

# Unique Regioselectivity in the C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H $\alpha$ -Alkylation of Amines: The Benzoxazole Moiety as a Removable Directing Group

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## **General Methods**

### **Reaction conditions**

All reactions requiring anhydrous conditions were performed in dried glassware under argon atmosphere.

### **Solvents and reagents**

All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers without further purification. Anhydrous DME was distilled from potassium / benzophenone under argon.

### **Melting points**

Melting points were determined in open capillary tubes with a KRÜSS OPTRONIC KSP 1N apparatus.

### **NMR spectra**

NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker AC 300 (300 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  and 75.5 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$ ), a Bruker ARX 400 or Avance-II 400 (400 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  and 100.6 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) and with a Bruker Avance-III 600 (600 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  and 151 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$ ). Deuterated solvents were used as internal standard. The  $\delta$  values are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from TMS and were referenced to the residual solvent signal ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )<sup>1</sup> Coupling constants  $J$  are given in Hertz (Hz).

### **Infrared spectra**

IR spectra were recorded on a Tensor 27 or on a Vector 22 (both Bruker) FTIR-spectrometer using a diamond ATR and are reported in terms of frequency of absorption ( $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).

### **Mass spectra**

ESI-HRMS spectra were recorded on a Q-TOF Ultima-III spectrometer (Waters) with a dual source and a suitable external calibrant.

### **Thin-layer chromatography**

Thin-layer chromatography was carried out on 0.2-mm silica gel plates (F-254 Merck). They were detected by UV light (254 and 360 nm).

### **Preparative thin-layer chromatography**

Preparative thin-layer chromatography was performed on silica gel plates (SIL G-200  $\text{UV}_{254}$  Macherey-Nagel).

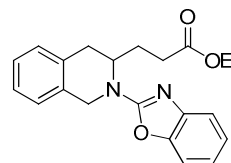
## Experimental procedures and spectroscopic data

### General experimental procedure for C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H alkylation:

*N*-(Benzoxazol-2-yl)amine (1 equiv) and catalyst ([Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF or [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BF<sub>4</sub>, 7 mol %) were placed in a microwave reaction vessel (10 mL) with a septum (conditions A) or in an oven-dried Schlenk tube (conditions B). The vial was evacuated and flushed with argon (three times). To the reaction vessel were added dry and degassed dimethoxyethane (0.2 M) and olefin (8 equiv). The sealed reaction vessel was heated either under microwave irradiation to 140 °C for 1–2 h (300 W, conditions A) or in an oil bath to 85 °C for 4–48 h (conditions B). After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting crude product was purified by preparative TLC unless noted otherwise

### Ethyl 3-[2-(1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-3-yl]propanoate (2a)

Reaction conditions **B** were applied using benzoxazole **1** (23.0 mg, 0.092 mmol), ethylacrylate (80.4  $\mu$ L, 0.74 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BF<sub>4</sub> (7 mol %). After 48 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/1) afforded the title compound (27.1 mg, 84%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



*R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.20 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/1)

**IR** (ATR): 3061 (w), 2979 (w), 2842 (w), 1731 (m), 1633 (s), 1572 (s), 1459 (m), 1244 (s).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.41–7.37 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.25–7.13 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 7.04 (pseudo-td, *J* = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 5.10 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1'), 4.85–4.74 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.58 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1'), 4.10–3.98 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-ethyl), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-4'), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1'), 2.44–2.30 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.01–1.9 (m, 1H, H-3), 1.89–1.78 (m, 1H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-ethyl).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 173.0 (C1), 161.8 (C=N), 148.6, 142.4, 132.0, 131.4 (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.6, 127.2, 126.8, 126.3, 124.3, 120.9, 116.3, 108.9 (8 x Ar-C), 60.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>-ethyl), 51.3 (C3'), 44.2 (C1'), 33.1 (C4'), 31.2 (C2), 27.2 (C3), 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>-ethyl).

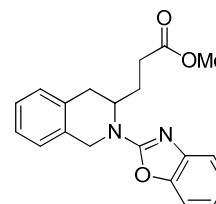
161.8, 142.4 out of HMBC

**ESI-MS:** *m/z* (%) = 351.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calcd for [C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na]<sup>+</sup>: *m/z* = 373.1528, found: 373.1523

### Methyl 3-[2-(1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-3-yl]propanoate (2b)

Reaction conditions **B** were applied using benzoxazole **1** (74.3 mg, 0.30 mmol), methylacrylate (222  $\mu$ L, 2.4 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BF<sub>4</sub> (7 mol %). After 48 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2) afforded the title compound (77.6 mg, 78%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



*R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.19 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2)

**IR** (ATR): 2981 (w), 2928 (w), 2854 (w), 1734 (m), 1637 (s), 1576 (s), 1460 (m), 1241 (br, sh).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.41–7.36 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.31–7.13 (m, 6H, 6 x Ar-H), 7.03 (pseudo-td, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, Ar-H), 5.09 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1'), 4.84–4.73 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.57 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1'), 3.58 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-4'), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-4'), 2.43–2.33 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.07–1.72 (m, 2H, H-3).

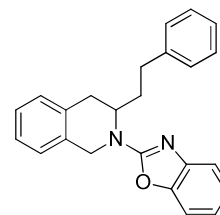
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 173.4 (C1), 162.0 (C=N), 148.7, 143.1, 132.0, 131.5 (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.6, 127.2, 126.7, 126.3, 124.2, 120.8, 116.4, 108.9 (8 x Ar-C), 51.8 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 51.2 (C3'), 44.2 (C1'), 33.1 (C4'), 31.0 (C2), 27.2 (C3).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 337.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 359.1372, found: 359.1369

### 2-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-3-(2-phenylethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (2c)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **1** (89.5 mg, 0.36 mmol), styrene (328.5  $\mu$ l, 2.9 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2) afforded the title compound (102.4 mg, 81%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



**R<sub>f</sub>** = 0.53 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2)

**IR** (ATR): 3026 (w), 2931 (w), 2855 (w), 1628 (s), 1566 (s), 1458 (s), 1245 (s), 739 (s, sh).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.43–7.37(m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.25–7.08 (m, 10H, Ar-H), 7.04 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 5.12 (d,  $J$  = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1), 4.82–4.72 (m, 1H, H-3), 4.58 (d,  $J$  = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1), 3.27 (dd,  $J$  = 16.0, 5.7 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-4), 2.81 (dd,  $J$  = 16.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-4), 2.75–2.61 (m, 2H, H-2'), 2.07–1.91 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1'), 1.89–1.69 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1').

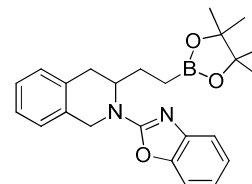
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.2 (C=N), 148.8, 143.3, 141.3, 132.3, 131.7 (5 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.6, 128.5 (4 x), 127.1, 126.6, 126.2, 126.1, 124.2, 120.6, 116.3, 108.9 (13 x Ar-C), 51.7 (C3), 44.2 (C1), 33.6 (C1'), 33.0, 32.8.

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 355.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calcd for [C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 355.1810, found: 355.1819

### 2-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-3-[2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (2d)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **1** (26.0 mg, 0.10 mmol), 2-vinylboronic acid pinacol ester (141  $\mu$ l, 0.83 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by HPLC (ACE 5 C18, 125 x 21.2 mm, isocratic: water/acetonitrile (50/50), 30 mL/min, 18.2 min) afforded the title compound (25.6 mg, 61%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



**R<sub>f</sub>** = 0.64 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 2977 (w), 2932 (w), 2854 (w), 1633 (s), 1573 (s), 1460 (m), 1354 (m), 1261 (m).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.39–7.33 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.28–7.12 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 7.00 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 5.08 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1), 4.70–4.60 (m, 1H, H-3), 4.56 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1), 3.23 (dd,  $J$  = 16.1, 5.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-4), 2.82 (dd,  $J$  = 16.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-4), 1.87–1.46 (m, 2H, H-1'), 1.20 (s, 12H, 4 x CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.82 (ddd,  $J$  = 10.0, 6.4, 3.4 Hz, 2H, H-2').

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.4 (C=N), 148.8, 143.5, 132.5, 131.9, (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.7, 126.9, 126.4, 126.2, 124.0, 120.4, 116.2, 108.8, (8 x Ar-C), 83.3 (2 x OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 53.7 (C3), 44.1 (C1), 32.4 (C4), 26.1 (C1'), 25.0, 24.9 (4 x CH<sub>3</sub>). Carbon C2' is missing

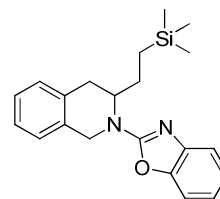
**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 405.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>BN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 405.2349, found: 405.2361



**2-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-3-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (2e)**

Reaction conditions **B** were applied using benzoxazole **1** (34.0 mg, 0.14 mmol), vinyltrimethylsilane (171  $\mu$ l, 1.1 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 12 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound (19.6 mg, 41%) as a colourless amorph solid.



$R_f$  = 0.79 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 3069 (w), 2952 (m), 2925 (w), 1694 (m), 1634 (s), 1572 (s, sh), 1459 (s), 1244 (s).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.41–7.36 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.32–7.13 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 7.02 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 5.10 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1), 4.65–4.54 (m, 1H, H-3), 4.52 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1), 3.24 (dd,  $J$  = 16.1, 5.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-4), 2.84 (dd,  $J$  = 16.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-4), 1.69–1.34 (m, 2H, H-1'), 0.61–0.43 (m, 2H, H-2'), –0.09 (s, 9H, 3 x CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.4 (C=N), 148.7, 143.1, 132.5, 131.9, (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.6, 127.0, 126.5, 126.2, 124.1, 120.5, 116.2, 108.8, (8 x Ar-C), 54.5 (C3), 44.1 (C1), 32.3 (C4), 26.1 (C1'), 13.1 (C2'), –1.7 (3 x CH<sub>3</sub>).

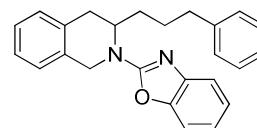
143.1 out of HMBC

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 351.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OSi]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 351.1893, found: 351.1897

**2-(4,5-Dihydro-1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)-3-(3-phenylpropyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (2f)**

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **1** (38.3 mg, 0.15 mmol), allylbenzene (162  $\mu$ l, 1.2 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 1 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound (43.9 mg, 78%) as pale brown oil.



$R_f$  = 0.71 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 3025 (w), 2934 (w), 2857 (w), 1634 (s), 1572 (s), 1459 (s), 1245 (s), 740 (s, sh).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.41–7.36 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.26–7.09 (m, 10 H, Ar-H), 7.03 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 5.09 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1), 4.79–4.69 (m, 1H, H-3), 4.53 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1), 3.25 (dd,  $J$  = 16.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 2.77 (dd,  $J$  = 16.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-4), 2.65–2.54 (m, 2H, H-3'), 1.77–1.62 (m, 3H, H-2', H<sub>a</sub>-1'), 1.57–1.45 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1').

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.1 (C=N), 148.7, 143.1, 142.1, 132.4, 131.8 (5 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.6, 128.5 (2x), 128.5 (2 x), 127.1, 126.6, 126.2, 126.0, 124.2, 120.6, 116.3, 108.9 (13 x Ar-C), 51.7 (C3), 44.1 (C1), 35.7 (C3'), 32.8 (C4), 31.2 (C1'), 28.1 (C2').

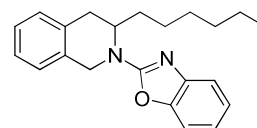
HMBC 143.1 out of HMBC

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 369.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calcd for [C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 369.1967, found: 369.1979

**2-(4,5-Dihydro-1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)-3-hexyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (2g)**

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **1** (61.0 mg, 0.24 mmol), hex-1-ene (256  $\mu$ l, 2.0 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound



(67.7 mg, 83%) as pale yellow oil.

$R_f$  = 0.81 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 3069 (w), 2955 (m), 2855 (w), 1634 (s), 1572 (s), 1460 (m), 1245 (s), 754 (m, sh).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR, COSY** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.41–7.36 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.25–7.12 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 7.02 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 5.09 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{a}}\text{-1}$ ), 4.76–7.64 (m, 1H, H-3), 4.55 (d,  $J$  = 16.8 Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{b}}\text{-1}$ ), 3.24 (dd,  $J$  = 16.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{a}}\text{-4}$ ), 2.79 (dd,  $J$  = 16.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{b}}\text{-4}$ ), 1.75–1.53 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.53–1.10 (m, 9 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 0.92–0.71 (m, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

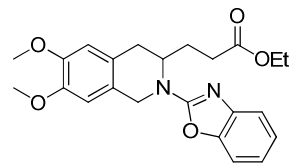
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 162.09 (C=N), 148.6, 143.2, 132.4, 131.7 (4 x  $\text{C}_{\text{q}}$ ), 129.5, 126.9, 126.4, 126.1, 124.0, 120.4, 116.1, 108.7 (8 x Ar-C), 51.7 ( $\text{C}_3$ ), 44.0 ( $\text{C}_1$ ), 32.6 ( $\text{C}_4$ ), 31.7, 31.5, 29.1, 26.2, 22.6 (5 x  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 14.0 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 335.2 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for  $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 335.2123, found: 335.2124

#### Ethyl 3-[2-(1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-3-yl]propanoate (4a)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **3** (39.1 mg, 0.13 mmol), ethylacrylate (110  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.0 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BARF}$  (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound (32.6 mg, 63%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



$R_f$  = 0.25 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 2978 (w, sh), 2907 (w, sh), 2836 (w), 1730 (m), 1632 (s), 1573 (s), 1518 (s), 1460 (s), 1283 (s, sh).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR, COSY** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.41–7.37 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.31–7.25 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.19 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.04 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.68 (s, 1H, H-8'), 6.65 (s, 1H, H-5'), 5.05 (d,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.84–4.74 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.50 (d,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.14–4.03 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ -ethyl), 3.89 (s, 6H, 2 x  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.25 (dd,  $J$  = 16.0, 5.9 Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{a}}\text{-4}'$ ), 2.70 (dd,  $J$  = 16.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{b}}\text{-4}'$ ), 2.46–2.32 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.09–1.78 (m, 2H, H-3), 1.16 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ -ethyl).

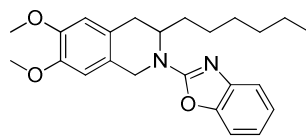
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 173.0 ( $\text{C}_1$ ), 162.2 (C=N), 148.7, 148.2, 148.0, 143.3, (4 x  $\text{C}_{\text{q}}$ ), 124.2, 123.8, 123.1, 120.7, 116.4 (5 x Ar-C), 112.2 ( $\text{C}_5'$ ), 109.0, ( $\text{C}_8'$ ), 108.8 (Ar-C), 60.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ -ethyl), 56.1 (2 x  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 51.2 ( $\text{C}_3'$ ), 43.7 ( $\text{C}_1'$ ), 32.6 ( $\text{C}_4'$ ), 31.3 ( $\text{C}_2$ ), 27.0 ( $\text{C}_3$ ), 14.2 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -ethyl).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 411.3 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for  $[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 411.1920, found: 411.1917

#### 2-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-3-hexyl-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4b)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **3** (45.9 mg, 0.15 mmol), hex-1-ene (156  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.2 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BARF}$  (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by HPLC (ACE 5 C18, 125 x 21.2 mm, gradient: 50 % water/acetonitrile for 10 min,  $\rightarrow$  100% acetonitrile in 10 min 30 mL/min, 14.4 min) afforded the title compound (27.4 mg, 47%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



$R_f$  = 0.53 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2)

**IR** (ATR): 2953 (m, sh), 2929 (m), 2855 (w), 1633 (s), 1574 (s), 1517 (m), 1258 (m, sh), 741 (w, sh).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.39–7.34 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.17 (pseudo-t,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.01 (td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.66 (s, 1H, H-8), 6.63 (s, 1H, H-5), 5.03 (d,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1), 4.74–4.61 (m, 1H, H-3), 4.45 (d,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1), 3.87 (s, 6H, 2 x CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.19 (dd,  $J$  = 15.8, 5.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-4), 2.71–2.62 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-4), 1.77–1.09 (m, 10H), 0.94–0.72 (m, 3H).

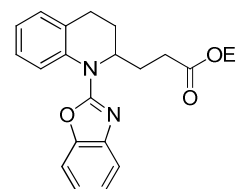
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.3 (C=N), 148.8, 148.1, 147.8, 143.5, (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 124.3, 124.1, 123.5, 120.5, 116.2 (5 x Ar-C), 112.3 (C5), 108.9 (C8), 108.8 (Ar-C), 56.1 (2 x OCH<sub>3</sub>), 51.8 (C3), 43.6 (C1), 32.2 (C4), 31.8, 31.6, 29.3, 26.5, 22.7 (5 x CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 395.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 395.2335, found: 395.2344

### Ethyl 3-[1-(1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-2-yl]propanoate (6a)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **5** (21.7 mg, 0.087 mmol), ethylacrylate (76.0  $\mu$ l, 0.69 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 9/1) afforded the title compound (28.8 mg, 95%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



**R<sub>f</sub>** = 0.15 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 9/1)

**IR** (ATR): 2977 (w, sh), 2934 (w, sh), 2855 (w), 1732 (m), 1624 (m), 1559 (s), 1459 (m), 755 (w, sh).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.77 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1.2, 1H, Ar-H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.31–7.24 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.23–7.14 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.12–7.05 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 4.94–4.83 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.11 (qd,  $J$  = 7.1, 1.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-ethyl), 2.96–2.75 (m, 2H, H-4'), 2.60–2.36 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.32–2.21 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-3'), 2.08–1.82 (m, 3H, H<sub>b</sub>-3', H-3), 1.21 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-ethyl).

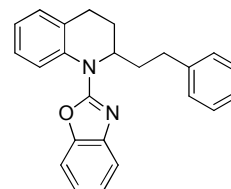
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 173.3 (C1), 160.7 (C=N), 148.4, 142.6, 136.0 (3 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.2 (Ar-C), 129.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 126.8, 124.3, 124.3, 123.7, 121.5, 117.0, 109.2 (7 x Ar-C), 60.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>-ethyl), 54.8 (C2'), 31.0 (C2), 27.1 (C3'), 26.8 (C3), 23.6 (C4'), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>-ethyl).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (e%) = 351.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 351.1709, found: 351.1715

### 1-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-2-(2-phenylethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (6b)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **5** (44.7 mg, 0.18 mmol), styrene (164  $\mu$ l, 1.4 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 9/1) afforded the title compound (46.2 mg, 73%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



**R<sub>f</sub>** = 0.24 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 9/1)

**IR** (ATR): 2931 (w, sh), 2861 (w, sh), 2855 (w), 1624 (m), 1558 (s), 1458 (m), 754 (w, sh).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.79 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.40–7.44 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.3–6.97 (m, 11 H, Ar-H), 5.01–4.83 (m, 1H, H-2), 2.97–2.67 (m, 4H, H-4, H-2'), 2.37–2.22 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-3), 2.14–1.99 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1'), 2.00–1.78 (m, 2H, H<sub>b</sub>-3, H<sub>b</sub>-1').

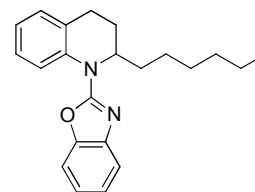
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 160.7 (C=N), 148.4, 142.7, 141.8, 136.3, 129.5 (5 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.1, 128.5 (4 x), 126.7, 126.0, 124.3, 124.2, 123.8, 121.4, 117.0, 109.1 (13 x Ar-C), 55.3 (C2), 33.6 (C1'), 32.5 (C2'), 27.1 (C3), 23.8 (C4).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 355.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for  $[C_{21}H_{23}N_2O_3]^+$ :  $m/z = 355.1810$ , found: 355.1818

**1-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-2-hexyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (6c)**

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **5** (43.7 mg, 0.17 mmol), hex-1-ene (184  $\mu$ l, 1.4 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and  $[Ir(cod)_2]BARF$  (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 9/1) afforded the title compound (38.5 mg, 66%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



$R_f = 0.37$  (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 9/1)

**IR** (ATR): 2952 (w, sh), 2927 (m, sh), 2856 (w), 1622 (m), 1554 (s), 1457 (m), 754 (m, sh).

**$^1H$  NMR, COSY** (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 7.80$  (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.49–7.42 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.33–7.24 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.24–7.13 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.13–7.03 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 4.87–4.76 (m, 1H, H-2), 2.98–2.63 (m, 2H, H-4), 2.3–2.16 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-3), 1.95–1.80 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-3), 1.82–1.65 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1'), 1.61–1.15 (m, 9H, CH<sub>2</sub>-hexyl), 0.94–0.75 (m, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-hexyl).

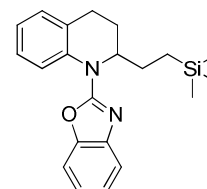
**$^{13}C$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 160.7$  (C=N), 148.4, 142.8, 136.5, 129.6 (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.0, 126.6, 124.1, 124.1, 123.7, 121.3, 116.9, 109.1 (8 x Ar-C), 55.6 (C2), 31.9, 31.7 (C1'), 29.3, 26.9 (C3), 26.0, 23.9 (C4), 22.7, 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>-hexyl).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 335.3 (100)  $[M+H]^+$

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for  $[C_{22}H_{27}N_2O]^+$ :  $m/z = 335.2123$ , found: 335.2125

**1-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-2-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (6d)**

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **5** (39.3 mg, 0.16 mmol), vinyltrimethylsilane (197  $\mu$ l, 1.3 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and  $[Ir(cod)_2]BARF$  (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 9.5/0.5) afforded the title compound (44.4 mg, 81%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



$R_f = 0.36$  (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 9/1)

**IR** (ATR): 2951 (w, sh), 2929 (w, sh), 1624 (m), 1558 (s), 1459 (m), 1248 (m), 754 (m, sh).

**$^1H$  NMR, COSY** (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 7.80$  (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.49–7.41 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.33–7.25 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.25–7.14 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.13–7.01 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 4.78–4.62 (m, 1H, H-2), 2.87–2.69 (m, 2H, H-4), 2.34–2.15 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-3), 1.99–1.81 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-3), 1.80–1.64 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1'), 1.63–1.44 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1'), 0.64–0.52 (m, 2H, H-2'), -0.06 (s, 9H, 3 x CH<sub>3</sub>).

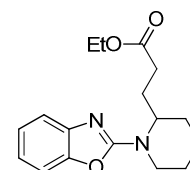
**$^{13}C$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 160.8$  (C=N), 148.4, 142.7, 136.6, 130.1 (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 128.8, 126.6, 124.2, 124.1, 123.7, 121.3, 116.8, 109.1 (8 x Ar-C), 58.1 (C2), 26.7 (C3), 26.3 (C1'), 24.1 (C4), 12.5 (C2'), -1.7 (3 x CH<sub>3</sub>).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 351.2 (100)  $[M+H]^+$

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for  $[C_{21}H_{27}N_2OSi]^+$ :  $m/z = 351.1893$ , found: 351.1886

**Ethyl 3-[1-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)piperidin-2-yl]propanoate (8a)**

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **7** (100.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), ethylacrylate (433  $\mu$ l, 4.0 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and  $[Ir(cod)_2]BF_4$  (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer



chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2) afforded the title compound (85.3 mg, 81%) as a colourless oil.

$R_f$  = 0.34 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2)

**IR** (ATR): 2978 (w, sh), 2938 (m, sh), 2867 (w, sh), 1733 (m), 1633 (s), 1575 (s), 1461 (m), 1247 (m), 741 (w, sh).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR, COSY** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.33–7.29 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14 (pseudo-t<sub>d</sub>,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.98 (pseudo-t<sub>d</sub>,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 4.54–4.43 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.22–4.15 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-6'), 4.07 (qd,  $J$  = 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-ethyl), 3.18 (td,  $J$  = 13.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-6'), 2.43–2.31 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.32–2.18 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-3), 1.93–1.46 (m, 7H), 1.15 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-ethyl).

Ethyl acetate could not be removed

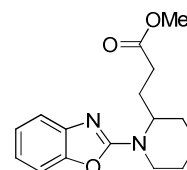
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 173.4 (C1), 162.5 (C=N), 148.6, 143.5 (2 x C<sub>q</sub>), 124.0, 120.3, 116.0, 108.6 (4 x Ar-C), 60.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>-ethyl), 52.6 (C2'), 41.0 (C6'), 31.4 (C2), 28.5, 25.3, 24.9 (C3), 19.0, 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>-ethyl).

**ESI-MS**:  $m/z$  (%) = 303.1 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS**: calculated for  $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 303.1709, found: 303.1718

#### Methyl 3-[1-(1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)piperidin-2-yl]propanoate (8b)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **7** (65.1 mg, 0.32 mmol), methylacrylate (241  $\mu\text{l}$ , 2.6 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BF}_4$  (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2) afforded the title compound (47.0 mg, 51%) as a colourless oil.



$R_f$  = 0.30 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2)

**IR** (ATR): 2945 (m), 2863 (w), 1737 (m), 1633 (s), 1575 (s), 1460 (m), 1247 (m), 742 (w, sh).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR, COSY** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.33–7.29 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14 (pseudo-t<sub>d</sub>,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.98 (pseudo-t<sub>d</sub>,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 4.52–4.44 (m, 1H, H2'), 4.24–4.10 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-6'), 3.6 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.17 (td,  $J$  = 13.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-6'), 2.40–2.34 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.33–2.20 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-3), 1.94–1.49 (m, 7H).

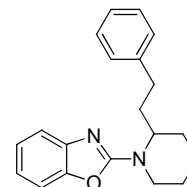
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 173.8 (C1), 162.5 (C=N), 148.6, 143.5 (2 x C<sub>q</sub>), 124.0, 120.3, 116.0, 108.6 (4 x Ar-C), 52.6 (C2'), 51.8 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 41.0 (C6'), 31.1 (C2), 28.5, 25.3, 24.9 (C3), 19.0.

**ESI-MS**:  $m/z$  (%) = 289.1 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS**: calculated for  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 289.1552, found: 289.1557

#### 2-[2-(2-Phenylethyl)piperidin-1-yl]-1,3-benzoxazole (8c)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **7** (25.1 mg, 0.12 mmol), styrene (113  $\mu\text{l}$ , 1.0 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BARF}$  (7 mol %). After 1 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound (18.3 mg, 48%) as a colourless oil.



$R_f$  = 0.66 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 2938 (m), 2860 (w), 1737 (m), 1633 (s), 1574 (s), 1460 (m), 1247 (m), 741 (w, sh).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR, COSY** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.36–7.31 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.30–7.11 (m, 7H, Ar-H), 6.99 (pseudo-t<sub>d</sub>,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 4.59–4.39 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.26–4.16 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-6'), 3.29–3.06 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-6'), 2.76–2.51 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.2–2.10 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-1"), 1.99–1.78 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-1"), 1.79–1.46 (m, 6H).

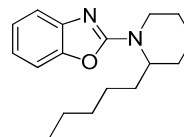
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.7 (C=N), 148.6, 143.6, 141.8 (3 x C<sub>q</sub>), 128.5 (4 x), 126.1, 124.0, 120.2, 116.0, 108.7 (9 x Ar-C), 53.0 (C2'), 41.2 (C6'), 32.8 (C2''), 31.7 (C1''), 28.3, 25.4, 19.0.

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 307.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 307.1810, found: 307.1809

### 2-(2-Hexylpiperidin-1-yl)-1,3-benzoxazole (8d)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **7** (39.3 mg, 0.19 mmol), hex-1-ene (204  $\mu$ l, 1.6 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 1 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound (23.3 mg, 42%) as a colourless oil.



$R_f$  = 0.72 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 2928 (s), 2856 (m), 1737 (m), 1629 (s), 1571 (s), 1459 (m), 1246 (m), 739 (s, sh).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.35–7.29 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.13 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.97 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 4.47–4.34 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.123–4.09 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-6'), 3.23–3.10 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-6'), 1.90–1.47 (m, 8H), 1.38–1.12 (m, 8H), 0.92–0.77 (m, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

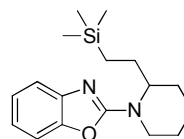
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.7 (C=N), 148.6, 143.7 (2 x C<sub>q</sub>), 123.9, 120.1, 115.9, 108.5 (4 x Ar-C), 53.1 (C2'), 41.1 (C6'), 31.9, 29.5, 29.4, 28.1, 26.4, 25.4, 22.8, 18.9 (8 x CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 287.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 287.2123, found: 287.2117

### 2-{2-[2-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl]piperidin-1-yl}-1,3-benzoxazole (8e)

Reaction conditions **B** were applied using benzoxazole **7** (42.4 mg, 0.21 mmol), vinyltrimethylsilane (263  $\mu$ l, 1.7 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 48 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound (24.7 mg, 39%) as a pale brown oil.



$R_f$  = 0.67 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 2947 (m, sh), 2862 (w), 1737 (m), 1634 (s), 1575 (s), 1460 (m), 1247 (m), 740 (m, sh).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.35–7.30 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.97 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 4.43–4.26 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.23–4.13 (m, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-6'), 3.19–3.04 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-6'), 1.87–1.38 (m, 8H), 0.58–0.33 (m, 2H, H-2''), –0.02 (s, 9H).

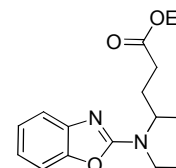
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.8 (C=N), 148.6, 143.7 (2 x C<sub>q</sub>), 123.9, 120.1, 115.8, 108.6 (4 x Ar-C), 55.7 (C2'), 41.1 (C6'), 27.5, 25.4, 23.7, 18.9, 13.0 (C2''), –1.6 (3 x CH<sub>3</sub>).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 303.2 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OSi]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 303.1893, found: 303.1889

### Ethyl 4-[1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl(ethyl)amino]pentanoate (12a)

Reaction conditions **B** were applied using benzoxazole **11** (21.5 mg, 0.11 mmol), ethylacrylate (98.4  $\mu$ l, 0.90 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BARF (7 mol %). After 4 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound (21.0 mg, 64%) as colorless amorphous solid



$R_f = 0.52$  (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 2977 (m, sh), 2937 (w, sh), 1734 (m), 1633 (s), 1576 (s), 1461 (m), 1248 (m), 742 (w, sh).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR, COSY** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.37–7.32 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.99 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 4.43–4.24 (m, 1H, H-4), 4.09 (q,  $J$  = 7.2, Hz, 2H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.60–3.36 (m, 2H, CH,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.41–2.22 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.15–1.79 (m, 2H, H-3), 1.35–1.27 (m, 6H), 1.18 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ).

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 173.3 (C1), 162.5 (C=N), 148.7, 143.3 (2 x  $\text{C}_q$ ), 124.0, 120.2, 116.0, 108.7 (4 x Ar-C), 60.7 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 53.7 (C4), 39.1 ( $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 31.5 (C2), 29.7 (C3), 19.3, 15.1, 14.3 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ).

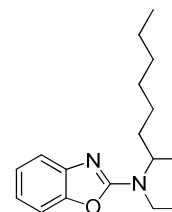
**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 291.2 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 313.1528, found: 313.1524

162.5, 143.3 out of HMBC

### N-Ethyl-N-(octan-2-yl)-1,3-benzoxazol-2-amine (12b)

Reaction conditions **A** were applied using benzoxazole **11** (48.4 mg, 0.25 mmol), hex-1-ene (277  $\mu\text{L}$ , 2.0 mmol, 8.0 equiv) and  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BARF}$  (7 mol %). After 2 h, purification by thin-layer chromatography (Cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3) afforded the title compound (36.9 mg, 53%) as colorless oil.



$R_f = 0.71$  (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 7/3)

**IR** (ATR): 2957 (w, sh), 2929 (w, sh), 2857 (w, sh), 1631 (s), 1575 (s), 1461 (m), 1283 (m), 904 (m), 739 (s, sh).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR, COSY** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.38–7.33 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.28–7.20 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.98 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 4.40–4.24 (m, 1H, H2), 3.56–3.35 (m, 2H, H-2'), 1.76–1.59 (m, 1H,  $\text{H}_a$ -3'), 1.59–1.42 (m, 1H,  $\text{H}_b$ -3'), 1.39–1.07 (m, 14H), 0.96–0.72 (m, 3H, H-8  $\text{H}_a$ -3').

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 162.7 (C=N), 148.7, 143.4 (2 x  $\text{C}_q$ ), 123.9, 120.0, 115.9, 108.6 (4 x Ar-C), 54.2 (C2'), 38.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ -ethyl), 34.9 (C3'), 31.9, 29.4, 26.7, 22.7, 19.4 (C1'), 15.2  $\text{CH}_3$ -ethyl, 14.2 (C8').

143.4 out of HMBC

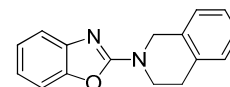
**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 275.2 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for  $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 275.2123, found: 275.2134

## Introduction of the benzoxazol-2-yl (Bo-) group

### 2-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (1)

**Method A:** To a mixture of acetic acid (3.54 g, 59 mmol 3.0 equiv) and *tert*-butylhydroperoxide (70% in water, 3.86 g, 30 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in acetonitrile (12.0 mL), *tetra*-butylammonium iodide (350 mg, 0.95 mmol, 5 mol %), 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (3.15 g, 24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and benzoxazole (2.35 g, 20 mmol) in acetonitrile (12.0 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4.5 h at 80 °C. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of an aqueous solution of sodium disulfite (120 mL) and a saturated solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (300 mL). The mixture was extracted with DCM (5 x 200 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 10/1) to afford the title compound (4.30 g, 87%) as a white solid, mp 95.2–97.0 °C (dec.), lit. mp 85–88 °C.<sup>2</sup>



$R_f$  = 0.22 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 10/1)

**IR** (ATR): 1634 (m, sh), 1576 (m), 1457 (m), 1371 (m), 1257 (m), 738 (s).

**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ , COSY** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.42–7.37 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.26–7.15 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 7.03 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 4.86 (s, 2H, H-1), 3.96 (t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H, H-3), 3.01 (t,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz, 2H, H-4).

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ , HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 162.2 (C=N), 148.9, 143.3, 134.2, 132.5 (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 128.9, 126.9, 126.7, 126.5, 124.1, 120.7, 116.4, 108.9 (8 x Ar-C), 47.3 (C1), 43.2 (C3), 28.6 (C4).

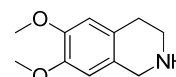
**ESI-MS**:  $m/z$  (%) = 251.1 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS**: calculated for  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 251.1184, found: 251.1191

**Method B**: To a mixture of 2-chlorobenzoxazole (2.00 g, 13 mmol, 1.2) in dry THF (30 mL) was added 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (1.47 g, 11 mmol) and triethylamine (1.98 g, 20 mmol, 1.8 equiv) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 70 °C. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of water (50 mL). The mixture was extracted with DCM (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (Cyclohexane/AcOEt = 10/1) to afford the title compound (2.64 g, 96%) as a pale yellow solid, mp 97.1–98.3 °C (dec.), lit. mp 85–88 °C.<sup>2</sup> The spectroscopic data were identically with the sample prepared by method A.

#### 6,7-Dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (16)

Compound **16** was prepared in 92% yield by the method Min Wang, et al. (2010).<sup>3</sup> To 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethylamine (25.0 g, 137 mmol) was added formic acid (70 mL) at 0 °C. After stirring at 0 °C for 10 min, paraformaldehyde (8.14 g, 137 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 14 h at 50 °C. Excess formic acid was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was poured into ice-water. After basification with 1N NaOH to pH 11, the mixture was extracted with DCM (3 x 200 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was recrystallized from DCM to afford the title compound (24.5 g, 92%) as pale yellow solid, mp 79.1–80.2 °C (dec.), lit. mp 78–79 °C.<sup>3</sup>



$R_f$  = 0.28 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  = 3/1)

**IR** (ATR): 2953 (m), 2792 (m), 1523 (w), 1227 (m), 1120 (m), 903 (s), 727 (s), 650 (w).

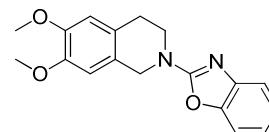
**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ , COSY** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 6.61 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 6.56 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 4.25 (s, 2H, 1-H), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.41 (t,  $J$  = 6.2 Hz, 2H, H-3), 3.09 (t,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 2H, H-4).

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ , HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 149.0, 148.5, 123.5, 119.3 (4 x C<sub>q</sub>), 111.6, 109.2 (2 x Ar-C), 56.2, 56.1 (2 x OCH<sub>3</sub>), 44.0 (C1), 41.7 (C3), 25.1 (C4).

**ESI-MS**:  $m/z$  (%) = 194.1 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

#### 2-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (3)

To a mixture of 2-chlorobenzoxazole (350 mg, 3.6 mmol) in dry THF (15 mL) was added 6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (**16**: 1.03 g, 5.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and Hünig's base (0.69 g, 5.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at 60 °C. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of water (30 mL). The mixture was extracted with DCM (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether /AcOEt = 2/1) to afford the title compound (1.10 g, 96%) as a pale yellow solid, mp 110.9–111.4 °C.





$R_f$  = 0.53 (petroleum ether/AcOEt = 1/1)

**IR** (ATR): 2935 (m), 2836 (m), 1634 (s), 1575 (s), 1515 (s), 1458 (s), 1202 (s), 1115 (s), 739 (s),.

**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ , COSY** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.45–7.40 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.20 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.06 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.68 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 6.66 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 4.83 (s, 2H, H-1), 3.99 (t,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz, 2H, H-3), 3.87 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.86 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 2.94 (t,  $J$  = 6.2 Hz, 2H, H-4).

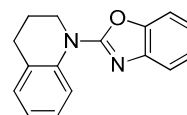
**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ , HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 161.3 (C=N), 148.4, 148.1, 148.0, 141.3, 125.8 (5 x  $\text{C}_q$ ), 124.5 (Ar-C), 123.8 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 121.3, 116.1, 111.6, 109.2, 109.1 (5 x Ar-C), 56.1, (2 x  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 47.2 (C1), 43.6 (C3), 28.0 (C4).

**ESI-MS**:  $m/z$  (%) = 311.1 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS**: calculated for  $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 311.1396, found: 311.1395

### 1-(1,3-Benzoxazol-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (5)

To a mixture of 2-chlorobenzoxazole (2.00 g, 13 mmol) in dry THF (30 mL) was added 6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (2.60 g, 20 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and Hünig's base (2.53 g, 20 mmol, 1.5 equiv) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 40 h under reflux. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of water (50 mL). The mixture was extracted with DCM (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether /AcOEt = 12/1) to afford the title compound (2.84 g, 87%) as a pale yellow solid, mp 63.2–64.6 °C.



$R_f$  = 0.53 (petroleum ether/AcOEt = 5/1)

**IR** (ATR): 3037 (w), 2947 (m), 1622 (s), 1552 (s), 1235 (m), 1455 (s), 802 (m), 741(s).

**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ , COSY** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.99–7.94 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.52–7.46 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.23 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.18–7.14 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14–7.03 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 4.10 (t,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 2H, H-2), 2.86 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2H, H-4), 2.17–1.91 (m, 2H, H-3).

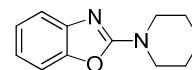
**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ , HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.4 (C=N), 148.4, 142.5, 137.7, 129.2 (4 x  $\text{C}_q$ ), 129.1, 126.7, 124.2, 123.6, 121.7, 121.6, 117.0, 109.2 (8 x Ar-C), 47.3 (C2), 27.5 (C4), 23.0 (C3).

**ESI-MS**:  $m/z$  (%) = 251.1 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

**ESI-HRMS**: calculated for  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 251.1184, found: 251.1194

### 2-(Piperidin-1-yl)-1,3-benzoxazole (7)

**Method A**: To a mixture of 2-chlorobenzoxazole (2.00 g, 13 mmol) in dry THF (40 mL) was added piperidine (1.66 g, 20 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and Hünig's base (2.53 g, 20 mmol, 1.5 equiv) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 70 °C. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of water (50 mL). The mixture was extracted with DCM (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 5/1) to afford the title compound (2.47 g, 93%) as a white amorphous solid.



$R_f$  = 0.35 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 5/1)

**IR** (ATR): 2938 (m), 2853 (m), 1631 (s), 1574 (s), 1458 (s), 1278 (m, sh), 1226 (m, sh), 740 (s).

**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ , COSY** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.36–7.29 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.12 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.96 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 3.82–3.23 (m, 4H, H-2', H-6'), 1.71–1.56 (m, 6H, H-3', H-4', H-5').

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ , HMBC, HSQC** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 162.4 (C=N), 148.7, 143.4 (2 x  $\text{C}_q$ ), 123.8, 120.3, 116.0, 108.6, (4 x Ar-C), 46.6 (C2', C6'), 25.3 (C3', C5'), 24.1 (C4').

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 203.2 (100)  $[M+H]^+$

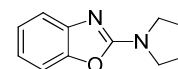
**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for  $[C_{12}H_{15}N_2O]^+$ :  $m/z$  = 203.1184, found: 203.1178

**Method B:** Compound **7** was prepared in 69% yield by the method Froehr et al. (2011).<sup>4</sup> To a mixture of acetic acid (3.00 g, 50 mmol 3.0 equiv) and *tert*-butyl-hydroperoxide (70% in water, 3.58 g, 28 mmol, 1.6 equiv) in acetonitrile (18.0 mL), *tetra*-butylammonium iodide (308 mg, 0.83 mmol, 5 mol %), piperidine (1.70 g, 20 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and benzoxazole (2.00 g, 17 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.75 h at 80 °C. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of an aqueous solution of sodium disulfite (250 mL) and a saturated solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (250 mL). The mixture was extracted with DCM (3 × 300 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 15/1) afforded the title compound (2.33 g, 69%) as white amorphous solid. The spectroscopic data were identically with the sample prepared by method A.

### 2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1,3-benzoxazole (**9**)

Compound **9** was prepared in 49% yield by the method Froehr et al. (2011).<sup>4</sup>

$R_f$  = 0.31 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 5/1)

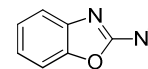


**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, COSY** (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.38–7.32 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.14 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.98 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 3.71–3.54 (m, 4H, H-2', H-5'), 2.08–1.94 (m, 4H, H-3', H-4').

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 161.1 (C=N), 149.1, 143.8 (2 ×  $C_q$ ), 123.9, 120.1, 116.1, 108.7 (4 × Ar-C), 47.5 ( $C2'$ ,  $C5'$ ), 25.7 ( $C3'$ ,  $C4'$ ).

### *N,N*-dimethyl-1,3-benzoxazol-2-amine (**10**)

To a mixture of 2-chlorobenzoxazole (2.00 g, 13 mmol) in dry THF (40 mL) was added dimethylamine (40% in water, 14.65 g, 0.13 mol, 10 equiv) under an argon atmosphere. Then the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature, filtered and washed with water to afford the title compound in quantitative yield as a colorless solid mp 82.1–83.0 °C (dec), lit. mp 80–82 °C.<sup>5</sup>



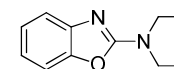
$R_f$  = 0.27 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 6/4)

**IR** (ATR): 3053 (m), 2932 (w), 2878 (w), 1656 (s), 1580 (s), 1462 (s), 1422 (s), 1267 (s), 1237 (s), 811 (m), 733 (s).

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, COSY** (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.38–7.32 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.27–7.22 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.15 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.99 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 3.20 (s, 6H, 2 ×  $CH_3$ ).

### *N,N*-Diethyl-1,3-benzoxazol-2-amine (**11**)

To a mixture of 2-chlorobenzoxazole (2.00 g, 13 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was added triethylamine (1.98 g, 20 mmol, 1.5 equiv) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 14 h under reflux. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of water (50 mL). The mixture was extracted with DCM (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether /AcOEt = 10/1) to afford the title compound (1.67 g, 67%) as a pale brown liquid.



$R_f$  = 0.19 (petroleum ether /AcOEt = 10/1)

**IR** (ATR): 2974 (m), 1634 (s), 1575 (s), 1459 (s), 1245 (s), 779 (m), 738 (s, sh).

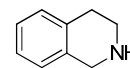
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, COSY** (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.36–7.35 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.34–7.33 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.13 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.97 (pseudo-td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 3.57 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 4H, 2 ×  $CH_2$ -ethyl), 1.27 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 6H, 2 ×  $CH_3$ -ethyl).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.3 (C=N), 148.9, 143.8 (2 x C<sub>q</sub>), 123.8, 120.0, 115.9, 108.6 (4 x Ar-C), 43.0 (2 x CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (2 x CH<sub>3</sub>).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 191.1 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

### 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (13)

**Method A:** To a mixture of benzoxazole (**1**: 84.0 mg, 0.34 mmol) in ethylene glycol (53 mL) was added KOH (6.30 g). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 140 °C. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and water (150 mL) was added. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 × 150 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (150 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*, to afford the title compound (29.0 mg, 65%) as a pale brown liquid.



**R<sub>f</sub>** = 0.77 (AcOEt/EtOH = 2/1, 1 % NEt<sub>3</sub>)

**IR** (ATR): 330 (m, br), 3056 (m, br), 2737 (m, sh), 1590 (m, sh), 1512 (s, sh), 1265 (s), 741 (s).

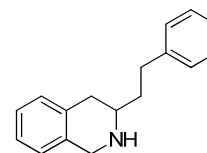
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.18–7.05 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.06–6.92 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 4.02 (s, 2H, H-1), 3.15 (t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.81 (t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.27 (s, 1H, NH).

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 134.1 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**Method B:** To benzoxazole (**1**: 24.0 mg, 0.096 mmol) in dry THF (2 mL) was added LAH (144  $\mu$ L, 2 M solution in THF, 0.29 mmol, 3.0 equiv) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h under reflux. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of 2 N NaOH (1 mL) and water (1 mL). The suspension was filtrated and washed with DCM 50 mL. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the title compound (11.3 mg, 88%) as brown liquid. The spectroscopic data were identically with the sample prepared by method A.

### 3-(2-phenylethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (14)

To tetrahydroisoquinoline (**2c**: 56.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was added LAH (240  $\mu$ L, 2 M solution in THF, 0.47 mmol, 3.0 equiv) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h under reflux. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched by the addition of 2 N NaOH (1.5 mL) and water (1.5 mL). The suspension was filtrated and washed with DCM 50 mL. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 5/3, 1 % NEt<sub>3</sub>) to afford the title compound (21.0 mg, 57%) as a pale brown oil.



**R<sub>f</sub>** = 0.13 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 5/3, 1 % NEt<sub>3</sub>)

**IR** (ATR): 3023 (m), 2919 (s), 1495 (m), 1452 (m), 744 (s), 699 (s).

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, COSY** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.27–7.16 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.16–7.06 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.05–6.99 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 4.07 (s, 2H, H-1), 2.97–2.70 (m, 4H), 2.57 (dd,  $J$  = 16.2, 10.4 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-4), 1.90–1.79 (m, 2H, H-1'), 1.69 (br, s, 1H, NH).

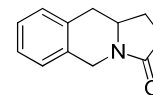
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 142.2, 135.9, 134.8 (3 x C<sub>q</sub>), 129.4, 128.5 (4 x), 126.2, 126.1, 126.0, 125.9 (9 x Ar-C), 53.3 (C3), 48.6 (C1), 38.6 (C1'), 35.6 (C4), 32.5 (C2').

**ESI-MS:**  $m/z$  (%) = 238.1 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 238.1596, found: 238.1607

**1,5,10,10a-Tetrahydropyrrolo[1,2-*b*]isoquinolin-3(2*H*)-one (15)**

A mixture of propanoate (**2a**: 62.0 mg, 0.18 mmol) and KOH (5.20 g) in ethylene glycol (44 ml) was immersed in a pre-heated oil bath at 190 °C and refluxed for 24 h. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and water (100 mL) was added. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (150 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*, to afford the title compound (24.1 mg, 73%) as a colourless amorphous solid.



**R<sub>f</sub>** = 0.32 (cyclohexane/AcOEt = 8/2)

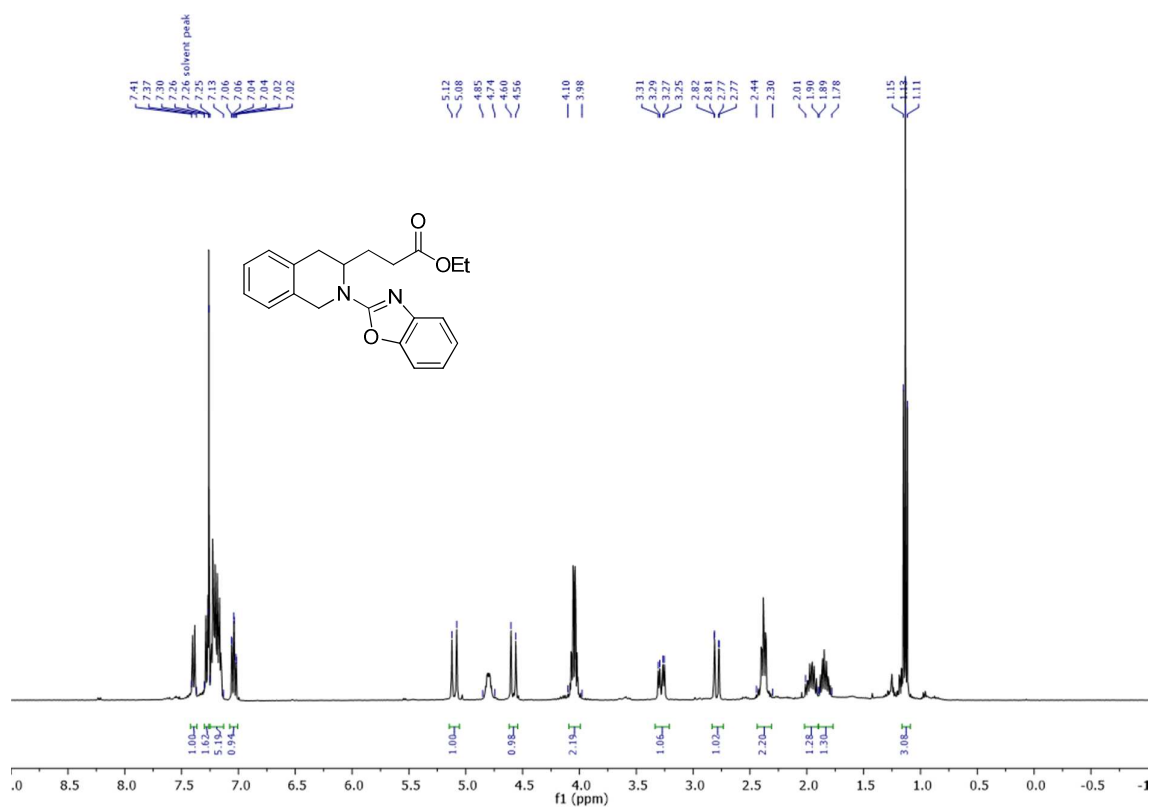
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, COSY** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.26–7.03 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-5), 4.27 (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-5), 3.84–3.73 (m, 1H, H-10a), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>-10), 2.75–2.65 (m, 1H, H<sub>b</sub>-10), 2.51–2.32 (m, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.89–1.67 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR, HMBC, HSQC** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 174.4 (C3), 133.3, 131.9 (2 × C<sub>q</sub>), 129.2, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7 (4 × Ar-C), 54.1 (C10a), 42.7 (C5), 37.0 (C10), 30.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>).

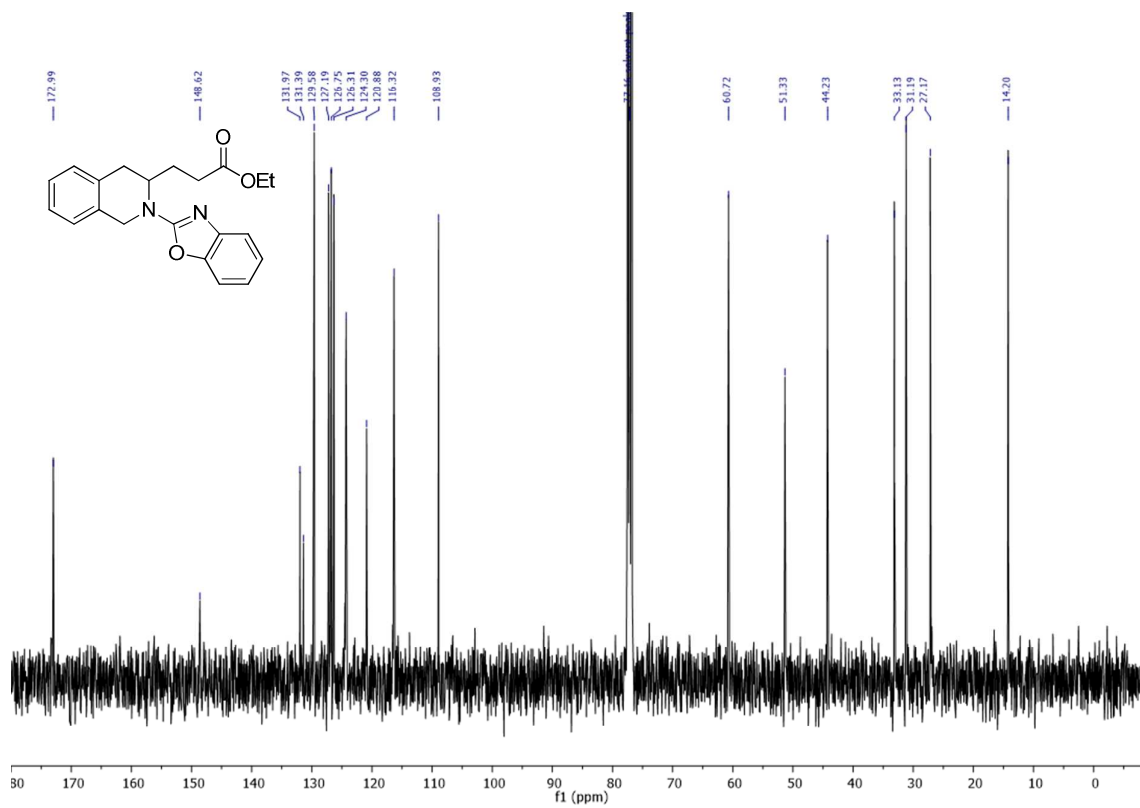
**ESI-MS:** *m/z* (%) = 188.1 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

**ESI-HRMS:** calculated for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ONa]<sup>+</sup>: *m/z* = 210.0895, found: 210.0904

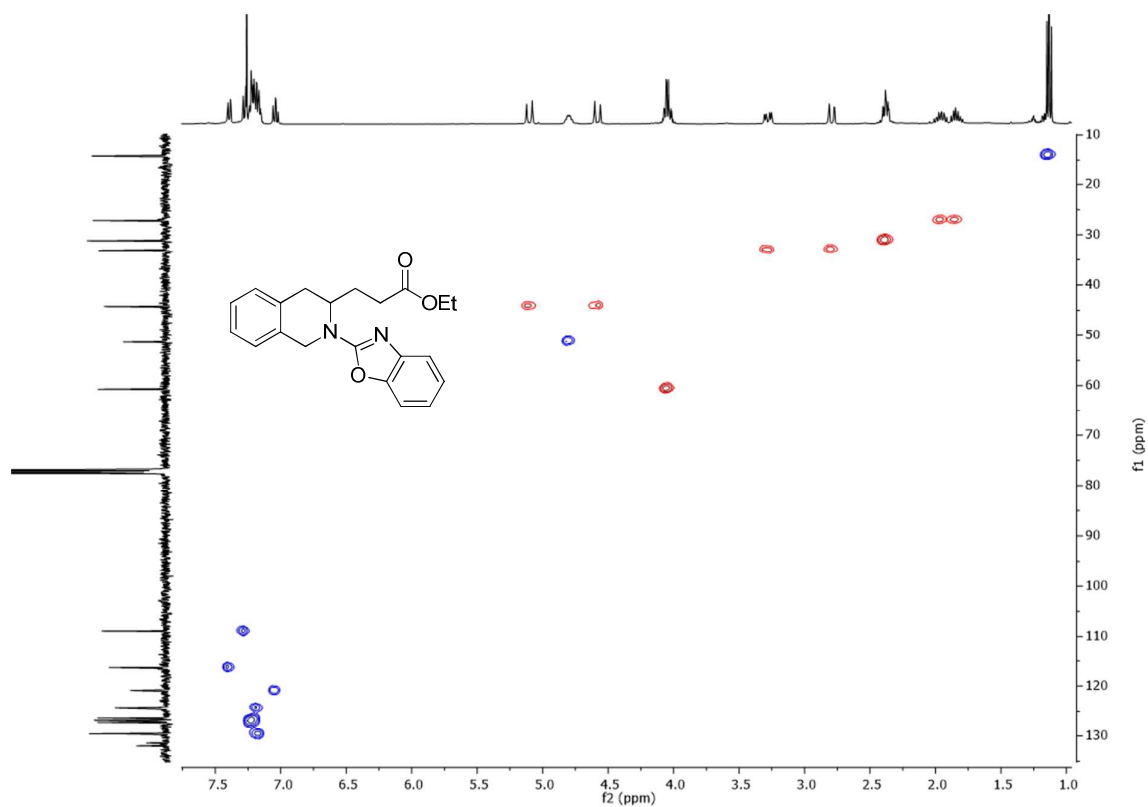
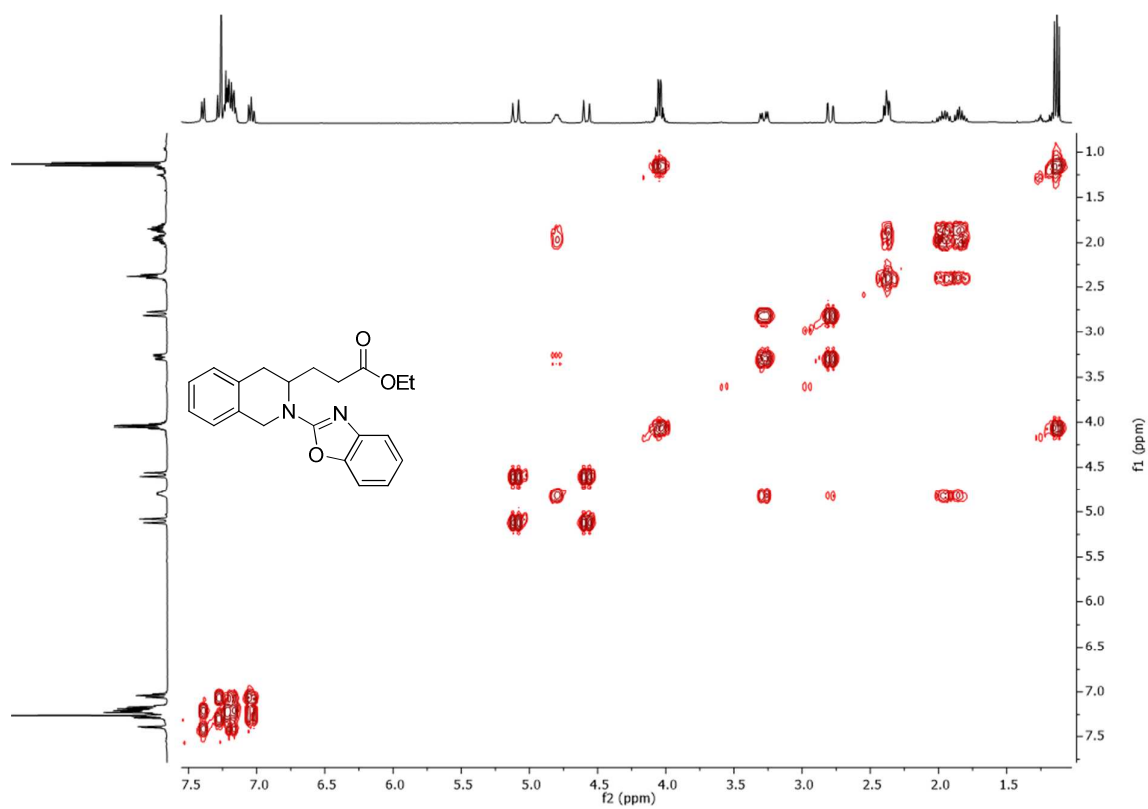
## Spectra

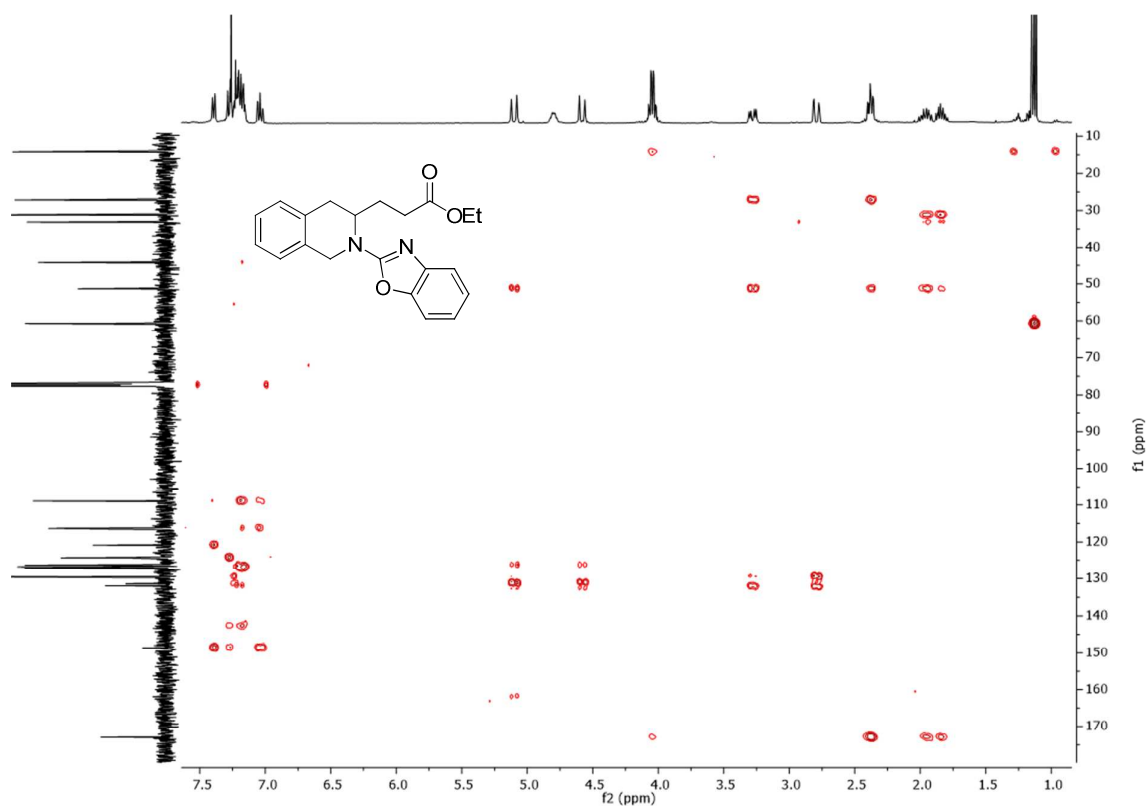


**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 2a**

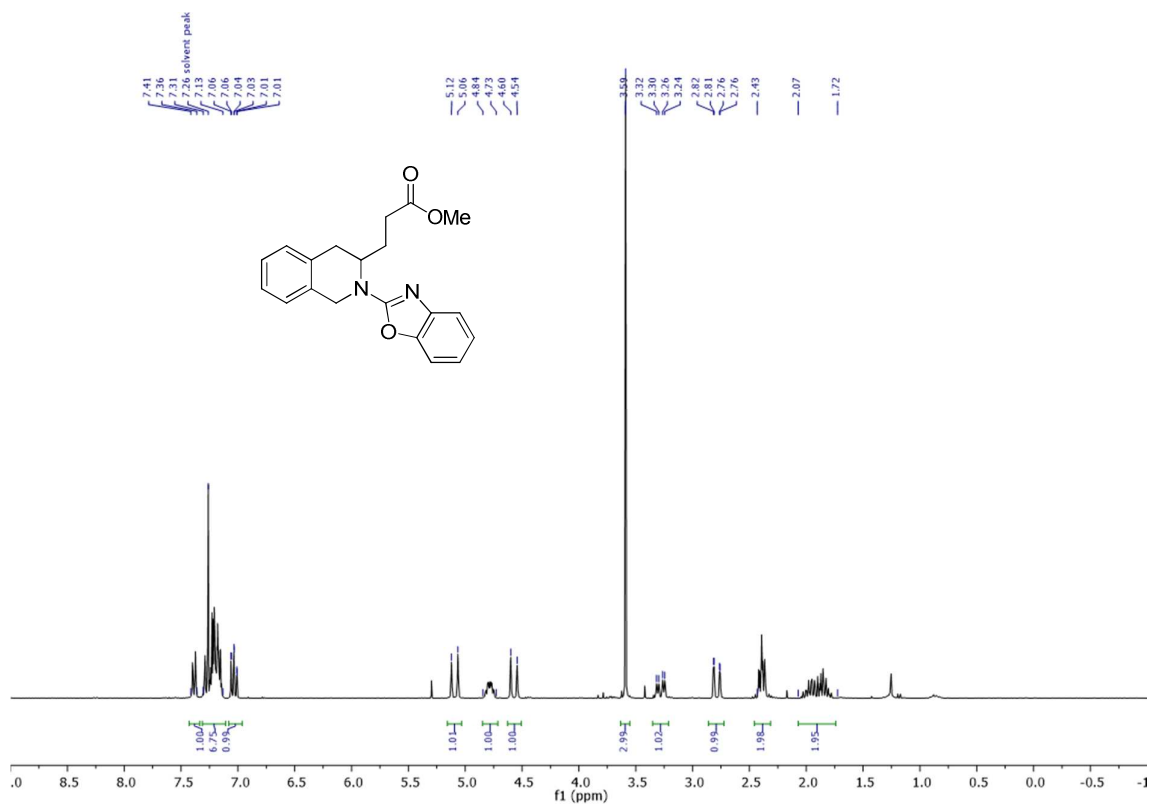


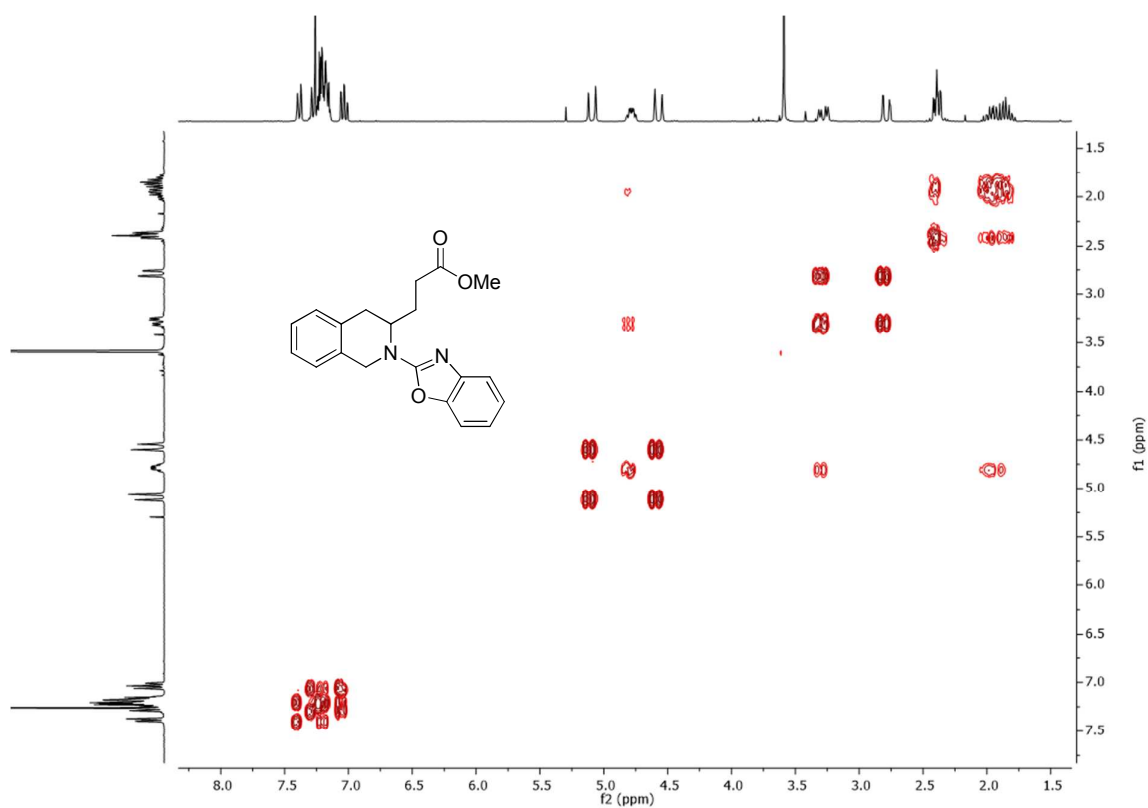
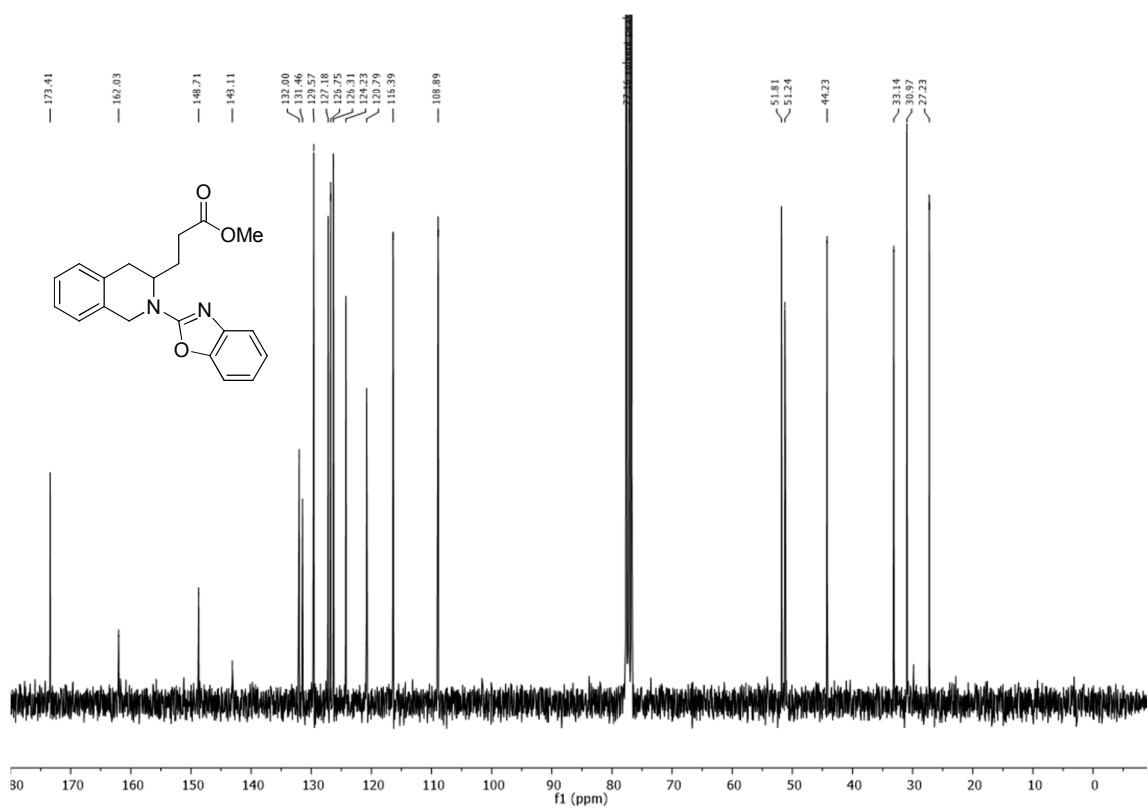
**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 2a**



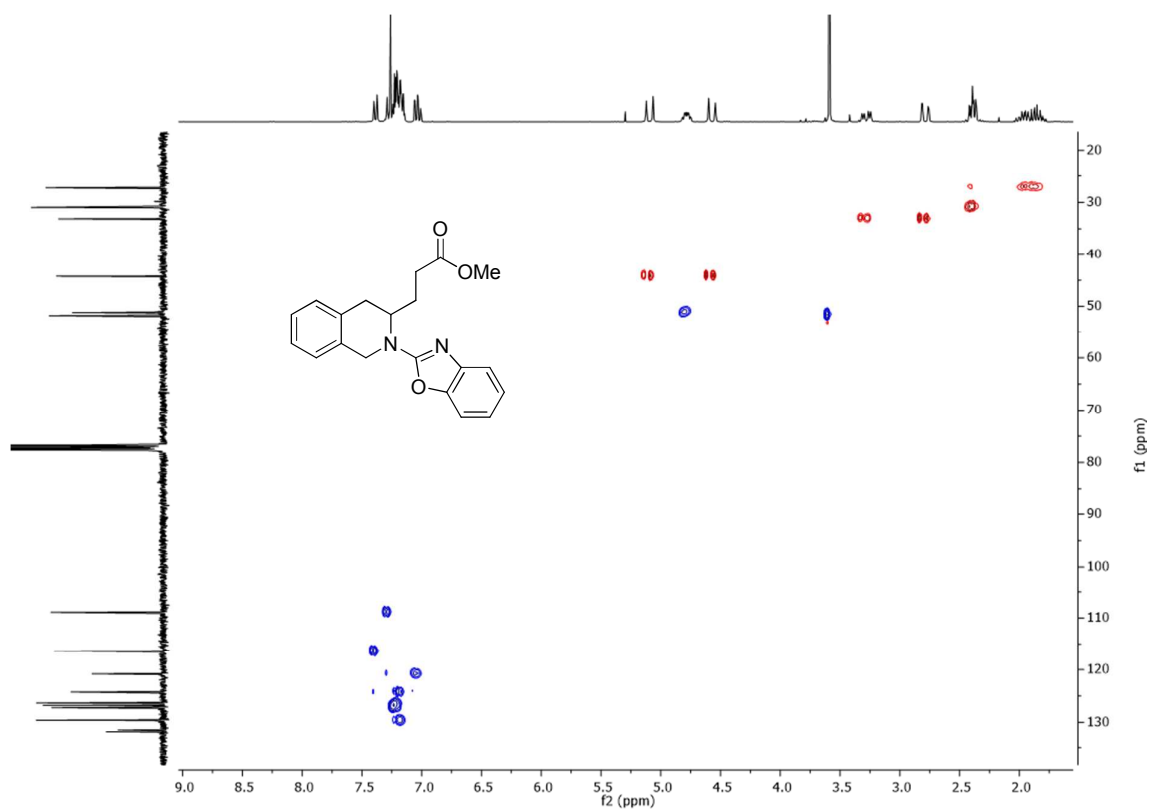


<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 2b

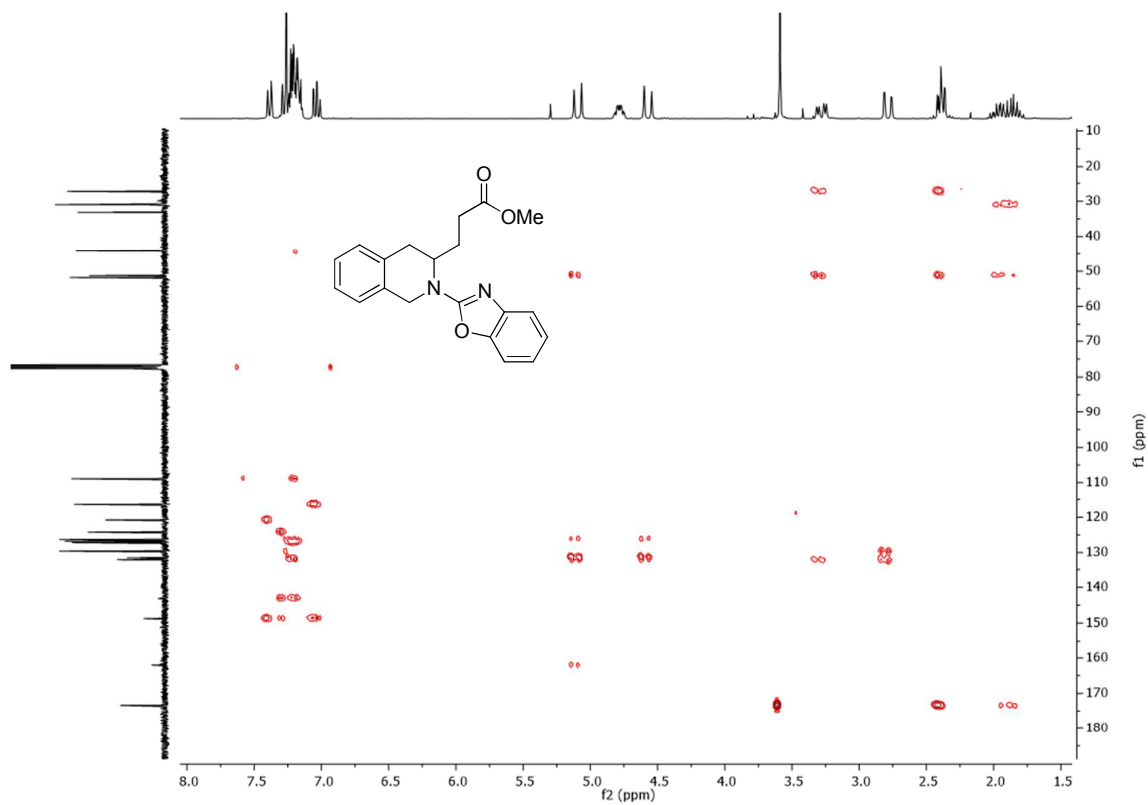




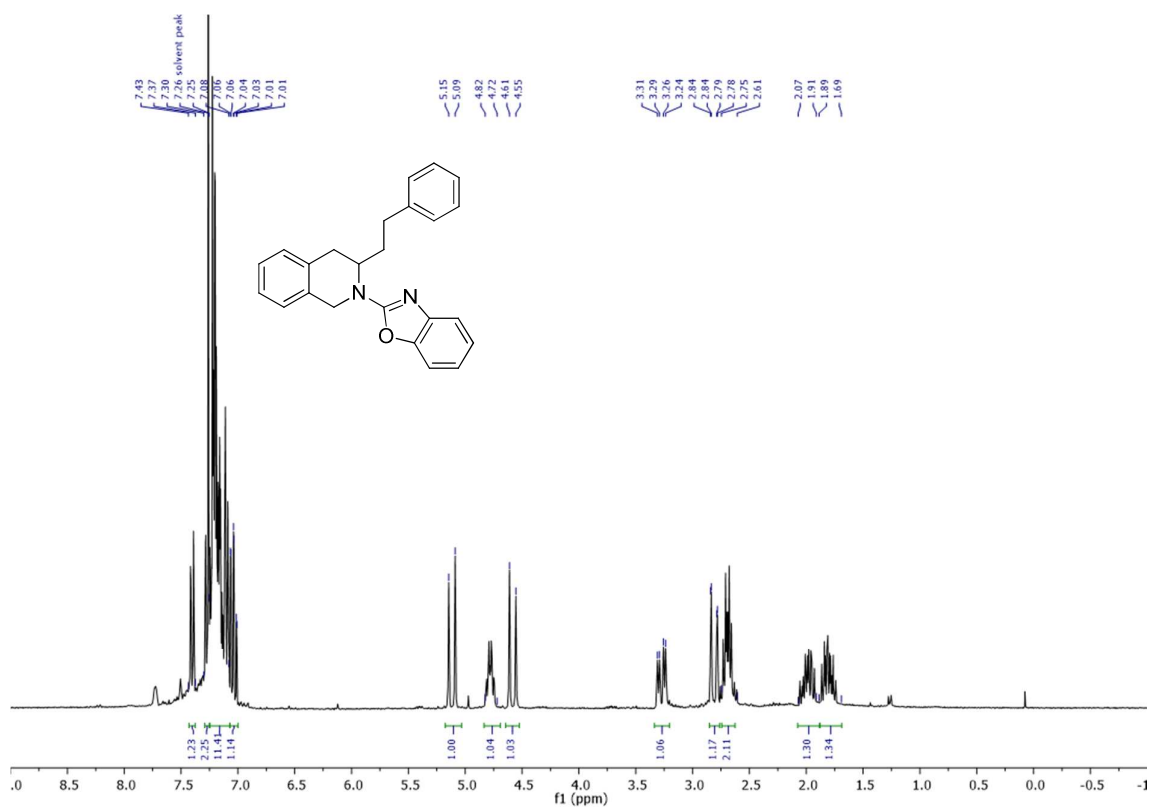




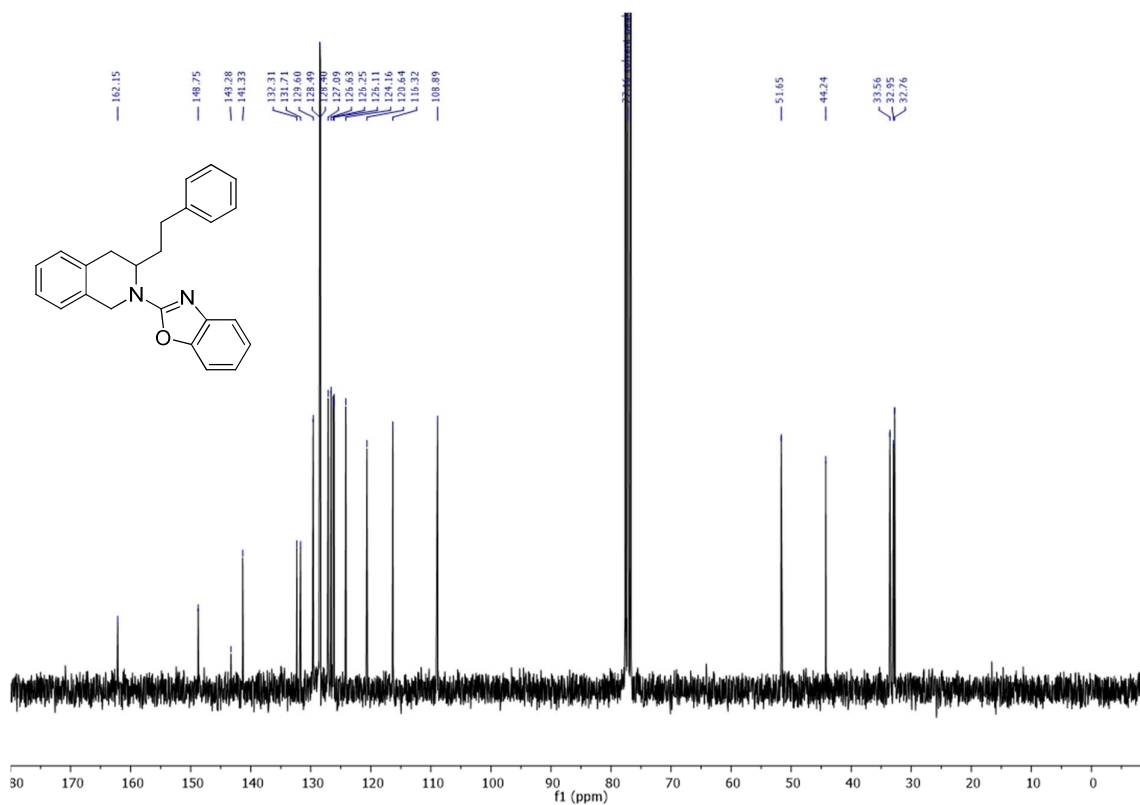
HSQC of compound 2b



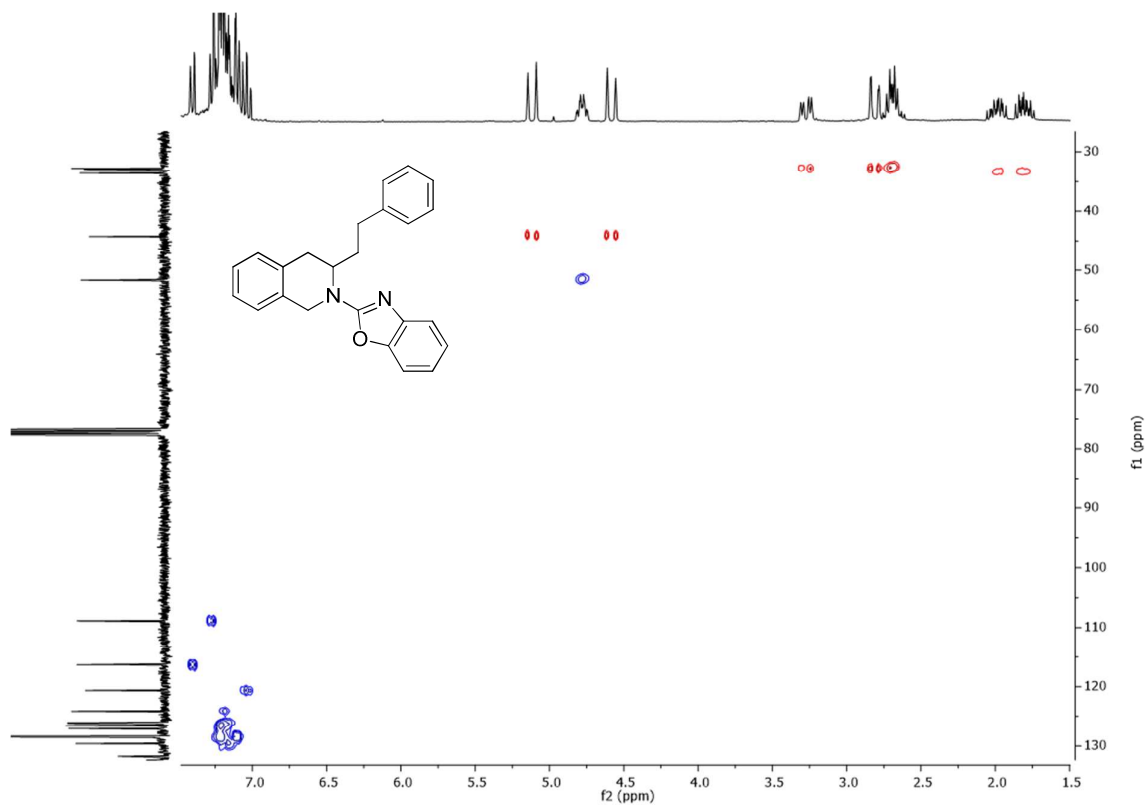
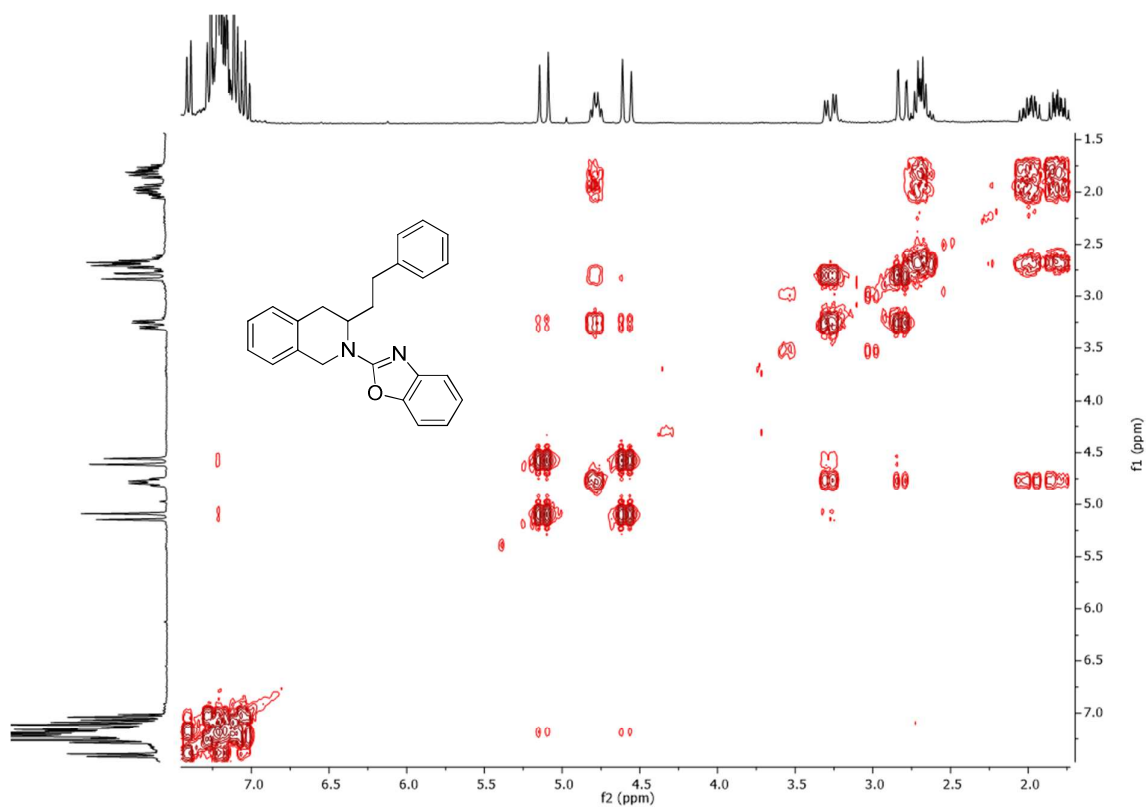
HMBC of compound 2b

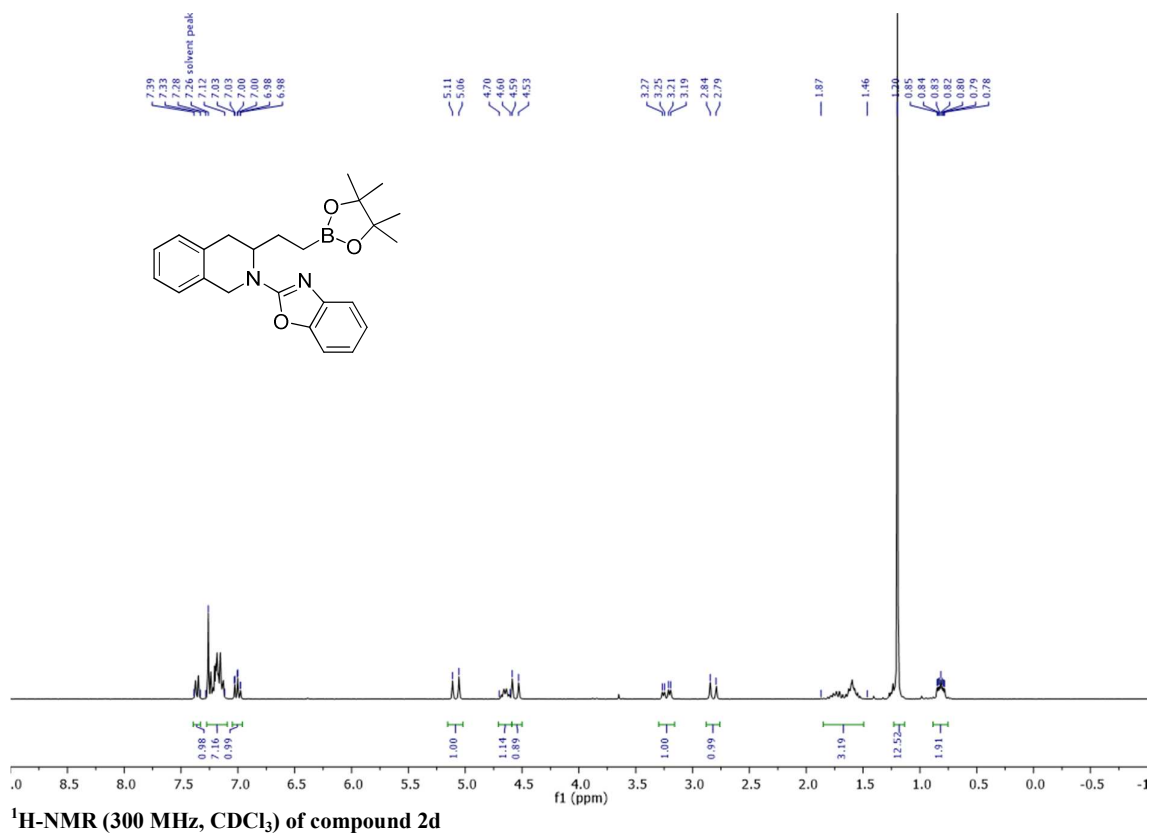
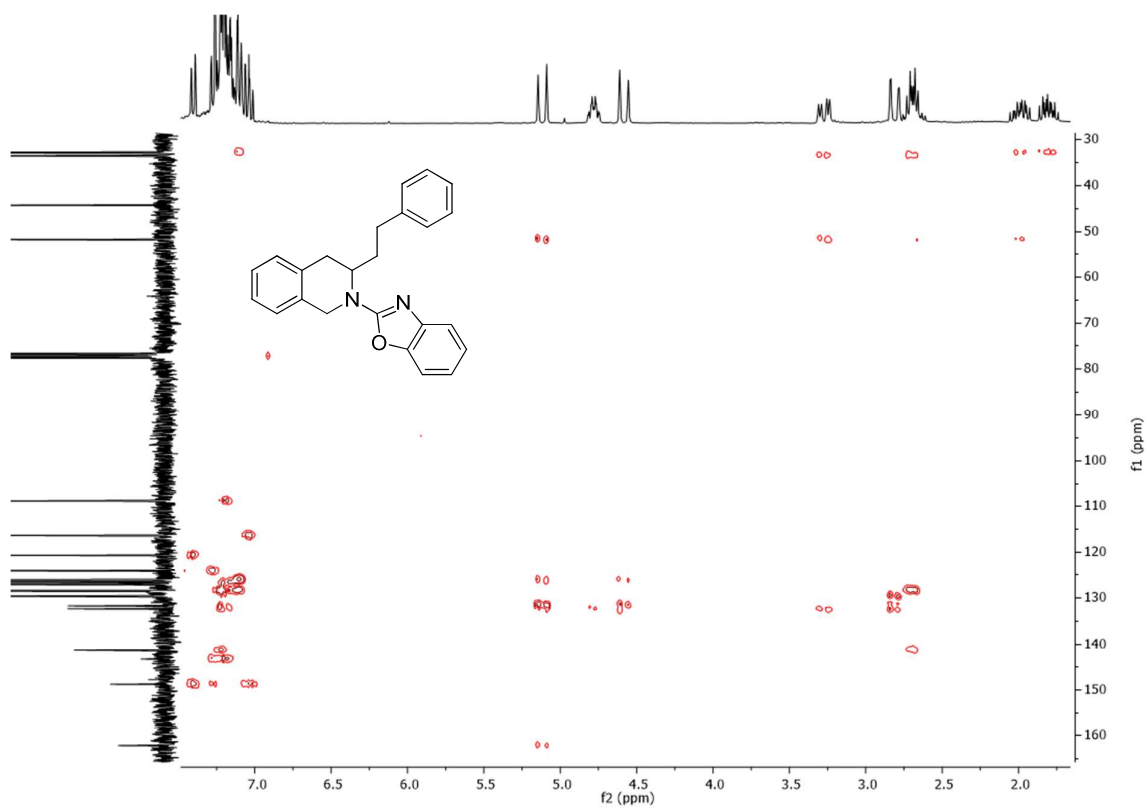


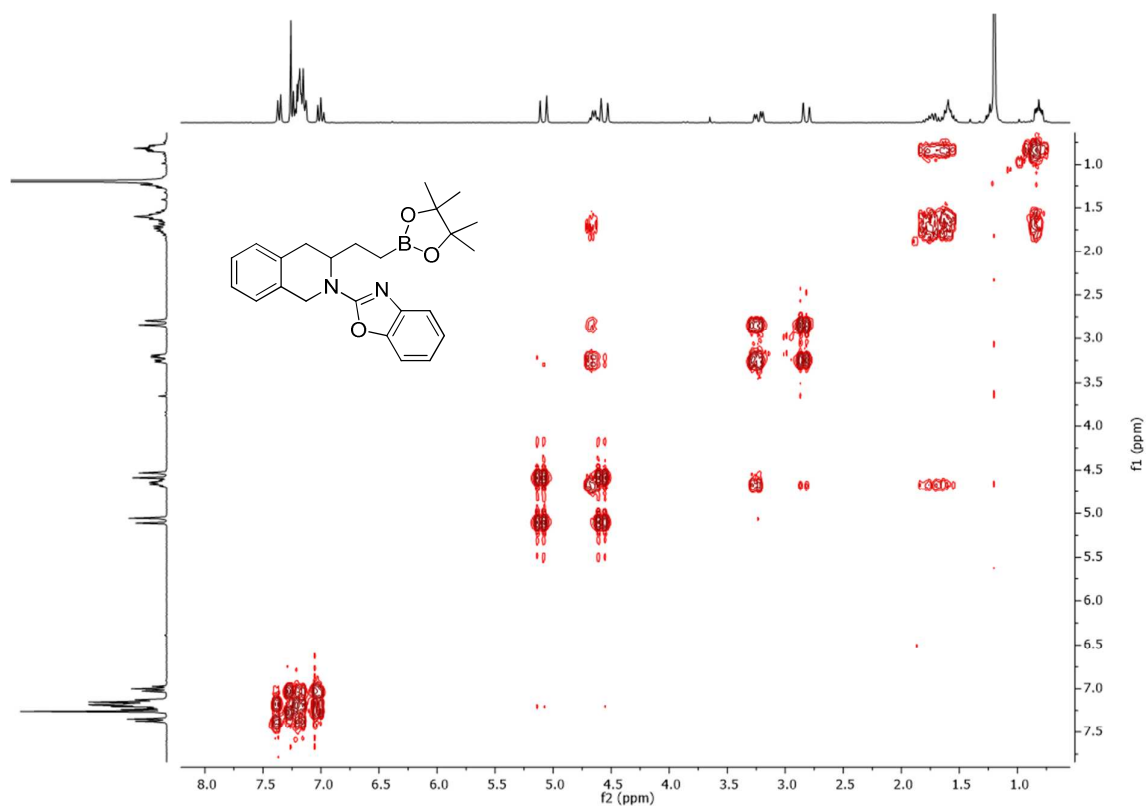
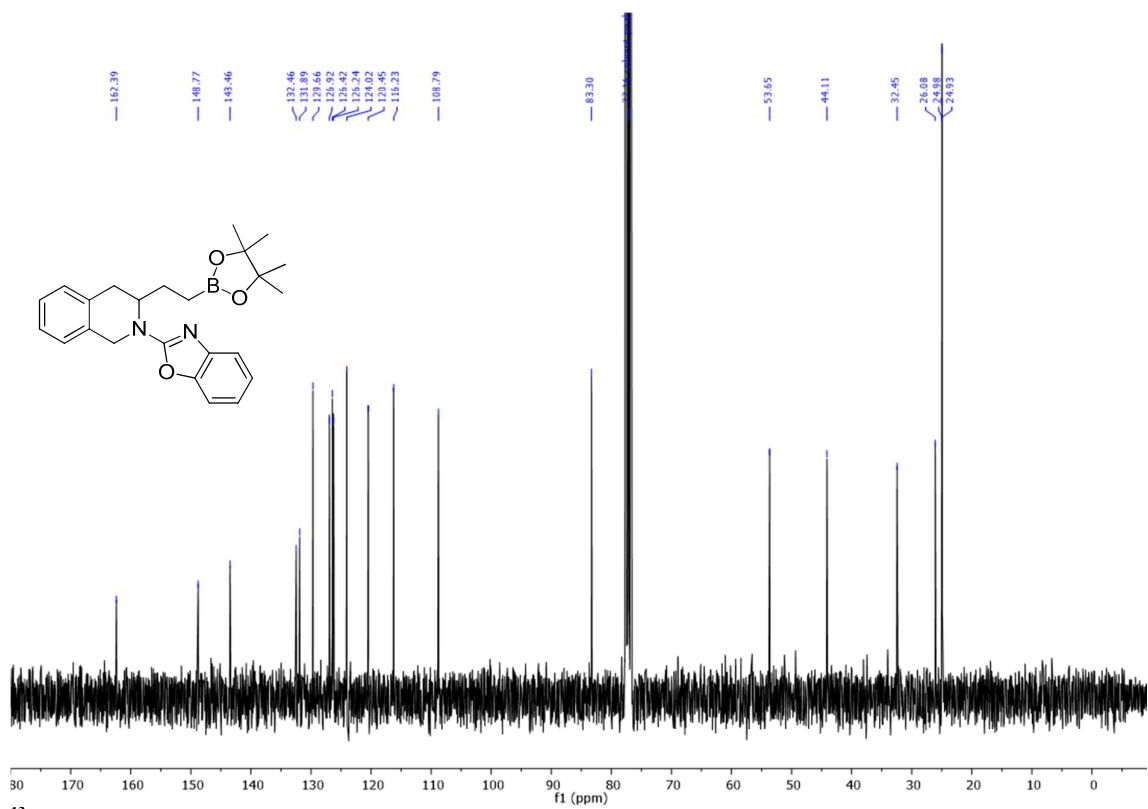
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 2c**

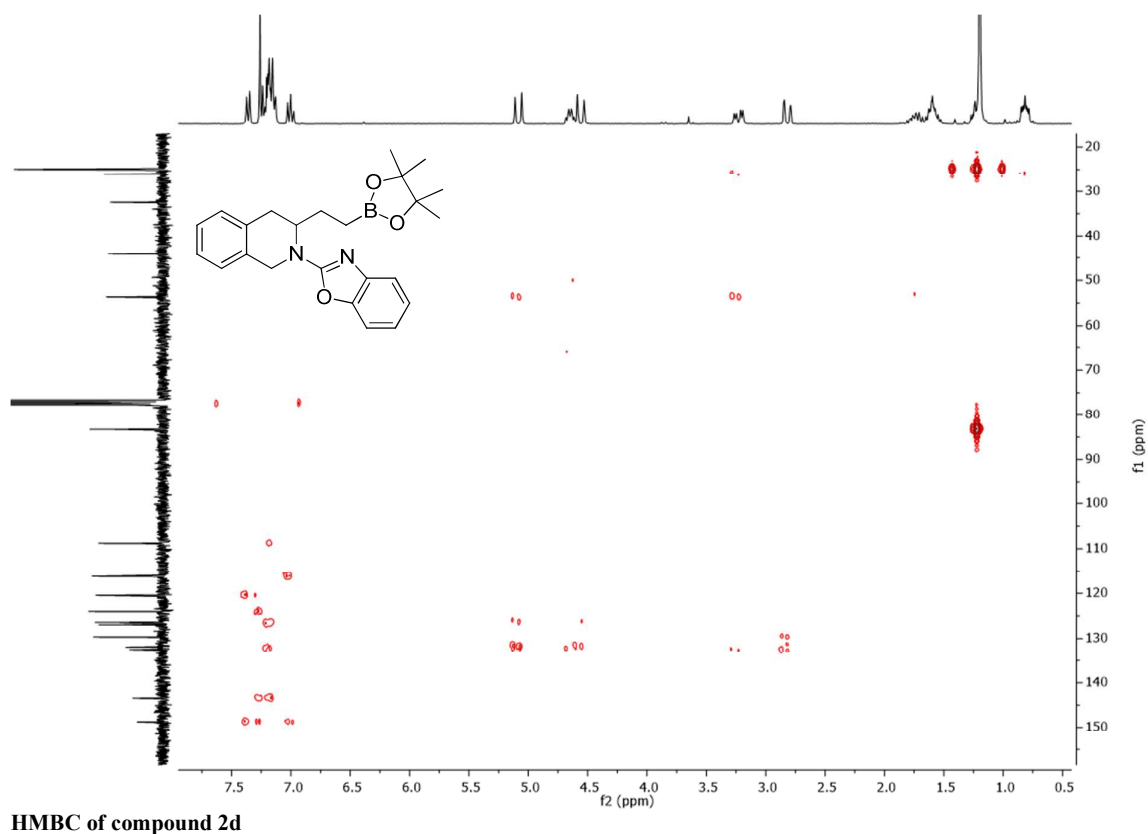
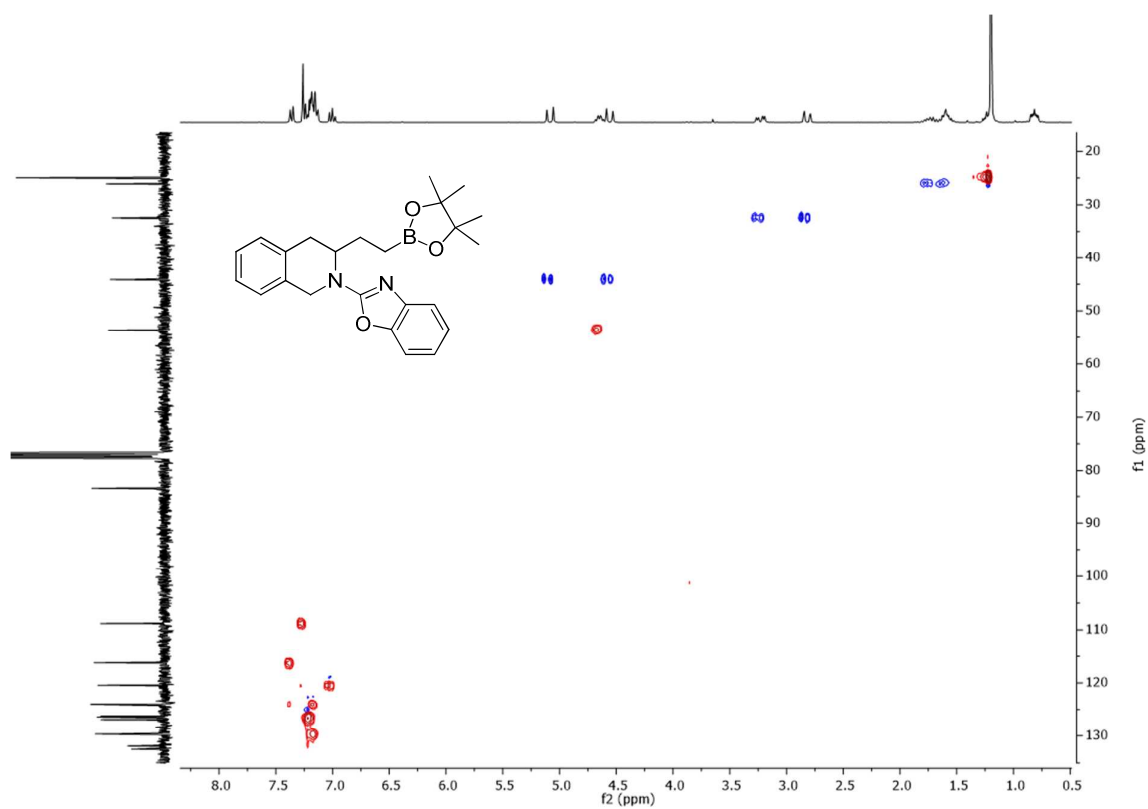


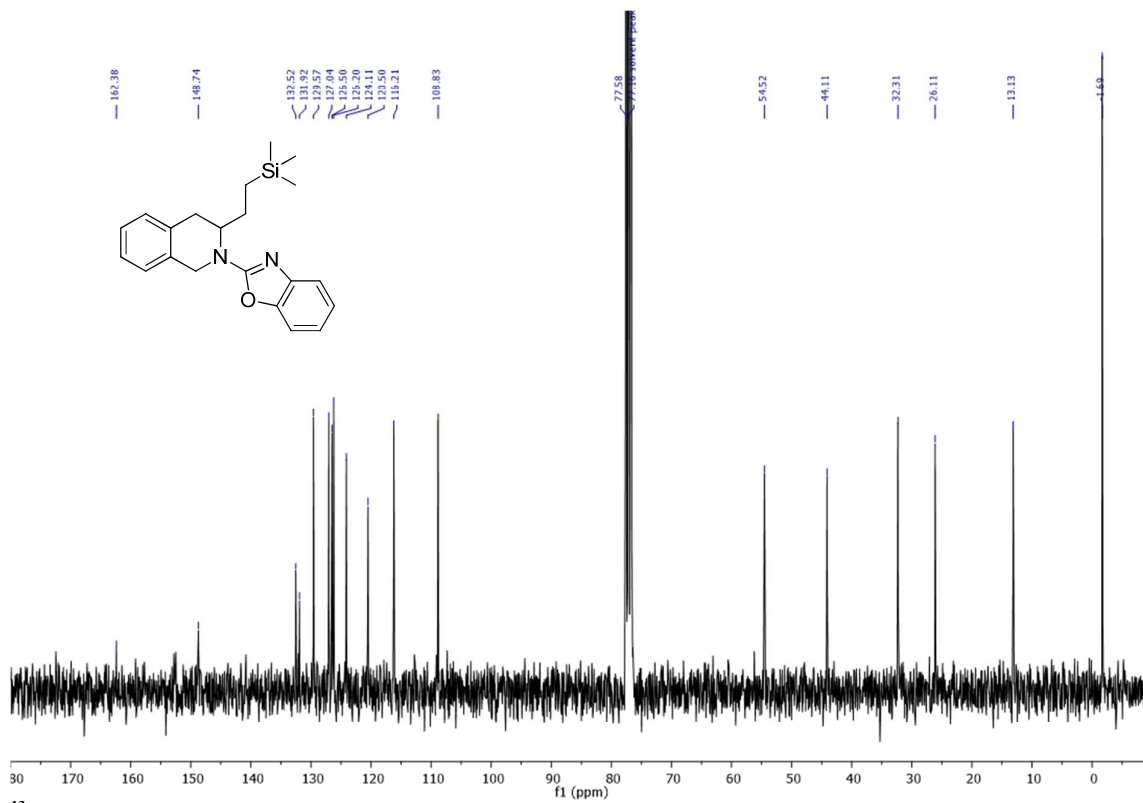
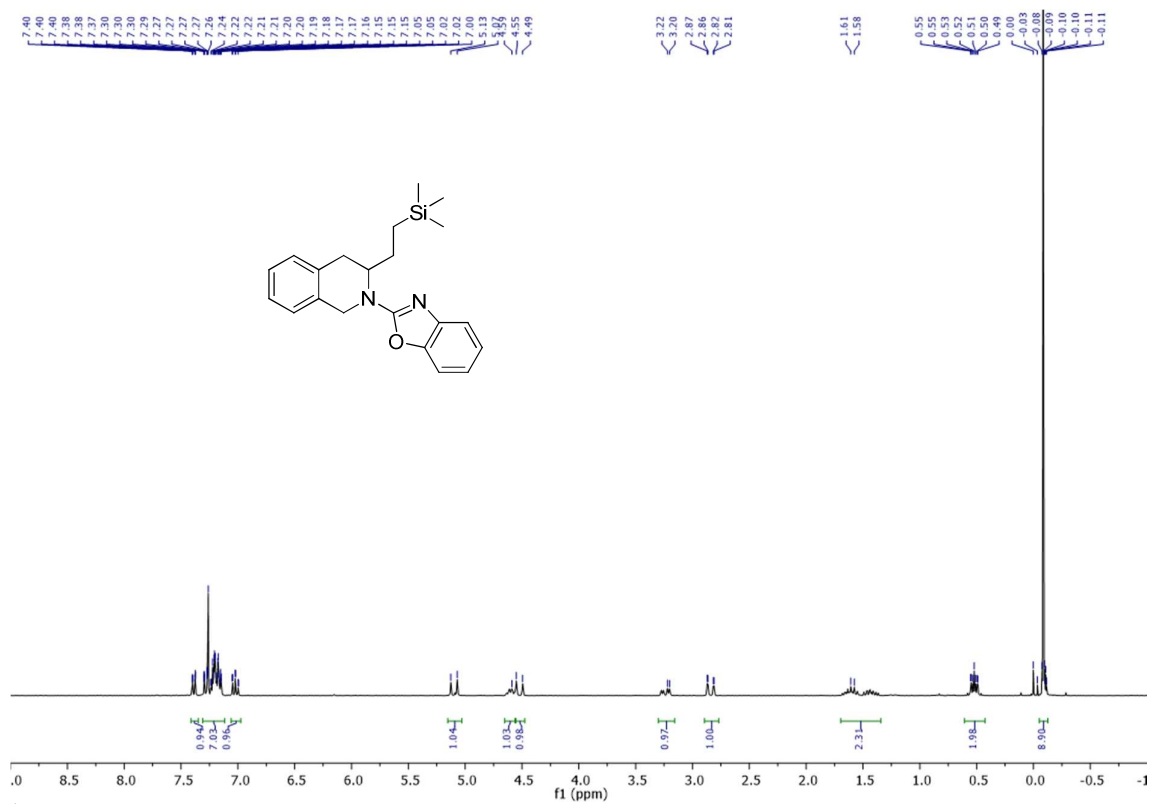
**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 2c**

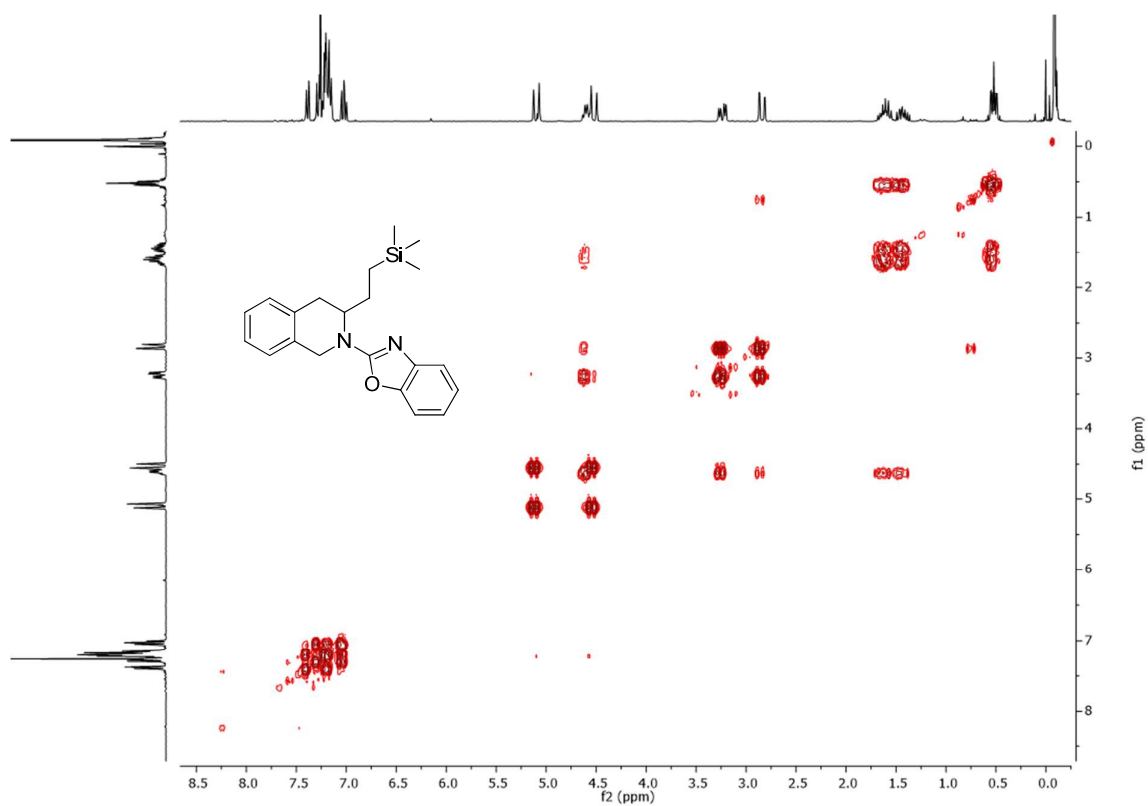




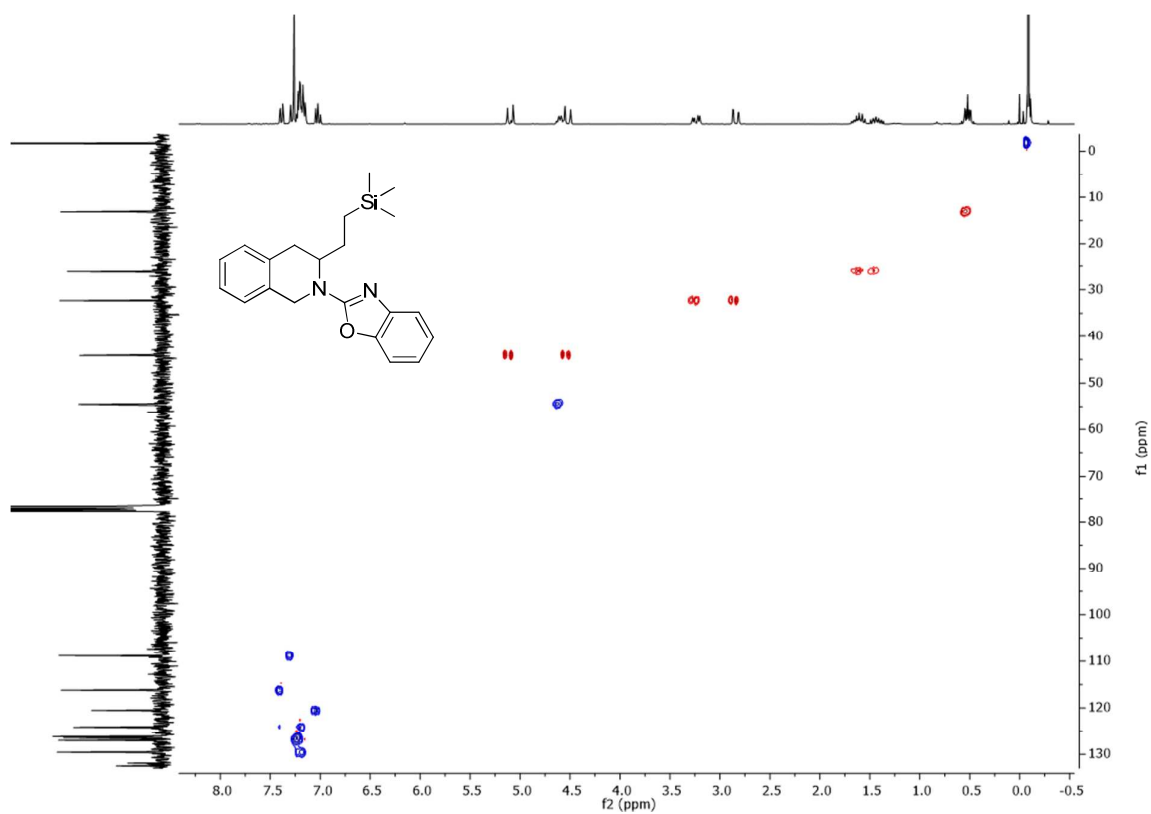






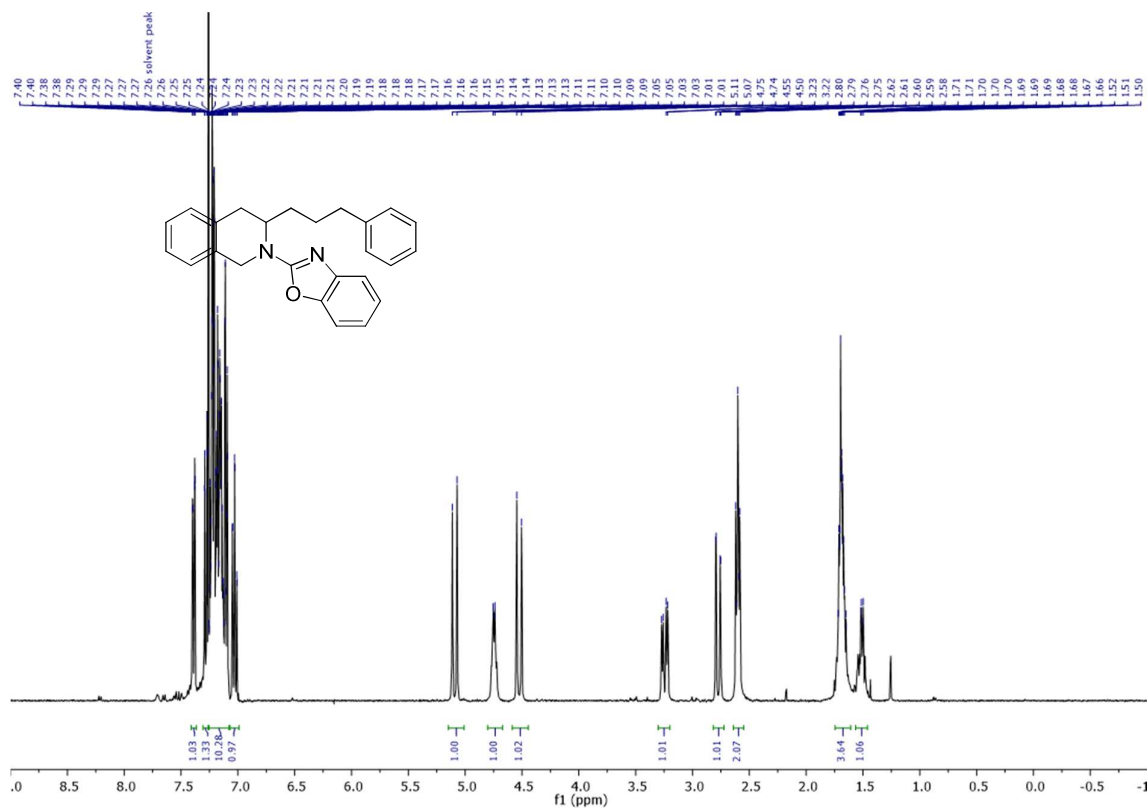
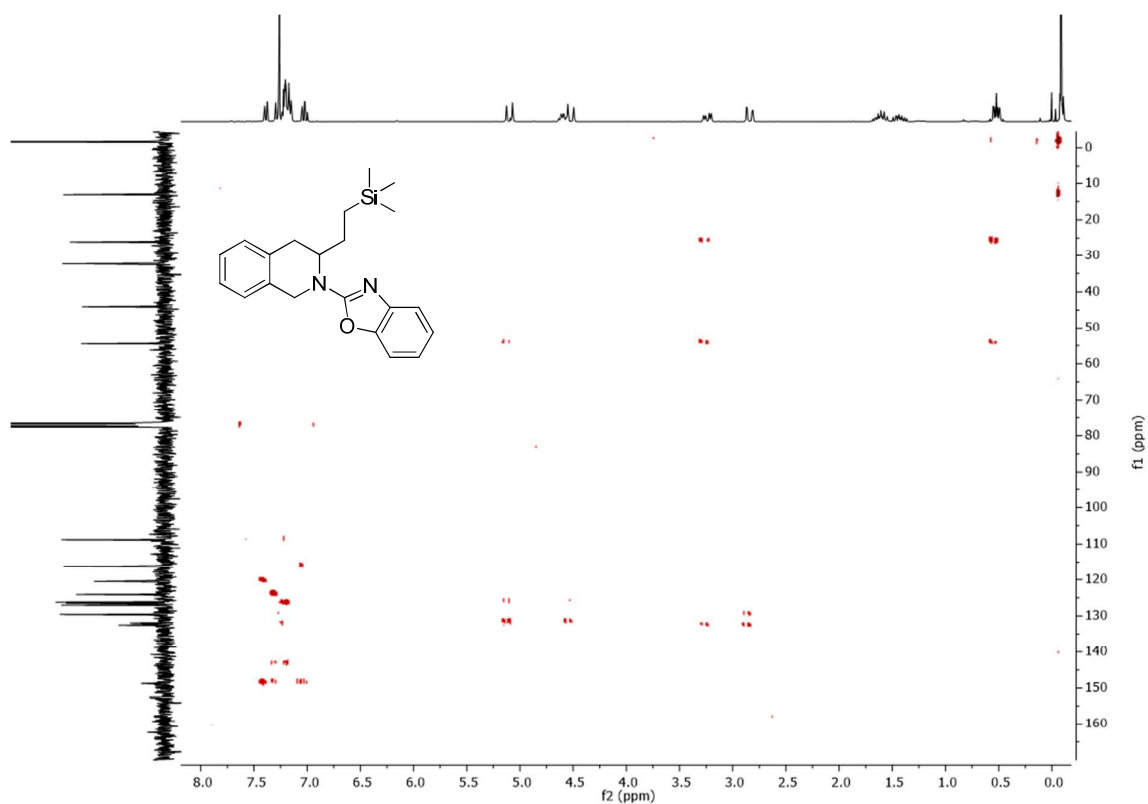


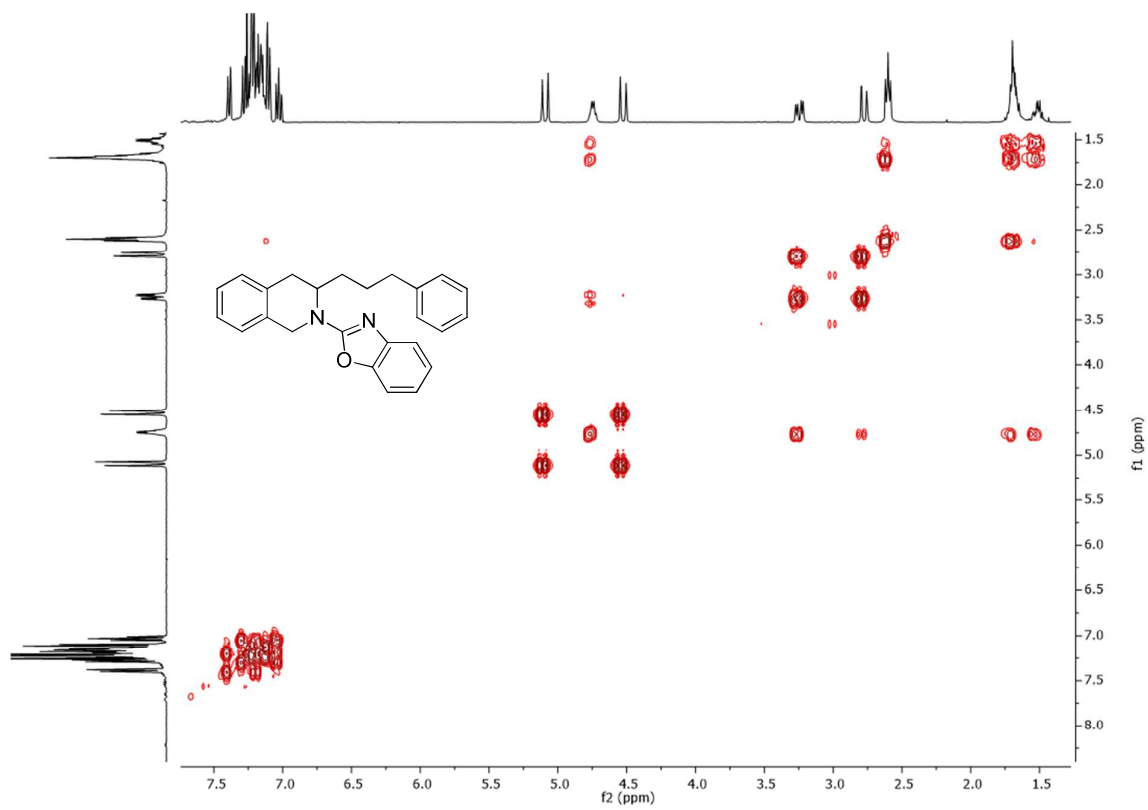
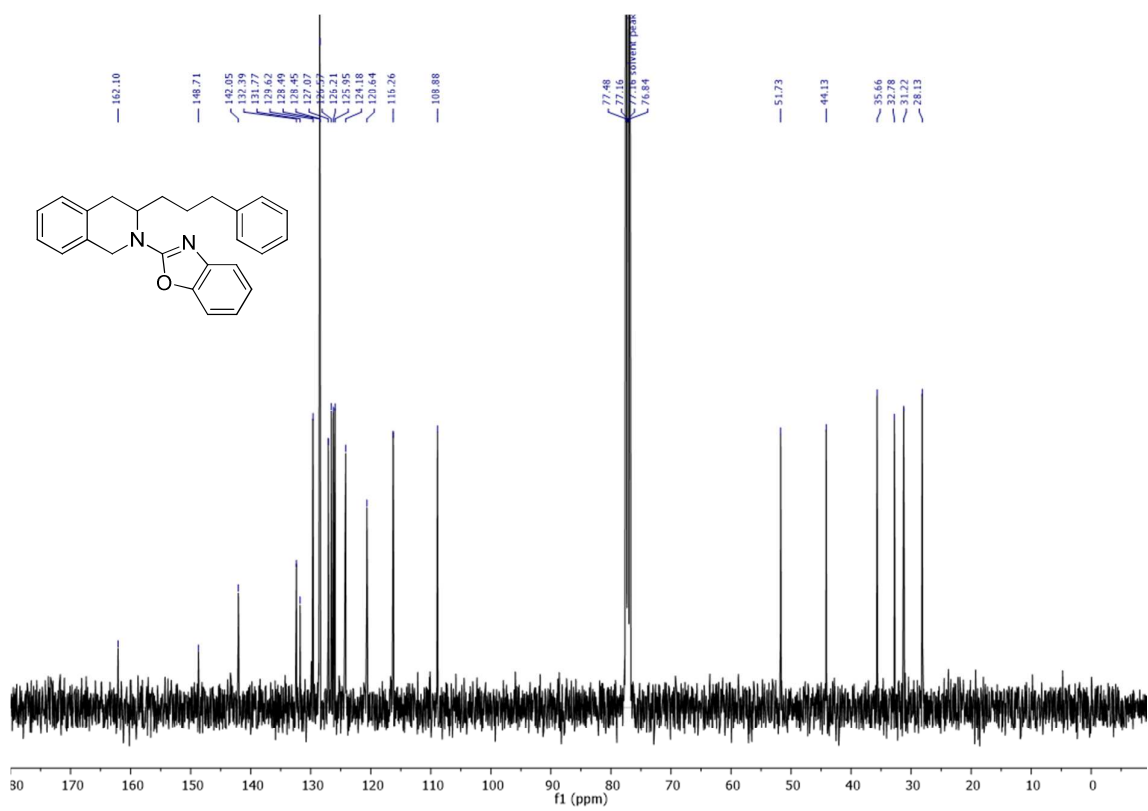
COSY of compound 2e

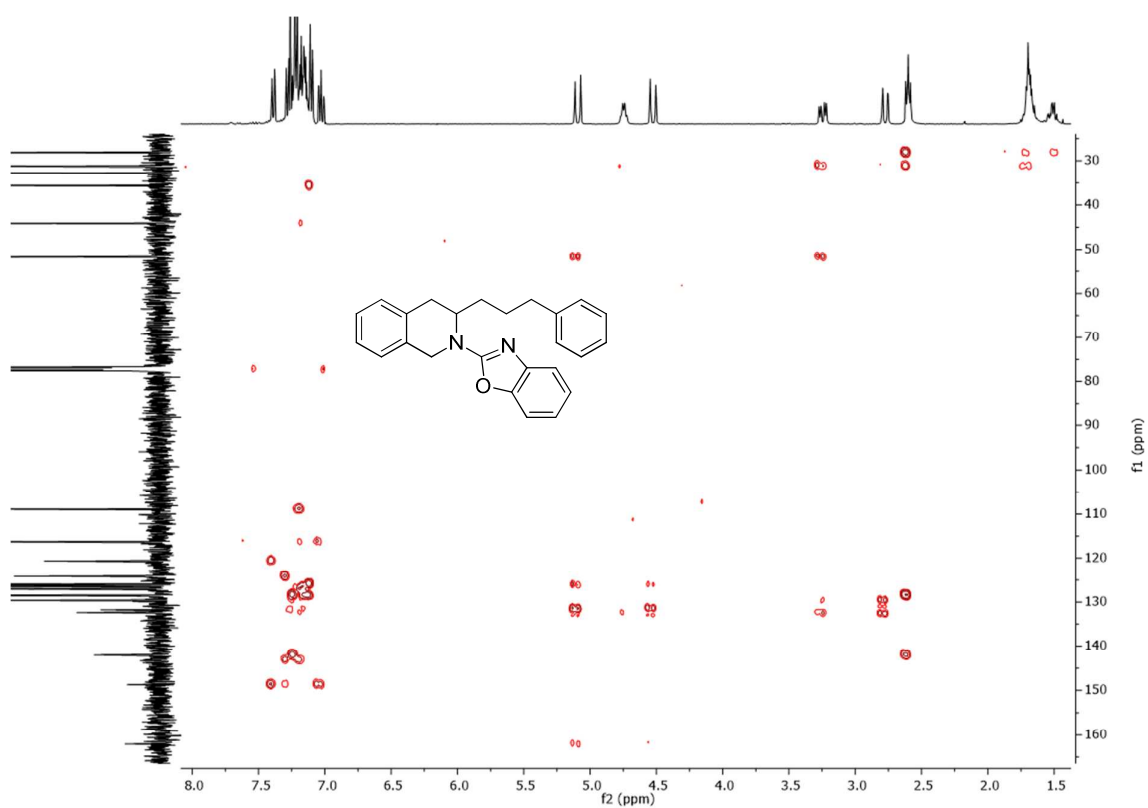
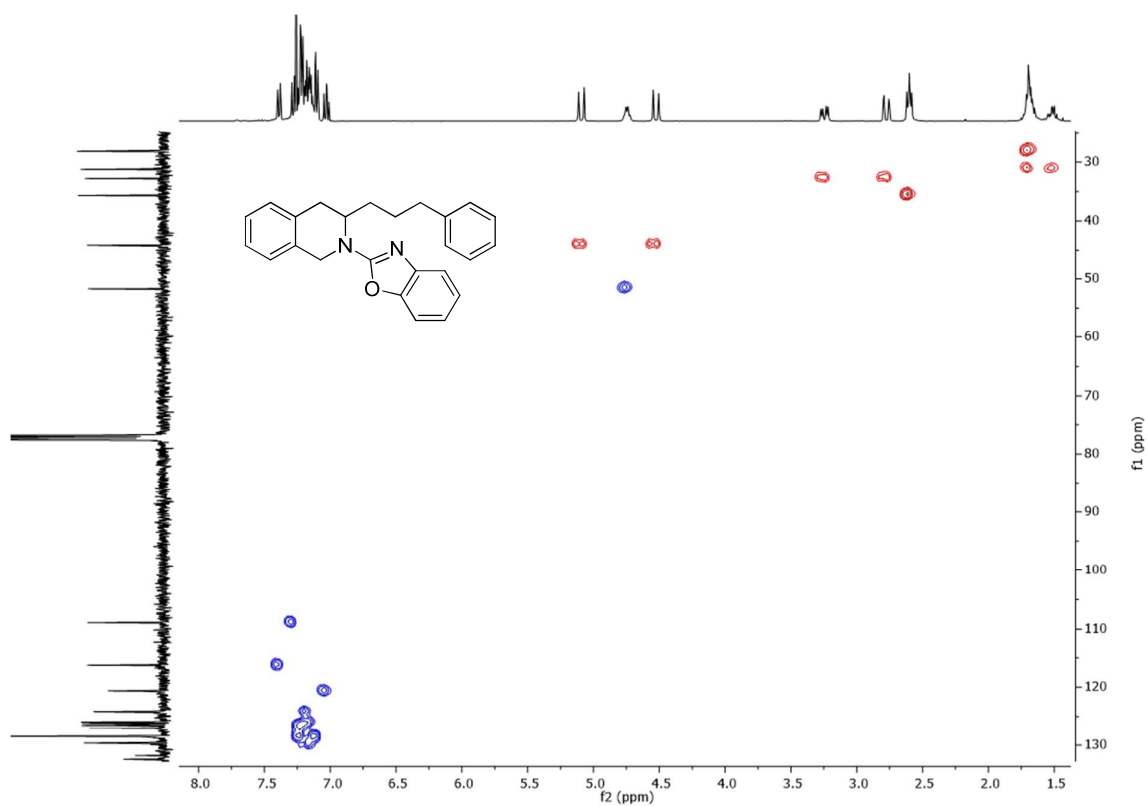


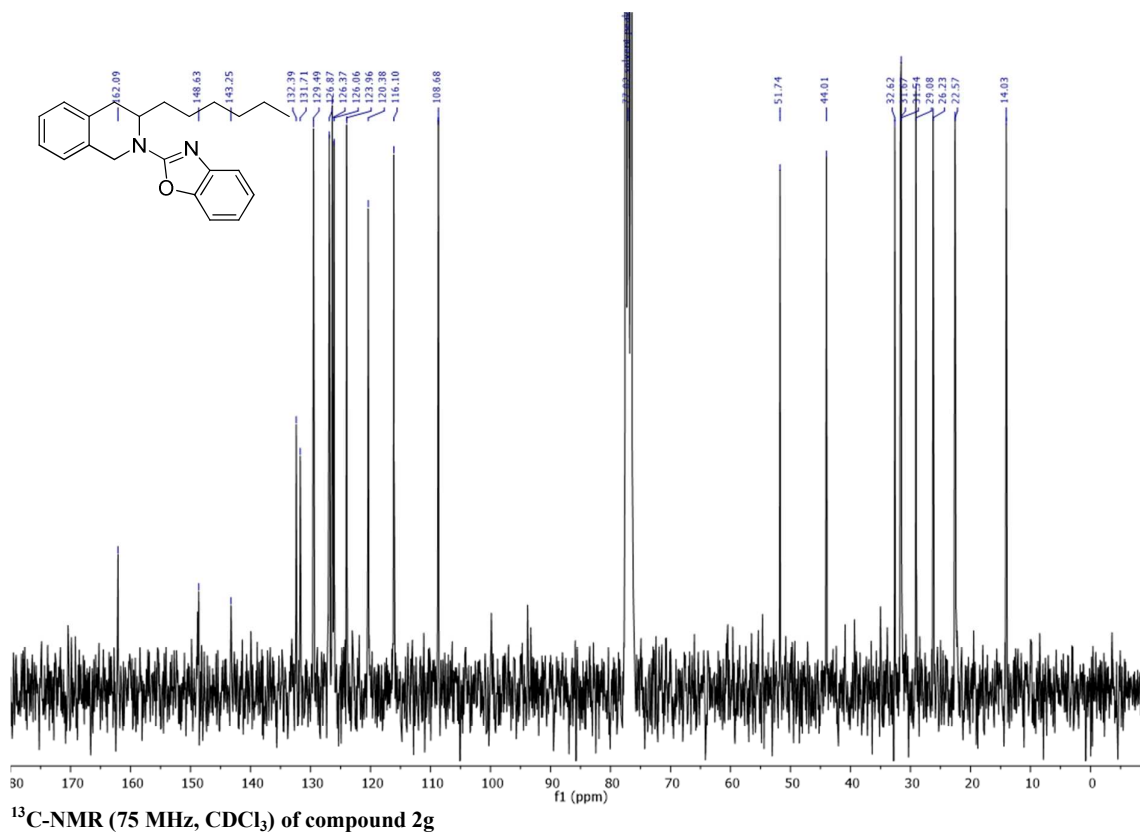
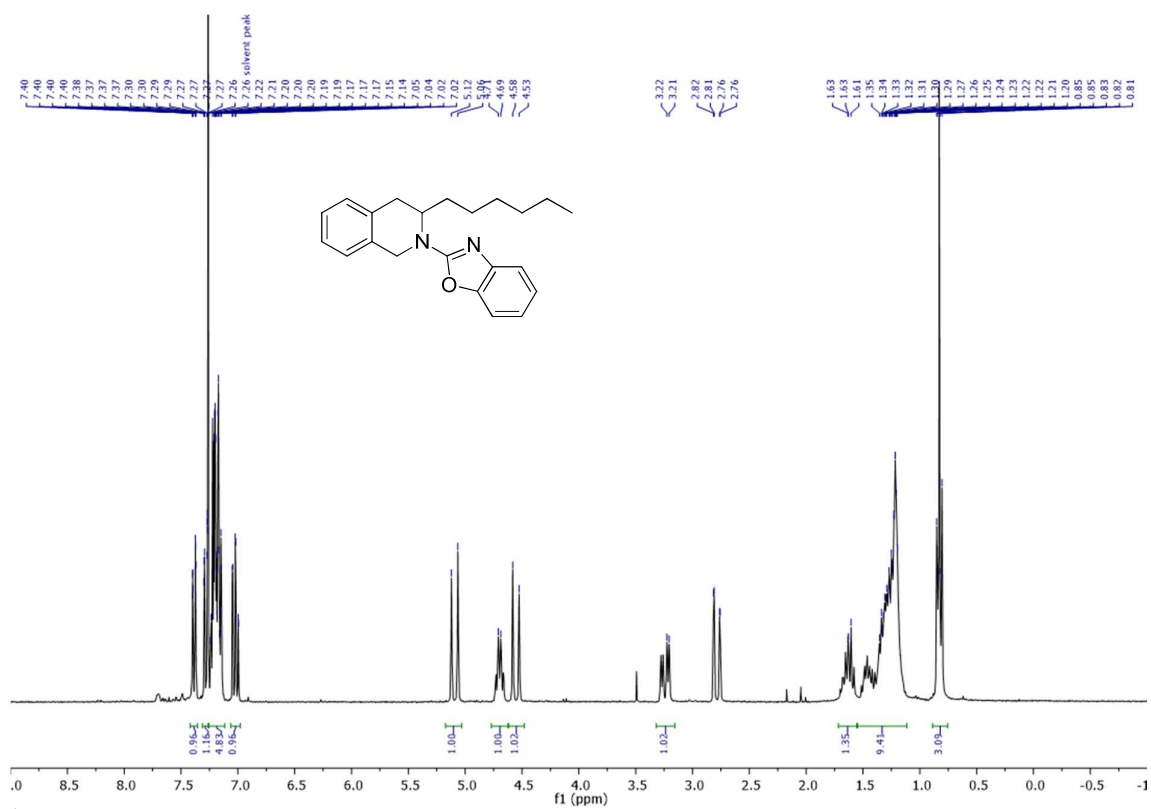
HSQC of compound 2e

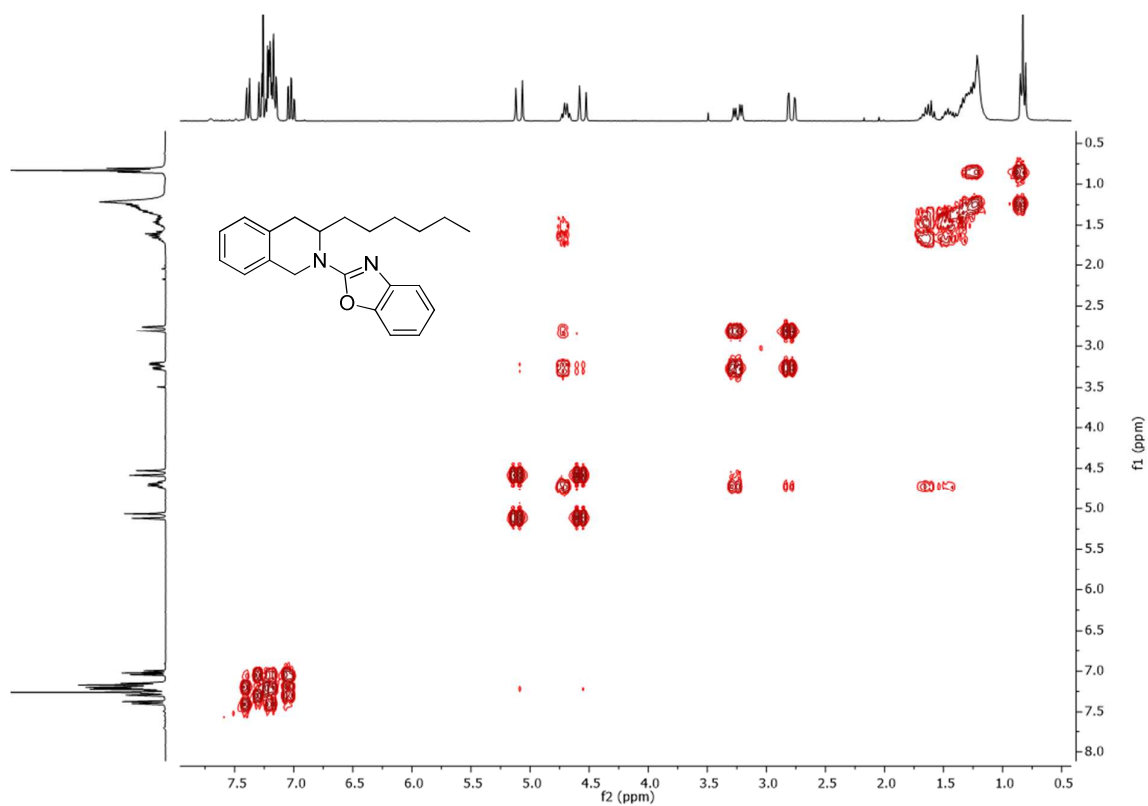




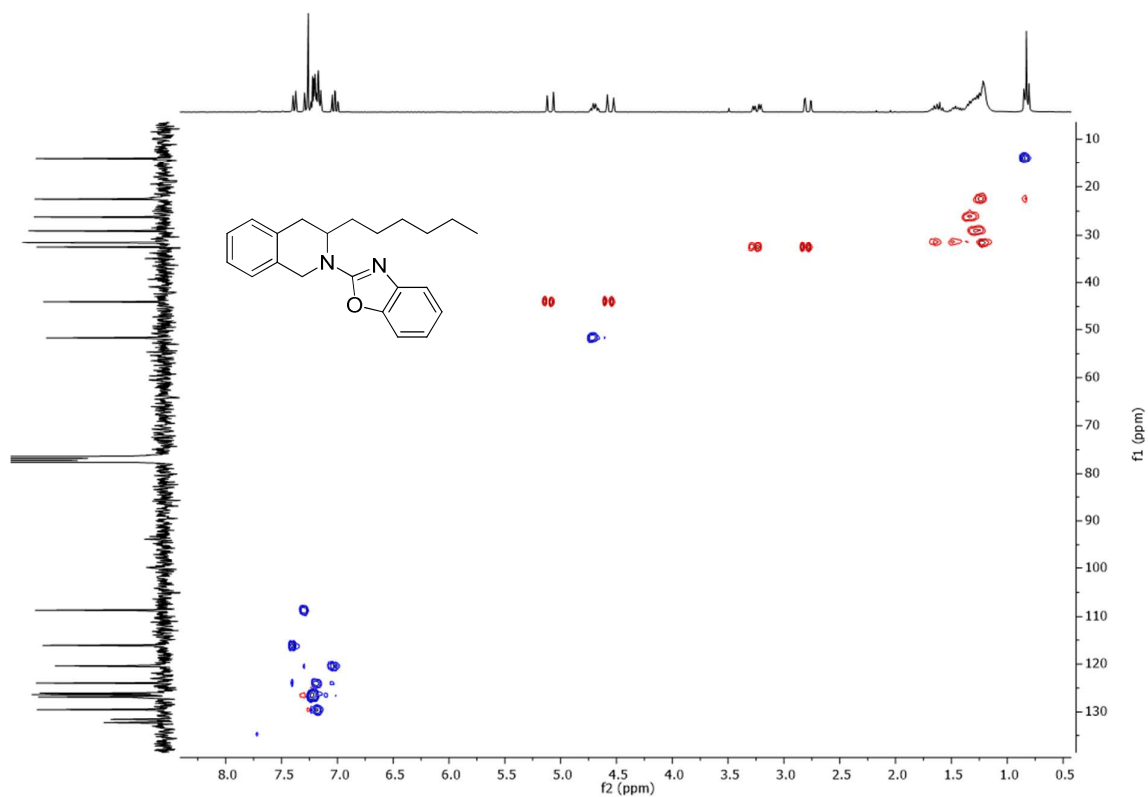




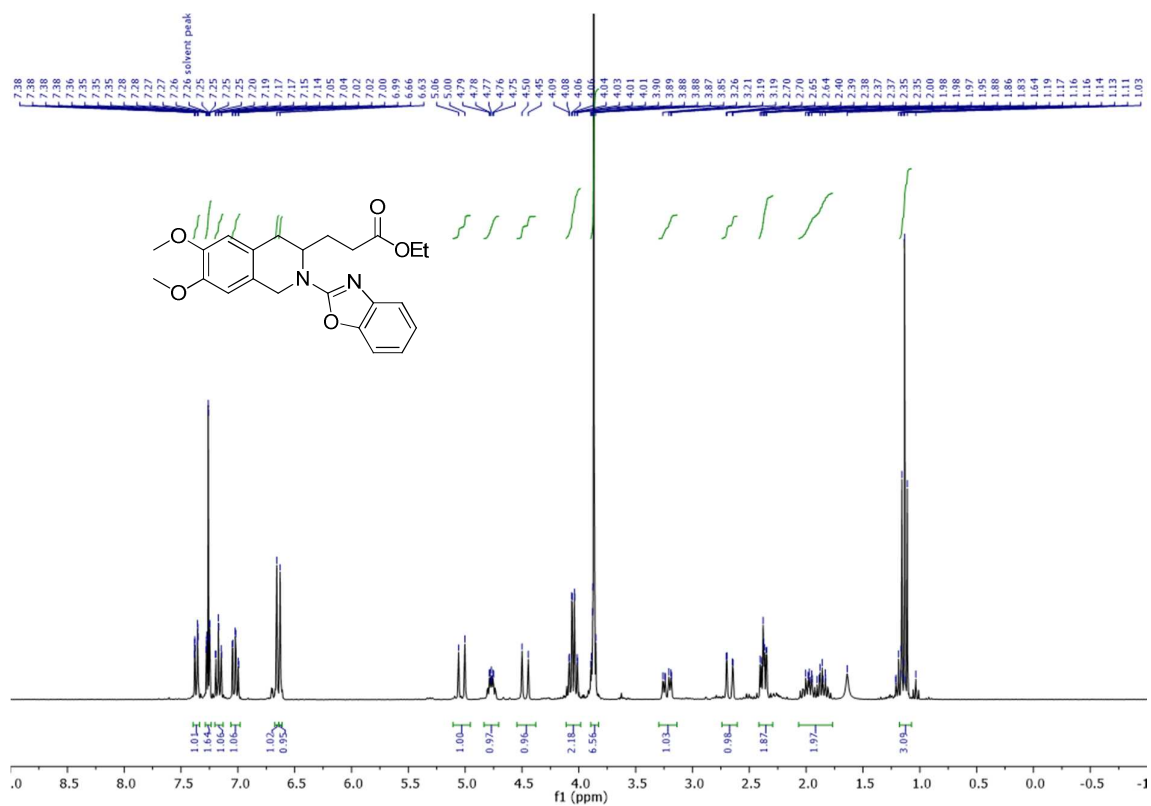
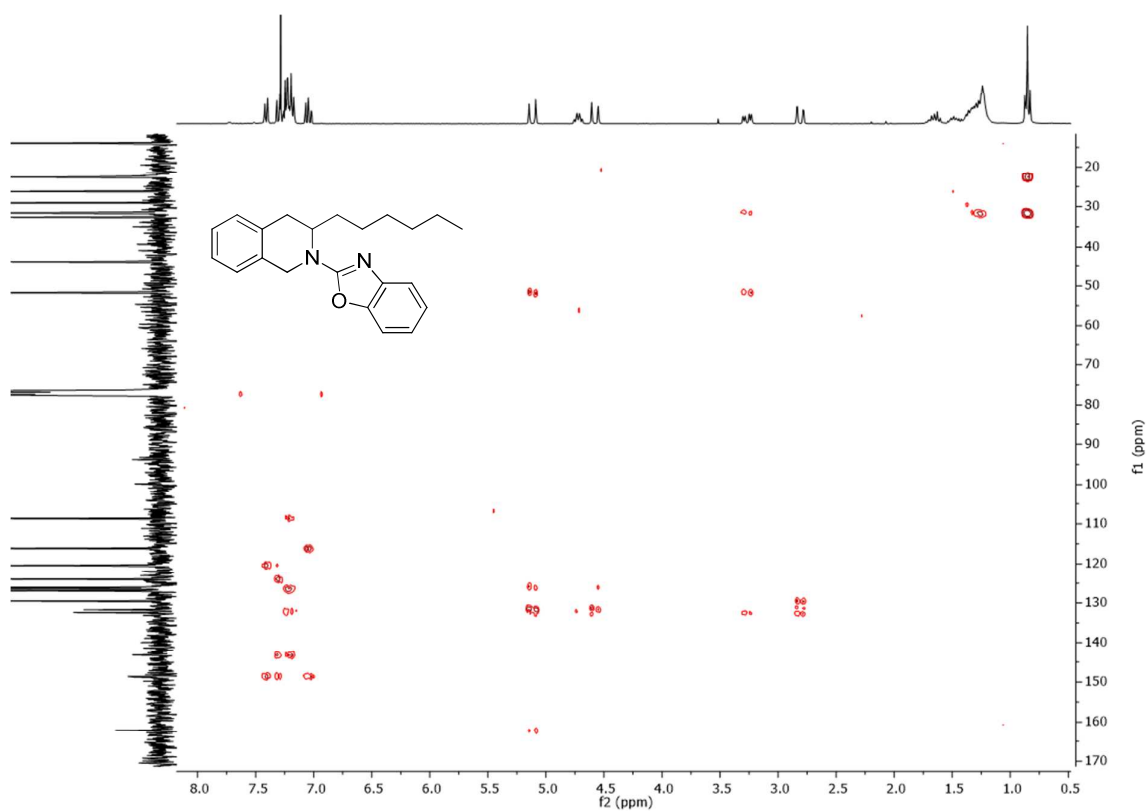


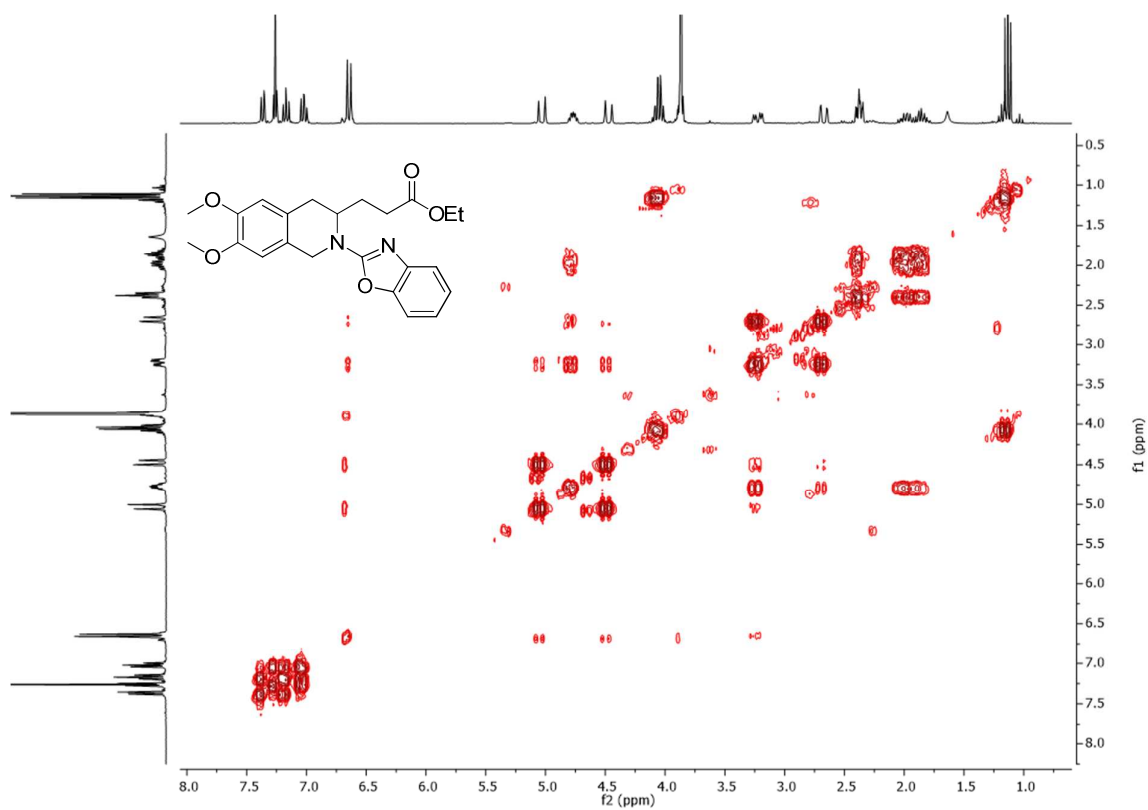
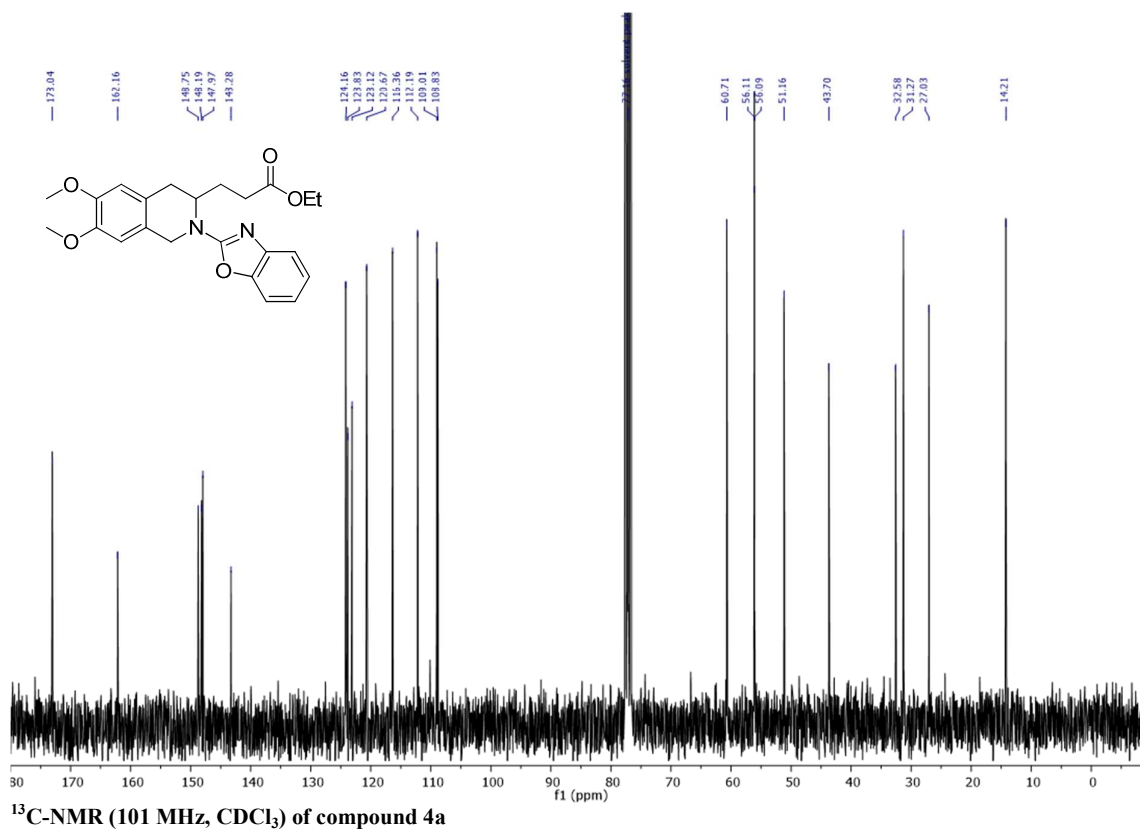


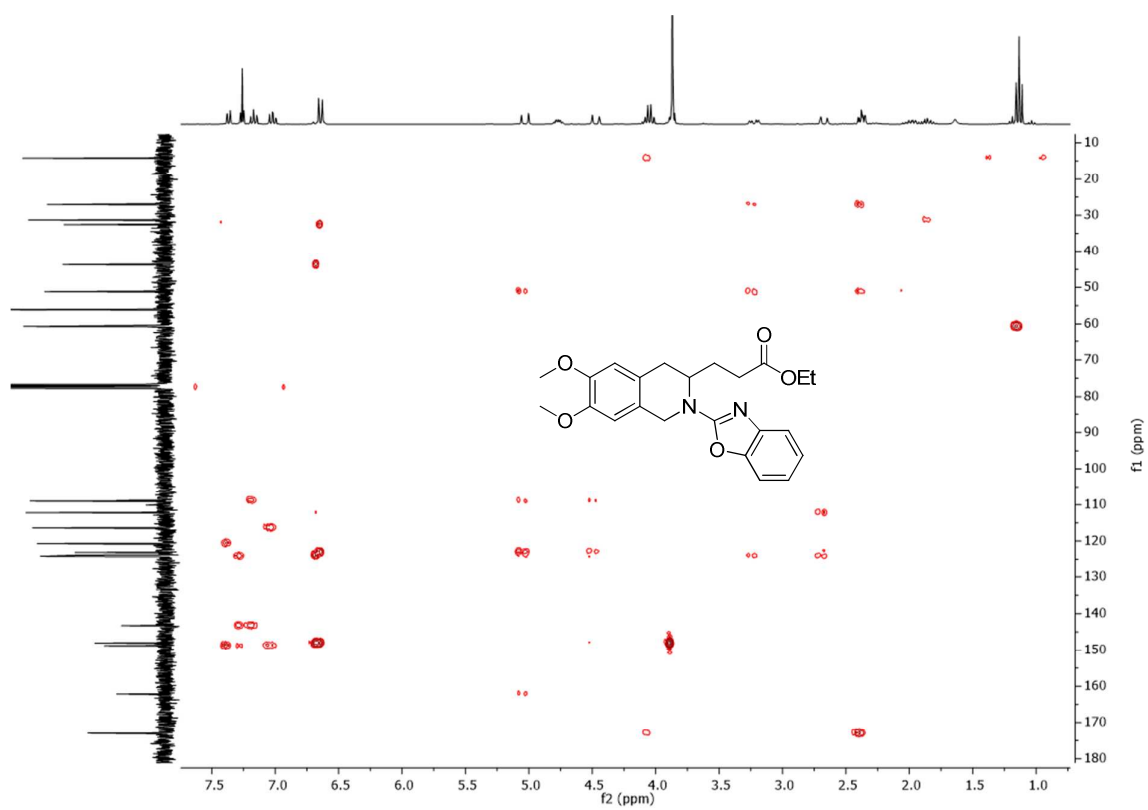
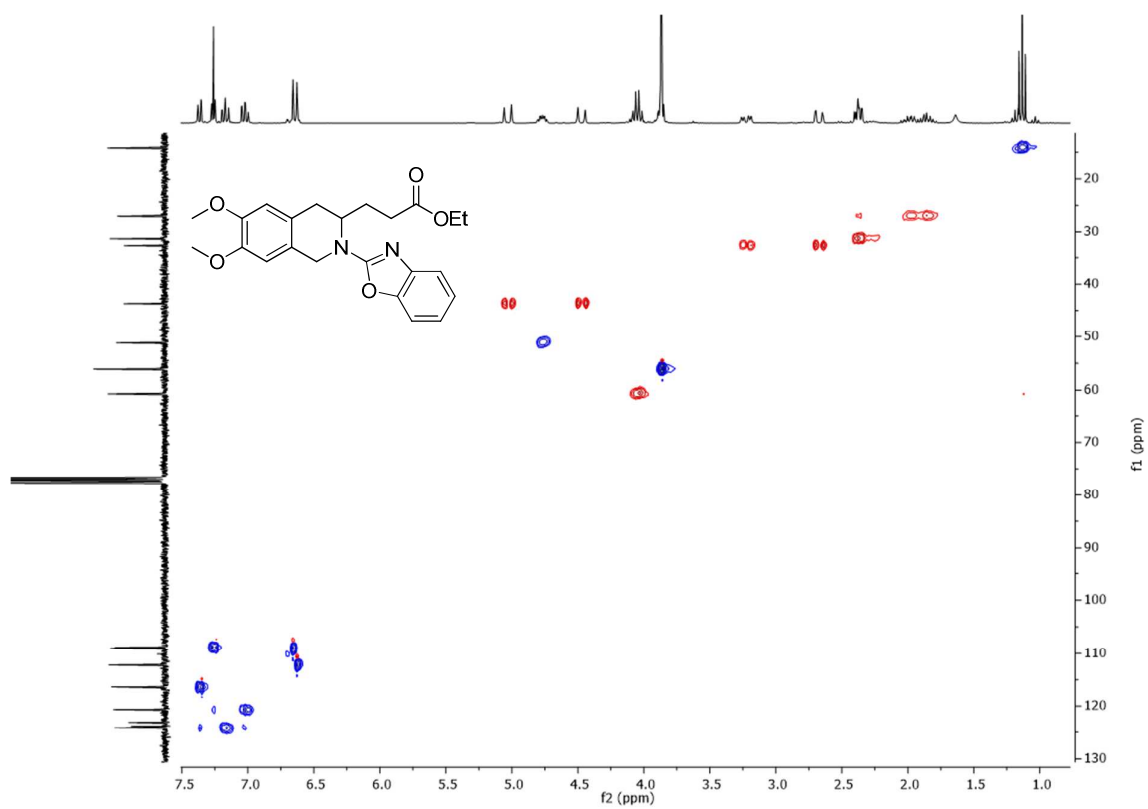
COSY of compound 2g



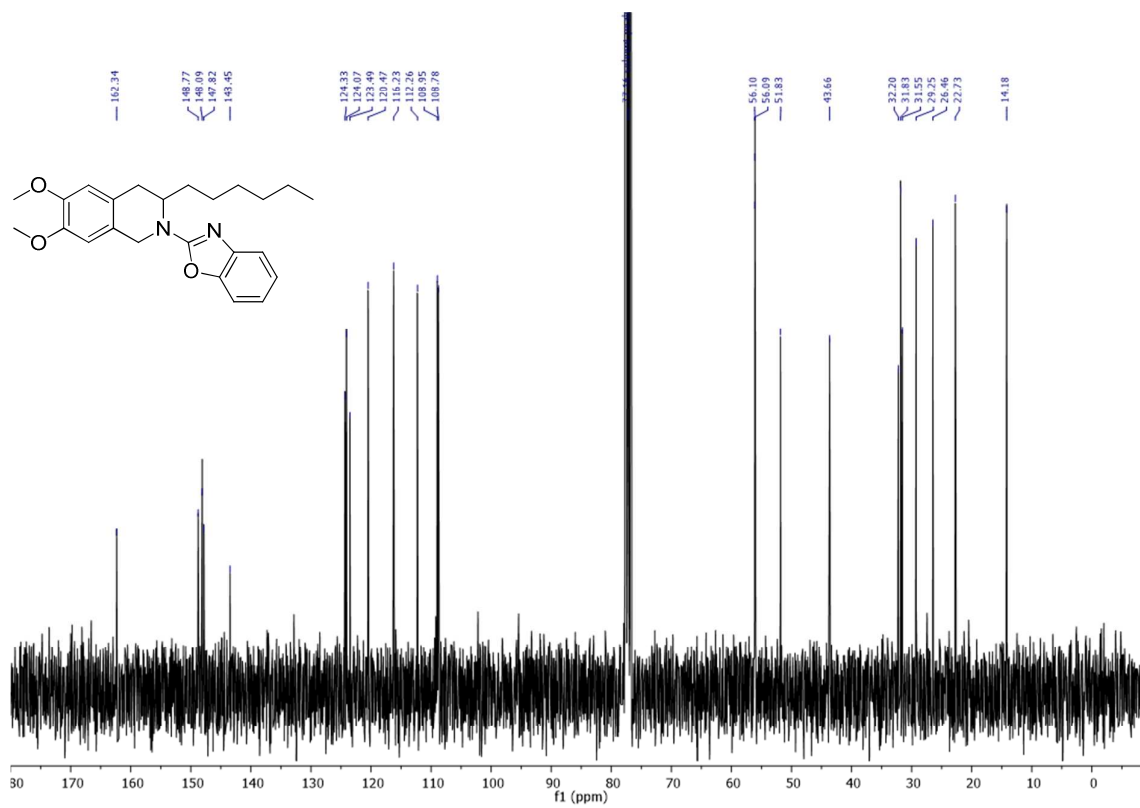
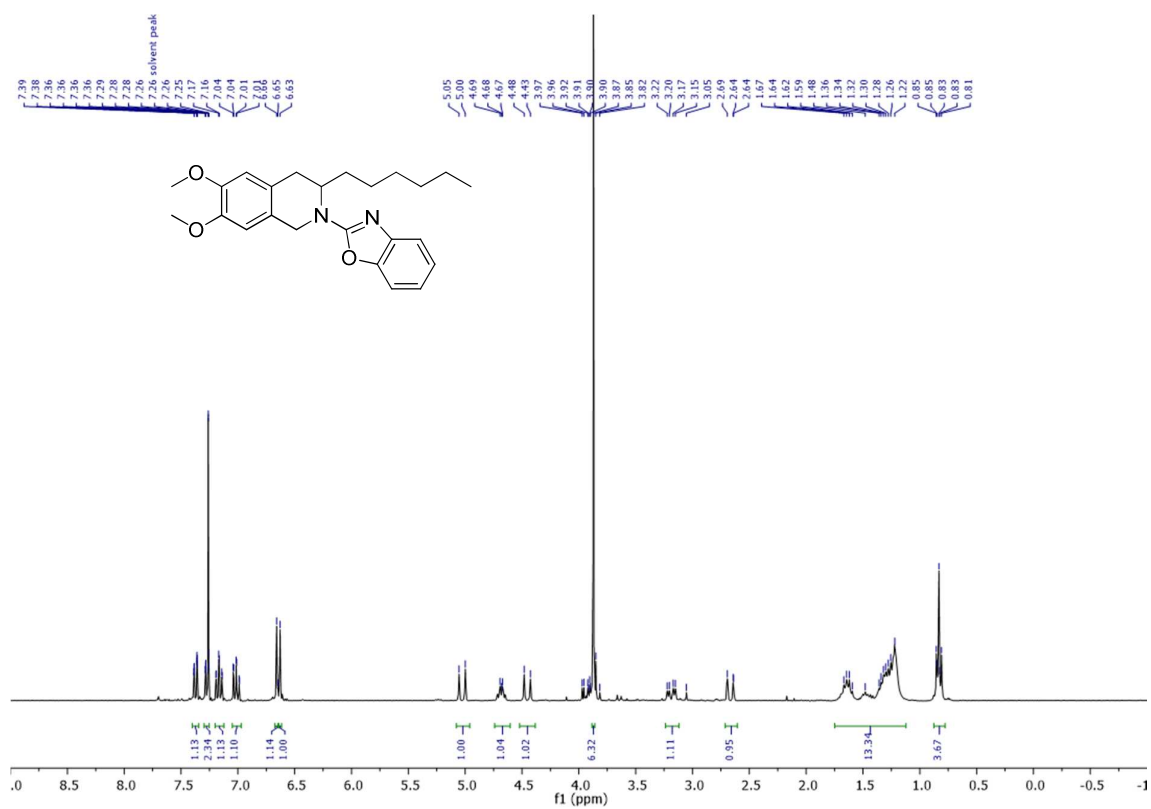
HSQC of compound 2g

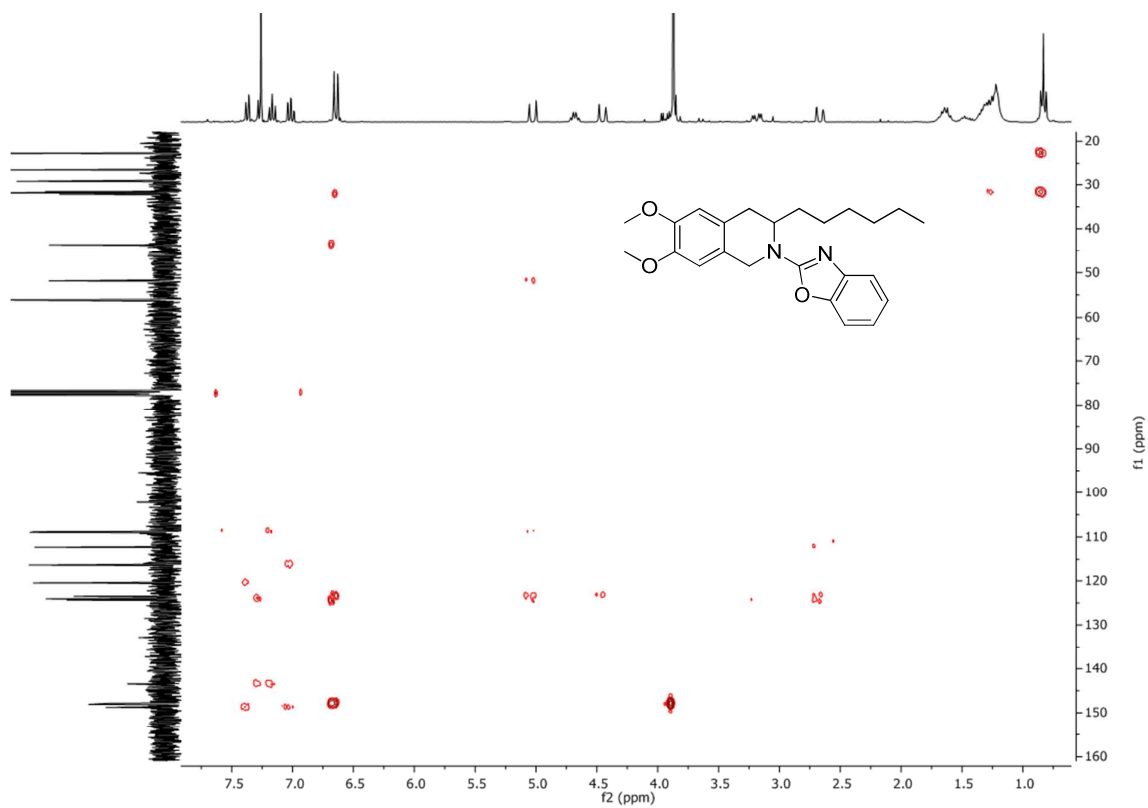
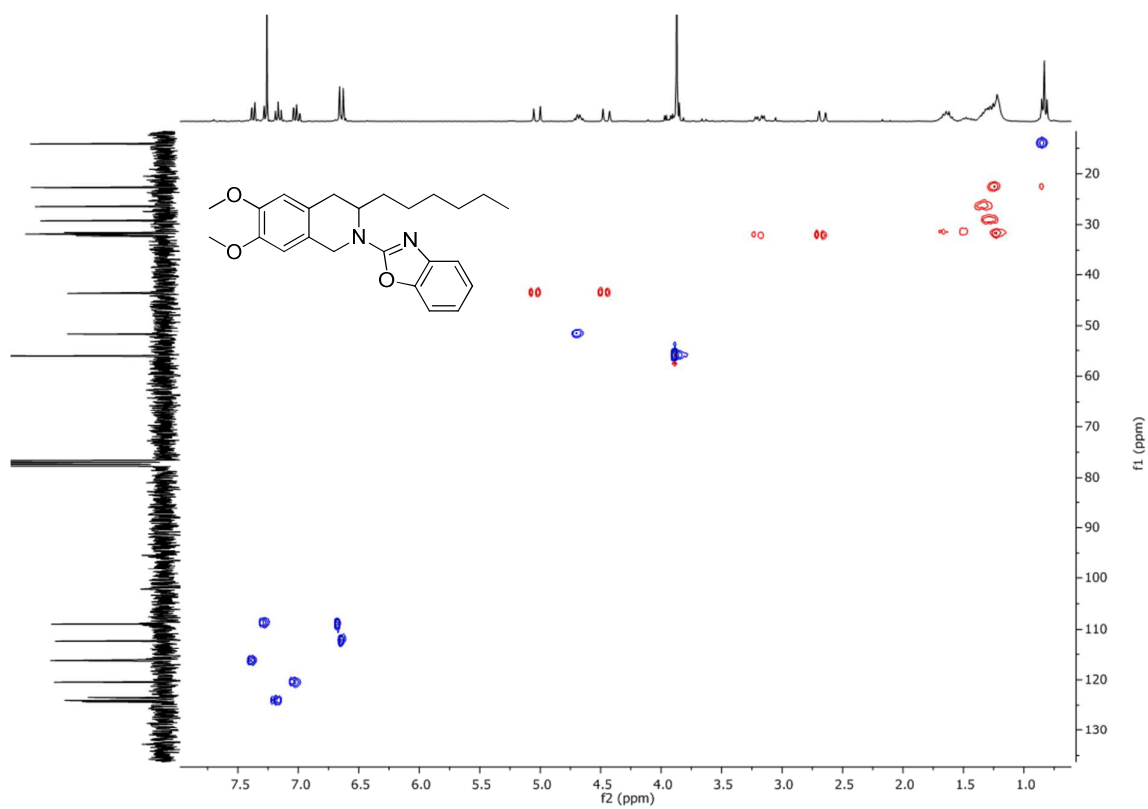


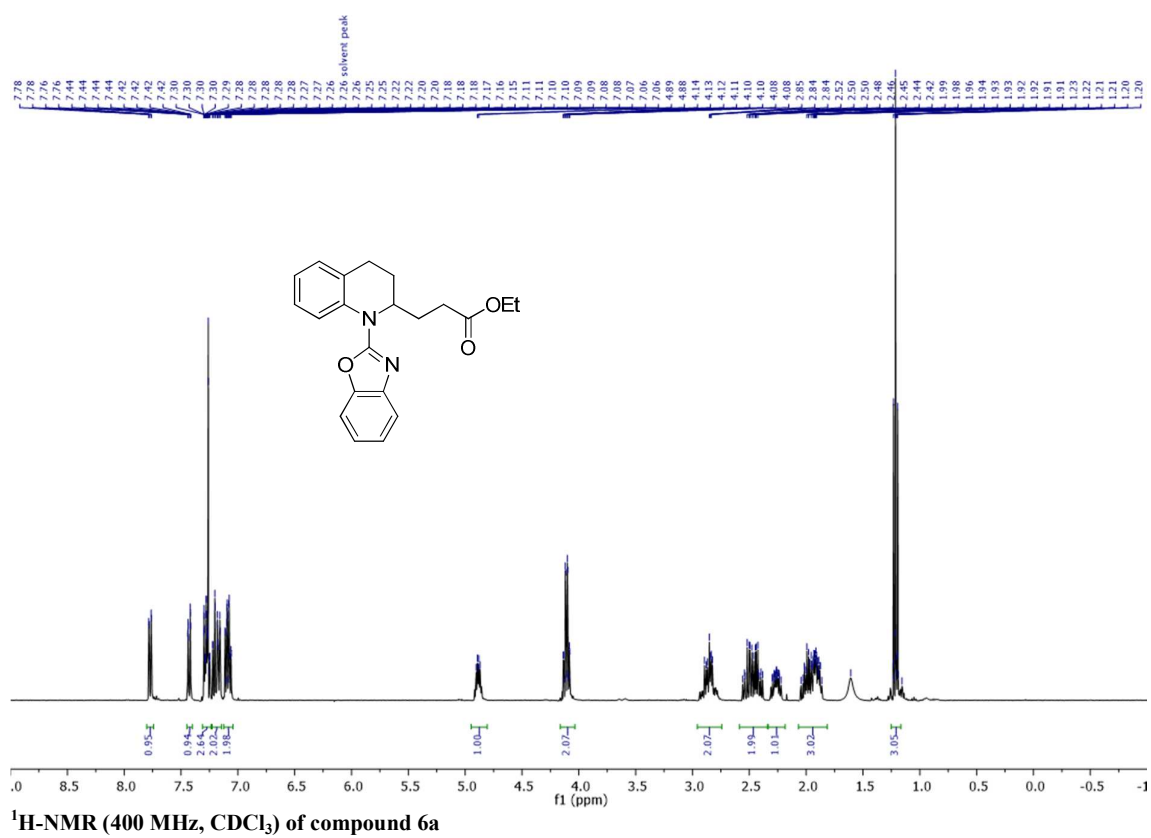
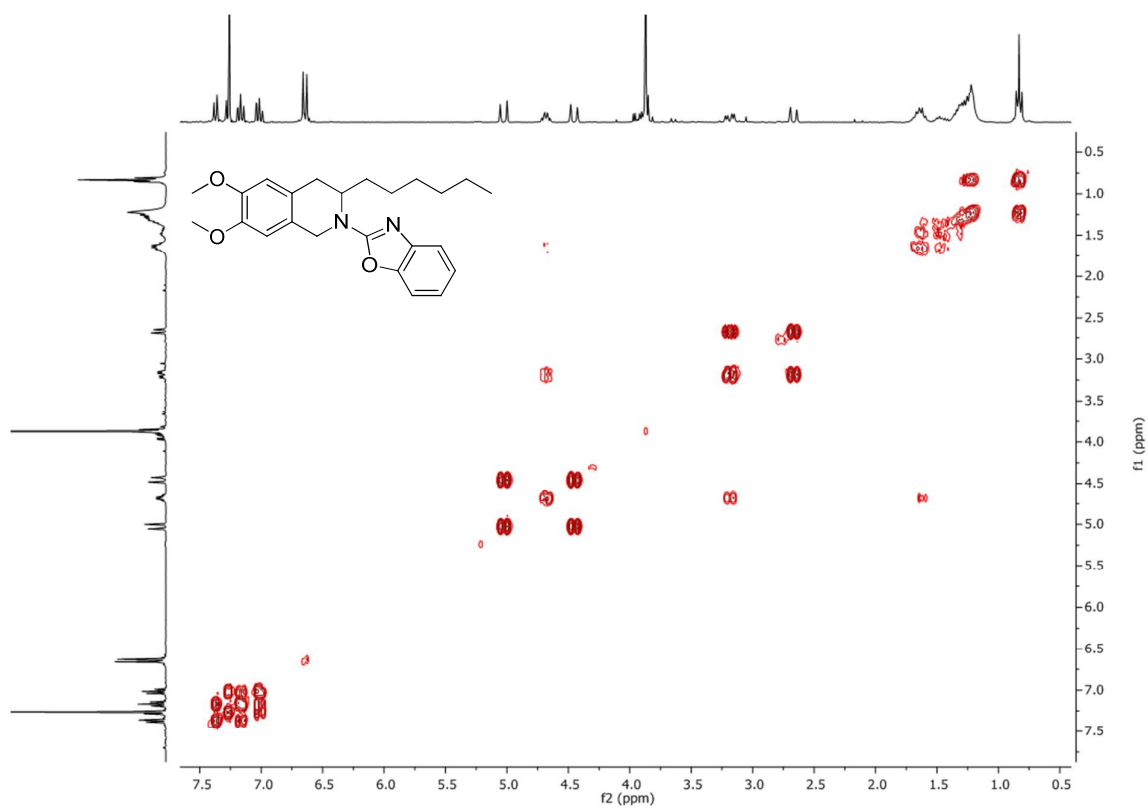


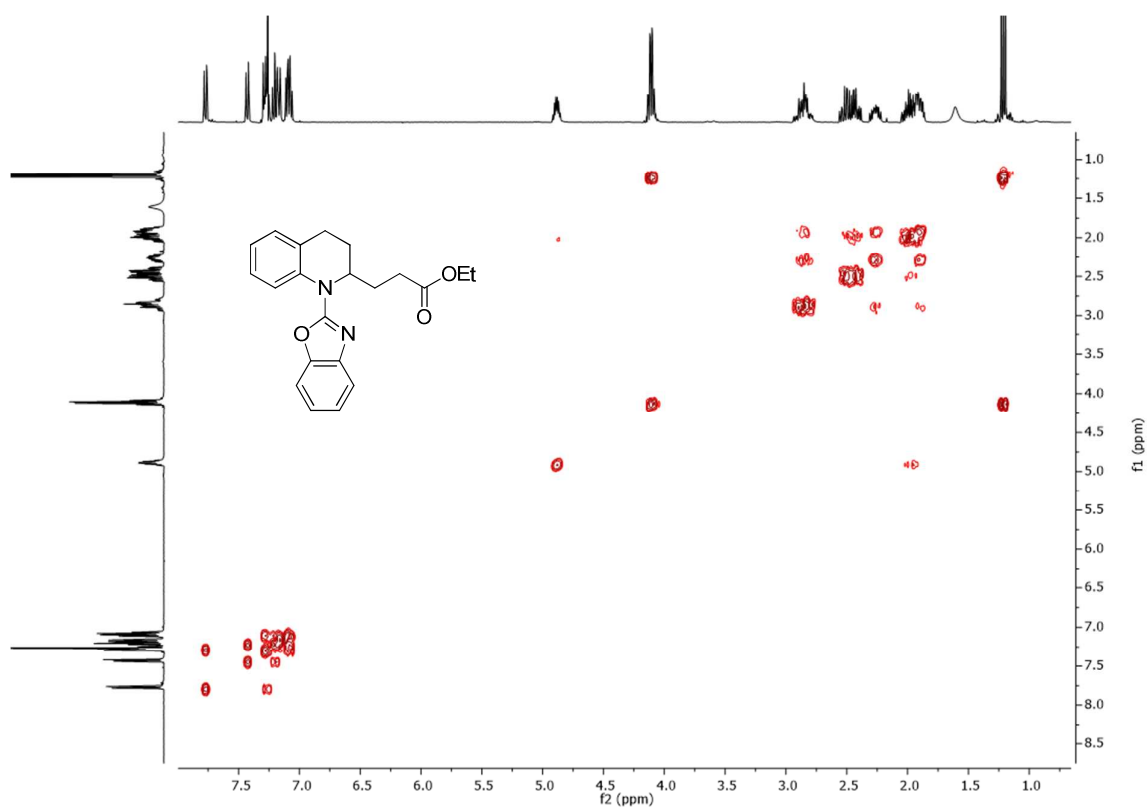
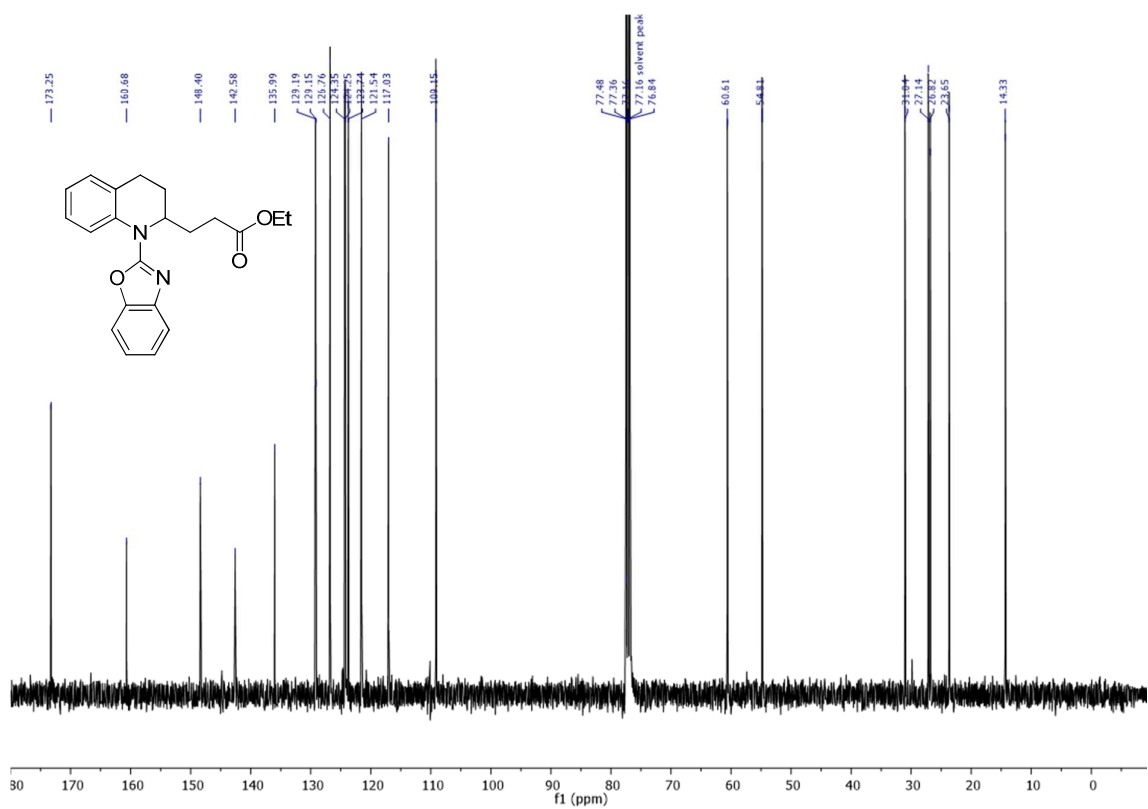


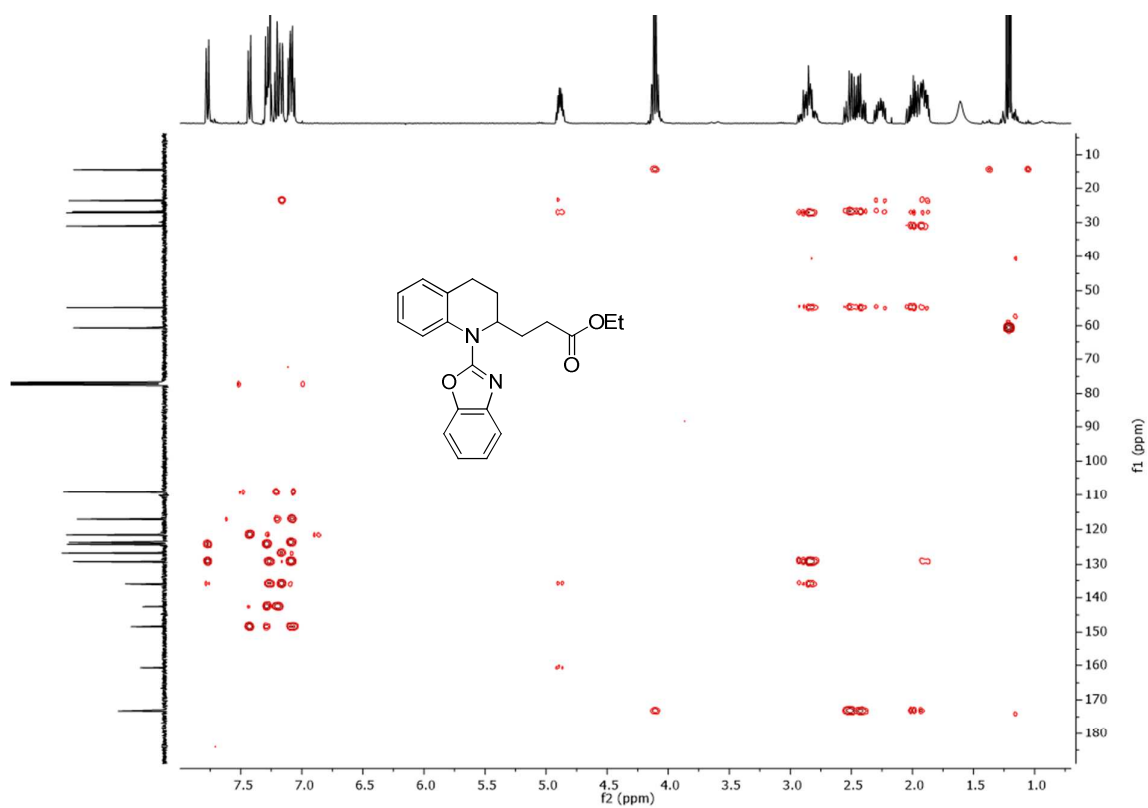
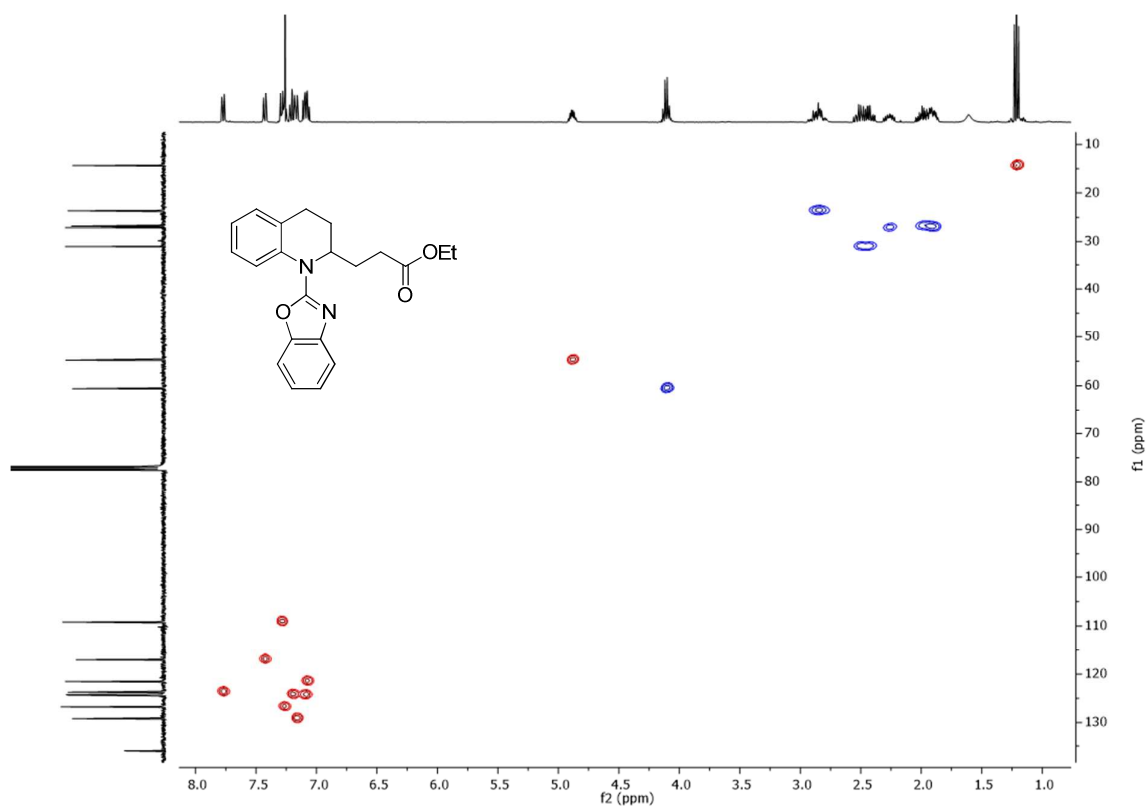




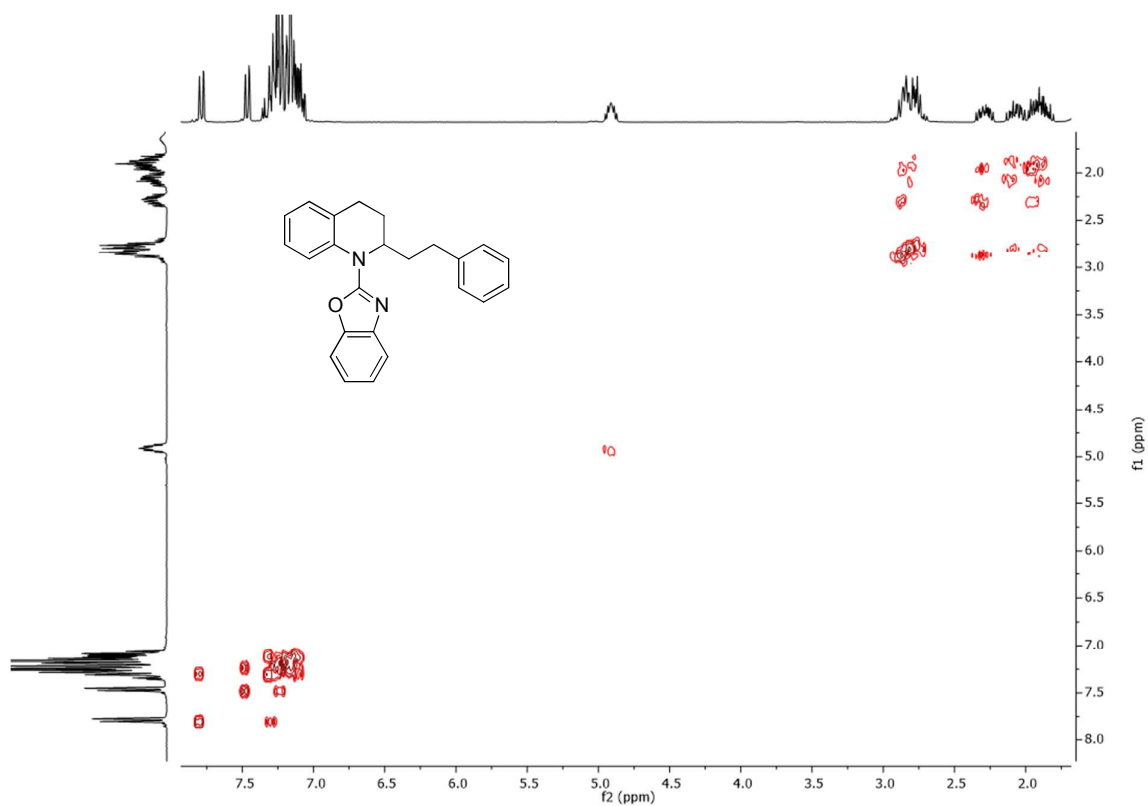




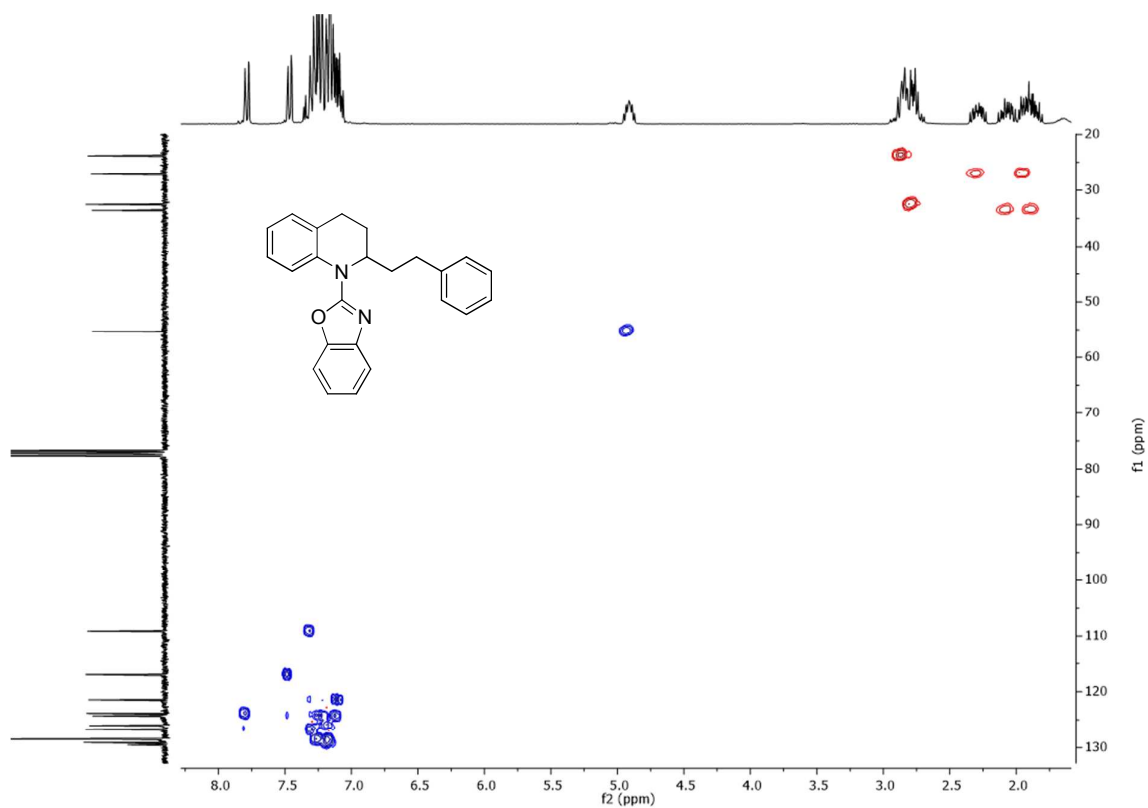




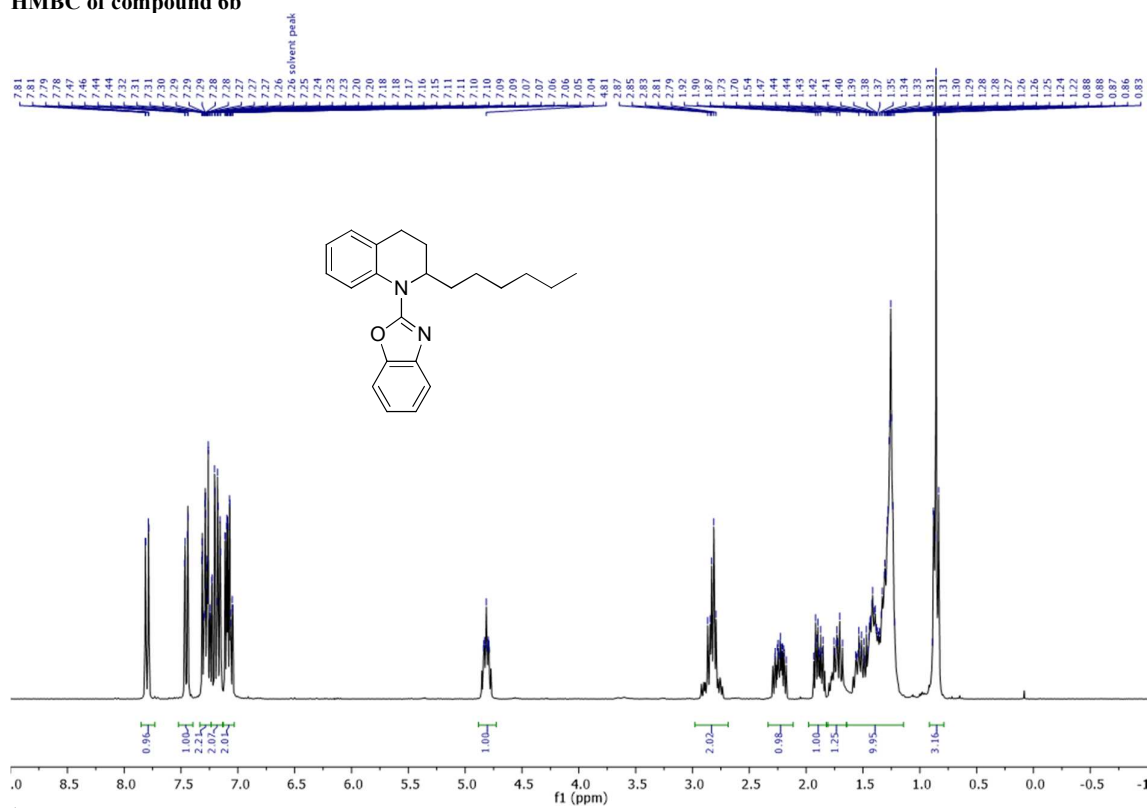
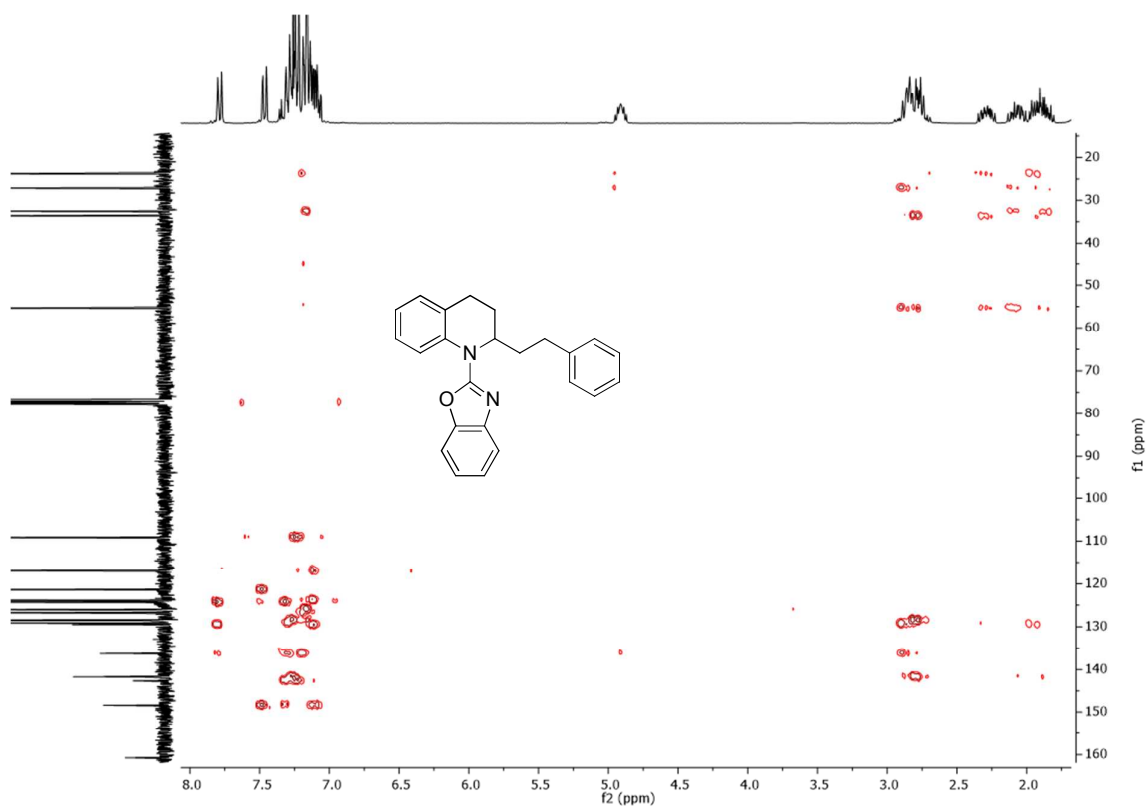




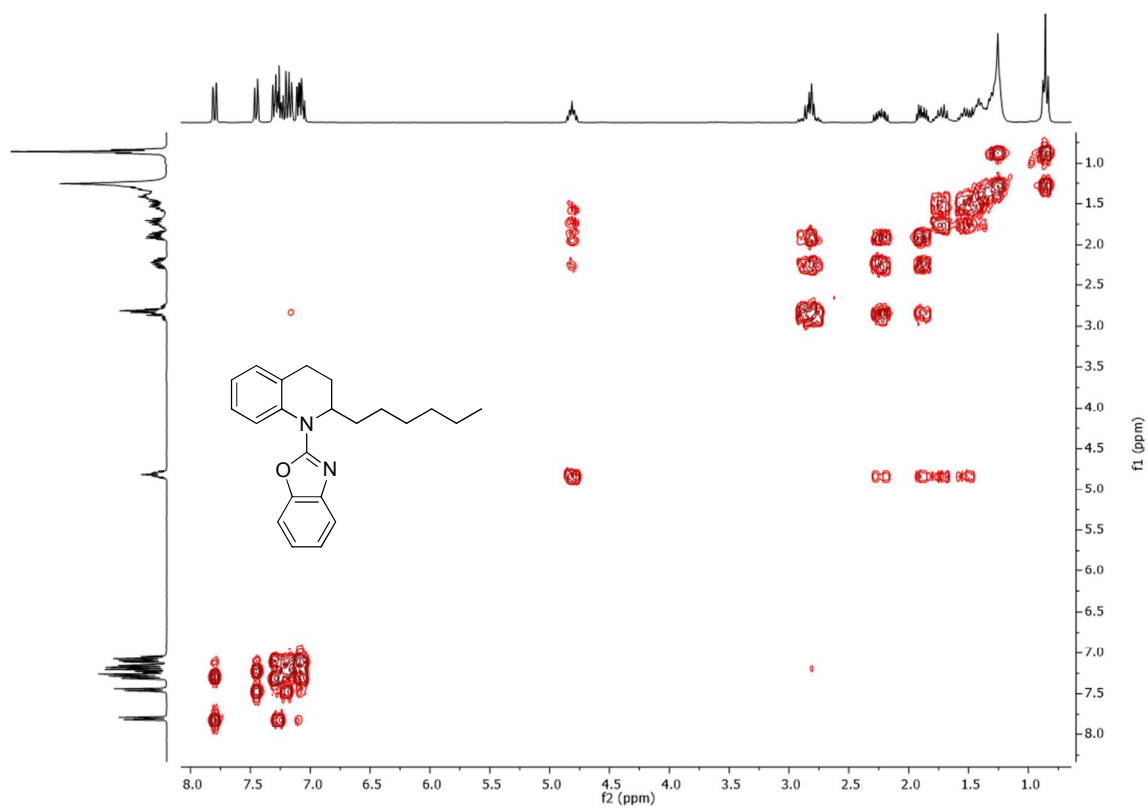
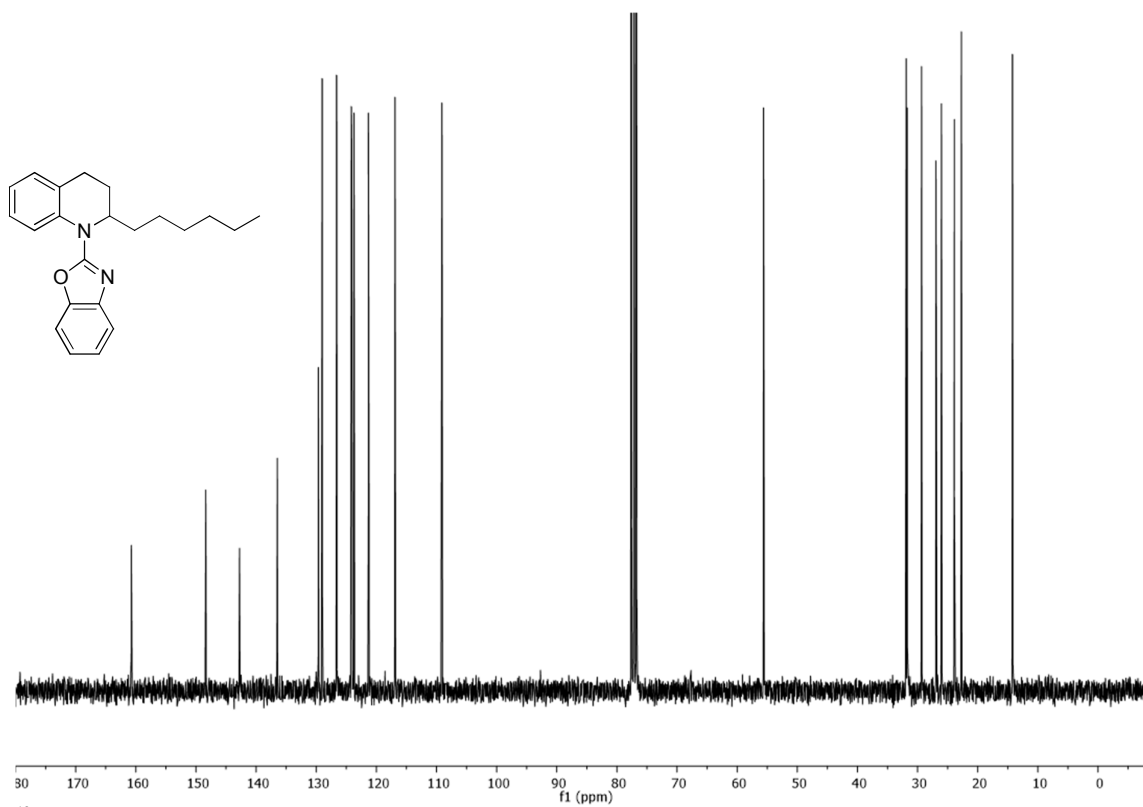
COSY of compound 6b

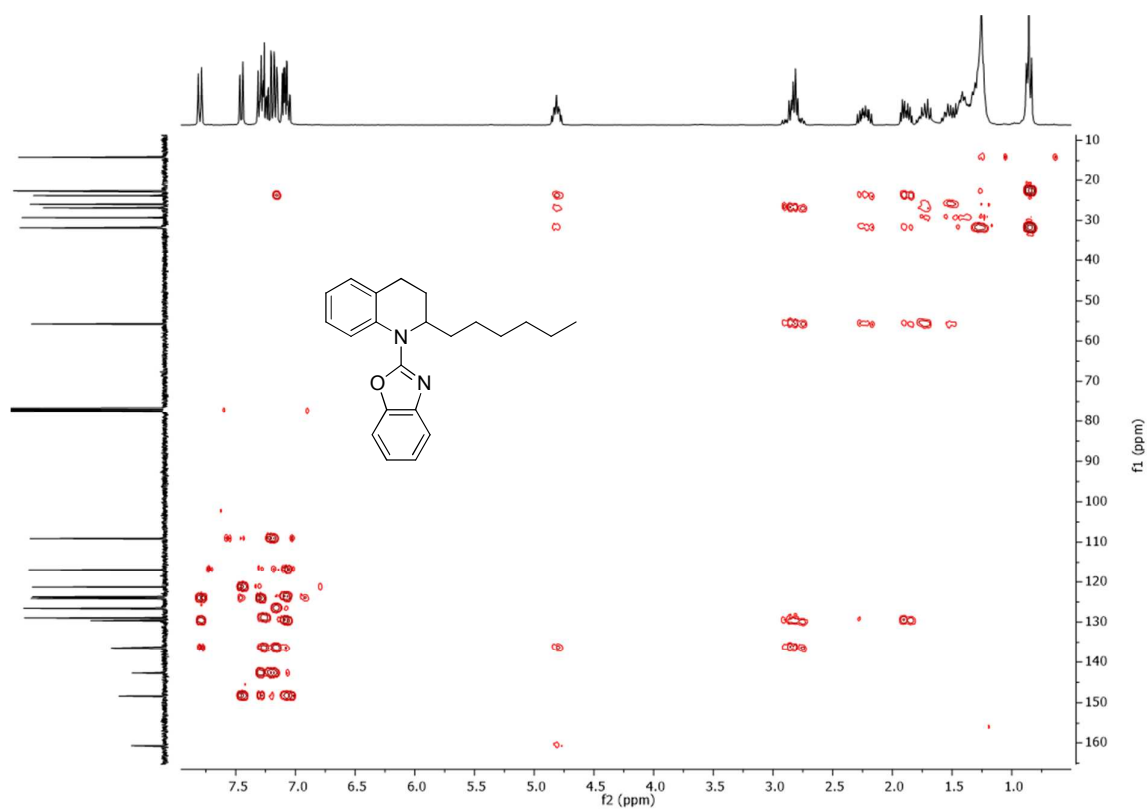
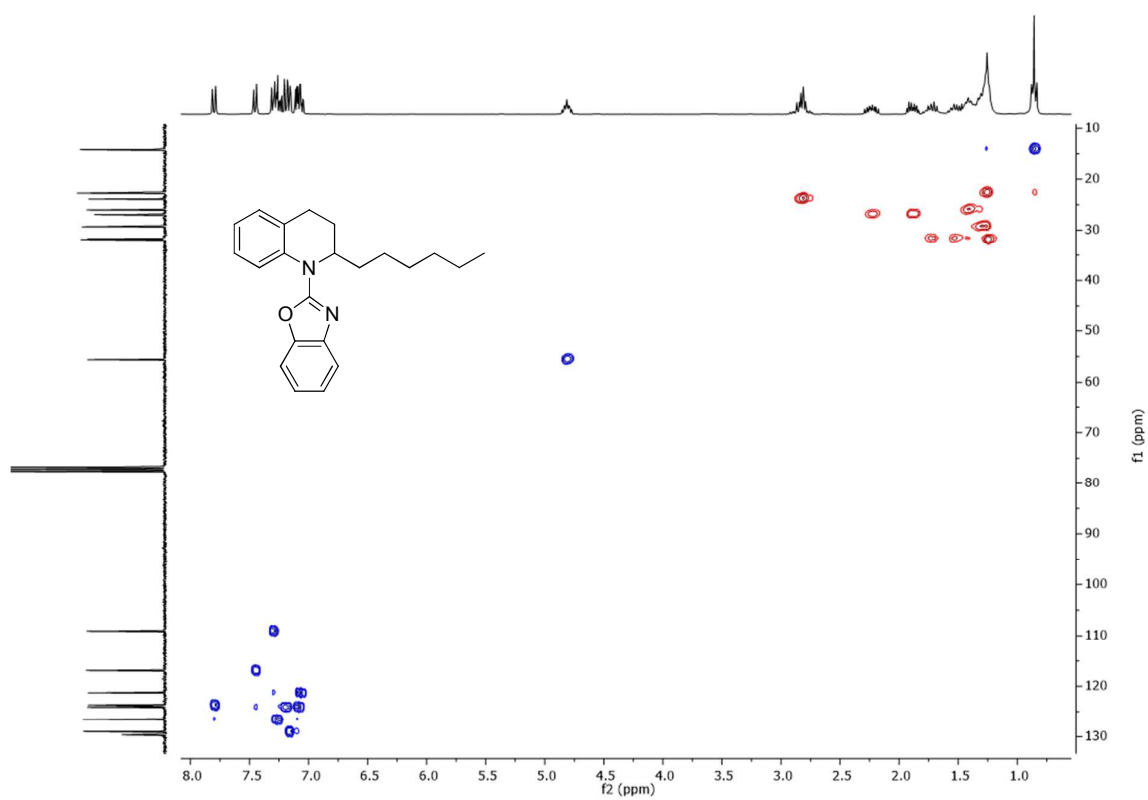


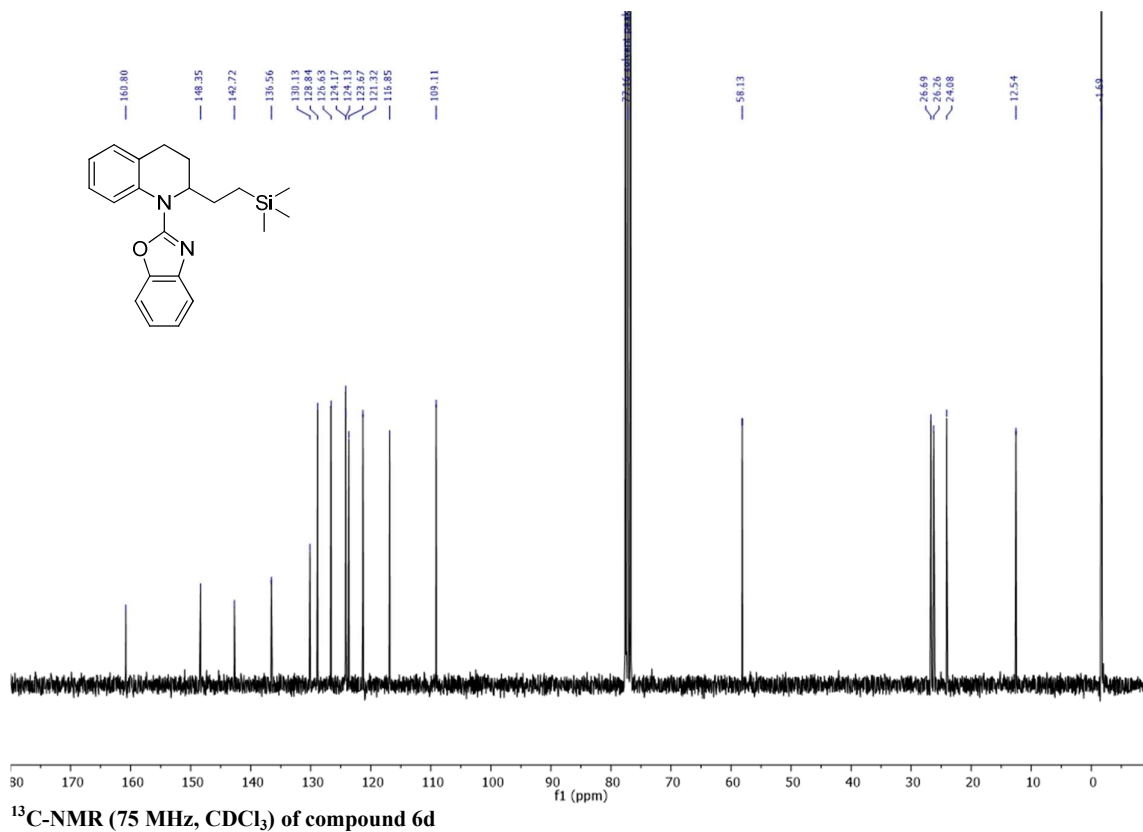
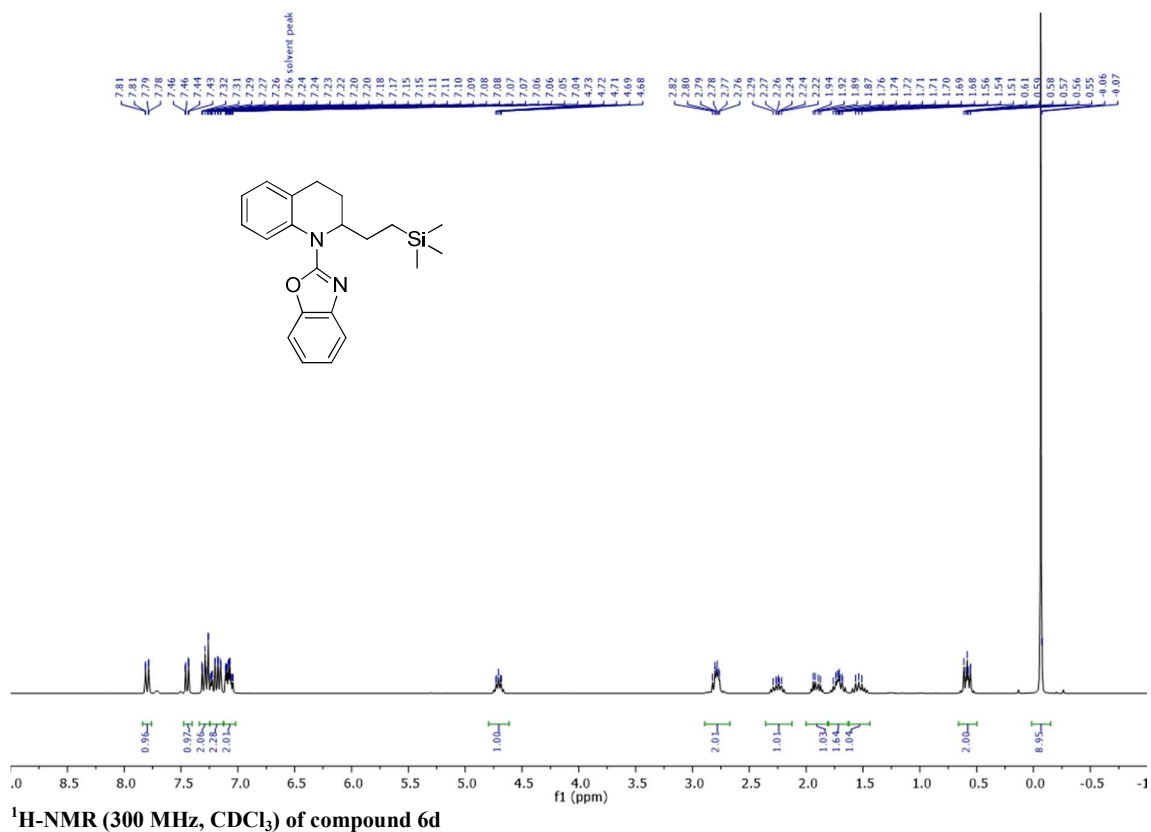
HSQC of compound 6b

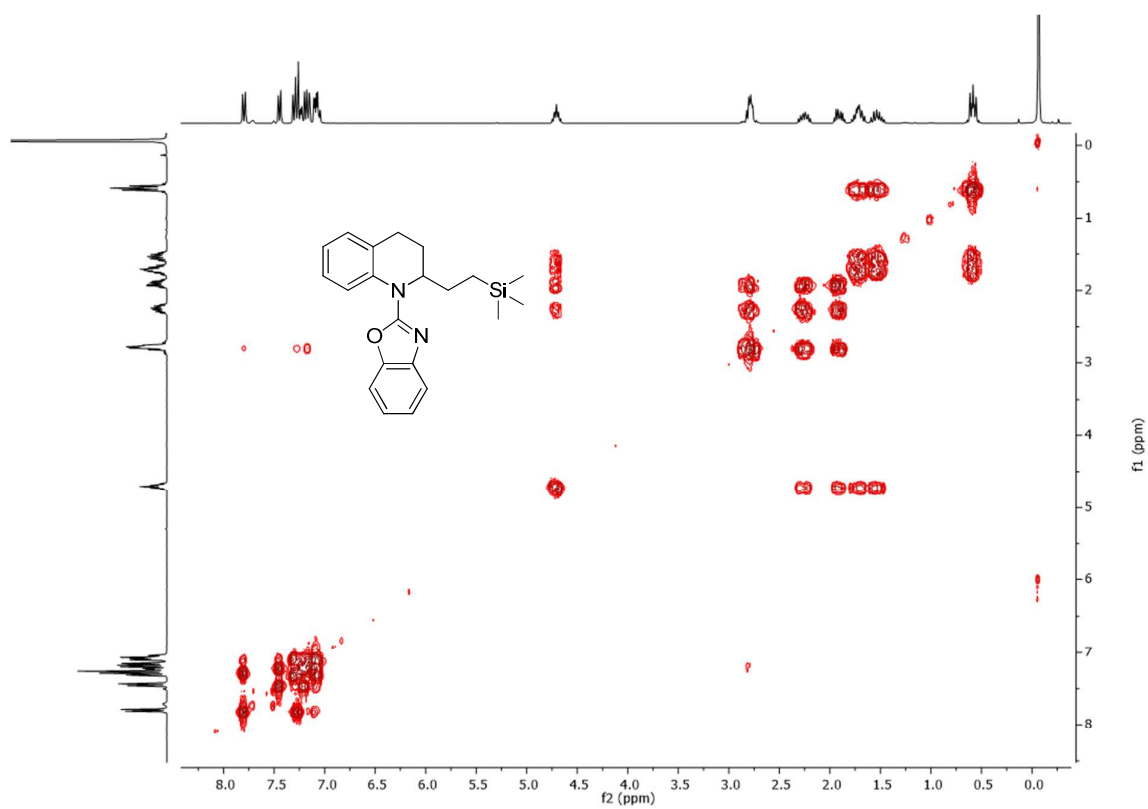




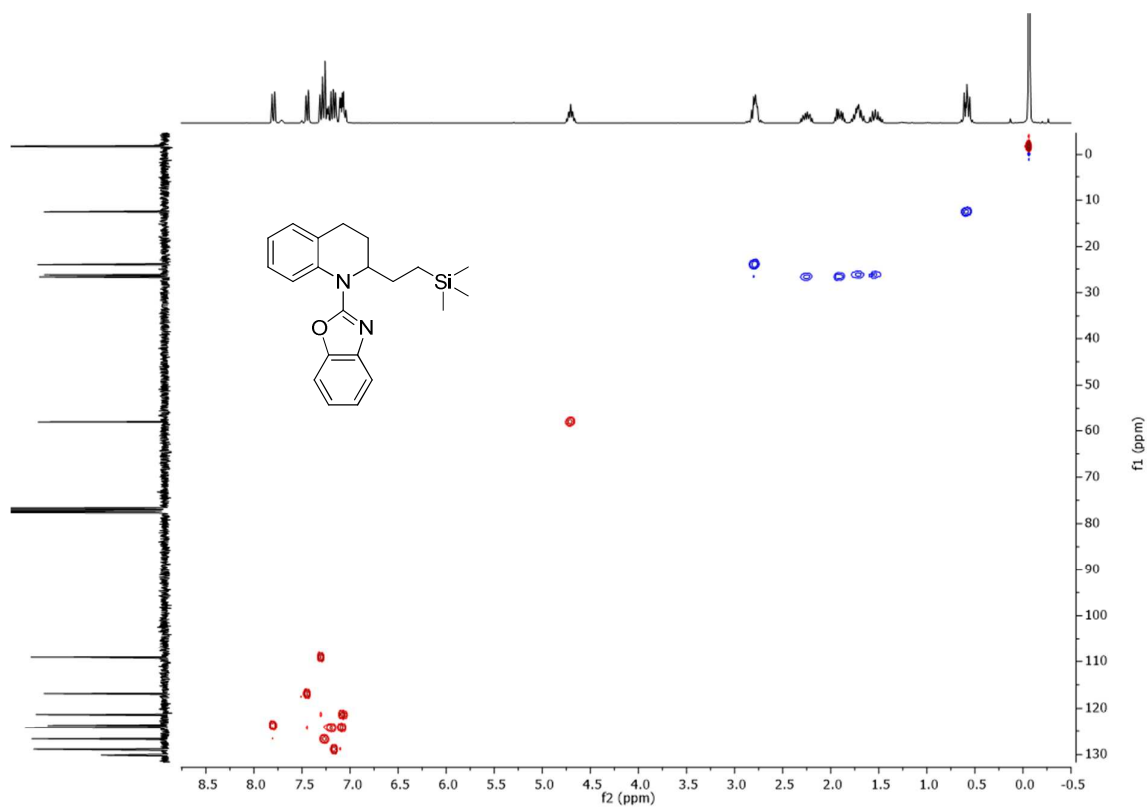




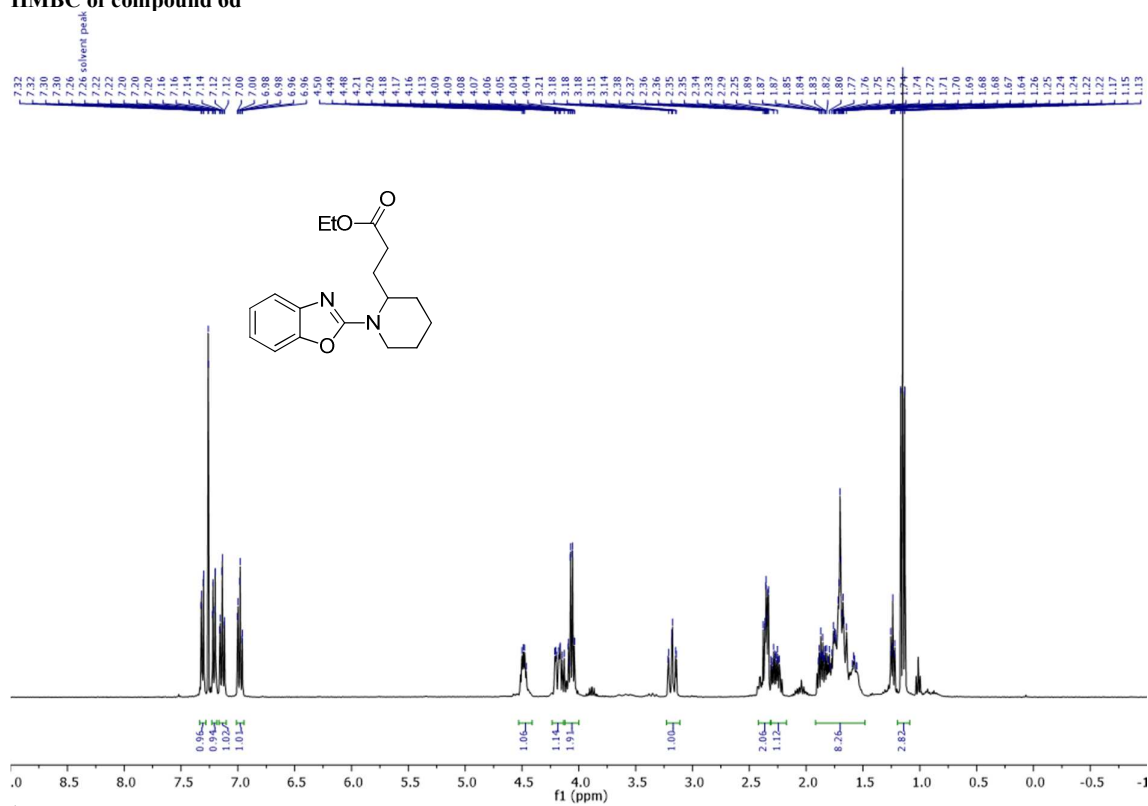
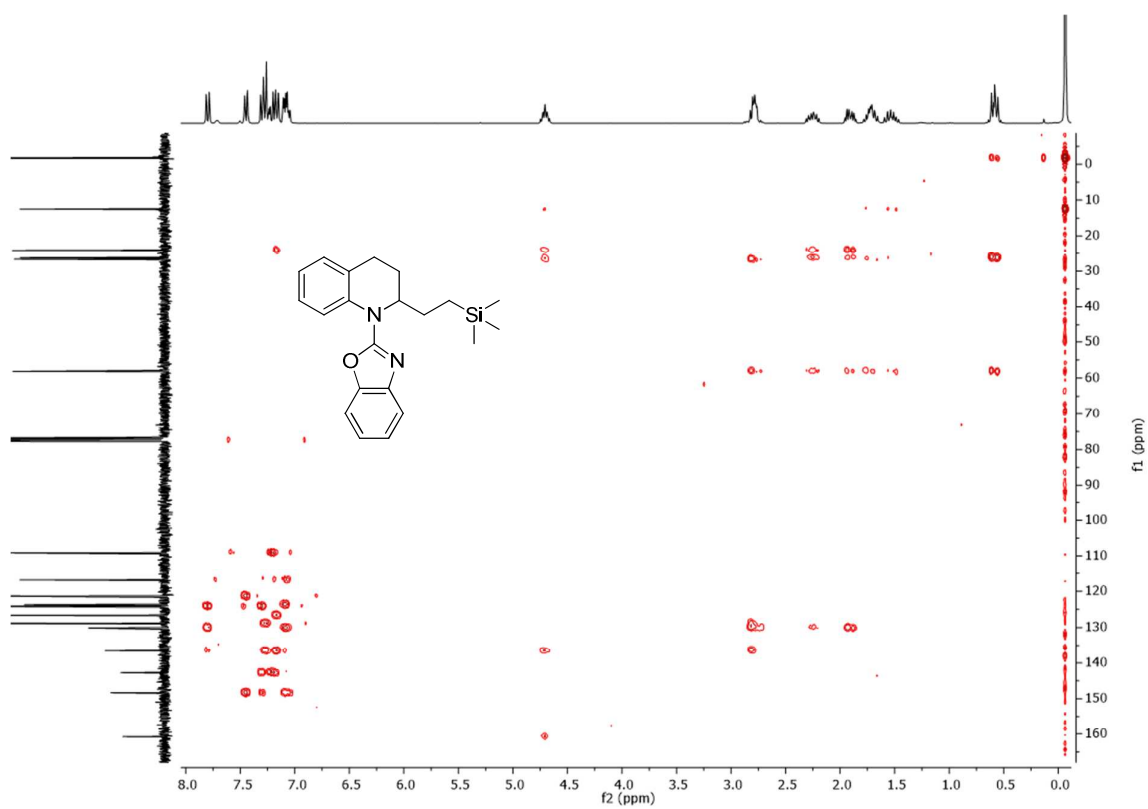


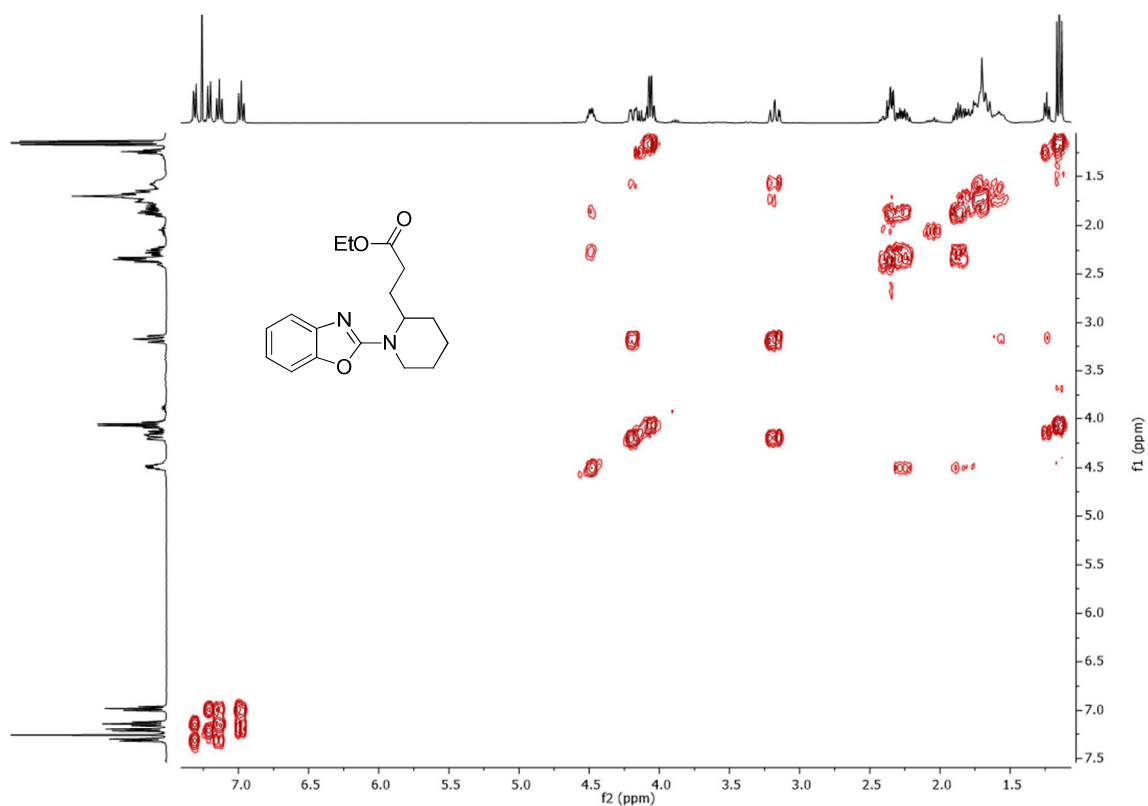
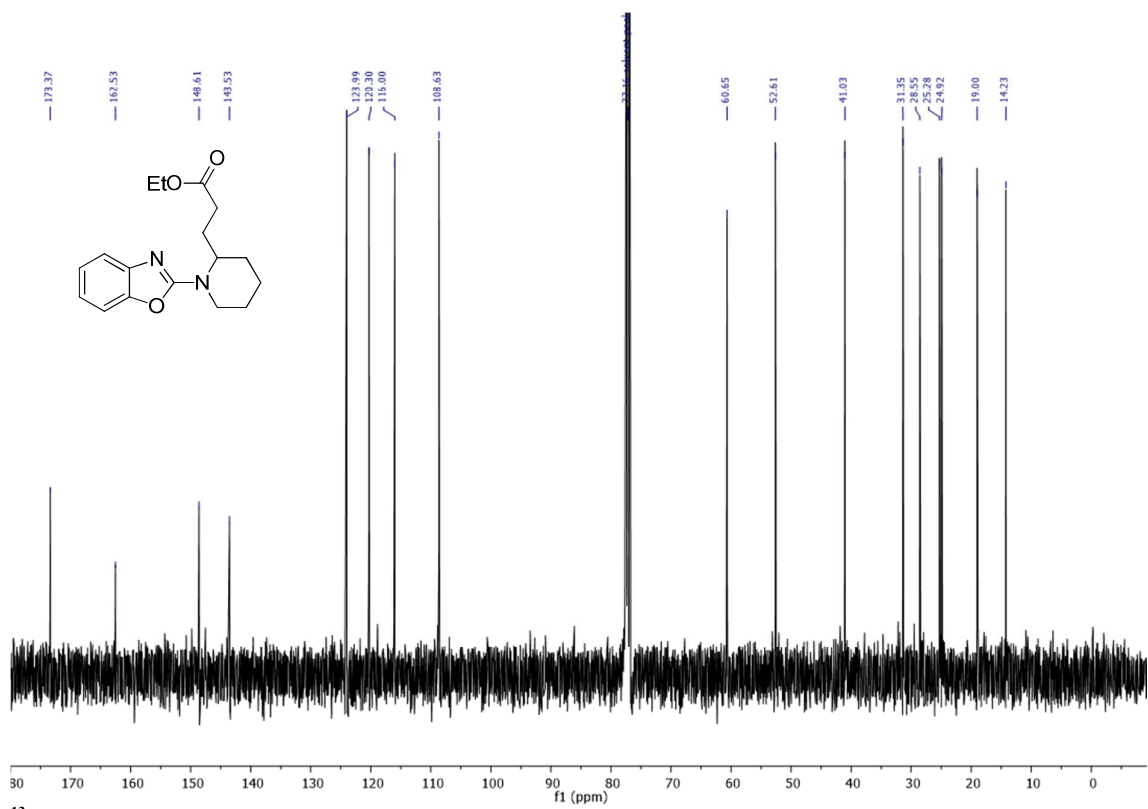


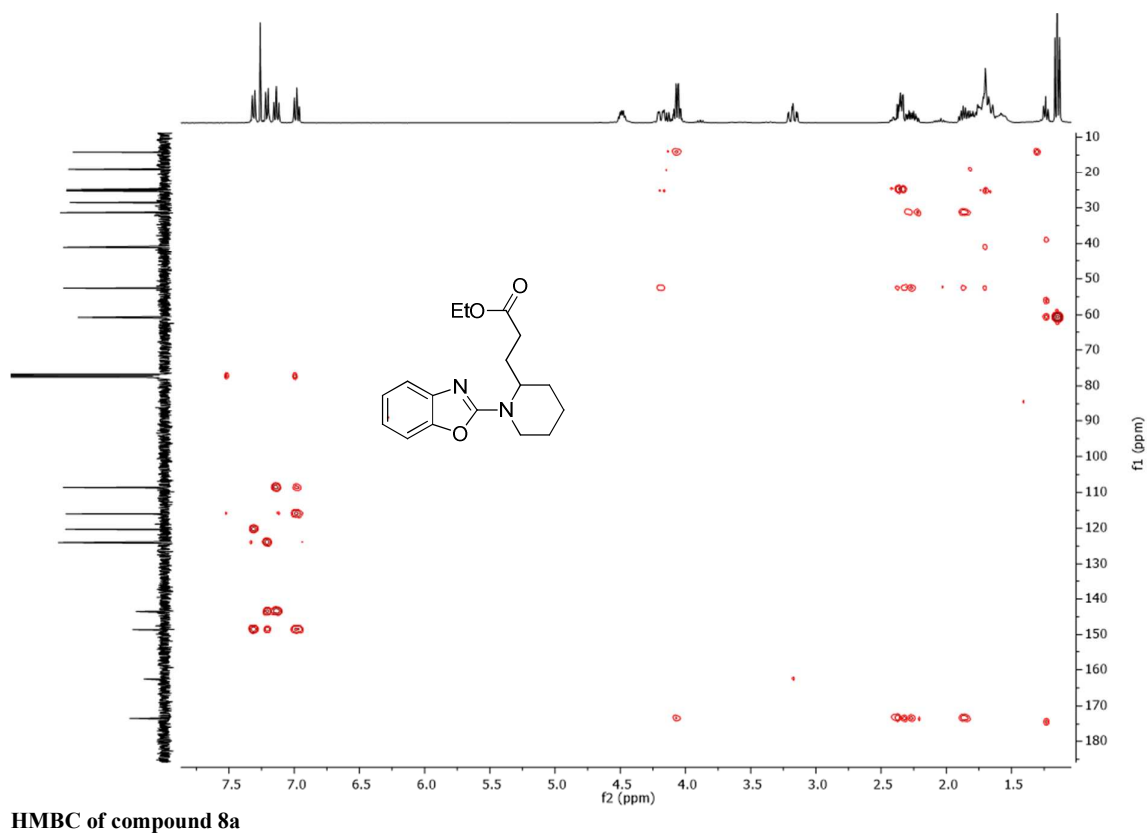
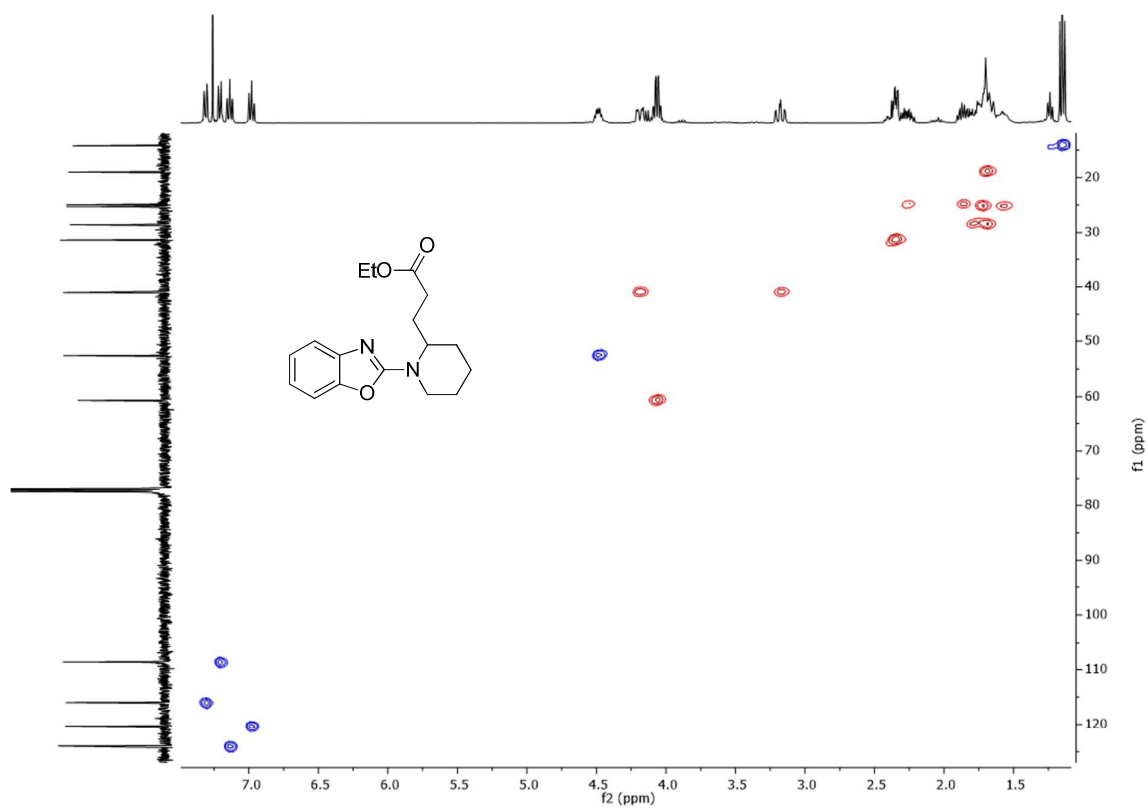
COSY of compound 6d

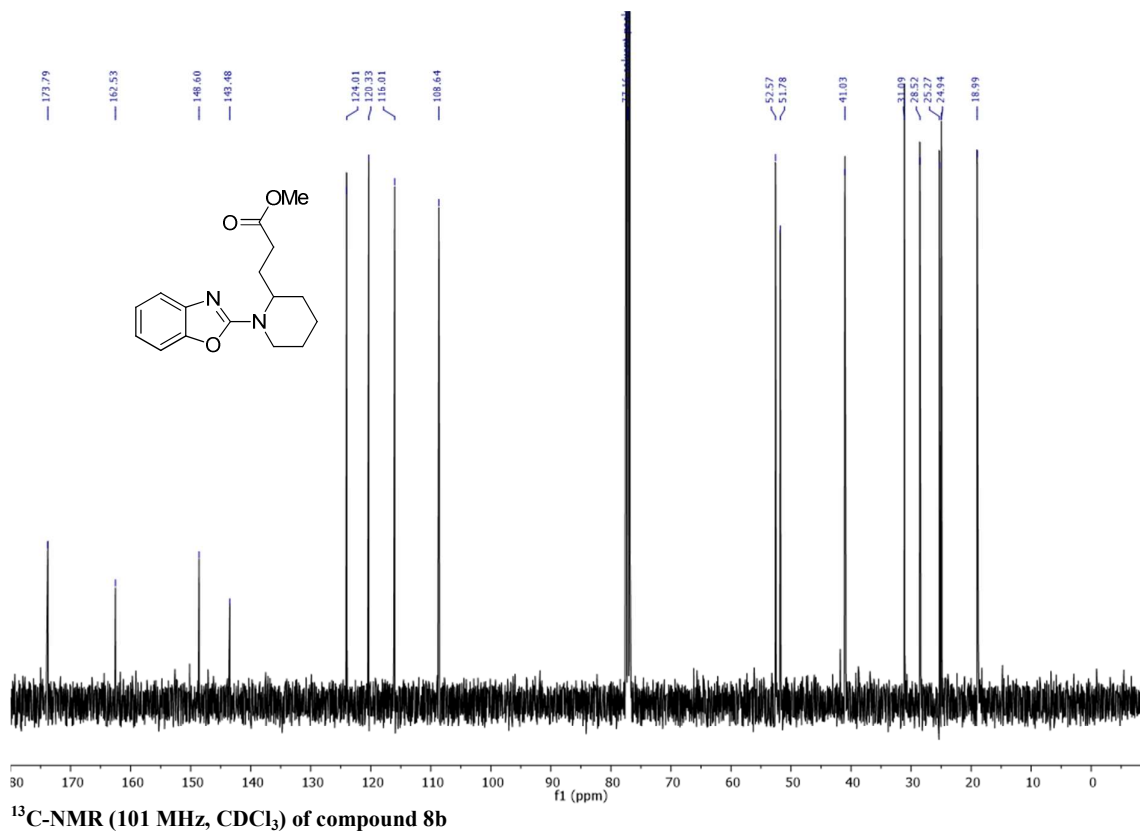
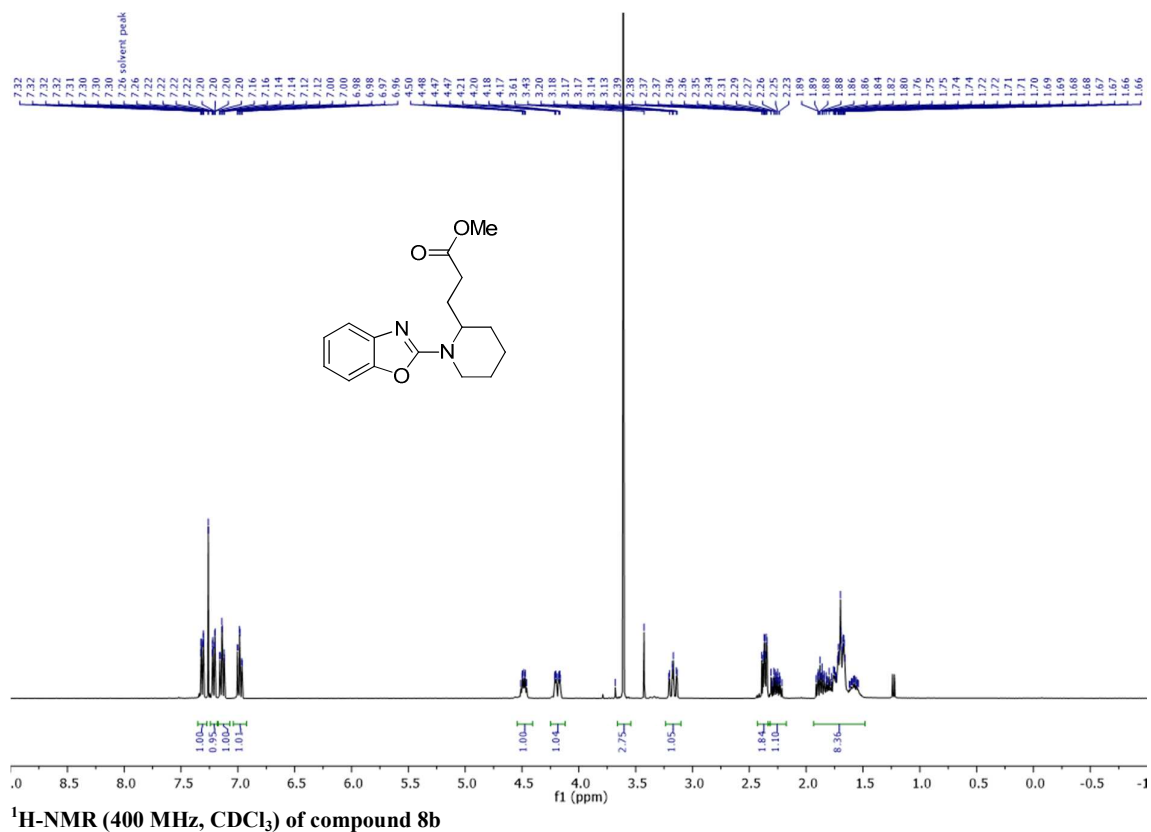


HSQC of compound 6d

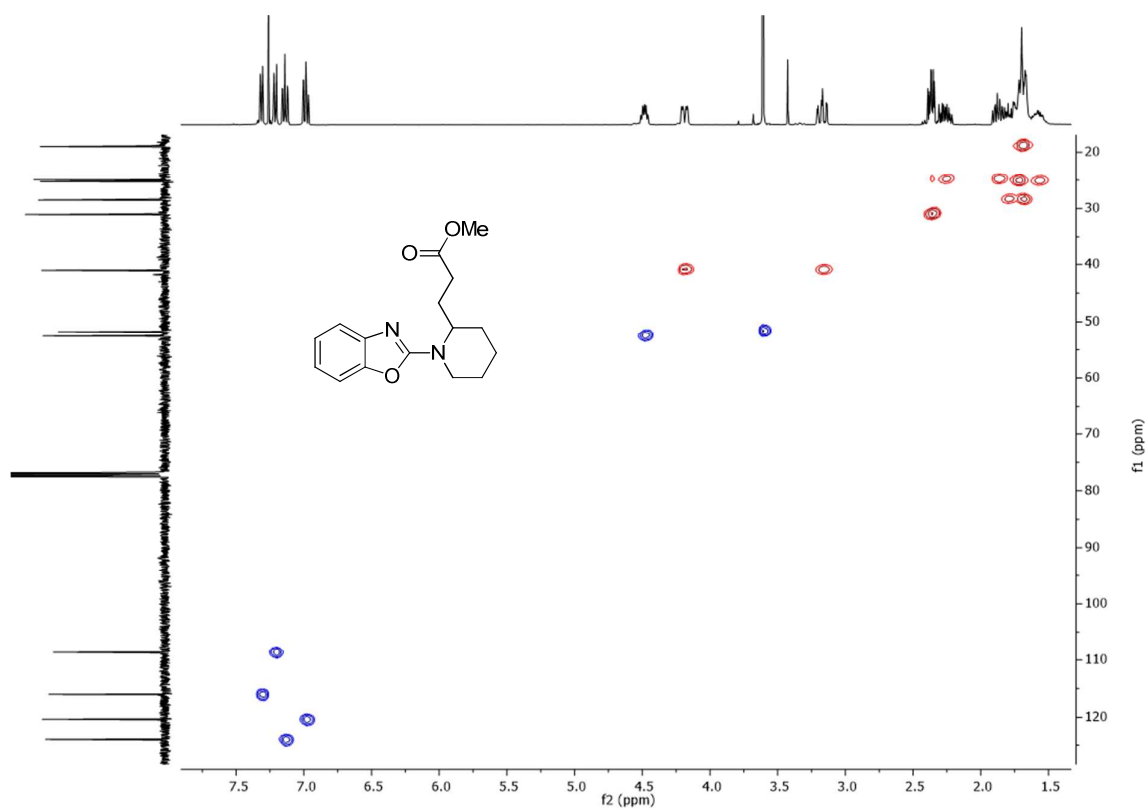
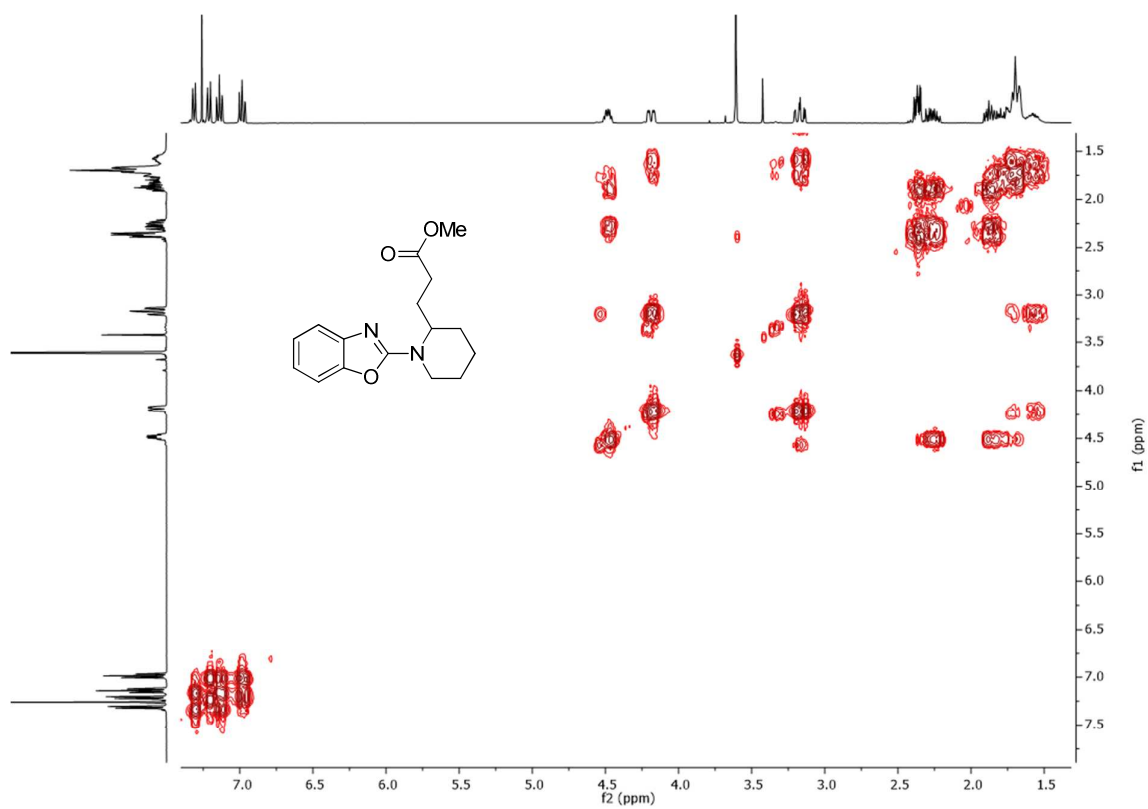


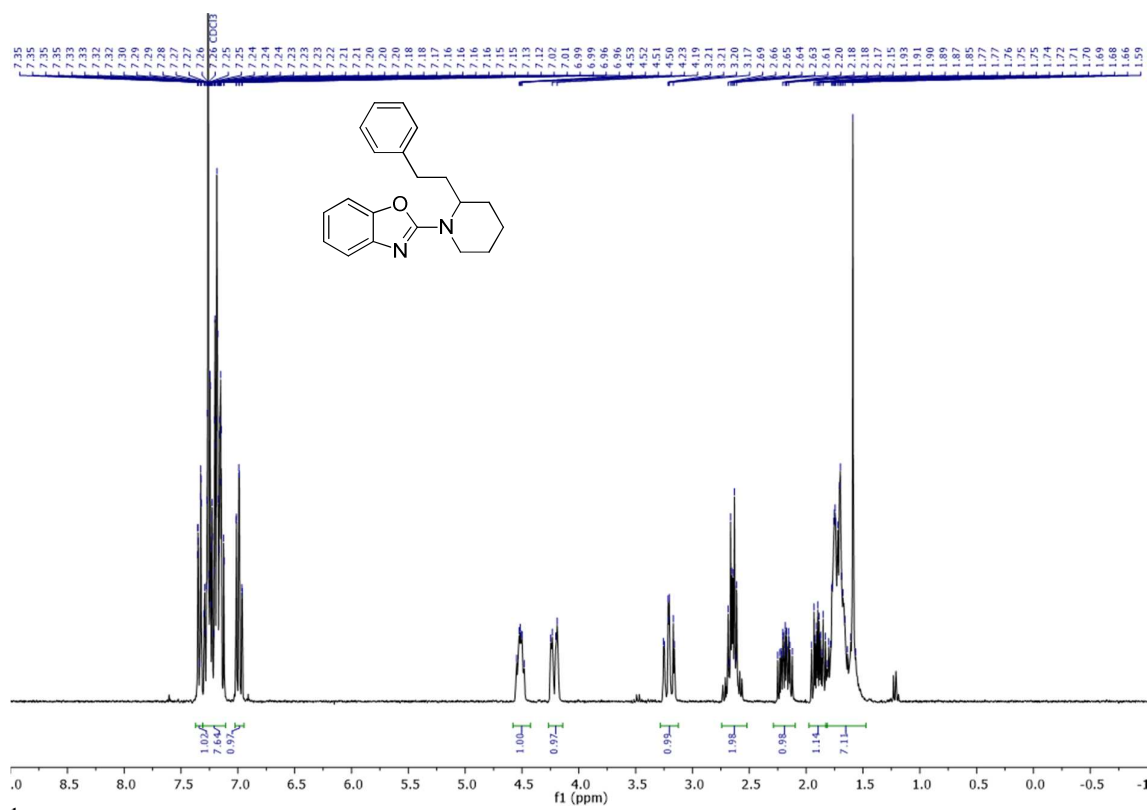
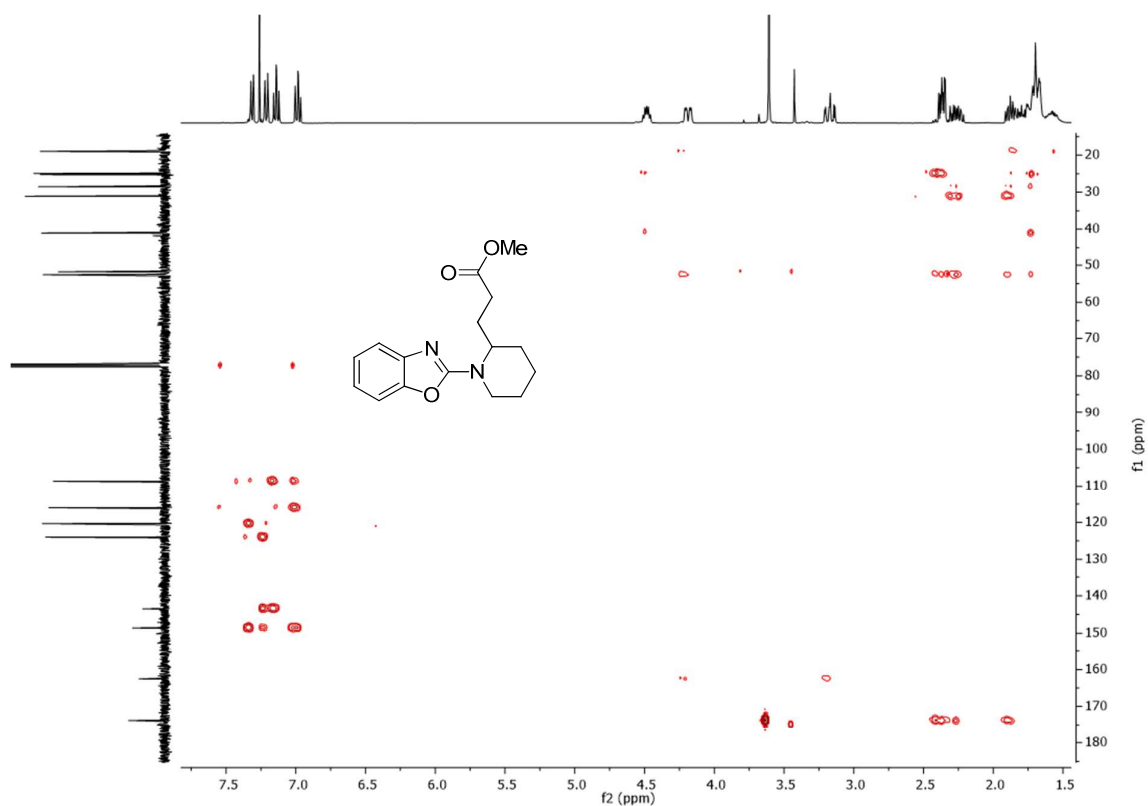


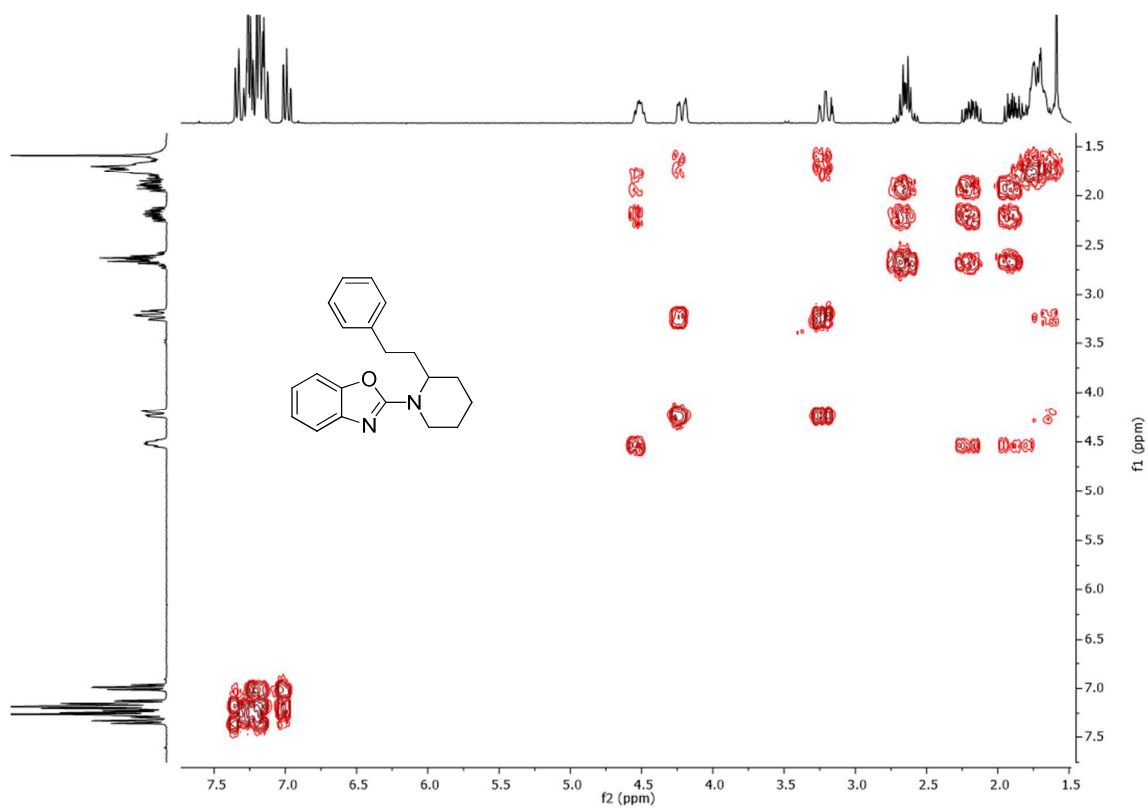
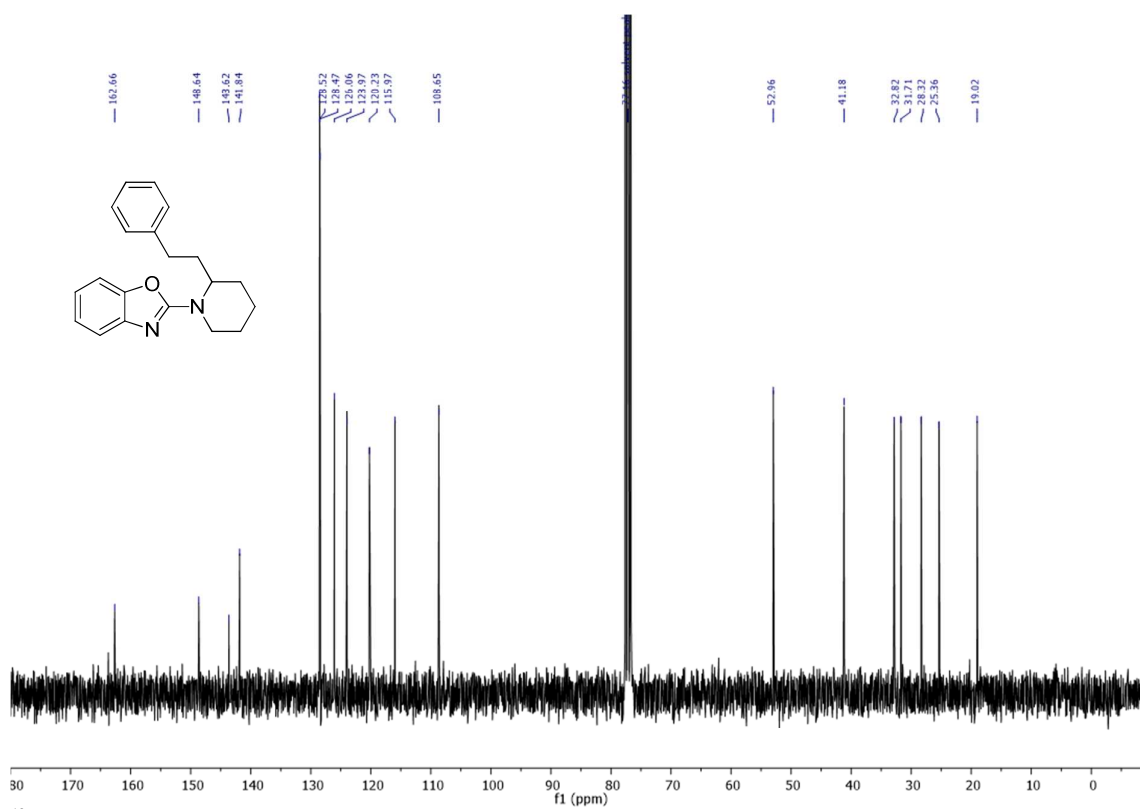


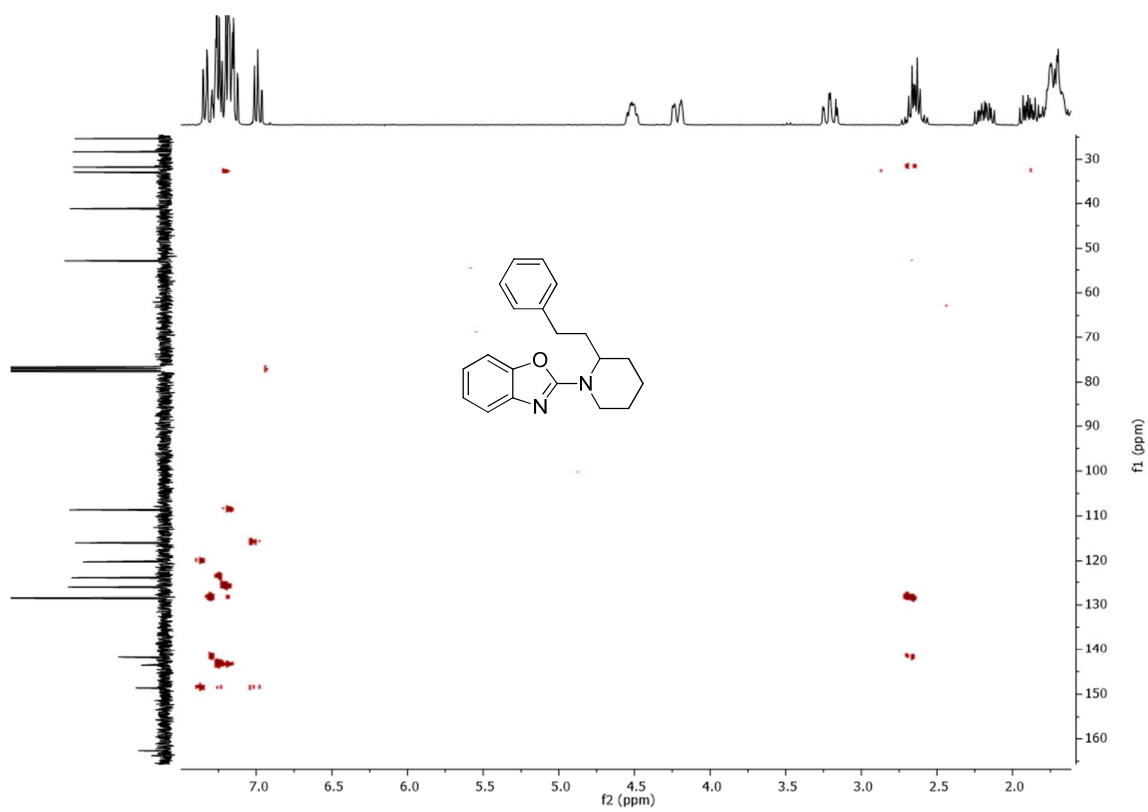
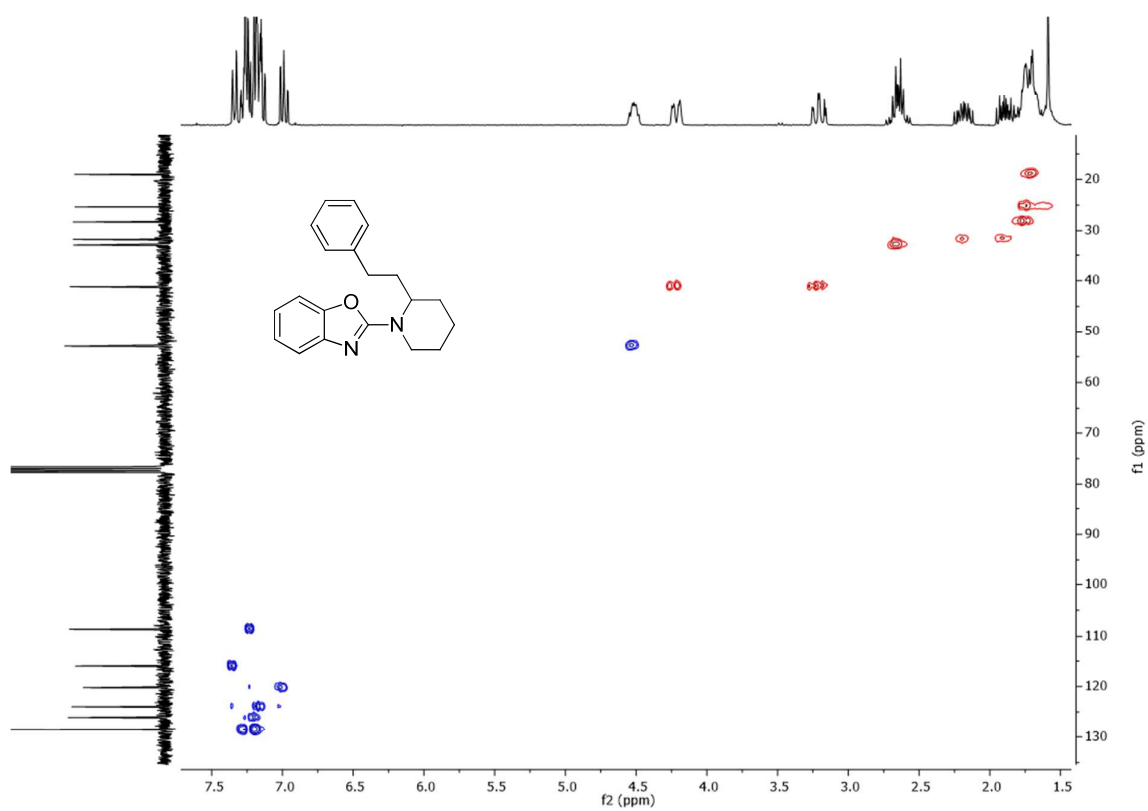


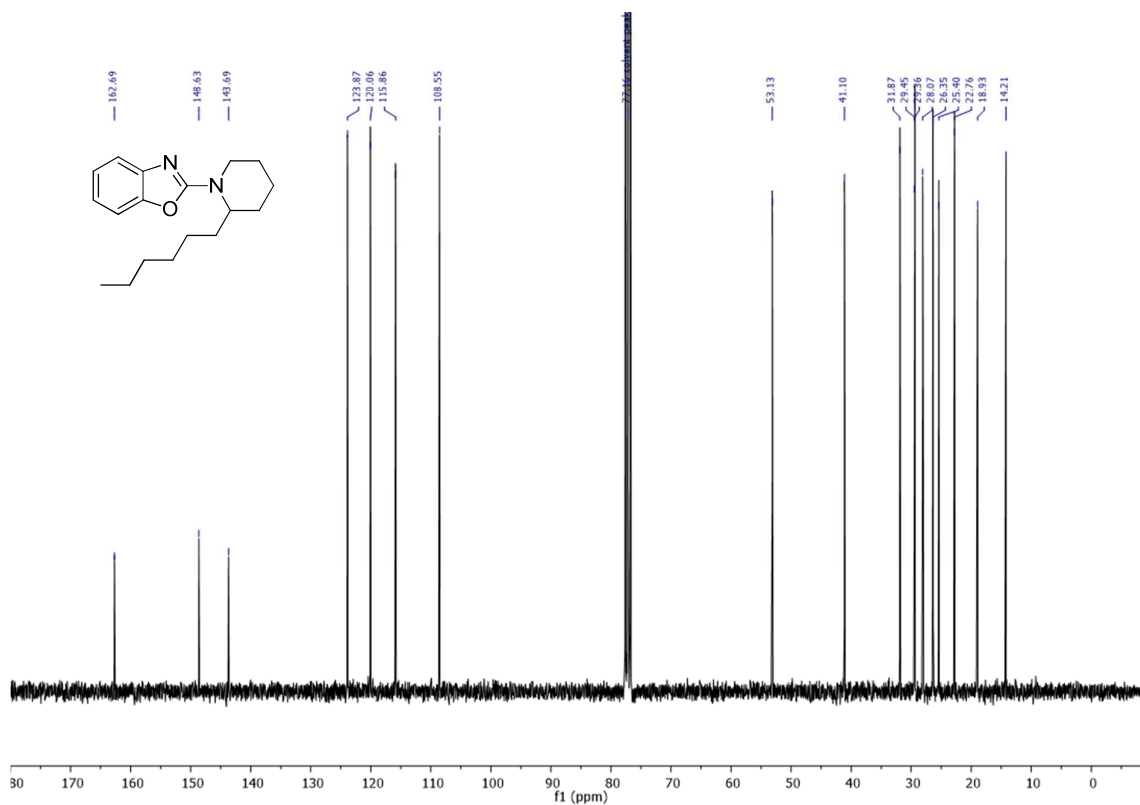
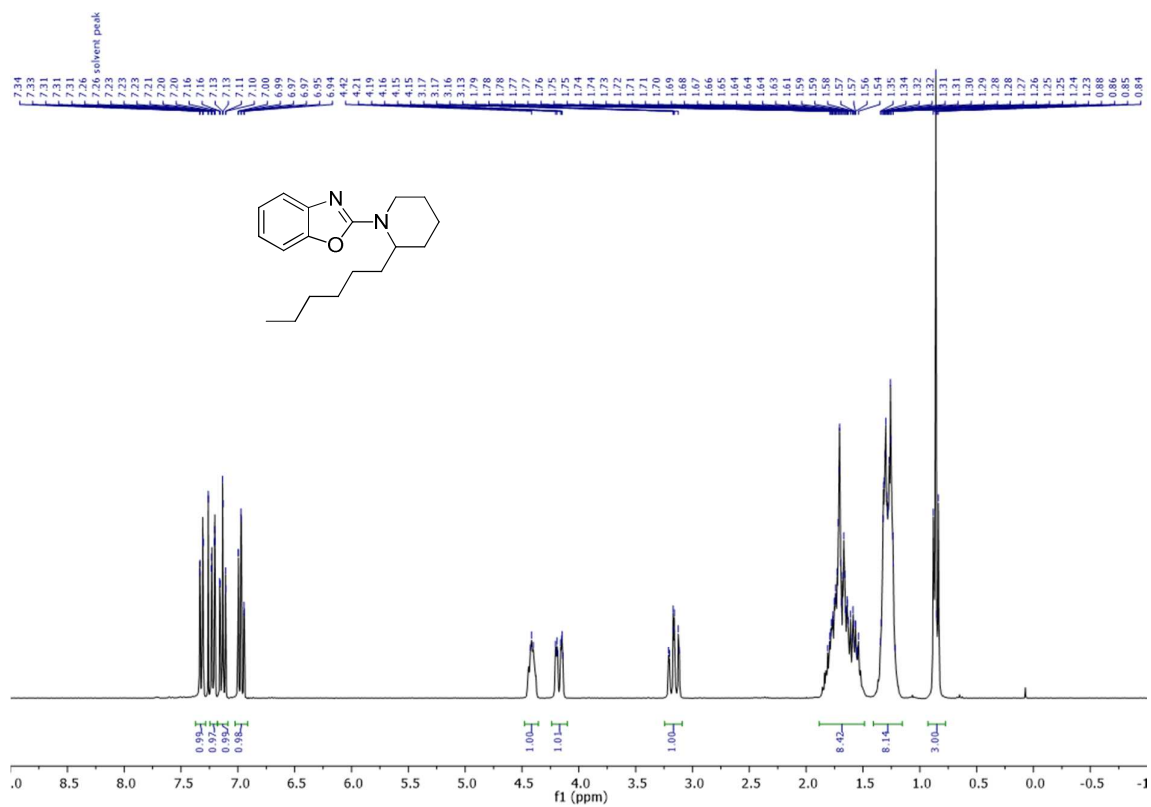


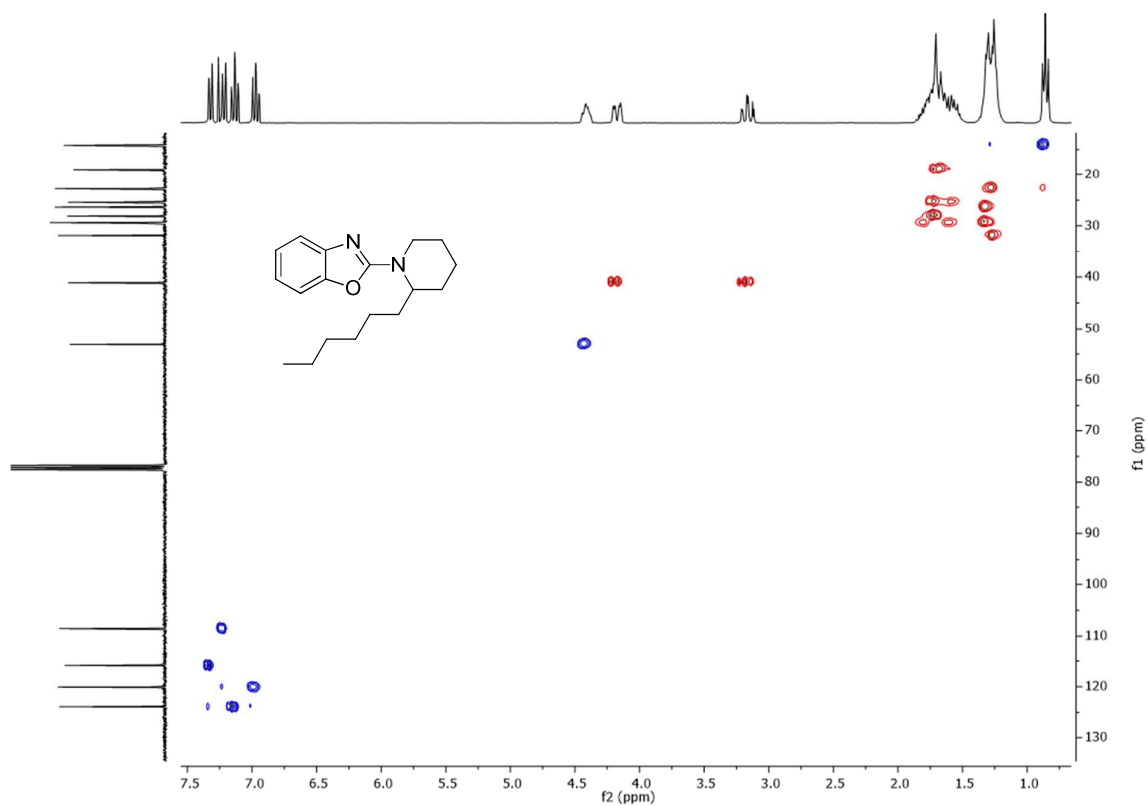
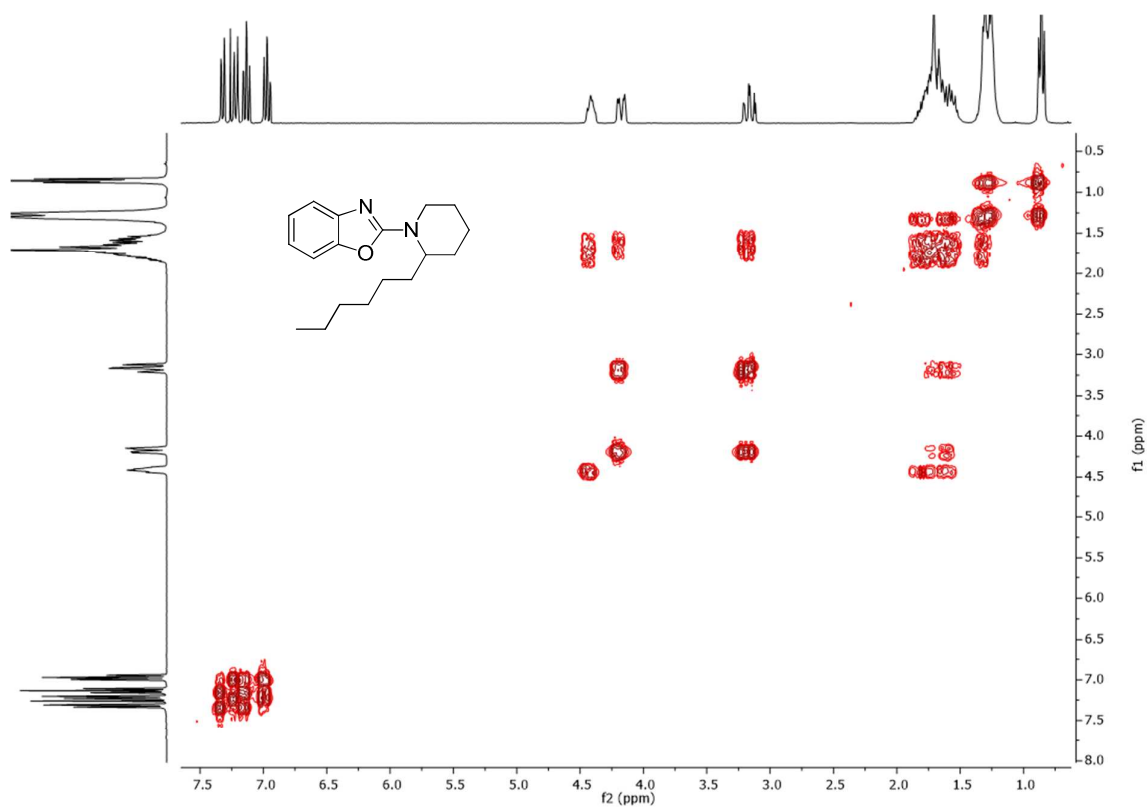


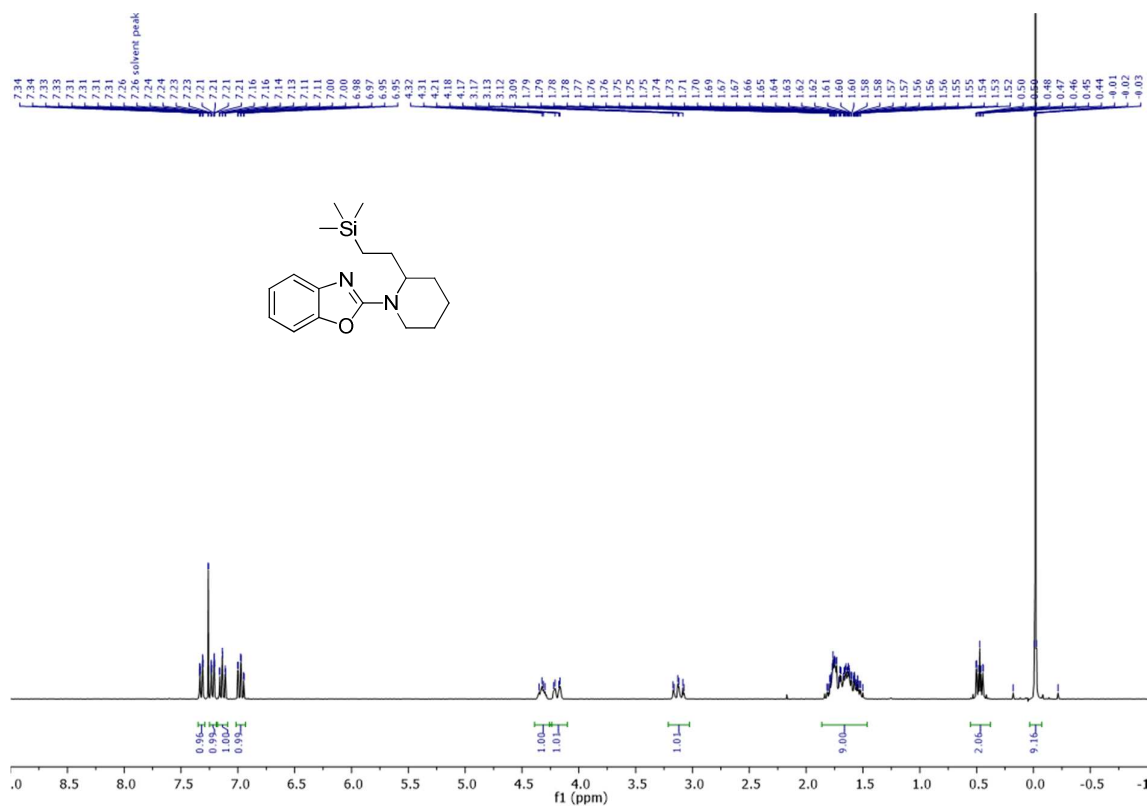
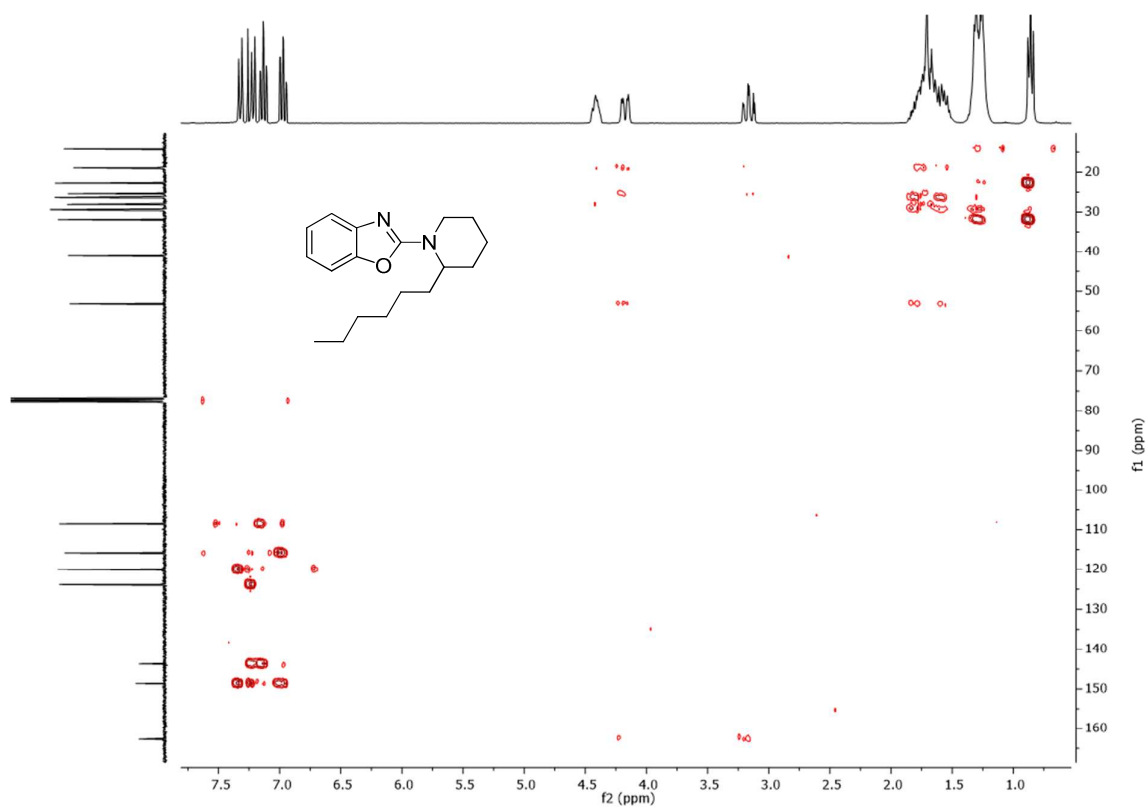


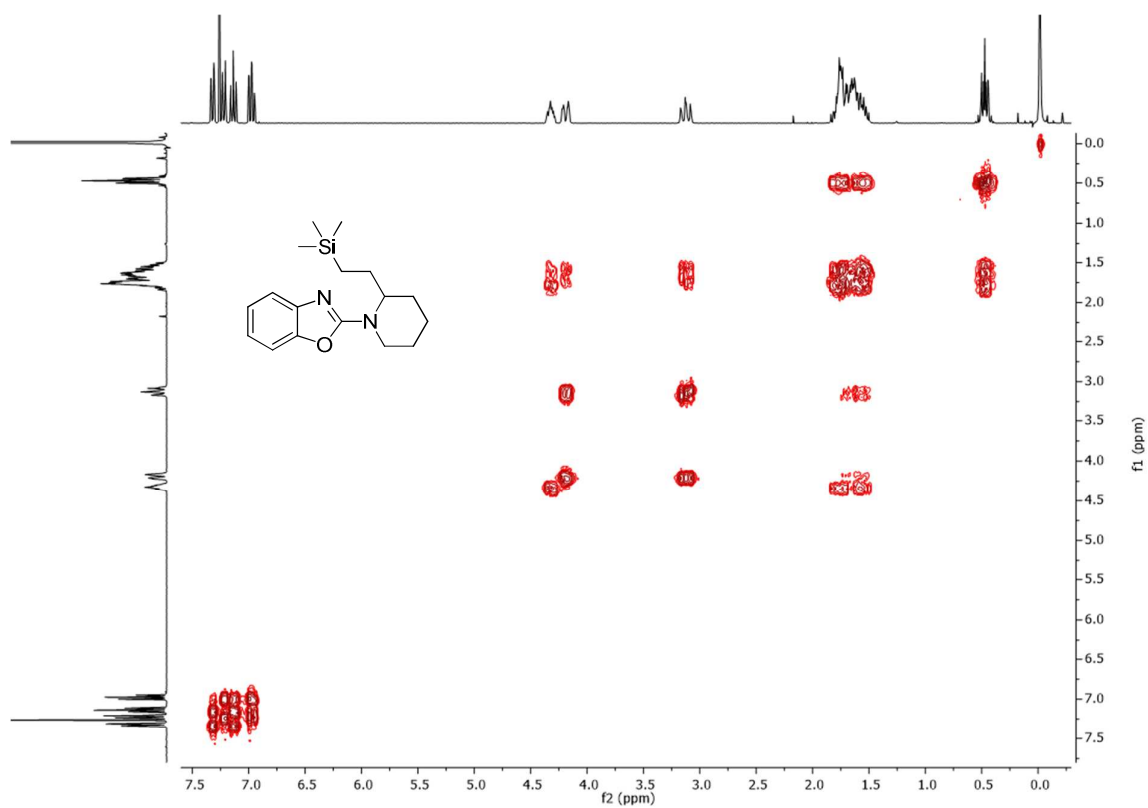
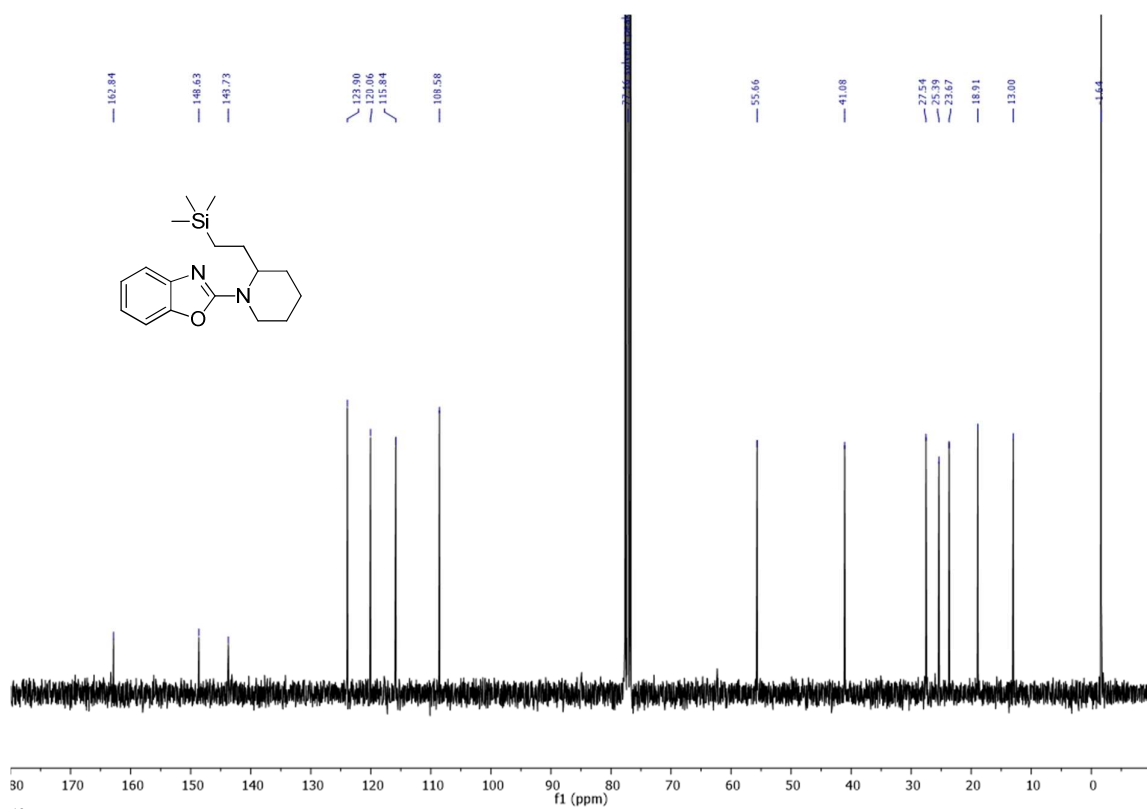




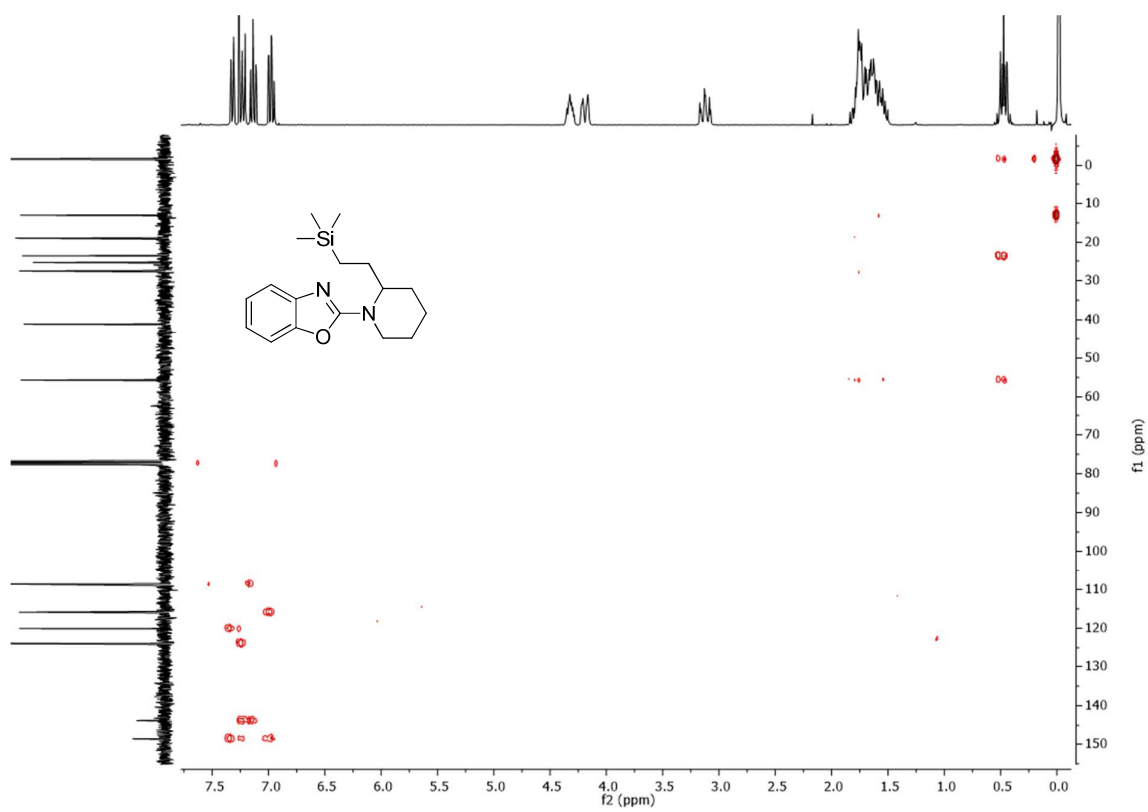
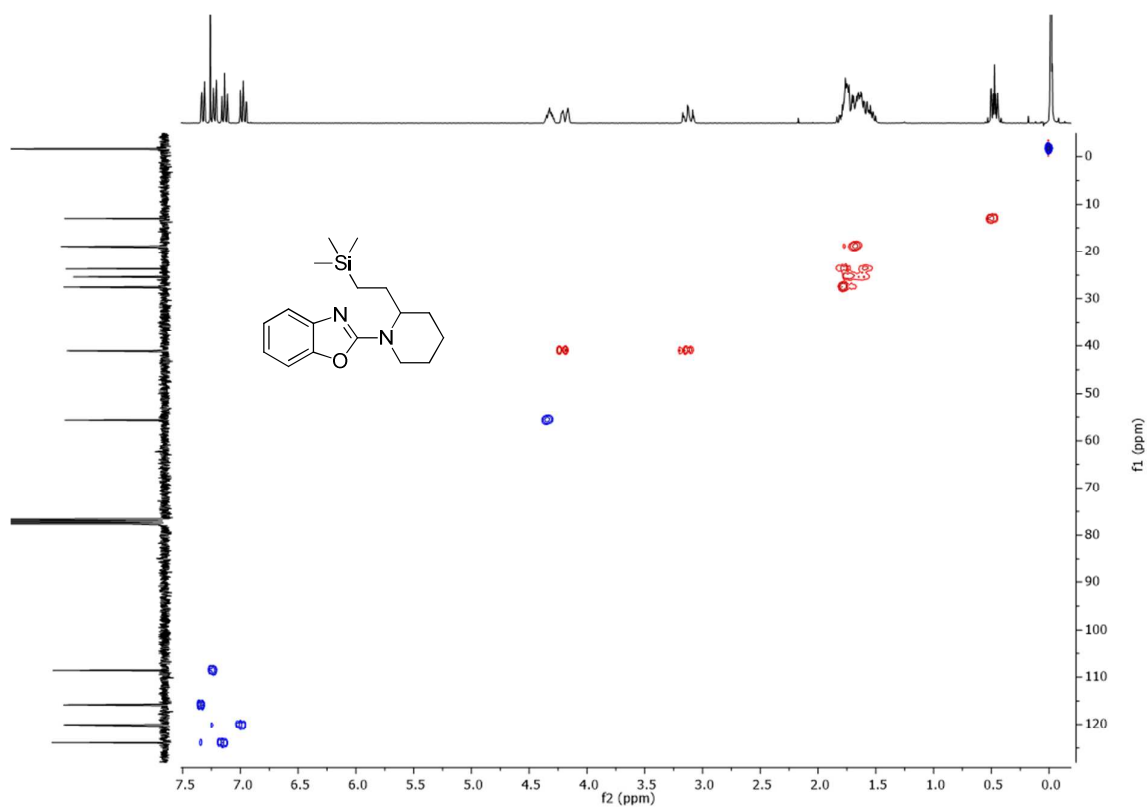




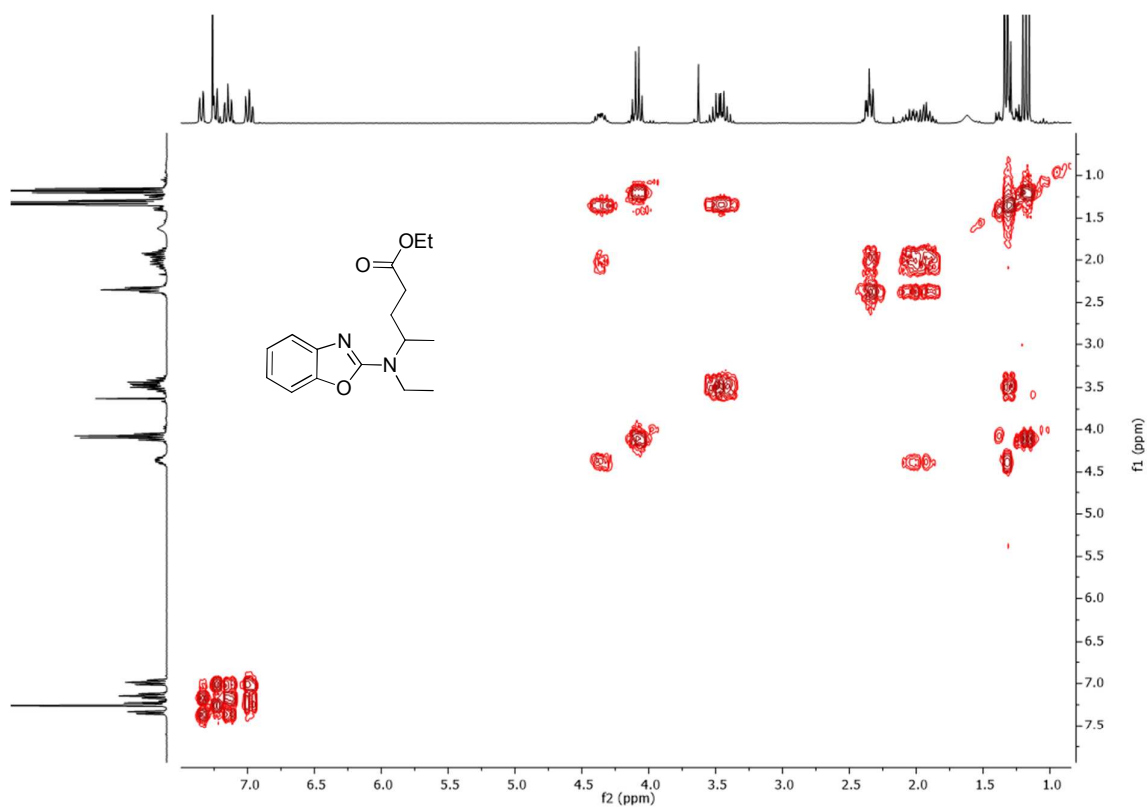




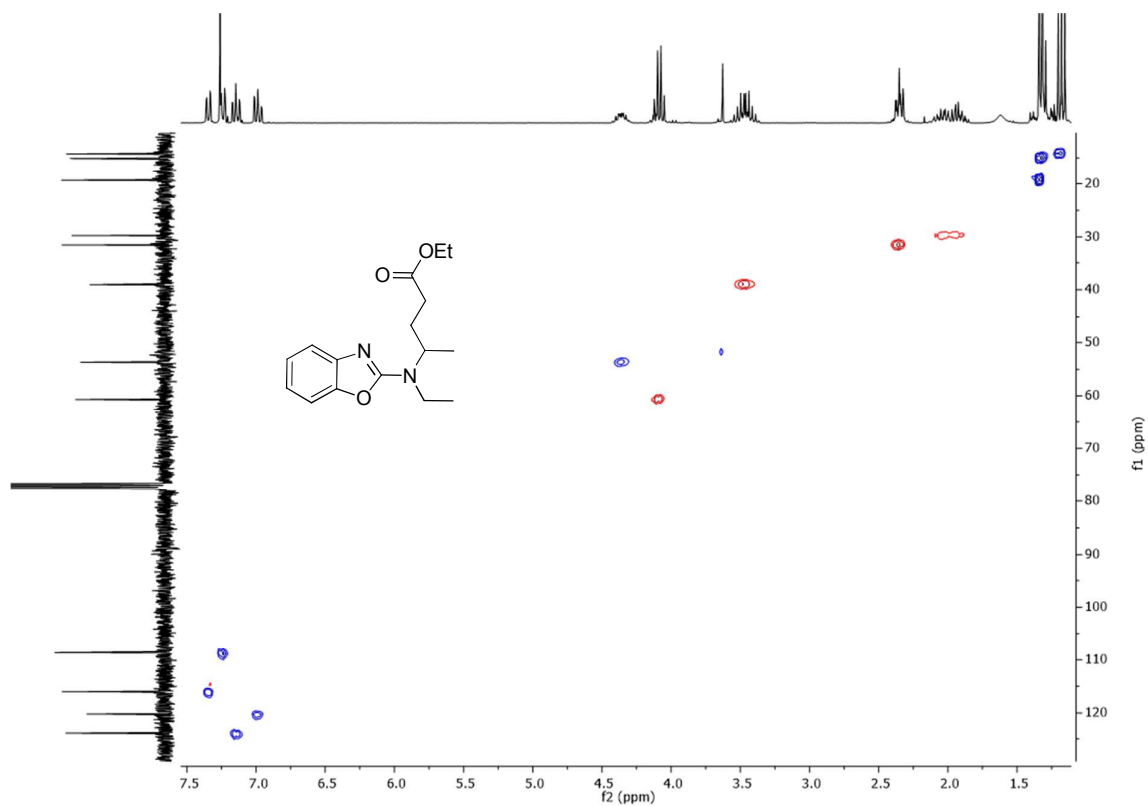




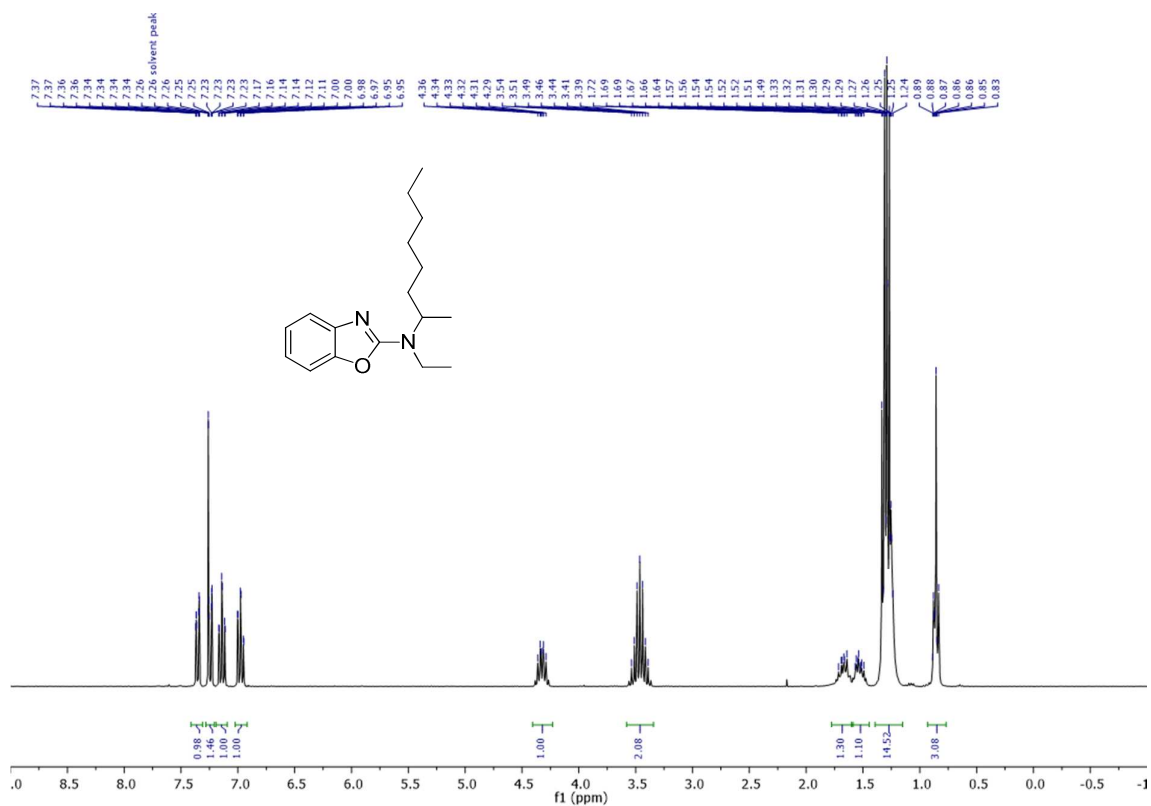
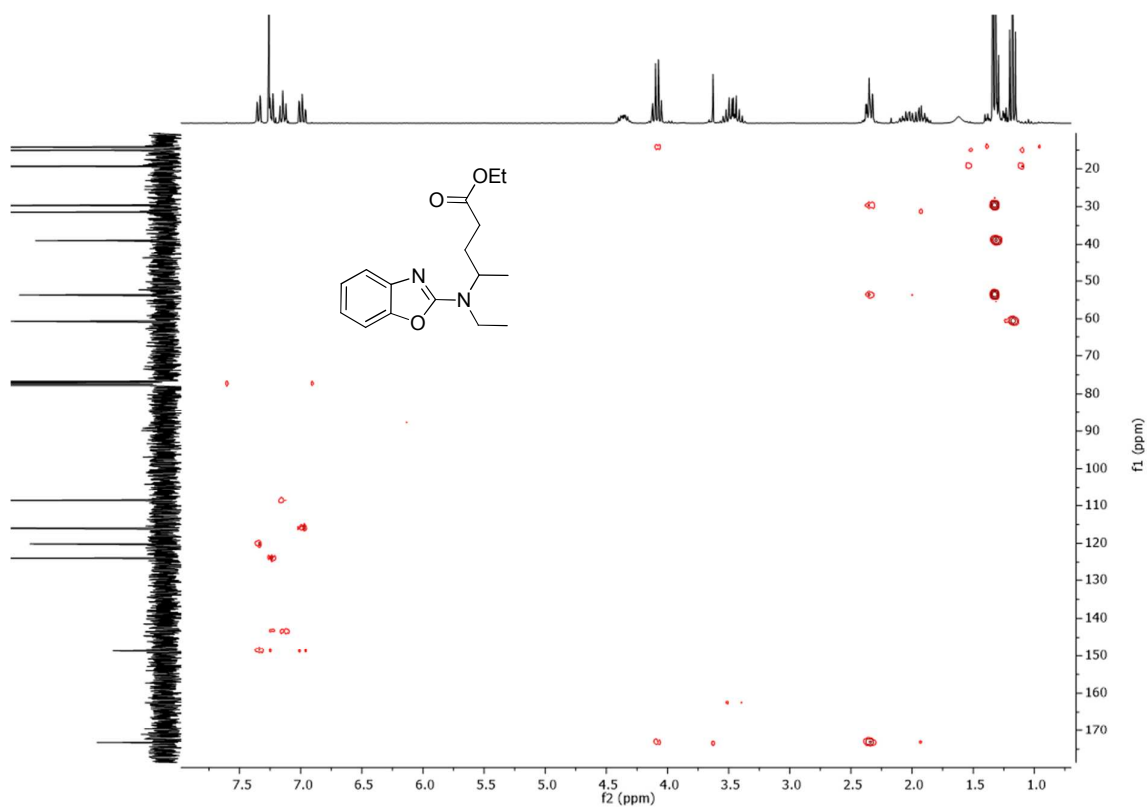


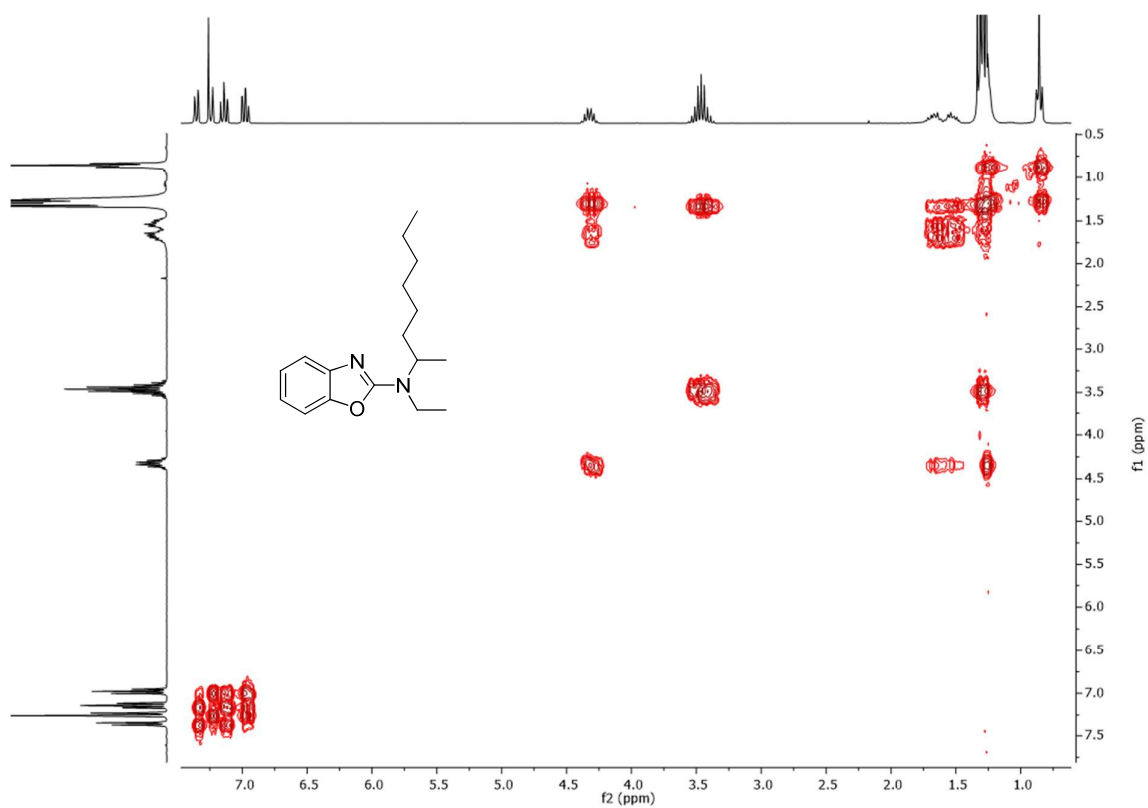
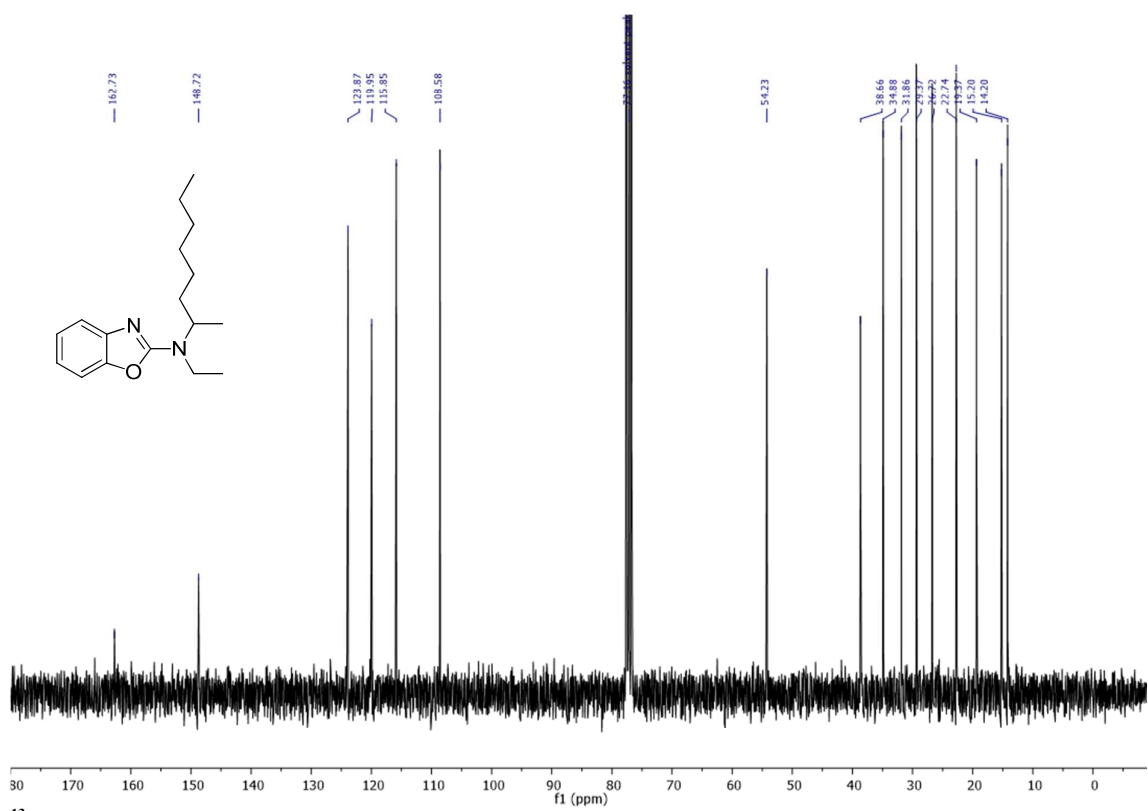


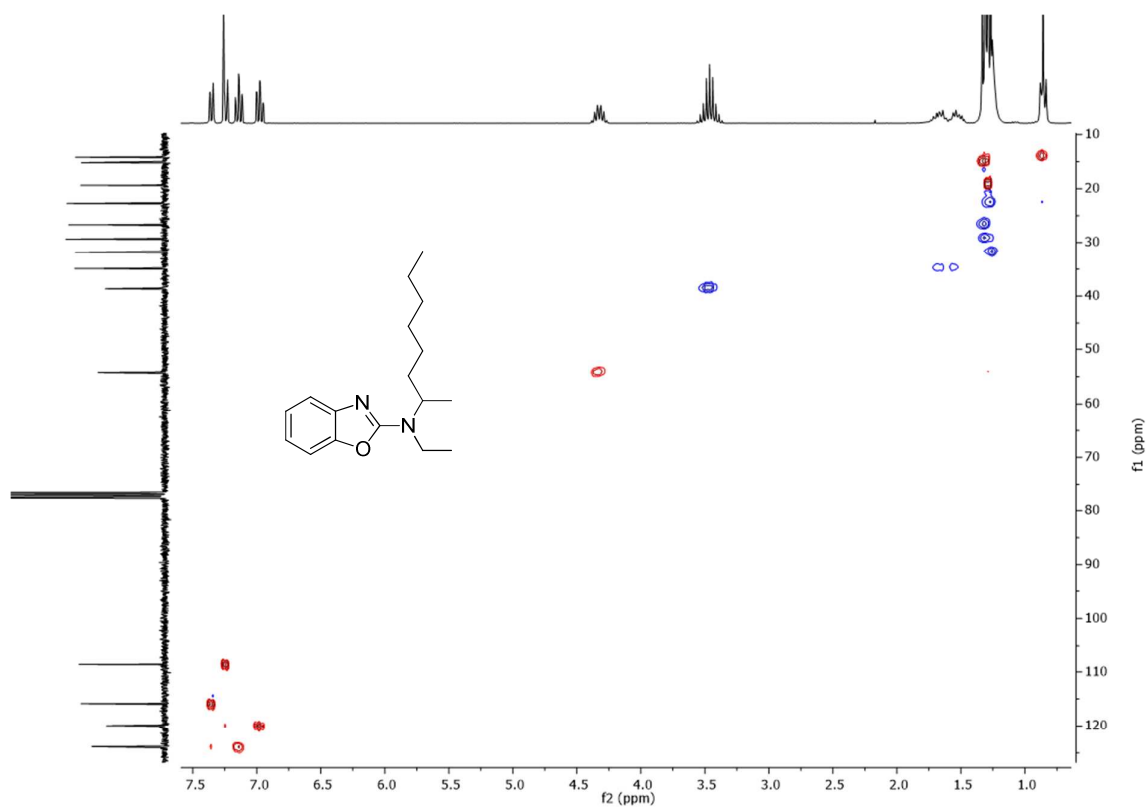
COSY of compound 12a



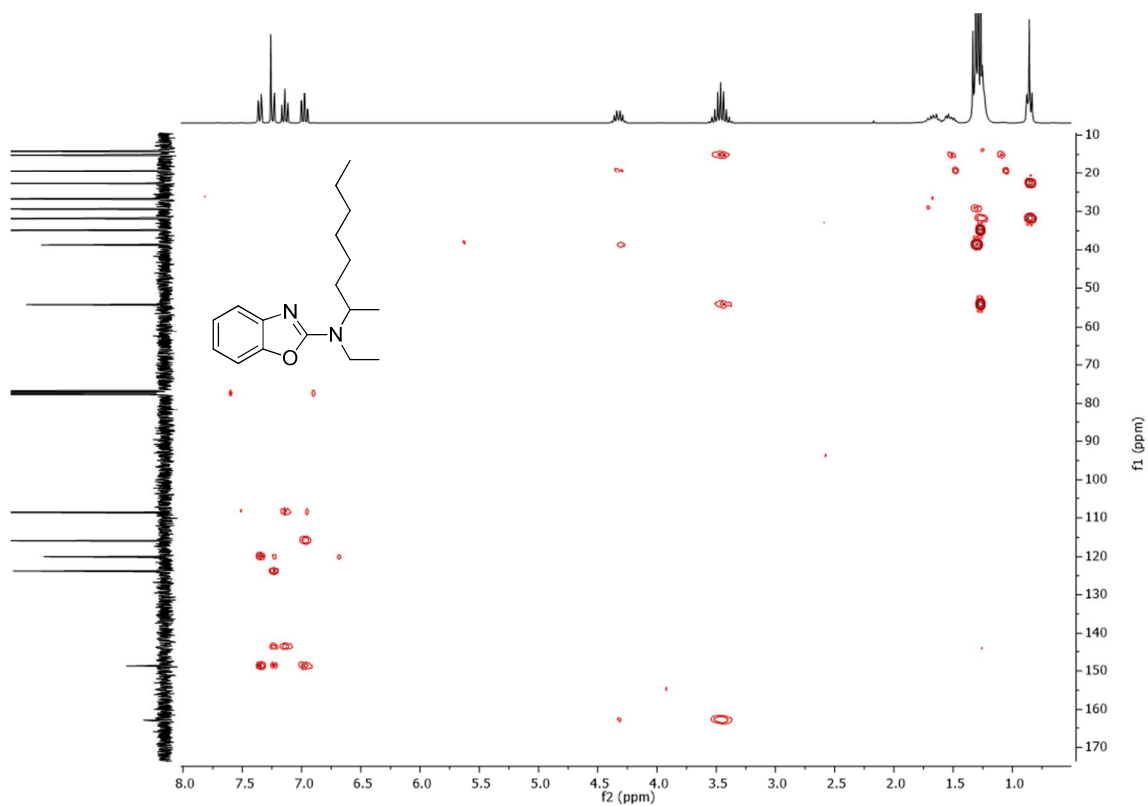
HSQC of compound 12a



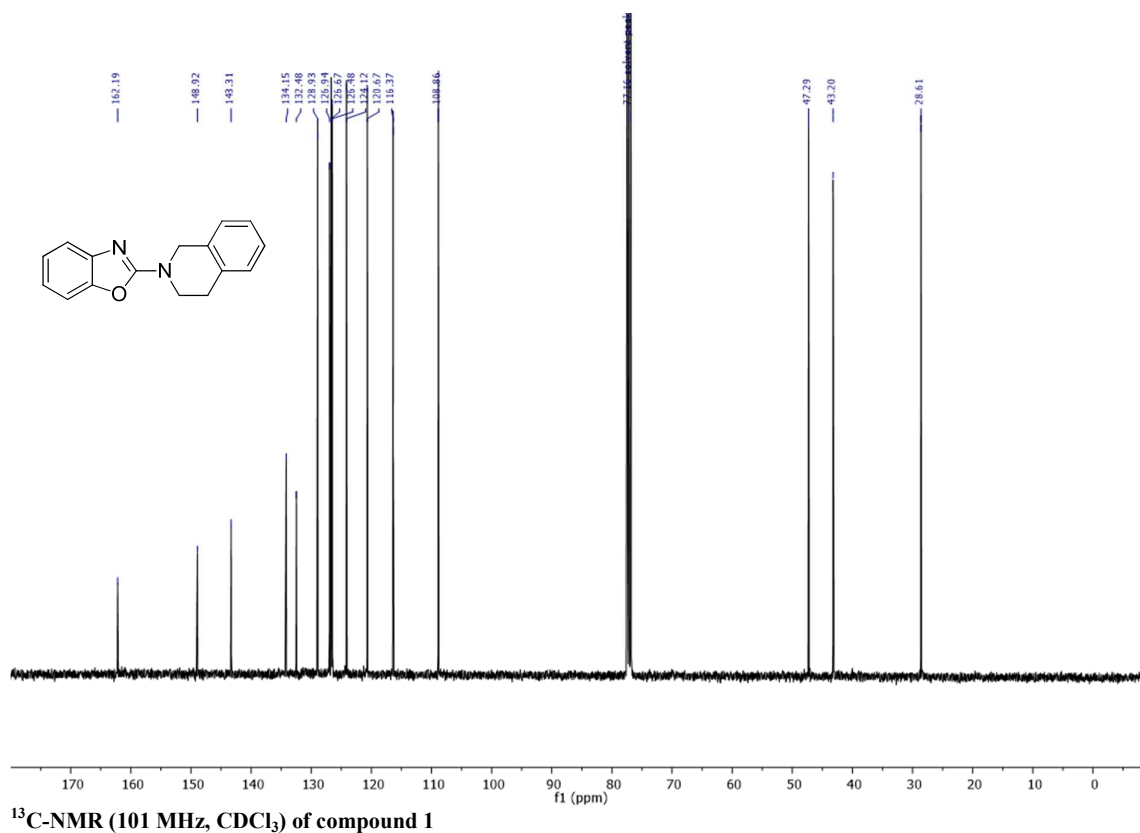
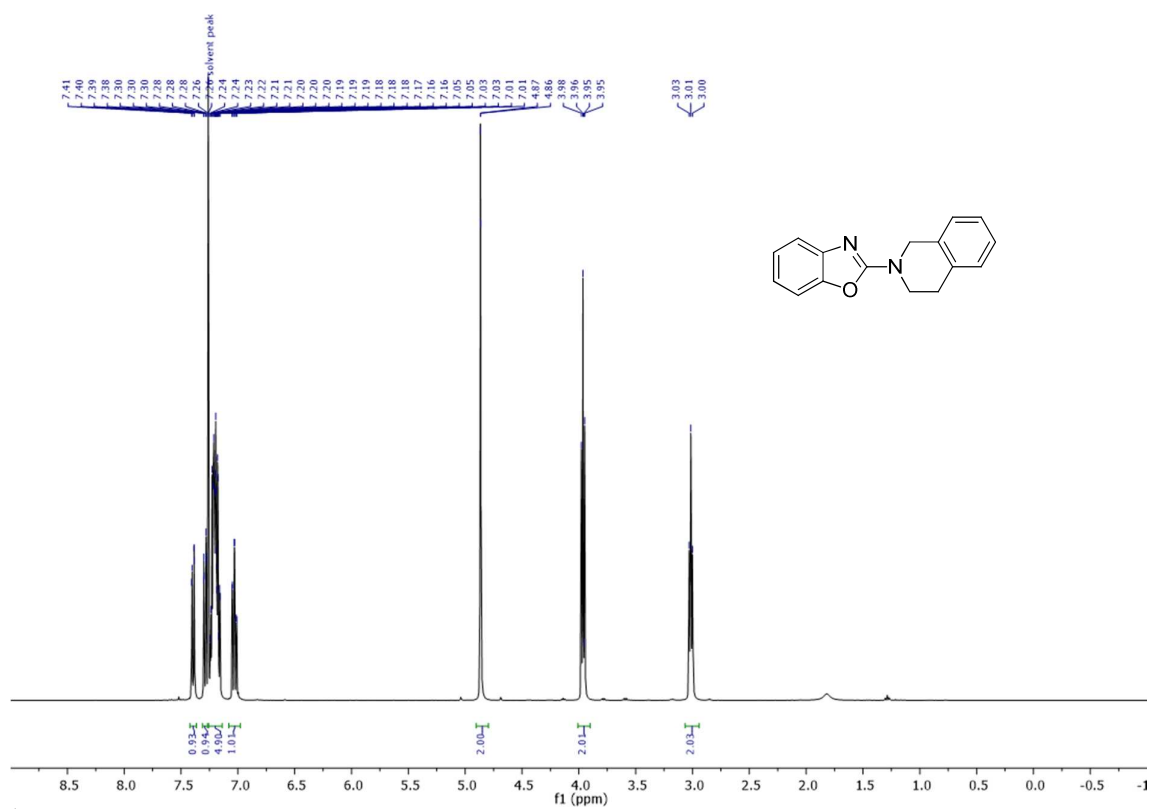


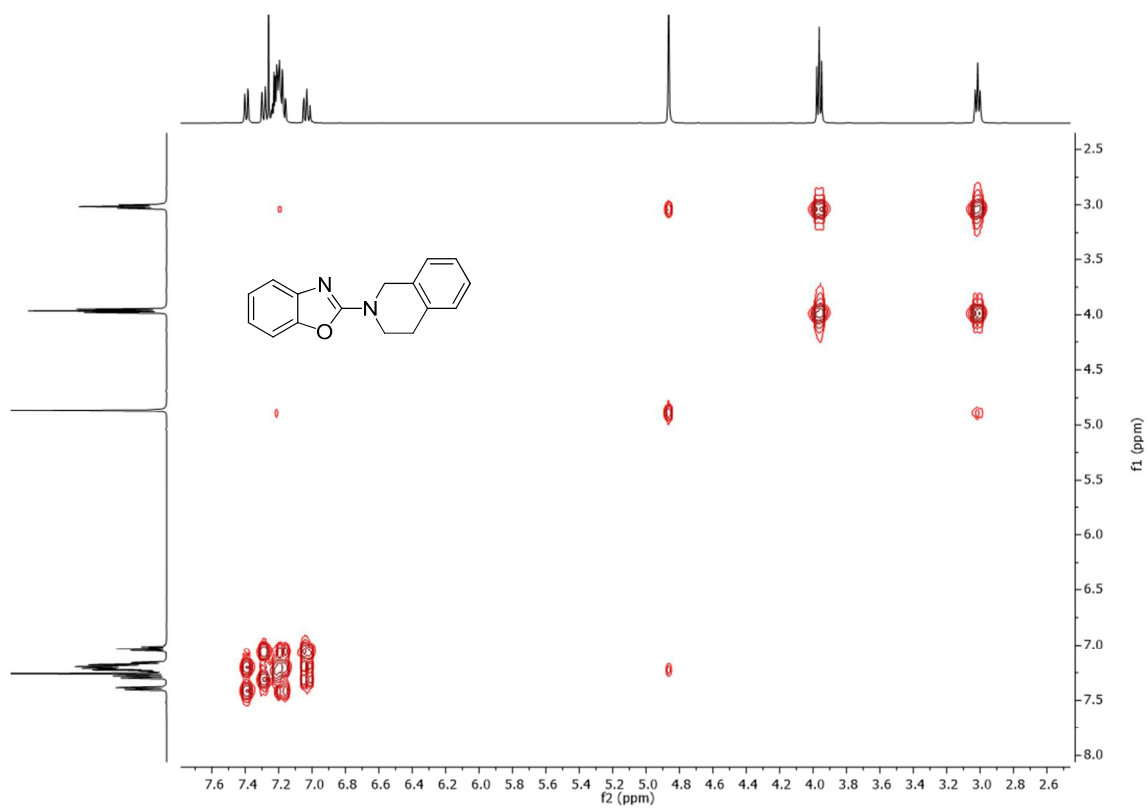


HSQC of compound 12b

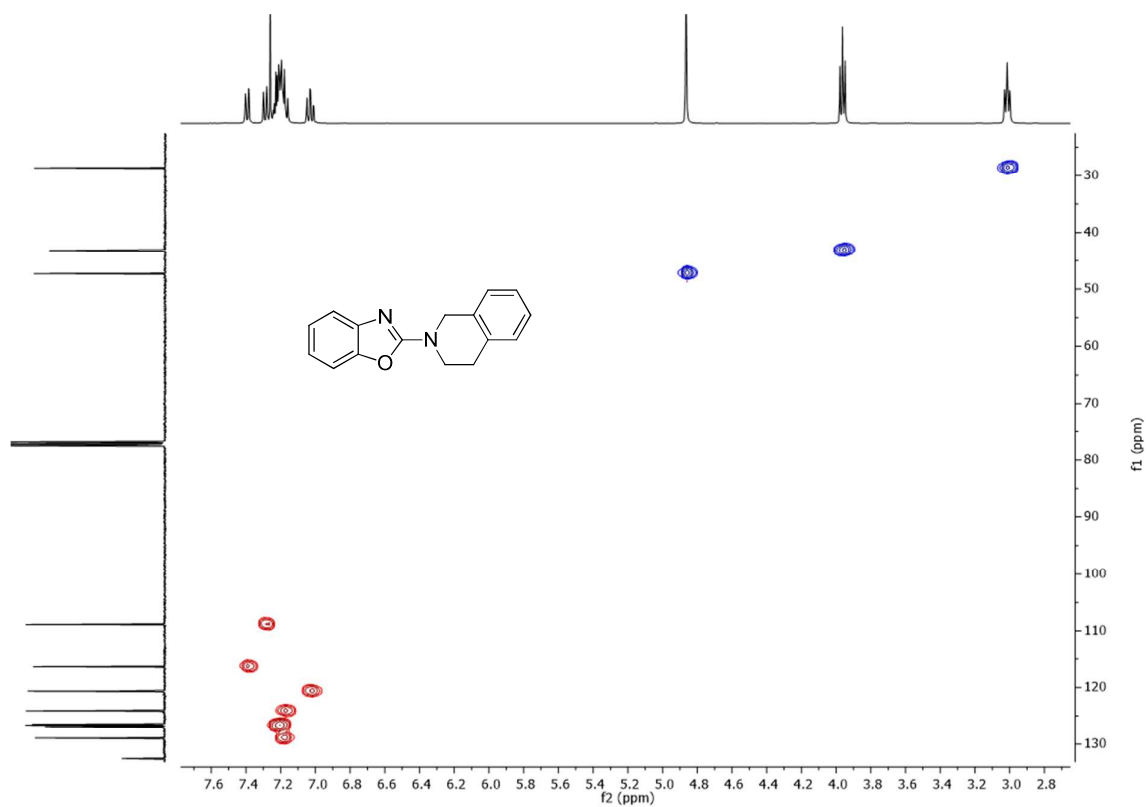


HMBC of compound 12b



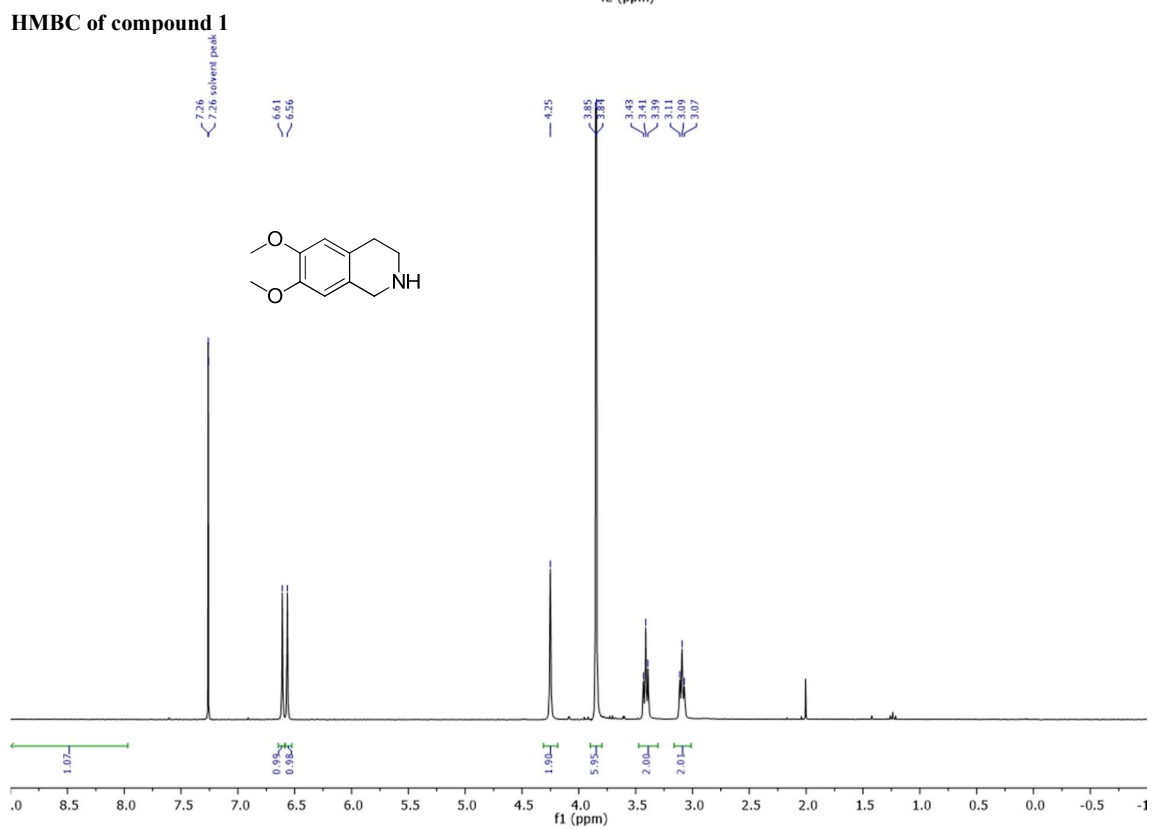
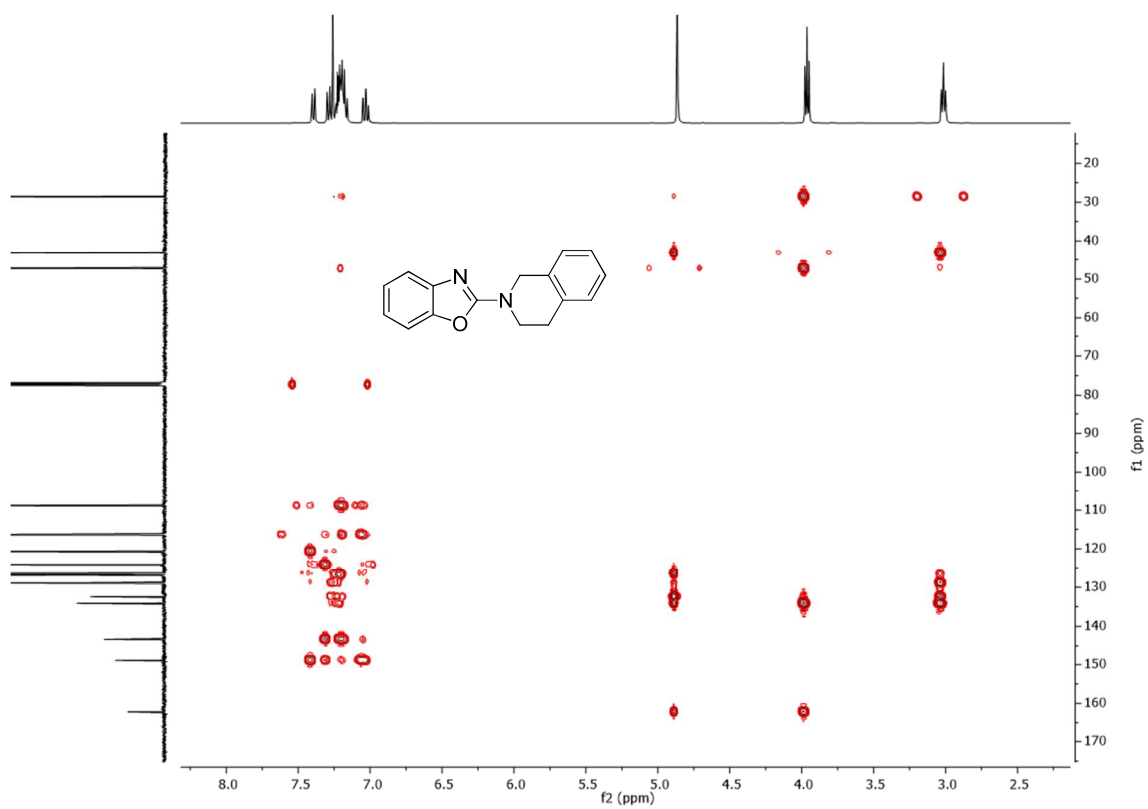


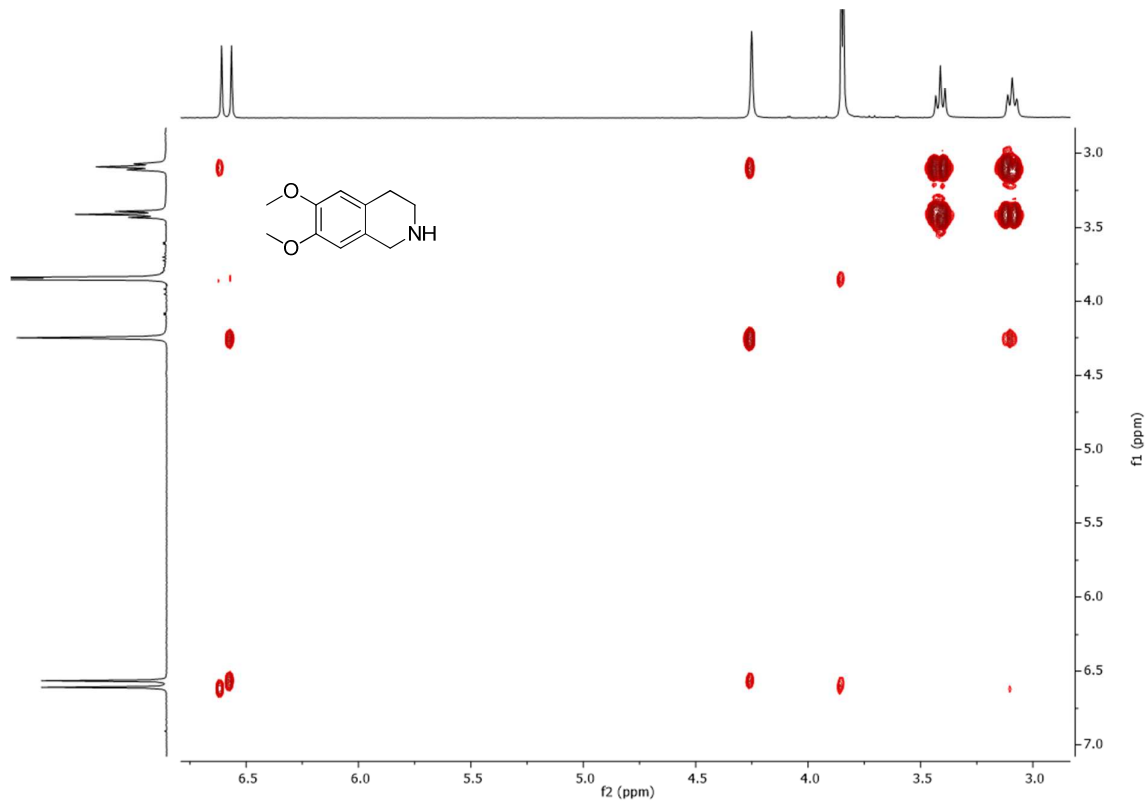
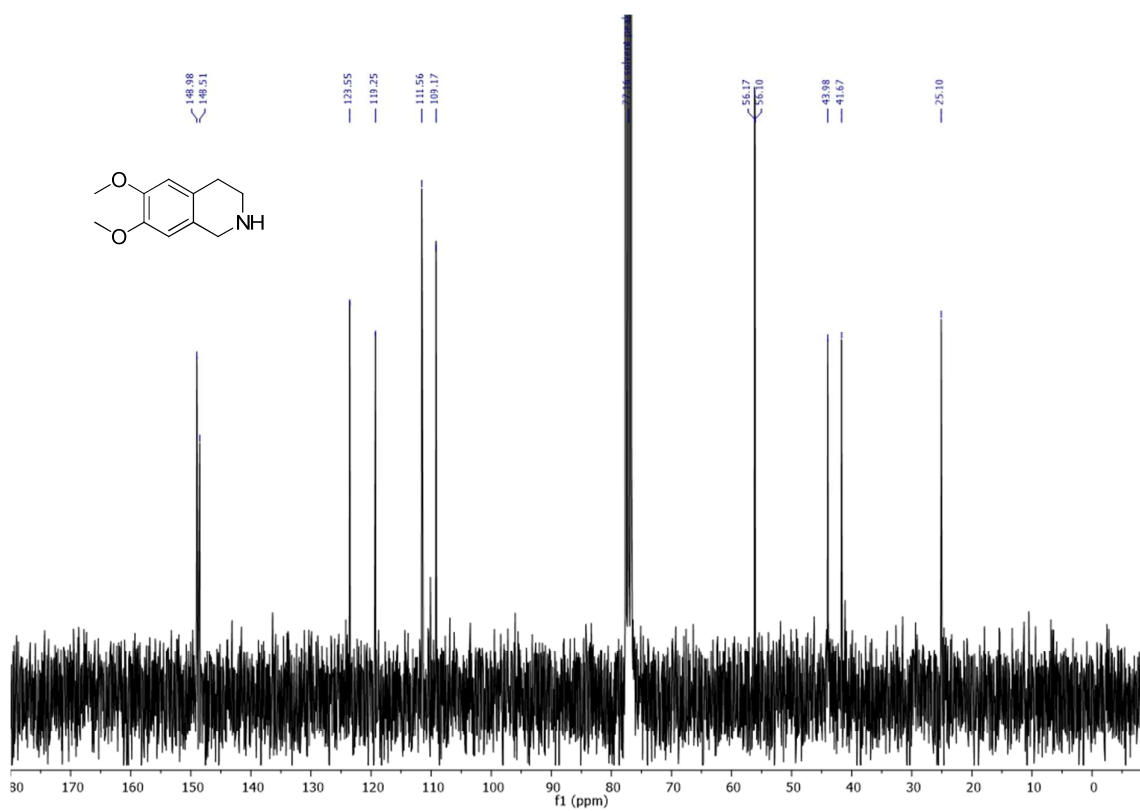
COSY of compound 1

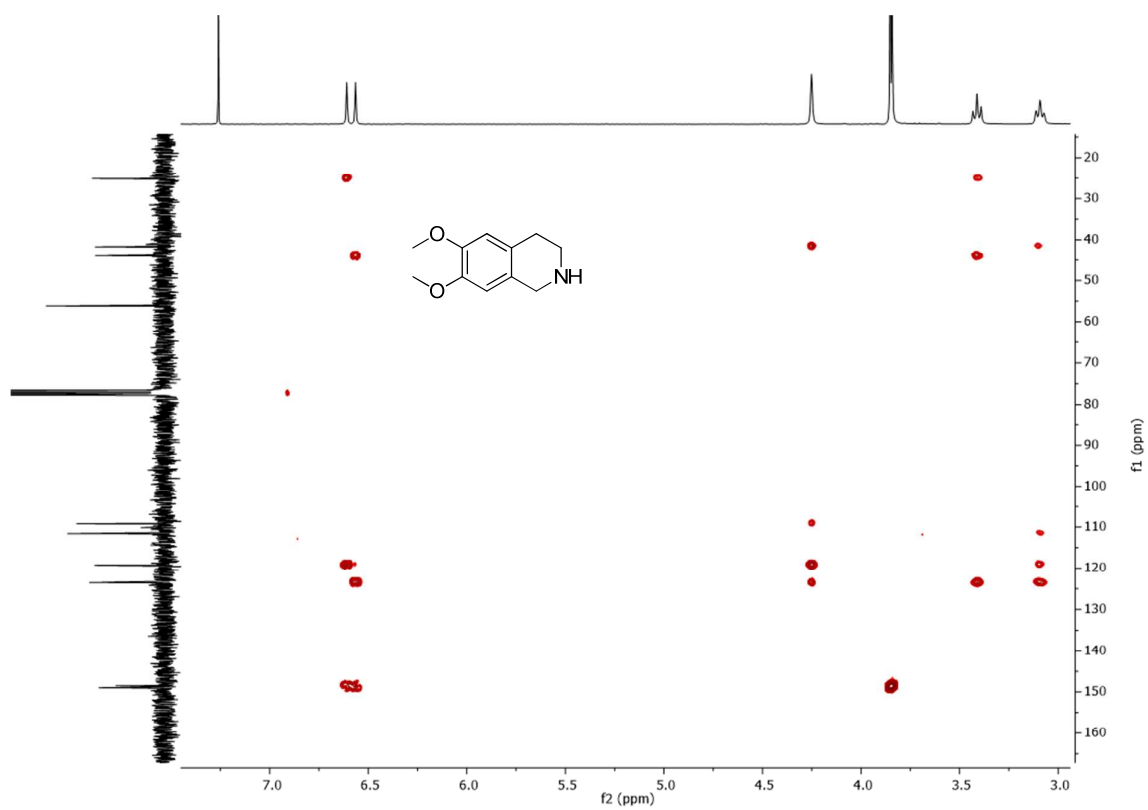
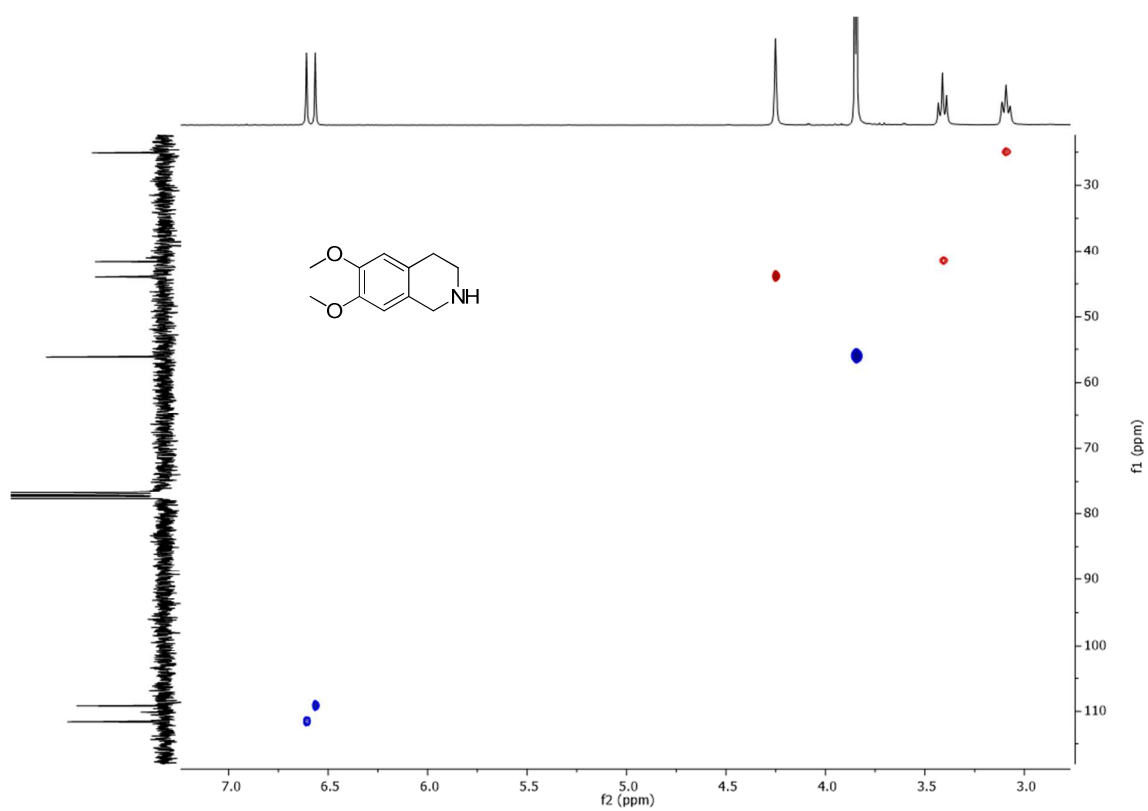


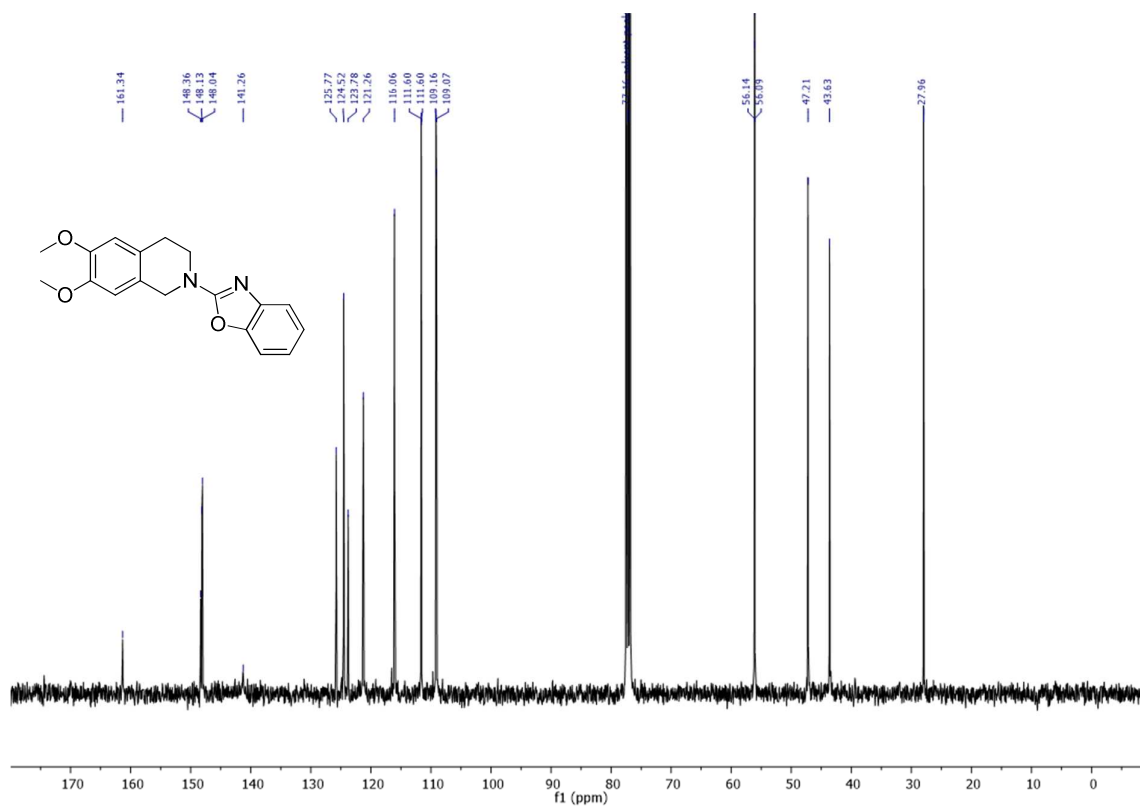
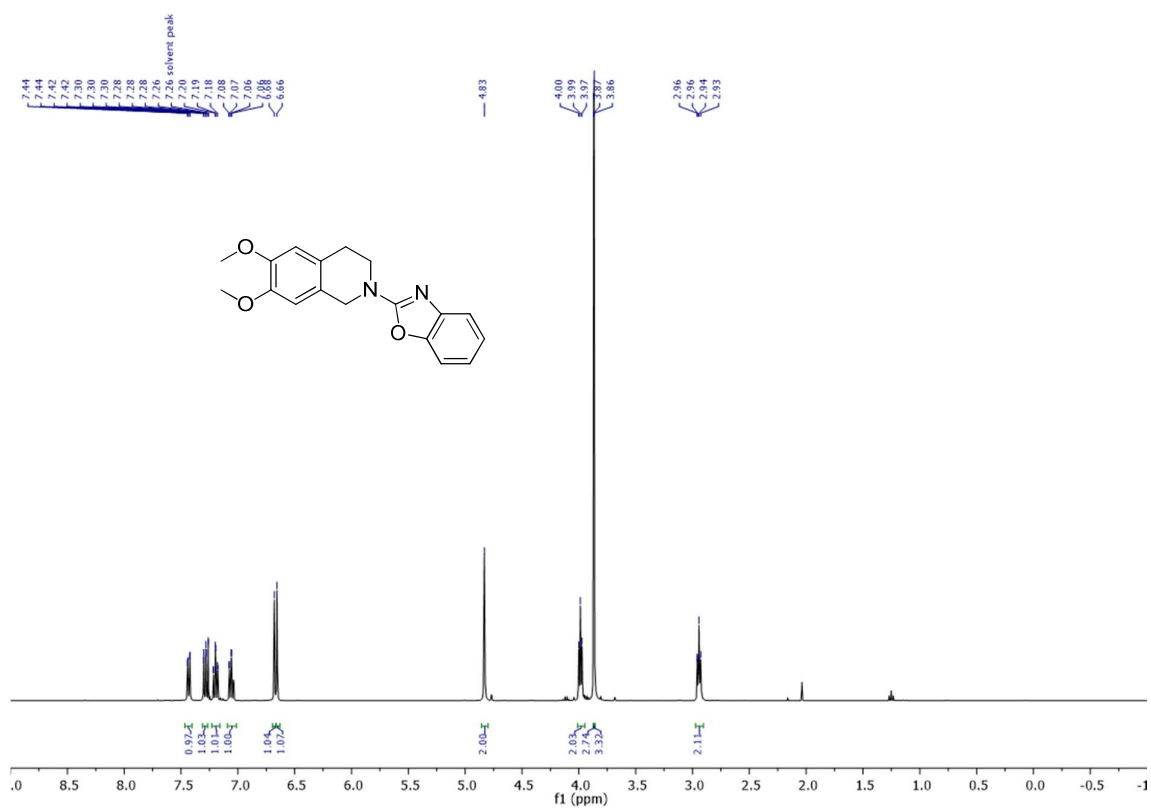
HSQC of compound 1

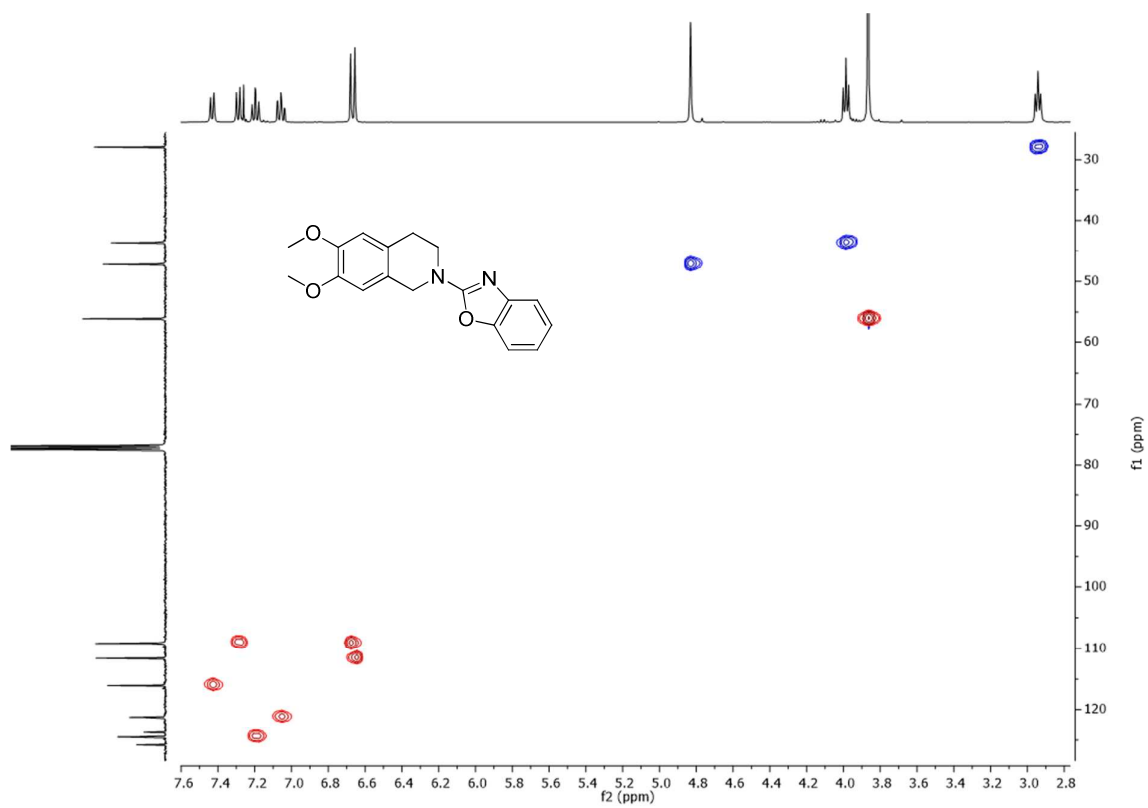
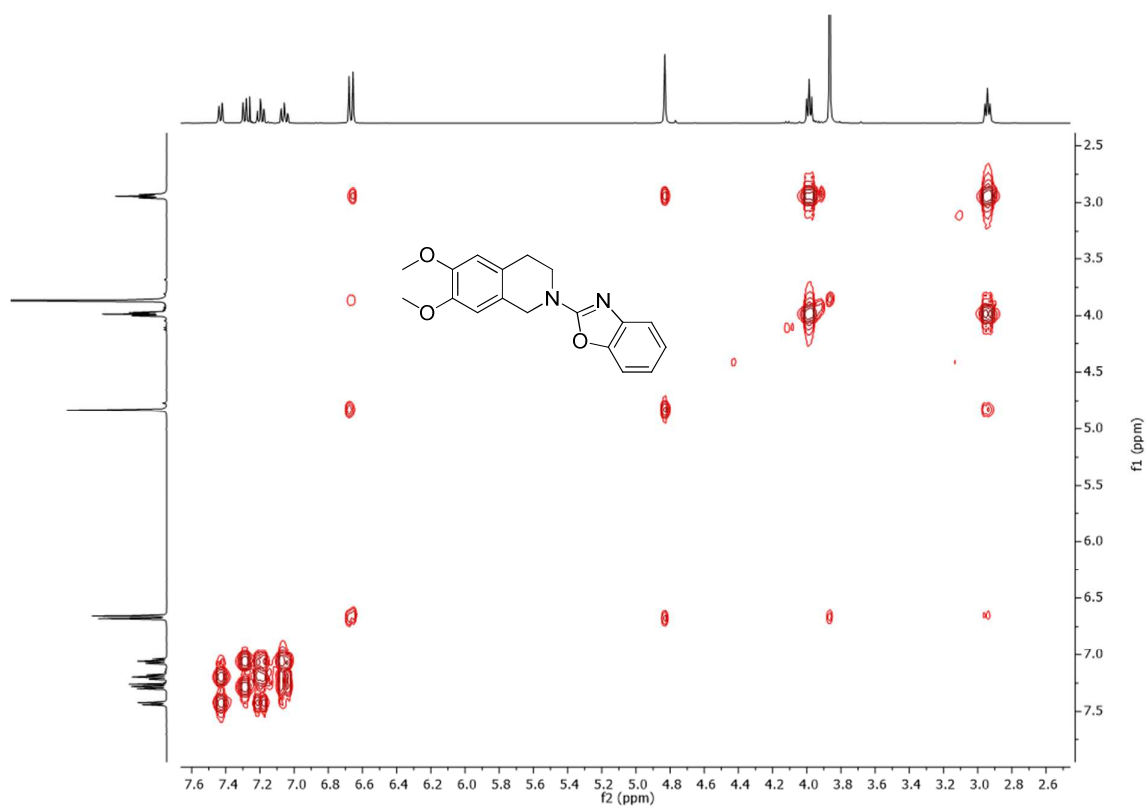


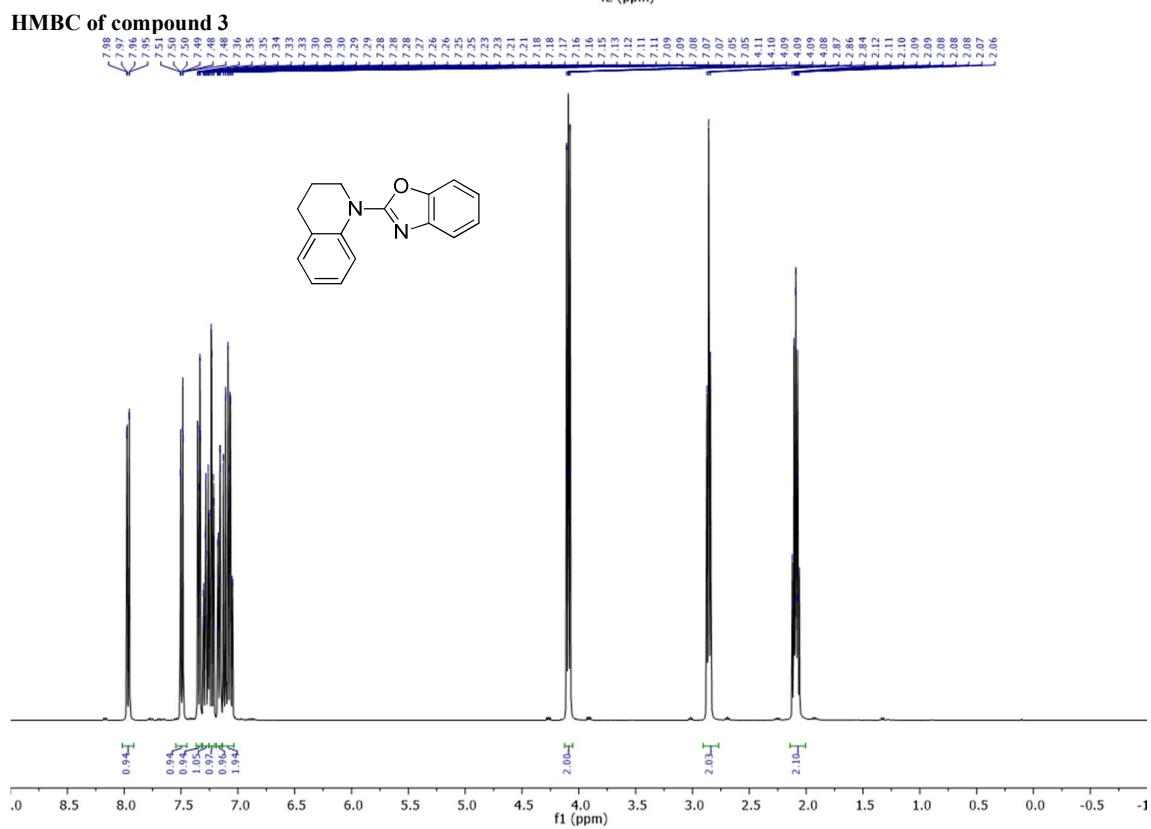
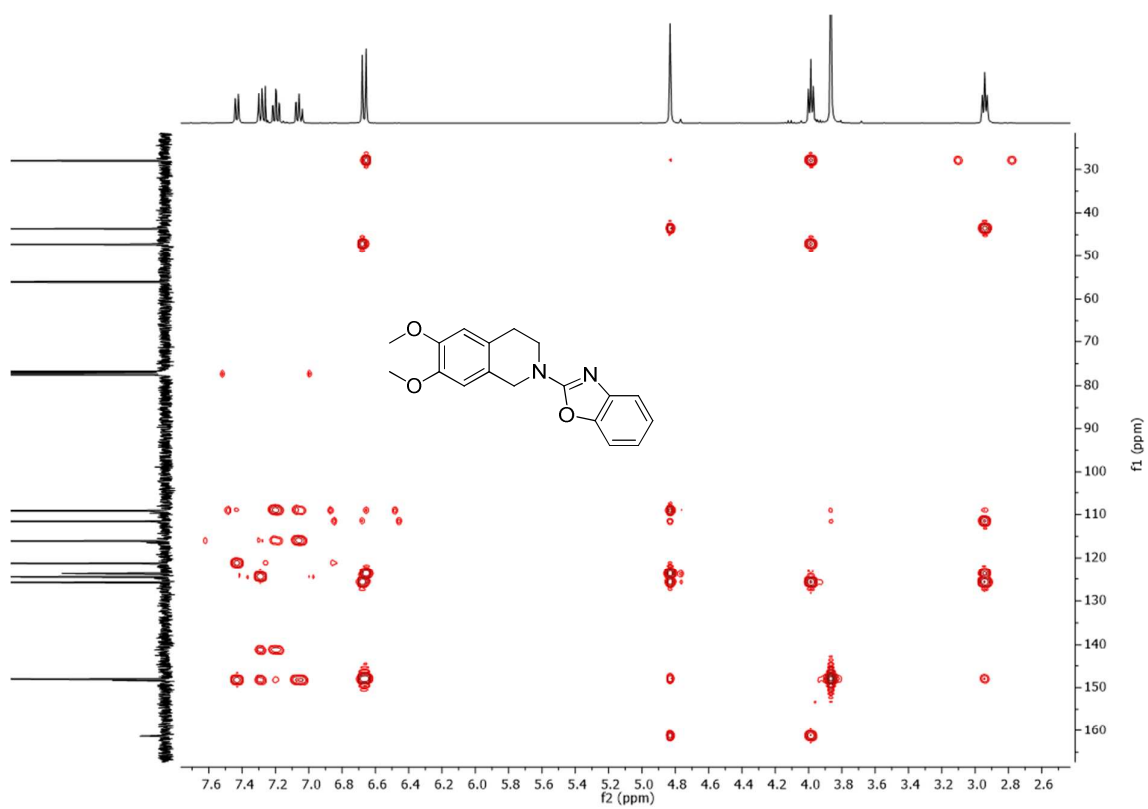


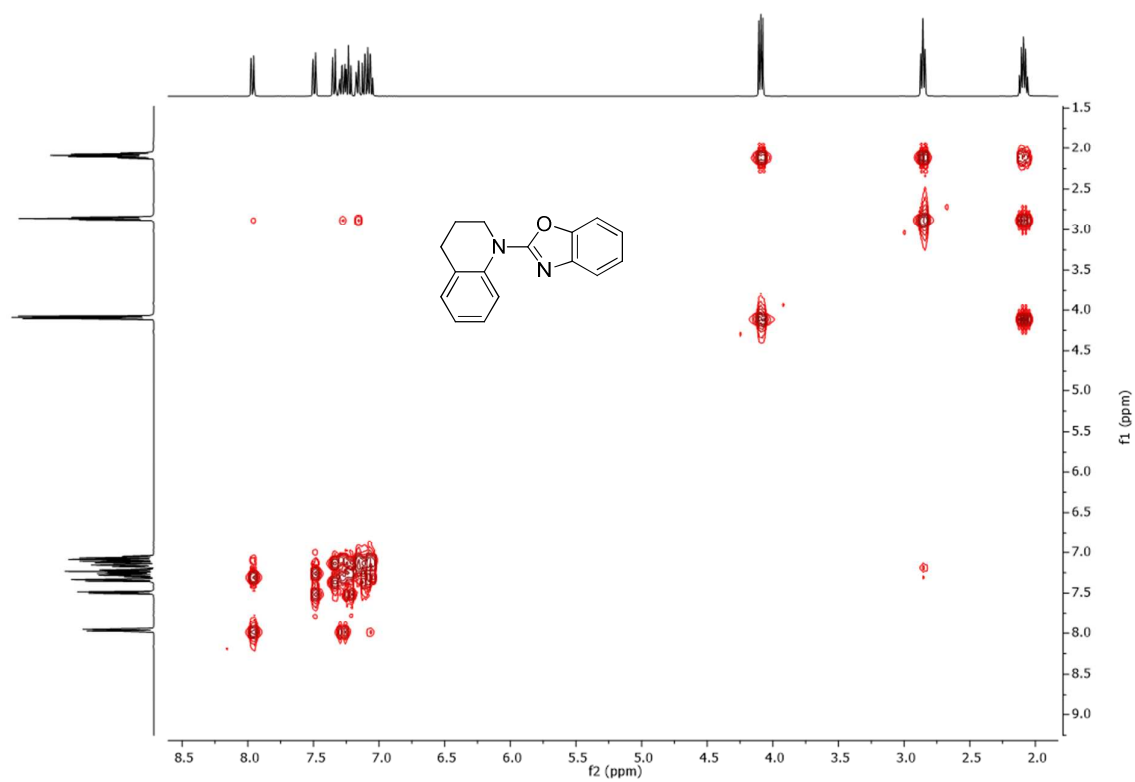
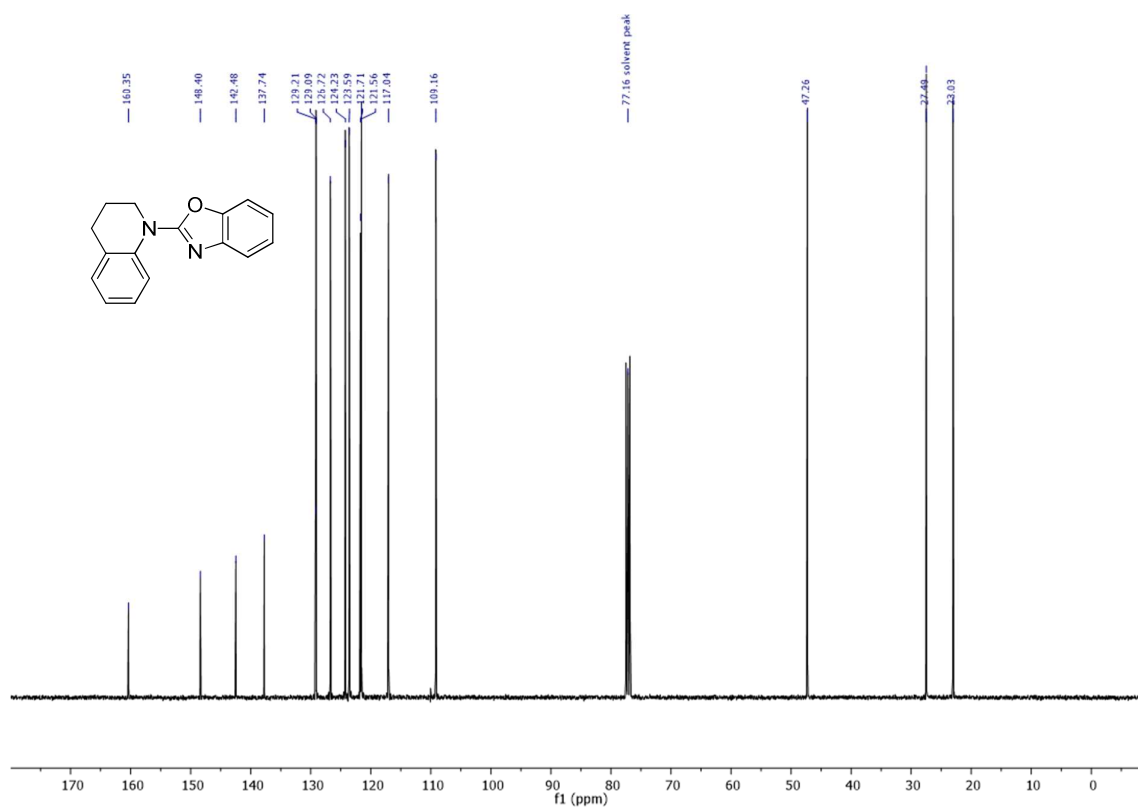


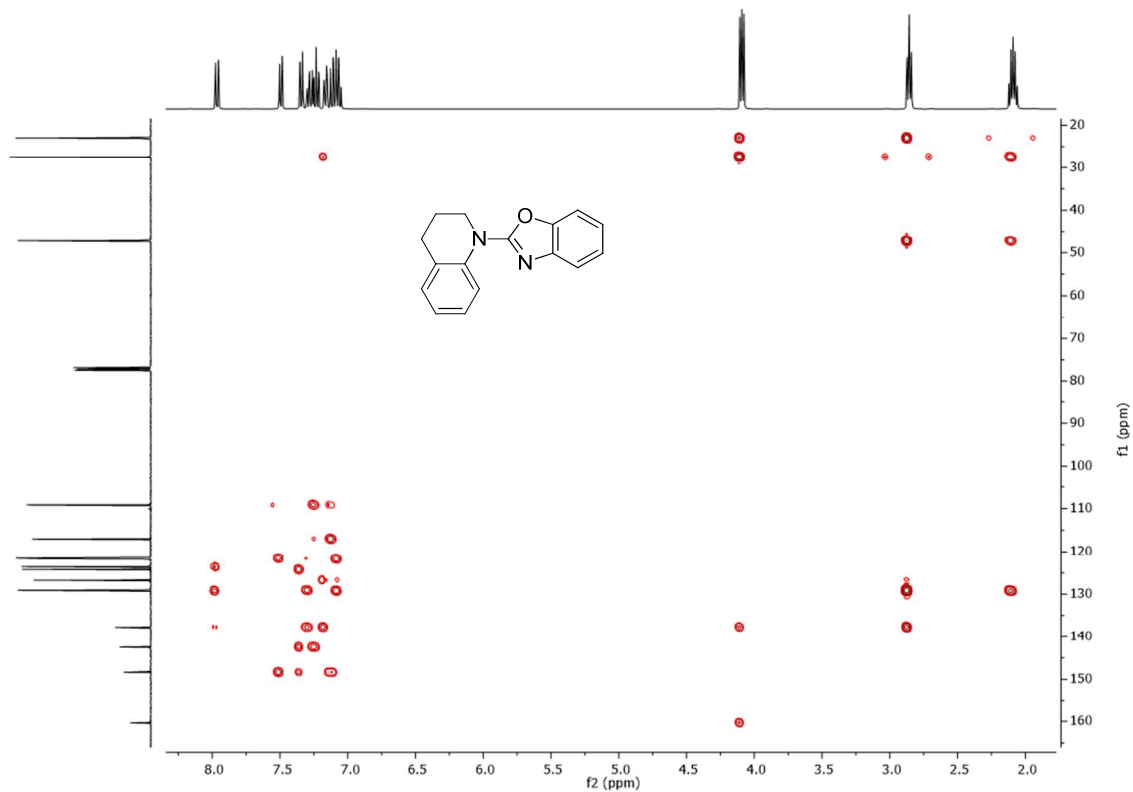
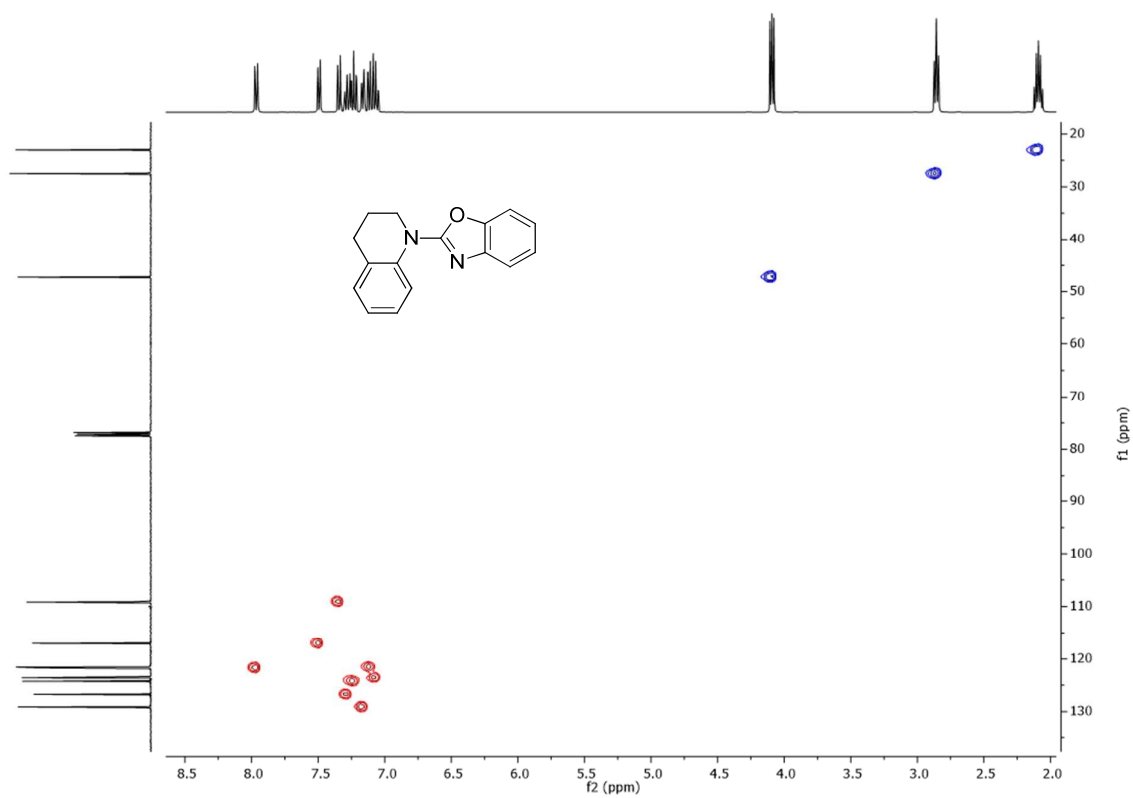




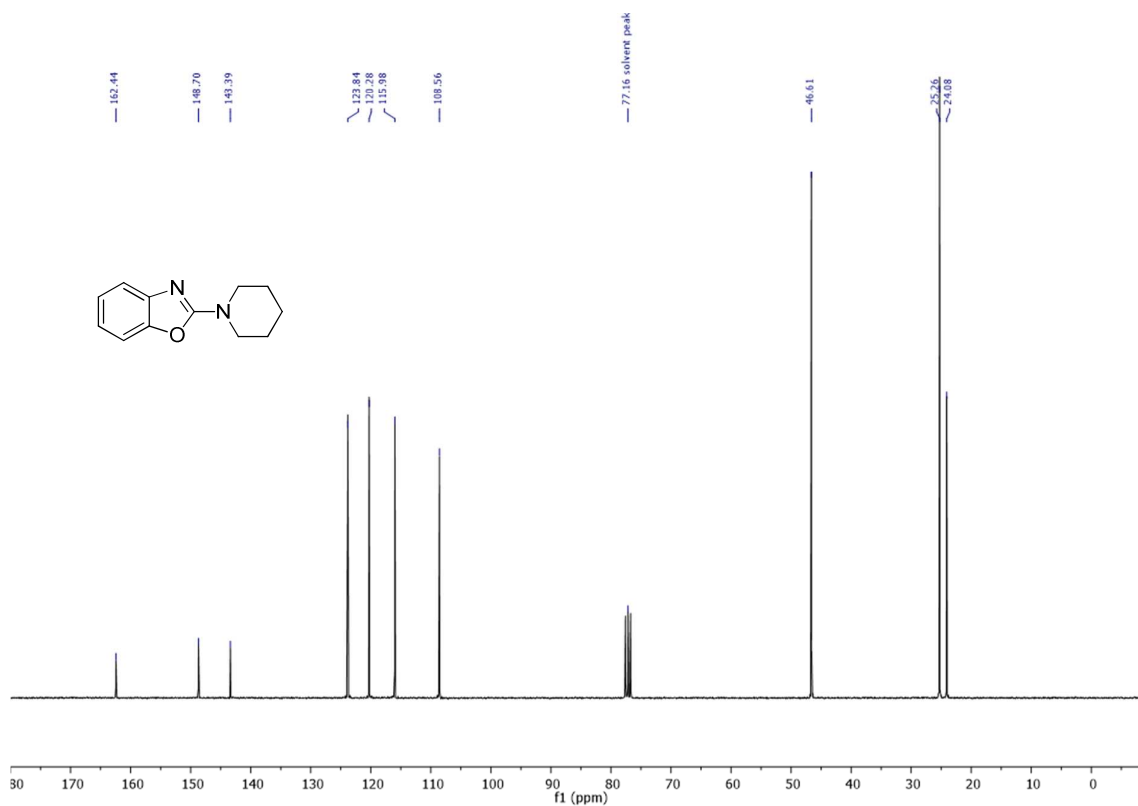
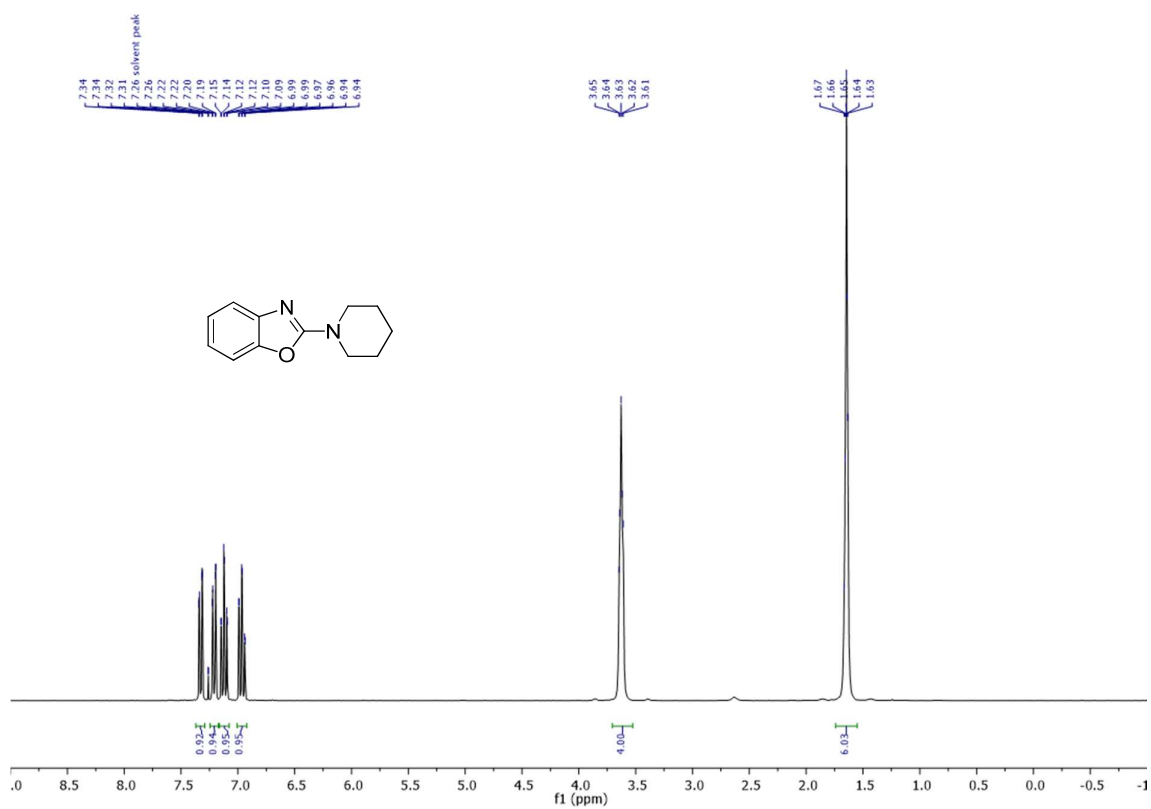


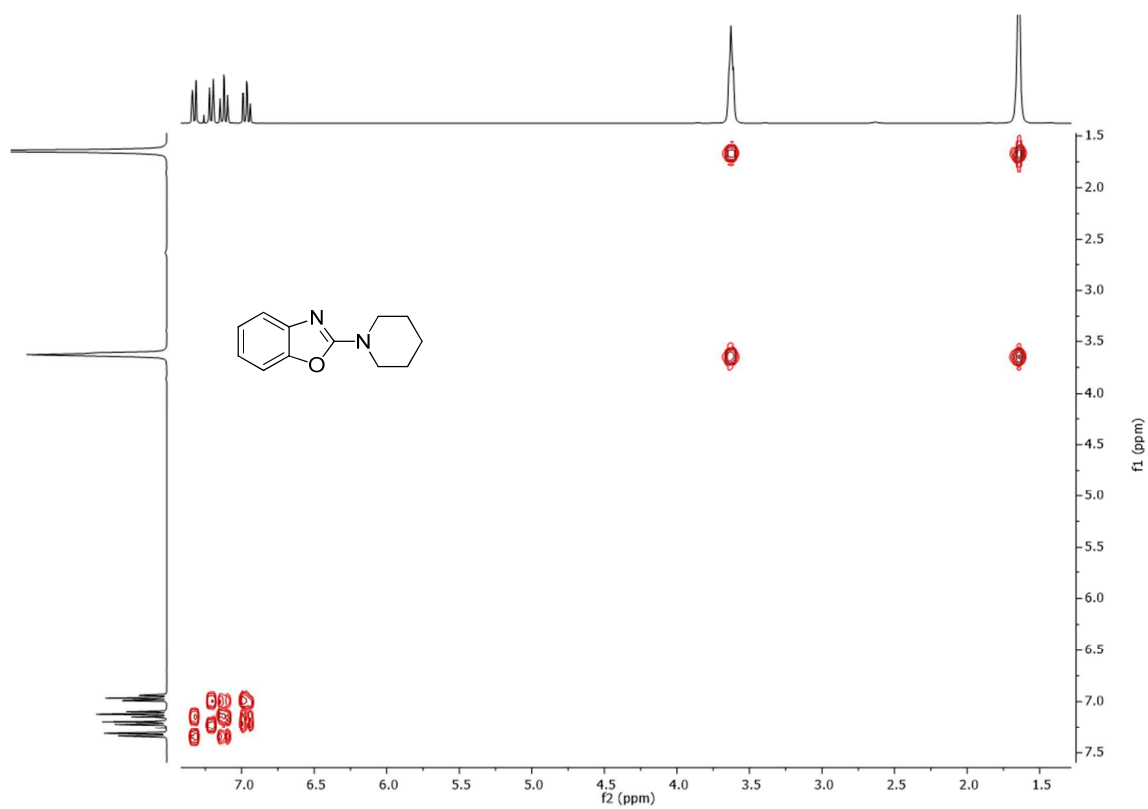




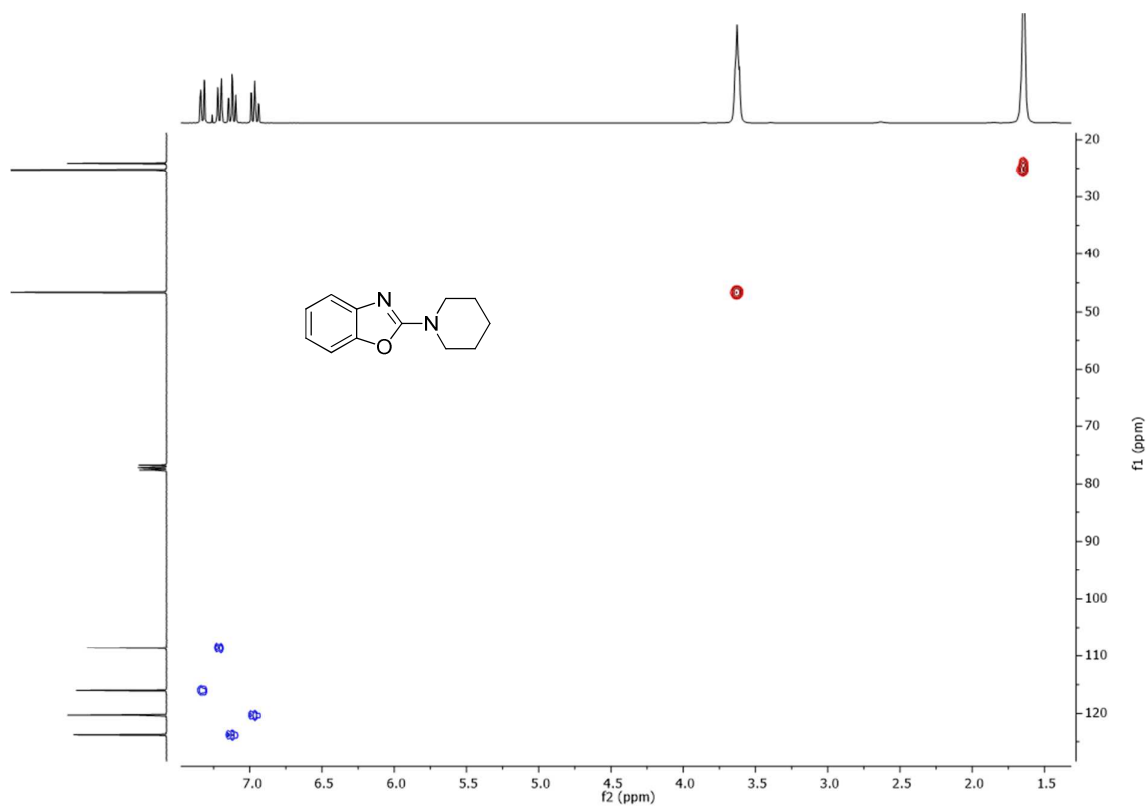




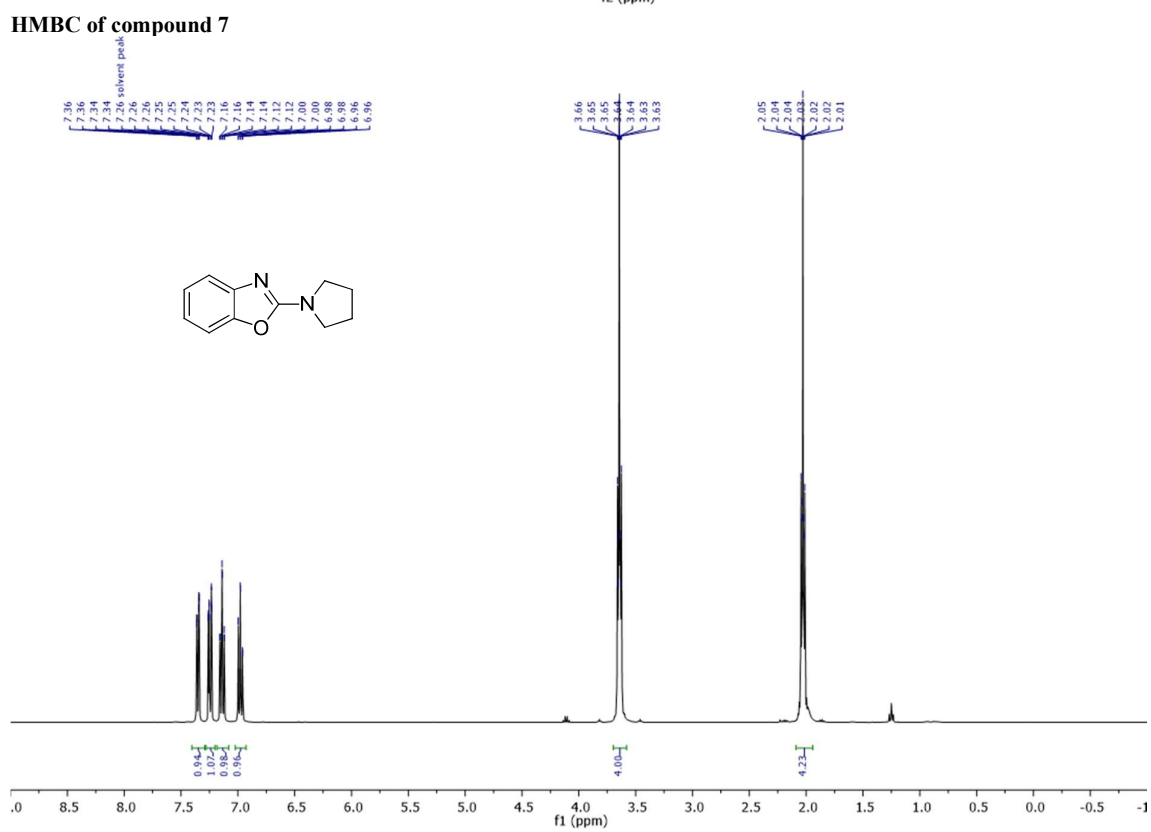
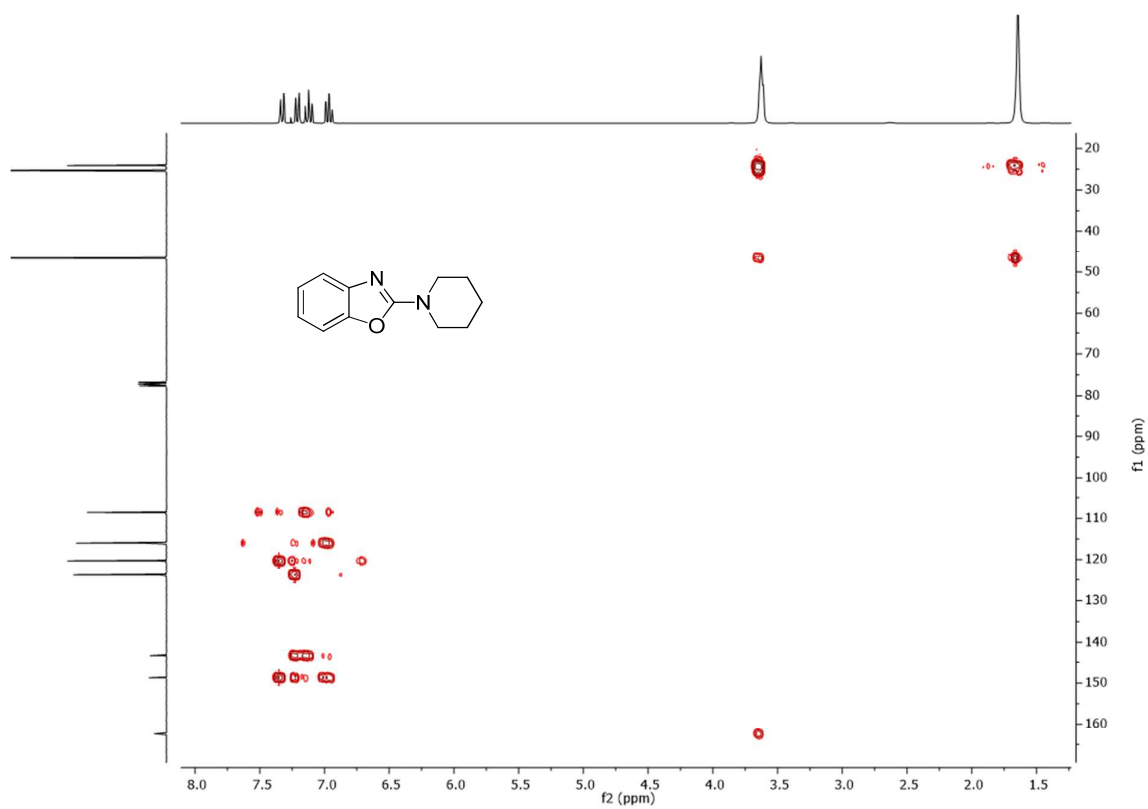


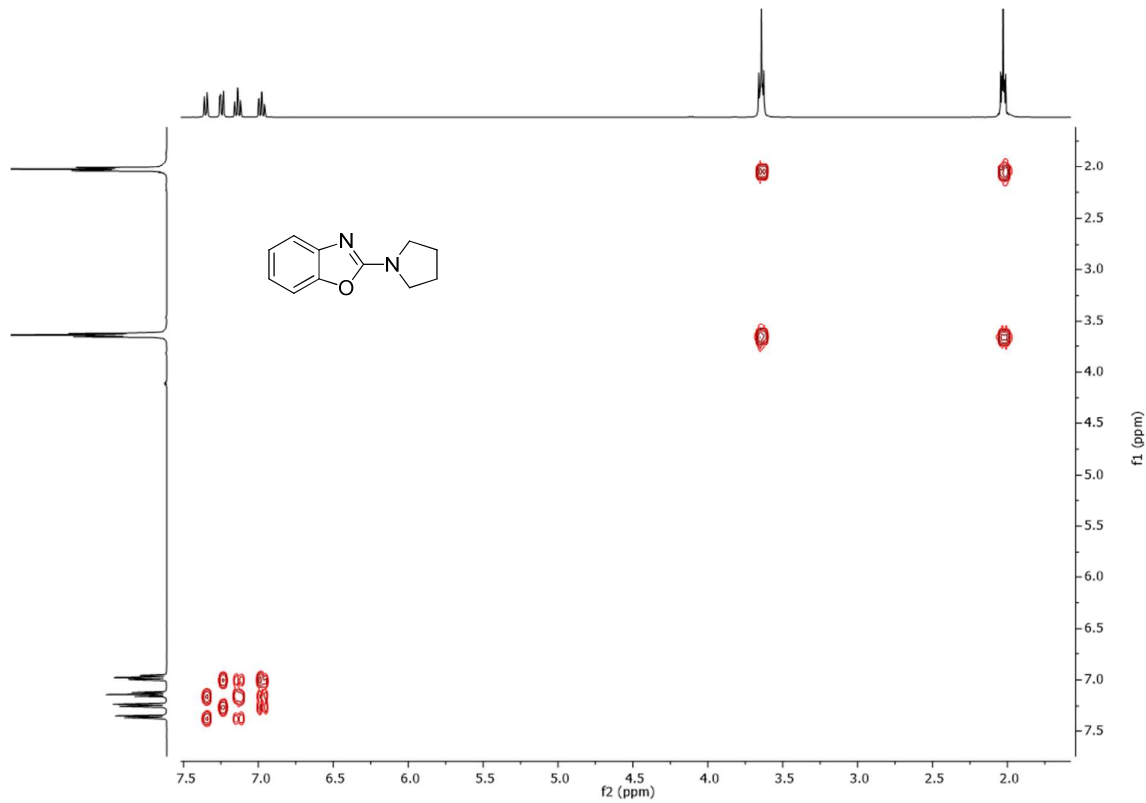
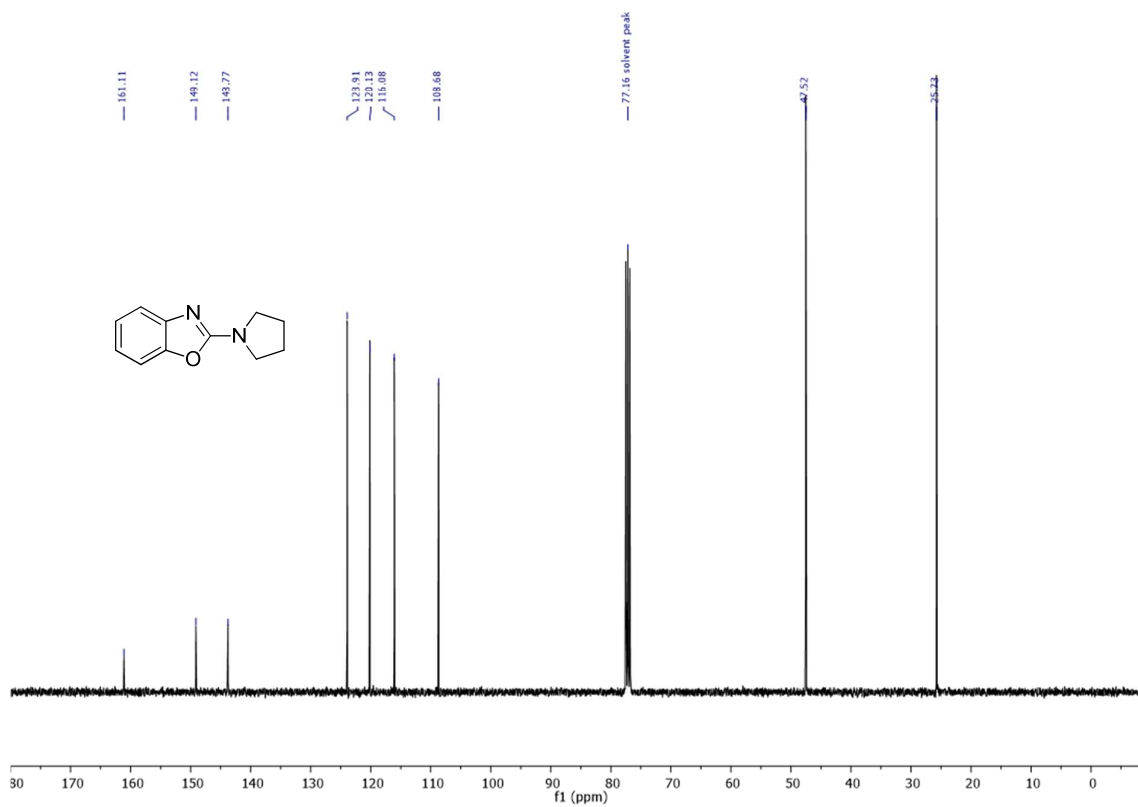


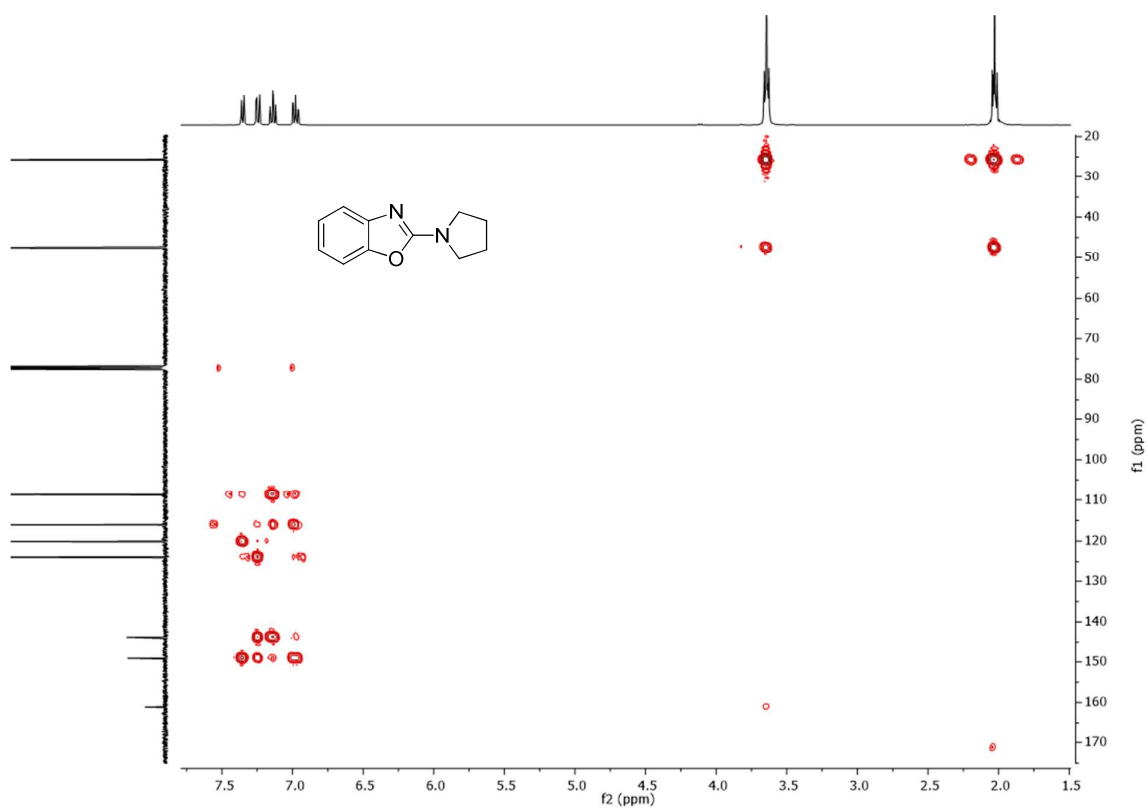
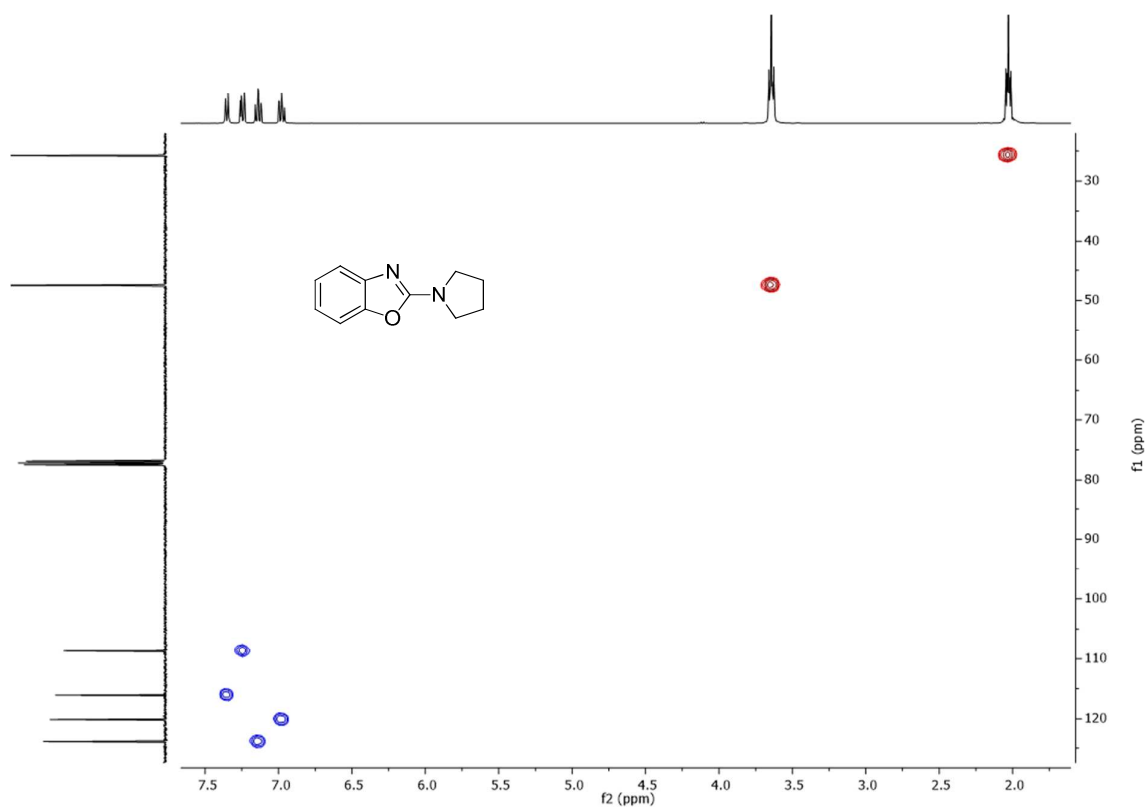
COSY of compound 7

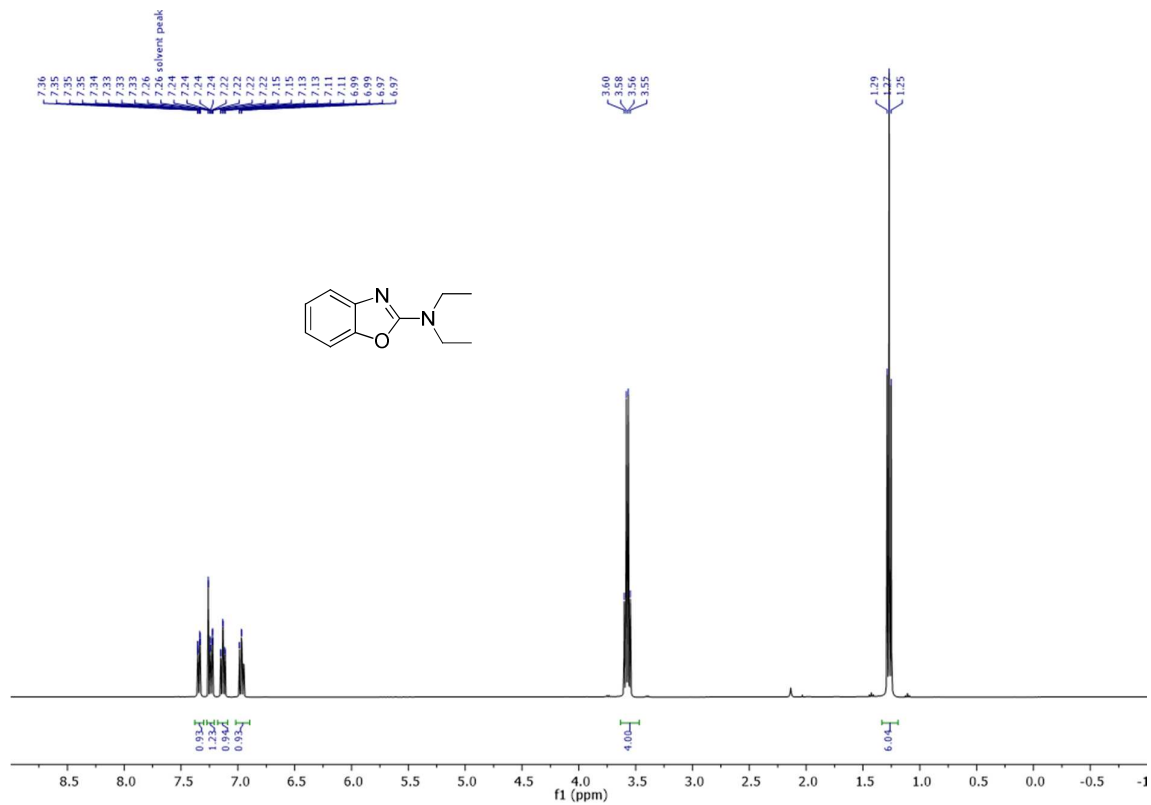
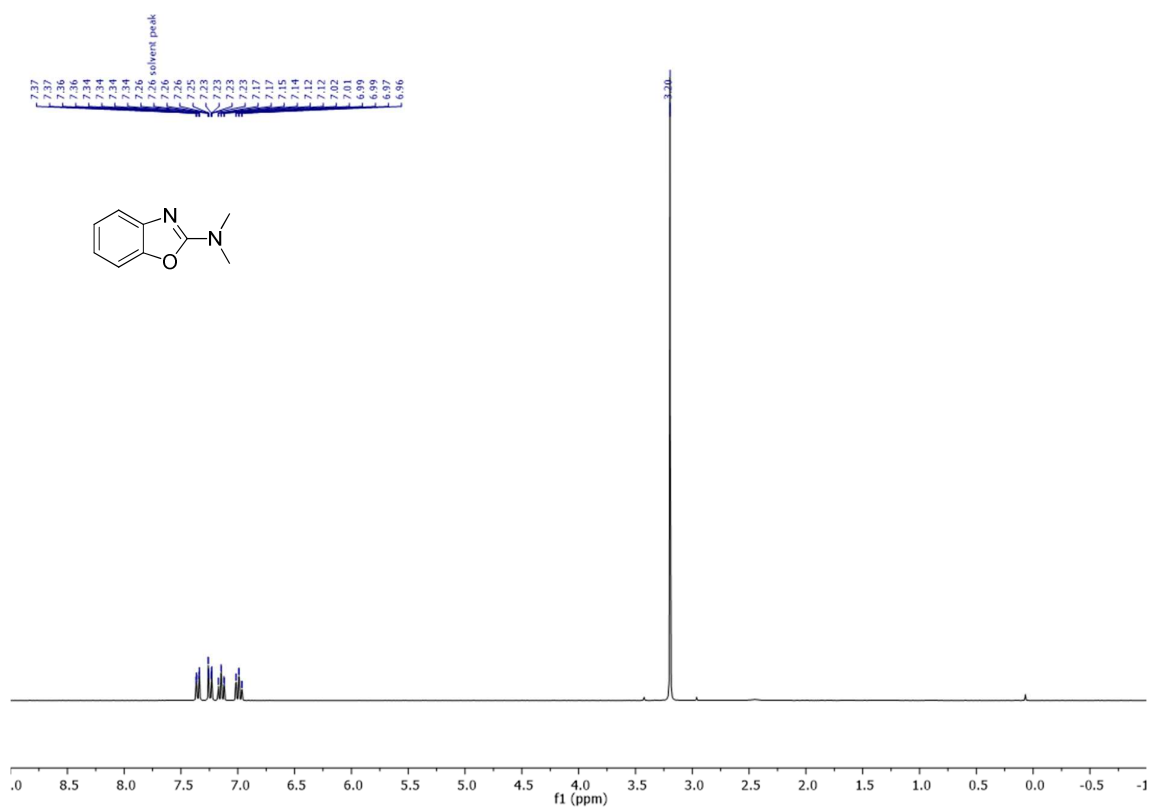


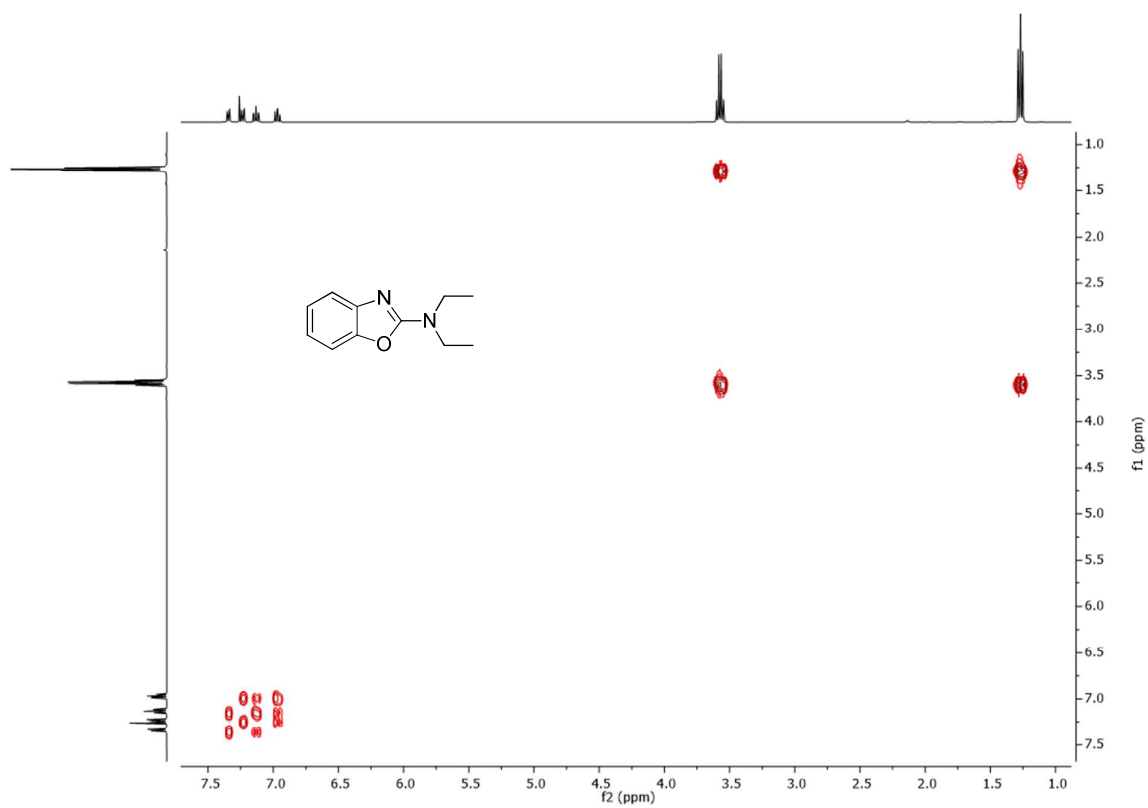
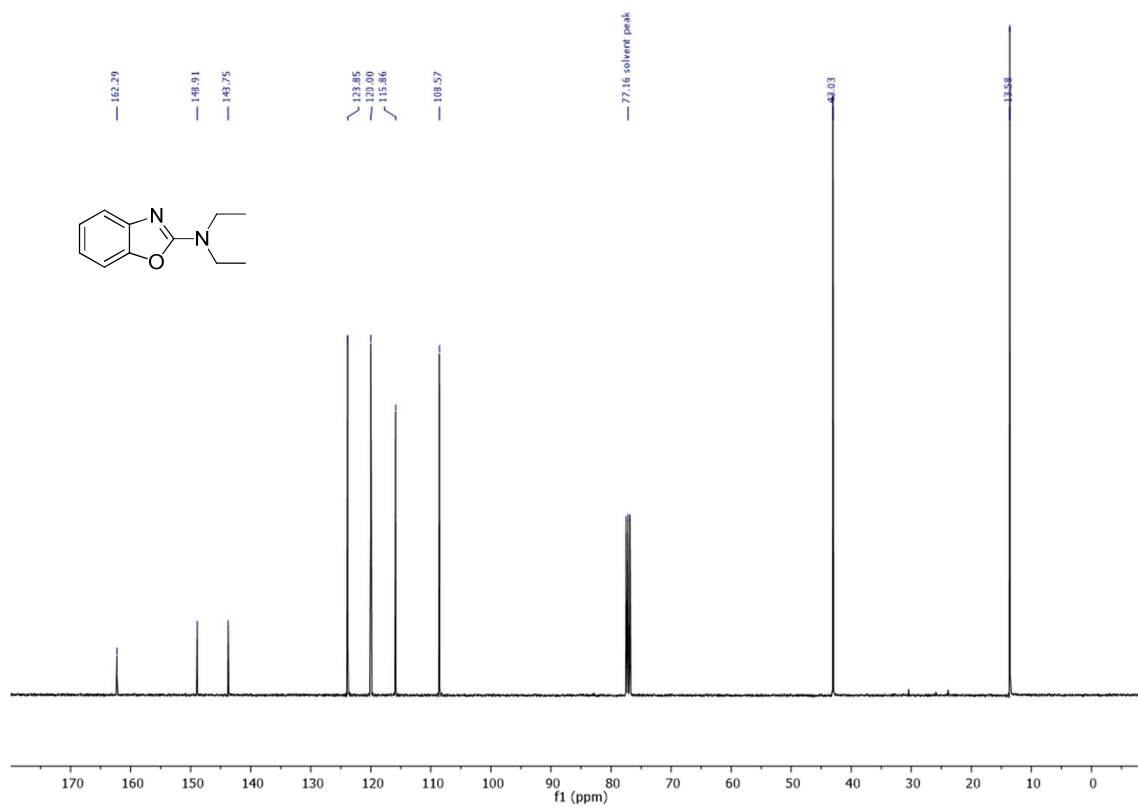
HSQC of compound 7

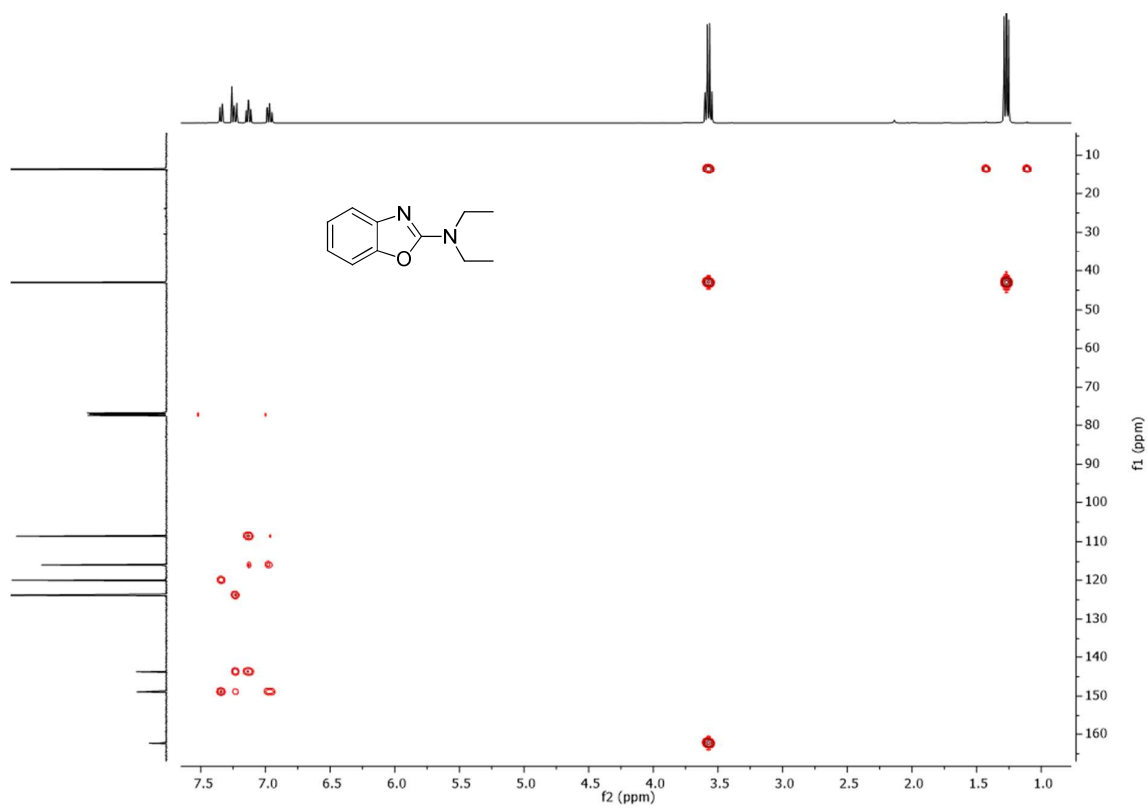
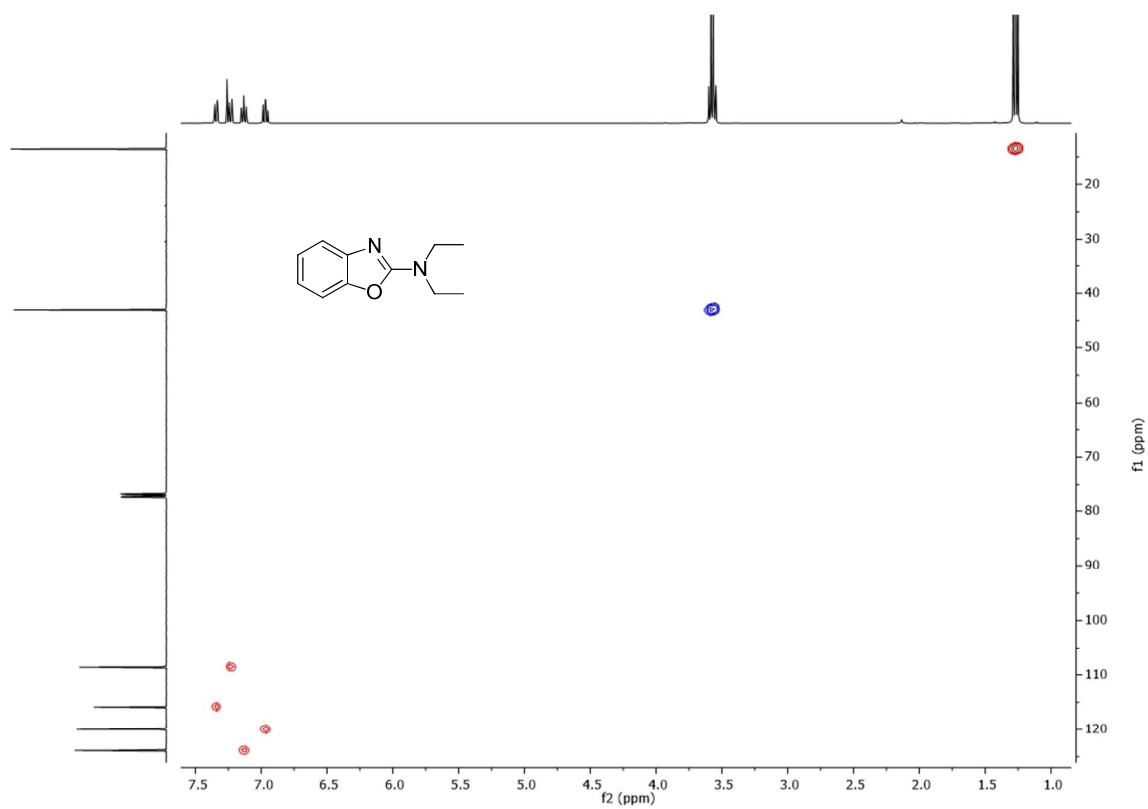




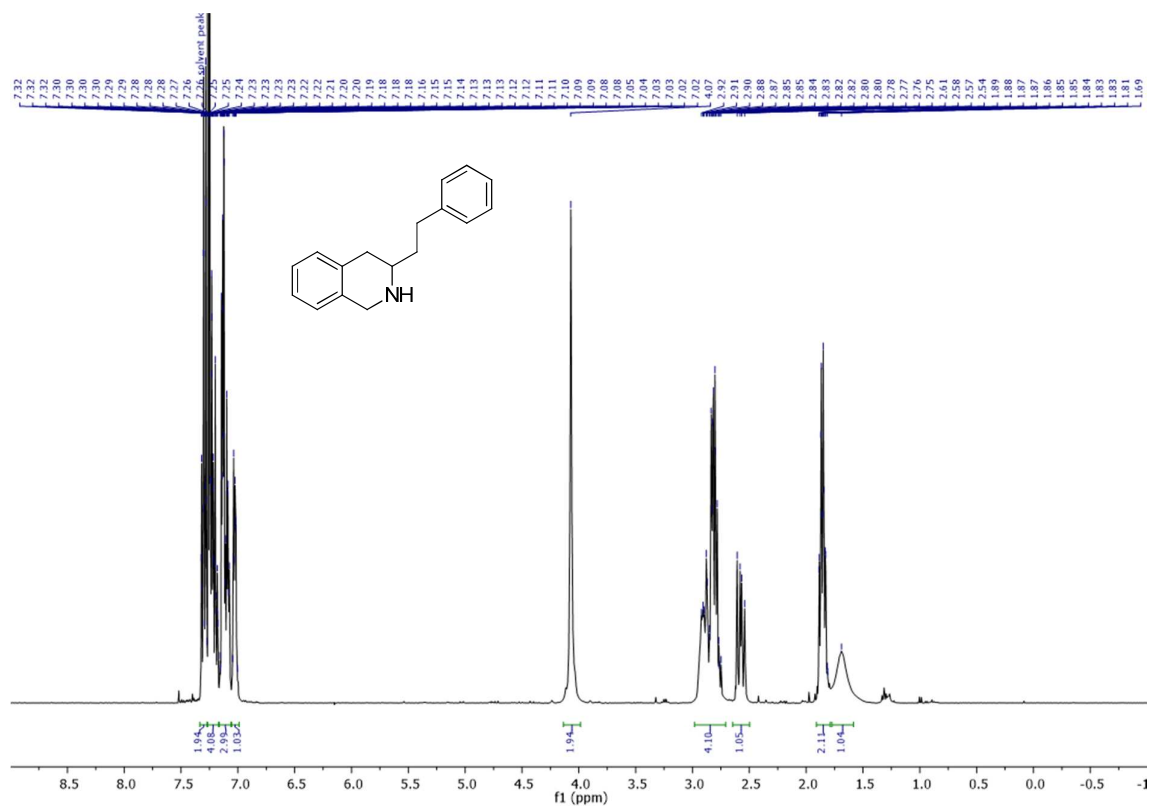
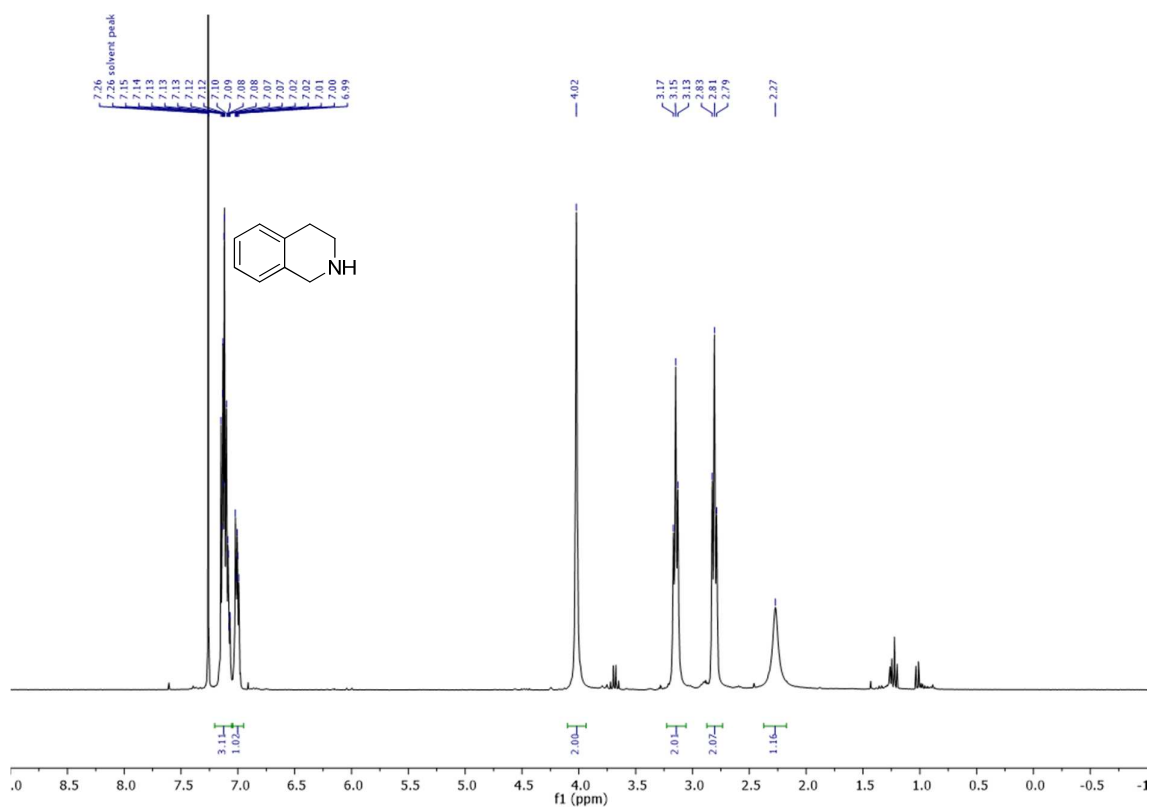


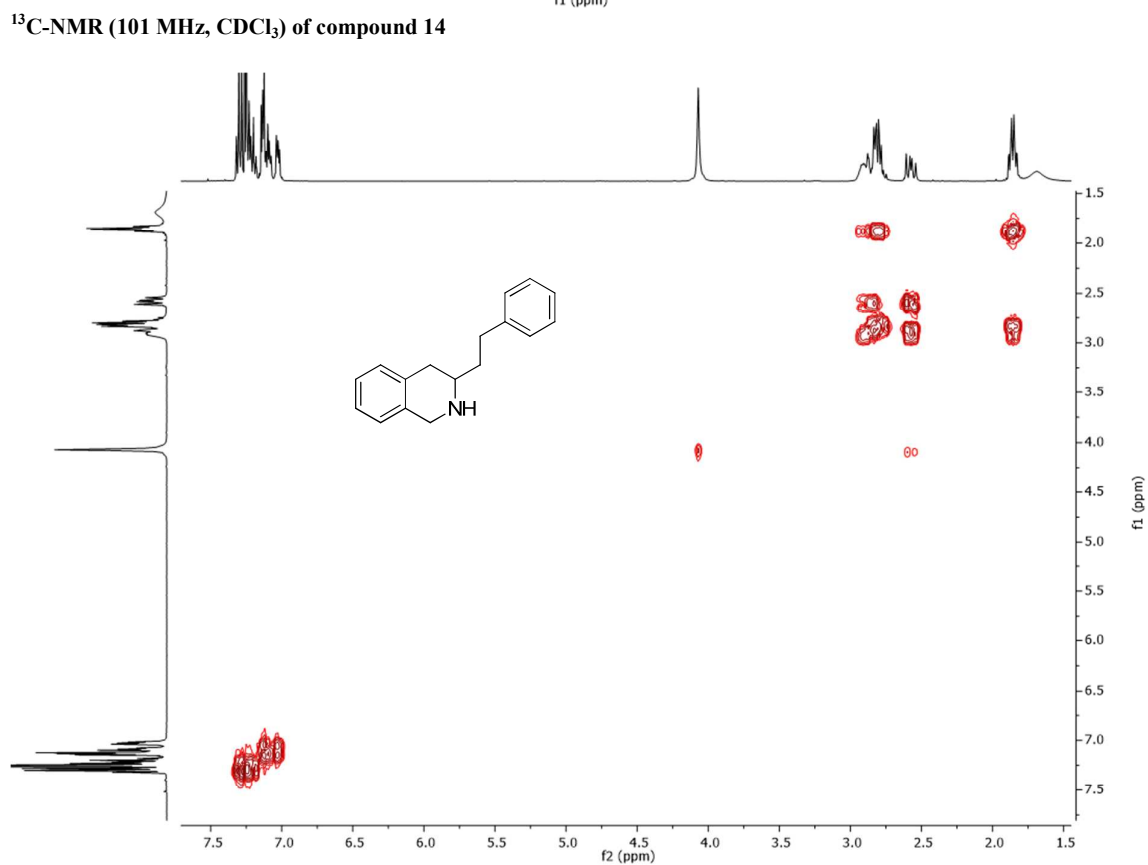
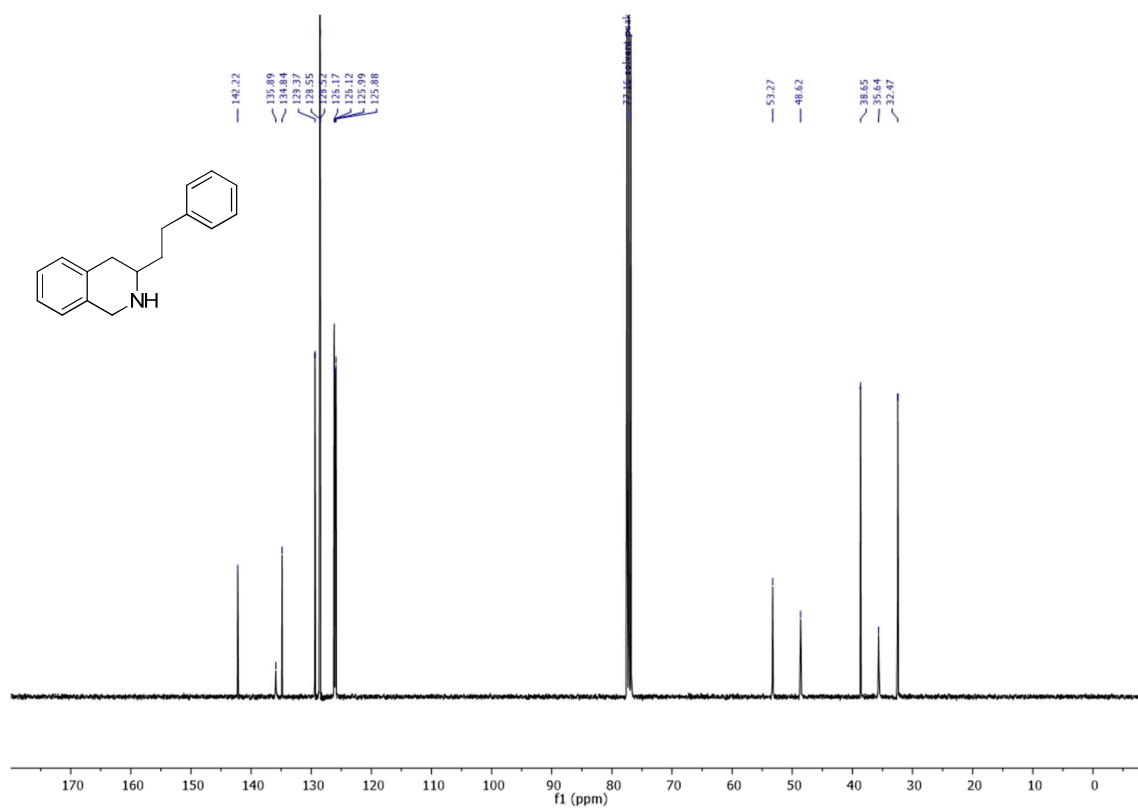


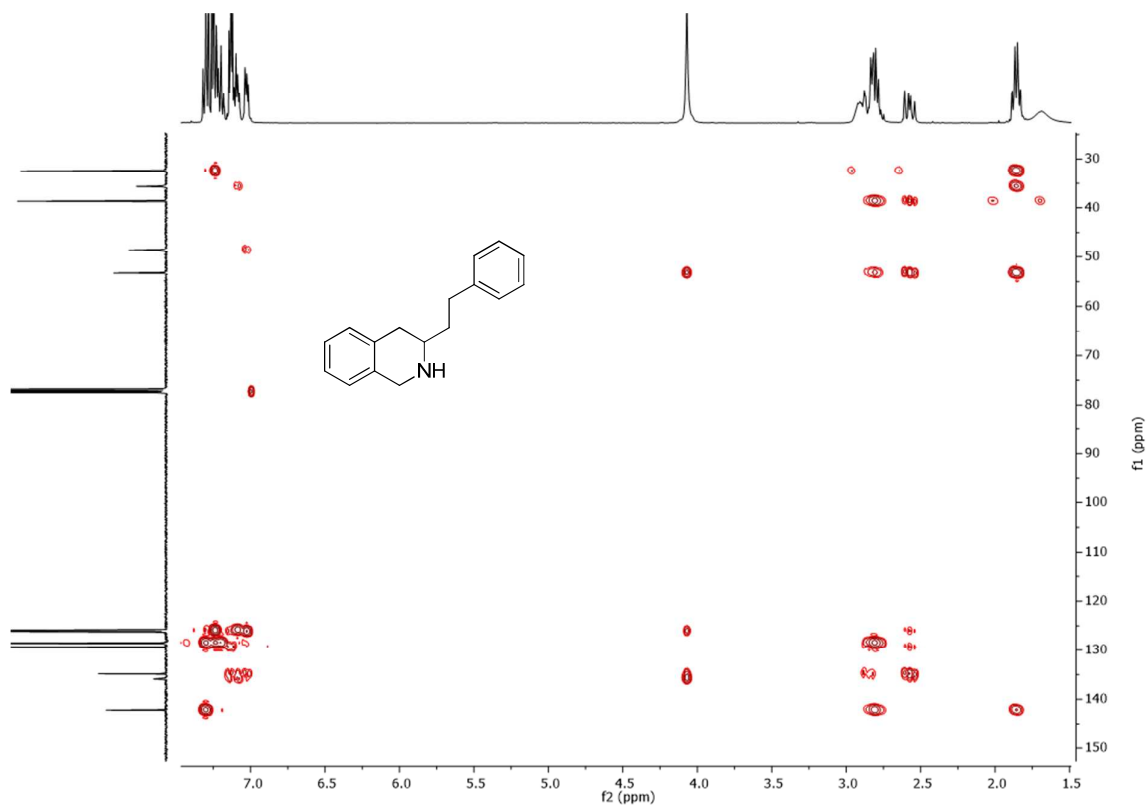
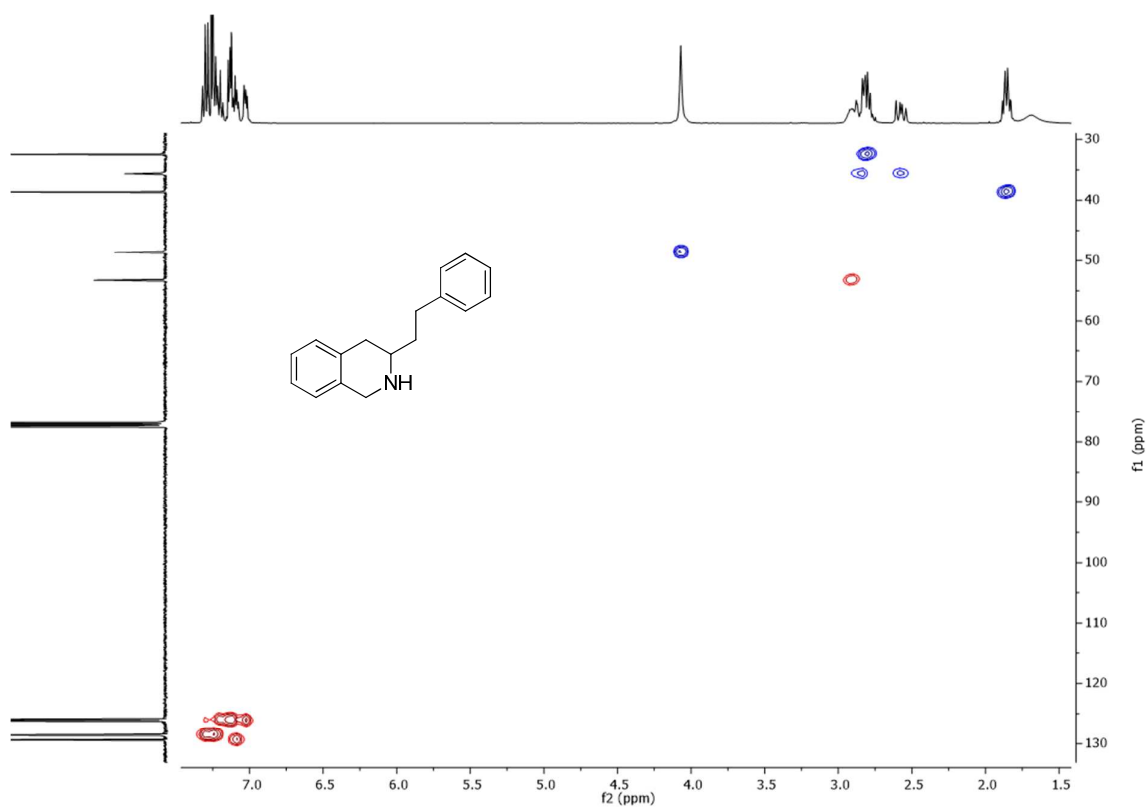


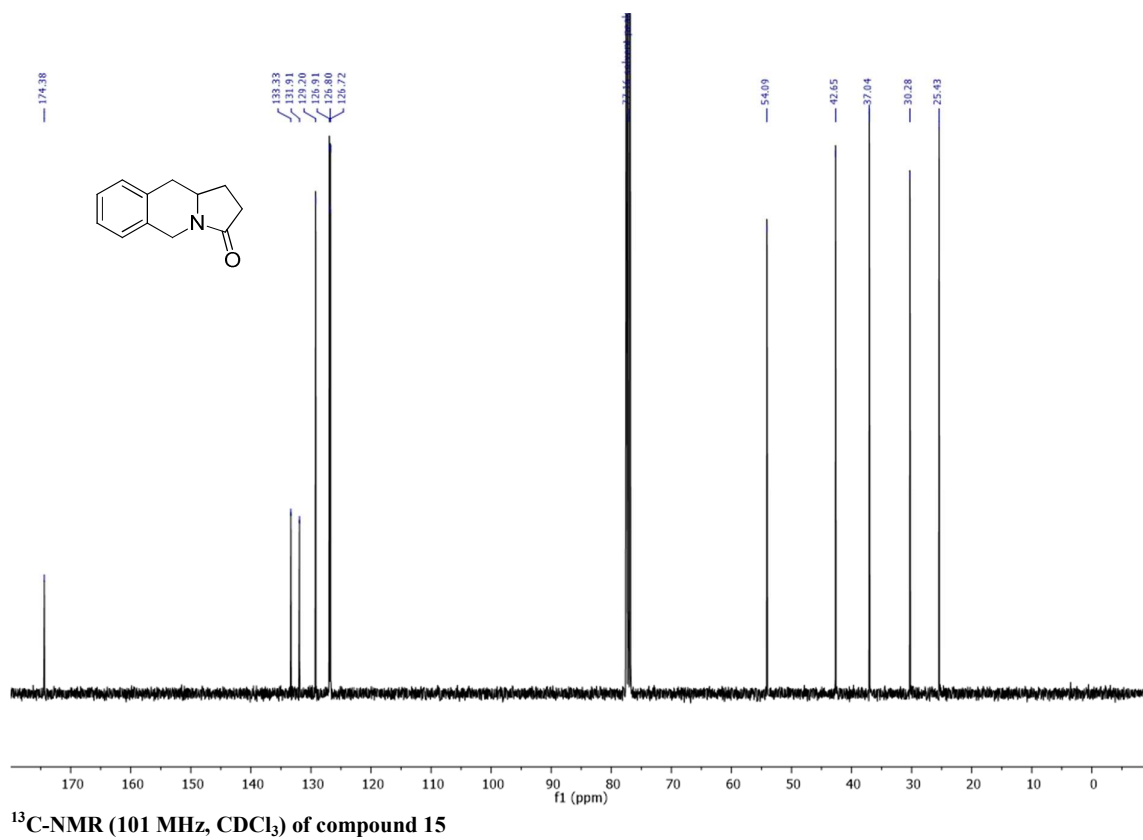
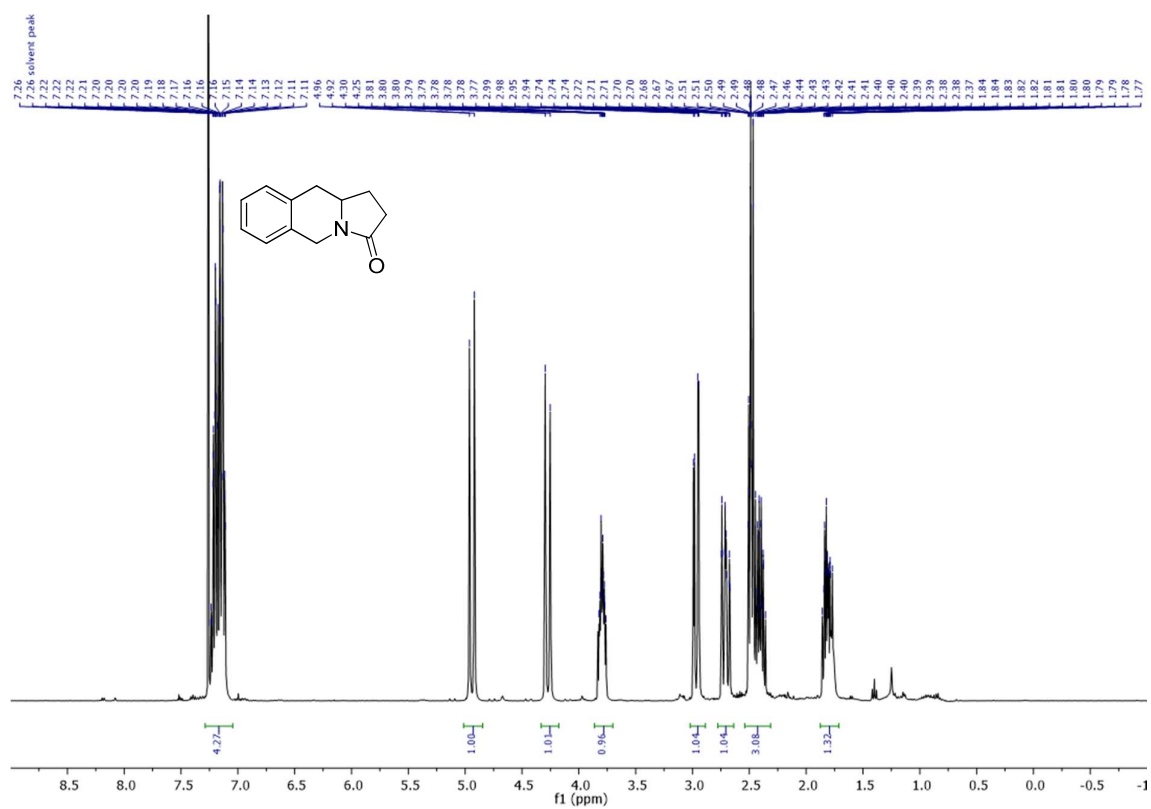


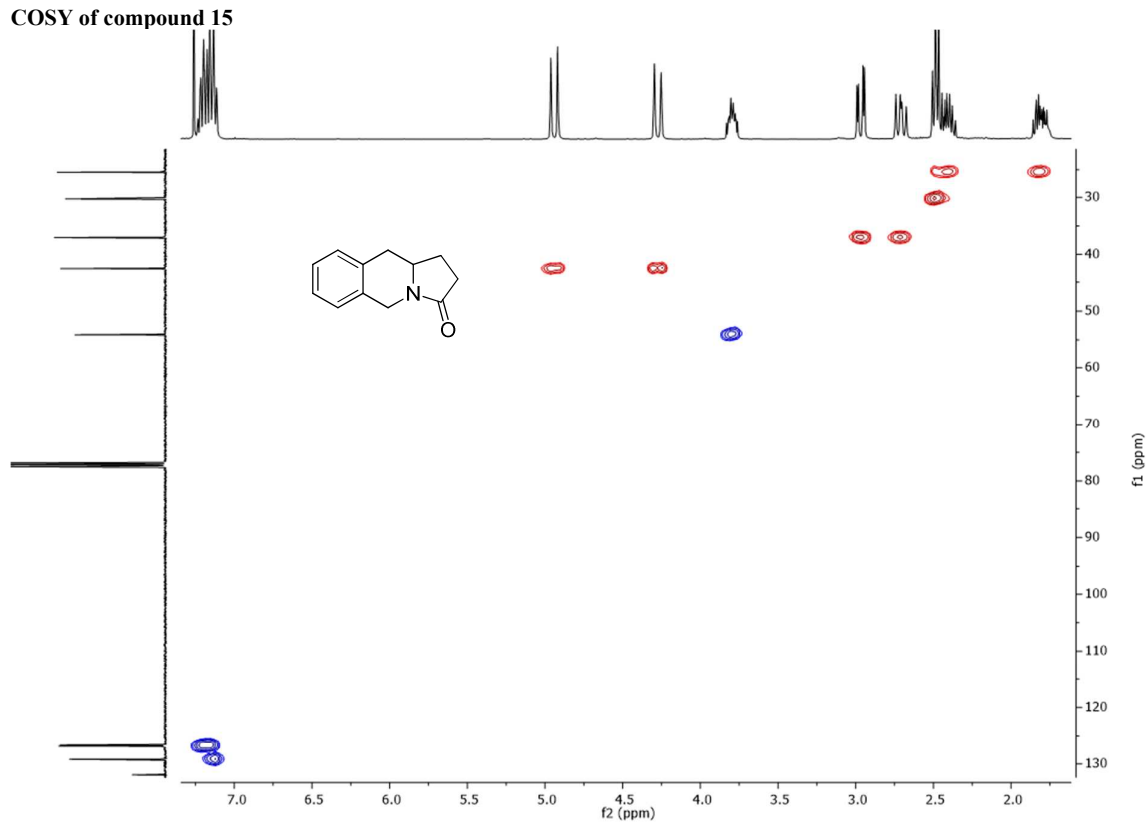
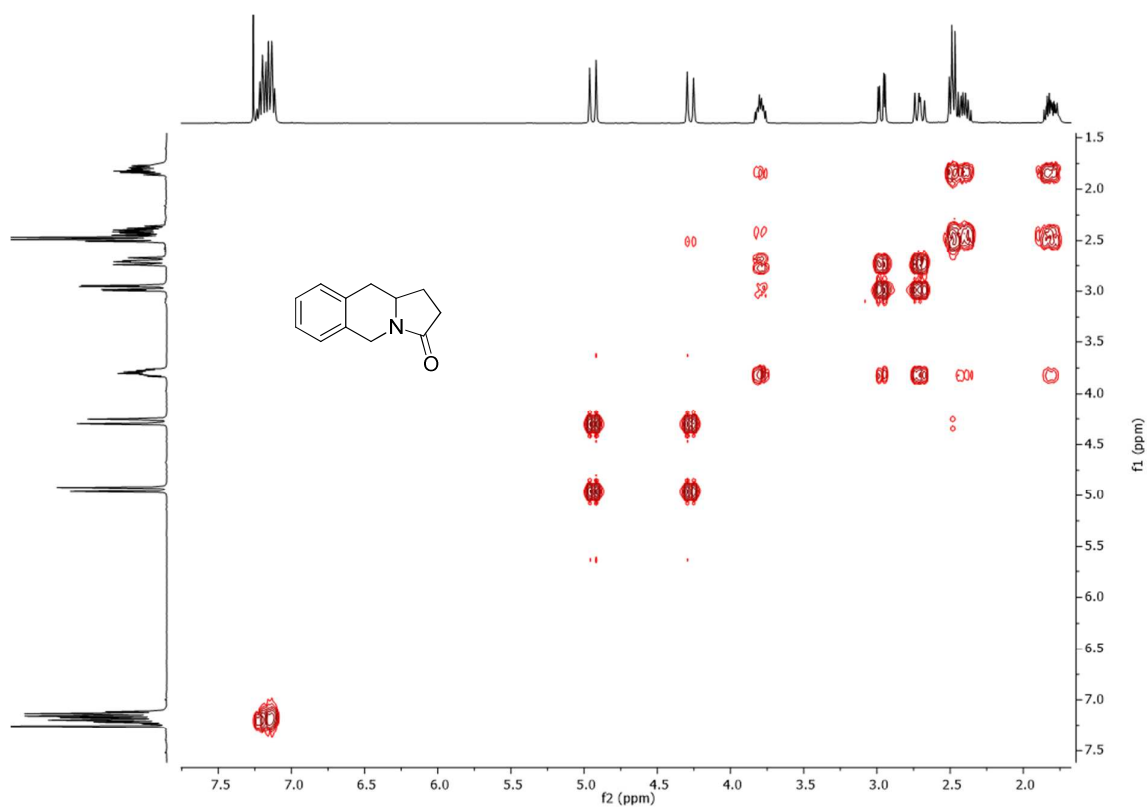


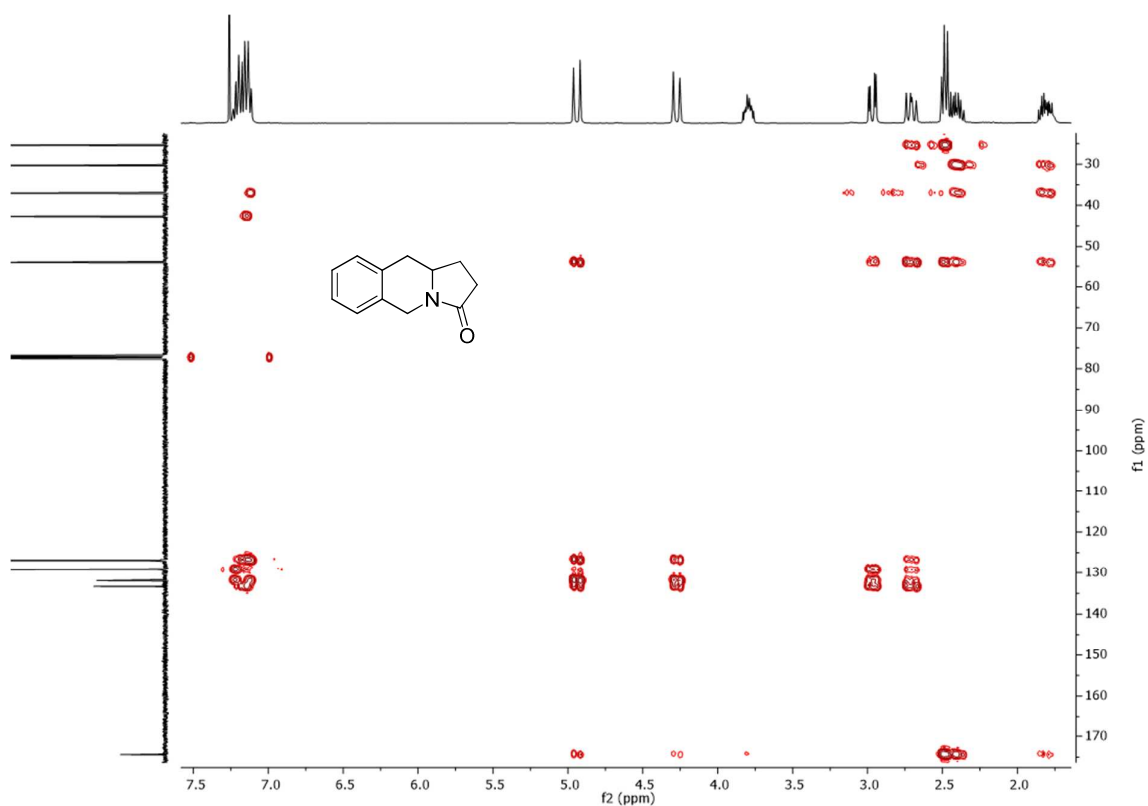












HMBC of compound 15

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