 2965, 1638, 1522, 1460, 1265, 739, 700.



**5-(tert-butoxy(4-(pentyloxy)phenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4g)**

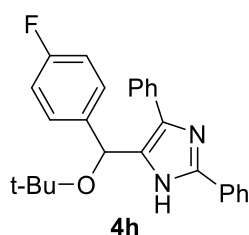
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (8:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a brown oil in 65% yield (61 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.63 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (p, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.46 – 1.32 (m, 4H), 1.16 (s, 9H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  158.7, 145.5, 138.2, 136.6, 134.5, 133.6, 130.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.1, 126.8, 125.1, 114.5, 75.6, 68.0, 67.4, 28.9, 28.4, 28.2, 22.4, 14.0.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup> 469.2850, found 469.2851.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3406, 3058, 2932, 1686, 1608, 1584, 1510, 1461, 1395, 1248, 1027, 774, 738, 697.



**5-(tert-butoxy(4-fluorophenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4h)**

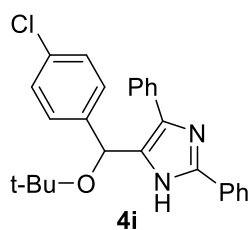
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 68% yield (54 mg, mp 132-134 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.48 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 2H), 7.43 – 7.25 (m, 8H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 1.17 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  162.2 (d, *J* = 244.1 Hz), 145.7, 138.4, 137.6, 134.4, 130.0, 129.6 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 128.8, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.6, 127.1 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 125.2, 115.3 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz), 75.8, 67.2, 28.4.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 401.2024, found 401.2025.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3400, 3036, 1604, 1592, 1493, 1299, 1092, 772, 719, 695.



**5-(tert-butoxy(4-chlorophenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4i)**

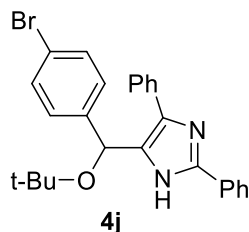
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 58% yield (48 mg, mp 172-174 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.52 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 5H), 7.34 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 1.16 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.9, 140.5, 138.5, 134.3, 133.5, 129.9, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.6, 128.3, 127.1, 127.1, 125.2, 75.9, 67.1, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 417.1728, found 417.1729.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3056, 2976, 1665, 1490, 1459, 1395, 1367, 1183, 1045, 1009, 772, 701.



**5-((4-bromophenyl)(tert-butoxy)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4j)**

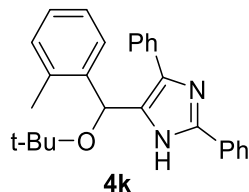
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 74% yield (68 mg, mp 160-162 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.43 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 8H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 1.17 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.8, 141.0, 138.5, 134.4, 131.6, 129.9, 129.2, 128.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.1, 127.1, 125.2, 121.7, 75.9, 67.2, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 461.1223, found 461.1227.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3163, 2980, 1682, 1492, 1392, 1160, 1046, 739, 695.



**5-(tert-butoxy(o-tolyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4k)**

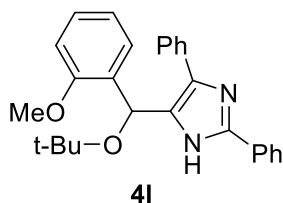
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow oil in 63% yield (50 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.32 (s, 1H), 7.82 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 3H), 7.38 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.14 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  151.0, 143.7, 138.8, 137.0, 136.2, 135.8, 134.9, 130.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.4, 128.4, 127.5, 127.3, 126.9, 125.0, 75.2, 66.0, 28.5, 20.7.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 397.2274, found 397.2272.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3435, 3059, 2971, 2922, 1669, 1609, 1490, 1460, 1265, 773, 737, 697.



**5-(tert-butoxy(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4l)**

The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc)

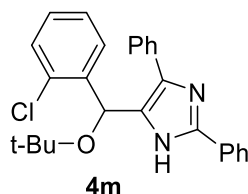
on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 76% yield (62 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.63 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.30 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  155.8, 144.8, 137.4, 135.0, 130.8, 130.2, 129.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 126.4, 125.0, 120.8, 110.9, 75.3, 63.1, 55.1, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup> 413.2224, found 413.2221.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3409, 3059, 2971, 2837, 1705, 1600, 1492, 1367, 1204, 774, 737, 697.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(2-chlorophenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4m)

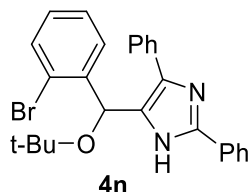
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid 75% yield (62 mg, mp 128-130 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.47 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (s, 2H), 7.38 – 7.22 (m, 9H), 7.19 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 1.13 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.5, 140.1, 136.0, 133.4, 132.1, 129.9, 129.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 128.1, 127.0, 126.9, 125.3, 75.8, 65.8, 28.5.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 417.1728, found 417.1730.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3447, 3065, 2973, 1581, 1568, 1493, 1456, 1390, 1366, 1191, 1005, 754, 733, 693.



#### 5-((2-bromophenyl)(tert-butoxy)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4n)

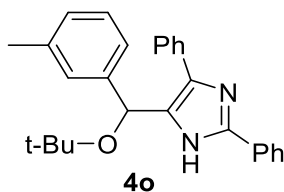
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 54% yield (50 mg, mp 170-172 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.47 (s, 1H), 7.88 – 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 – 7.67 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 5H), 7.36 – 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.29 – 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 1.17 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.68, 141.93, 138.51, 134.63, 130.13, 129.91, 128.85, 128.69, 128.57, 127.69, 127.21, 126.98 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 125.19, 77.37, 77.05, 76.73, 67.70, 28.44.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 461.1223, found 461.1226.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3447, 3065, 2973, 1581, 1568, 1493, 1456, 1390, 1366, 1191, 1005, 754, 733, 693.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(m-tolyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4o)

The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc)



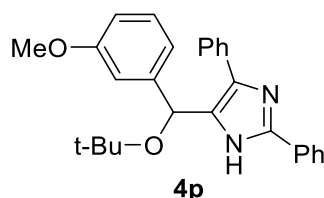
on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow oil in 75% yield (59 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.57 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.6, 141.8, 138.4, 138.3, 134.6, 130.1, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.5, 128.5, 127.6, 127.2, 126.9, 125.1, 124.1, 75.7, 67.7, 28.4, 21.6.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 397.2274, found 397.2273.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3407, 3057, 2974, 1702, 1606, 1587, 1491, 1461, 1265, 1051, 773, 737, 697.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(3-methoxyphenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4p)

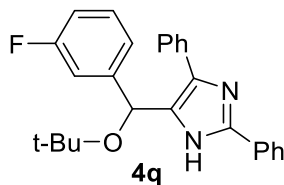
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 52% yield (43 mg, mp 151-153 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.68 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.23 (m, 7H), 7.00 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  159.7, 145.7, 143.6, 138.4, 134.5, 130.0, 129.5, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.2, 126.9, 125.1, 119.1, 112.8, 112.6, 75.6, 67.5, 55.1, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup> 413.2224, found 413.2221.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3063, 2973, 1610, 1587, 1491, 1457, 1263, 1192, 1043, 1020, 912, 771, 695.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(3-fluorophenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4q)

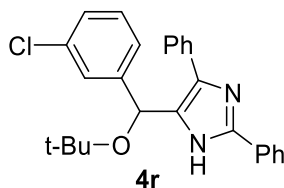
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow oil in 60% yield (48mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.41 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 5H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.99 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 1.17 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  163.1 (d, *J* = 246.4 Hz), 145.9, 144.7 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 138.7, 134.5, 130.1, 130.0 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.2, 127.1, 125.2, 122.4 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 114.6 (d, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 113.9 (d, *J* = 22.4 Hz), 76.0, 67.1, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 401.2024, found 401.2023.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3413, 3062, 2968, 1688, 1574, 1476, 1414, 1390, 1254, 1188, 1047, 966, 786, 695.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(3-chlorophenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4r)

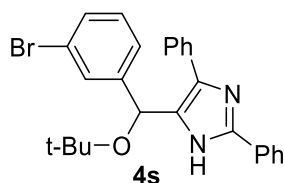
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 53% yield (44 mg, mp 196-198 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.44 (s, 1H), 7.89 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 1.17 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.9, 144.1, 138.7, 134.6, 134.4, 129.9, 129.8, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.9, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 125.2, 125.0, 76.0, 67.1, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 417.1728, found 417.1727.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3065, 2974, 1699, 1597, 1574, 1493, 1475, 1457, 1367, 1182, 1047, 904, 771, 735, 695.



#### 5-((3-bromophenyl)(tert-butoxy)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4s)

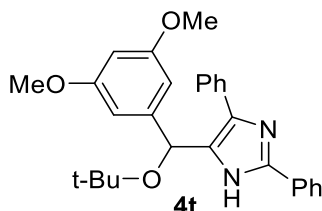
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a brown oil in 57% yield (52 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.52 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 3H), 7.45 – 7.36 (m, 6H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 1.16 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  146.0, 144.2, 138.7, 134.3, 130.8, 130.1, 129.9, 129.8, 129.0, 128.8, 128.8, 128.8, 128.6, 127.1, 125.5, 125.2, 122.8, 76.0, 67.0, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 461.1223, found 461.1230.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3438, 3064, 2973, 1719, 1592, 1571, 1461, 1368, 1190, 1070, 909, 773, 732, 696.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4t)

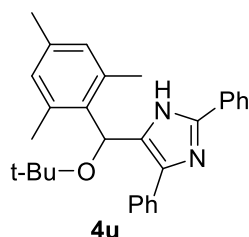
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (5:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a brown oil in 73% yield (65 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.55 (s, 1H), 7.89 – 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.35 (d,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 6.57 (s, 2H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 6H), 1.16 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  160.9, 145.6, 144.5, 138.4, 134.6, 130.0, 129.7, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.2, 126.9, 125.1, 104.9, 99.1, 75.7, 67.5, 55.2, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>H<sup>+</sup> 443.2329, found 443.2272.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3419, 3059, 2971, 1705, 1596, 1460, 1427, 1203, 1154, 1059, 927, 774, 736, 697.



**5-(tert-butoxy(mesityl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4u)**

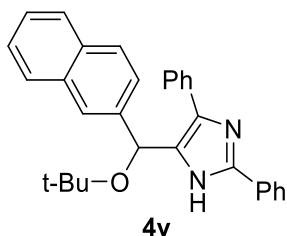
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a brown oil in 50% yield (42 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.30 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 6.72 (s, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.3, 141.2, 140.6, 135.0, 130.9, 130.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.3, 128.0, 127.5, 127.0, 126.1, 125.2, 75.5, 69.2, 31.2, 28.7, 19.7.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 425.2587, found 425.2584.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3417, 3059, 2970, 1663, 1604, 1491, 1460, 1395, 1029, 909, 772, 731, 696.



**5-(tert-butoxy(naphthalen-2-yl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4v)**

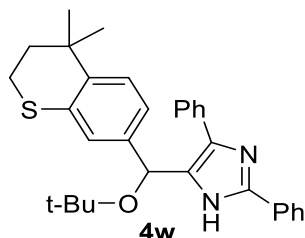
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (5:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 58% yield (50 mg, mp 182-184 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.64 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 4H), 7.70 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.28 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 1.20 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.8, 139.3, 138.6, 134.5, 133.2, 132.8, 130.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.5, 127.2, 127.0, 127.0, 125.6, 125.1, 124.5, 120.3, 75.8, 67.9, 28.4.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 433.2274, found 433.2272.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3427, 3057, 2970, 1600, 1579, 1495, 1458, 1390, 1363, 1190, 1052, 884, 776, 702.

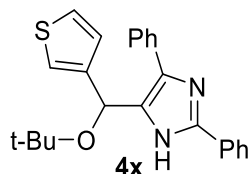


**5-(tert-butoxy(4,4-dimethylthiochroman-7-yl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4w)**

The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow oil in 65% yield (63 mg).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.58 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 2H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 3.00 – 2.87 (m, 2H), 1.93 – 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.5, 142.0, 138.2, 137.6, 134.6, 131.3, 130.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.2, 126.9, 126.6, 125.1, 125.1, 124.5, 124.3, 75.6, 67.6, 37.6, 33.0, 30.2, 28.4, 23.0.  
**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OSH<sup>+</sup> 483.2465, found 483.2465.  
**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3417, 3063, 2929, 1715, 1591, 1460, 1368, 1363, 1190, 1070, 1052, 884, 773, 700, 696.



**5-(tert-butoxy(thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4x)**

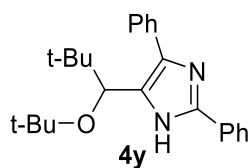
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 49% yield (38 mg, mp 110-112 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.47 (s, 1H), 7.91 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.69 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 1.17 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  145.6, 143.5, 137.8, 134.4, 130.0, 129.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 126.4, 125.1, 122.5, 76.7, 64.8, 28.3.

**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OSH<sup>+</sup> 389.1682, found 389.1684.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3057, 2922, 1687, 1603, 1491, 1460, 1446, 1401, 1235, 1072, 838, 772, 695.



**5-(1-(tert-butoxy)-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4y)**

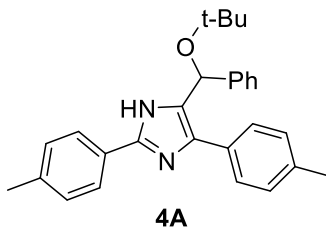
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 54% yield (39 mg, mp 118-120 °C).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.37 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 1.16 (s, 9H), 0.88 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  144.3, 137.9, 135.6, 130.1, 130.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.4, 126.6, 125.0, 74.4, 73.3, 37.3, 28.5, 26.4.

**HRMS (ESI)**  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 363.2431, found 363.2428.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)**  $\nu$ : 3337, 2974, 1607, 1494, 1462, 1390, 1366, 1237, 1191, 1069, 1029, 774, 697.



**5-(tert-butoxy(phenyl)methyl)-2,4-di-p-tolyl-1H-imidazole (4A)**

The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 40% yield (33 mg, mp 160-162 °C).

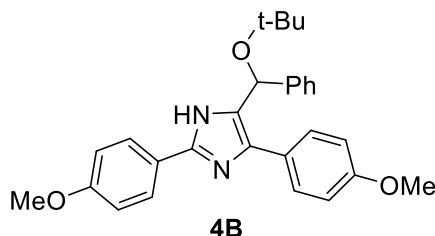
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)**  $\delta$  9.40 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H),

7.41 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 2.37 (d,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, 6H), 1.17 (s, 9H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  145.7 , 142.0 , 138.6 , 138.4 , 136.5 , 131.7 , 129.5 , 129.2 , 129.0 , 128.8 , 128.5 , 127.6 , 127.3 , 127.0 , 125.0 , 75.6 , 67.6 , 28.4 , 21.3 , 21.2 .

HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{H}^+$  411.2431, found 411.2431.

IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  $\nu$ : 3440, 2973, 2923, 1618, 1509, 1492, 1449, 1389, 1369, 1190, 1050, 1020, 909, 823, 731, 697.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(phenyl)methyl)-2,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazole (4B)

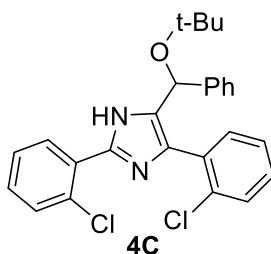
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (5:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 53% yield (47 mg, mp 110-112 °C).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  9.47 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.94 – 6.92 (m, 4H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 9H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  159.9 , 158.6 , 145.6 , 142.0 , 138.1 , 128.5 , 128.4 , 127.5 , 127.3 , 126.9 , 126.6 , 123.0 , 114.1 , 113.9 , 99.9 , 75.6 , 67.5 , 55.3 , 55.2 , 28.3 .

HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{H}^+$  443.2329, found 443.2326.

IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  $\nu$ : 3442, 2973, 2837, 2251, 1615, 1509, 1442, 1390, 1368, 1292, 1177, 1035, 909, 836, 732, 649.



#### 5-(tert-butoxy(phenyl)methyl)-2,4-bis(2-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazole (4C)

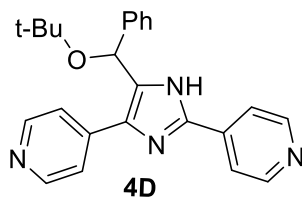
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow oil in 49% yield (44 mg).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  10.30 (s, 1H), 8.27 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.12 (m, 10H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 1.10 (s, 9H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  142.3 , 142.0 , 135.1 , 133.9 , 133.6 , 132.4 , 131.5 , 130.6 , 130.4 , 129.5 , 129.3 , 129.0 , 128.3 , 128.0 , 127.7 , 127.4 , 127.3 , 126.9 , 126.5 , 75.6 , 68.1 , 28.4 .

HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{H}^+$  451.1338, found 451.1339.

IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  $\nu$ : 3446, 3064, 2974, 1601, 1569, 1472, 1452, 1391, 1367, 1220, 1188, 1050, 908, 762, 732, 698, 647.



**4,4'-(5-(tert-butoxy(phenyl)methyl)-1H-imidazole-2,4-diyl)dipyridine (4D)**

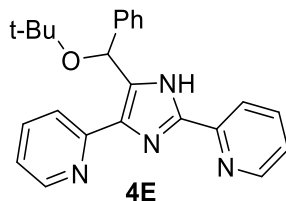
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (5:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 58% yield (45 mg, mp 208-210 °C)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 12.68 (s, 1H), 8.56 – 8.52 (m, 4H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 1.16 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 149.9, 149.6, 144.4, 142.2, 141.0, 137.5, 136.3, 135.2, 128.5, 127.7, 126.6, 121.3, 119.6, 75.8, 67.5, 28.2.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>4</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 385.2023, found 385.2020.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)** ν: 3370, 2944, 2833, 1607, 1449, 1421, 1027, 836, 739, 697.



**2,2'-(5-(tert-butoxy(phenyl)methyl)-1H-imidazole-2,4-diyl)dipyridine (4E)**

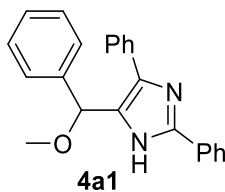
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (5:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a yellow solid in 69% yield (53 mg, mp 200-202 °C)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 10.44 (s, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 7.14 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 1.26 (s, 9H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 154.6, 148.9, 148.8, 148.4, 144.9, 143.1, 136.8, 136.5, 136.2, 135.9, 128.1, 126.8, 126.3, 123.0, 120.9, 120.1, 119.7, 75.5, 67.2, 28.4.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>4</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 385.2023, found 385.2018.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)** ν: 3368, 2953, 2834, 1655, 1581, 1508, 1388, 1115, 1027, 836, 733, 697.



**5-(methoxy(phenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4a1)**

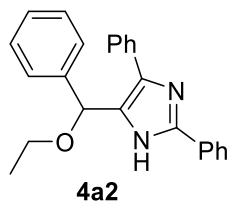
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a white solid in 97% yield (66 mg, mp 168-170 °C)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 9.41 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (s, 2H), 7.43 – 7.28 (m, 11H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 146.1, 139.8, 134.4, 133.3, 130.9, 129.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.0, 127.7, 127.2, 127.0, 125.4, 65.6, 56.9.

**HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 341.1648, found 341.1646.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)** v: 3415, 3060, 2930, 2821, 1720, 1703, 1603, 1586, 1493, 1460, 1398, 1265, 1073, 911, 772, 736, 697.



**5-(ethoxy(phenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4a2)**

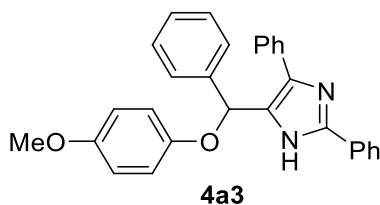
The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a white solid in 95% yield (67 mg, mp 154-156 °C)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 7.83 – 7.81 (m, 2H), 7.65 (s, 2H), 7.43– 7.23 (m, 11H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 3.59 – 3.47(m, 2H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 146.0, 140.2, 138.8, 133.4, 129.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.7, 127.1, 126.9, 125.3, 75.1, 64.7, 15.2.

**HRMS (ESI) *m/z*** Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup> 355.1805, found 355.1802.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)** v: 3059, 2929, 1602, 1586, 1510, 1460, 1398, 1280, 1089, 1072, 1028, 771, 695.



**5-((4-methoxyphenoxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (4a3)**

The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (10:1 of Petroleum ether:EtOAc) on silica gel to provide the title compound as a brown oil in 88% yield (76 mg)

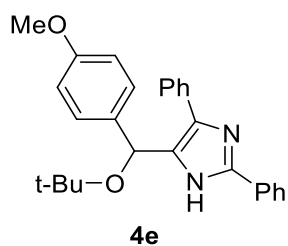
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 10.17 (s, 1H), 7.67 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 7.16 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 – 6.70 (m, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 153.0, 149.7, 145.1, 141.9, 130.6, 129.7, 129.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 127.5, 126.2, 125.2, 120.6, 117.7, 113.2, 55.8, 48.0.

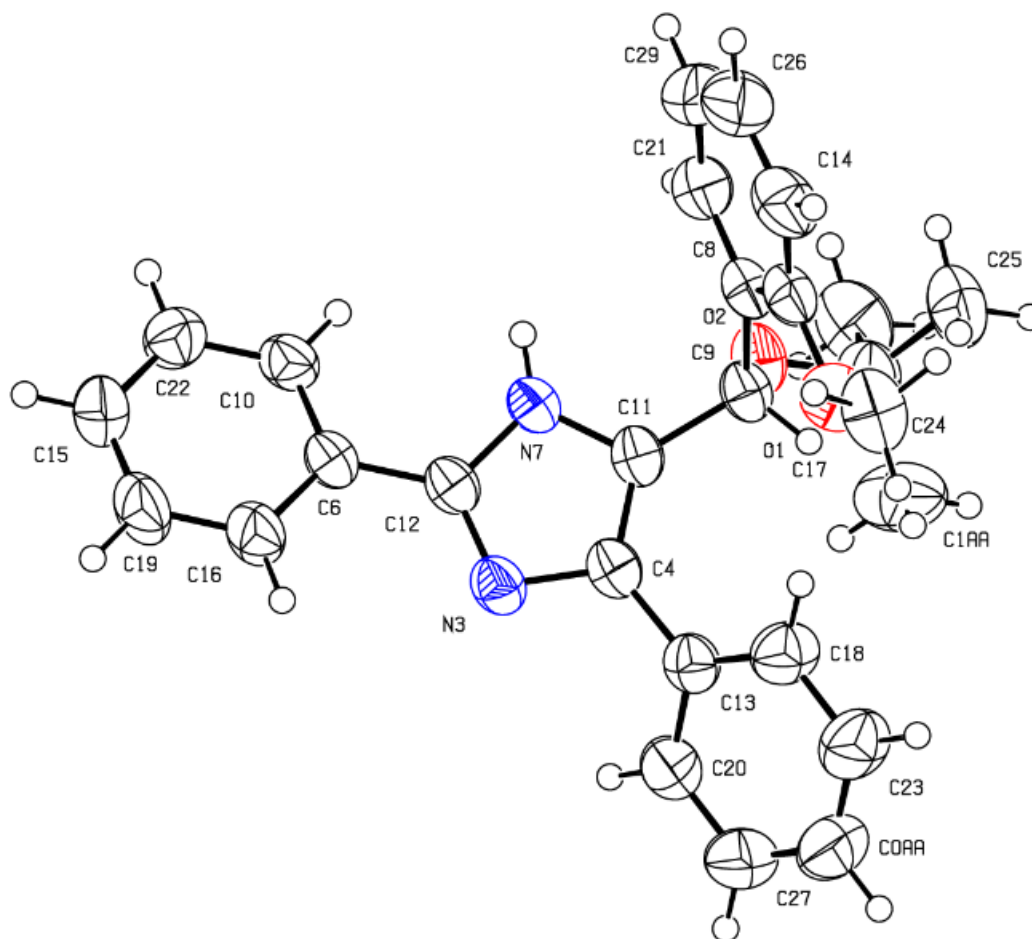
**HRMS (ESI) *m/z*** Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup> 433.1911, found 433.1908.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)** v: 3426, 3055, 2962, 1722, 1602, 1586, 1511, 1459, 1398, 1264, 1124, 1028, 912, 773, 739, 700.

#### 4. Crystallographic Data of 4e and 4v.



CCDC:1961141



#### Datablock: 4e

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0028 Å		Wavelength=1.54184
Cell:	a=10.7812(4)	b=19.7870(7)	c=10.8434(4)
	alpha=90	beta=99.281(3)	gamma=90
Temperature: 292 K			
	Calculated	Reported	
Volume	2282.92(15)	2282.93(15)	
Space group	P 21/c	P 1 21/c 1	
Hall group	-P 2ybc	-P 2ybc	



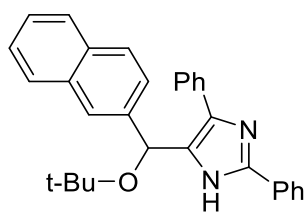
Moiety formula	C27 H28 N2 O2	C27 H28 N2 O2
Sum formula	C27 H28 N2 O2	C27 H28 N2 O2
Mr	412.51	412.51
Dx,g cm-3	1.200	1.200
Z	4	4
Mu (mm-1)	0.596	0.596
F000	880.0	880.0
F000'	882.46	
h,k,lmax	12,23,12	12,23,12
Nref	4032	3945
Tmin,Tmax	0.909,0.931	0.780,1.000
Tmin'	0.909	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.780 Tmax=1.000 AbsCorr =  
MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.978                      Theta(max)= 66.579

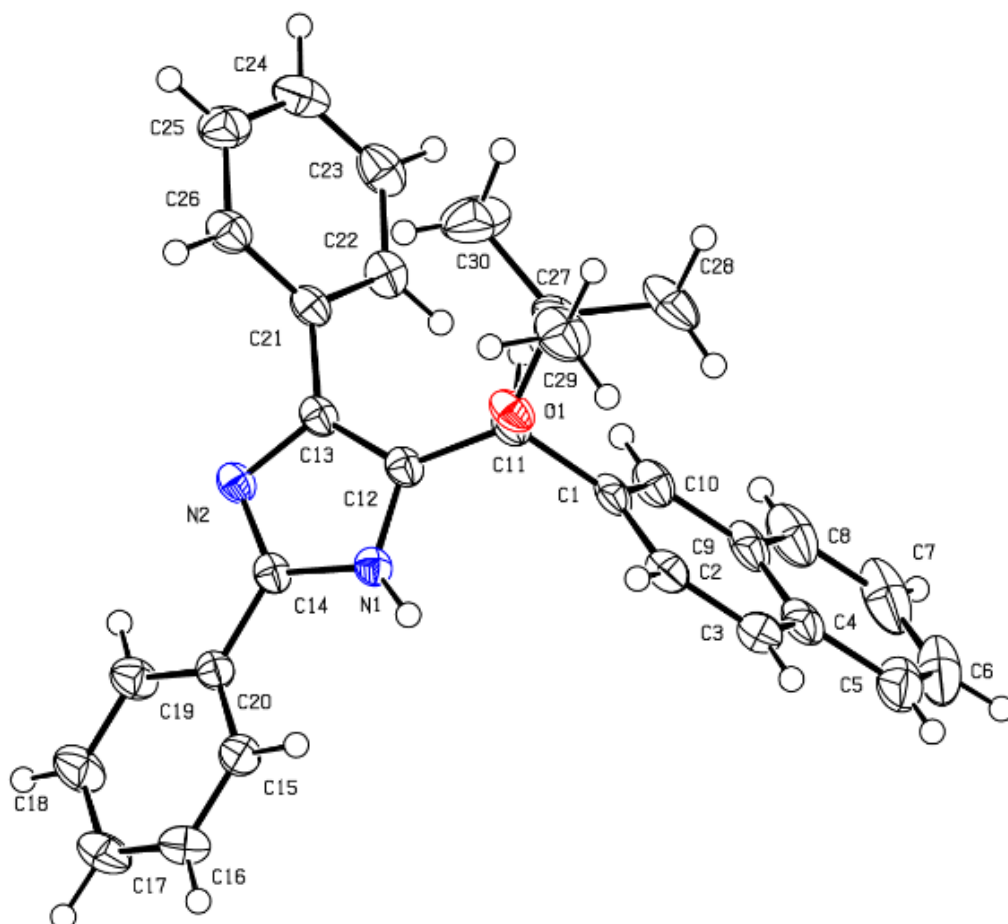
R(reflections)= 0.0469( 3062)                      wR2(reflections)= 0.1369( 3945)

S = 1.024                      Npar= 284



**4v**

CCDC:1961140



## Datablock: 4v

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0025 Å	Wavelength=1.54184
Cell:	a=11.0585(2)	b=20.8807(5) c=10.2359(2)
	alpha=90	beta=101.3355(8) gamma=90
Temperature: 153 K		
	Calculated	Reported
Volume	2317.46(8)	2317.46(8)
Space group	P 21/a	P 21/a 1
Hall group	-P 2yab	-P 2yab
Moiety formula	C30 H28 N2 O	C30 H28 N2 O
Sum formula	C30 H28 N2 O	C30 H28 N2 O

Mr	432.54	432.54
Dx,g cm-3	1.240	1.240
Z	4	4
Mu (mm-1)	0.581	0.581
F000	920.0	920.0
F000'	922.47	
h,k,lmax	13,24,12	12,24,12
Nref	4090	3925
Tmin,Tmax	0.901,0.922	0.689,0.753
Tmin'	0.875	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.689 Tmax=0.753 AbsCorr =  
MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.960

Theta(max)= 66.562

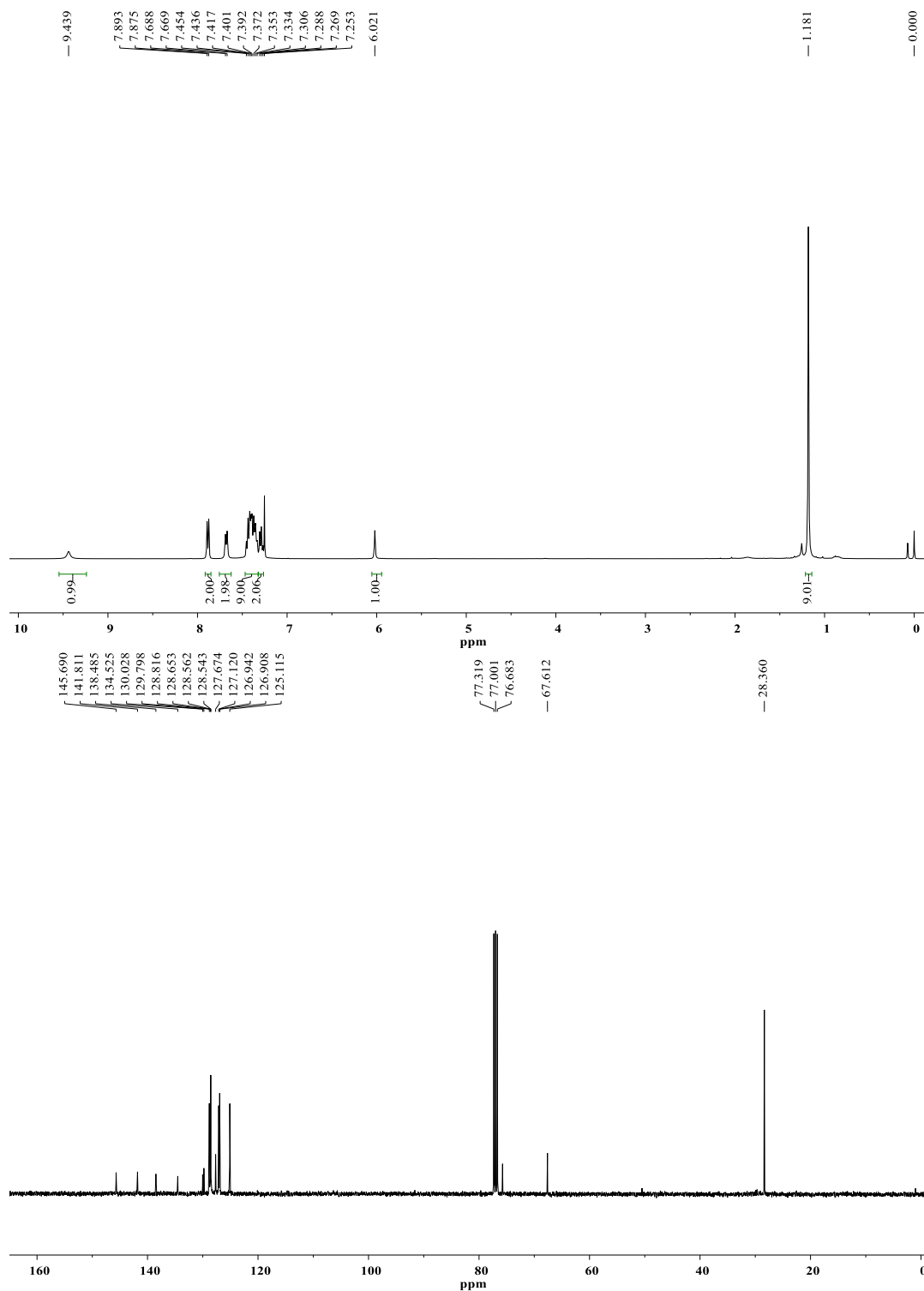
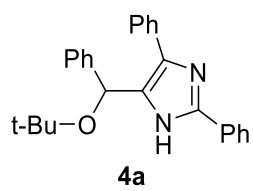
R(reflections)= 0.0478( 3679)

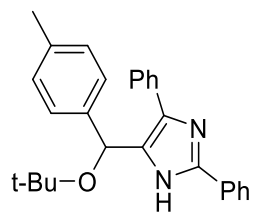
wR2(reflections)= 0.1261( 3925)

S = 1.048

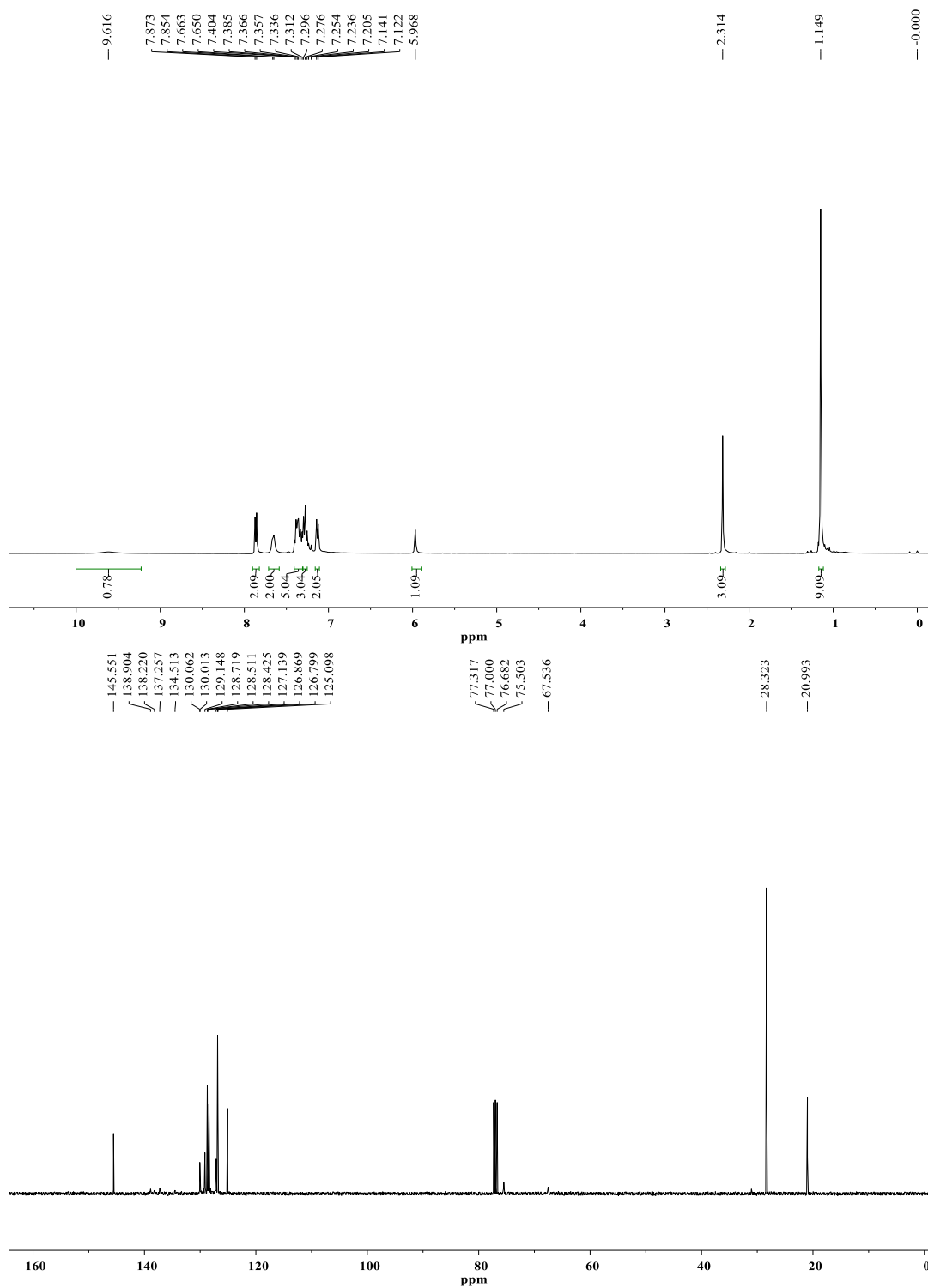
Npar= 305

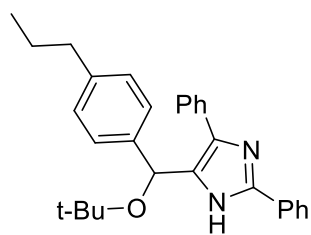
## 5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra for Substrates 4a-4y, 4A, 4B and 4a1-4a3.



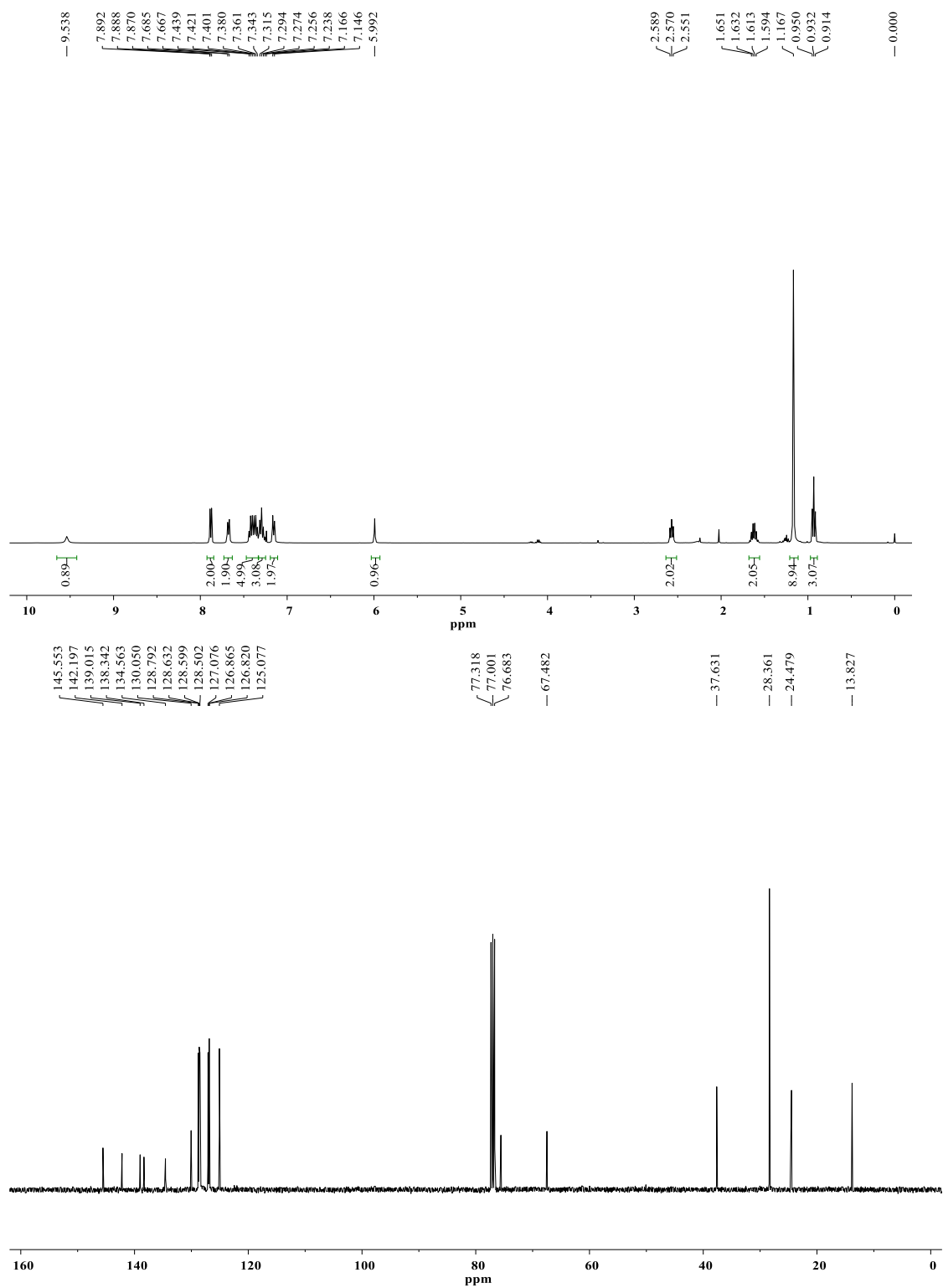


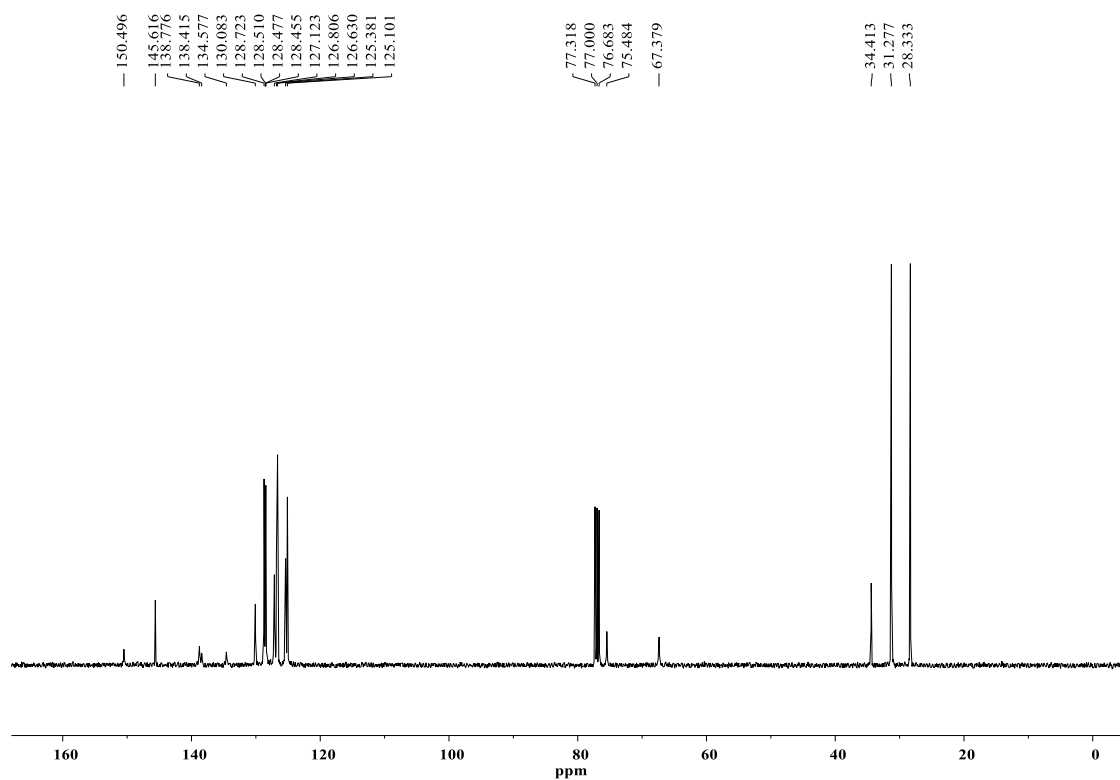
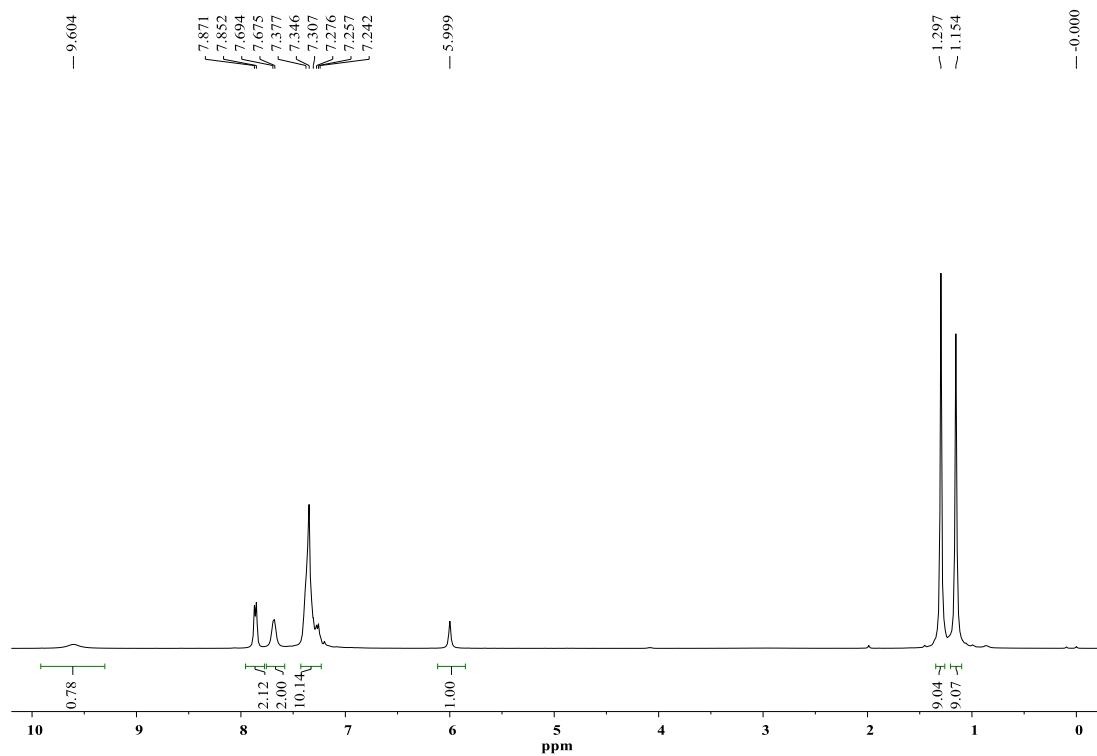
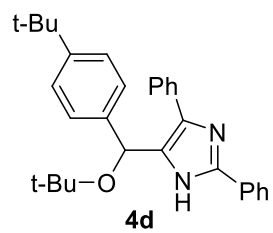
**4b**

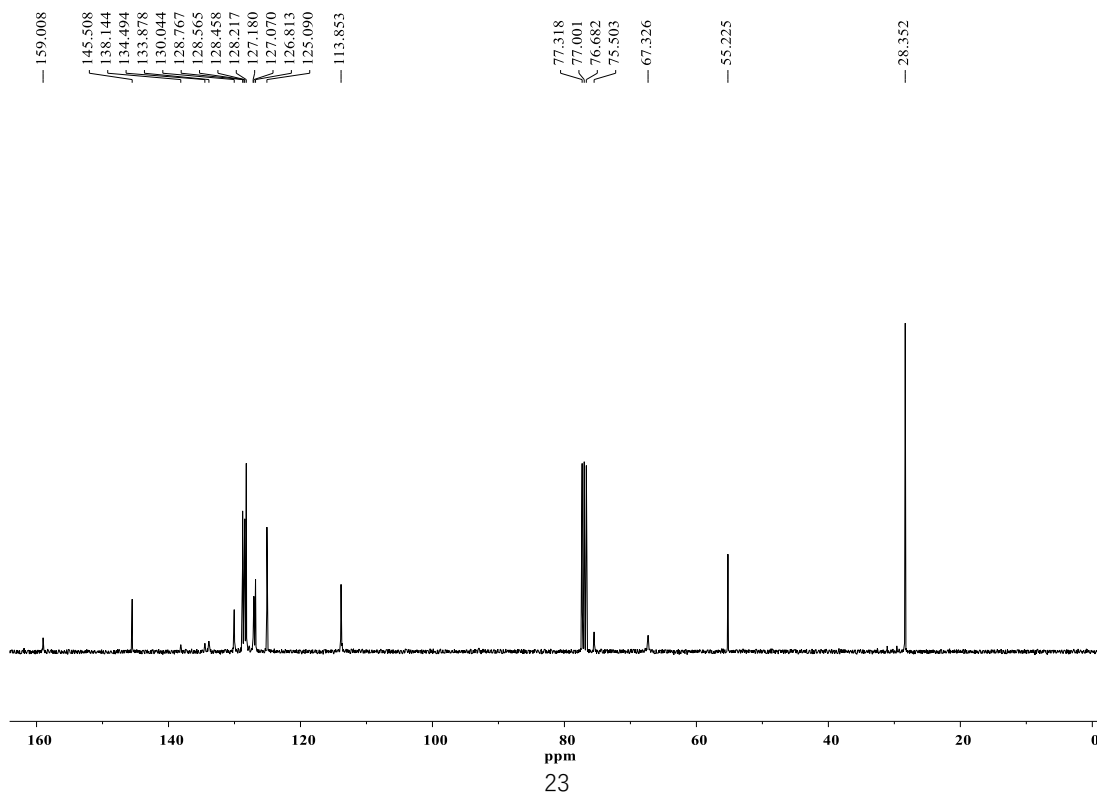
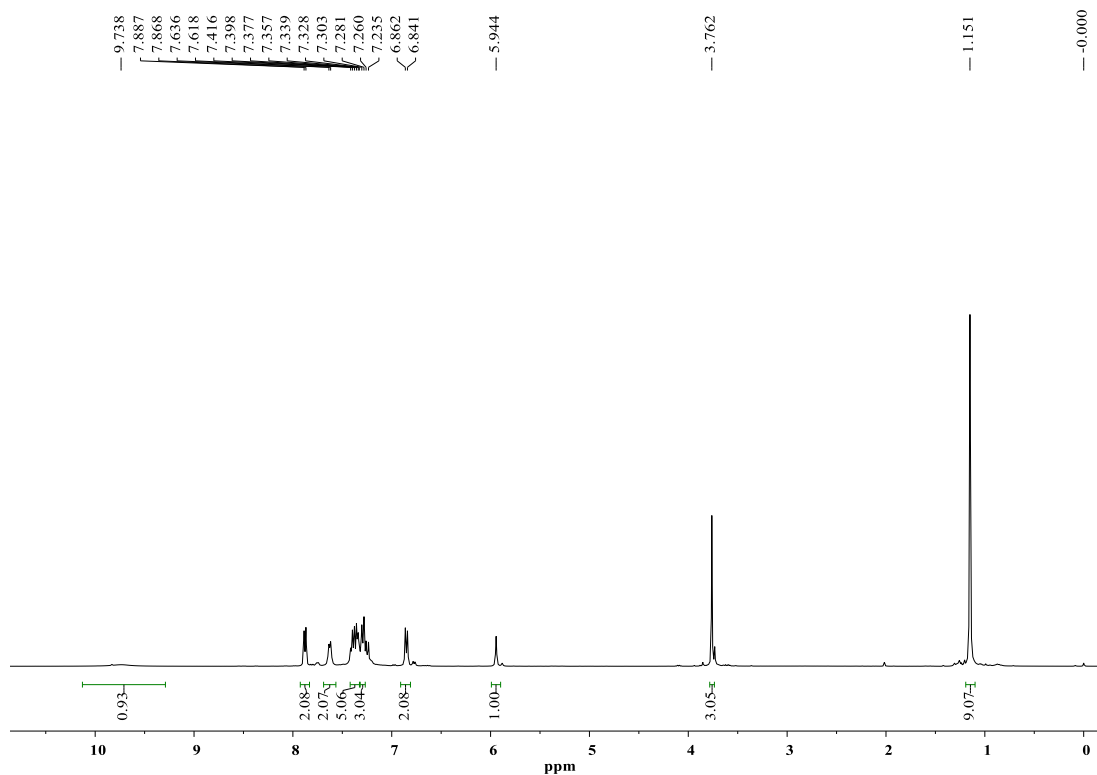
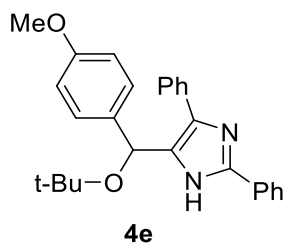




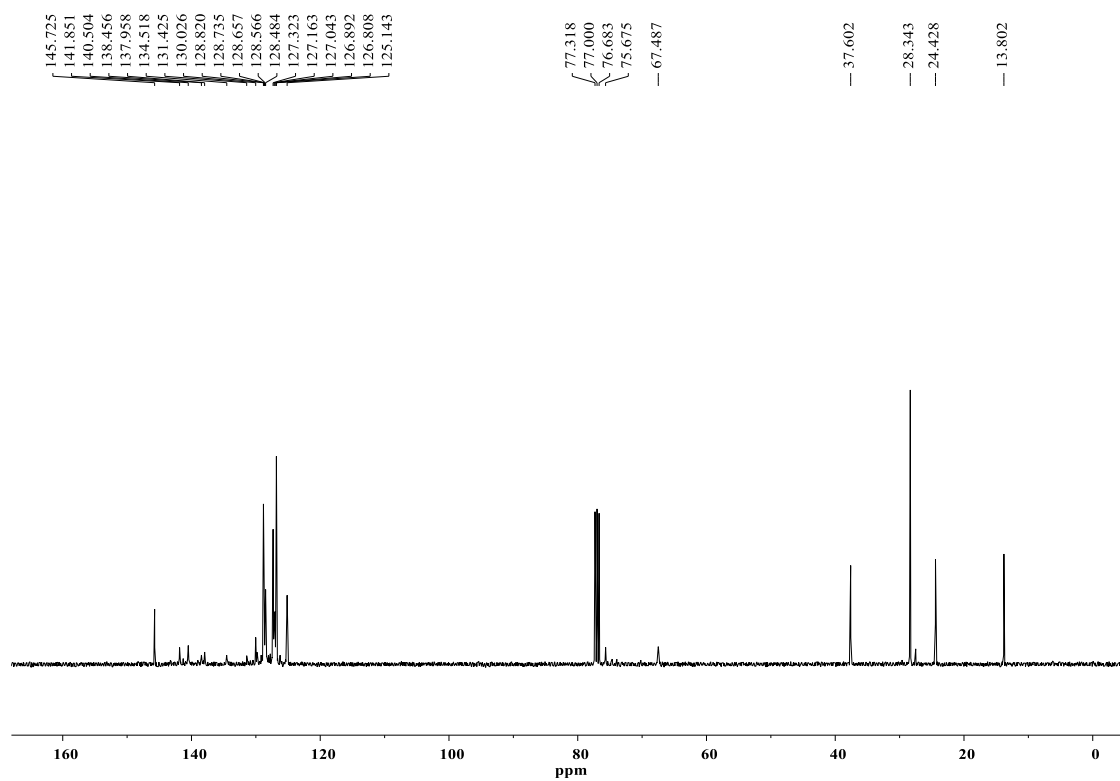
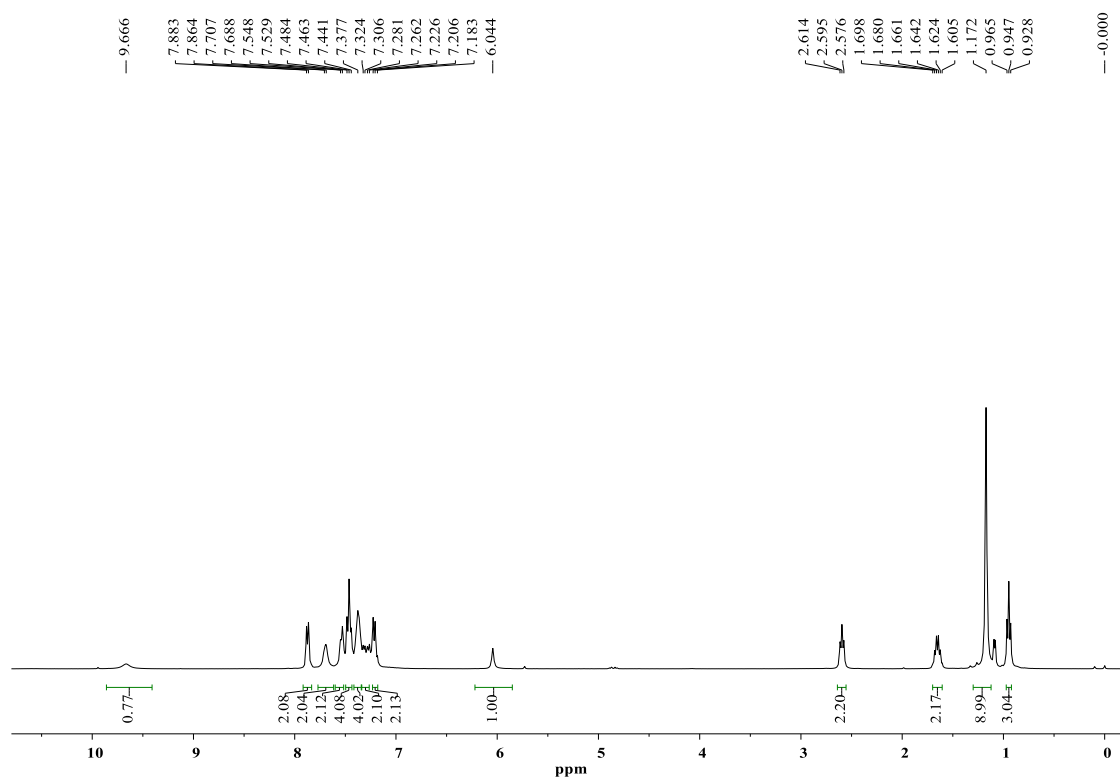
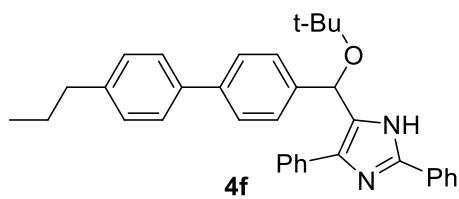
**4c**

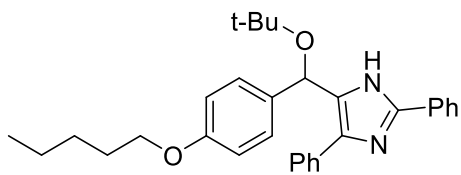




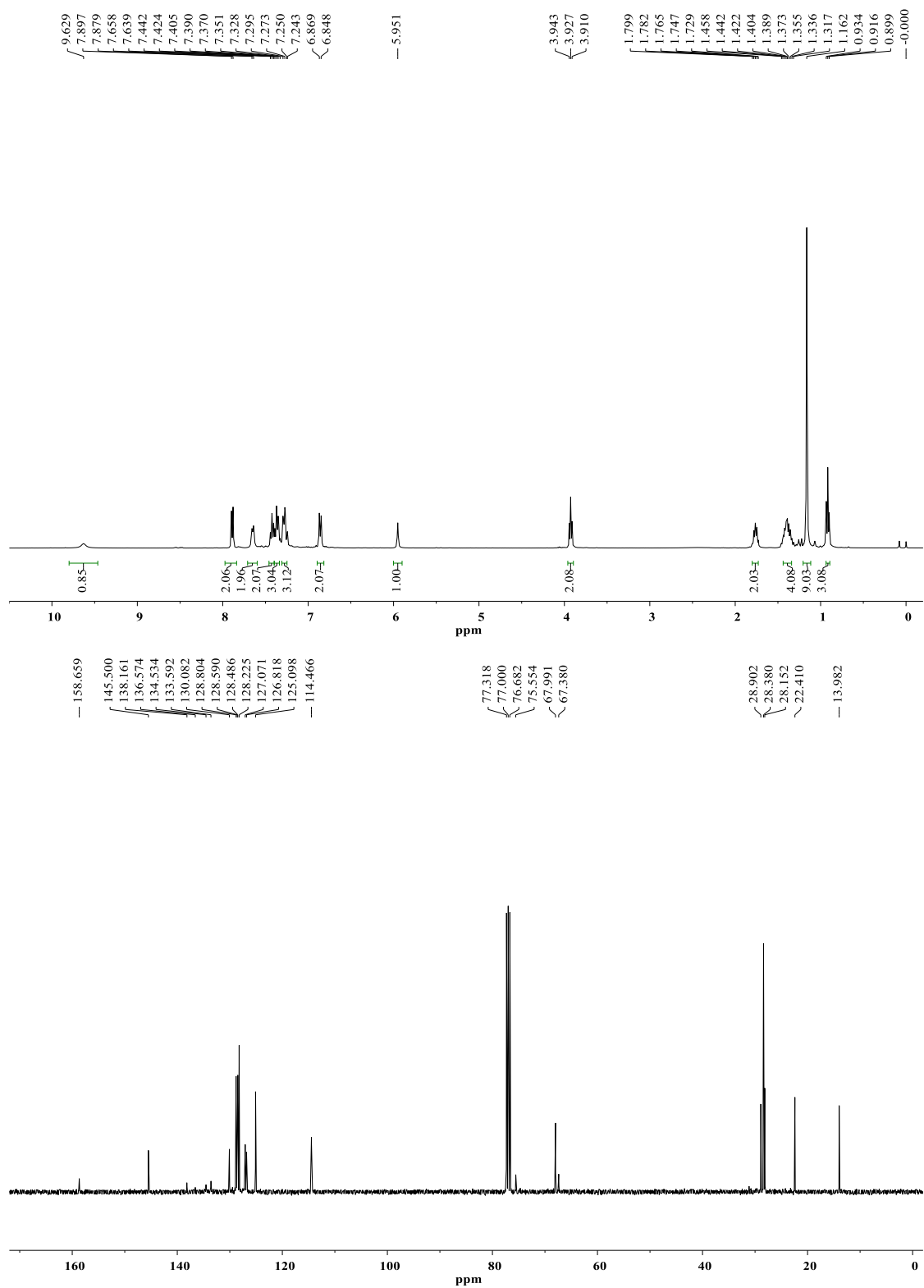


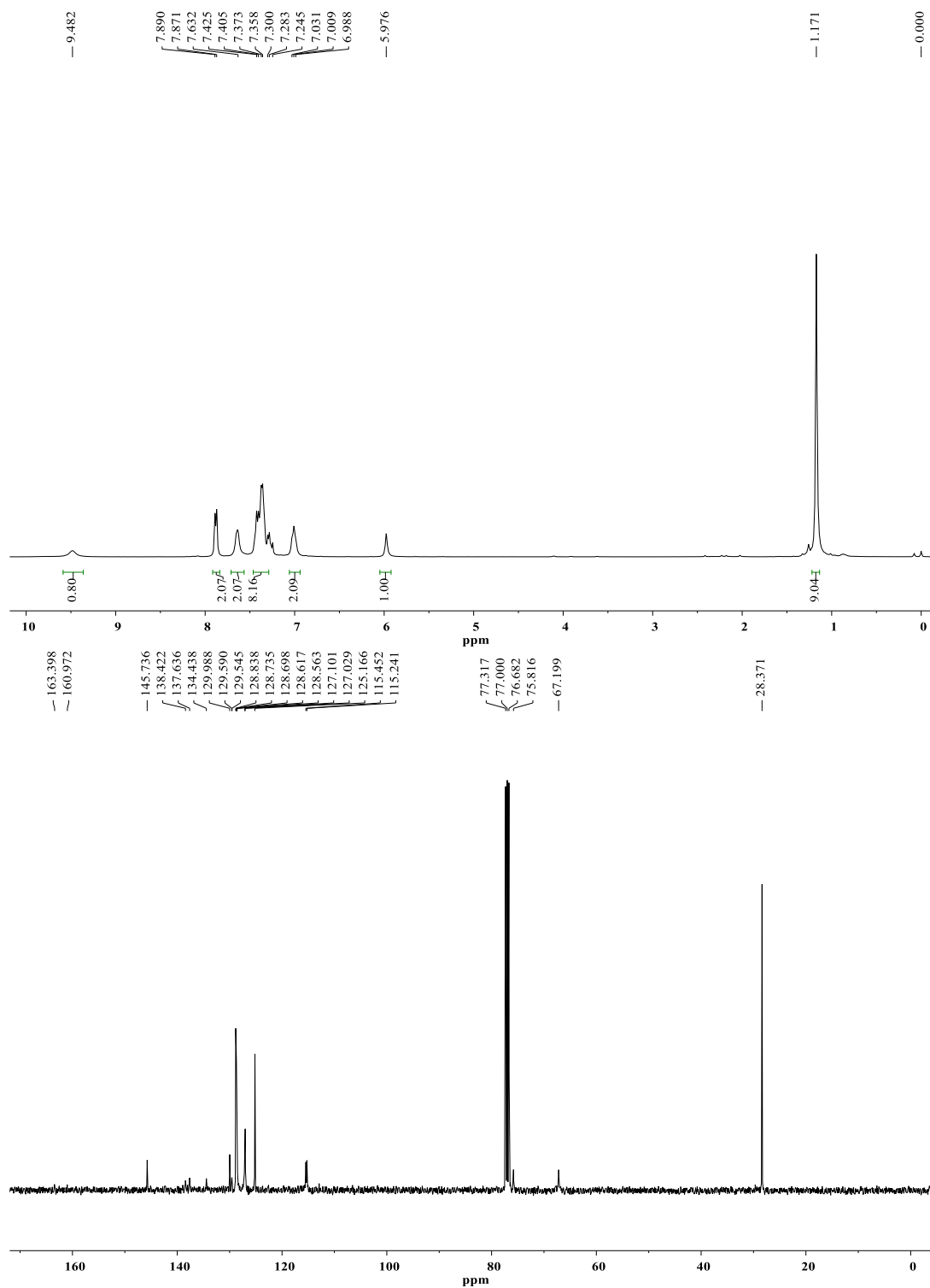
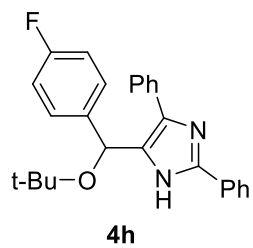


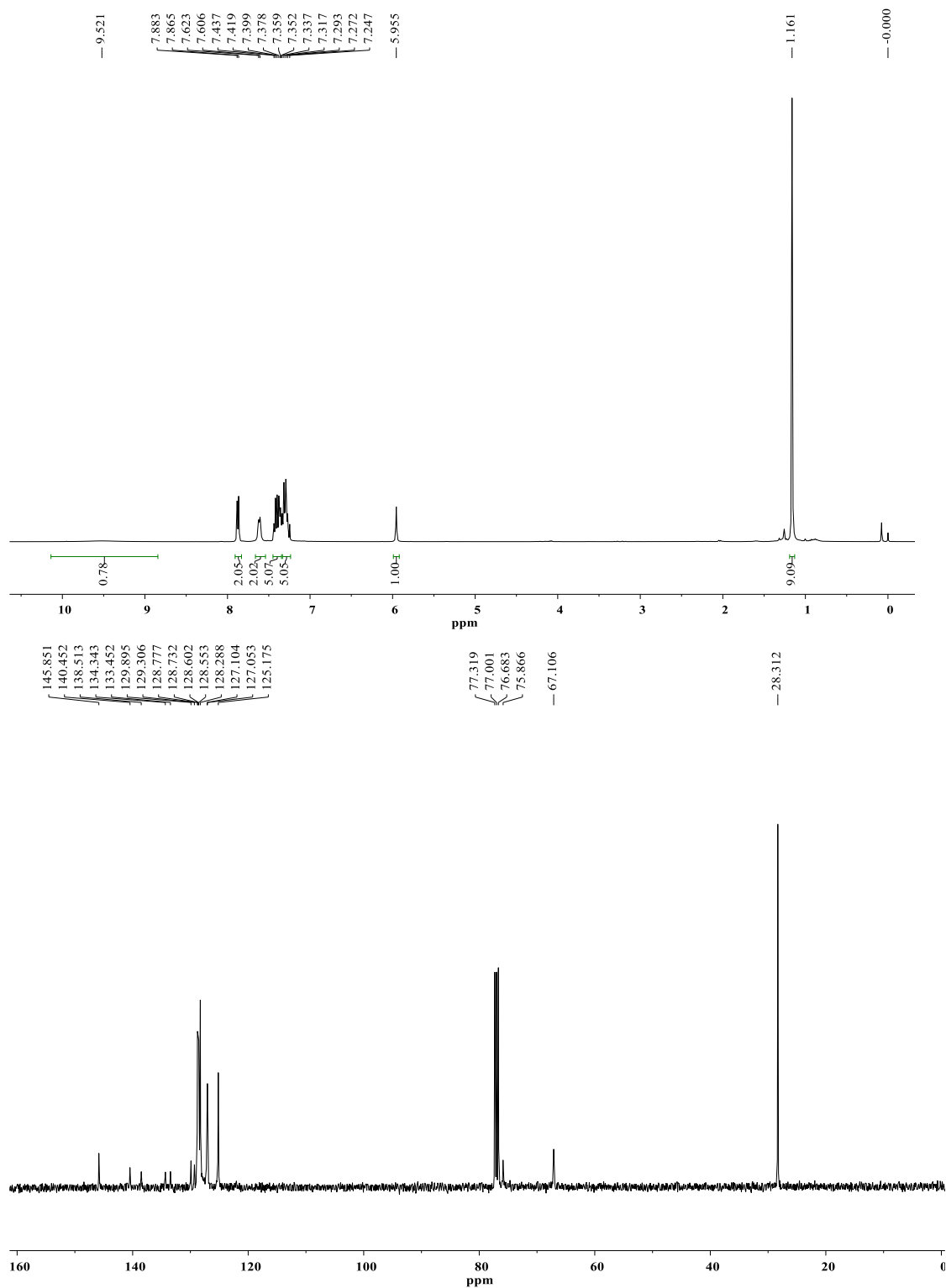
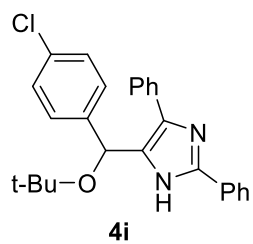


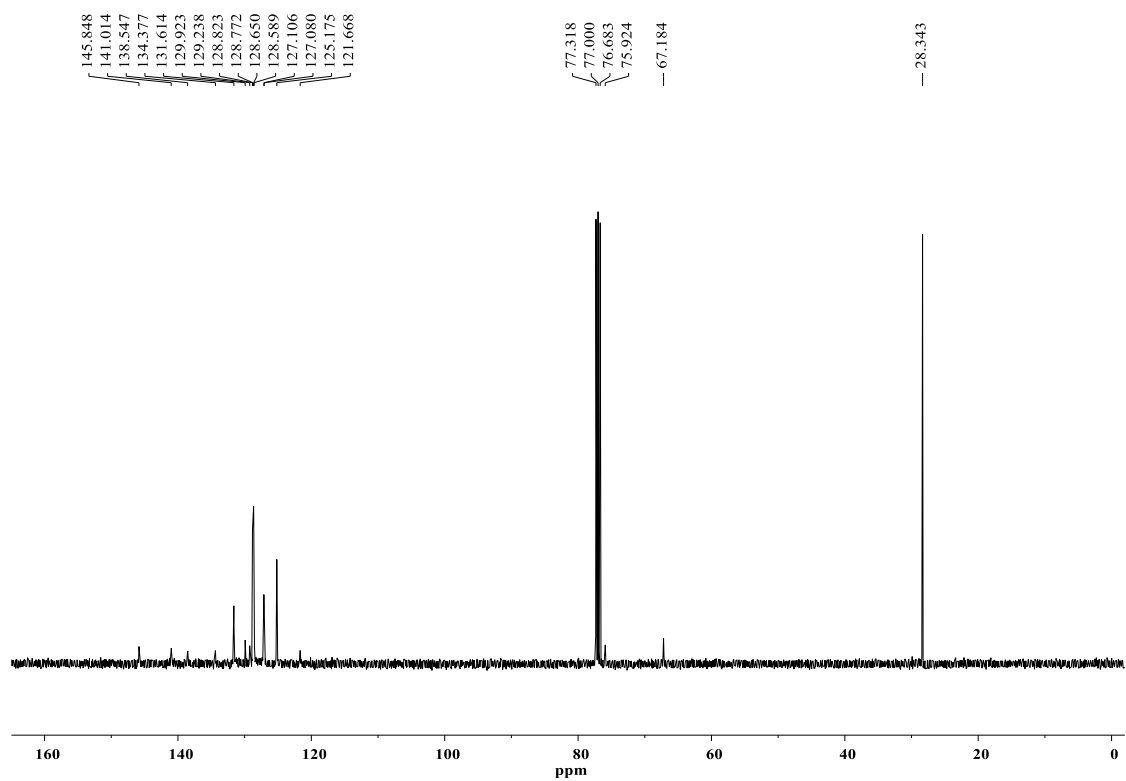
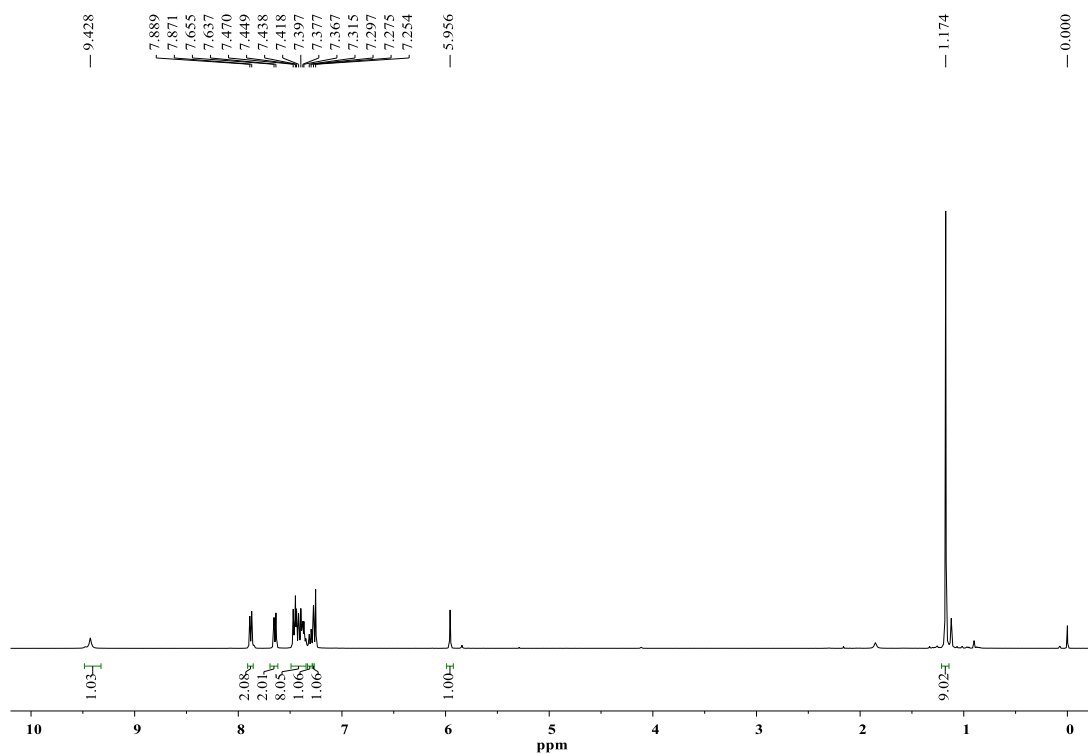
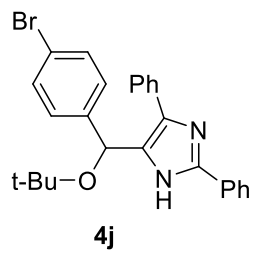


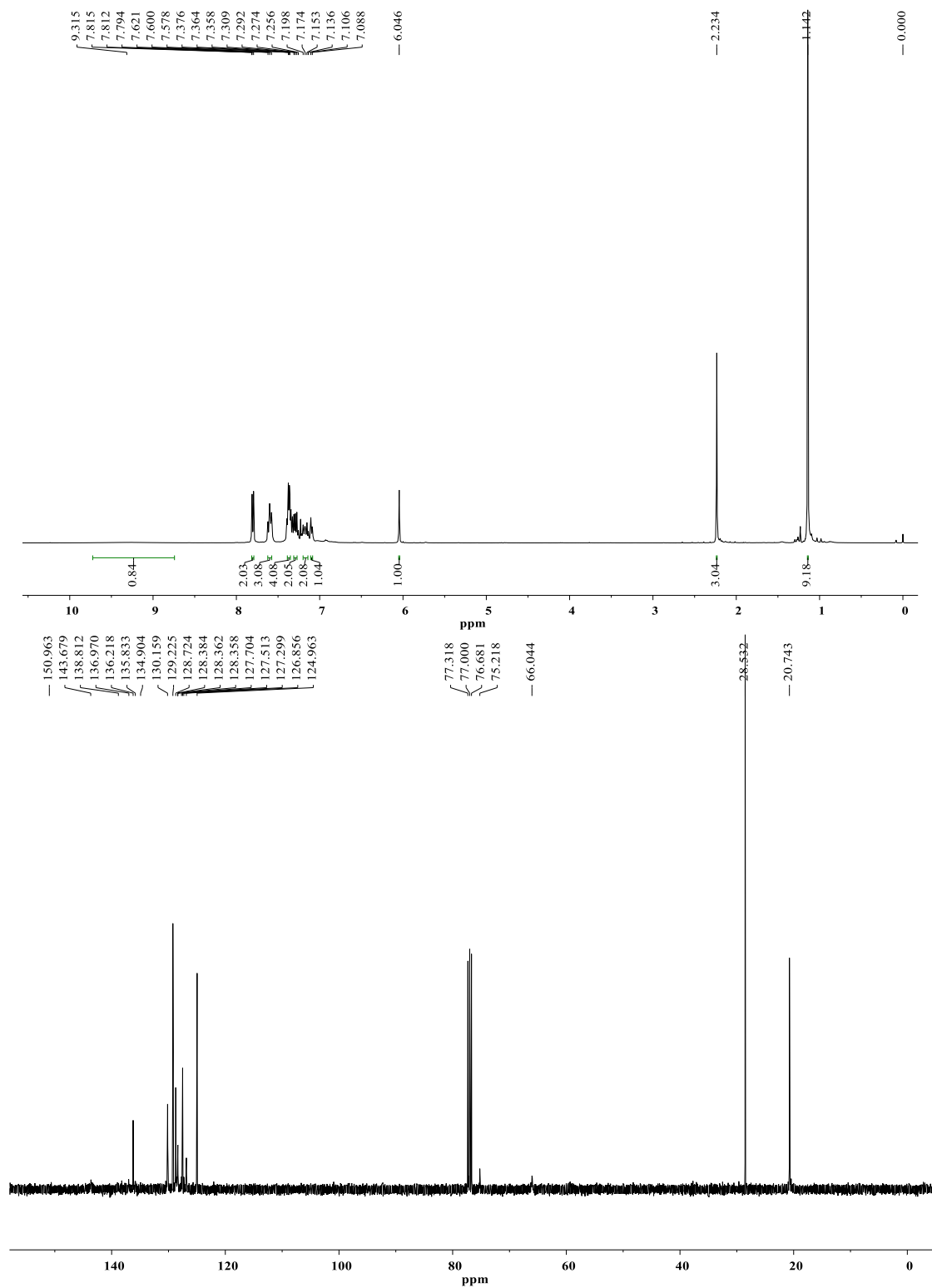
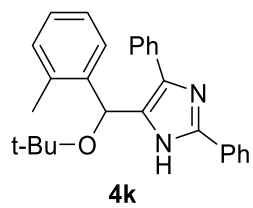
4g

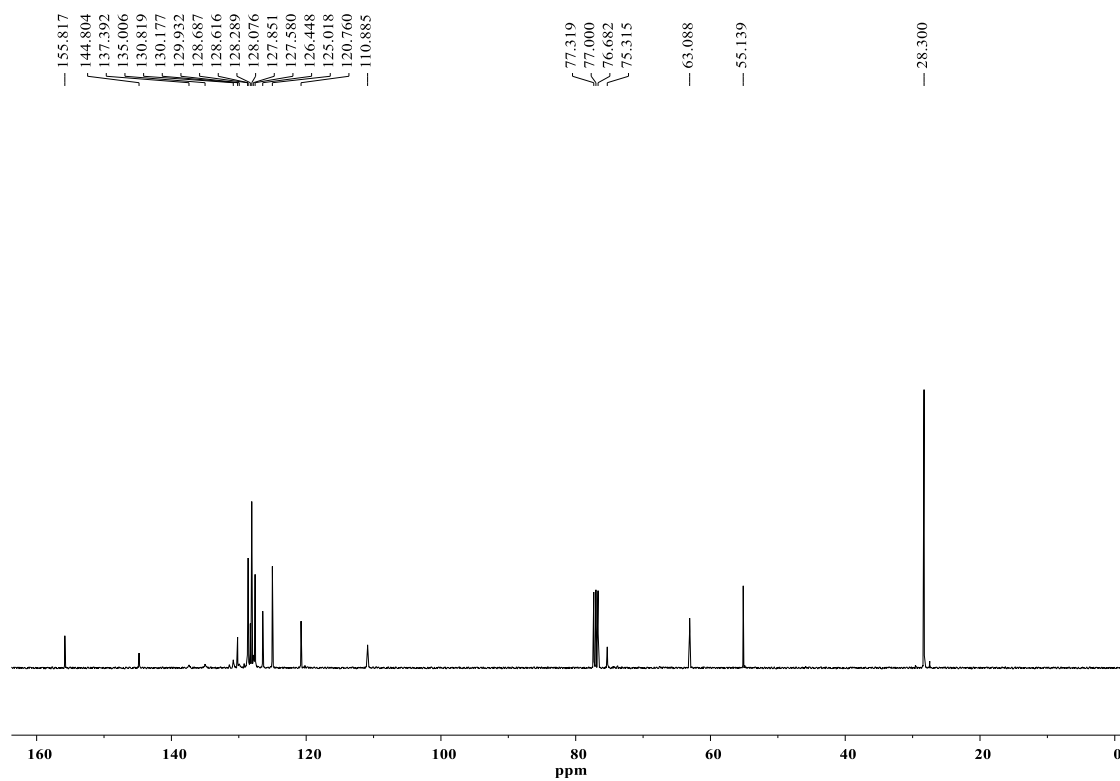
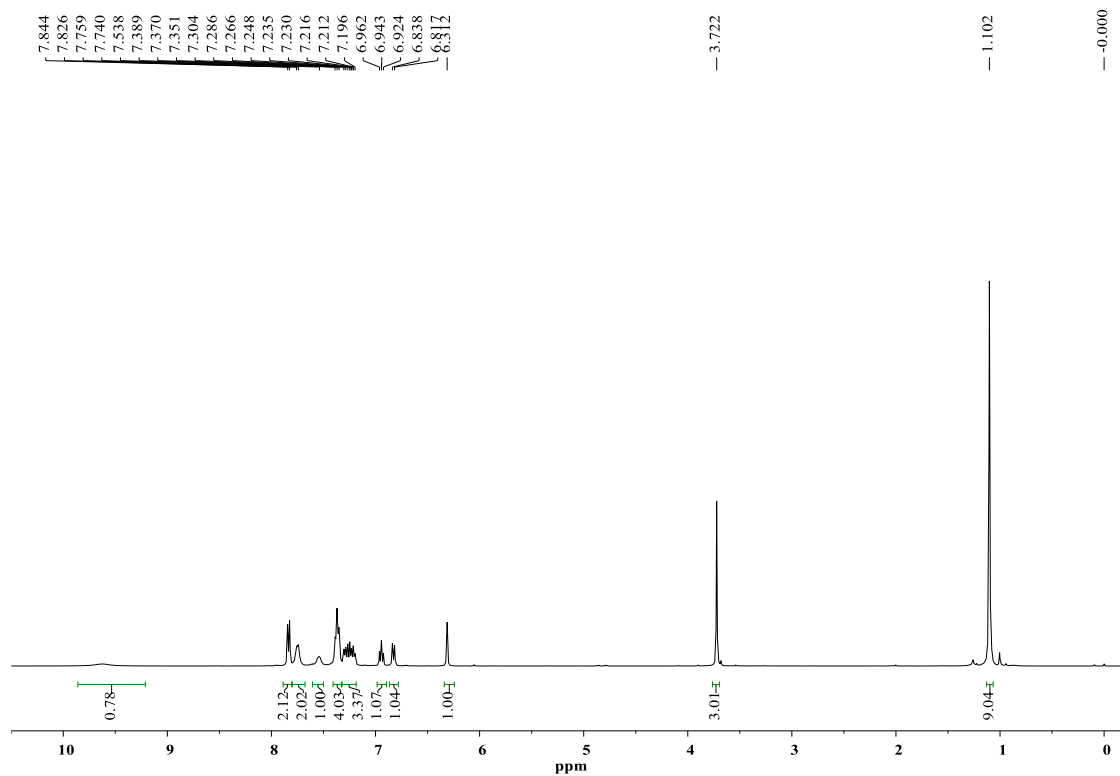
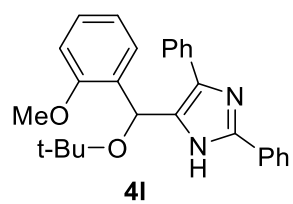


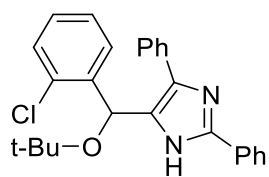




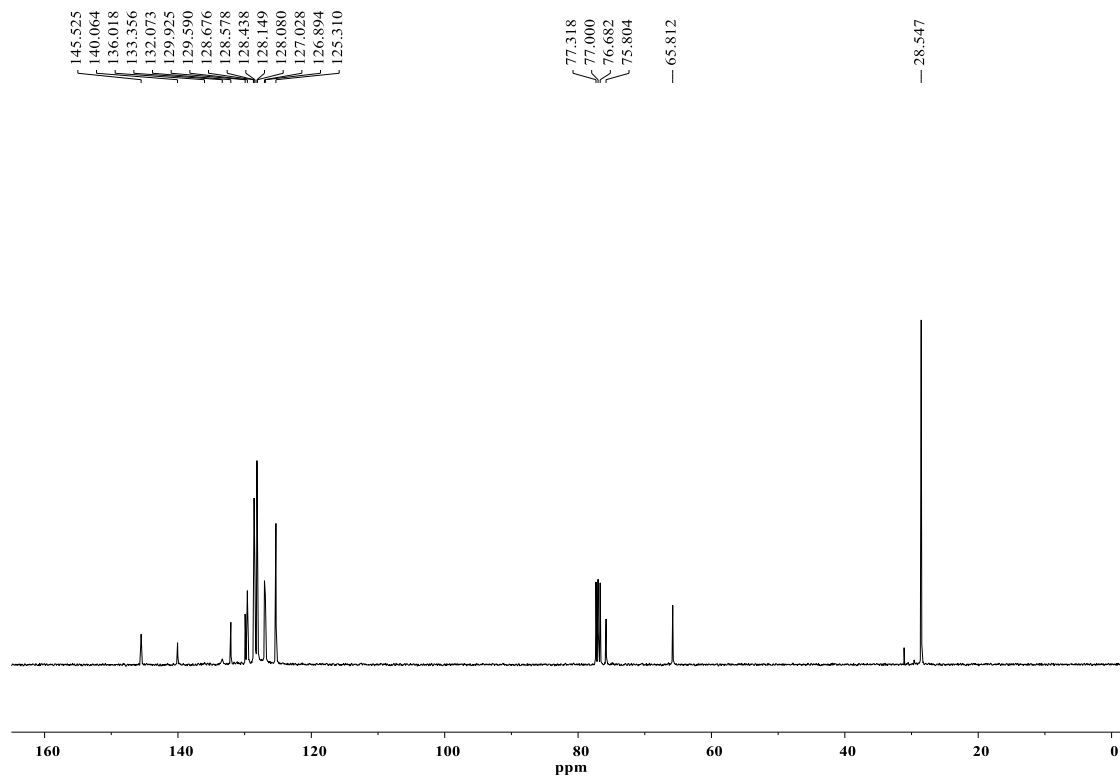
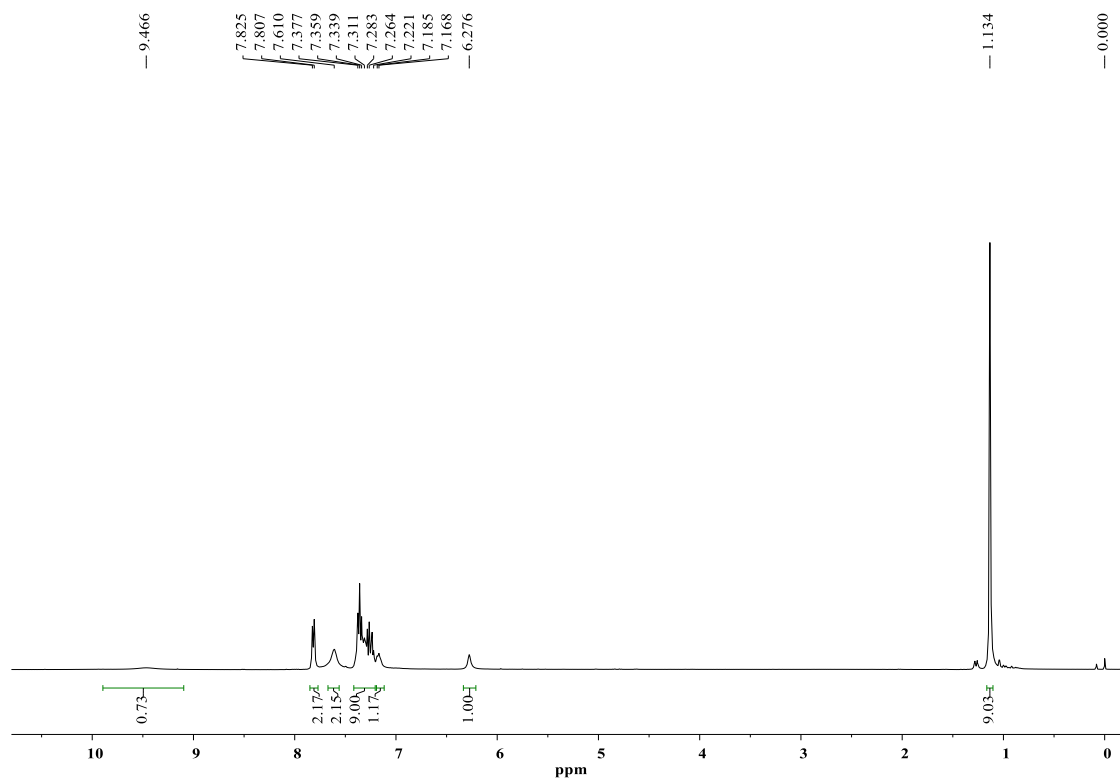




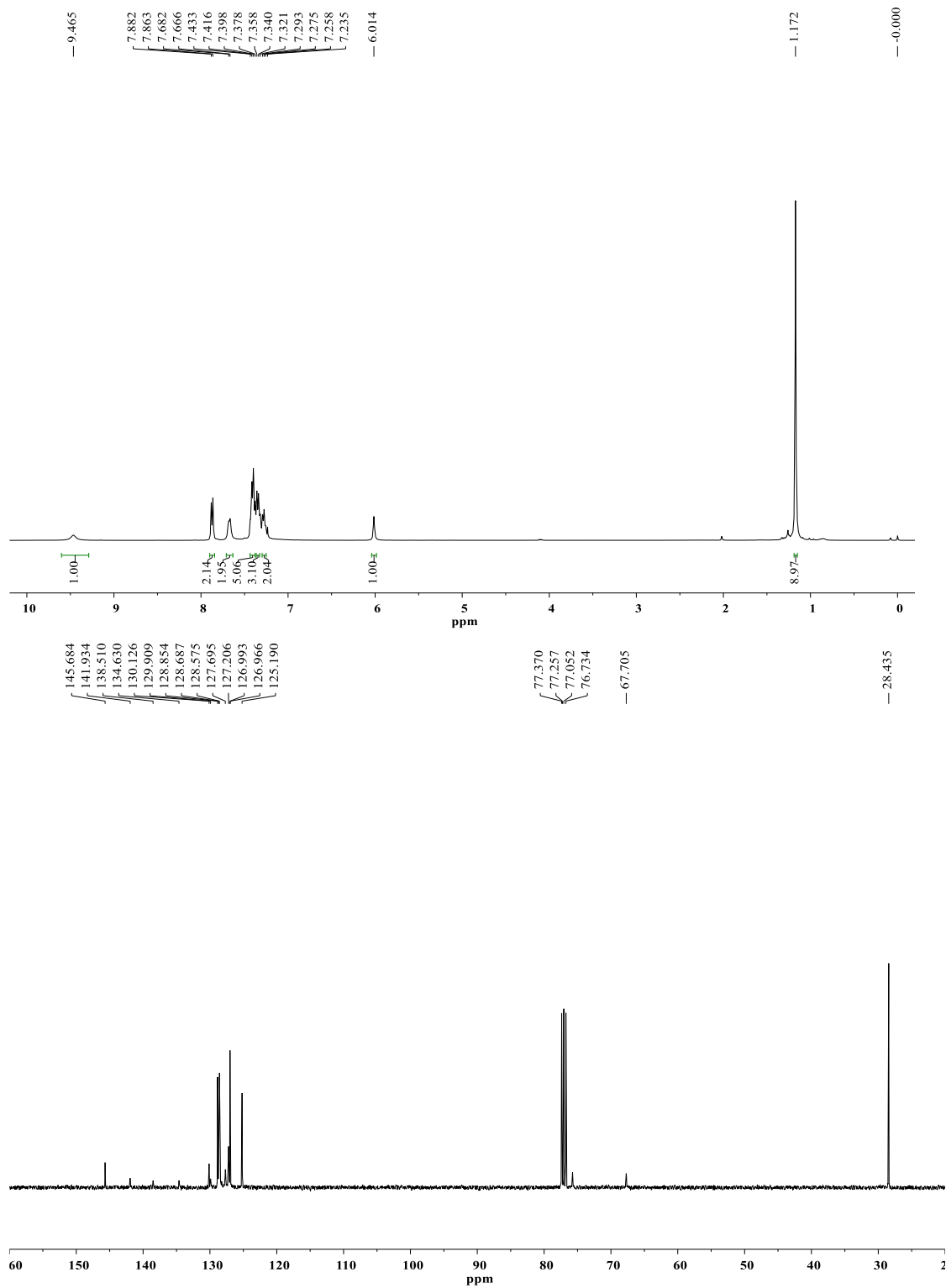
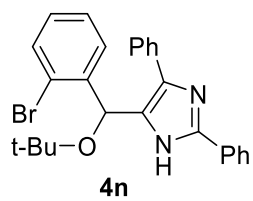


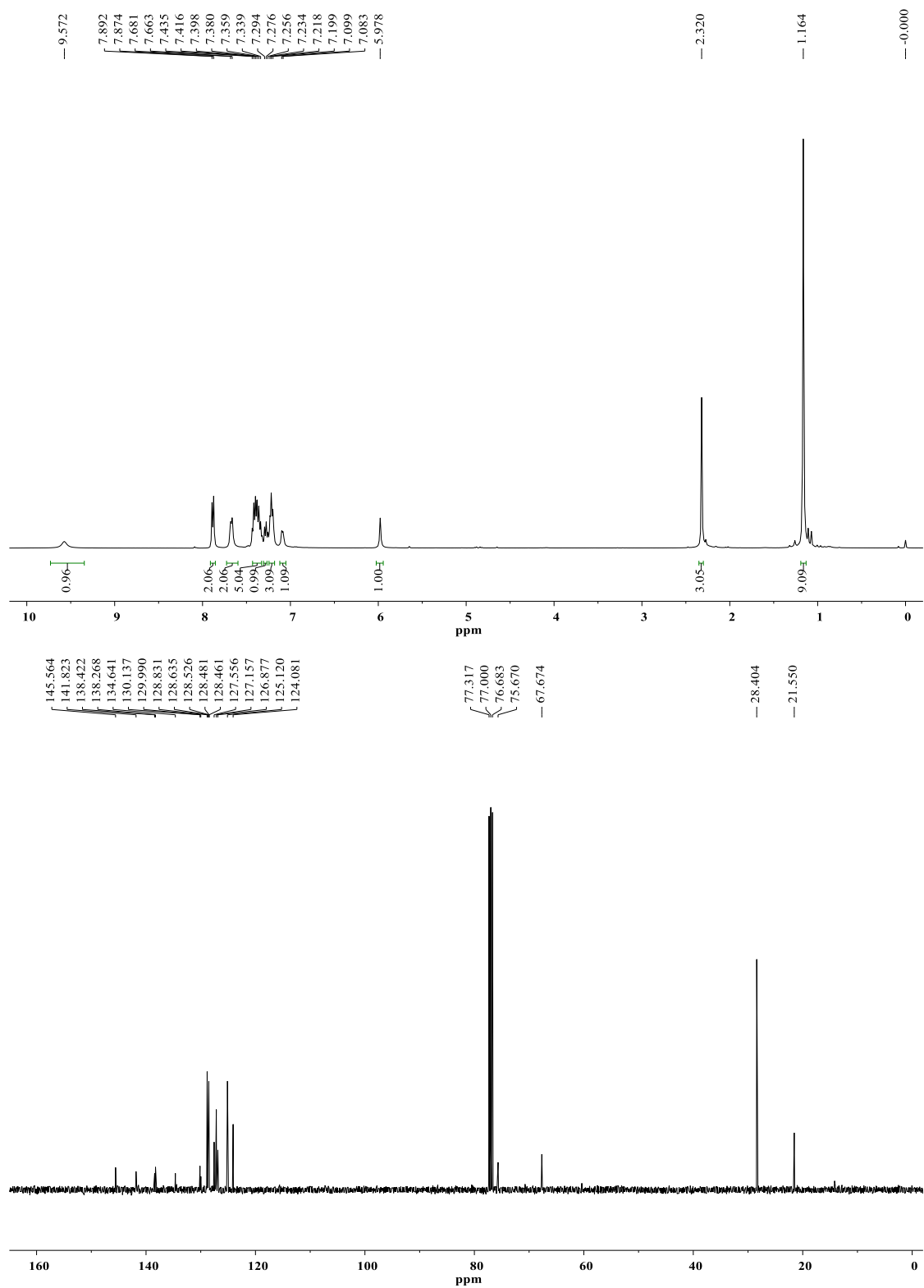
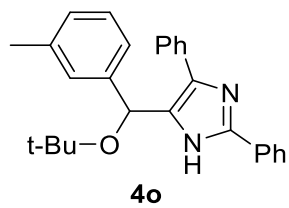


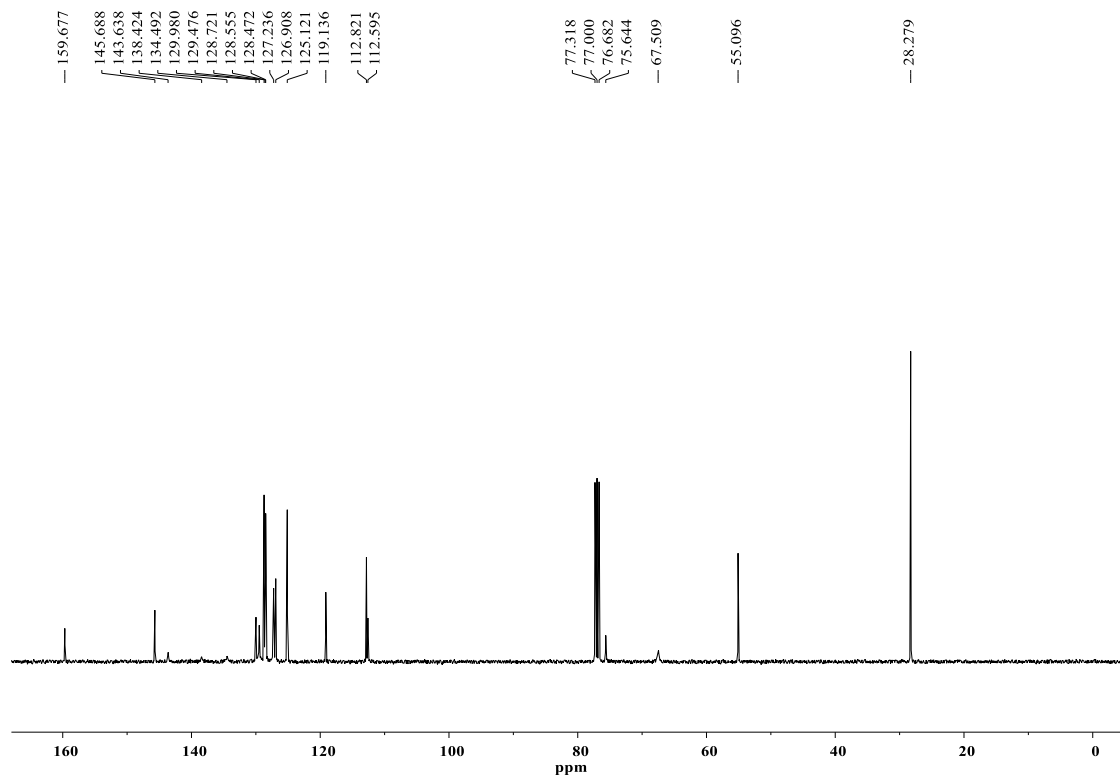
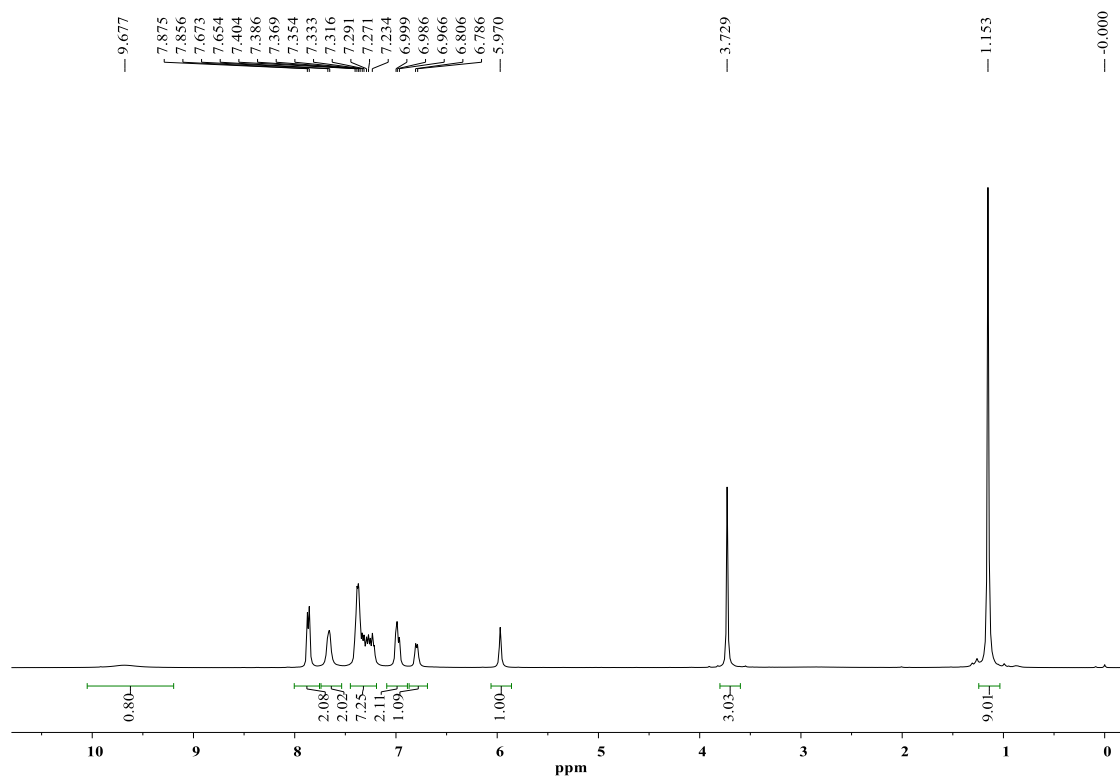
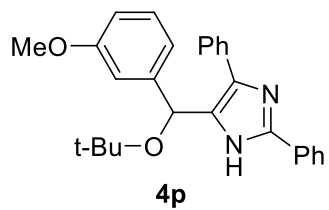
**4m**

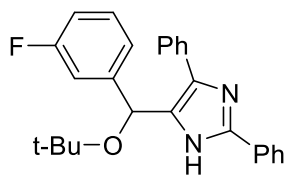




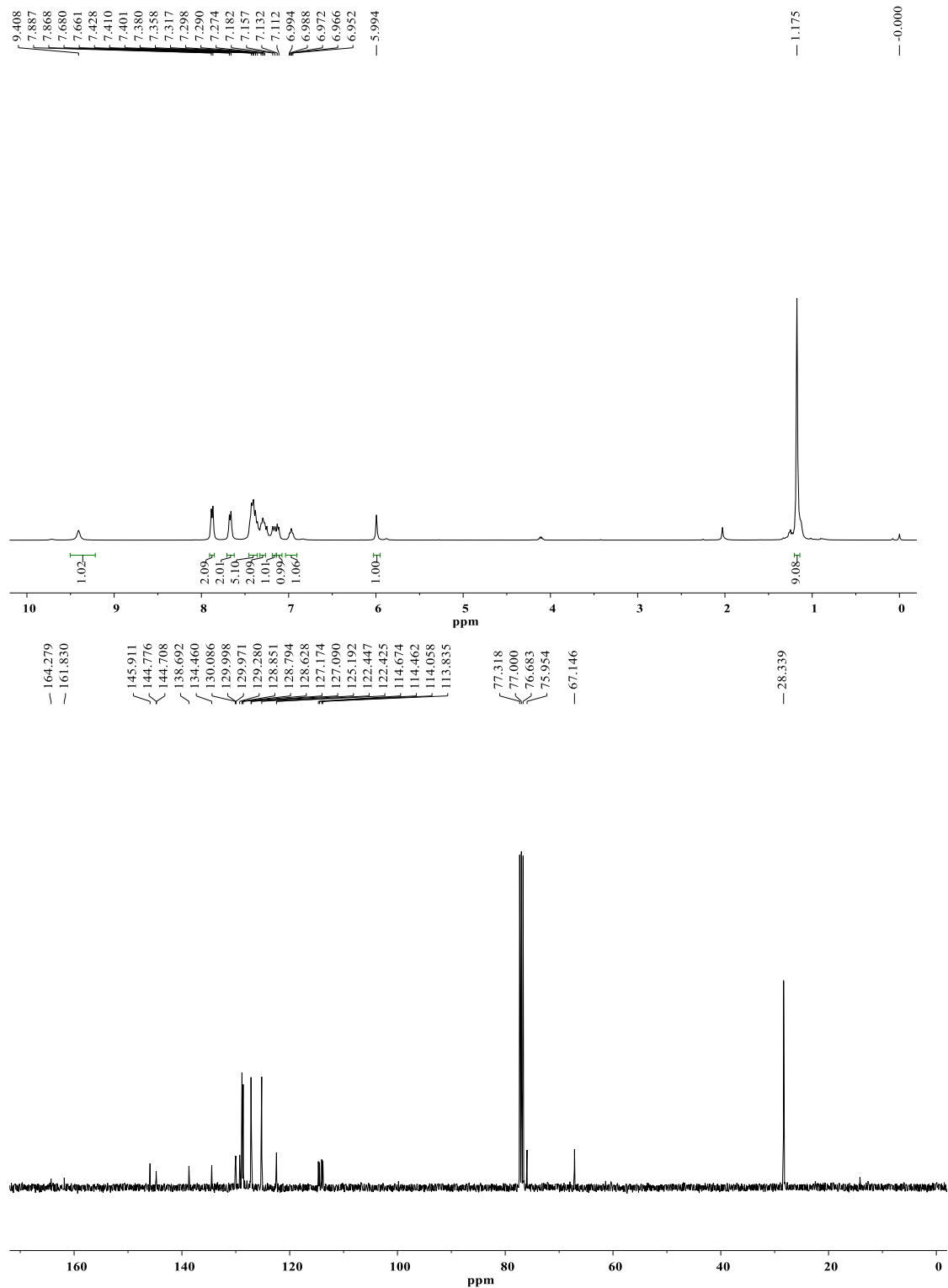


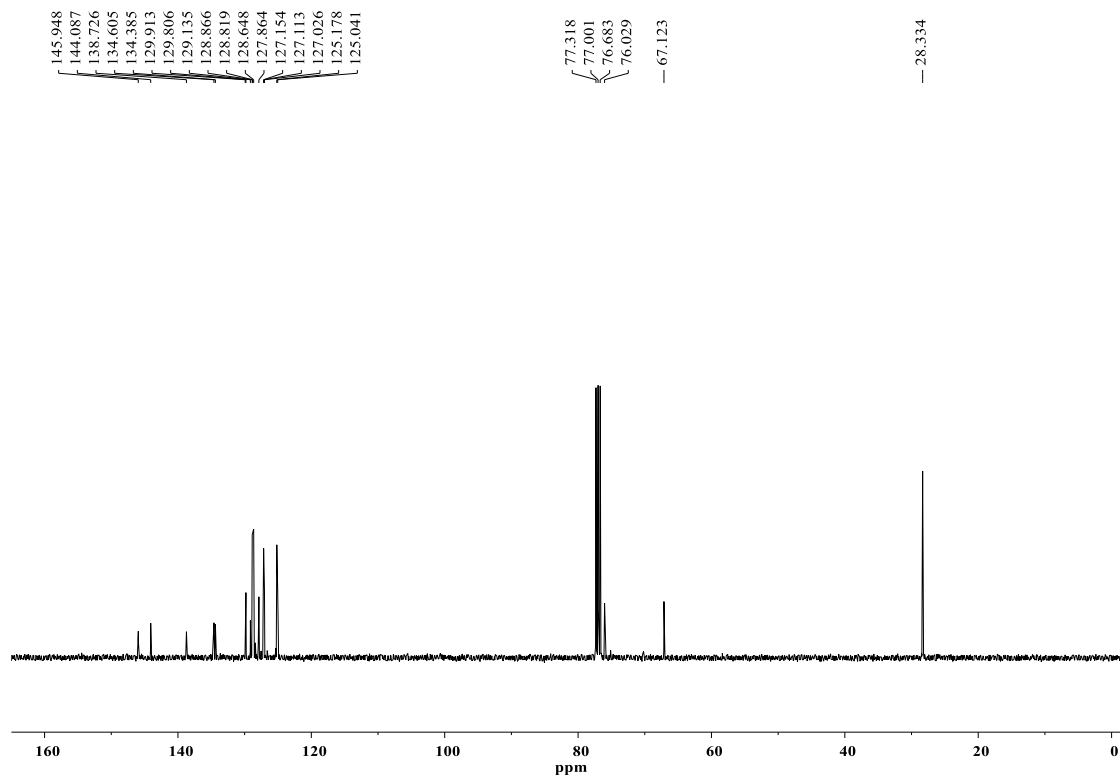
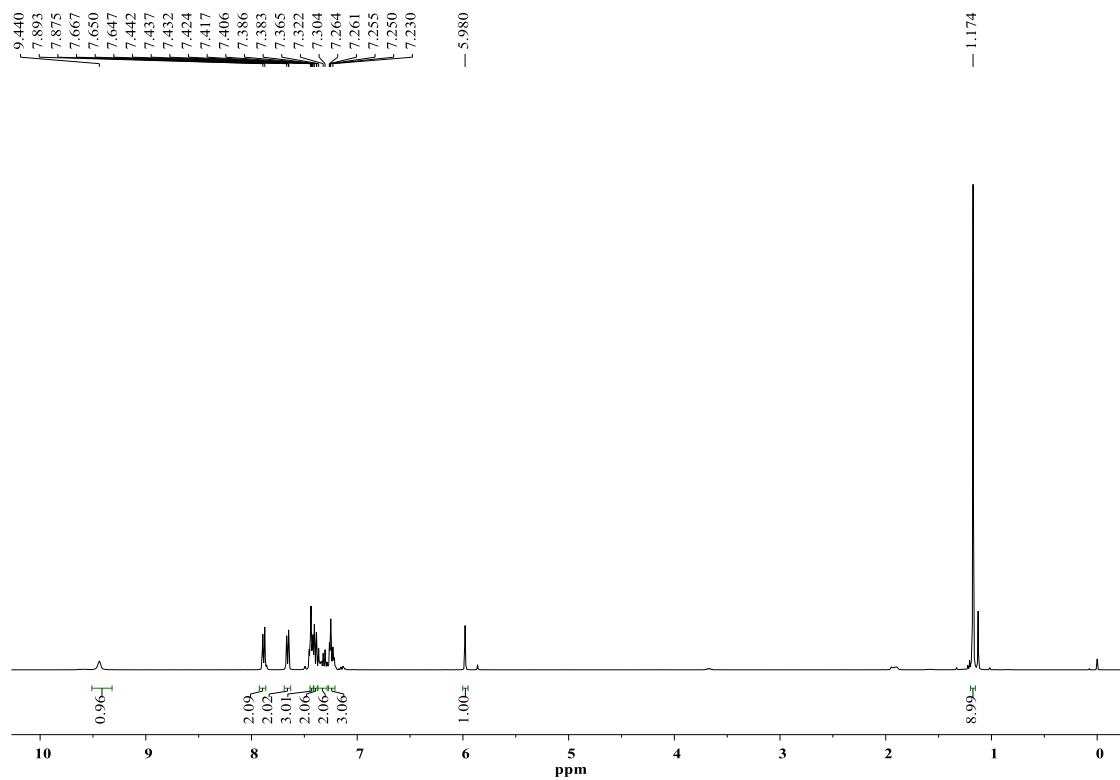
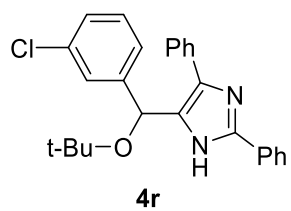


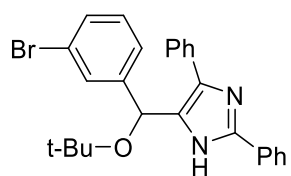




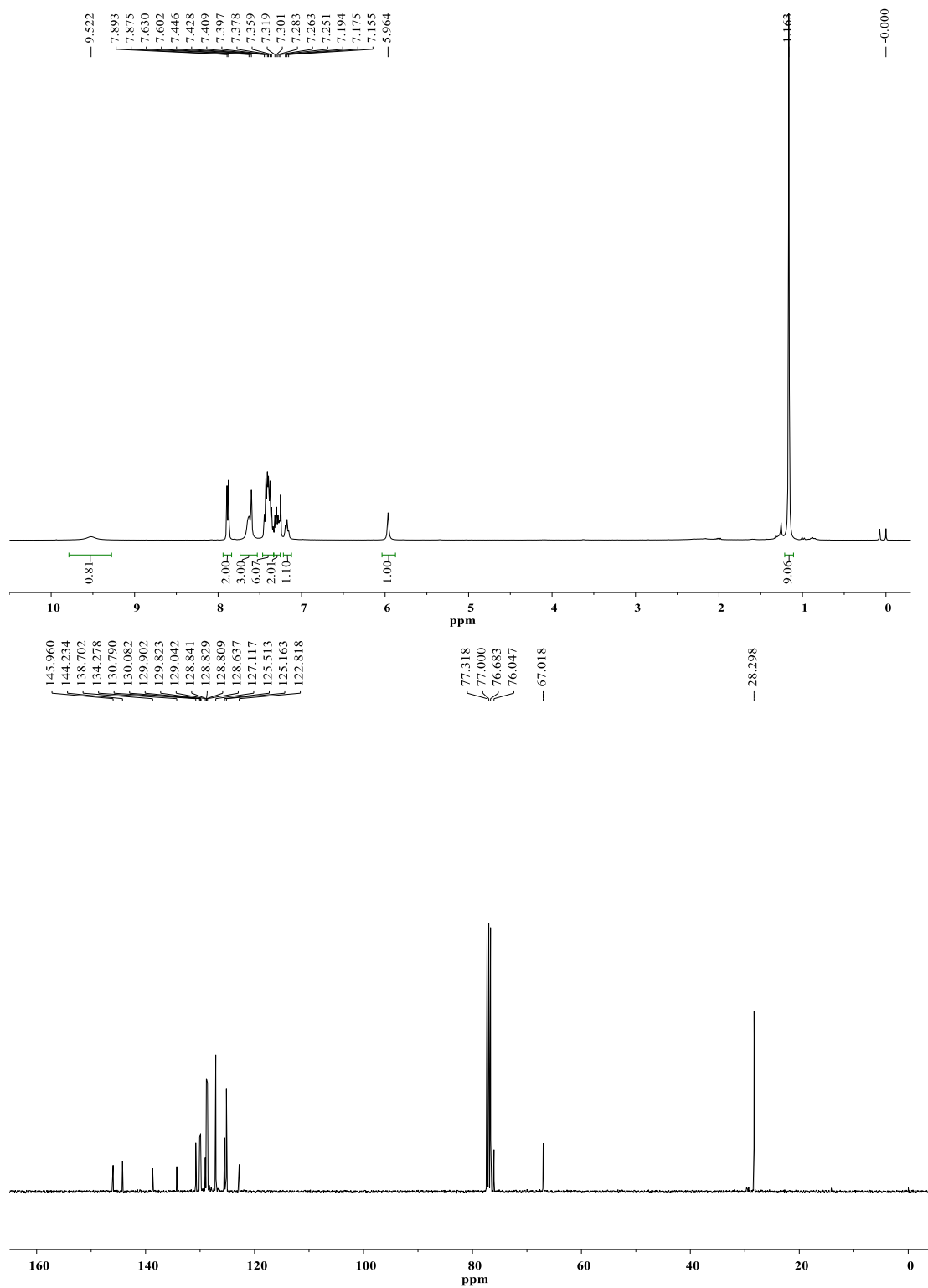
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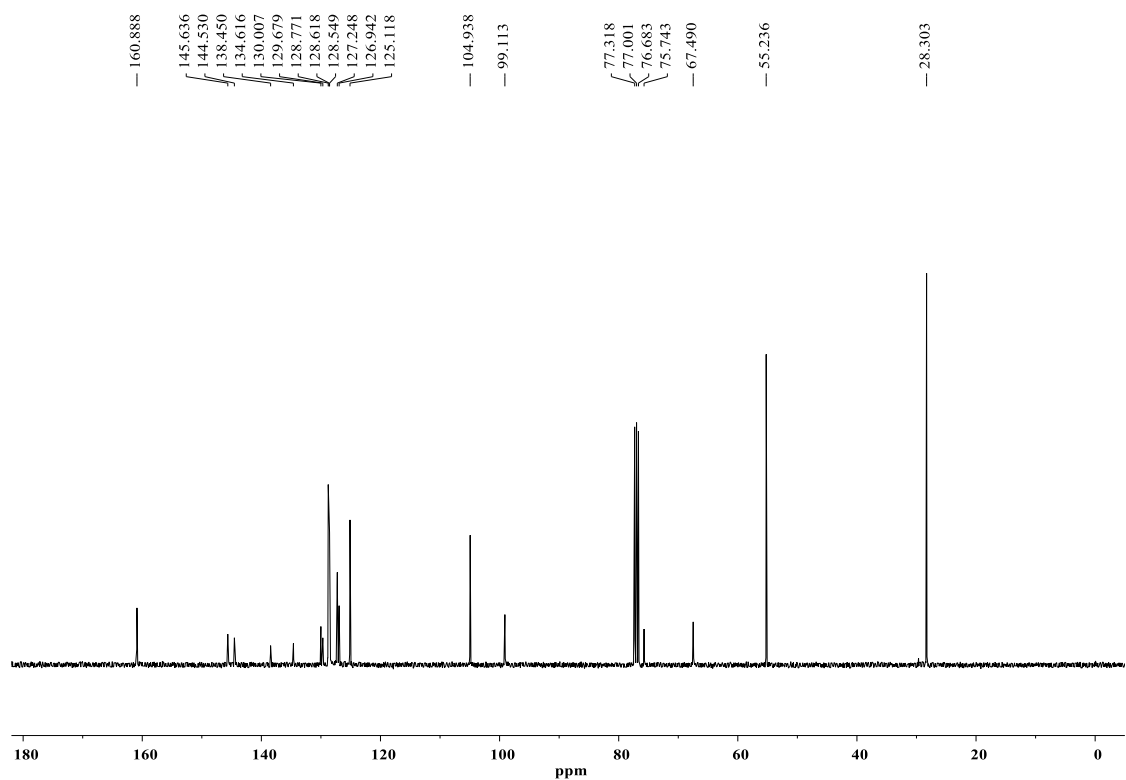
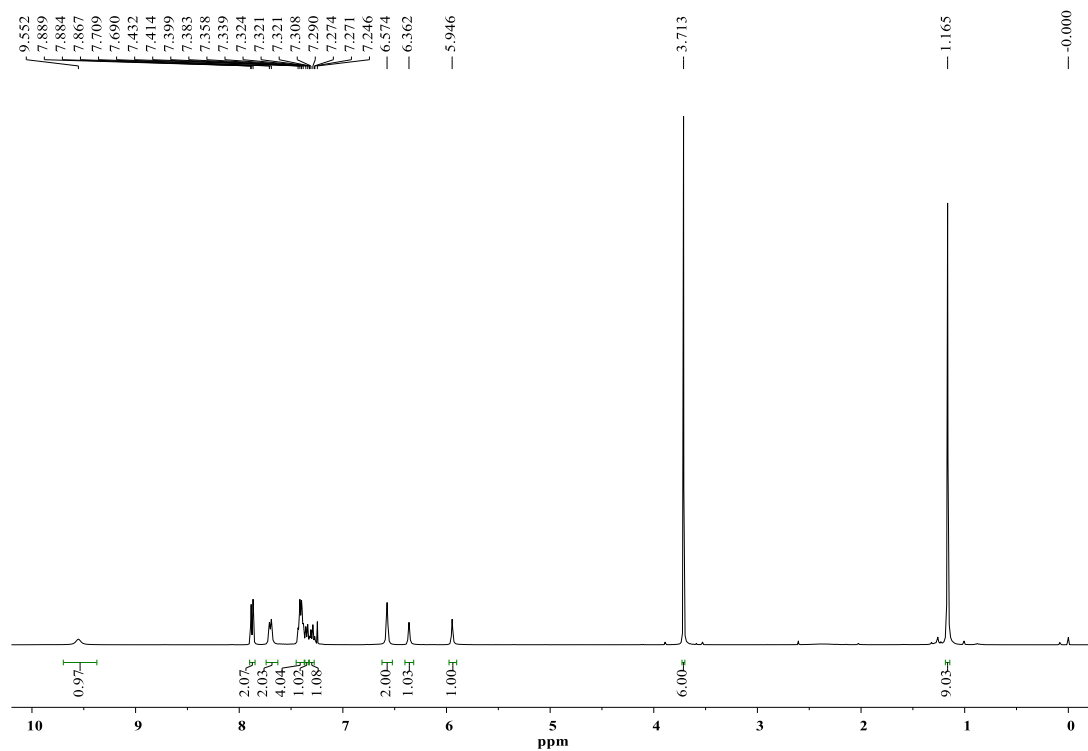
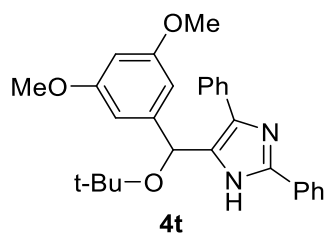


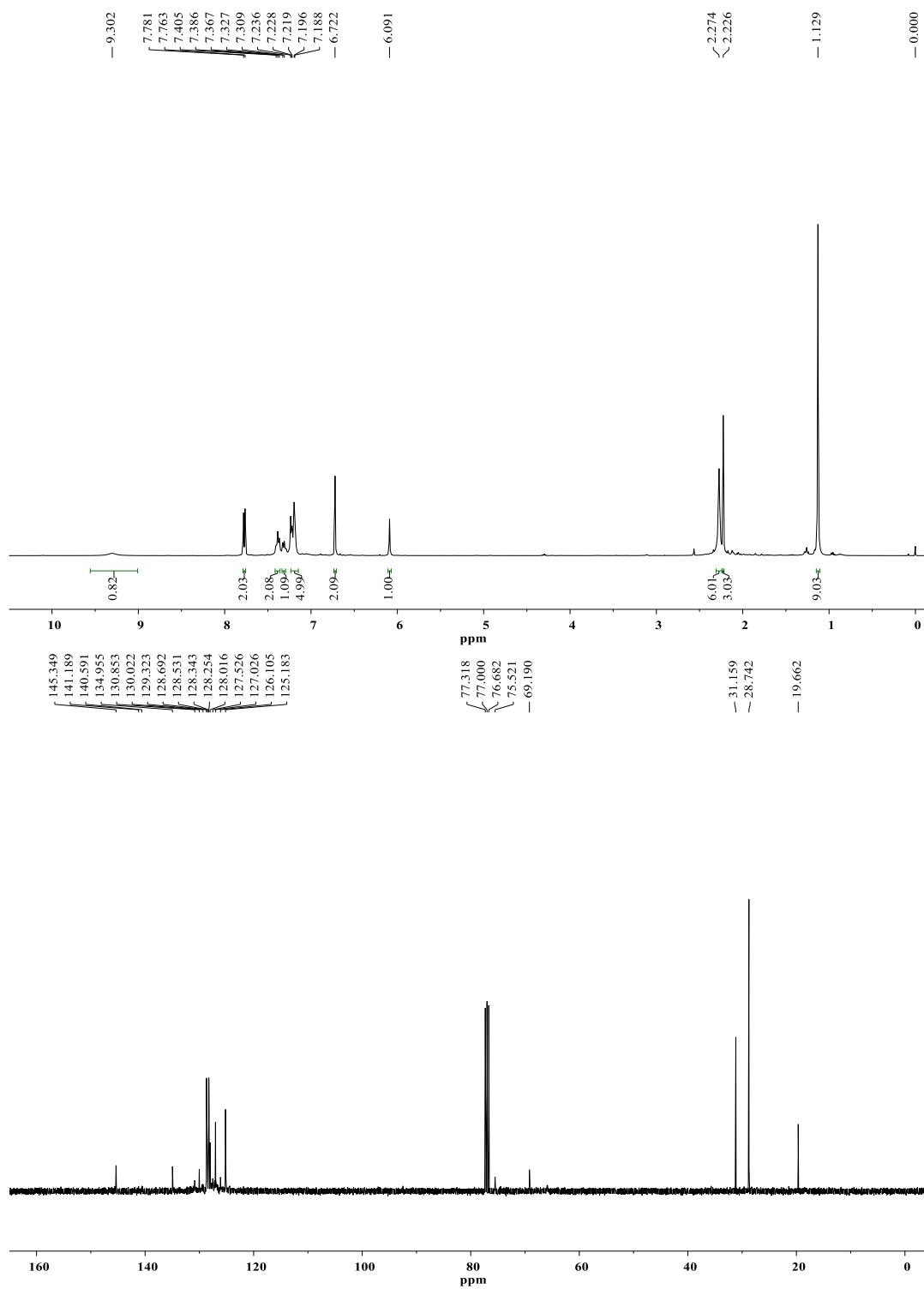
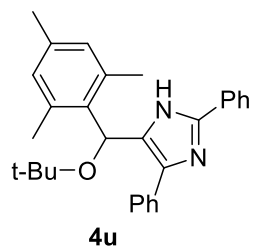




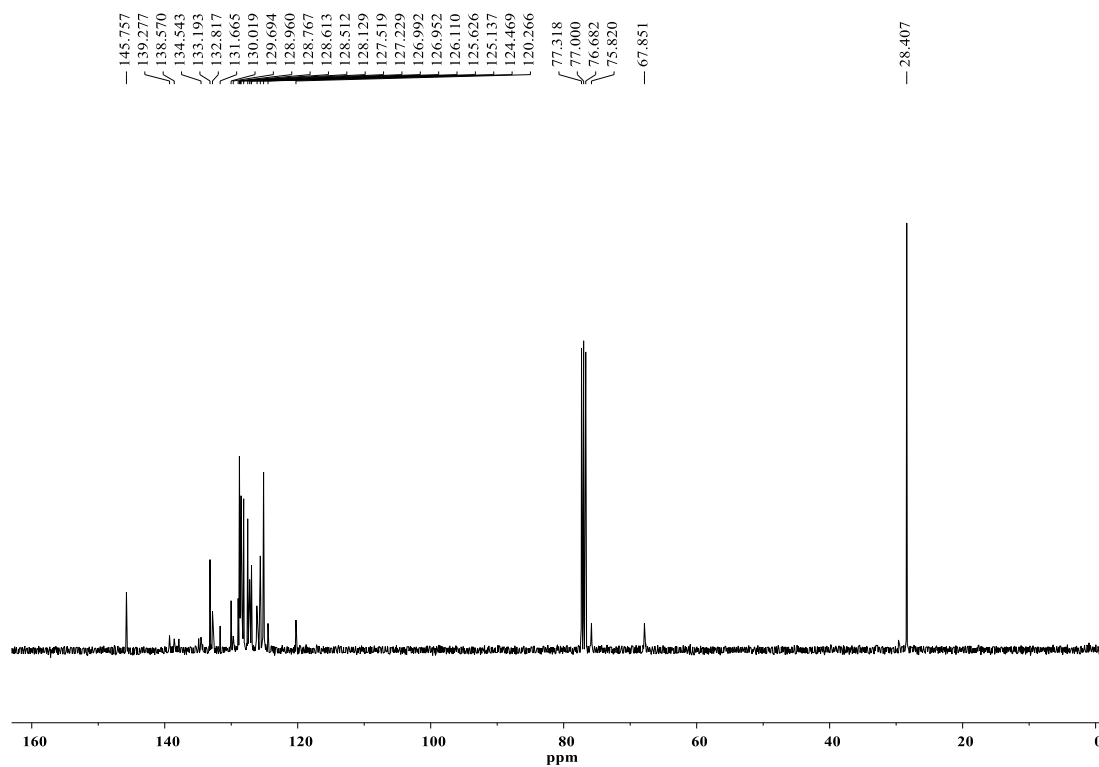
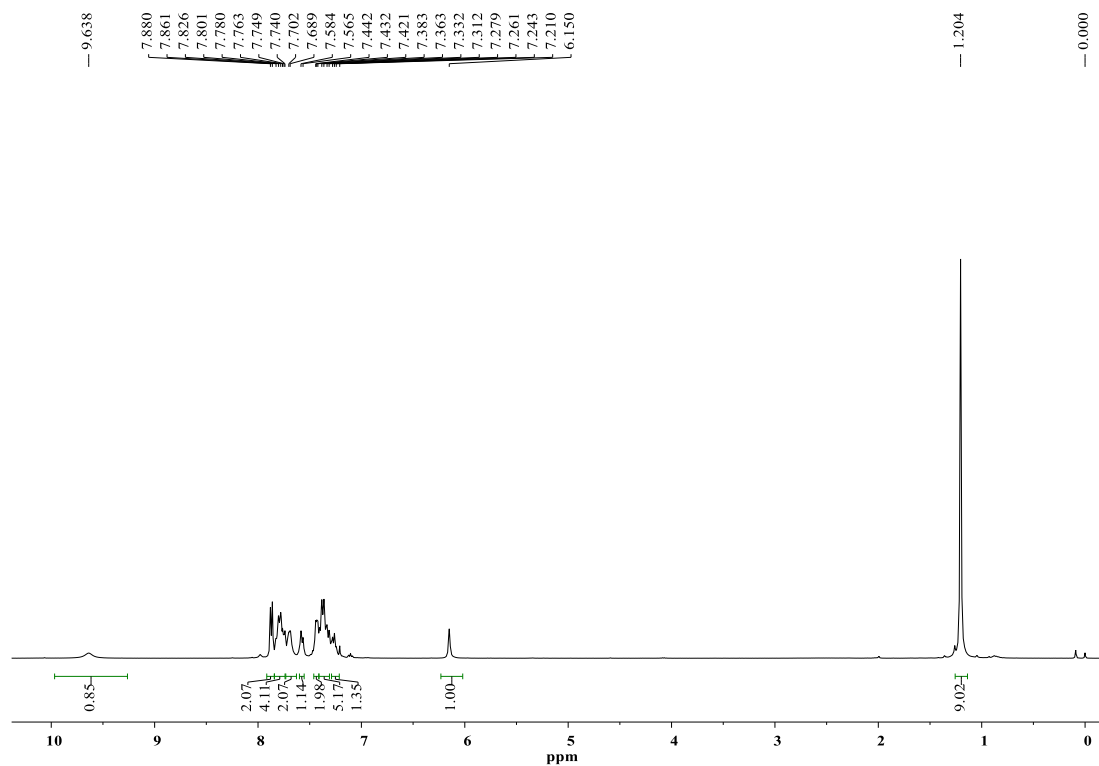
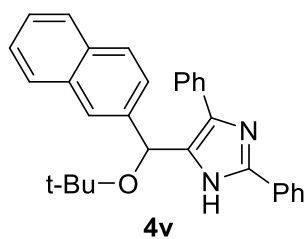
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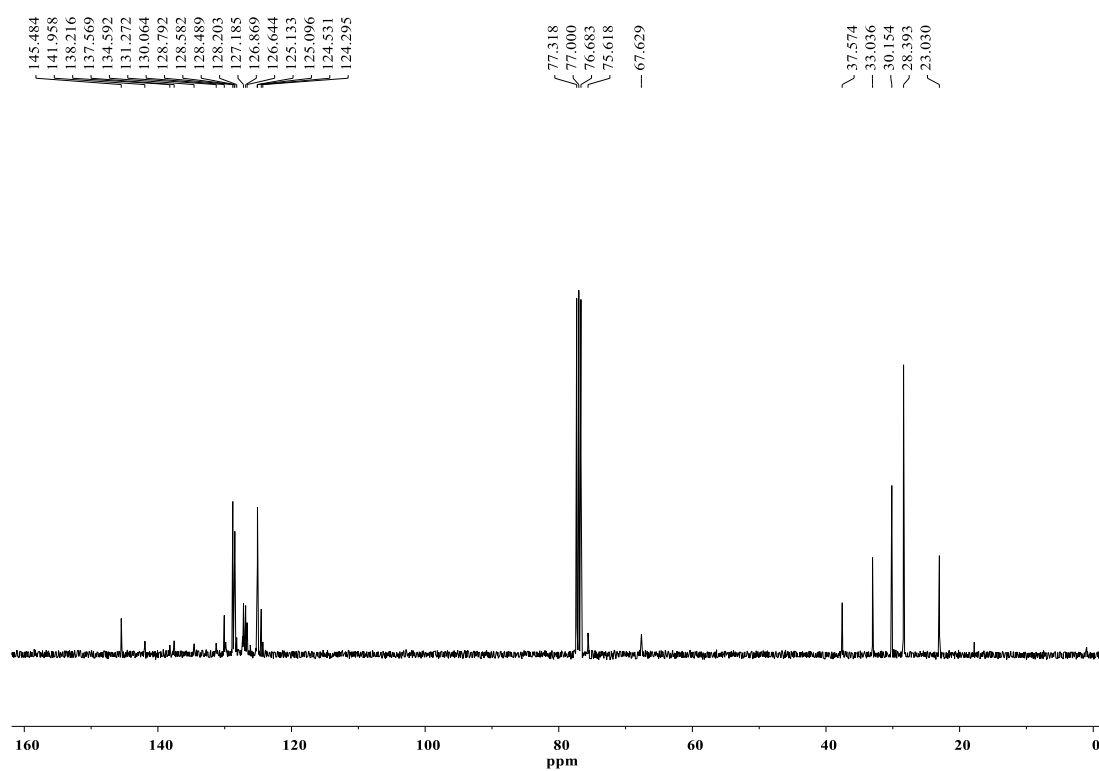
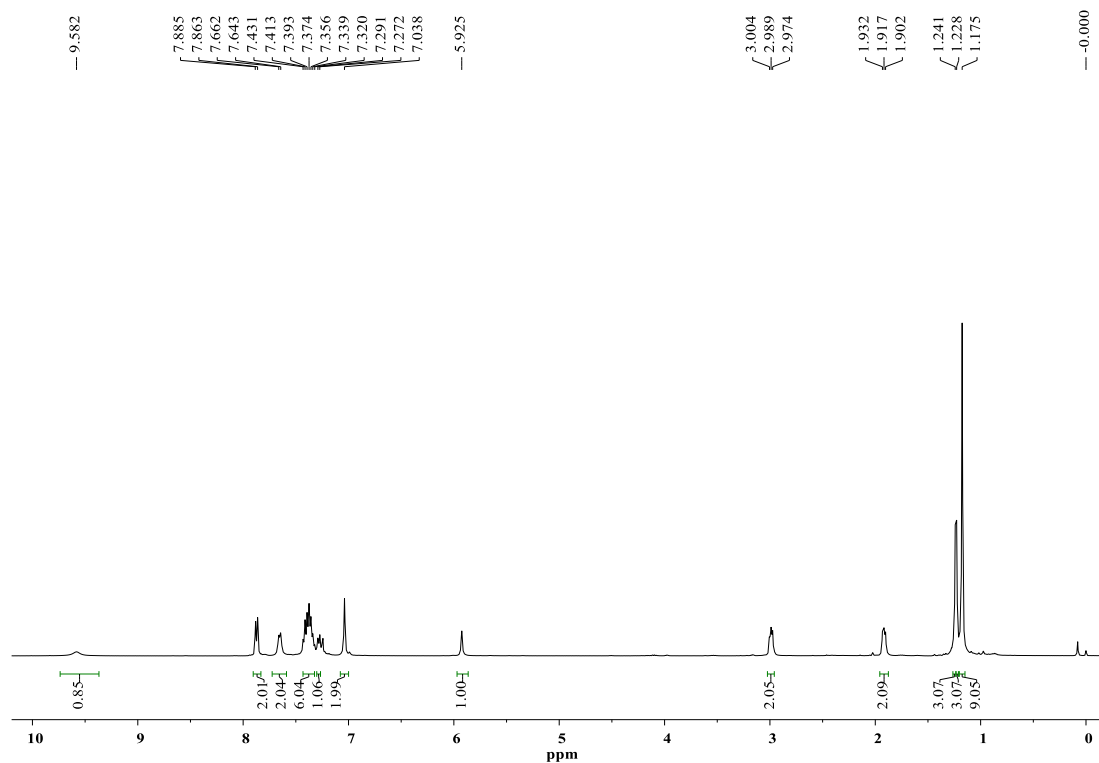
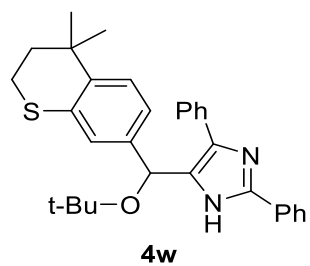


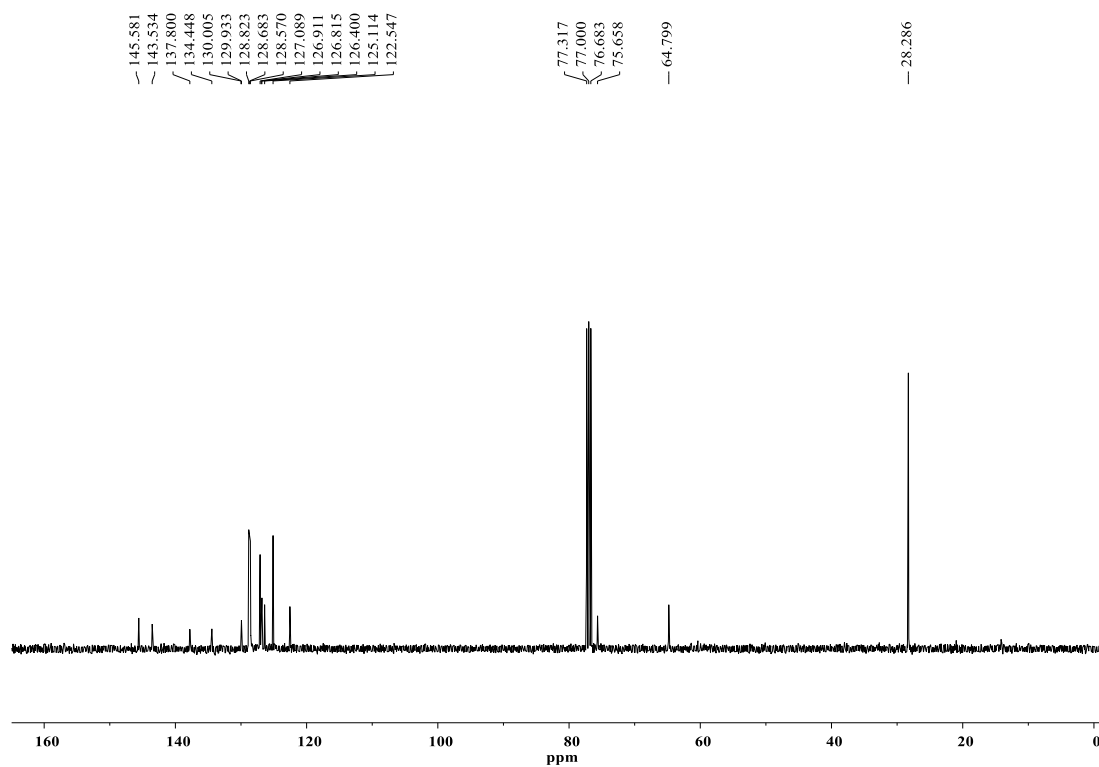
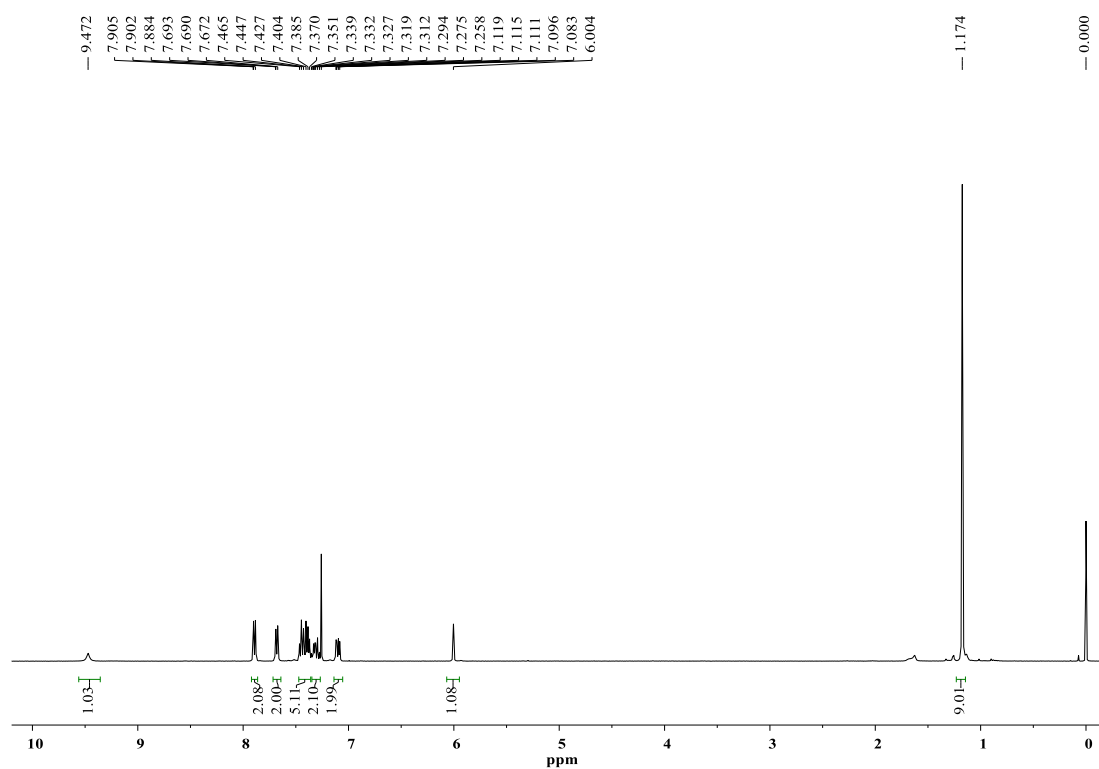
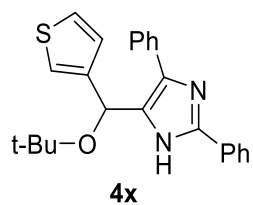


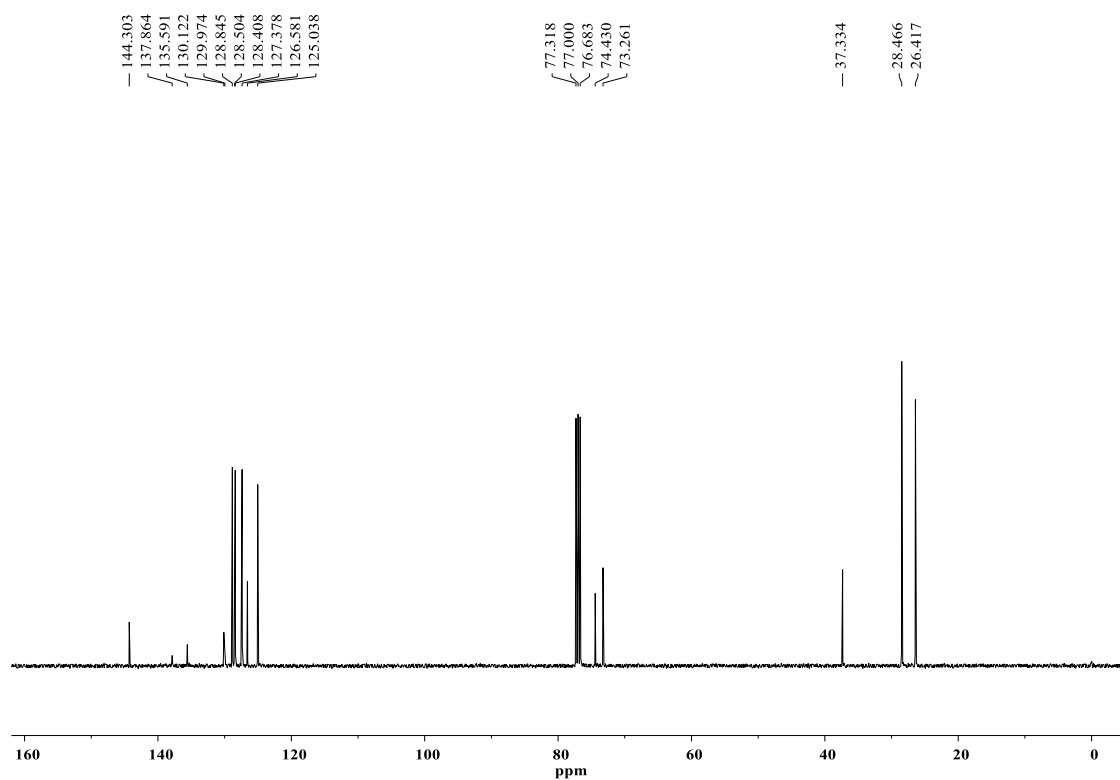
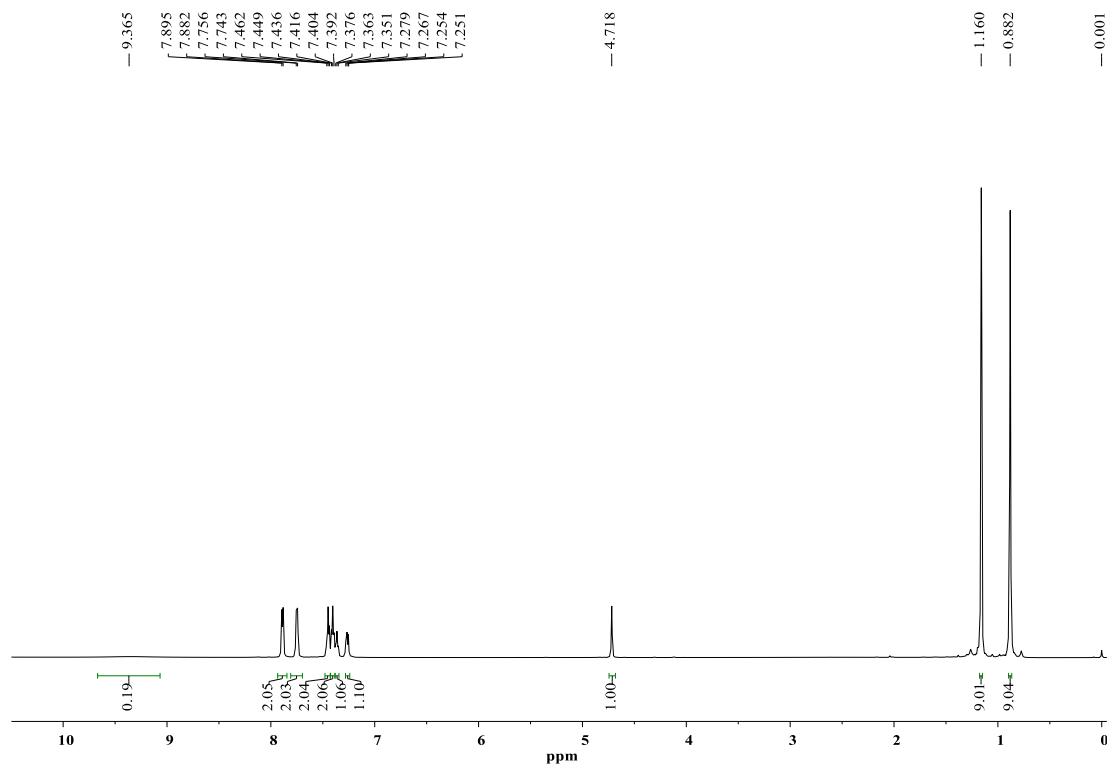
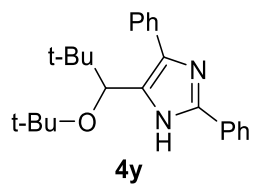


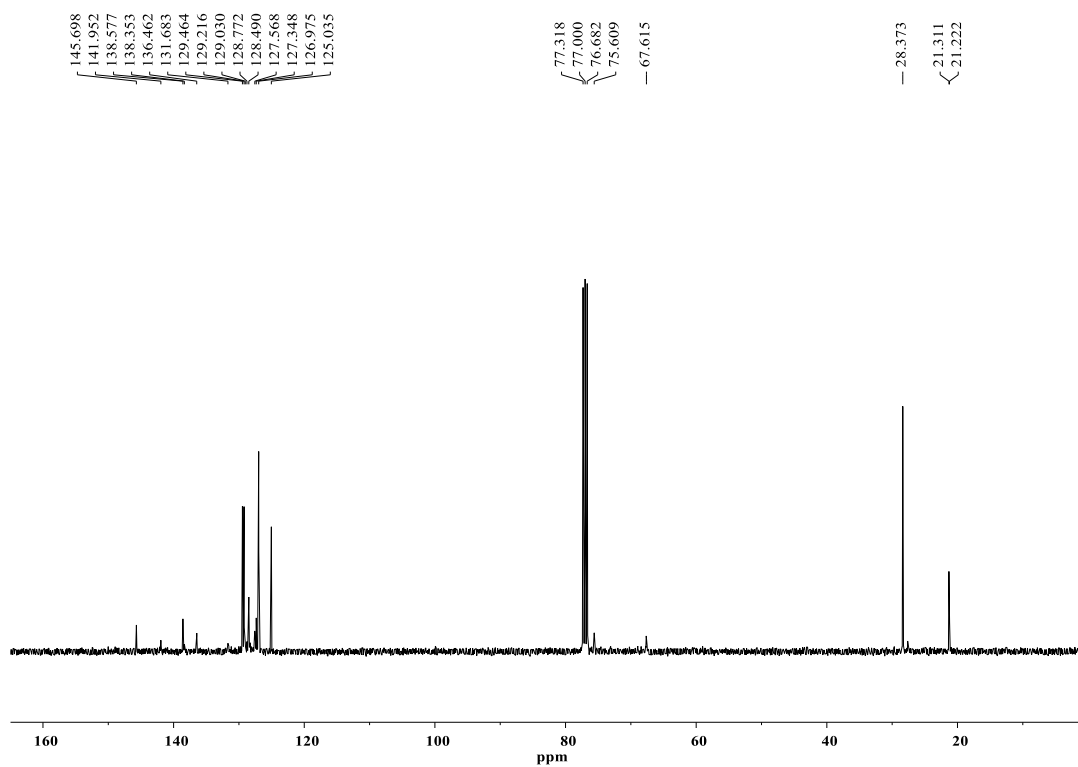
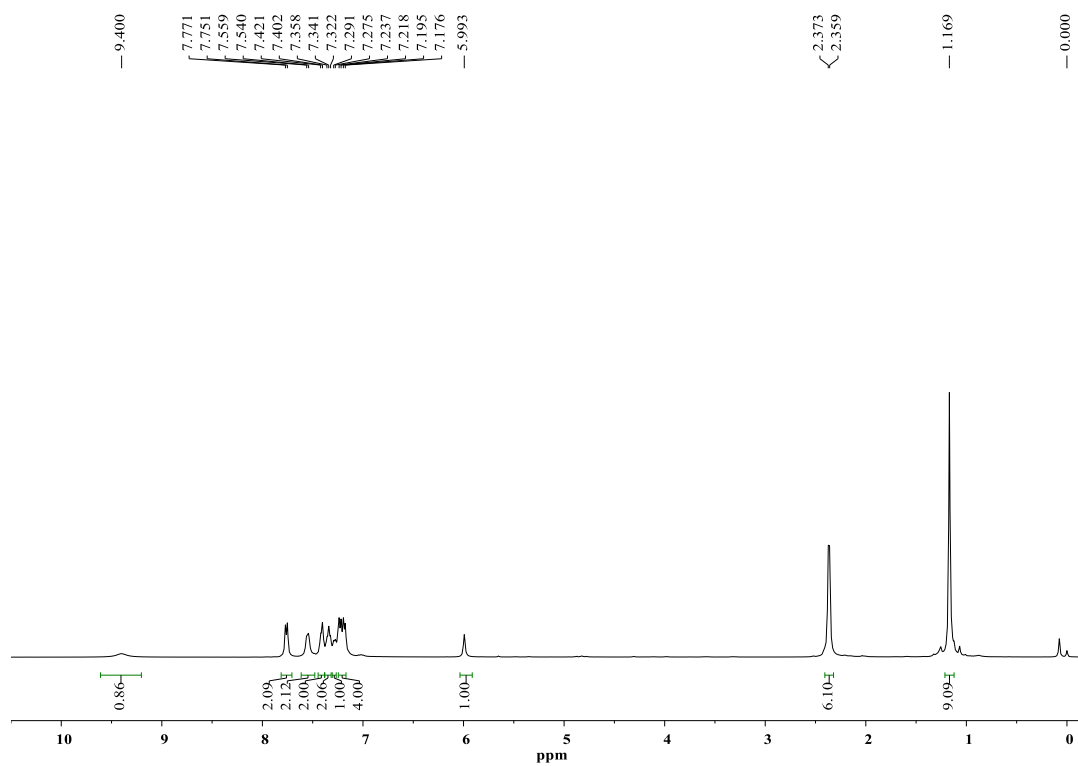
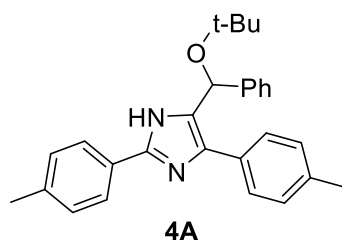


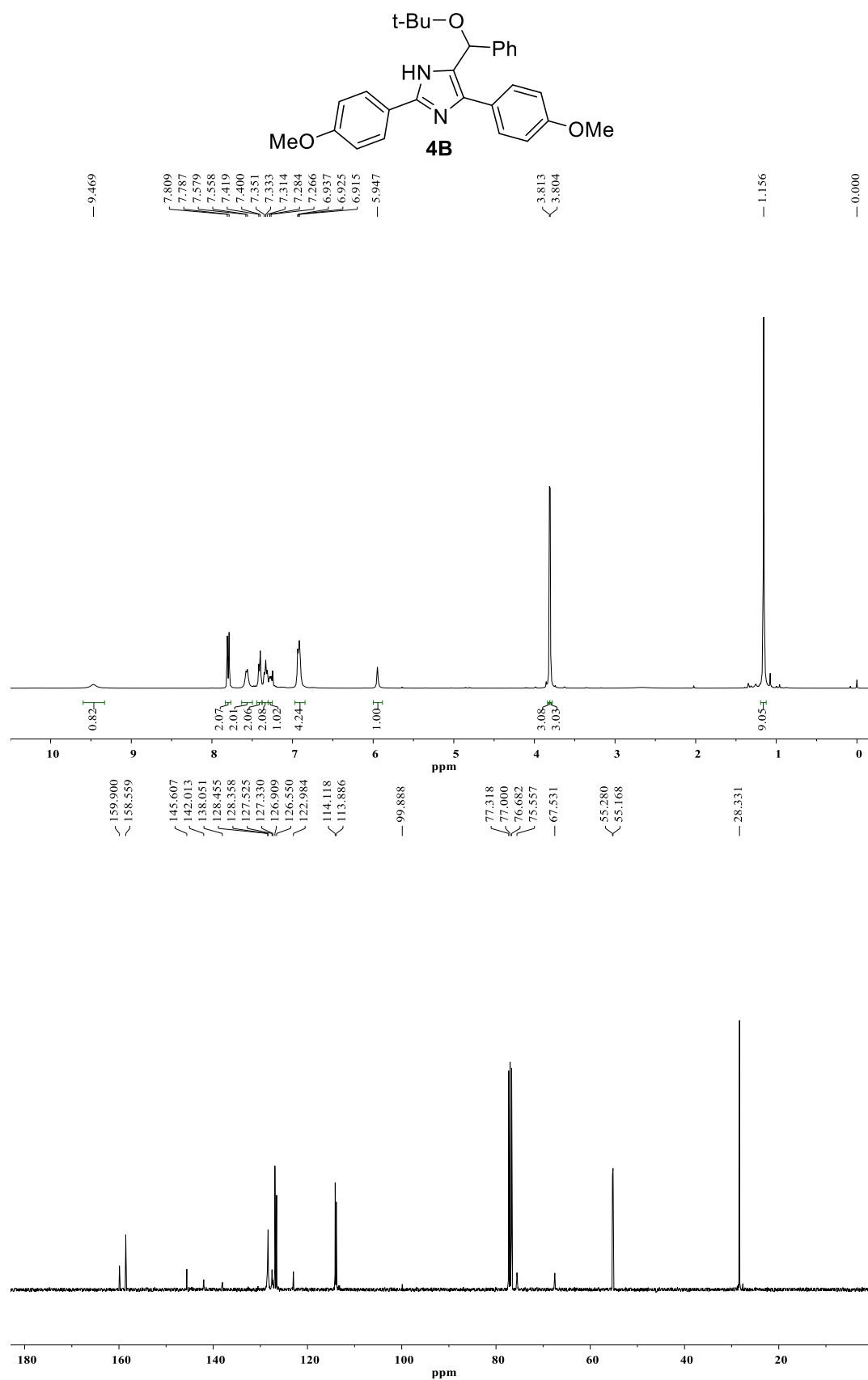


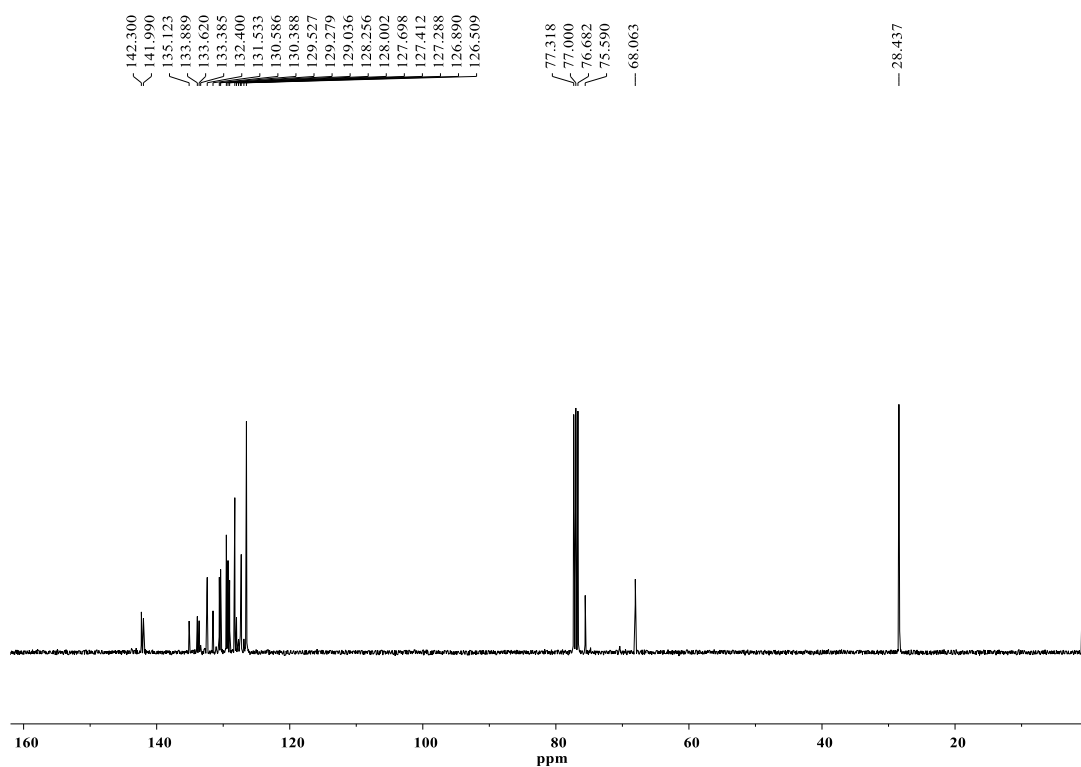
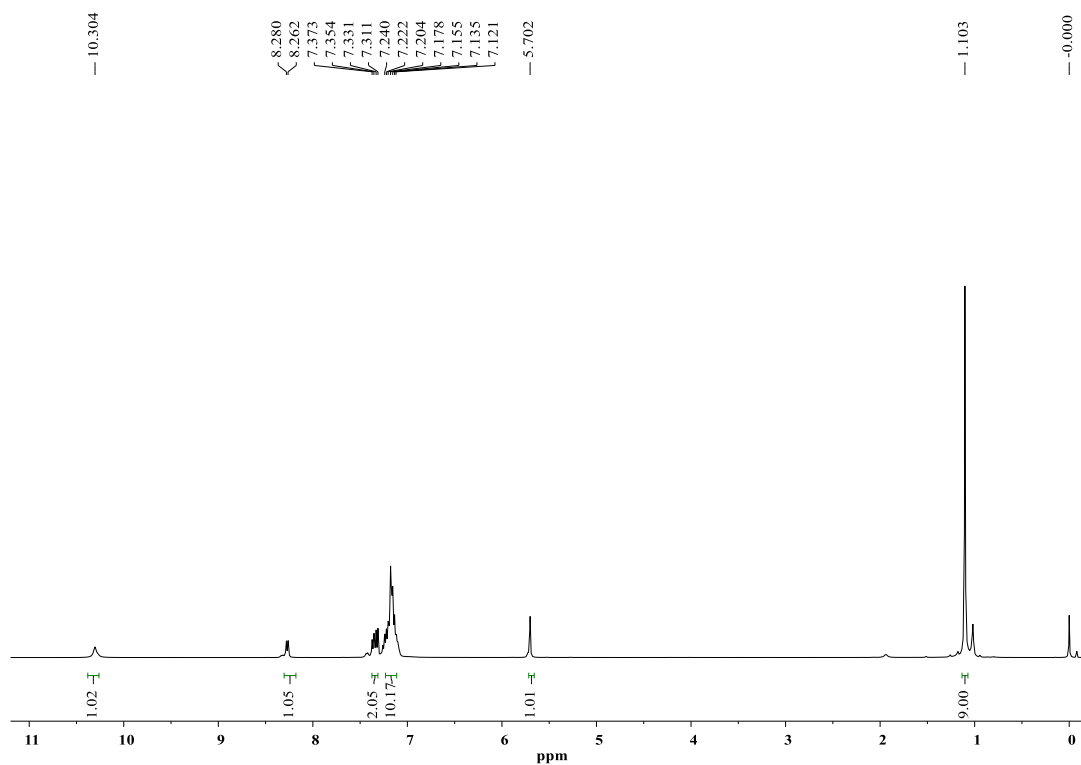
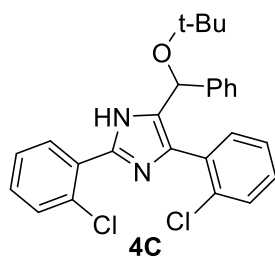


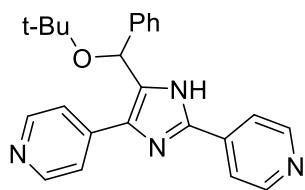




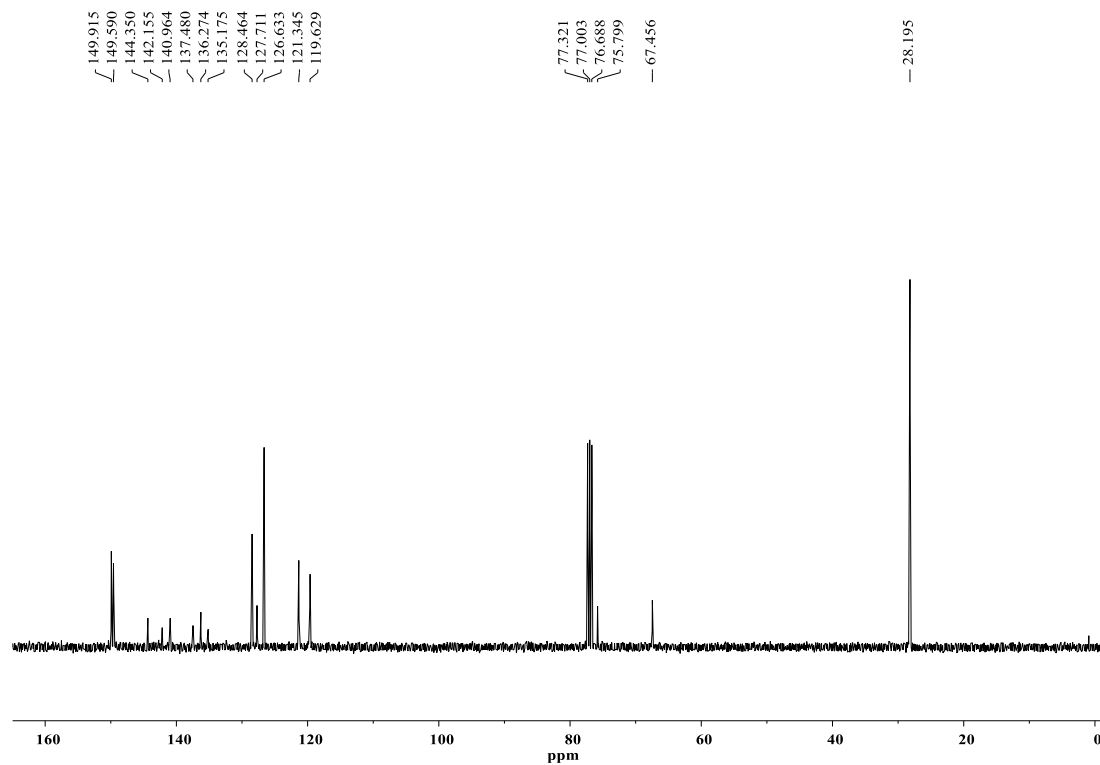
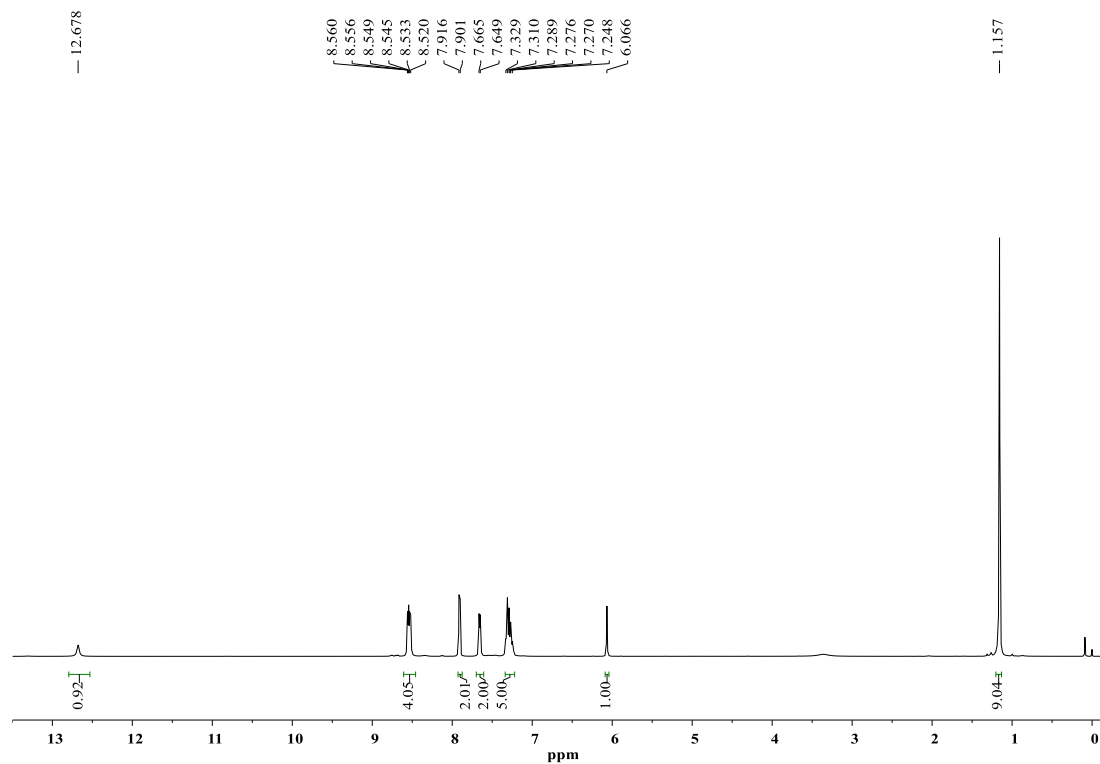




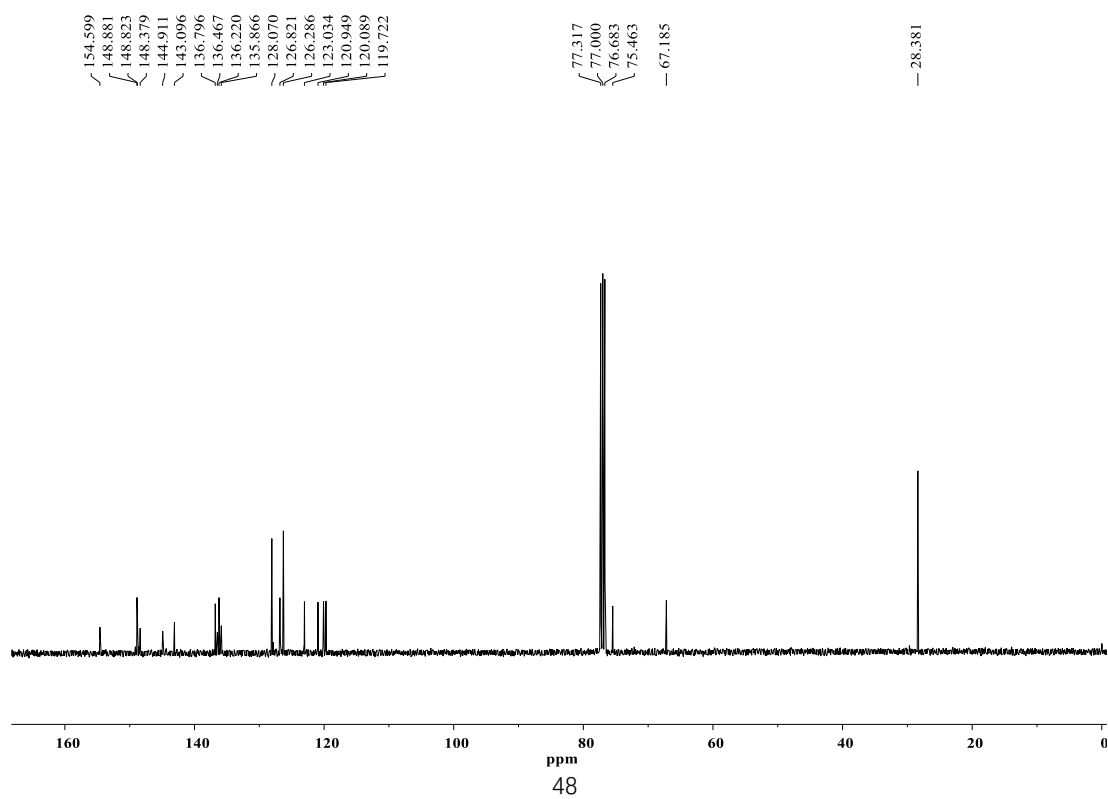
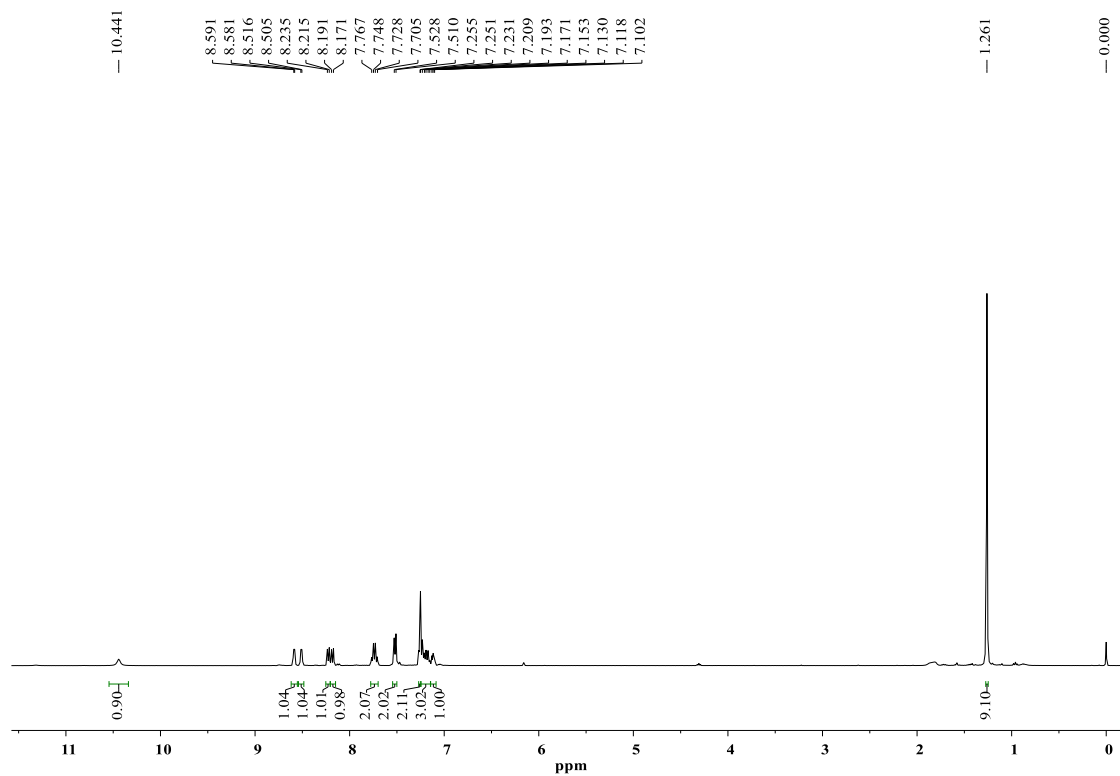
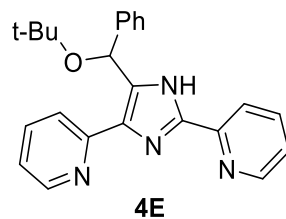


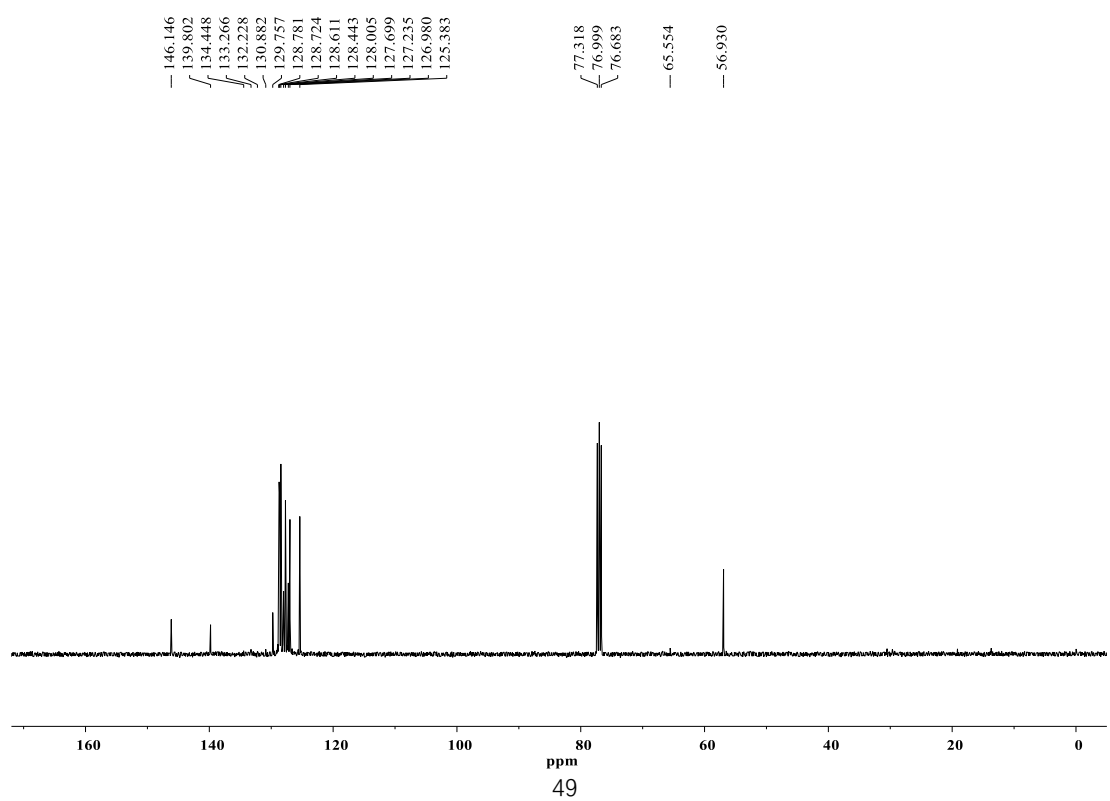
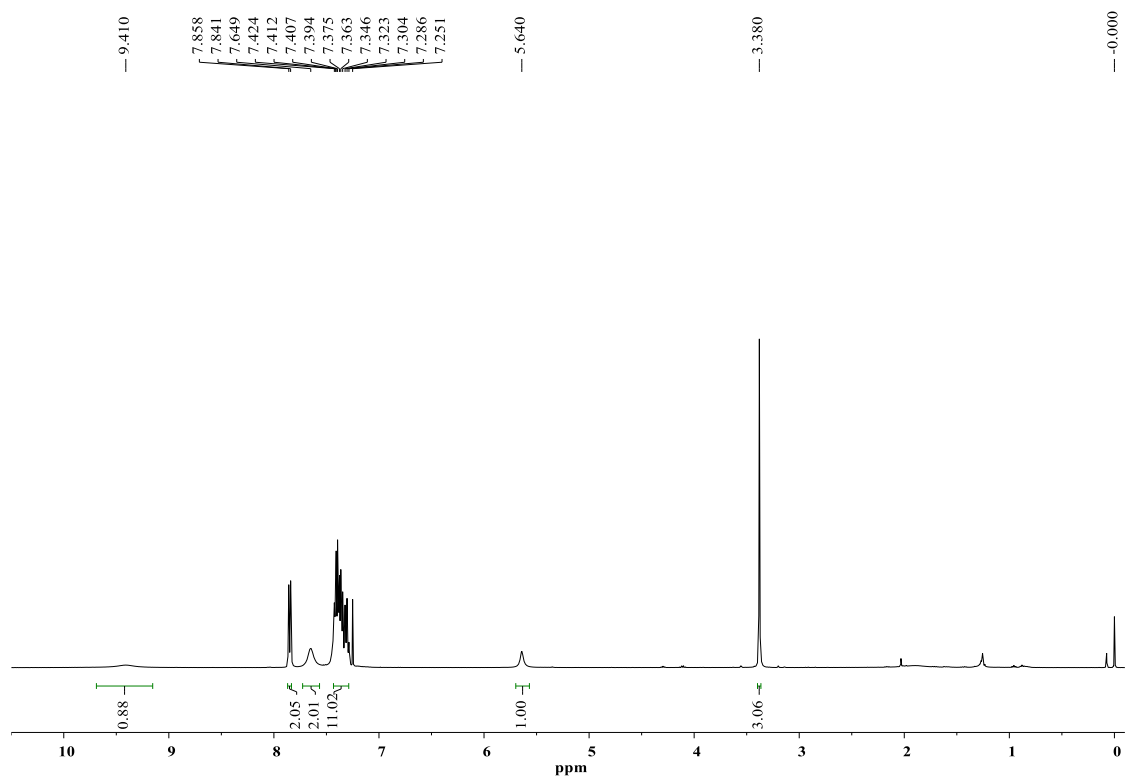
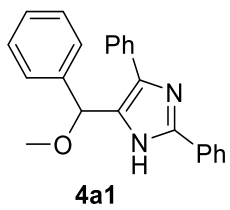


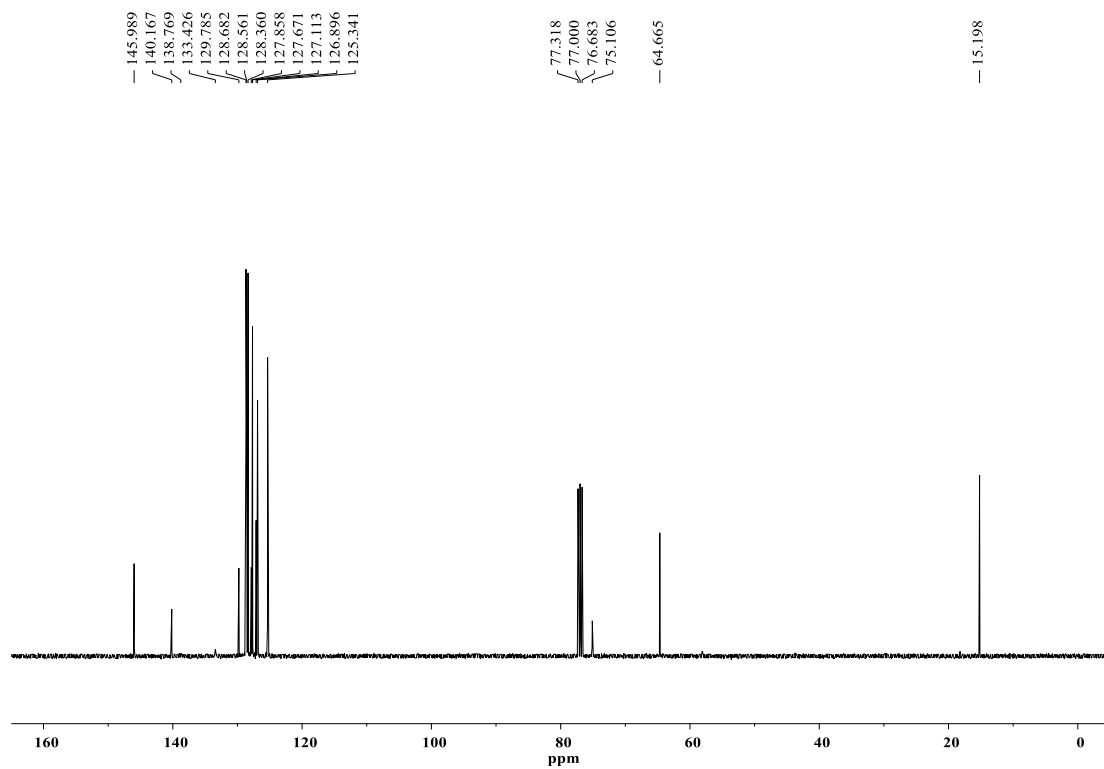
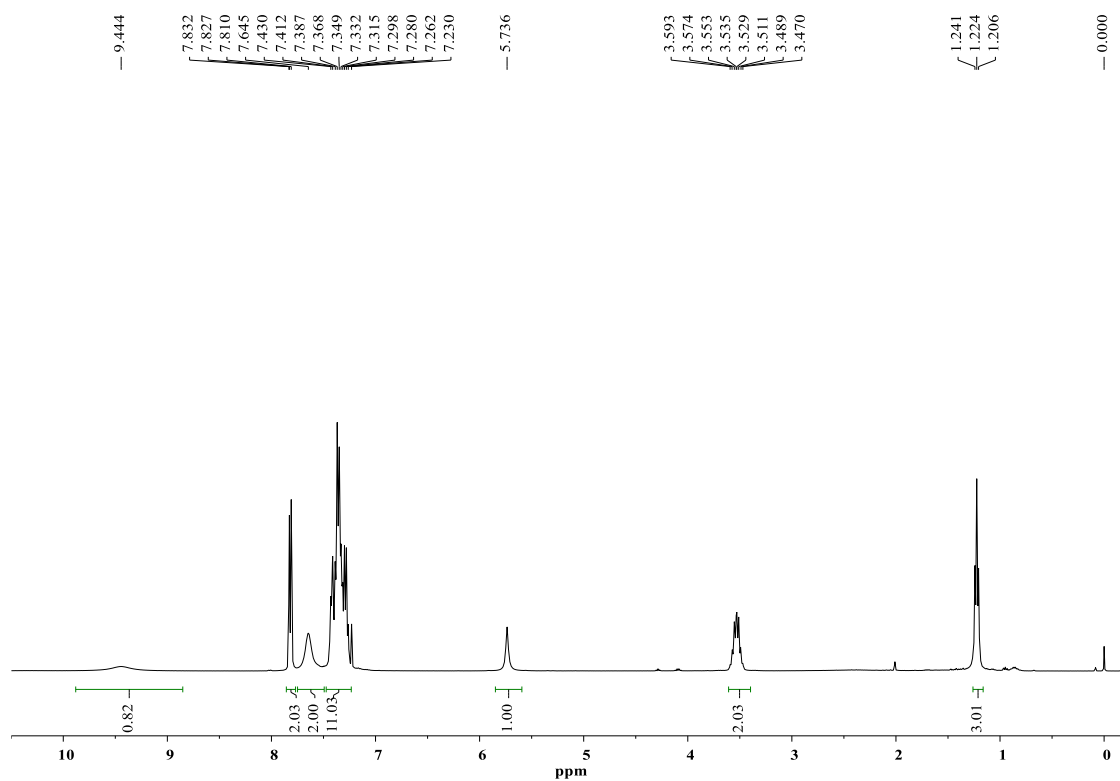
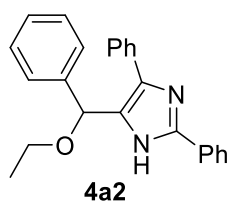
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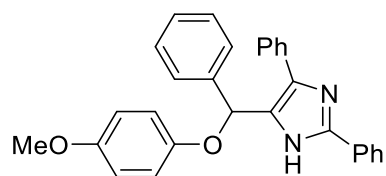




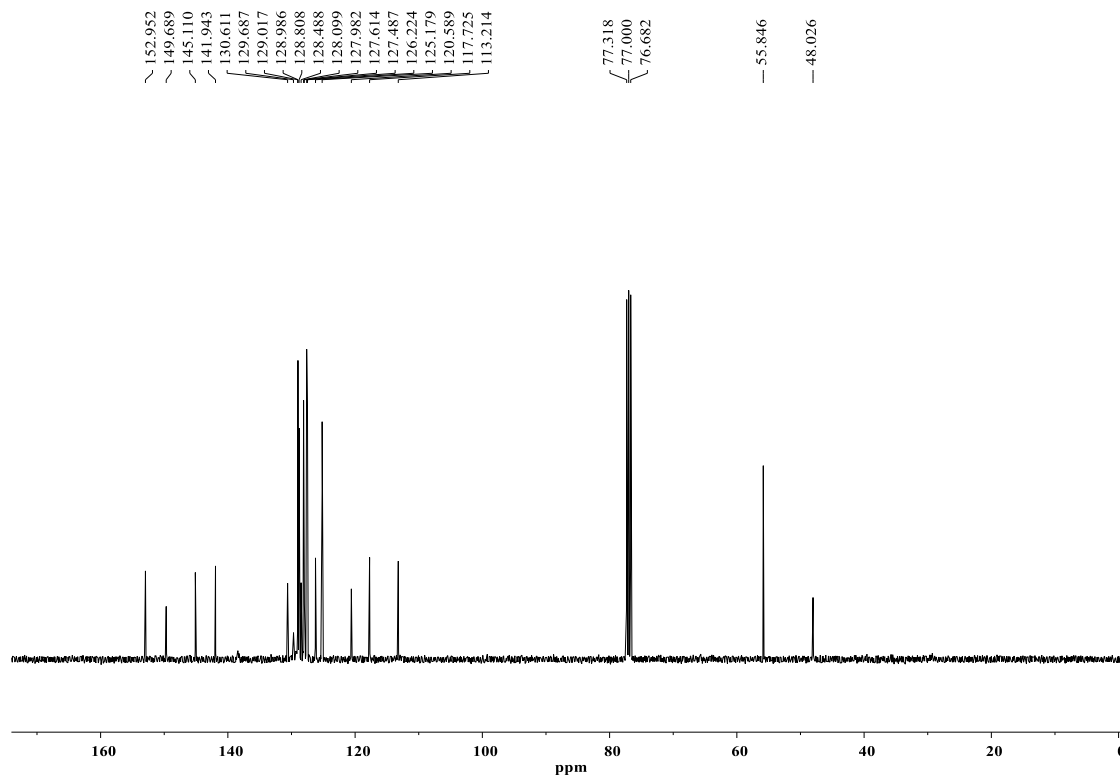
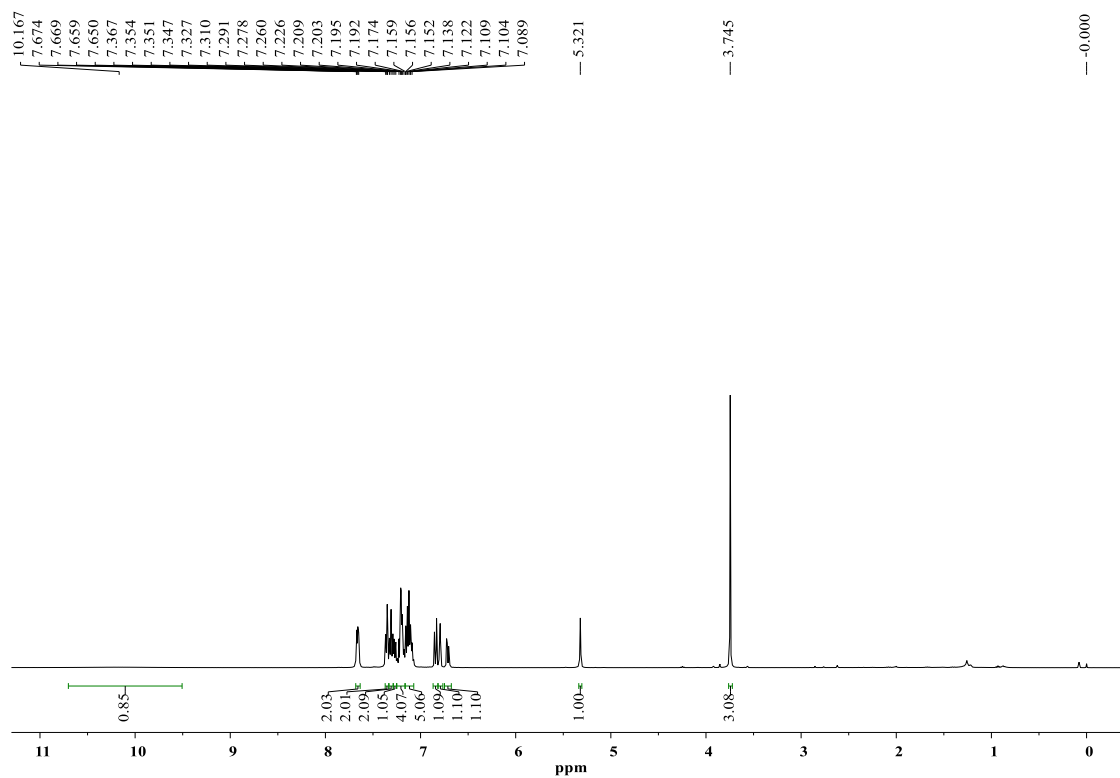








**4a3**



## 6. $^1\text{H}$ NMR Spectras of Mechanistic Investigations

