

**Tandem Isomerization and C-H Activation:  
Regioselective Hydroheteroarylation of Allylarenes**

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**General.** All air-sensitive manipulations were performed under an atmosphere of nitrogen using Schlenk technique or in a glovebox. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were run a Bruker 300 MHz, or 400 MHz spectrometer using the residual proton of the deuterated solvent for reference (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 7.24 ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 77.2 ppm). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ); coupling constants, *J*, are reported in Hz. Standard abbreviations are used: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, qn = quintet, m = multiplet. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (spherical, 40-63 μm). Visualization was performed with UV light (254 nm). GC analyses were performed on an Agilent Technologies 7890 GC instrument. High resolution mass spectra were obtained with a JEOL, JMS-700 (EI or FAB+) spectrometer. High resolution MALDI-mass spectra were conducted on an Applied Biosystems 4800 Proteomics Analyzer (Applied Biosystem, Foster City).

**Chemicals.** All reagents were purchased from Acros, Aldrich, and Alfa Aesar without further purification in advance before use. Solvents for chromatography were reagent grade. Toluene was dried over sodium with benzophenone-ketyl intermediate as an indicator. Deuterated benzene and chloroform were dried by vacuum transfer from activated molecular sieve. AlMe<sub>3</sub> (2.0 M in toluene) was purchased from Aldrich and diluted with dried toluene to 0.5 M. IMes and IPr were synthesized according to the literature.<sup>1</sup> Amino-NHC was prepared in accord to our previous work.<sup>2</sup> All allylbenzene derivatives were purchased from Acros, Aldrich, and Alfa Aesar and used without further purification. Starting materials of benzoxazole,<sup>3</sup> oxazole,<sup>4</sup> and benzimidazole<sup>5</sup> derivatives were prepared according to the literature procedures.

**General procedure A for Nickel-catalyzed hydroheteroarylation of allylarenes (Branch):** To the toluene solution of Ni(COD)<sub>2</sub> (14 mg, 0.05 mmol), IMes (14 mg, 0.05 mmol), and 1-methylbenzimidazole (0.5 mmol) was added allylbenzene (1.0 mmol) into the vial. After the vial was screw-capped, the reaction solution was taken outside the glovebox and heated at 130 °C for 16 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through *Celite* and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate solution was concentrated in *vacuo* to afford crude product. The crude was further purified by flash chromatography using hexane/ethyl acetate (3:1) as eluent.

**General procedure B for Nickel/ $\text{AlMe}_3$  mediated hydroheteroarylation of allylarenes (Linear):** To the toluene solution of  $\text{Ni}(\text{COD})_2$  (14 mg, 0.05 mmol), IPr (19 mg, 0.05 mmol), and 1-methylbenzimidazole (0.5 mmol) was added allylbenzene (1.0 mmol) and  $\text{AlMe}_3$  in toluene (0.05 mmol, 0.1 mL) into the vial. After the vial was screw-capped, the reaction solution was taken outside the glovebox and heated at 130 °C for 16 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through *Celite* and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate solution was concentrated in *vacuo* to afford crude product. The crude was further purified by flash chromatography using hexane/ethyl acetate (1:3) as eluent.

**Table S1. Isomerization of Allylbenzene**

entry	Ligand	cat. mol%	Temp(°C)	Time(h)	GC Yield (%)
1	$\text{PCy}_3$	10	130	18	40
2	$\text{PPh}_3$	10	130	18	0
3	$\text{Cy}_2\text{P}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{PCy}_2$	10	130	18	95
4	bipyridine	10	130	18	0
5	1,10-phenanthroline	10	130	18	0
6	IMes	10	130	18	99
7	IMes	3	130	18	99
8	IMes	3	130	1	99
9	IMes	3	60	1	4
10	IMes	1	130	1	99
11	IMes	0.1	130	1	0
12	IMes	0.5	130	1	99
13	IMes	0.2	130	1	21

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: Allylbenzene (0.5 mmol),  $\text{Ni}(\text{COD})_2$  (0.05 mmol), ligand (IMes: 0.05 mmol;  $\text{PCy}_3$ : 0.1 mmol; dcpe, bipyridine, 1,10-Phen: 0.05 mmol), toluene (1 mL).

**Table S2. Optimization.**

Entry	Ligand (eq)	Additive (eq)	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>	<b>3a:4a</b>
1	bipyridine (0.1)	-	NR	-
2	1,10-Phen (0.1)	-	NR	-
3	$\text{PCy}_3$ (0.2)	-	27	15:85
4	IMes (0.1)	-	97	6:94
5	IPr (0.1)	-	80	36:64
6	Amino NHC (0.1)	-	88	9:91
7	$\text{PCy}_3$ (0.2)	$\text{AlMe}_3$ (0.1)	69	81:19
8	IMes (0.1)	$\text{AlMe}_3$ (0.1)	80	80:20
9	IPr (0.1)	$\text{AlMe}_3$ (0.1)	94	93:7
10	Amino NHC (0.1)	$\text{AlMe}_3$ (0.1)	53	79:21

[a] Reaction Conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (1.0 mmol),  $\text{Ni}(\text{COD})_2$  (0.05 mmol), and ligand in toluene (1 mL) at 130 °C for 16 hours. [b] Isolated yield.

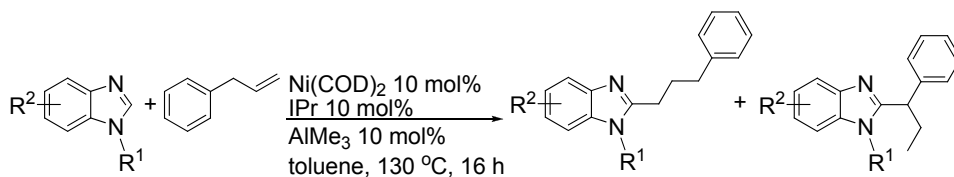
1,10-Phen = 1,10-phenanthroline,  $\text{PCy}_3$  = tricyclohexyl-phosphine,

IMes = 1,3-bis(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene,

IPr = 1,3-bis(2,6-diisopropyl-phenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene,

Amino NHC = N-(2-(3-mesityl-2,3-dihydro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)ethyl)-2-methylpropan-2-amine.

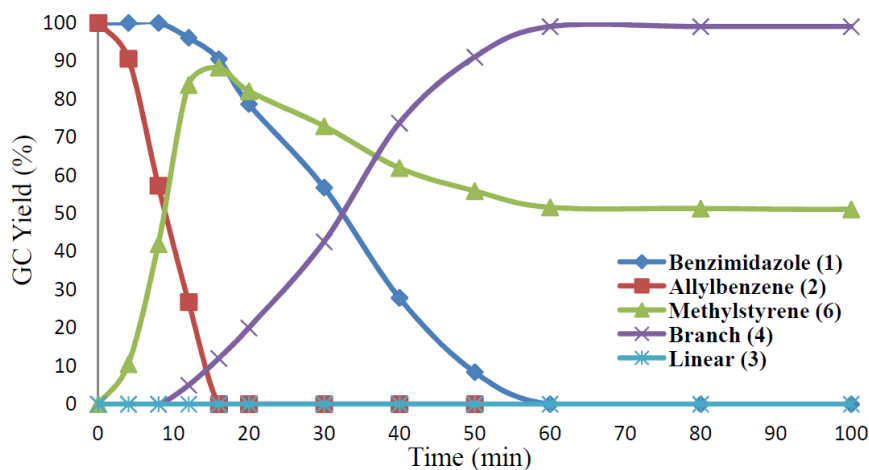
**Table S3. Scope with various heteroarenes (Linear Selectivity).<sup>a</sup>**

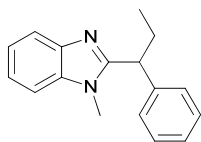


entry	1	major product	yield (%)	3:4
1	<b>1a</b> R <sup>1</sup> = Me, R <sup>2</sup> = H		92	92:8
2	<b>1l</b> R <sup>1</sup> = (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>7</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> , R <sup>2</sup> = H		73	>99:1
3	<b>1m</b> R <sup>1</sup> = CH <sub>2</sub> -o-py, R <sup>2</sup> = H		65	95:5
4	<b>1n</b> R <sup>1</sup> = CH <sub>2</sub> Ph, R <sup>2</sup> = H		67	>99:1
5	<b>1o</b> R <sup>1</sup> = p-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> Me, R <sup>2</sup> = H		80	91:9
6	<b>1p</b> R <sup>1</sup> = o-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> Me, R <sup>2</sup> = H		65	>99:1
7	<b>1q</b> R <sup>1</sup> = p-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> OMe, R <sup>2</sup> = H		76	91:9
8	<b>1r</b> R <sup>1</sup> = p-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> CF <sub>3</sub> , R <sup>2</sup> = H		81	>99:1
9	<b>1s</b> R <sup>1</sup> = Me, R <sup>2</sup> = 5-Me		87	>99:1
10	<b>1t</b> R <sup>1</sup> = Me, R <sup>2</sup> = 5,6-Me <sub>2</sub>		85	98:2
11	<b>1u</b> R <sup>1</sup> = Me, R <sup>2</sup> = 5-OMe		88	>99:1
12	<b>1x</b>		81	91:9

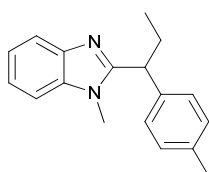
<sup>a</sup> Conditions: benzimidazole (0.5 mmol), allylbenzene derivative (1.0 mmol), Ni(COD)<sub>2</sub> (0.05 mmol), IPr (0.05 mmol), and AlMe<sub>3</sub> (0.05 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) at 130 °C for 16 hours unless otherwise noted.

**Figure S1.** GC yield of each components plot vs reaction time for tandem olefin isomerization/CH activation process of **1a** with **2a**.

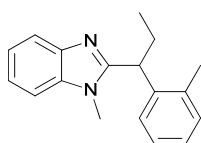




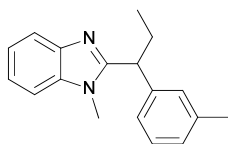
**1-methyl-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4a):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 91%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84-7.81 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.28-7.16 (m, 8H), 3.99 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz), 3.50 (s, 3H, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.56-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.11 (m, 1H), 0.99 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.5 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.4 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 128.9 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 127.1 (s, Ar), 122.3 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 119.8 (s, Ar), 109.1 (s, Ar), 46.6 (s, CH), 29.9 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.8 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 251.1548, found 251.1554.



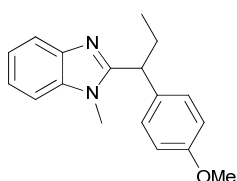
**1-methyl-2-(1-(p-tolyl)propyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4b):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 87%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.83-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.12 and 7.06 (AB quartet,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz, 4H), 3.95 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 2.53-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.21-2.07 (m, 1H), 0.98 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.7 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 138.3 (s, Ar), 136.7 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 129.6 (s, Ar), 128.1 (s, Ar), 122.3 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 119.8 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 46.2 (s, CH), 29.9 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.9 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.2 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.8 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1711.



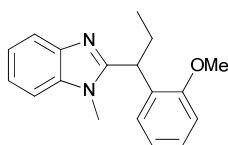
**1-methyl-2-(1-(o-tolyl)propyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4c):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 83%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.26-6.97 (m, 8H), 4.24 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.59-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.11-1.97 (m, 1H), 1.05 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.7 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 139.9 (s, Ar), 136.2 (s, Ar), 135.1 (s, Ar), 130.7 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 126.9 (s, Ar), 122.3 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 119.8 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 42.2 (s, CH), 29.5 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.6 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.8 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.0 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1718.



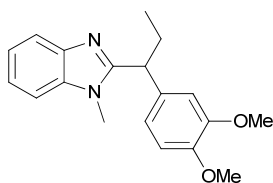
**1-methyl-2-(1-(m-tolyl)propyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4d):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 90%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.24-6.99 (m, 8H), 3.94 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.19-2.10 (m, 1H), 0.98 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.5 (s, Ar), 141.2 (s, Ar), 138.7 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 128.8 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 127.9 (s, Ar), 125.4 (s, Ar), 122.3 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 119.8 (s, Ar), 109.1 (s, Ar), 46.5 (s, CH), 29.9 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.9 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.9 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1718.



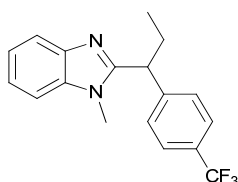
**2-(1-(3-methoxyphenyl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4e):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 55%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.87-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz), 6.84 (d, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz), 3.97 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 2.58-2.44 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.01 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  158.7 (s, Ar), 156.8 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 136.6 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 133.4 (s, Ar), 129.2 (s, Ar), 122.3 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 119.8 (s, Ar), 114.3 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 55.4 (s, O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 45.7 (s, CH), 29.8 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.8 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 281.1654, found 281.1665.



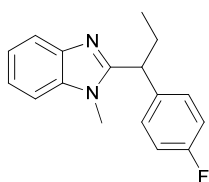
**2-(1-(2-methoxyphenyl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4f):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 66%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.83-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.09 (m, 5H), 6.90-6.79 (m, 2H), 4.63 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 2.52-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.16-2.02 (m, 1H), 0.97 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.4 (s, Ar), 156.4 (s, Ar), 142.8 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 129.9 (s, Ar), 128.9 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 121.4 (s, Ar), 119.6 (s, Ar), 110.5 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 55.8 (s, O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 37.2 (s, CH), 29.5 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.3 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 281.1654, found 281.1663.



**2-(1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4g):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 46%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.81-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.20 (m, 3H), 6.77-6.71 (m, 3H), 3.90 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.75 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 2.25-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.21-2.06 (m, 1H), 0.96 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.5 (s, Ar), 149.4 (s, Ar), 148.1 (s, Ar), 142.5 (s, Ar), 136.0 (s, Ar), 133.8 (s, Ar), 122.2 (s, Ar), 121.8 (s, Ar), 120.4 (s, Ar), 119.5 (s, Ar), 111.2 (s, Ar), 111.0 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 56.0 (s,  $\text{O-CH}_3$ ), 56.0 (s,  $\text{O-CH}_3$ ), 46.0 (s, CH), 29.8 (s,  $\text{N-CH}_3$ ), 28.8 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 12.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 311.1759, found 311.1771.

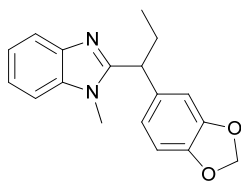


**1-methyl-2-(1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4h):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 79%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.53 and 7.39 (AB quartet,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 9.0$  Hz, 4H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 3H), 4.07 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.59-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.24-2.10 (m, 1H), 0.99 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.4 (s, Ar), 145.4 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 136.0 (s, Ar), 129.5 (q,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 30.0$  Hz,  $\text{C-CF}_3$ ), 128.6 (s, Ar), 125.9 (s, Ar), 124.3 (q,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 270.0$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 122.6 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 119.8 (s, Ar), 109.2 (s, Ar), 46.2 (s, CH), 29.8 (s,  $\text{N-CH}_3$ ), 29.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 12.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{F}_3$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 319.1422, found 319.1435.

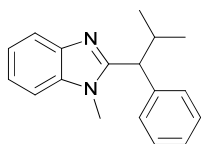


**2-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4i):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 61%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.83-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 5H), 6.94 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.97 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 2.55-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.06 (m, 1H), 0.97 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  162.0 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 247.5$  Hz,  $\text{C-F}$ ), 156.2 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 136.5 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 75.0$  Hz,  $\text{C-C-F}$ ), 129.7 (s, Ar), 129.6 (s, Ar), 122.4 (s, Ar), 122.0 (s, Ar), 119.7 (s, Ar), 115.9 (s, Ar), 115.6 (s, Ar), 109.1 (s, Ar), 45.7 (s, CH), 29.8 (s,  $\text{N-CH}_3$ ), 29.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 12.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

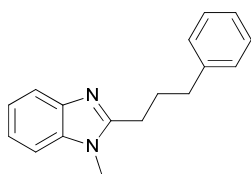
HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $C_{17}H_{18}N_2F$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ) 269.1454, found 269.1466. HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $C_{17}H_{18}N_2F$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ) 269.1454, found 269.1462.



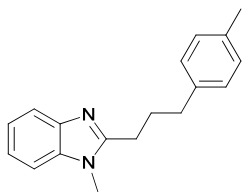
**2-(1-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4j):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 62%.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.83-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.22 (m, 3H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 2H), 5.87 (d,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.90 (t,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.52-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.05 (m, 1H), 0.97 (t,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.4 (s, Ar), 148.2 (s, Ar), 146.7 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 135.2 (s, Ar), 122.3 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 121.4 (s, Ar), 119.7 (s, Ar), 109.1 (s, Ar), 108.5 (s, Ar), 108.4 (s, Ar), 101.2 (s, Ar), 46.1 (s, CH), 29.8 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.7 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $C_{18}H_{19}N_2O_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ) 295.1446, found 295.1453.



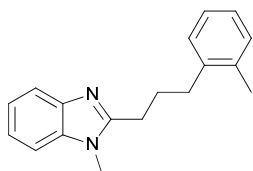
**1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-1-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4k):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 31%.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.17 (m, 8H), 3.67 (d,  $^3J_{HH} = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.94-2.81 (m, 1H), 1.08 (d,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.84 (d,  $^3J_{HH} = 9.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.5 (s, Ar), 142.9 (s, Ar), 140.3 (s, Ar), 135.7 (s, Ar), 128.9 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 127.1 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 119.7 (s, Ar), 109.1 (s, Ar), 52.5 (s, CH), 32.9 (s, CH), 29.8 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.2 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $C_{18}H_{21}N_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1715.



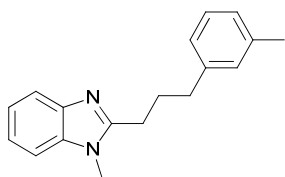
**1-methyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3a):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 85%.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.71-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.12 (m, 8H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.80 (t,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.74 (t,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.17 (qn,  $^3J_{HH} = 8.0$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.0 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.5 (s, Ar), 135.8 (s, Ar), 128.6 (s, Ar), 128.5 (s, Ar), 126.1 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 121.8 (s, Ar), 119.2 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 35.4 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.7 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.8 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $C_{17}H_{19}N_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ) 251.1548, found 251.1554.



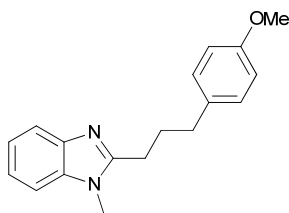
**1-methyl-2-(3-(p-tolyl)propyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3b):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 85%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.74-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.09 (s, 4H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.85 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.75 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.19 (qn,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.0 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 138.3 (s, Ar), 135.7 (s, Ar), 135.4 (s, Ar), 129.1 (s, Ar), 128.4 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 119.1 (s, Ar), 108.9 (s, Ar), 34.9 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.5 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.9 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.6 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1716.



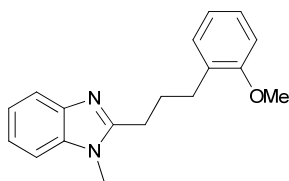
**1-methyl-2-(3-(o-tolyl)propyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3c):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 90%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.74-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.08 (m, 4H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.91 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.78 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.17 (qn,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.9 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 139.6 (s, Ar), 136.0 (s, Ar), 135.8 (s, Ar), 130.3 (s, Ar), 128.9 (s, Ar), 126.1 (s, Ar), 126.0 (s, Ar), 122.0 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 119.1 (s, Ar), 108.9 (s, Ar), 32.7 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.54 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.6 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.3 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1716.



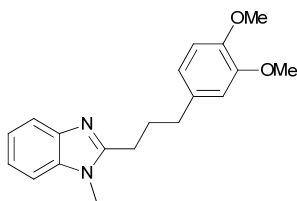
**1-methyl-2-(3-(m-tolyl)propyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3d):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 88%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.74-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.86 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.75 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.21 (qn,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.0 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 137.9 (s, Ar), 135.8 (s, Ar), 129.3 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 126.7 (s, Ar), 125.5 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 119.1 (s, Ar), 108.9 (s, Ar), 35.3 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.5 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.9 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.7 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.4 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1710.



**2-(3-(3-methoxyphenyl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3e):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 81%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.73-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.84 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.72 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.17 (qn,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.9 (s, Ar), 155.0 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 135.7 (s, Ar), 133.4 (s, Ar), 129.4 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 119.0 (s, Ar), 113.8 (s, Ar), 108.9 (s, Ar), 55.2 (s, O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.4 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.5 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.1 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 281.1654, found 281.1663.

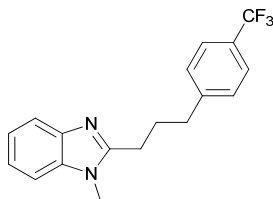


**2-(3-(2-methoxyphenyl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3f):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 87%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.73-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.89-6.82 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.88 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.78 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.17 (qn,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.5 (s, Ar), 155.3 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 135.8 (s, Ar), 130.0 (s, Ar), 129.8 (s, Ar), 127.3 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 120.4 (s, Ar), 119.1 (s, Ar), 110.2 (s, Ar), 108.8 (s, Ar), 55.2 (s, O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.9 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.5 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.5 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.1 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 281.1654, found 281.1667.

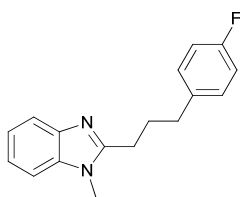


**2-(3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3g):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 79%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.72-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.78-6.70 (m, 3H), 3.82 (s, 6H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.84 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.71 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.18 (qn,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.9 (s, Ar), 148.8 (s, Ar), 147.2 (s, Ar), 142.5 (s, Ar), 135.7 (s, Ar), 134.0 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 120.3 (s, Ar), 119.0 (s, Ar), 111.8 (s, Ar), 111.2 (s, Ar), 108.8 (s,

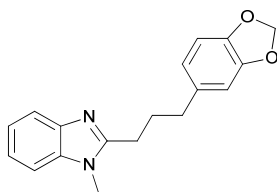
Ar), 55.9 (s, O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 55.8 (s, O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.9 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.5 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 311.1759, found 311.1768.



**1-methyl-2-(3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3h):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 33%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.73-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.87 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.24 (qn, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 154.6 (s, Ar), 145.7 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 135.9 (s, Ar), 129.0 (s, Ar), 128.6 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 32.0 Hz, C-CF<sub>3</sub>), 125.5 (s, Ar), 124.5 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 270.0 Hz, -CF<sub>3</sub>), 122.3 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 119.4 (s, Ar), 109.1 (s, Ar), 35.3 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.8 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.7 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.8 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 319.1422, found 319.1435.

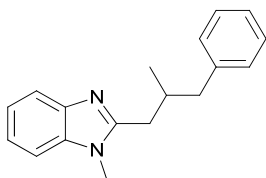


**2-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3i):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 77%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.73-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.95 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.84 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (qn, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 161.4 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 240.0 Hz, C-F), 154.8 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 136.5 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 97.5 Hz, C-C-F), 129.9 (s, Ar), 129.8 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 121.8 (s, Ar), 119.2 (s, Ar), 115.3 (s, Ar), 115.0 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 34.5 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.6 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 269.1454, found 269.1462.

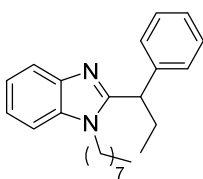


**2-(3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)propyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3j):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 83%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.72-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3H), 6.72-6.61 (m, 3H), 5.89 (s, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.83 (t,

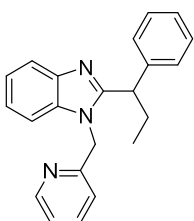
$^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H). 2.69 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.15 (qn,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.8 (s, Ar), 147.6 (s, Ar), 145.7 (s, Ar), 142.5 (s, Ar), 135.7 (s, Ar), 135.2 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 121.2 (s, Ar), 119.0 (s, Ar), 108.9 (s, Ar), 108.1 (s, Ar), 100.7 (s, Ar), 35.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.5 (s, N- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 29.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 295.1446, found 295.1459.



**1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-3-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3k):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 67%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.73-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 8H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.93-2.86 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.59 (m, 3H), 2.46-2.34 (m, 1H), 0.99 (d,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 9.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.4 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 140.4 (s, Ar), 135.7 (s, Ar), 129.3 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 126.1 (s, Ar), 122.0 (s, Ar), 121.8 (s, Ar), 119.1 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 43.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 34.9 (s, CH), 34.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.7 (s, N- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 19.8 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1717.

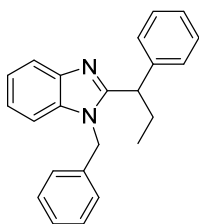


**1-octyl-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4l):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 79%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.17 (m, 8H), 3.97 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 9.0$  Hz), 3.92 (d, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz), 2.53-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.10 (m, 1H), 1.24-1.17 (m, 12H), 0.98 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz), 0.86 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.8 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.7 (s, Ar), 135.2 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 126.9 (s, Ar), 122.0 (s, Ar), 121.6 (s, Ar), 119.6 (s, Ar), 109.3 (s, Ar), 46.4 (s, CH), 43.6 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 31.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.4 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.2 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.9 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.6 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 14.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 12.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 349.2644, found 349.2650.

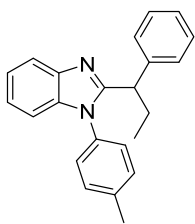


**2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4m):** The reaction was

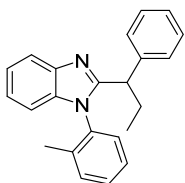
performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 70%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.54 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4.0$  Hz), 7.87 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.34-7.07 (m, 10H), 6.27 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 5.32 (AB quartet, 2H,  $^2J_{\text{HH}} = 13.3$  Hz), 3.97 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz), 2.52-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.11 (m, 1H), 0.91 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.4 (s, Ar), 155.9 (s, Ar), 149.4 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.0 (s, Ar), 136.8 (s, Ar), 135.4 (s, Ar), 128.6 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 126.8 (s, Ar), 122.5 (s, Ar), 122.4 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 120.2 (s, Ar), 119.7 (s, Ar), 109.3 (s, Ar), 48.6 (s, CH), 46.2 (s, N- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 12.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 328.1814, found 328.1823.



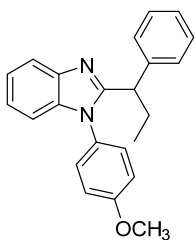
**1-benzyl-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4n):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 81%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.87 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.26-7.12 (m, 11H), 6.89-6.86 (m, 2H), 5.15 (AB quartet, 2H,  $^2J_{\text{HH}} = 22.4$  Hz), 3.88 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.50-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.08 (m, 1H), 0.89 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.3 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 135.6 (s, Ar), 128.8 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 127.7 (s, Ar), 126.9 (s, Ar), 126.1 (s, Ar), 122.4 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 119.7 (s, Ar), 109.5 (s, Ar), 46.7 (s, CH), 46.3 (s, N- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 12.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 327.1861, found 327.1866.



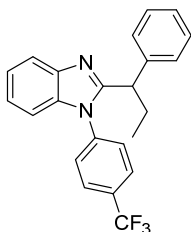
**2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4o):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 94%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.88 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.28-7.11 (m, 11H), 6.99 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 3.84 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.53-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.17-2.06 (m, 1H), 0.90 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.5 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 141.7 (s, Ar), 138.9 (s, Ar), 136.8 (s, Ar), 133.0 (s, Ar), 130.1 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 126.5 (s, Ar), 122.4 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 119.4 (s, Ar), 110.0 (s, Ar), 45.9 (s, CH), 29.2 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 21.2 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 12.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 327.1861, found 327.1875.



**2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1-(o-tolyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4p):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 88%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.89 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.41-7.02 (m, 10H), 6.82 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 6.54 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 3.53 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.51-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.15-2.04 (m, 1H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 0.91 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.3 (s, Ar), 142.8 (s, Ar), 141.7 (s, Ar), 136.3 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 134.4 (s, Ar), 131.1 (s, Ar), 129.6 (s, Ar), 129.5 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.1 (s, Ar), 126.8 (s, Ar), 126.6 (s, Ar), 122.6 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 119.6 (s, Ar), 109.9 (s, Ar), 46.6 (s, CH), 29.2 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 17.3 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 12.8 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 327.1861, found 327.1870.

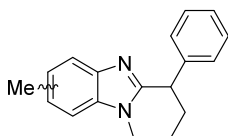


**1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4q):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 79%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.86 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.27-7.08 (m, 11H), 6.97 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.80 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.50-2.39 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.04 (m, 1H), 0.89 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  159.8 (s, Ar), 156.8 (s, Ar), 142.5 (s, Ar), 141.7 (s, Ar), 137.0 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.1 (s, Ar), 126.6 (s, Ar), 122.5 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 119.4 (s, Ar), 114.7 (s, Ar), 110.0 (s, Ar), 55.6 (s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 46.0 (s, CH), 29.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 12.6 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 343.1810, found 343.1822.

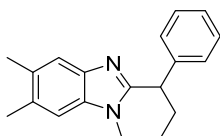


**2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4r):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 88%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.89 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.71 (br s, 2H), 7.31-7.13 (m, 7H), 7.04-6.97 (m, 3H), 3.78 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.53-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.16-2.06 (m, 1H), 0.90 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.1 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 139.1 (s, Ar), 136.4 (s, Ar), 131.1 (q,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 33.3$  Hz, C- $\text{CF}_3$ ), 128.5 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 127.3-119.6 (q,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} =$

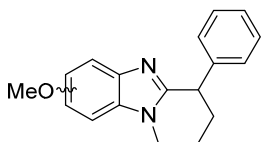
256 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 126.8 (s, Ar), 123.1 (s, Ar), 122.7 (s, Ar), 119.8 (s, Ar), 109.7 (s, Ar), 46.3 (s, CH), 29.2 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.5 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 381.1578, found 381.1588.



**1,5/6-dimethyl-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4s):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 92%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.69 (d, 0.5H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0 Hz), 7.61 (s, 0.5H), 7.28-7.01 (m, 7H), 3.96 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz), 3.47 (s, 1.5H), 3.45 (s, 1.5H), 2.56-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.22-2.07 (m, 1H), 0.98 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 156.1 (s, Ar), 155.7 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 140.5 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 134.0 (s, Ar), 132.0 (s, Ar), 131.3 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 126.8 (s, Ar), 123.5 (s, Ar), 123.2 (s, Ar), 119.4 (s, Ar), 119.0 (s, Ar), 108.9 (s, Ar), 108.4 (s, Ar), 46.3 (s, CH), 29.5 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.7 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.8 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.5 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 265.1705, found 265.1712.

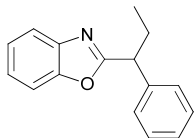


**1,5,6-trimethyl-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4t):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 91%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.26-7.17 (m, 5H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 3.95 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz), 3.44 (s, 3H), 2.52-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.19-2.08 (m, 1H), 0.97 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 155.4 (s, Ar), 141.4 (s, Ar), 141.0 (s, Ar), 134.5 (s, Ar), 131.1 (s, Ar), 130.3 (q, CF<sub>3</sub>), 128.6 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 126.8 (s, Ar), 119.7 (s, Ar), 109.2 (s, Ar), 46.3 (s, CH), 29.6 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.7 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.4 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.2 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 279.1861, found 279.1870.

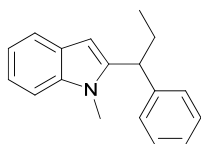


**5/6-methoxy-1-methyl-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4u):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 77%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.73 (d, 0.5H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 9.0 Hz), 7.38 (d, 0.5H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 7.30-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.14 (d, 0.5H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 9.0 Hz), 6.91 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 9.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 2.4 Hz), 6.73 (d, 0.5H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 3.99 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz), 3.89 (s, 1.5H), 3.87 (s, 1.5H), 3.52 (s, 1.5H), 3.48 (s, 1.5H), 2.57-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.24-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.02 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 156.4 (s, Ar), 156.3 (s, Ar), 155.9 (s, Ar), 155.5 (s, Ar), 143.1 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 141.2 (s, Ar), 136.9 (s,

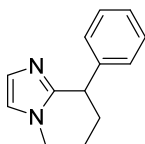
Ar), 136.5 (s, Ar), 130.5 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 128.0 (s, Ar), 126.8 (s, Ar), 120.0 (s, Ar), 112.0 (s, Ar), 110.5 (s, Ar), 109.2 (s, Ar), 102.0 (s, Ar), 93.0 (s, Ar), 55.9 (s, Ar-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.8 (s, Ar-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 46.4 (s, CH), 29.6 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.7 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 281.1654, found 281.1667.



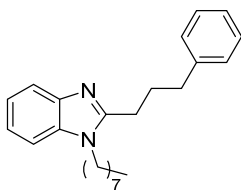
**2-(1-phenylpropyl)benzo[d]oxazole (4v):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 62%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.73-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.24 (m, 8H), 4.13 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz), 2.49-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.08 (m, 1H), 0.99 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.3 (s, Ar), 150.9 (s, Ar), 141.4 (s, Ar), 140.0 (s, Ar), 128.9 (s, Ar), 128.1 (s, Ar), 127.4 (s, Ar), 124.7 (s, Ar), 124.2 (s, Ar), 120.0 (s, Ar), 110.6 (s, Ar), 48.0 (s, CH), 27.8 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.5 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (EI):  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ON ([M]<sup>+</sup>) 237.1160, found 237.1154.



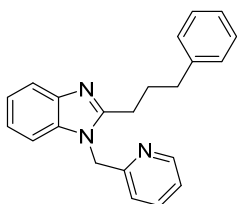
**1-methyl-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-indole (4w):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 58%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.65-7.62 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.30-7.08 (m, 8H, Ar), 6.54 (s, 1H), 3.93 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.44 (s, 3H, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.33-2.19 (m, 1H), 2.09-1.94 (m, 1H), 1.03 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 143.4 (s, Ar), 143.4 (s, Ar), 137.7 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 127.9 (s, Ar), 126.6 (s, Ar), 121.0 (s, Ar), 120.3 (s, Ar), 119.4 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 99.2 (s, Ar), 46.1 (s, CH), 29.9 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.5 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.0 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (EI):  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N ([M]<sup>+</sup>) 249.1517, found 249.1514.



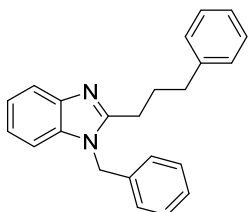
**1-methyl-2-(1-phenylpropyl)-1H-imidazole (4x):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A. Yield: 45%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.27-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 3H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.76 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz), 3.34 (s, 3H), 2.37-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.06-1.97 (m, 1H), 0.92 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 149.6 (s, Ar), 142.0 (s, Ar), 128.6 (s, Ar), 127.9 (s, Ar), 127.0 (s, Ar), 126.5 (s, Ar), 120.6 (s, Ar), 45.6 (s, CH), 32.5 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.8 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.6 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (FAB):  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 201.1392, found 201.1394.



**1-octyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3l):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 73%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.72-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 8H), 3.97 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.83 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.79 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.24 (qn, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 1.72-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.27-1.24 (m, 10H), 0.87 (t, 3H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.3 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 141.2 (s, Ar), 134.8 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.2 (s, Ar), 125.8 (s, Ar), 121.6 (s, Ar), 121.4 (s, Ar), 118.9 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 43.3 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 35.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 31.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.6 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.9 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.9 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.3 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.4 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 13.9 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 349.2644, found 349.2657.

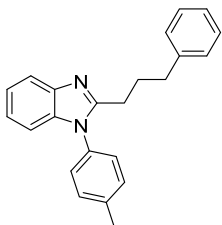


**2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3m):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 62%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.57 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4.0$  Hz), 7.75 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.53-7.49 (td, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 1.6$  Hz), 7.24-7.11 (m, 9H), 6.65 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 5.37 (s, 2H), 2.87 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.72 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz), 2.18 (qn, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.9 (s, Ar), 155.1 (s, Ar), 149.7 (s, Ar), 142.8 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 137.2 (s, Ar), 135.2 (s, Ar), 128.4 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 125.9 (s, Ar), 122.8 (s, Ar), 122.4 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 120.3 (s, Ar), 119.4 (s, Ar), 109.3 (s, Ar), 48.8 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 35.3 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.9 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.8 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 328.1814, found 328.1821.

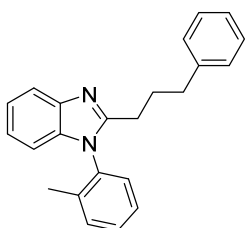


**1-benzyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3n):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 67%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.75 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.25-7.10 (m, 11H), 6.97-6.95 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 2.81 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.71 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.15 (qn, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):

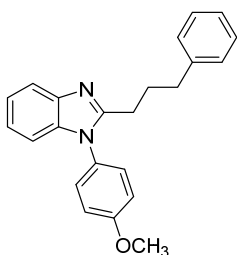
$\delta$  154.9 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 135.9 (s, Ar), 135.4 (s, Ar), 128.8 (s, Ar), 128.4 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 127.7 (s, Ar), 126.1 (s, Ar), 125.8 (s, Ar), 122.2 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 119.2 (s, Ar), 109.3 (s, Ar), 46.7 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.2 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.8 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.7 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 327.1861, found 327.1870.



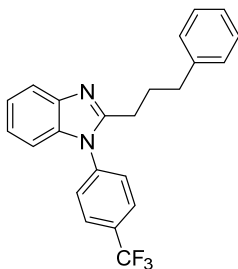
**2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3o):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 73%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.79 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz), 7.33-7.08 (m, 12H), 2.80 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz), 2.66 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.11 (qn, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 9.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  154.9 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 138.8 (s, Ar), 136.6 (s, Ar), 133.2 (s, Ar), 130.4 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.2 (s, Ar), 127.0 (s, Ar), 125.7 (s, Ar), 122.4 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 119.0 (s, Ar), 109.9 (s, Ar), 35.2 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.1 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.1 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 327.1861, found 327.1876.



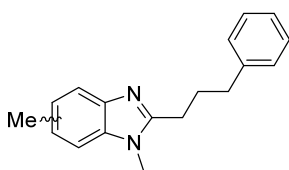
**2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1-(o-tolyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3p):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 65%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.80 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz), 7.46-7.07 (m, 11H), 6.89 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz), 2.74-2.61 (m, 4H), 2.16-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.93 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  154.9 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 136.3 (s, Ar), 136.1 (s, Ar), 134.6 (s, Ar), 131.4 (s, Ar), 129.5 (s, Ar), 128.5 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.2 (s, Ar), 127.2 (s, Ar), 125.8 (s, Ar), 122.4 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 119.1 (s, Ar), 109.9 (s, Ar), 35.2 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.9 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.0 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 17.2 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 327.1861, found 327.1874.



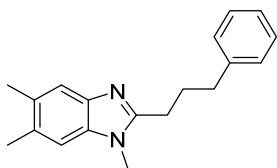
**1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3q):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 69%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.78 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.27-7.00 (m, 12H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.78 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.66 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz), 2.11 (qn, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  159.6 (s, Ar), 155.1 (s, Ar), 142.5 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 136.8 (s, Ar), 128.4 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.2 (s, Ar), 125.7 (s, Ar), 122.3 (s, Ar), 122.1 (s, Ar), 119.0 (s, Ar), 114.9 (s, Ar), 109.8 (s, Ar), 55.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 35.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 27.0 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 343.1810, found 343.1822.



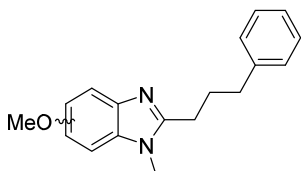
**2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3r):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 81%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.79 (d, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.79 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.41 (d, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.31-7.05 (m, 8H), 2.79 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.67 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz), 2.12 (qn, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.4 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.1 (s, Ar), 139.2 (s, Ar), 136.0 (s, Ar), 130.9 (q,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 33.3$  Hz,  $\text{C}-\text{CF}_3$ ), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 127.5 (s, Ar), 127.1 (s, Ar), 127.1 (s, Ar), 125.9 (s, Ar), 123.3 (q,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 270$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 123.0 (s, Ar), 122.8 (s, Ar), 119.4 (s, Ar), 109.6 (s, Ar), 35.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.9 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 381.1578, found 381.1588.



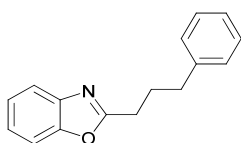
**1,5/6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3s):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 87%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.60 (d, 0.5H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.52 (s, 0.5H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.10-7.02 (m, 2H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 2.81-2.74 (m, 4H), 2.48 (s, 1.5H), 2.47 (s, 1.5H), 2.19 (qnd, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz,  $^2J_{\text{HH}} = 2.4$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  154.6 (s, Ar), 154.2 (s, Ar), 142.7 (s, Ar), 141.2 (s, Ar), 140.5 (s, Ar), 135.8 (s, Ar), 133.7 (s, Ar), 131.6 (s, Ar), 131.0 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 128.2 (s, Ar), 125.8 (s, Ar), 123.1 (s, Ar), 123.0 (s, Ar), 118.8 (s, Ar), 118.4 (s, Ar), 108.7 (s, Ar), 108.2 (s, Ar), 35.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.3 (s,  $\text{N}-\text{CH}_3$ ), 29.2 (s,  $\text{N}-\text{CH}_3$ ), 28.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 21.6 (s,  $\text{Ar}-\text{CH}_3$ ), 21.3 (s,  $\text{Ar}-\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1713.



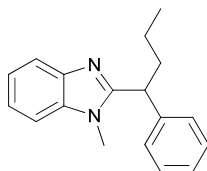
**1,5,6-trimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3t):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 83%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.48 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.82 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$  Hz), 2.76 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.19 (qn, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  153.9 (s, Ar), 141.4 (s, Ar), 141.1 (s, Ar), 134.2 (s, Ar), 130.7 (s, Ar), 130.2 (s, Ar), 128.4 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 125.8 (s, Ar), 119.2 (s, Ar), 109.1 (s, Ar), 35.2 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.4 (s, N- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 28.9 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.6 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 20.4 (s, Ar- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 20.1 (s, Ar- $\text{CH}_3$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 279.1861, found 279.1872.



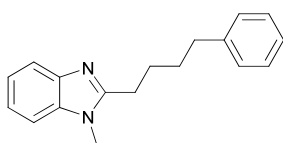
**5/6-methoxy-1-methyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (3u):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 88%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.57 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz), 7.28-7.15 (m, 5H), 6.86 (d, 0.5H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4.0$  Hz), 6.84 (d, 0.5H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4.0$  Hz), 6.71 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 2.4$  Hz), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.83-2.74 (m, 4H), 2.18 (qn, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.1 (s, Ar), 154.0 (s, Ar), 141.4 (s, Ar), 137.0 (s, Ar), 136.3 (s, Ar), 128.4 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 125.9 (s, Ar), 119.4 (s, Ar), 110.4 (s, Ar), 93.1 (s, Ar), 55.9 (s, O- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 35.2 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.5 (s, N- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 28.8 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 281.1654, found 281.1660.



**2-(3-phenylpropyl)benzo[d]oxazole (3x):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B. Yield: 74%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.68-7.65 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.48-7.43 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.30-7.16 (m, 7H, Ar), 2.94 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.75 (t, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.22 (qn,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  167.1 (s, Ar), 151.0 (s, Ar), 141.6 (s, Ar), 141.3 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 128.7 (s, Ar), 126.3 (s, Ar), 124.7 (s, Ar), 124.3 (s, Ar), 119.8 (s, Ar), 110.5 (s, Ar), 35.3 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.5 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.2 (s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ). HR-MS (FAB):  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{ON}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 238.1232, found 238.1236.



**1-methyl-2-(1-phenylbutyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (11-B):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure A.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.87-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.15 (m, 8H), 4.10 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 2.52-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.10 (m, 1H), 1.47-1.24 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.5 (s, Ar), 142.5 (s, Ar), 141.4 (s, Ar), 136.0 (s, Ar), 128.9 (s, Ar), 128.2 (s, Ar), 127.0 (s, Ar), 122.3 (s, Ar), 121.8 (s, Ar), 119.7 (s, Ar), 109.0 (s, Ar), 44.4 (s, CH), 37.7 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.8 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.1 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.1 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (EI):  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}^+]$ ) 264.1626, found 264.1623.

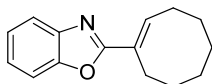


**1-methyl-2-(4-phenylbutyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (11-L):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure B.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.74-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.14 (m, 8H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.88 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.69 (t,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.97-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.83-1.73 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.1 (s, Ar), 142.5 (s, Ar), 142.1 (s, Ar), 135.7 (s, Ar), 128.4 (s, Ar), 128.3 (s, Ar), 125.8 (s, Ar), 121.9 (s, Ar), 121.7 (s, Ar), 119.0 (s, Ar), 108.9 (s, Ar), 35.6 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.1 (s, N-CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.6 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.3 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.1 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>). HR-MS (MALDI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) 265.1705, found 265.1711.

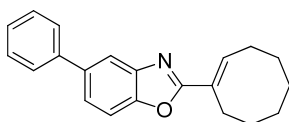
**General procedure for Nickel-mediated alkenylation of benzoxazoles (12-13), and oxazoles (14):** The product **12a** is a representative reaction. To a vial (5 mL) containing  $\text{Ni}(\text{COD})_2$  (14 mg, 0.050 mmol) and IMes (15 mg, 0.050 mmol) was added 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.0 mL) as solvent in a glove box atmosphere. After the substances were completely dissolved in 1,5-cyclooctadiene, the solution was transferred into a screw-capped vial (5 mL) containing benzoxazole (60 mg, 0.50 mmol). The vial was closed and heated at 130 °C for 2 hours. The resulting mixture was filtered through *Celite* and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the crude product, which was further purified by column chromatography using hexane/ethyl acetate (19:1 v/v) as eluent to furnish (E)-2-(cyclooctenyl)-benzoxazole (109 mg, 0.480 mmol) in 96% yield.

**General procedure for Nickel-mediated alkenylation of 1-methylbenzimidazole (15) and caffeine (16):** The product **15a** is a representative reaction. To a screw-capped vial (5 mL) containing  $\text{Ni}(\text{COD})_2$  (14 mg, 0.050 mmol), IMes (15 mg, 0.050 mmol), 1-methylbenzimidazole (66 mg, 0.50 mmol), and potassium *tert*-butoxide (5.6 mg, 0.050 mmol) was added toluene (1.0 mL) followed by the addition of 1,5-cyclooctadiene (43 mg, 0.040 mmol) in a glove box

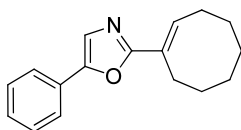
atmosphere. The reaction vial was closed and heated at 80 °C for 2 hours outside of the glove box. The resulting mixture was filtered through *Celite* and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the crude product, which was further purified by column chromatography using hexane/ethyl acetate (4:1 v/v) as eluent to furnish (E)-2-(cyclooctenyl)-1-methyl-benzimidazole **15a** (117 mg, 0.49 mmol) in 97% yield.



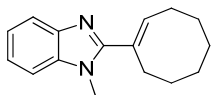
**(E)-2-(cyclooct-1-en-1-yl)benzo[d]oxazole (12a):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure. Yield: 96%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.70-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.42-2.37 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.55-1.51 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 164.3, 150.5, 142.1, 138.1, 129.4, 124.6, 124.1, 119.7, 110.1, 29.5, 29.0, 27.2, 26.5, 26.0, 25.6. HR-MS (EI): calculated for: [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup>: 227.1310. Found: 227.1308.



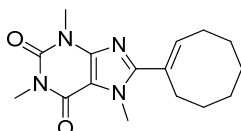
**(E)-2-(cyclooct-1-en-1-yl)-5-phenylbenzo[d]oxazole (13a):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure. Yield: 66%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44-2.39 (m, 2H), 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.66-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.53-1.52 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 164.9, 150.0, 142.7, 141.2, 138.3, 137.9, 129.4, 128.8, 127.3, 127.1, 124.2, 118.2, 110.1, 29.5, 29.0, 27.2, 26.5, 26.0, 25.6. HR-MS (FAB): calculated for: [C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ON]<sup>+</sup>: 303.1623. Found: 303.1629.



**(E)-2-(cyclooct-1-en-1-yl)-5-phenyloxazole (14a):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure. Yield: 92%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.2, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.37-2.31 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.50 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.5, 150.3, 134.0, 129.1, 128.7, 128.0, 128.2, 123.9, 122.8, 29.5, 28.9, 26.9, 26.5, 26.0, 25.4. HR-MS (EI): calculated for: [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup>: 253.1467. Found: 253.1460.



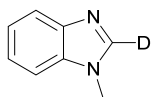
**(E)-2-(cyclooct-1-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (15a):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure. Yield: 97%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.75-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.06 (t,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.75-2.71 (m, 2H), 2.36 (dd,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 11.4, 2H), 1.66-1.59 (m, 8H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.6, 142.4, 136.1, 135.8, 131.6, 122.1, 121.8, 119.3, 109.2, 31.6, 29.3, 29.0, 28.9, 26.9, 26.4, 26.1. HR-MS (EI): calculated for:  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2]^+$ : 240.1626. Found: 240.1620.



**(E)-8-(cyclooct-1-en-1-yl)-1,3,7-trimethyl-1H-purine-2,6(3H,7H)-dione (16a):** The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure. Yield: 93%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.07 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 2.65-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.33 (m, 2H), 1.66-1.56 (m, 8H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.4, 154.2, 151.7, 147.9, 136.8, 130.5, 107.7, 33.9, 29.6, 29.4, 29.1, 28.8, 27.8, 27.1, 26.6, 26.2. HR-MS (EI): calculated for:  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2]^+$ : 302.1743. Found: 302.1735.

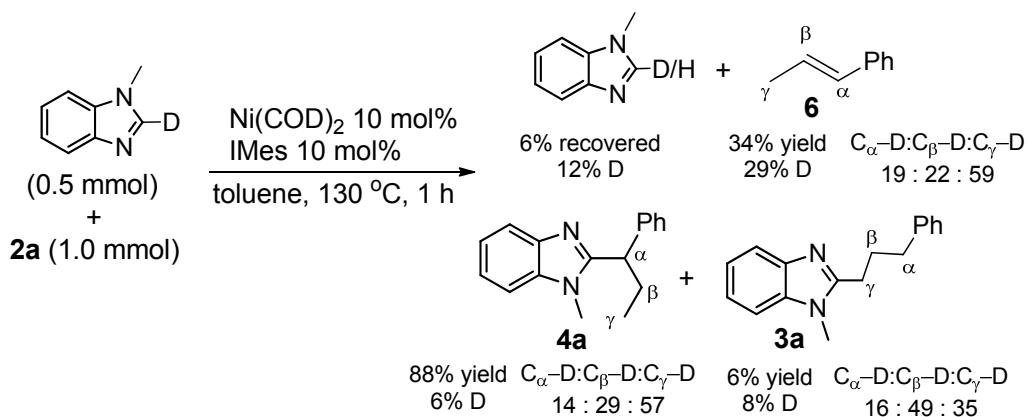
## Mechanism study

### (a) Synthesis of 1-methylbenzimidazole-d



A 50 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a stir-bar was charged with 1-methylbenzimidazole (1.32 g, 10 mmol) in diethyl ether (40 mL) under nitrogen. The solution was cooled to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  and *n*-butyllithium (4.8 mL of 2.5 M in hexane solution, 12 mmol) was added dropwise followed by removing the slush bath. After 20 minutes the temperature was lowered to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  again, followed by slow addition of  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (2 mL). The solution was then slowly warmed to room temperature. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography using ethyl acetate as eluent to give amber oil (1.02 g, 77%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.78 (d,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.36-7.24 (m, 3H, Ar), 3.78 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 143.8 (s, Ar), 143.4 (1:1:1 triplet,  $^1J_{\text{CD}} = 40$  Hz, C-D), 134.6 (s, Ar), 123.0 (s, Ar), 122.2 (s, Ar), 120.4 (s, Ar), 109.5 (s, Ar), 31.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

## (b) Isotopic labeling Experiments

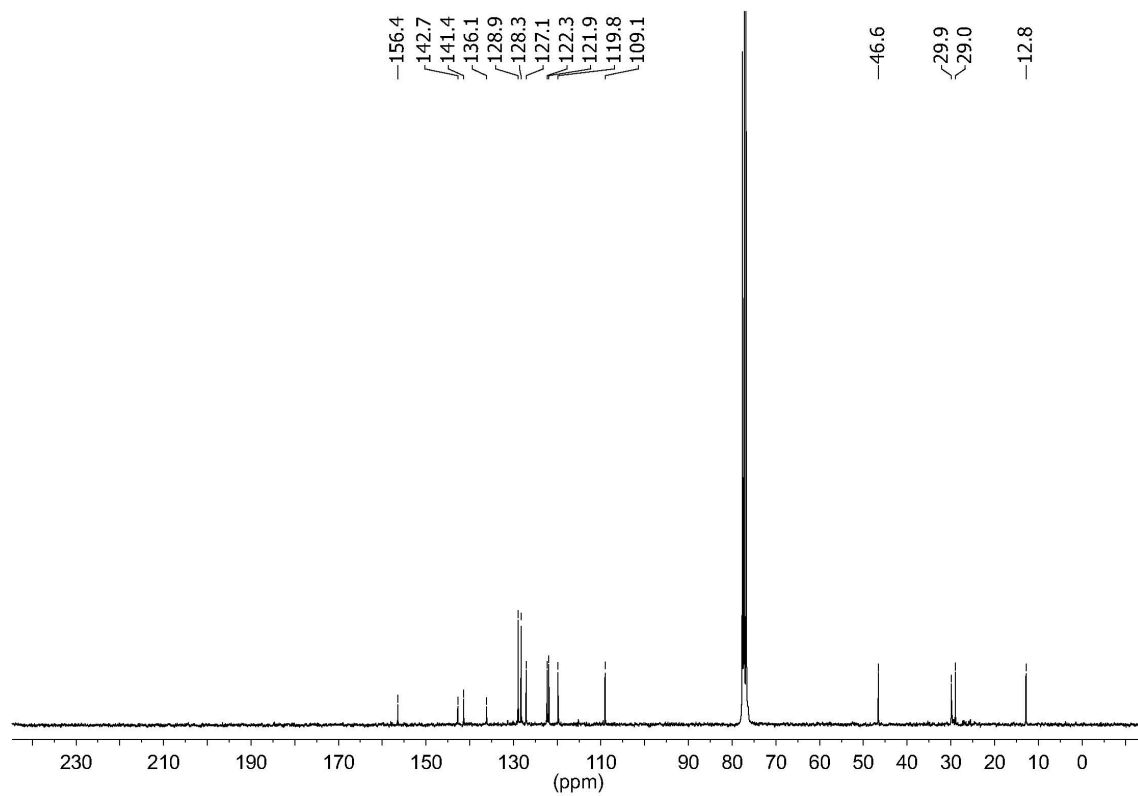
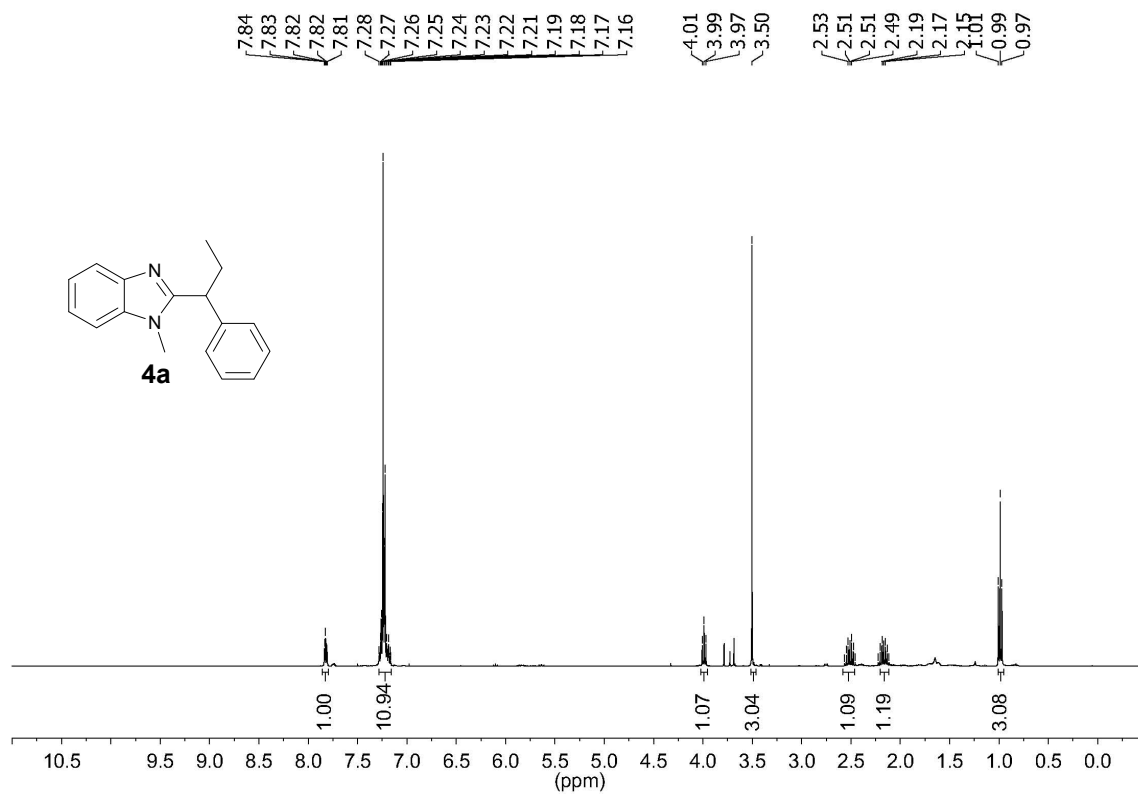


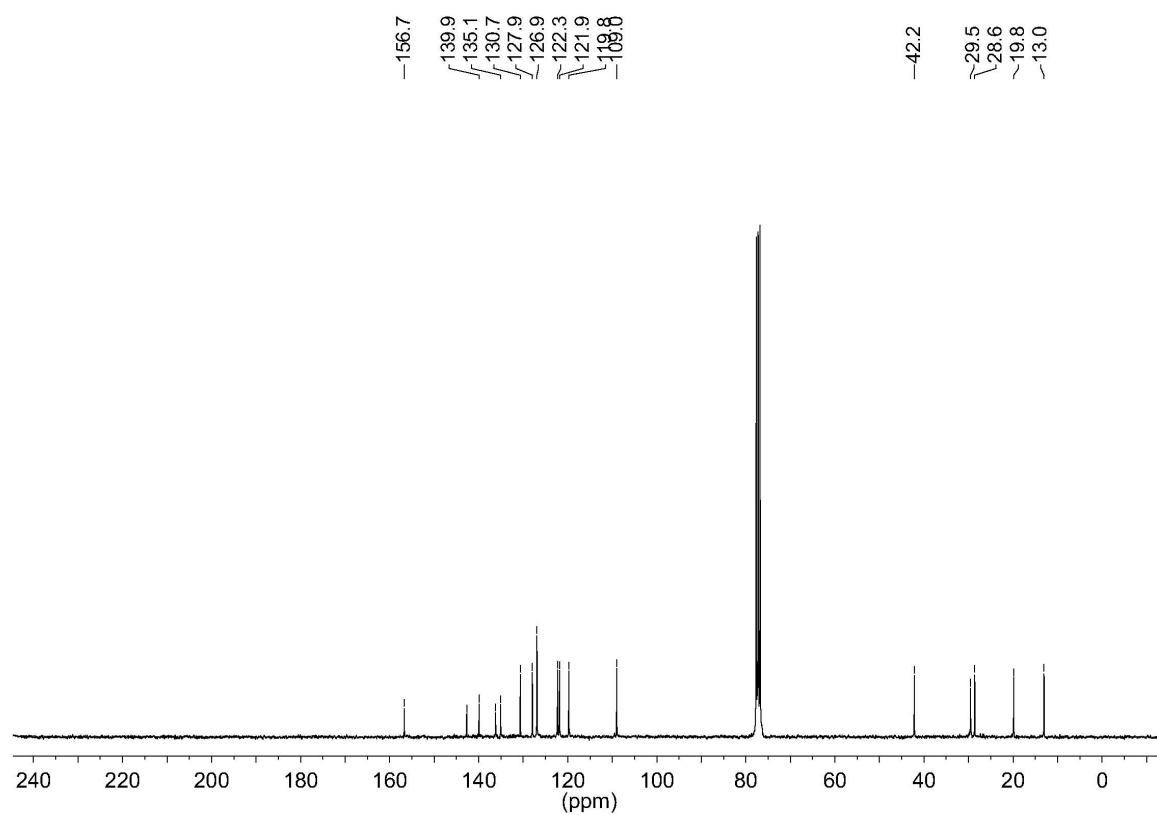
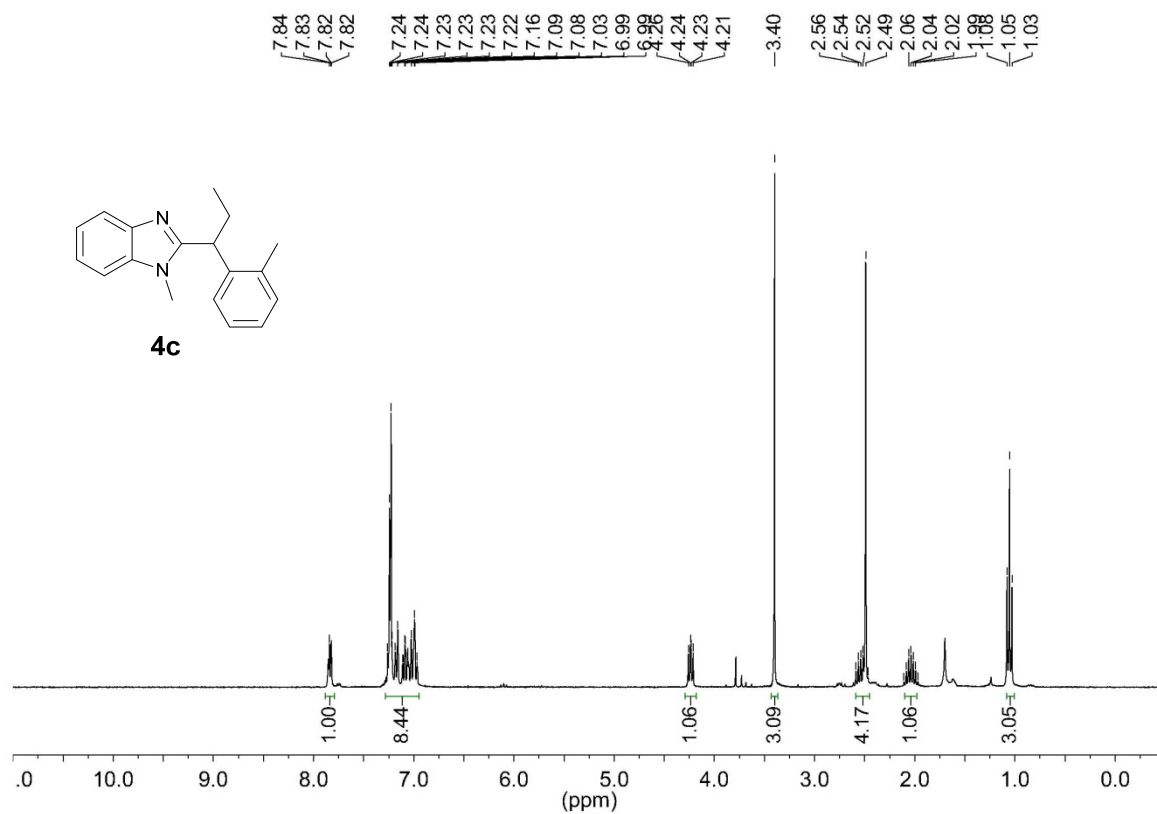
To the toluene solution of Ni(COD)<sub>2</sub> (14 mg, 0.05 mmol), IMes (14 mg, 0.05 mmol), and 1-methylbenzimidazole-d (0.5 mmol) was added allylbenzene (1.0 mmol) into the vial. After the vial was screw-capped, the reaction solution was taken outside the glovebox and heated at 130 °C for 1 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through *Celite* and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate solution was concentrated in *vacuo* to afford crude product. The crude was further purified by flash chromatography using hexane/ethyl acetate (3:1) as eluent.

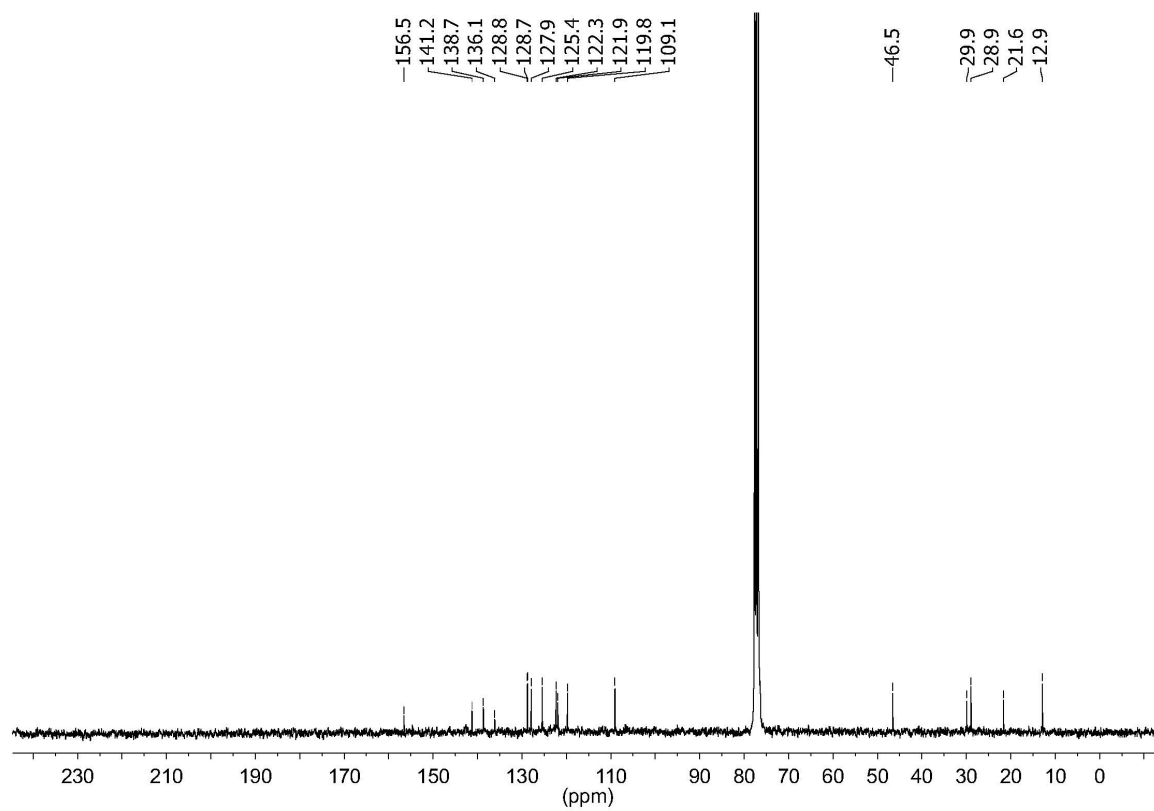
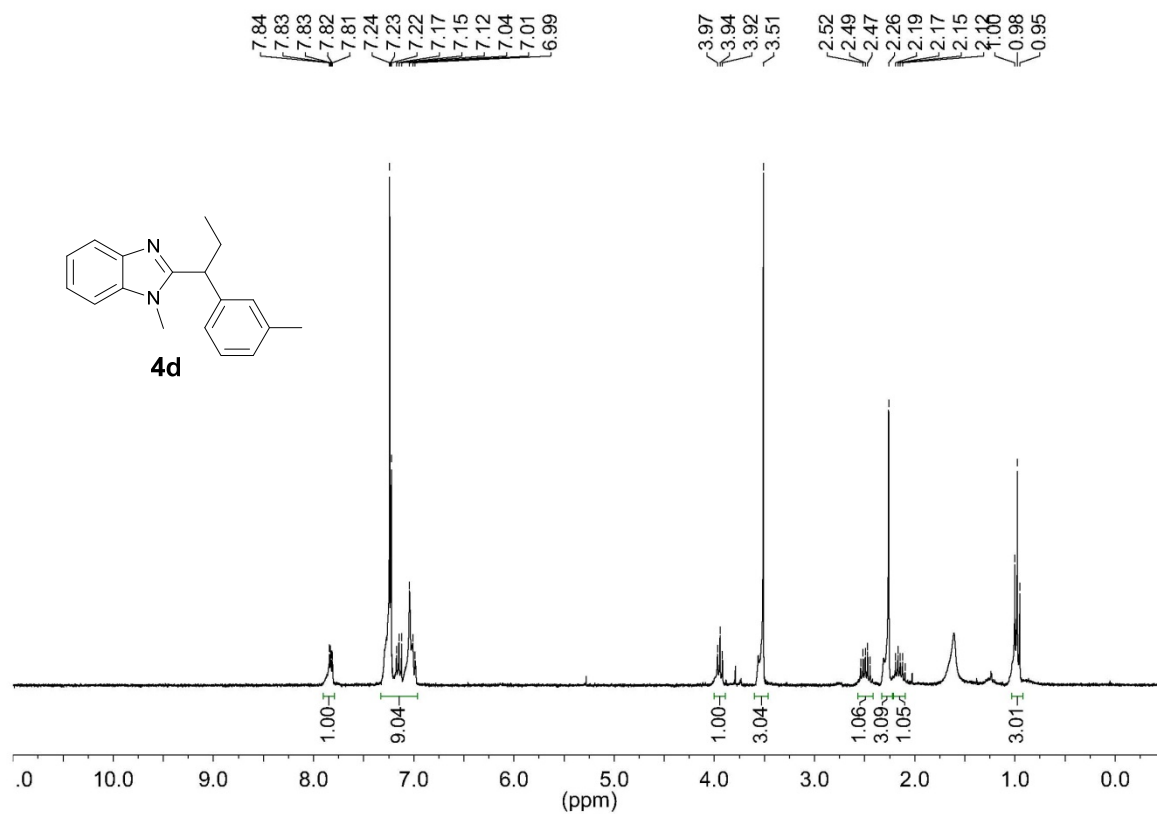
Deuterium-labeling experiments were performed. Reaction of C2-deuterated **1a** with **2a** shows deuteration at α, β and γ positions of **4a**, the isomerized **6**, as well as the loss of deuteration and H/D scrambling in [D<sub>1</sub>]-**1a**, revealing that the C-H bond cleavage and migratory insertion steps are reversible. These results may suggest that the final reductive elimination step could be the rate-determining step, which has been discussed for the nickel-catalyzed hydroheteroarylation<sup>6</sup> and hydroalkynylation<sup>7</sup> of vinylarenes.

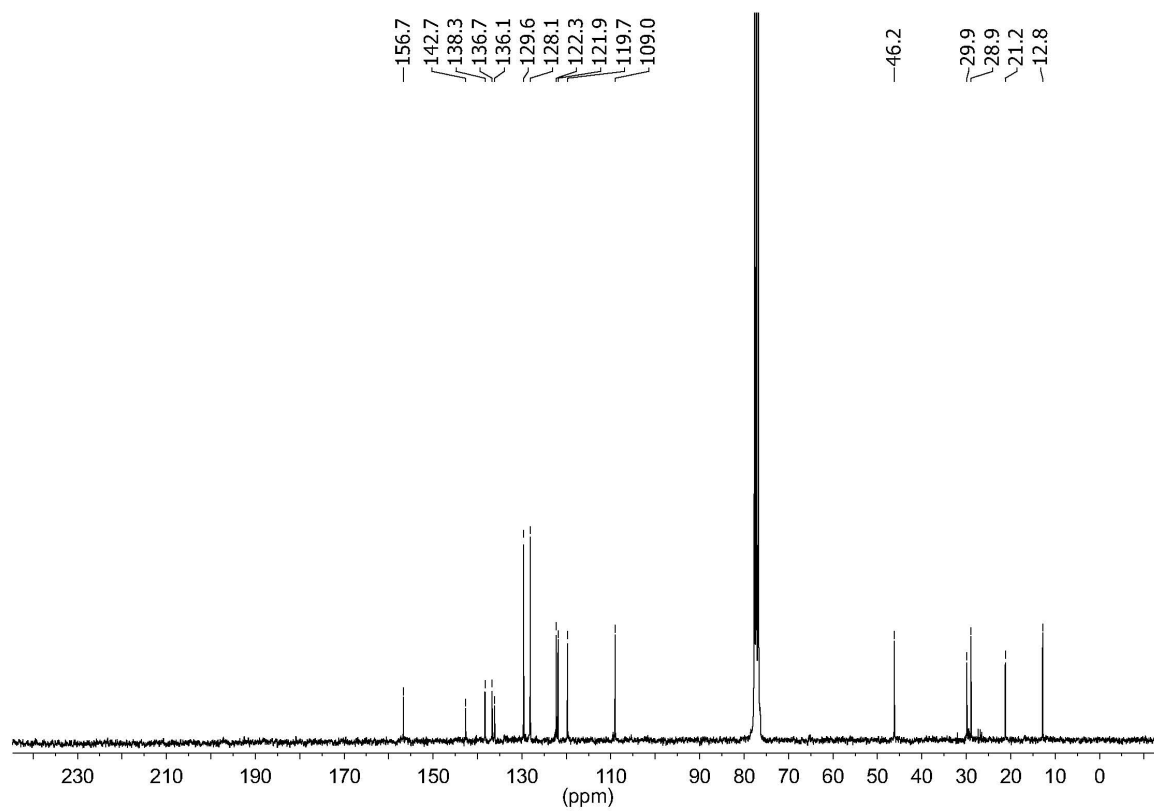
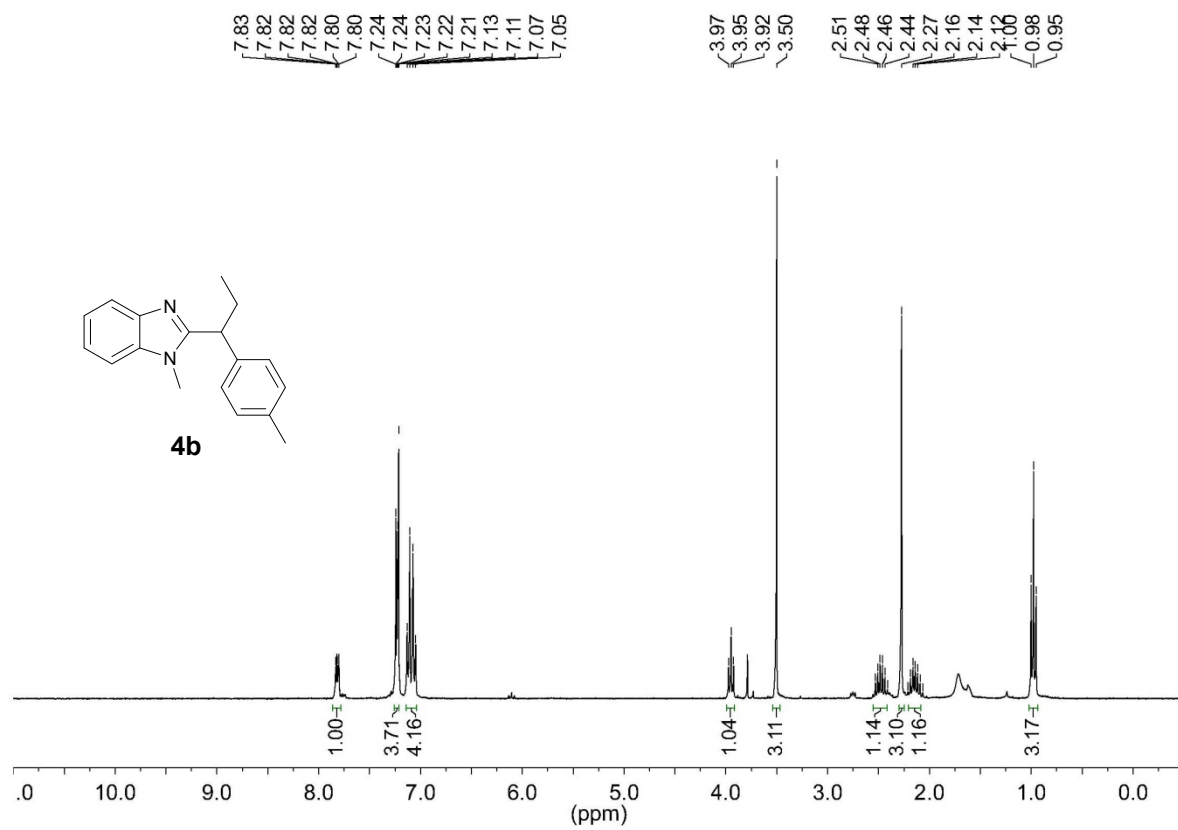
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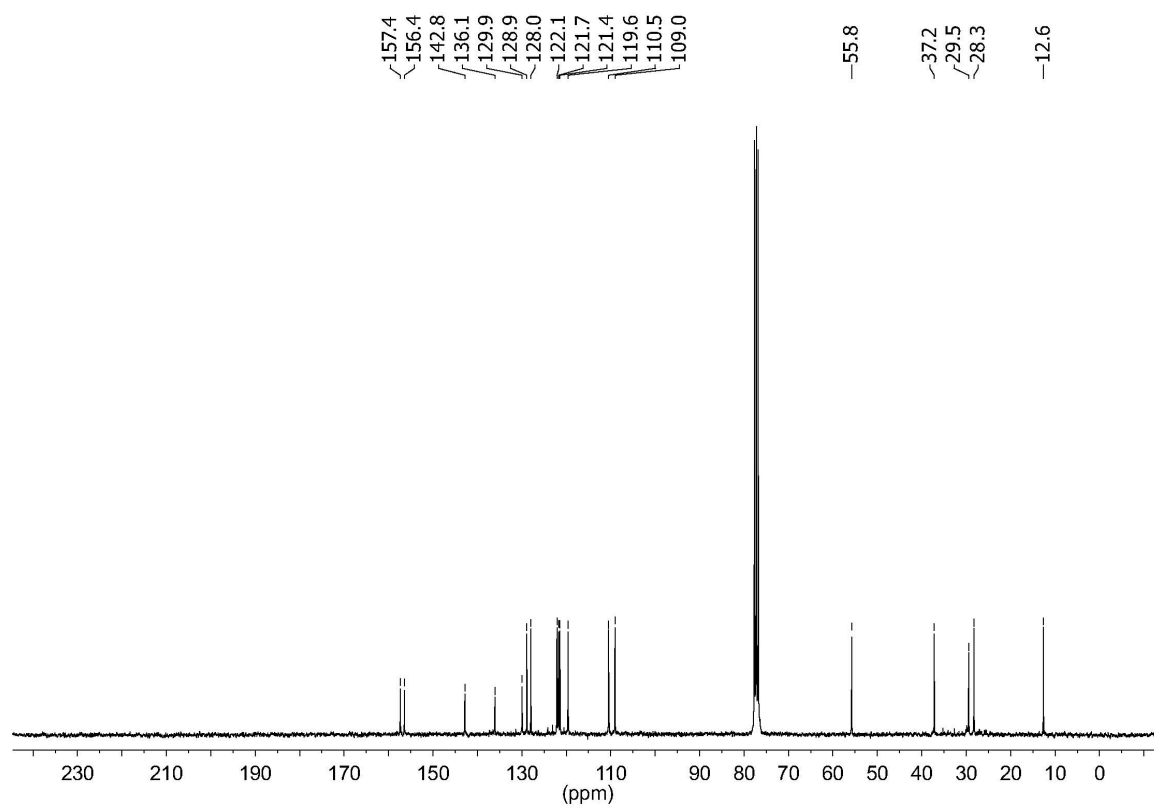
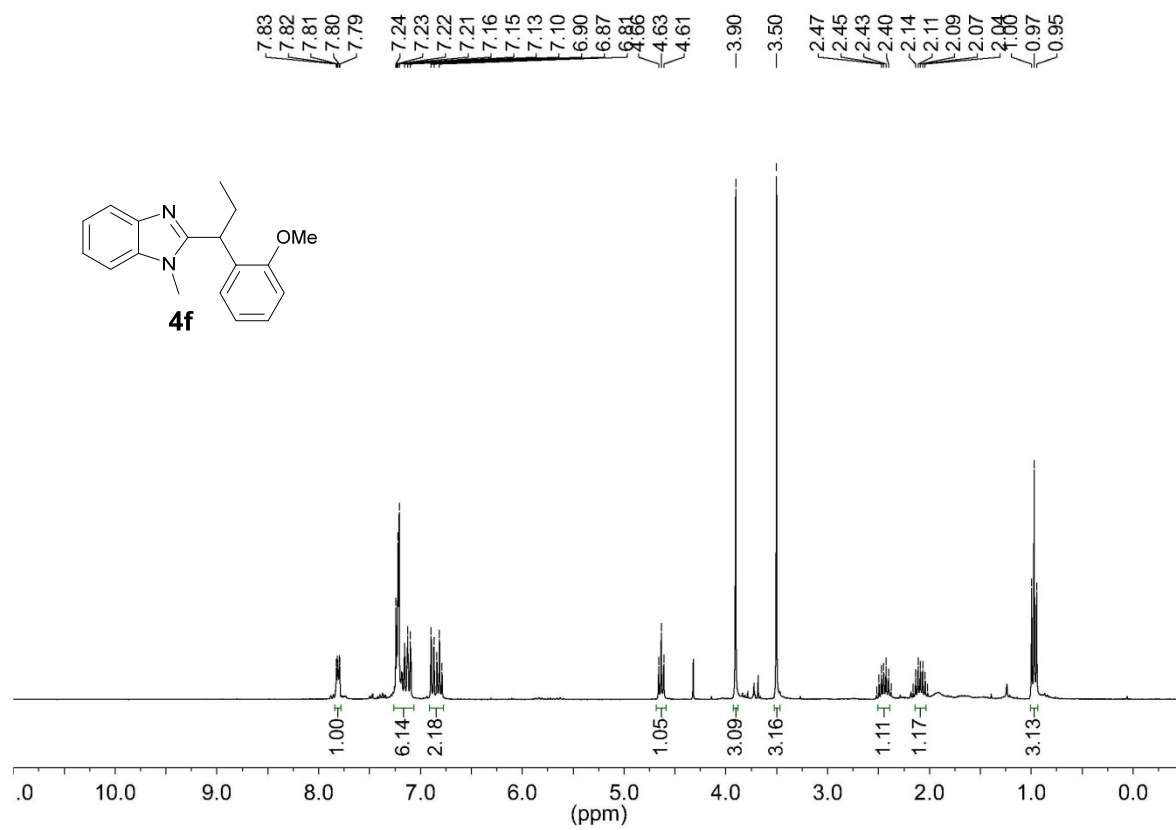
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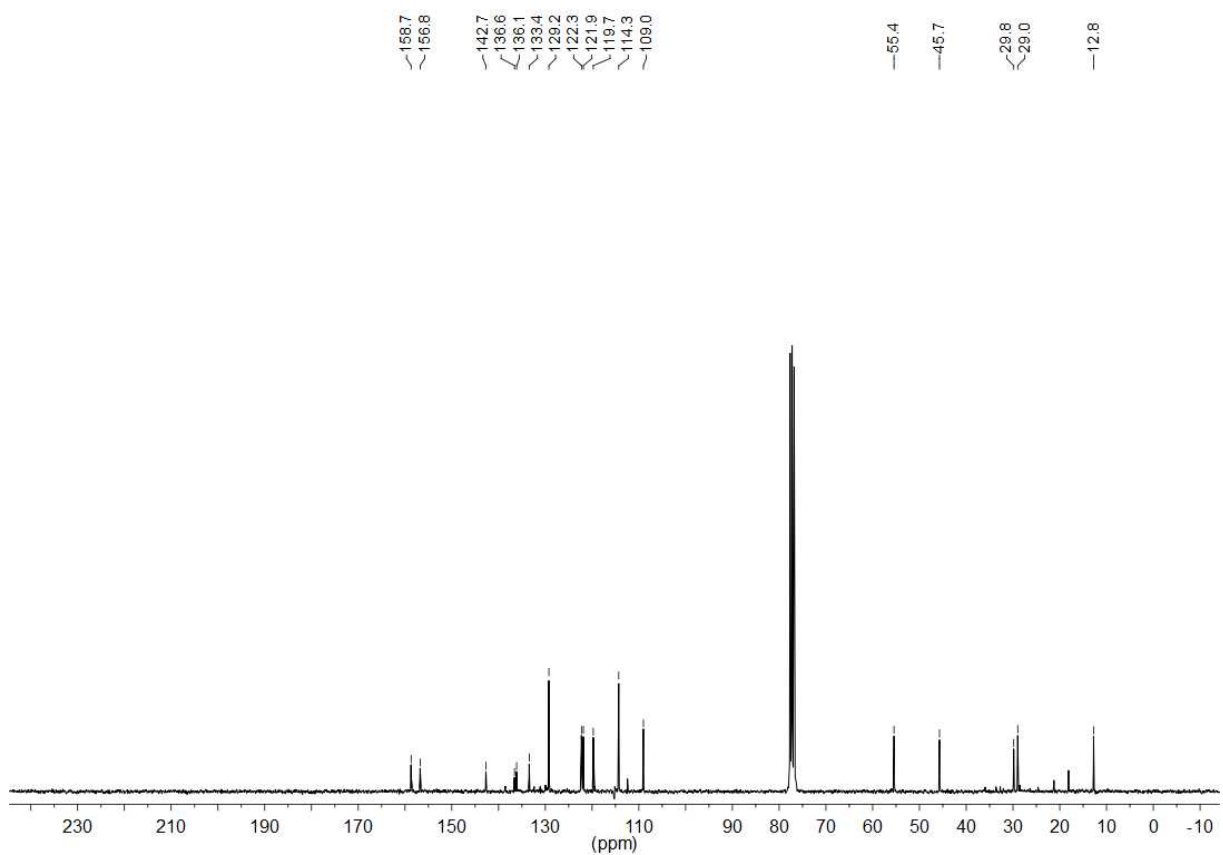
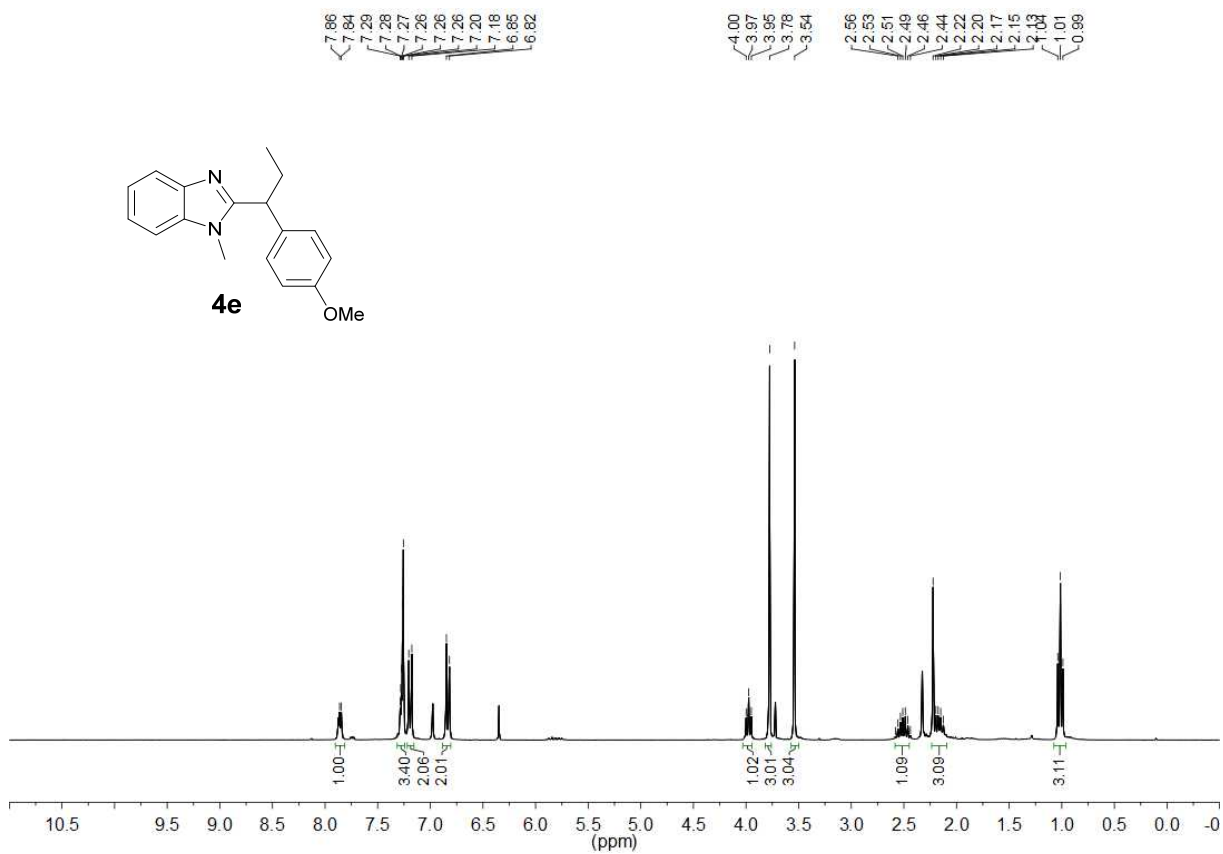
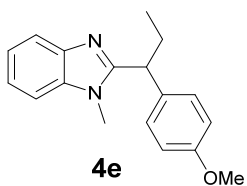


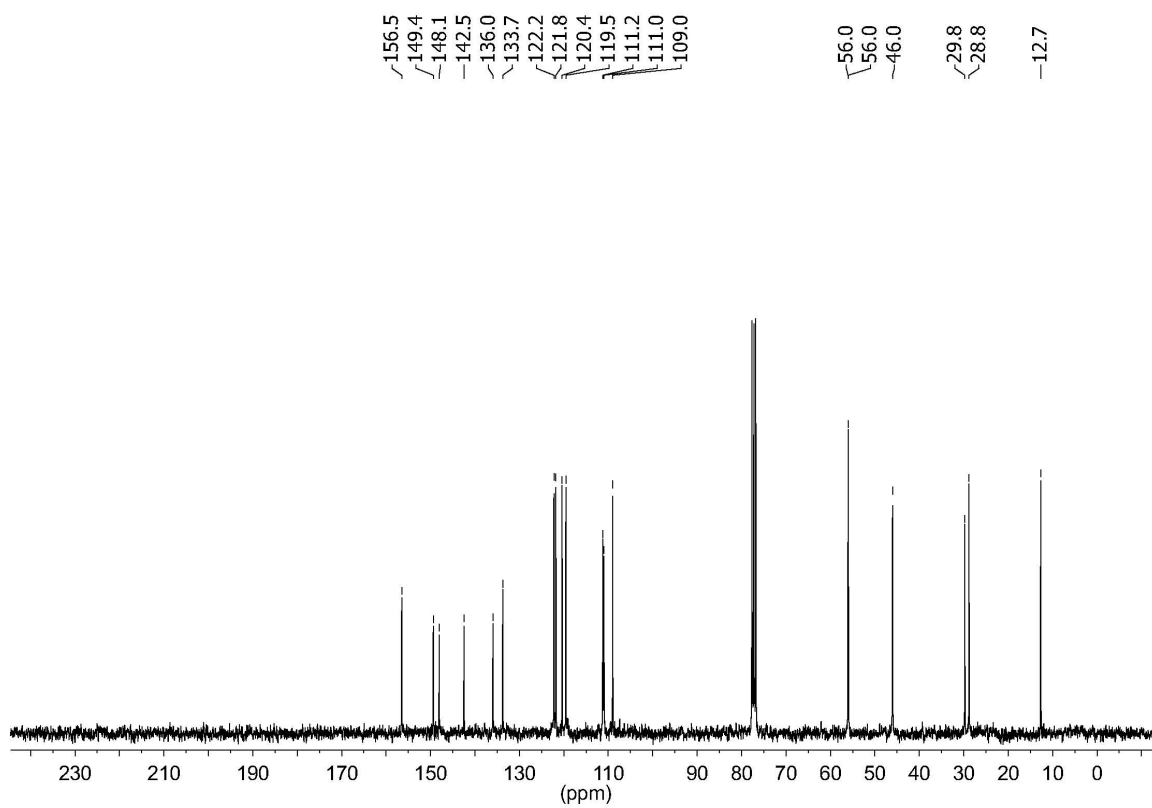
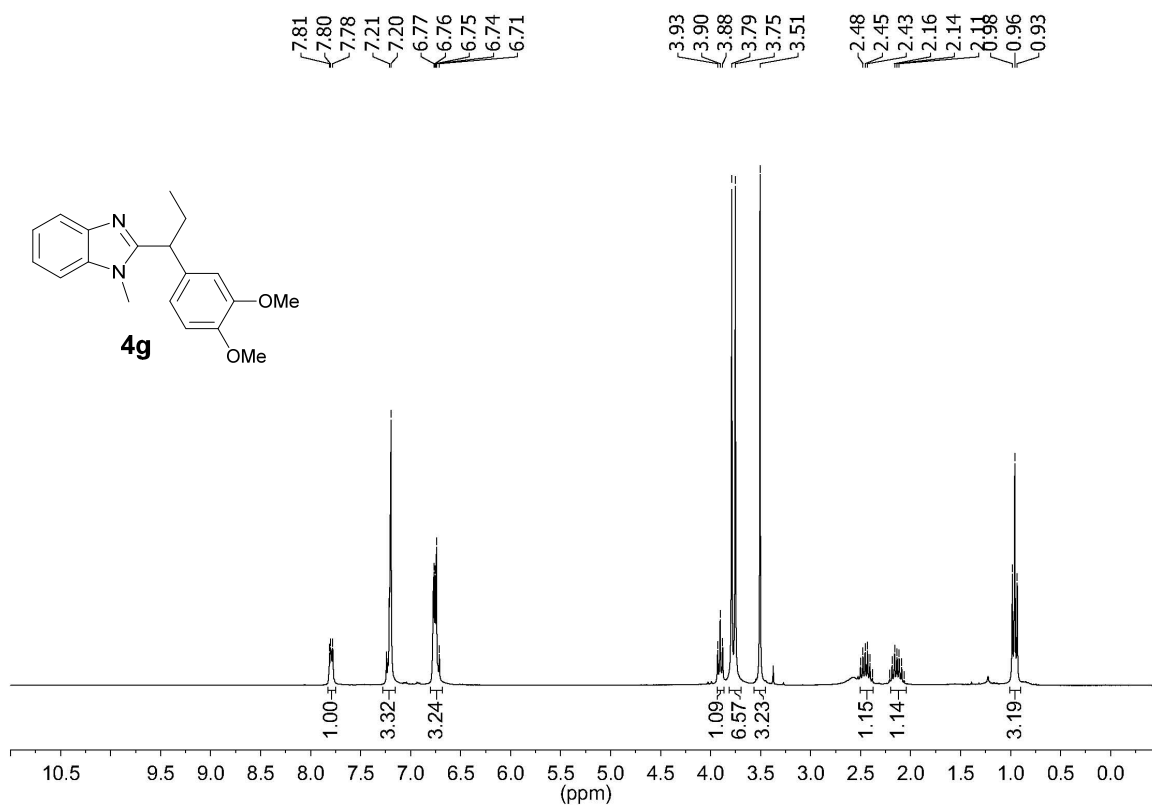


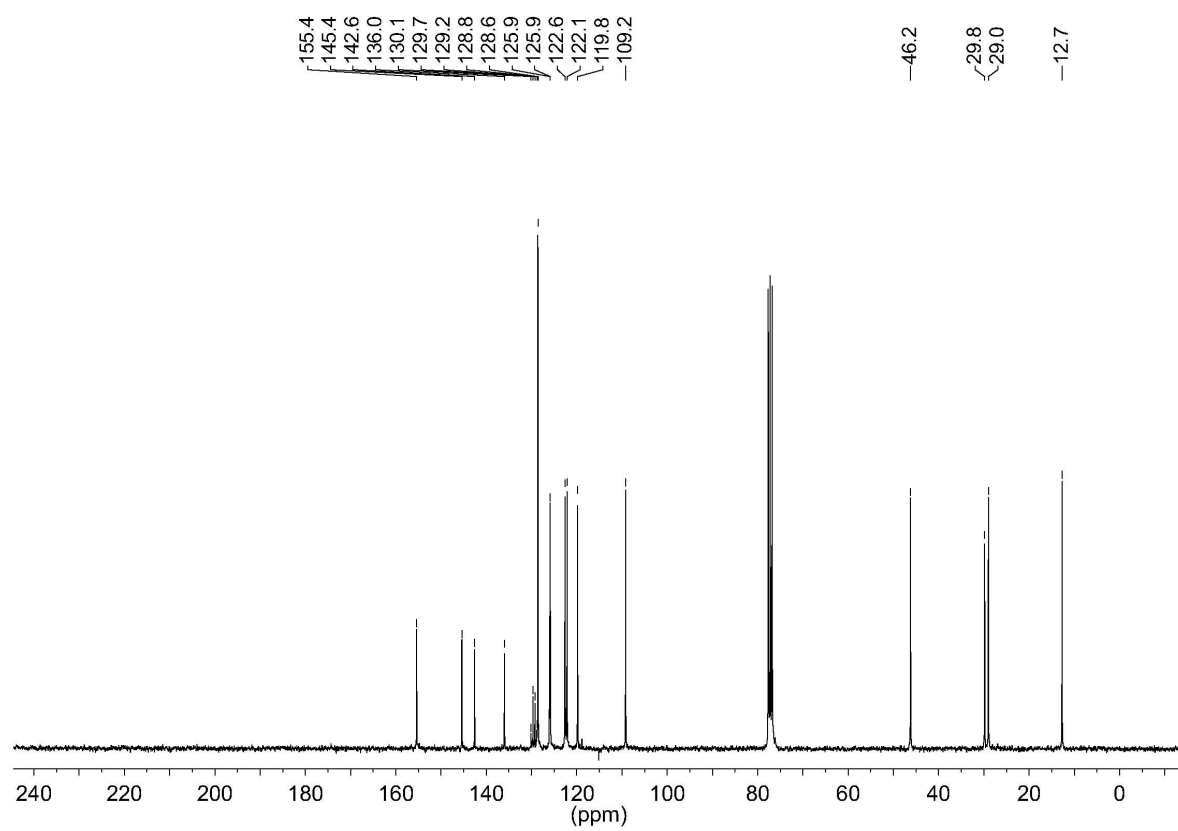
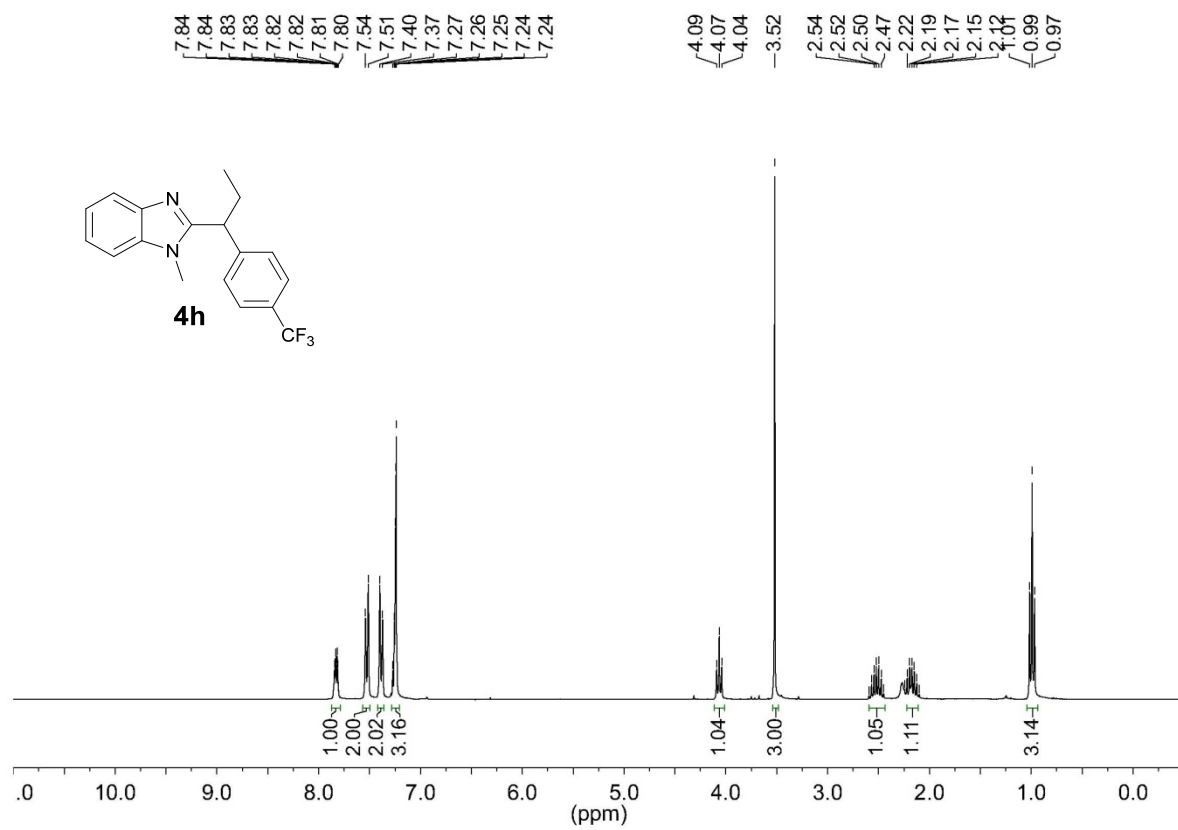


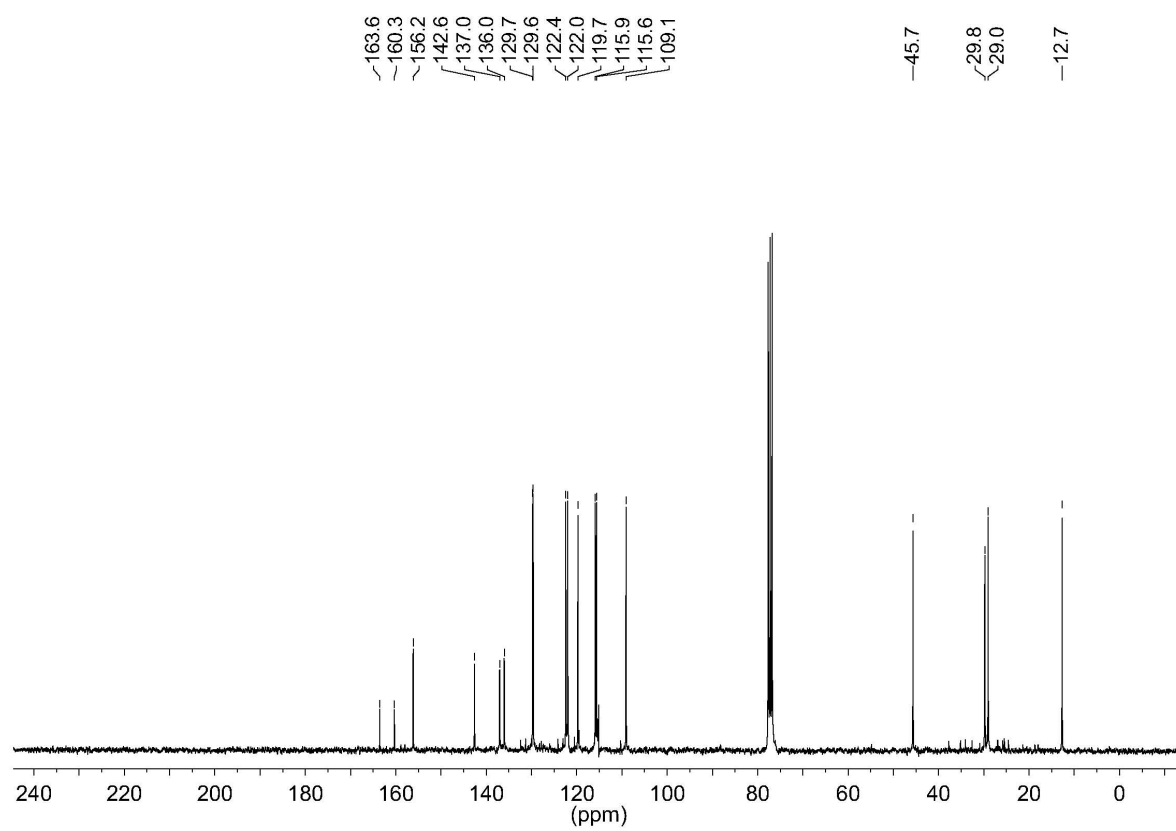
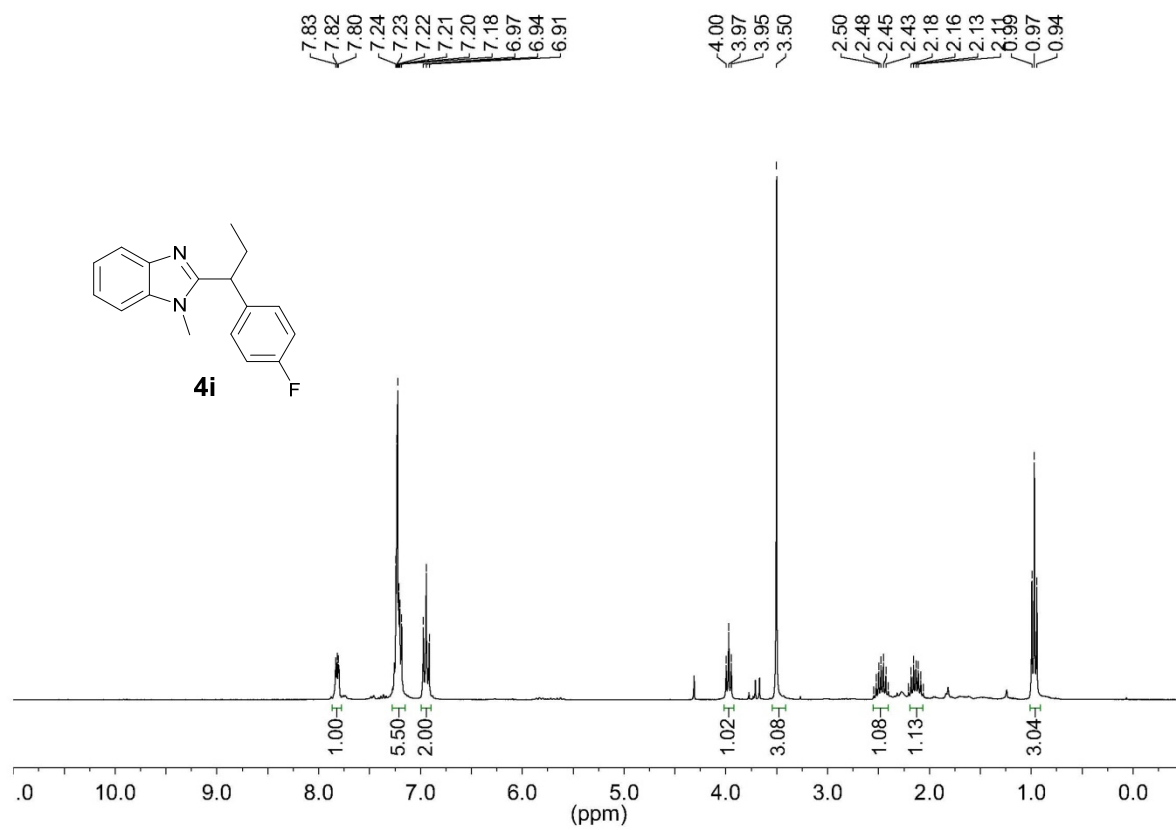


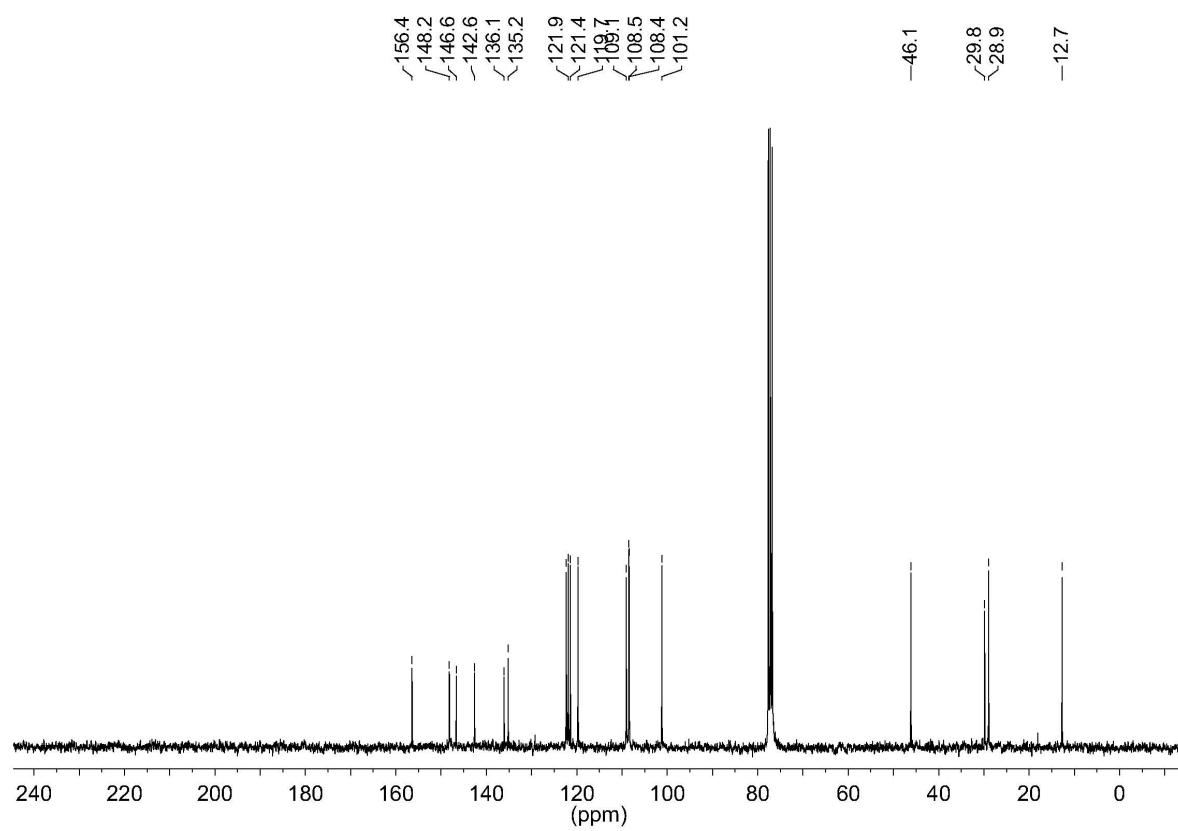
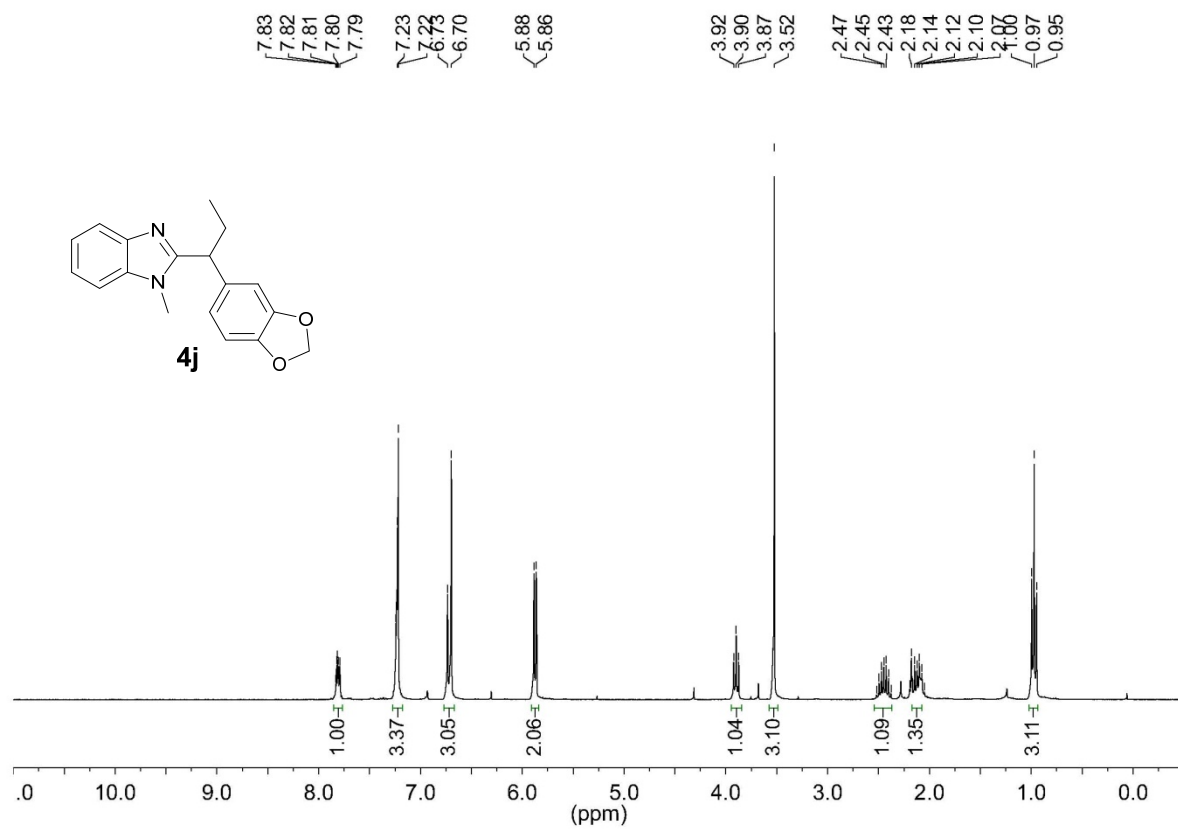


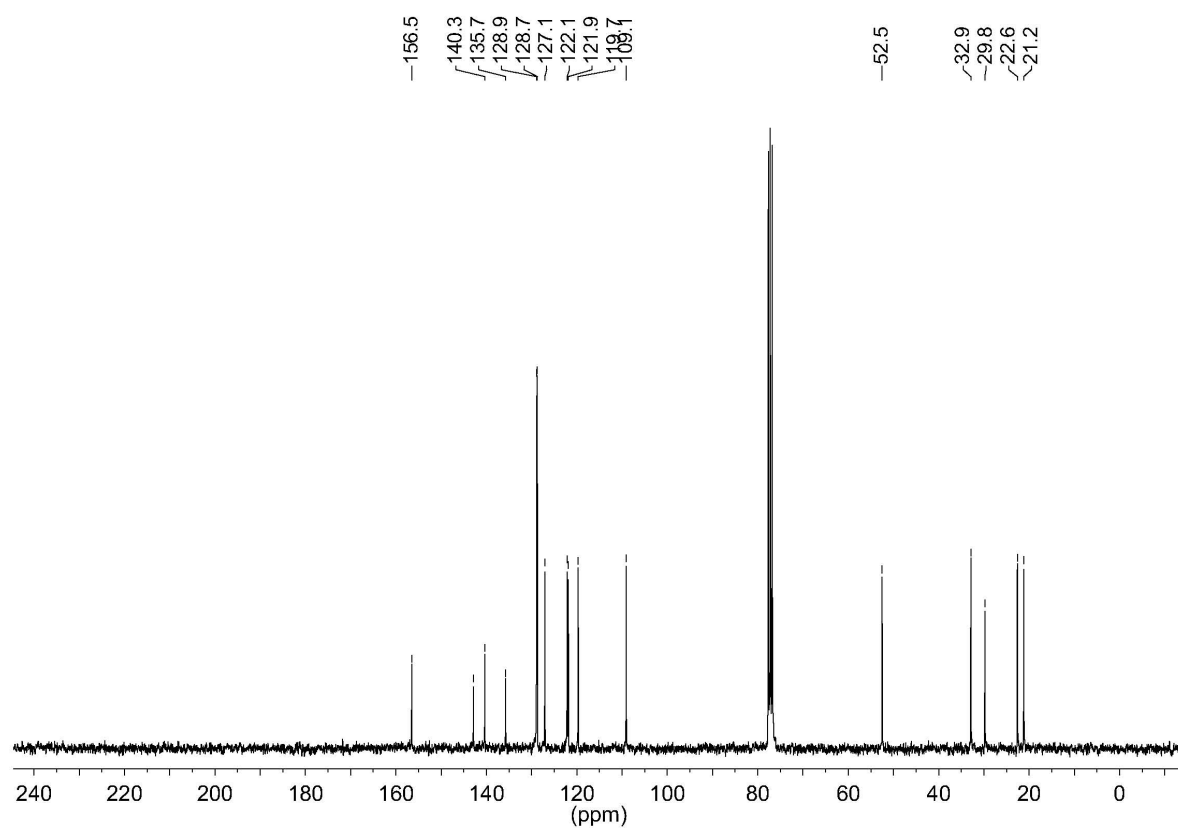
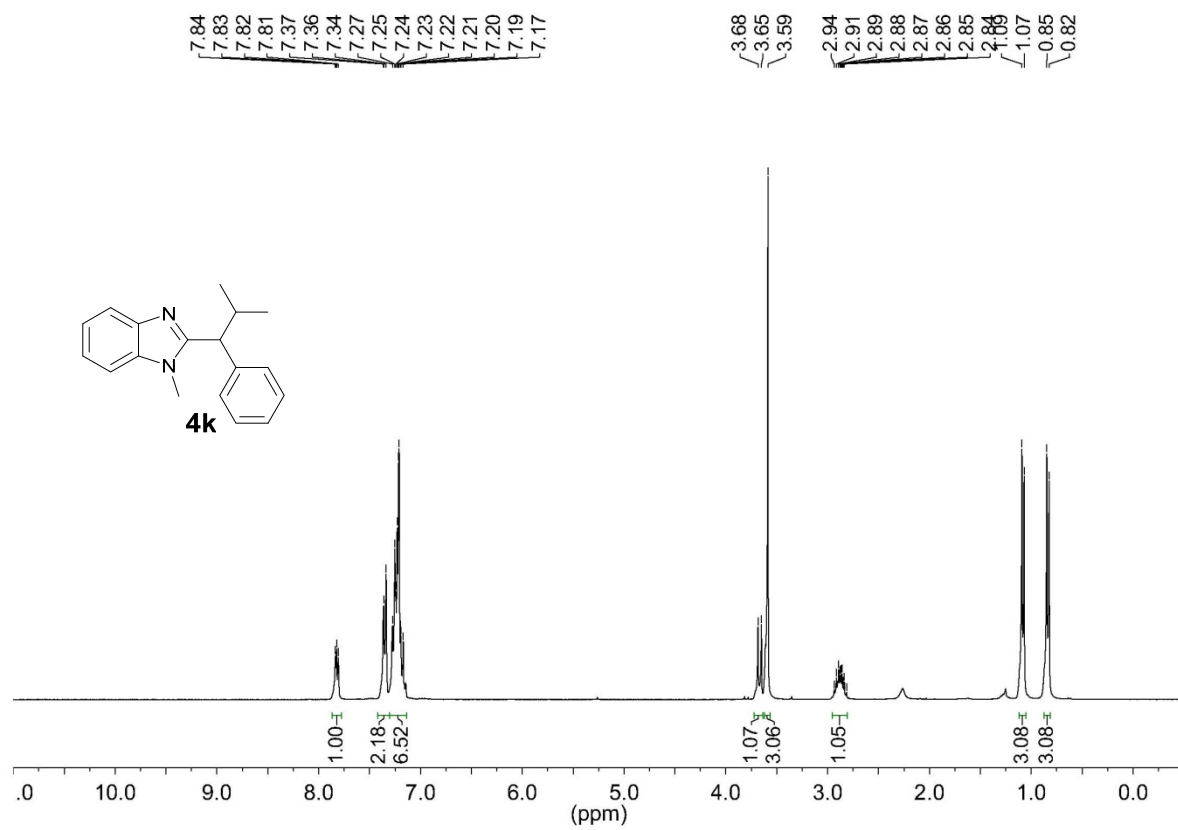


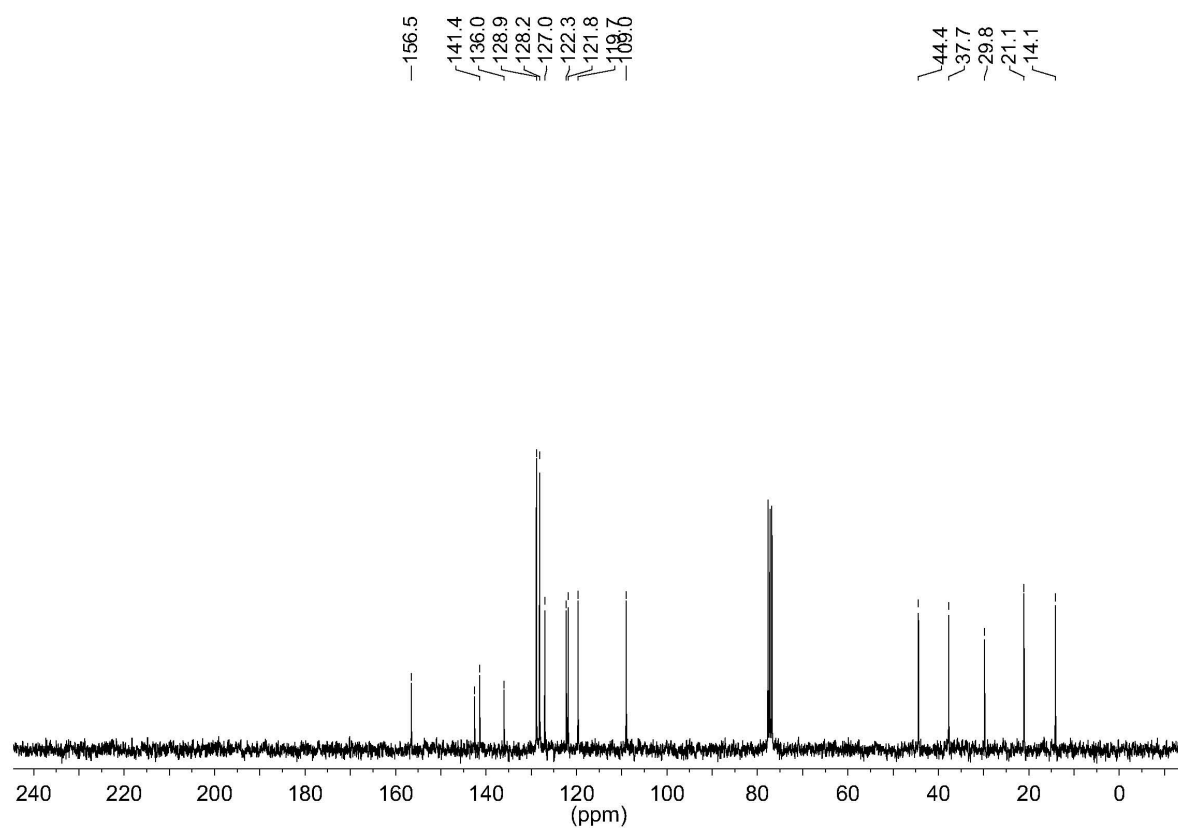
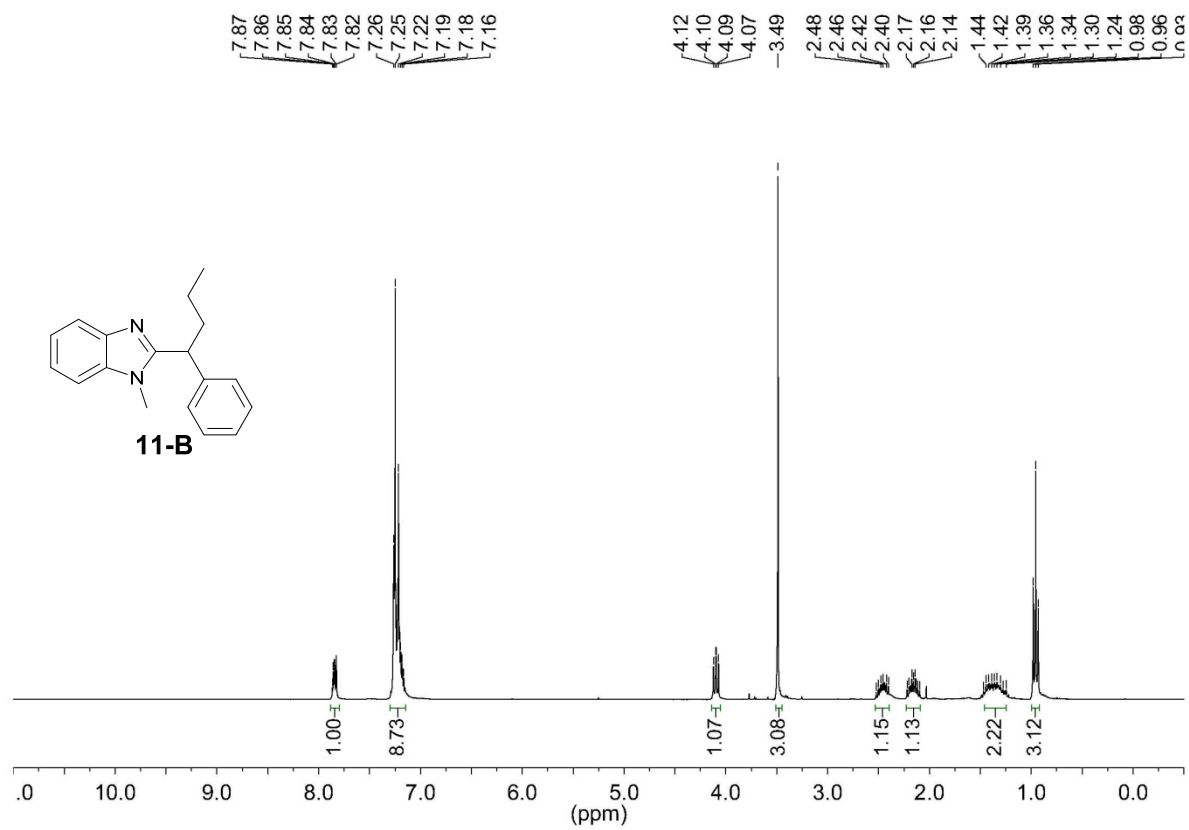


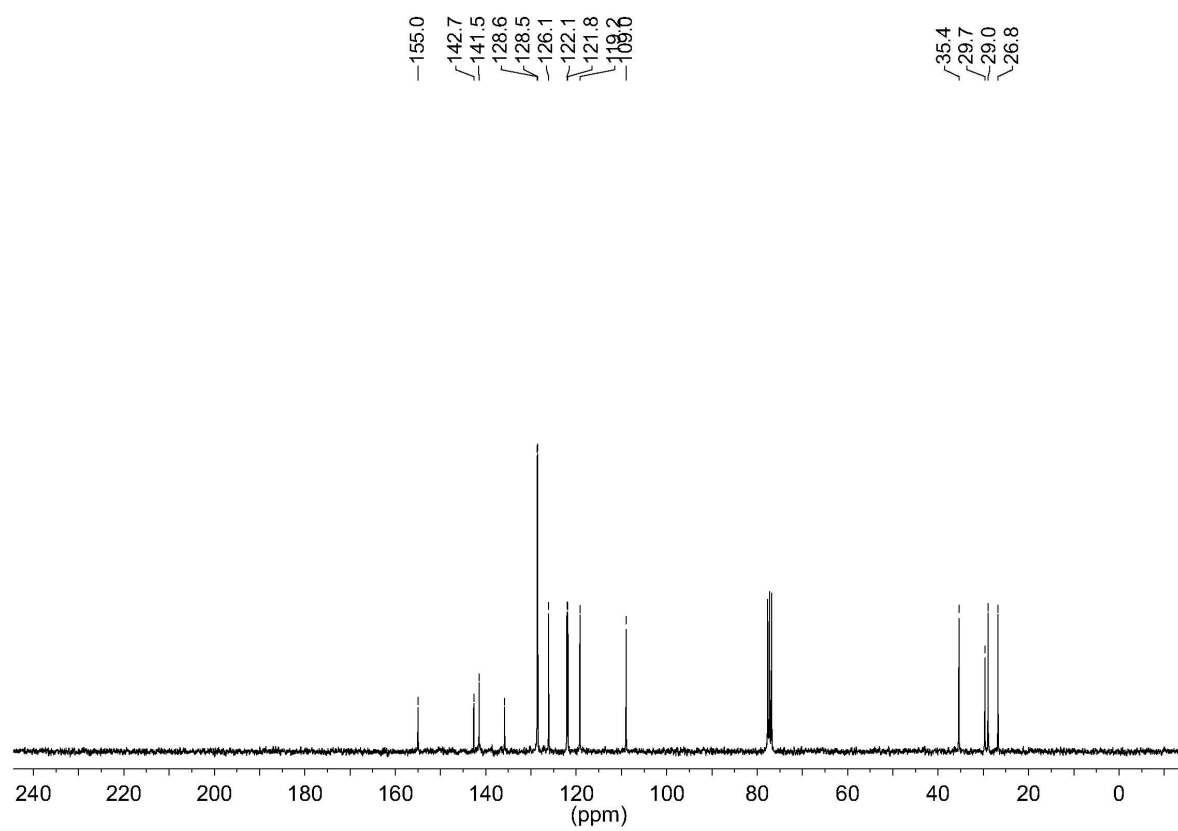
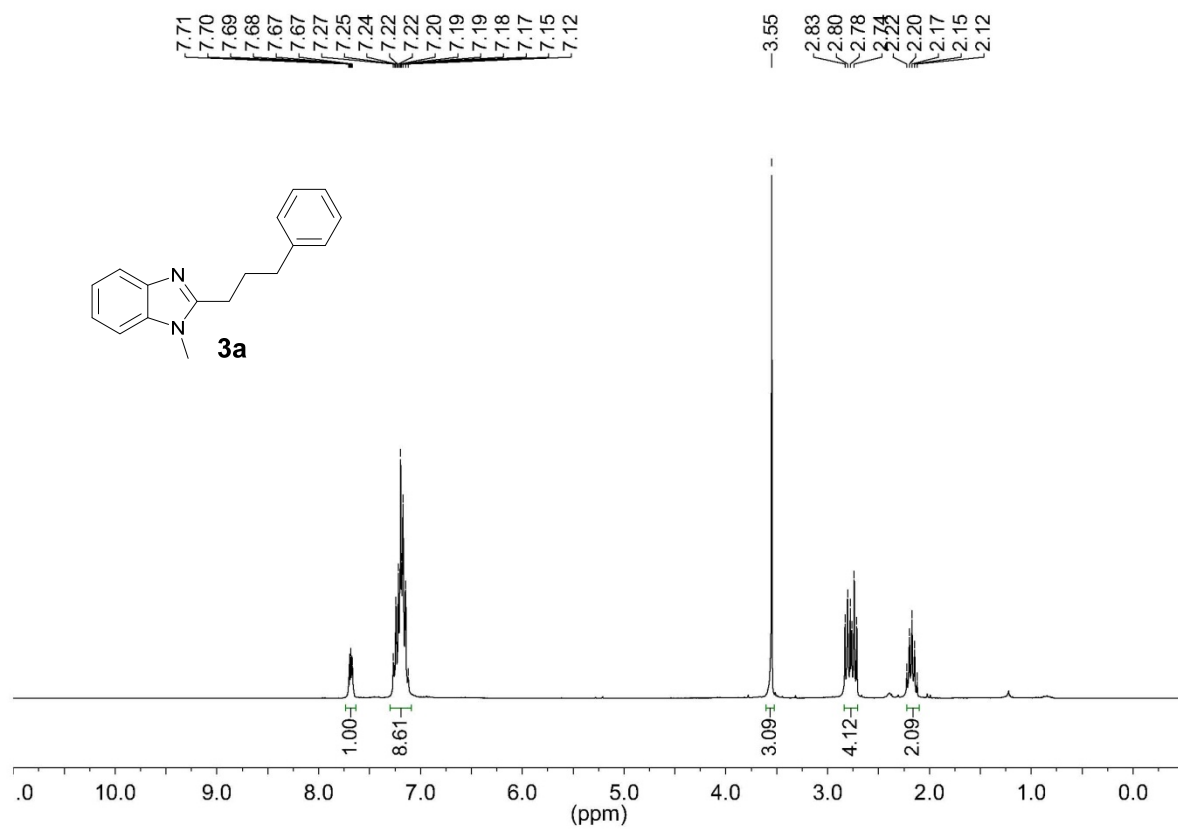


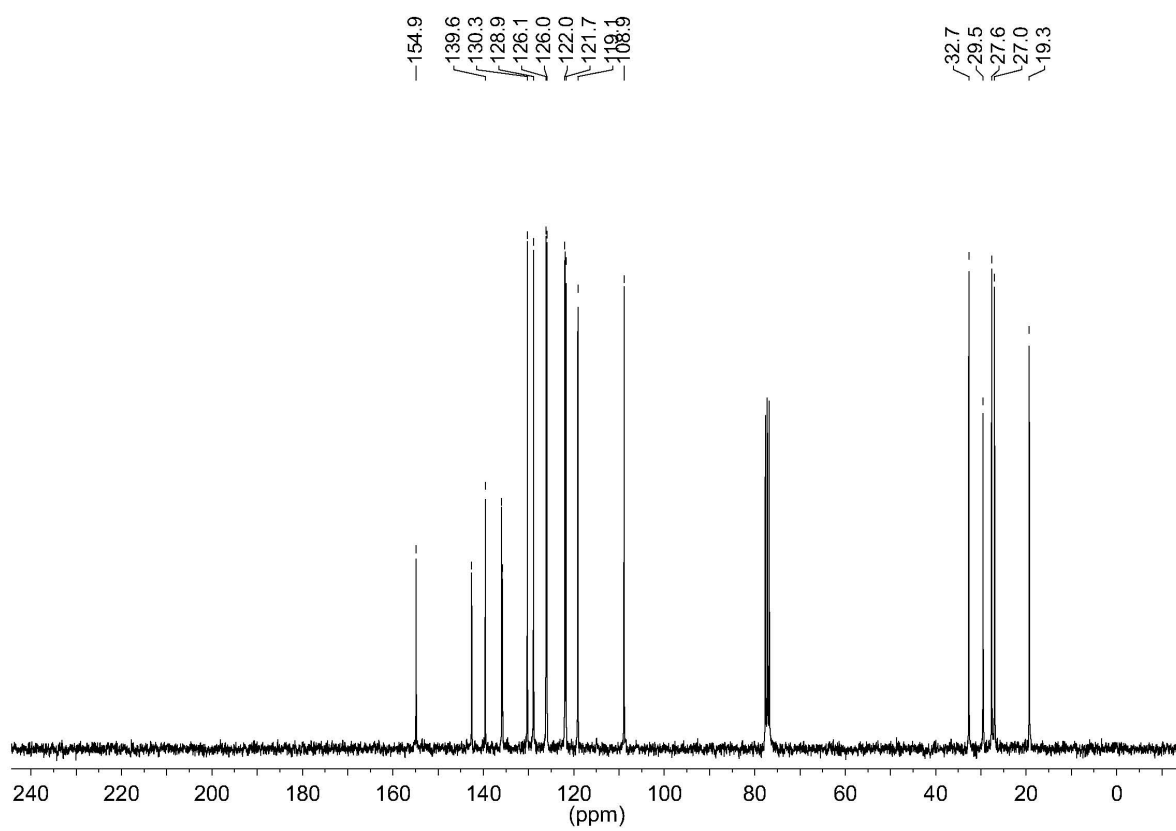
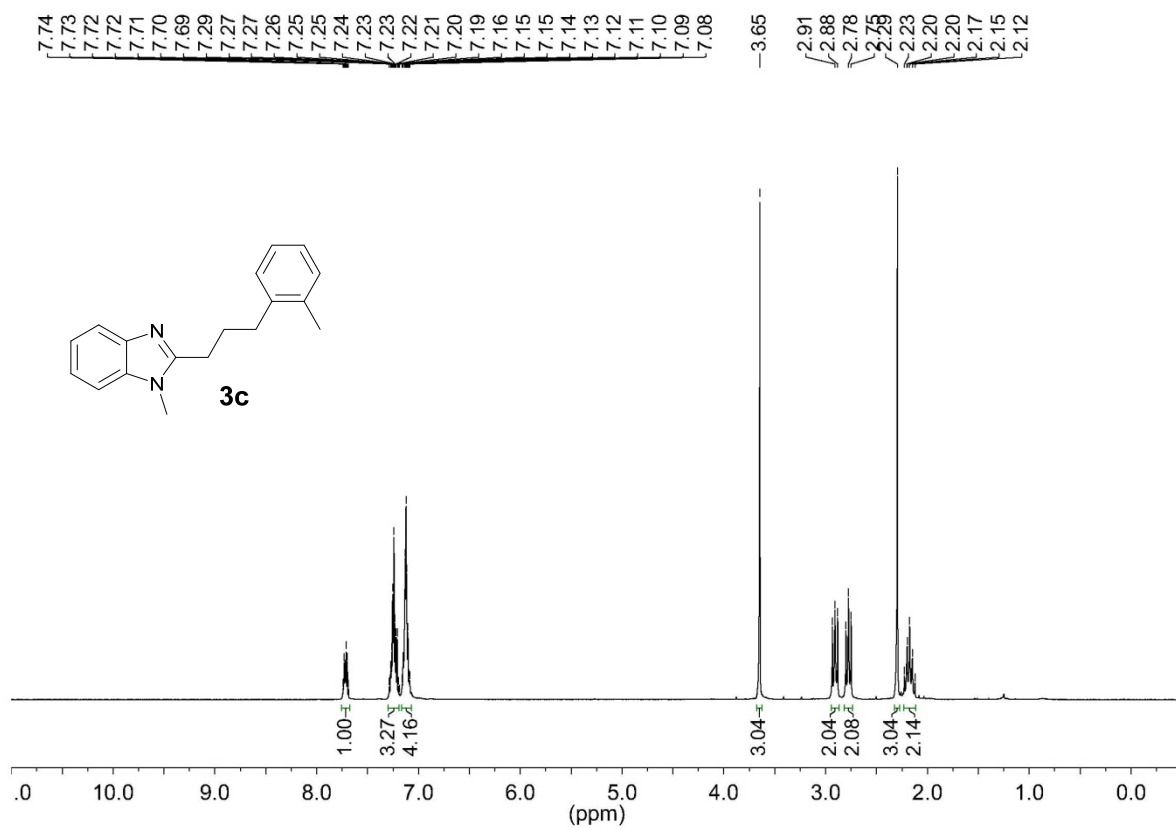


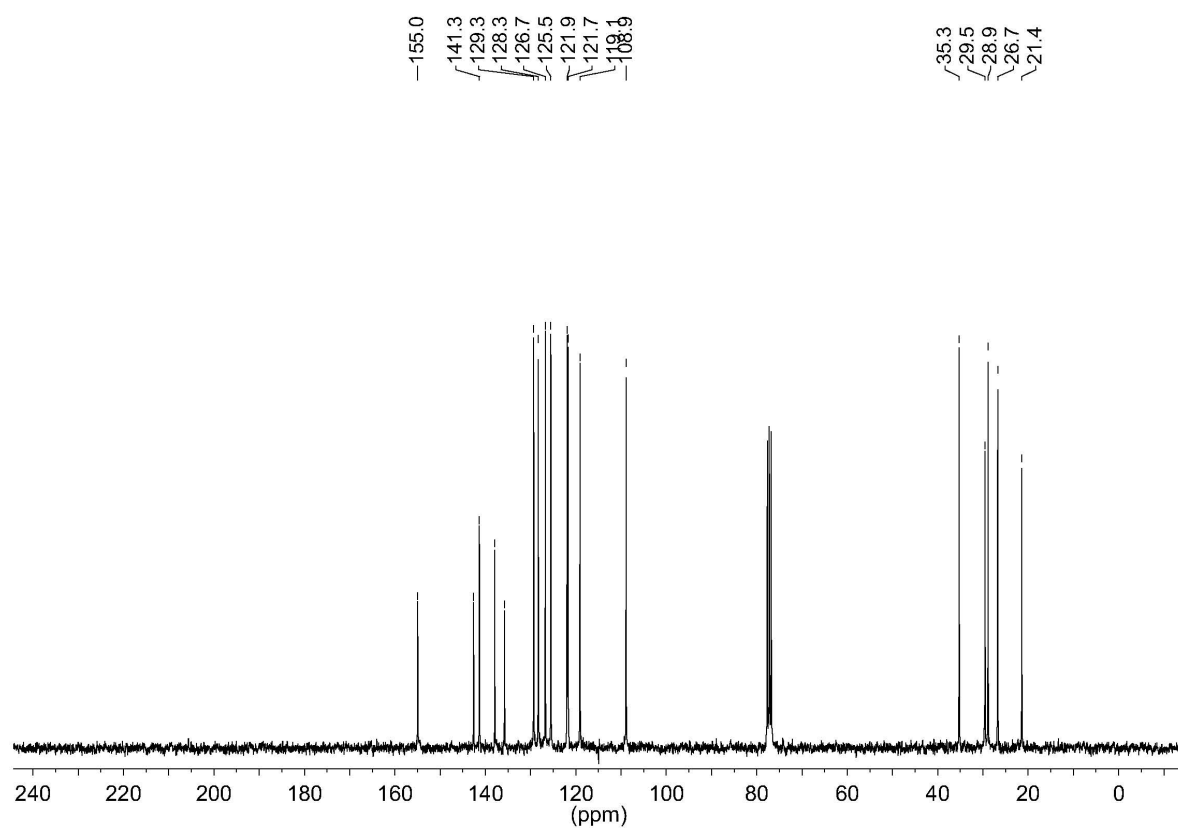
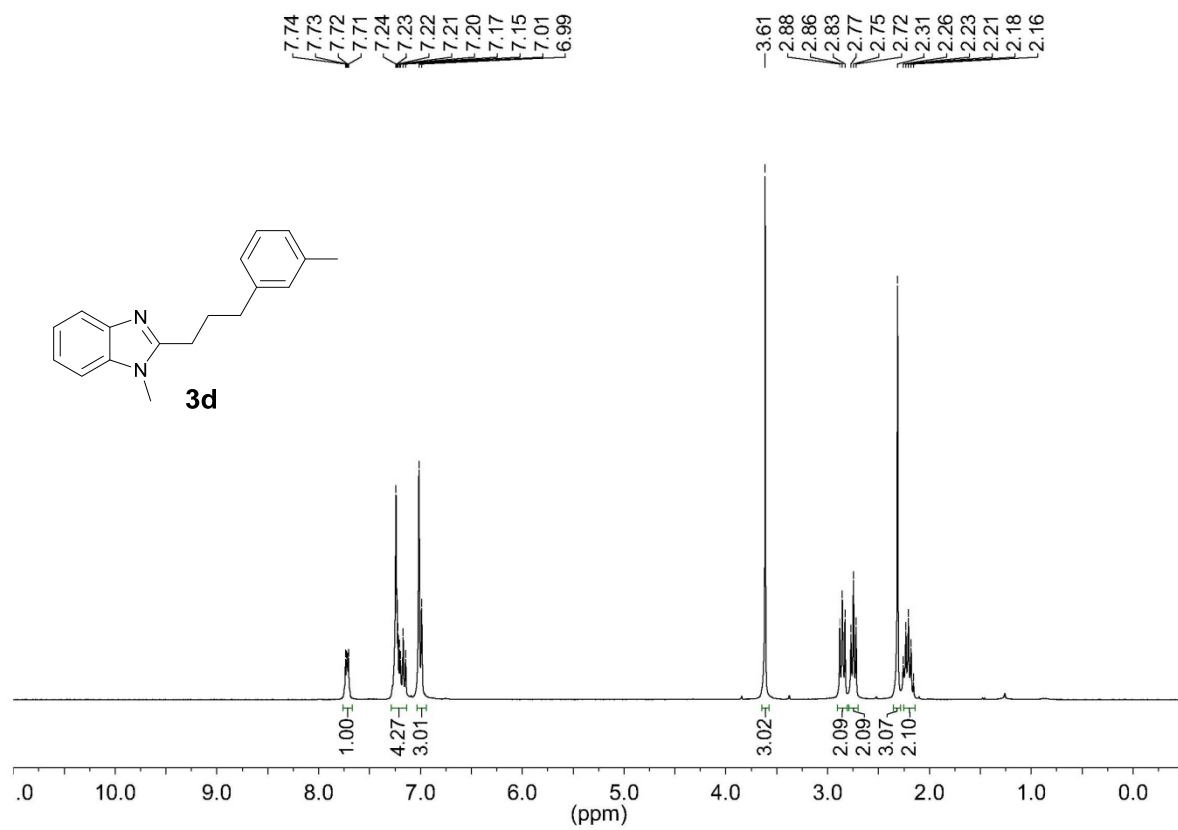


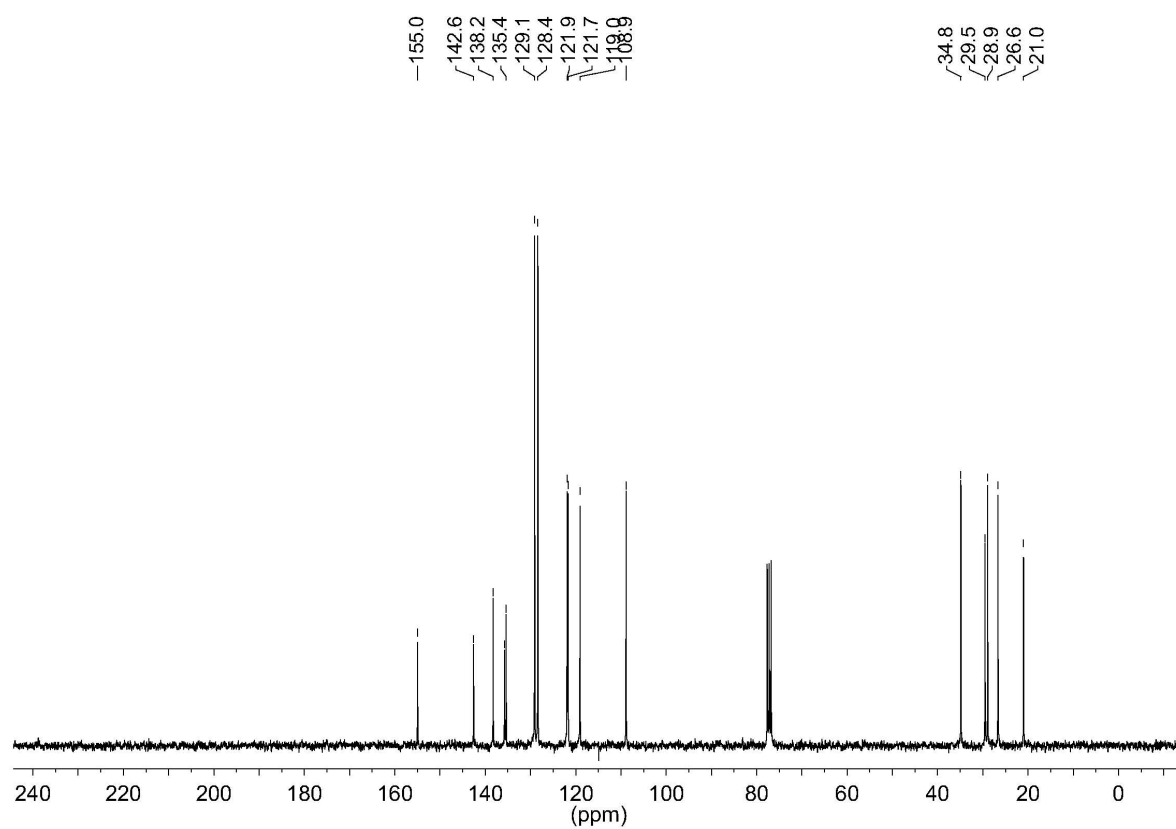
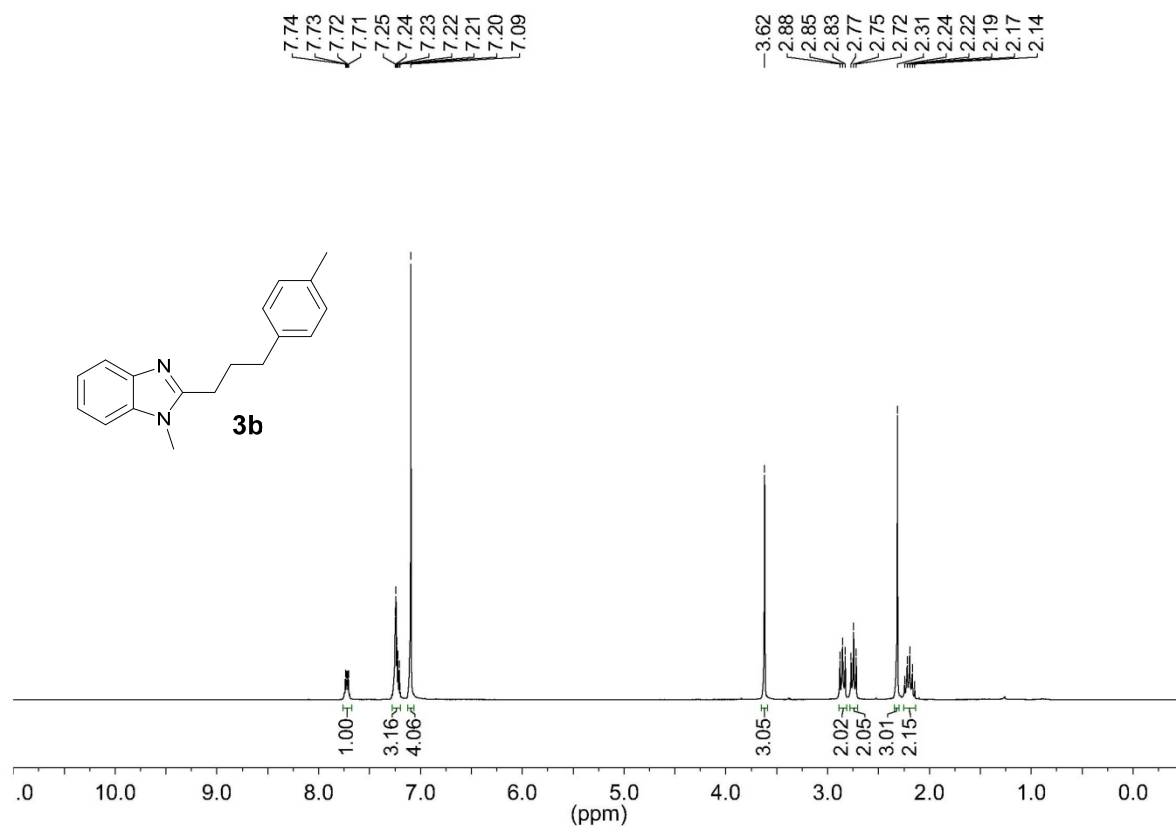


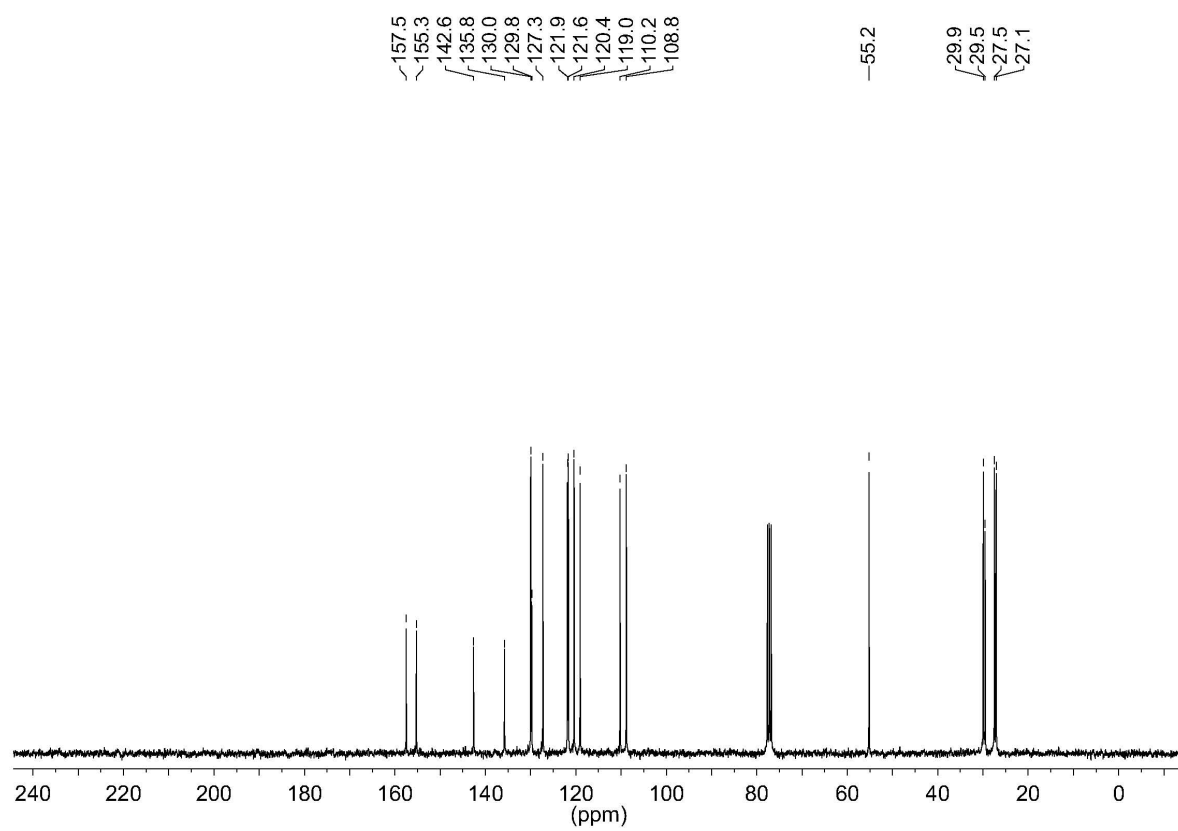
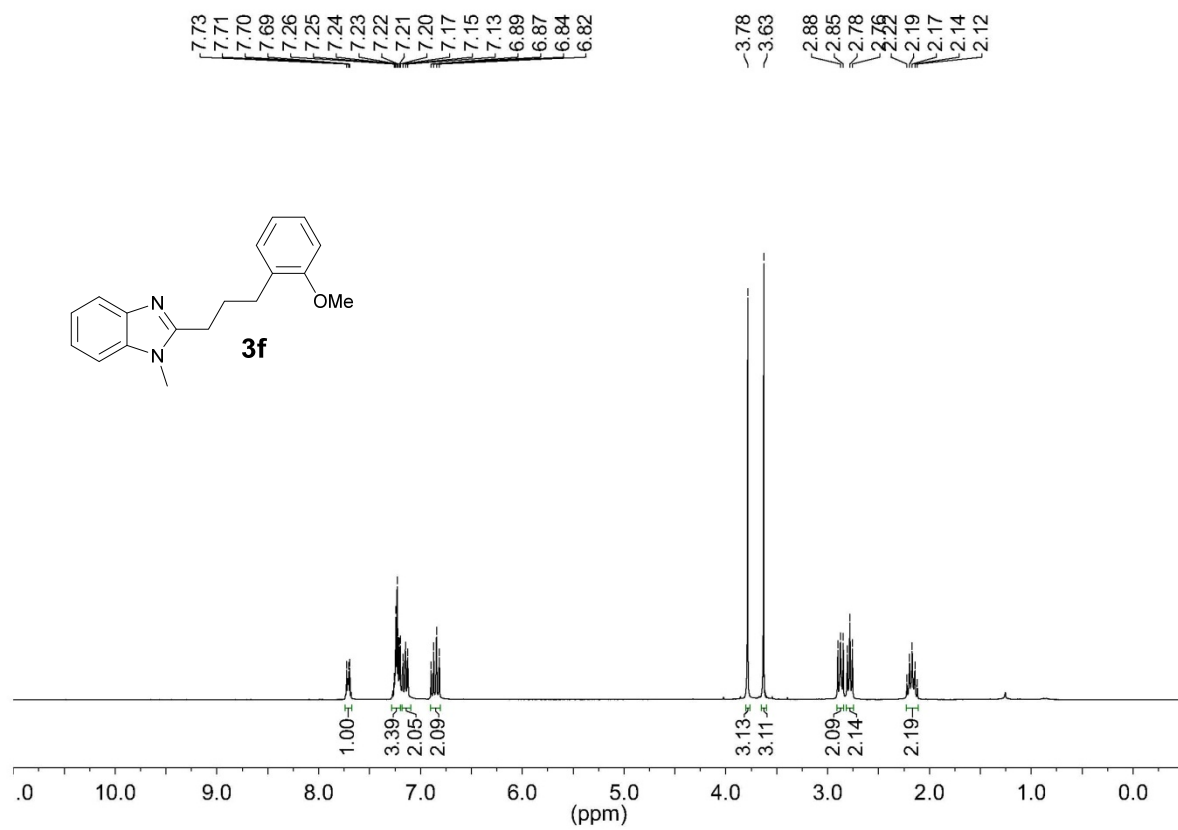


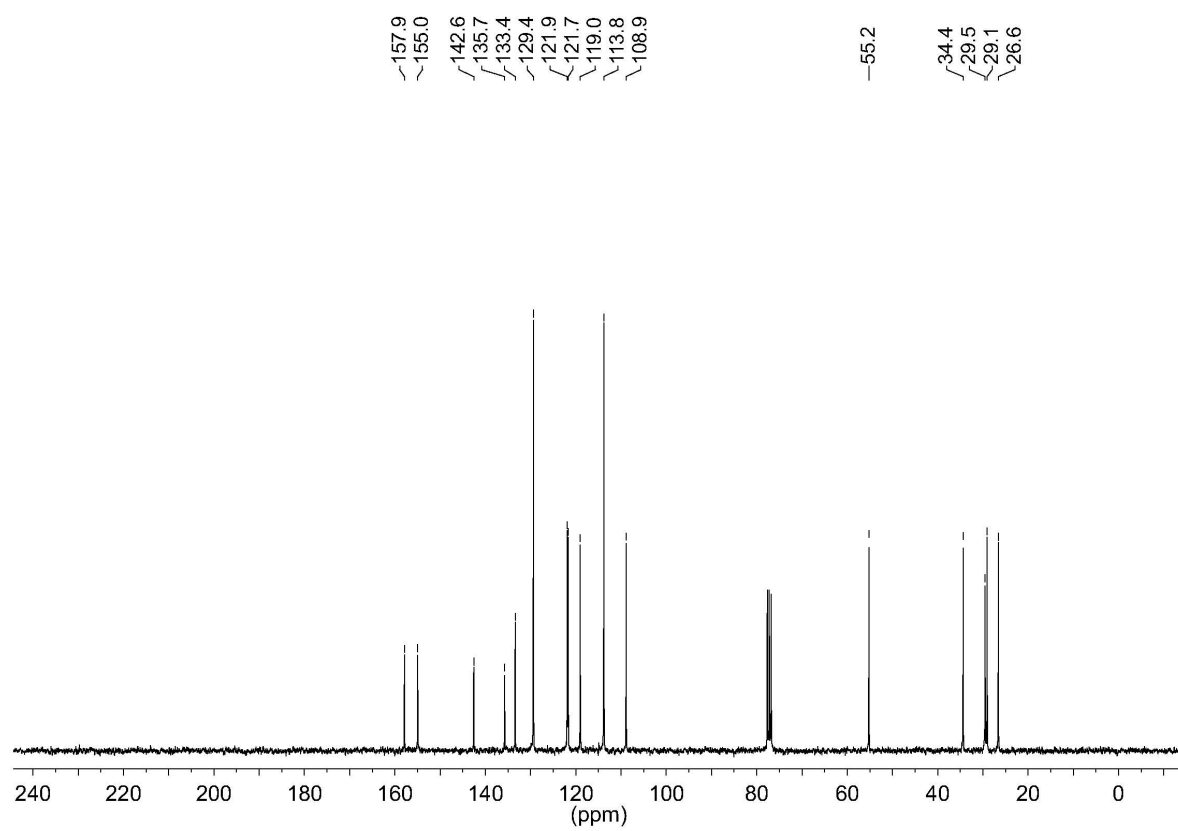
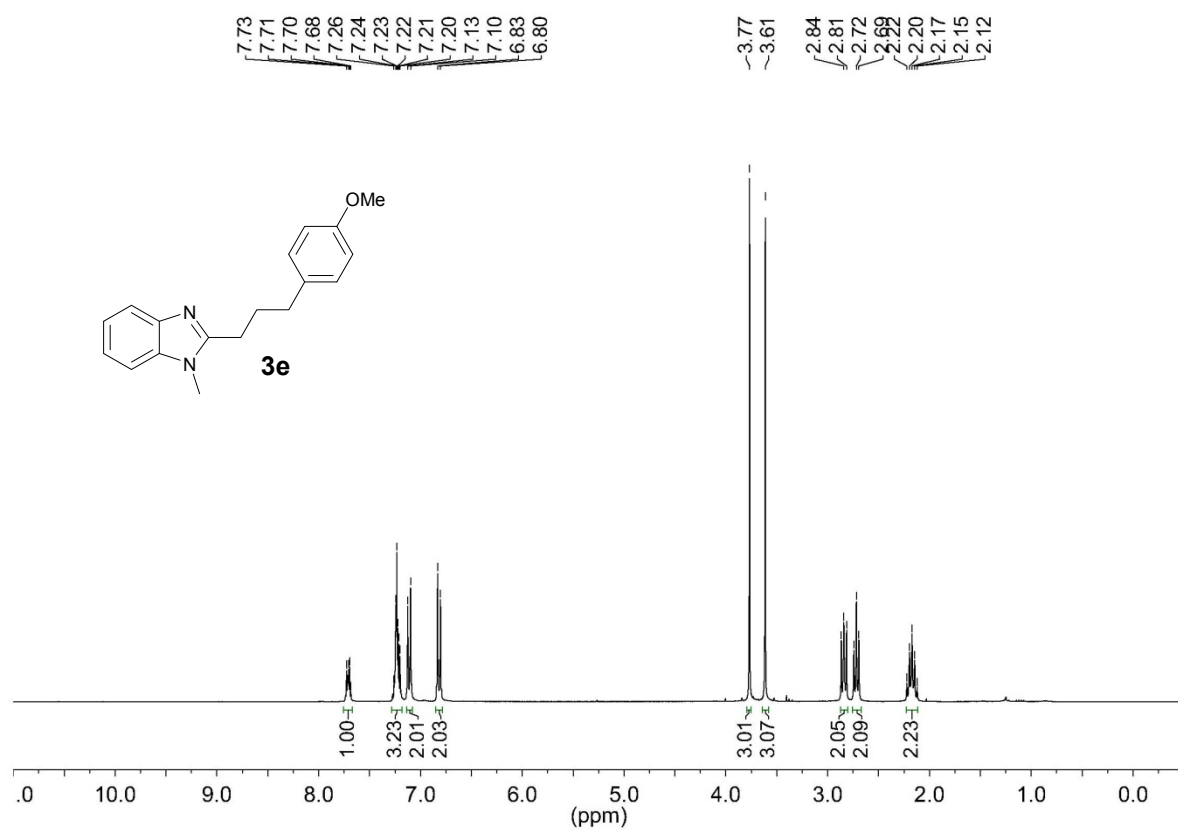


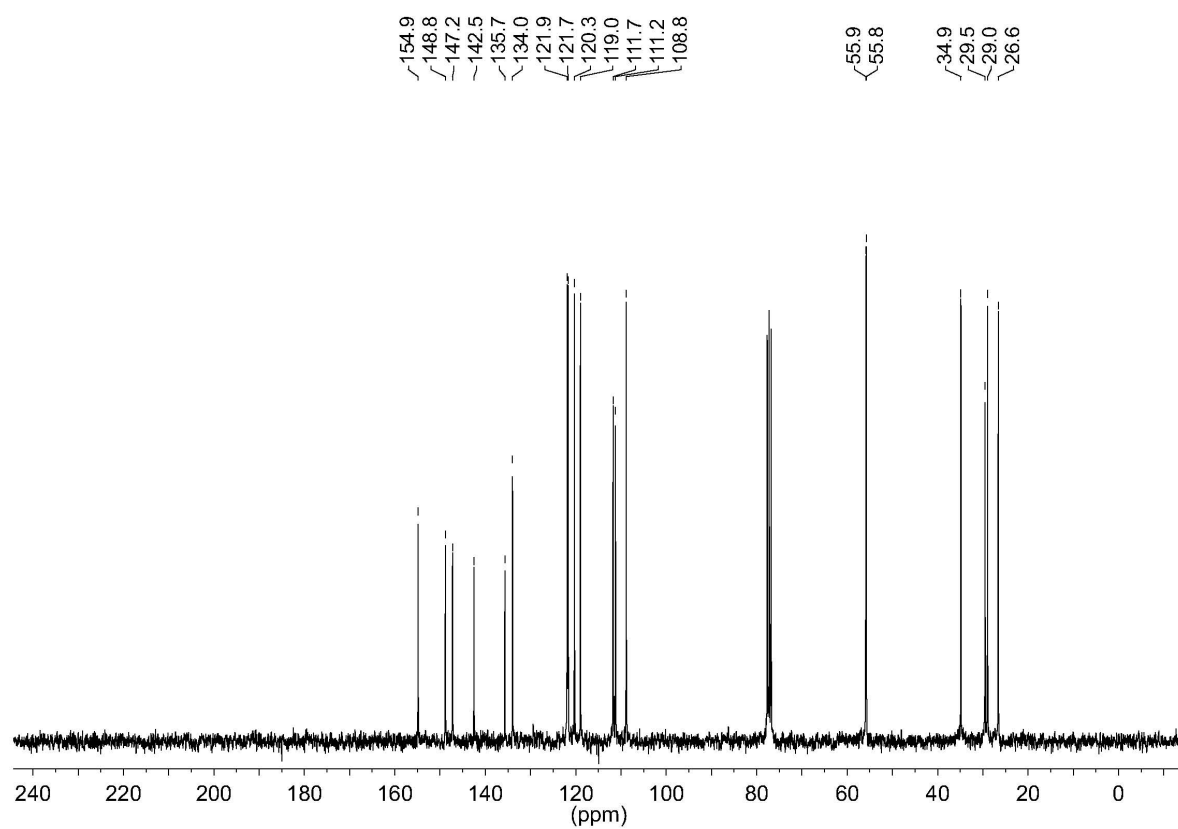
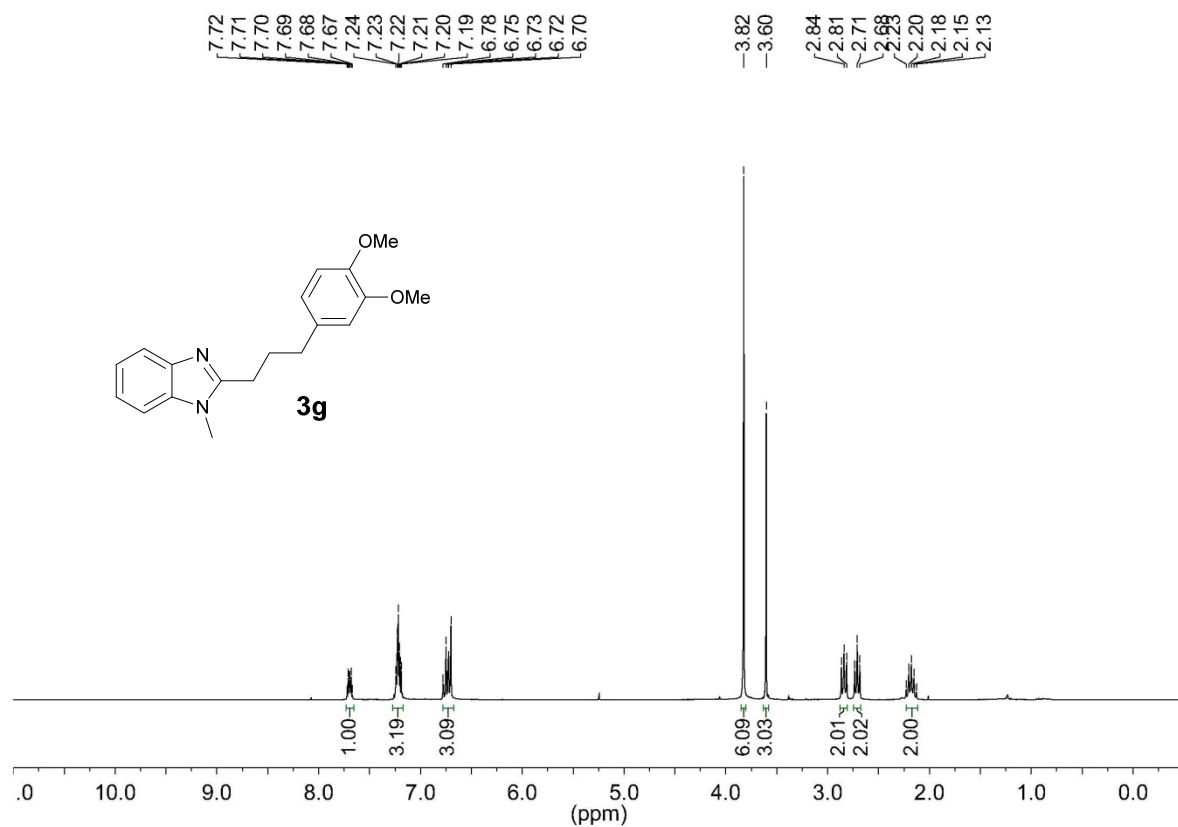


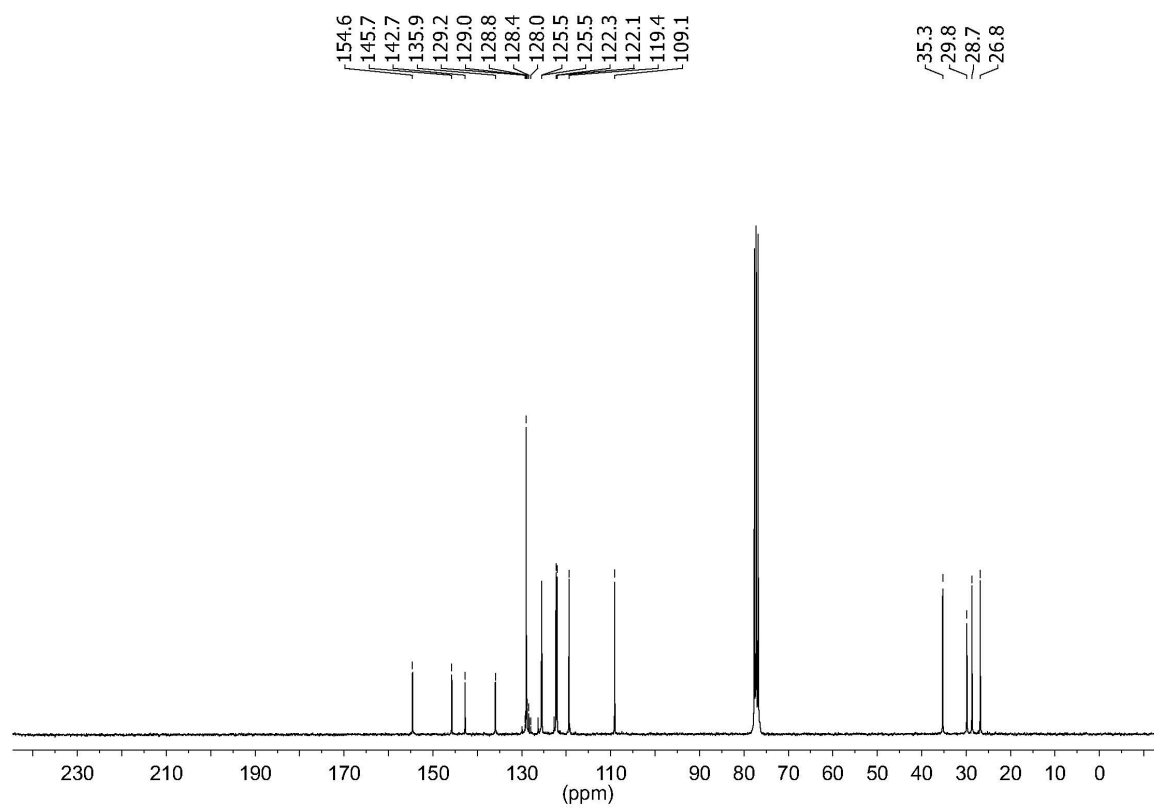
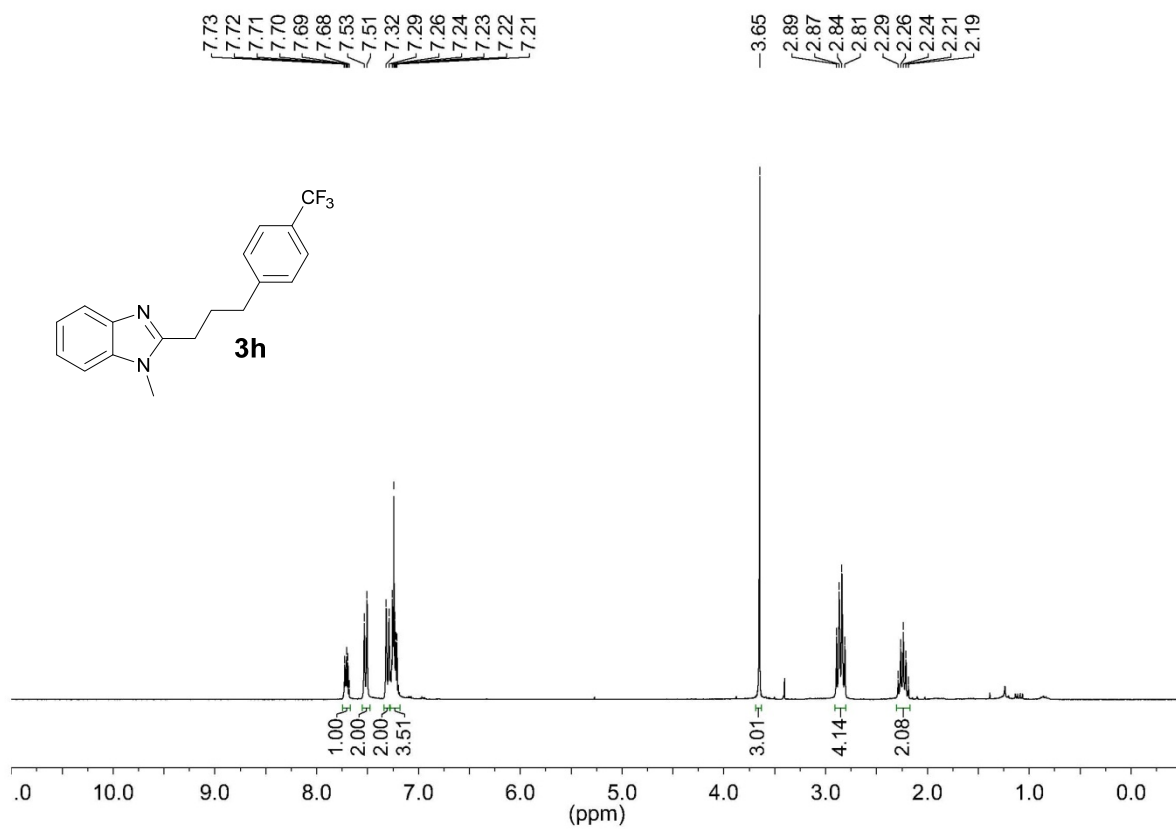


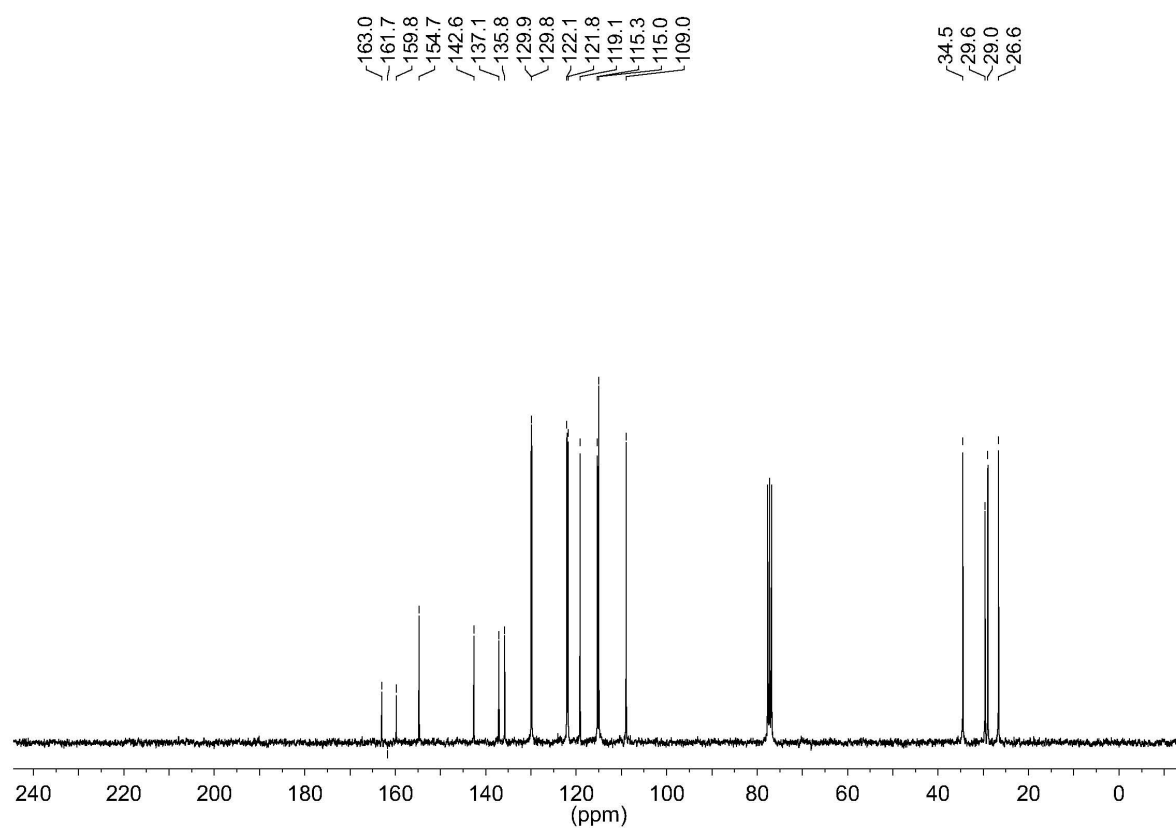
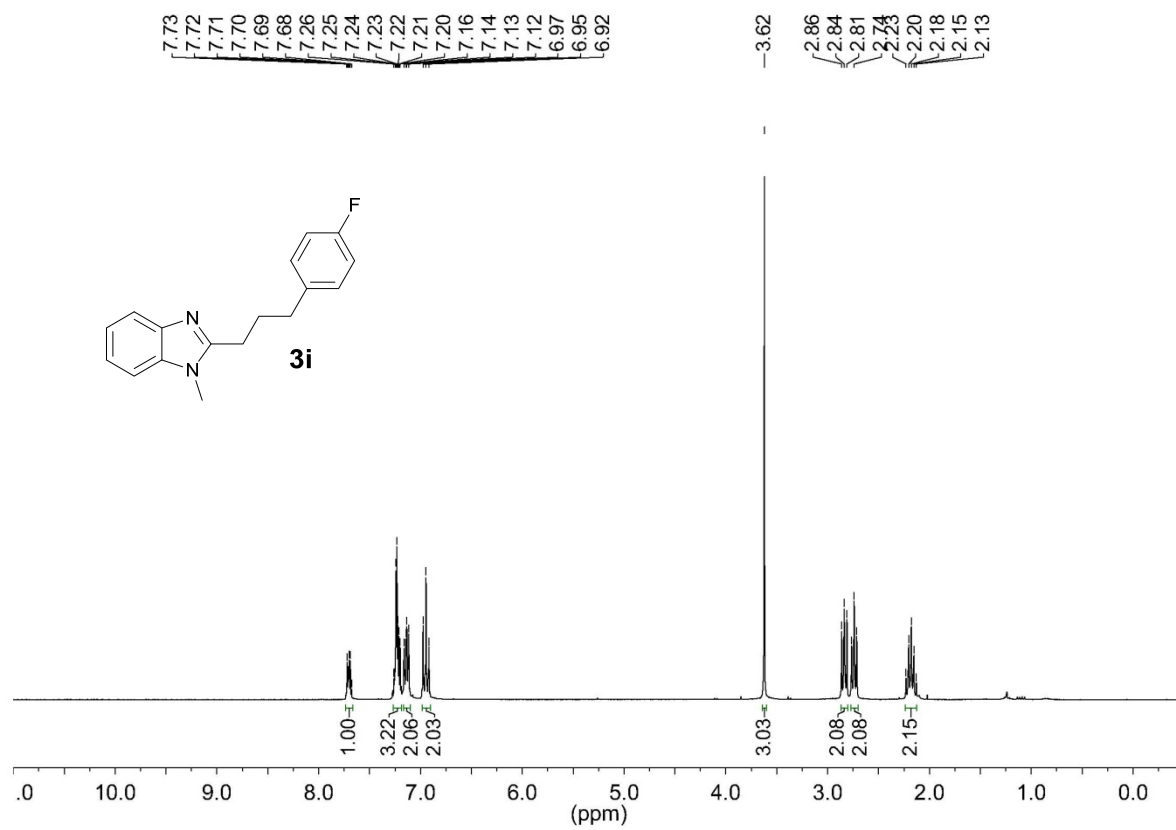


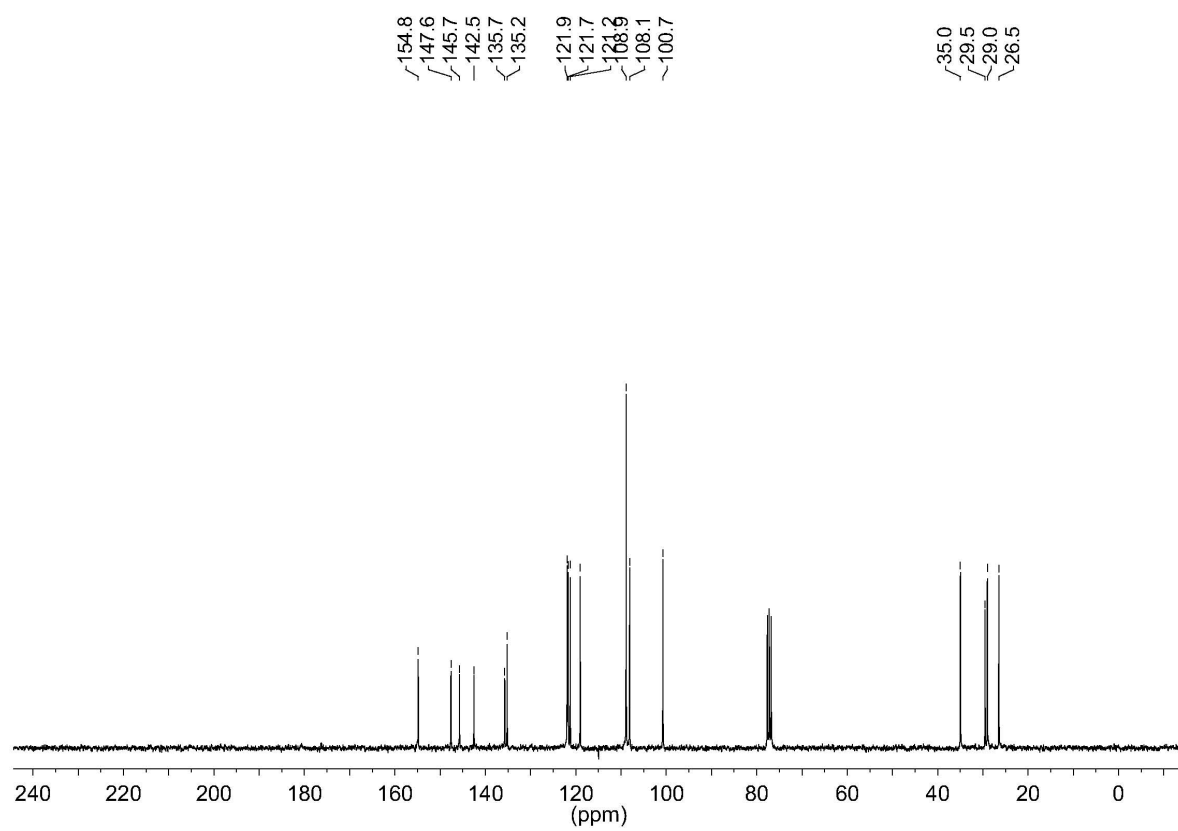
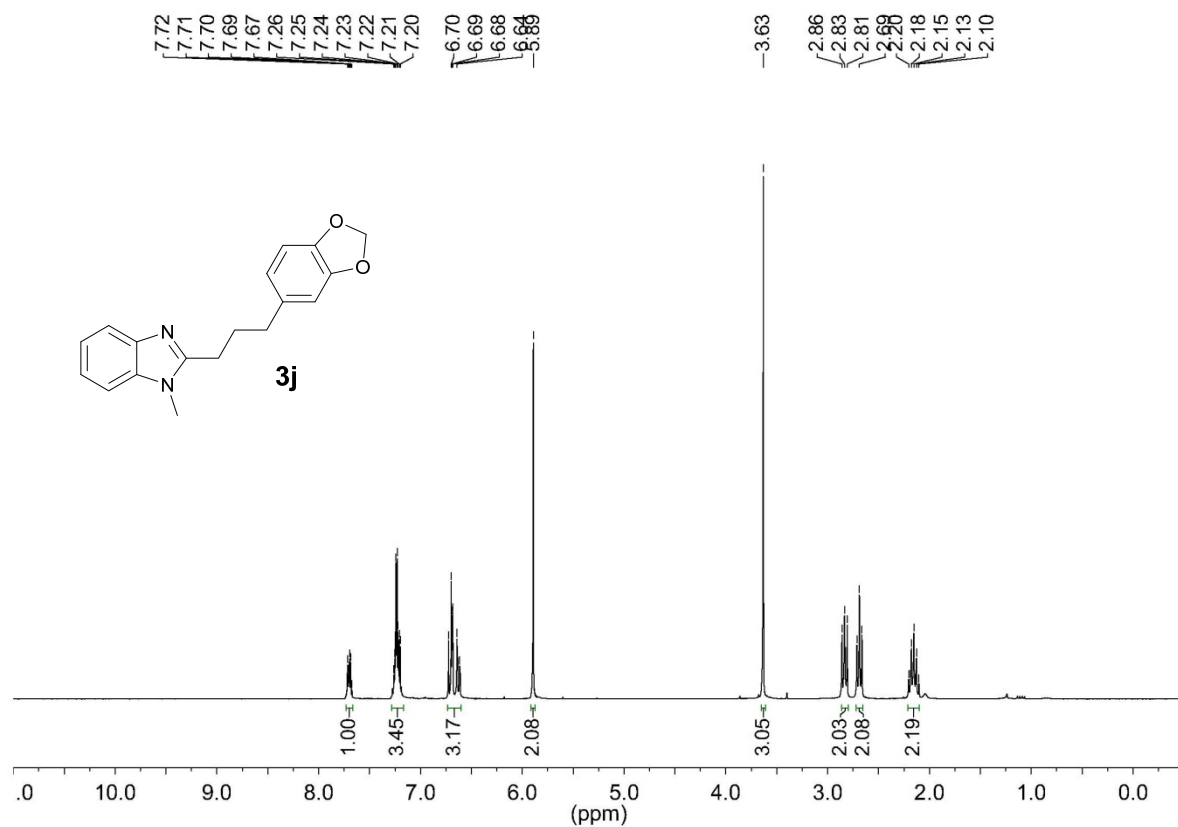


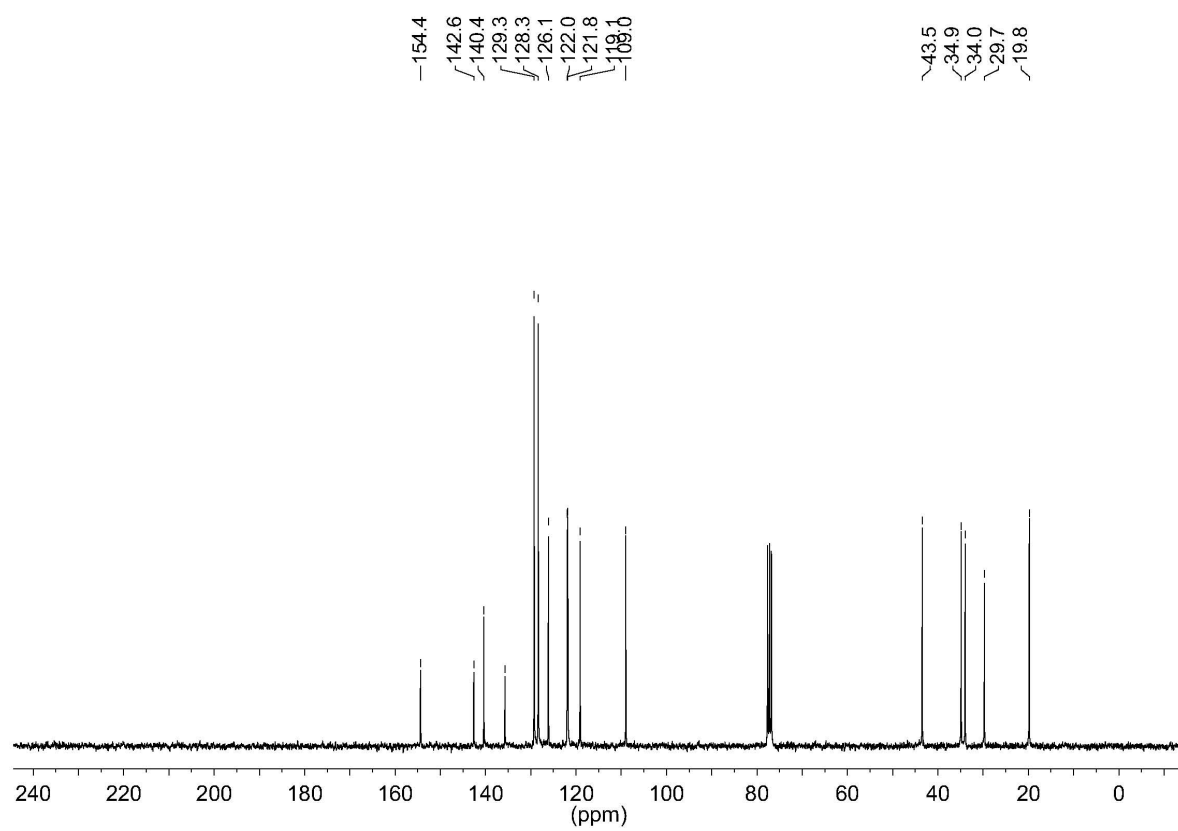
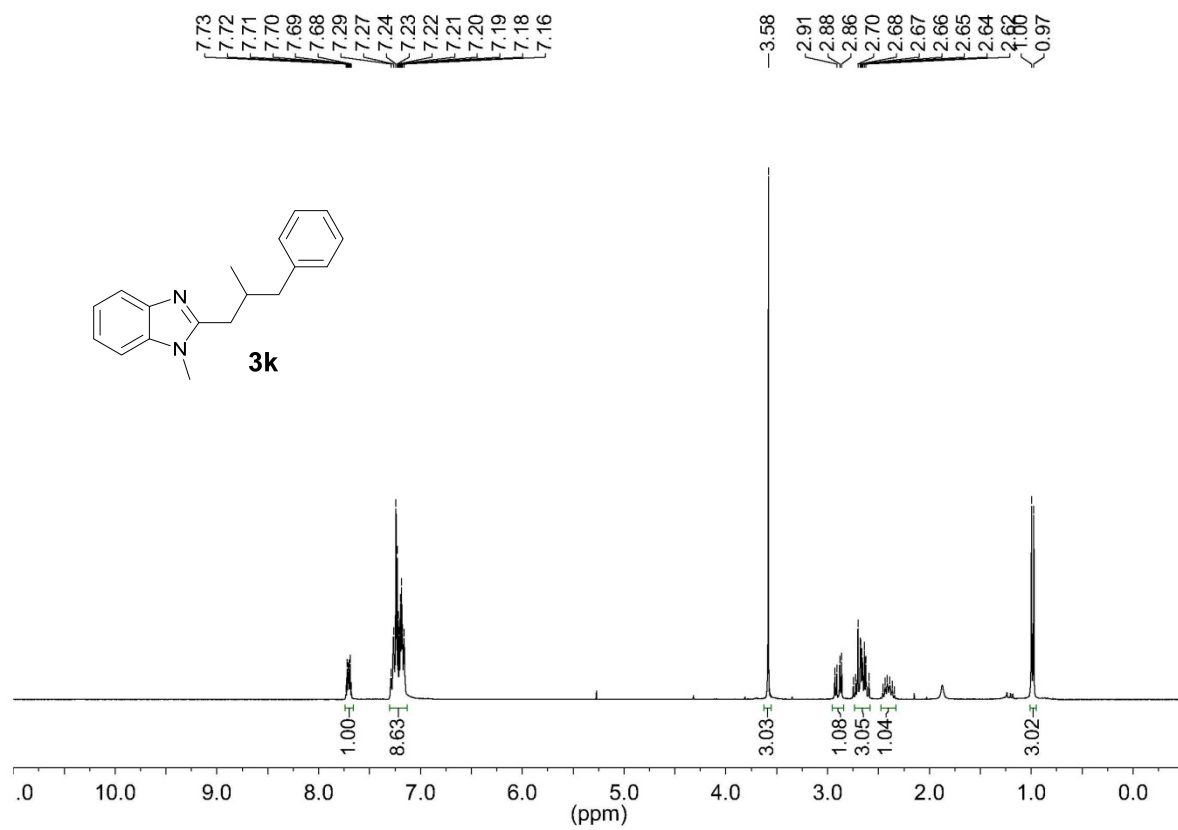


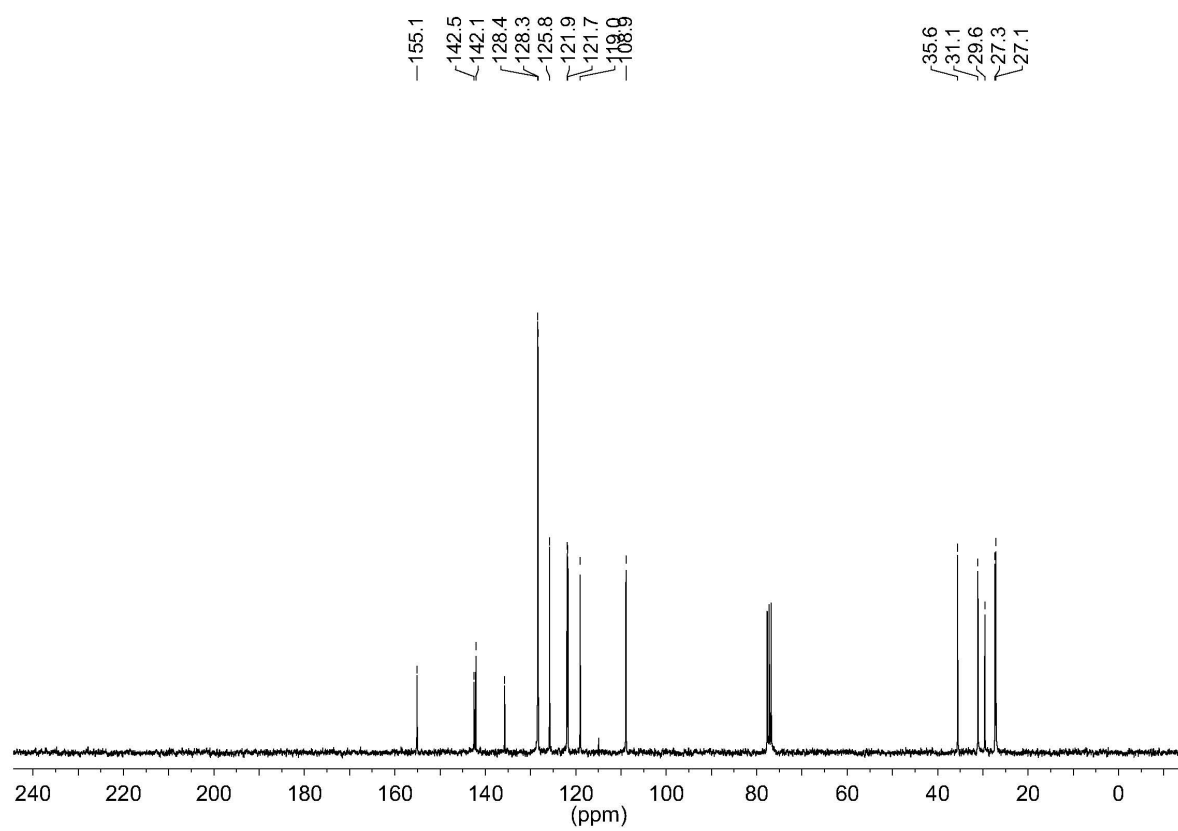
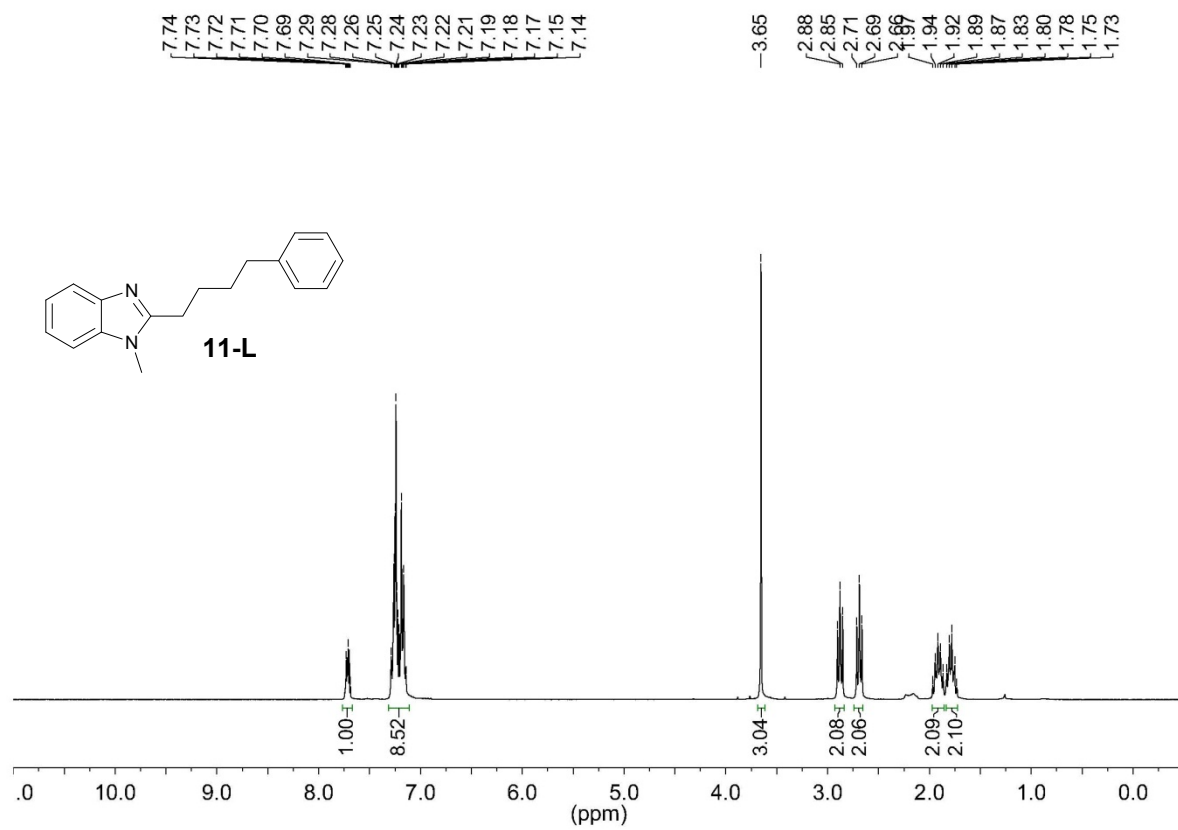


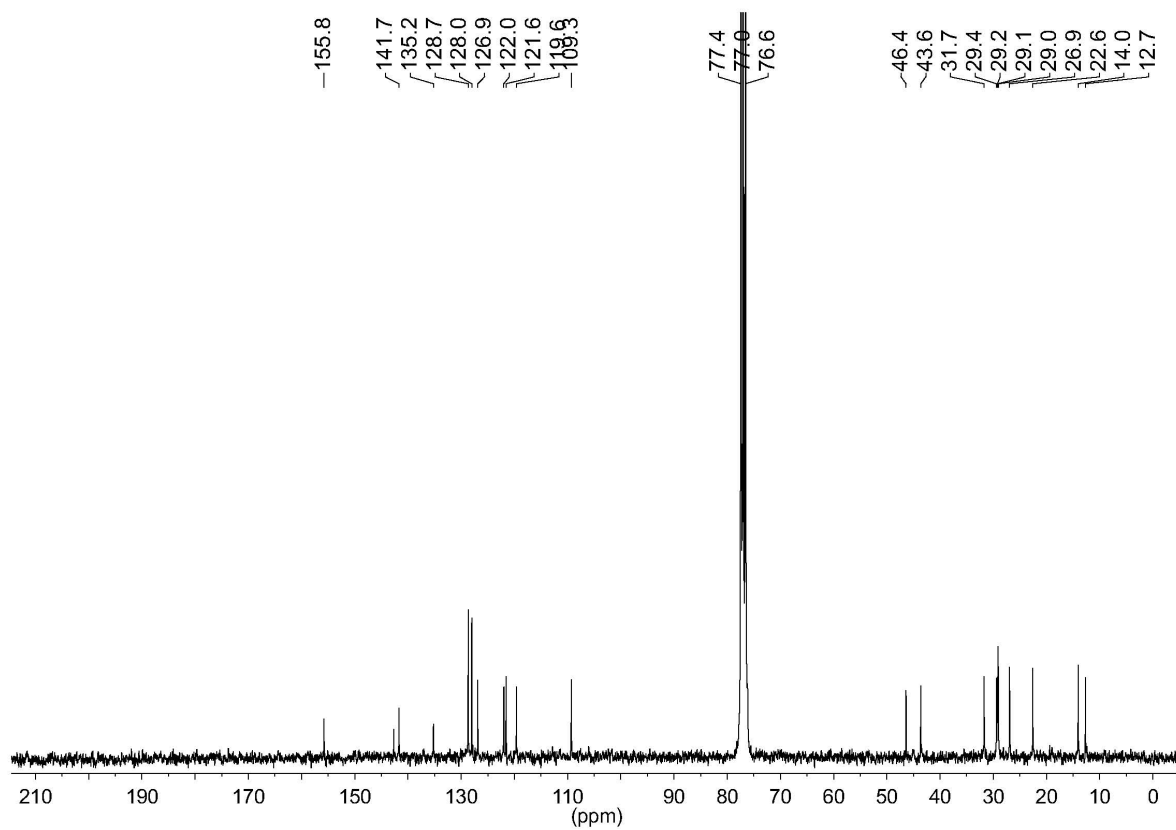
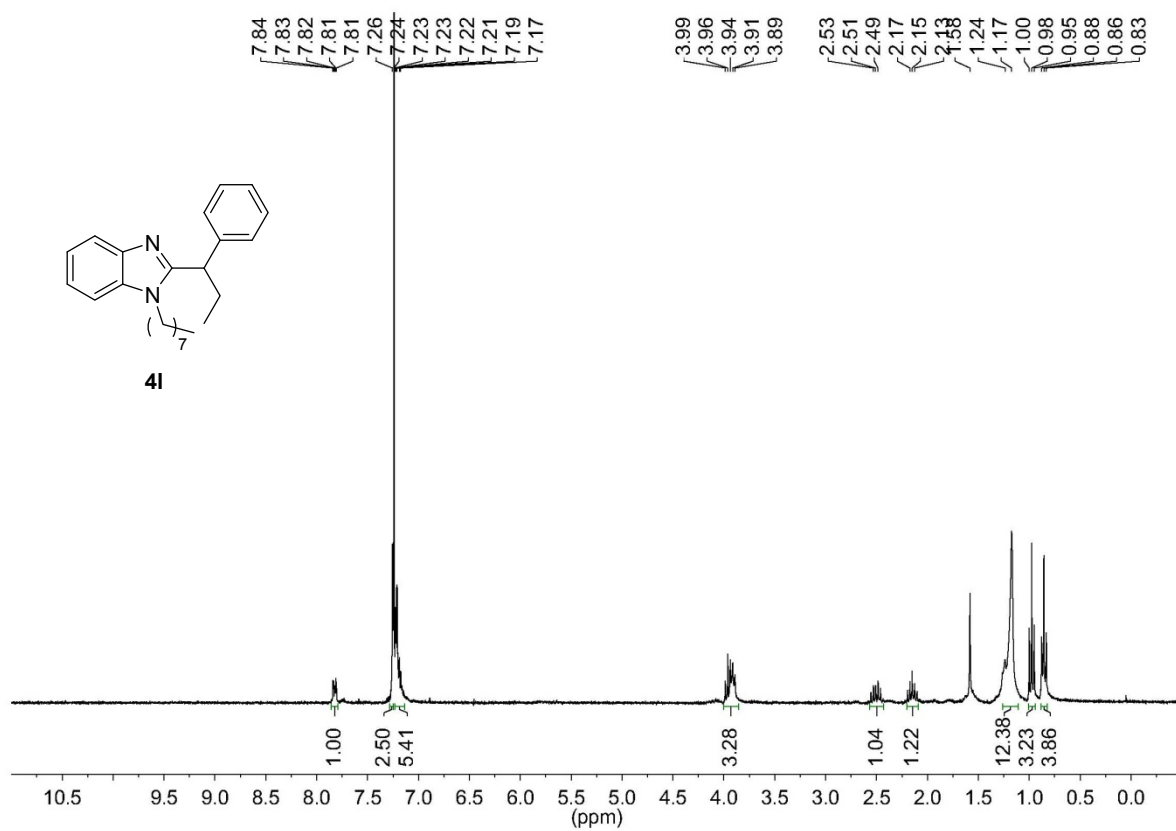


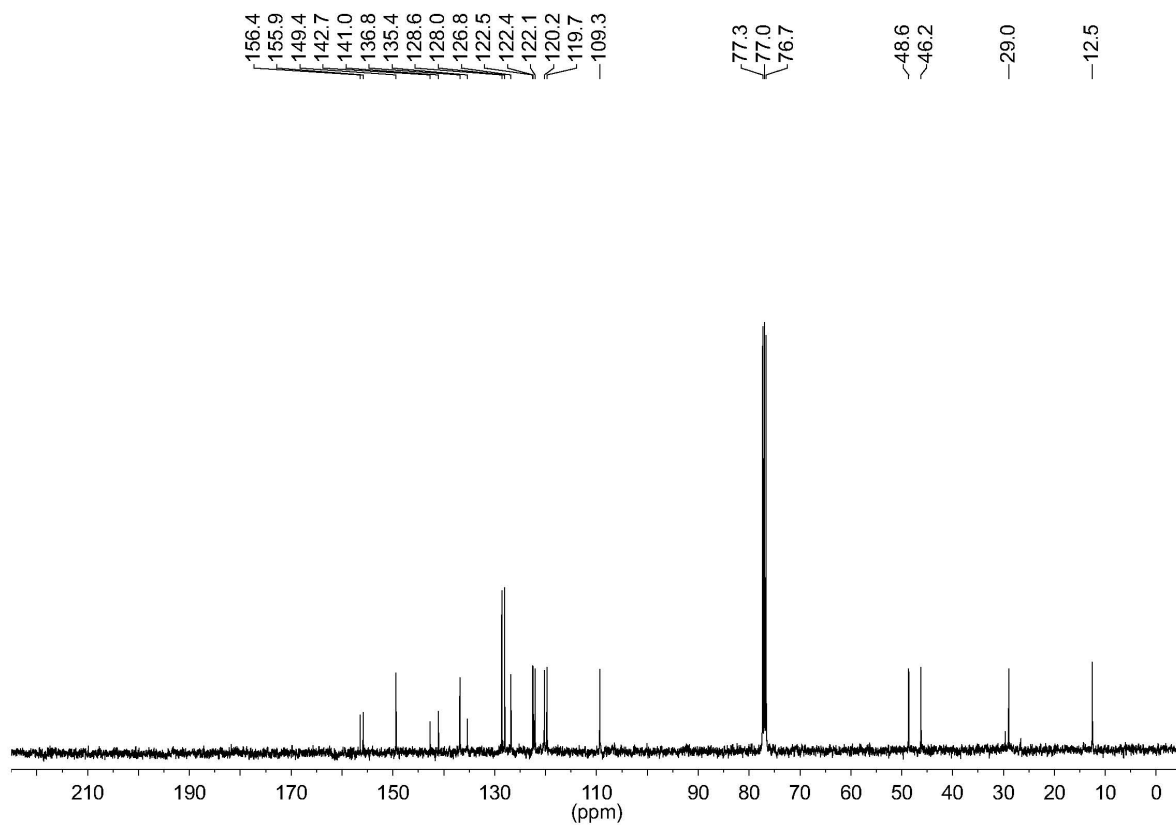
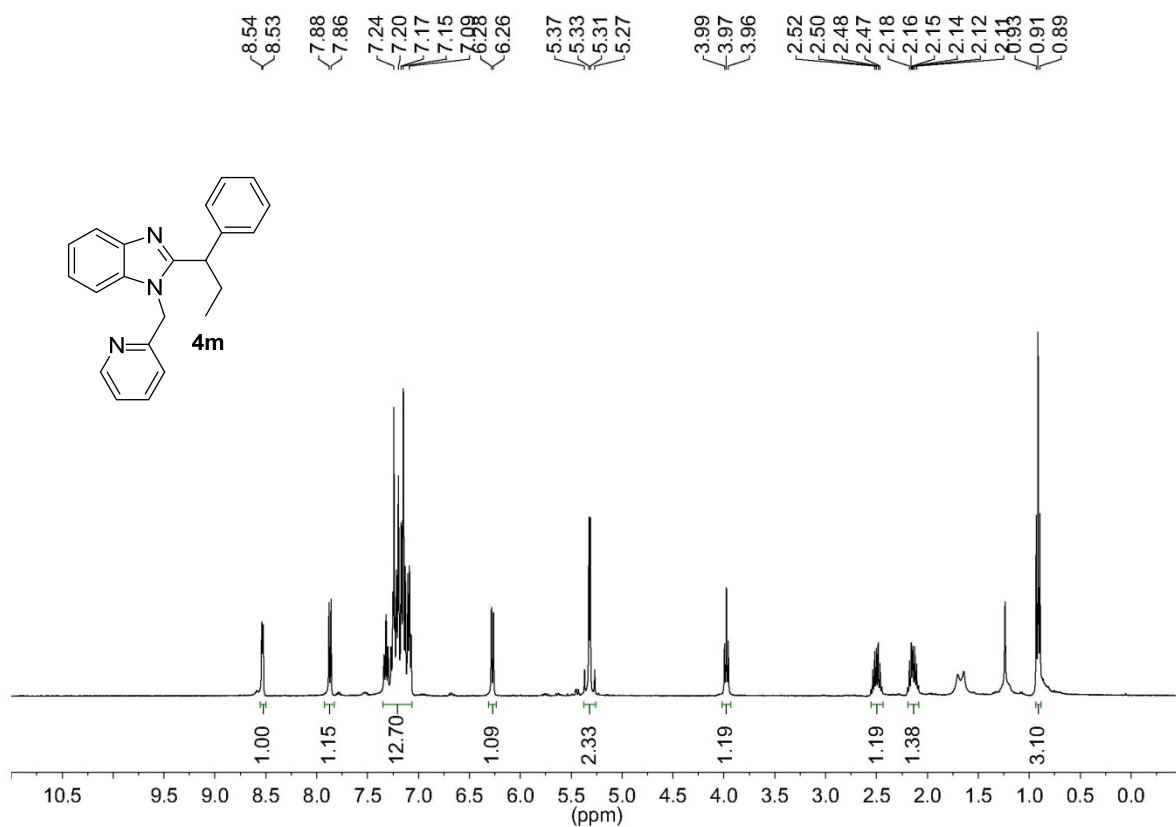


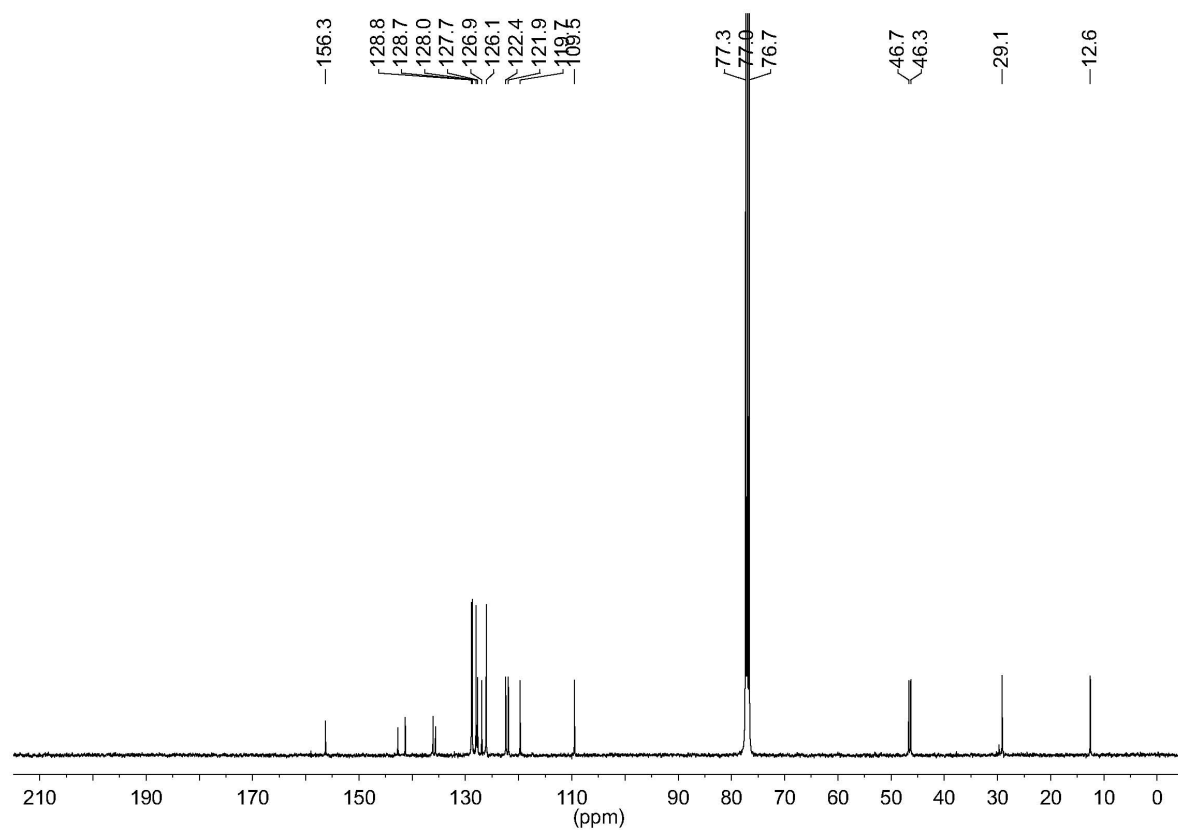
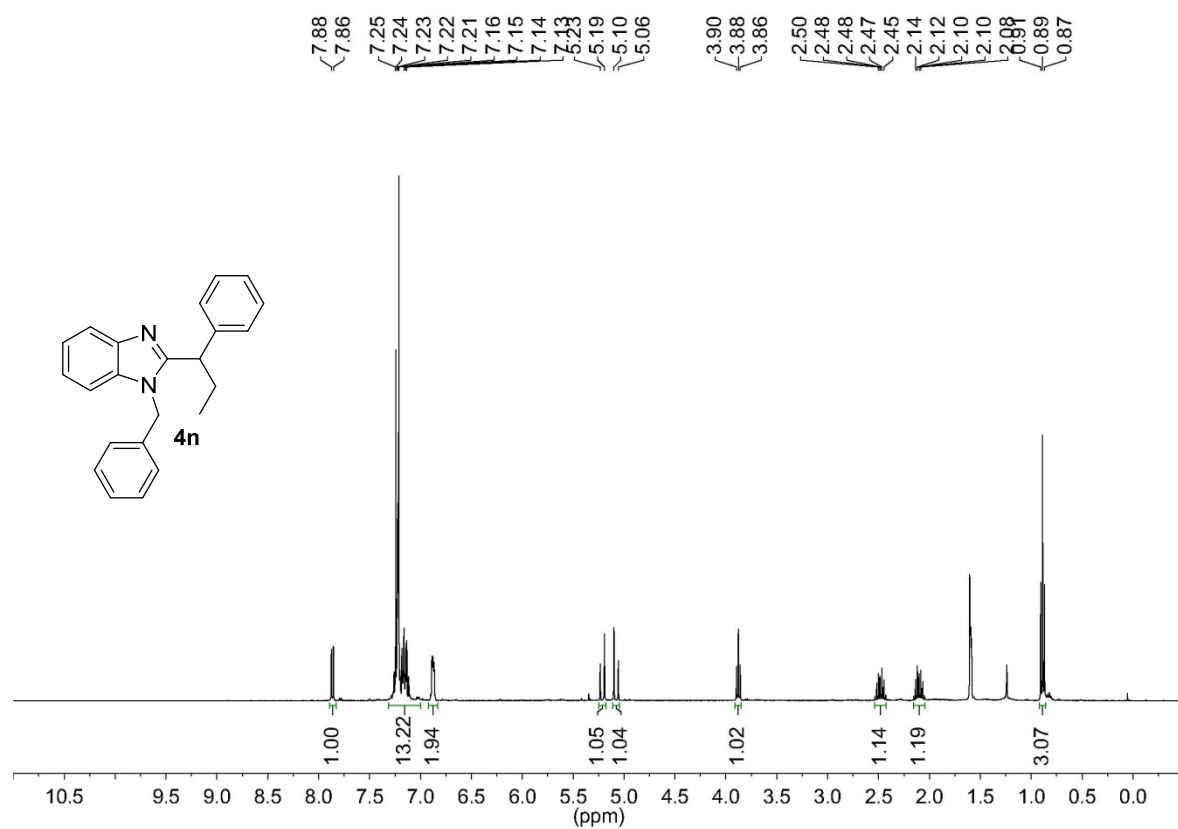


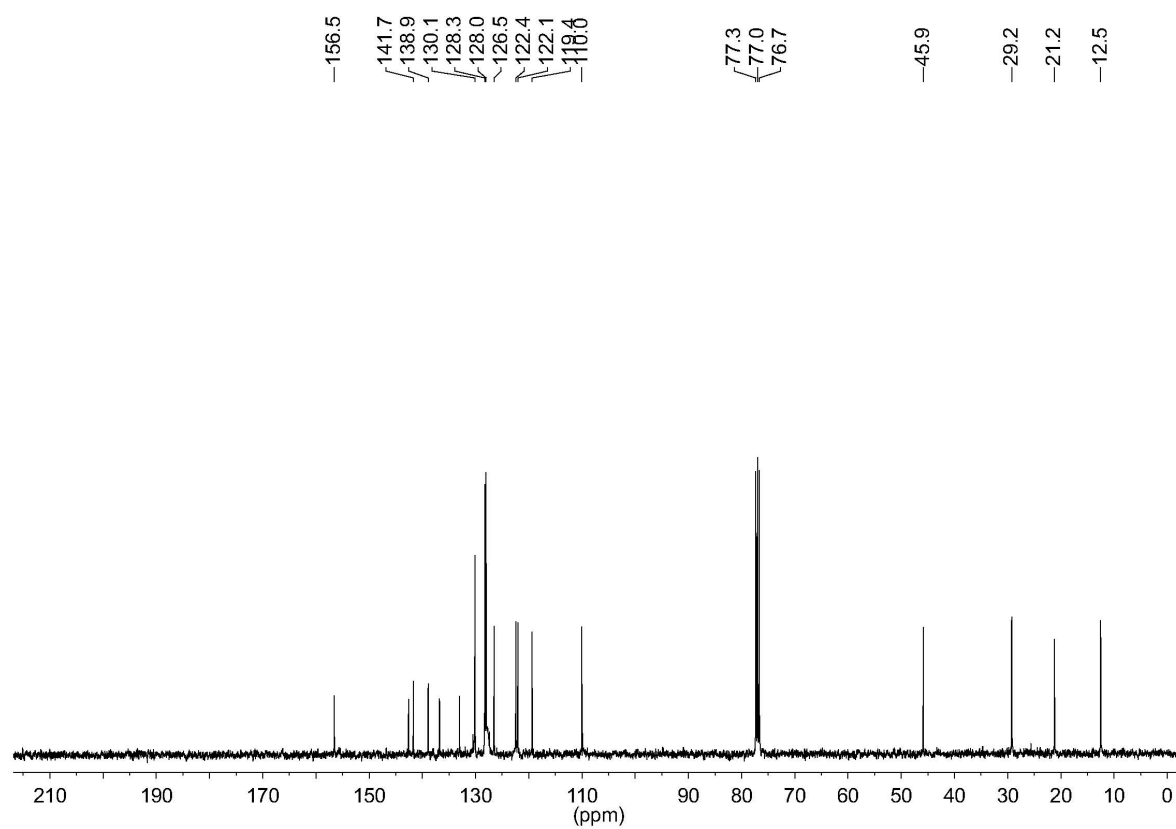
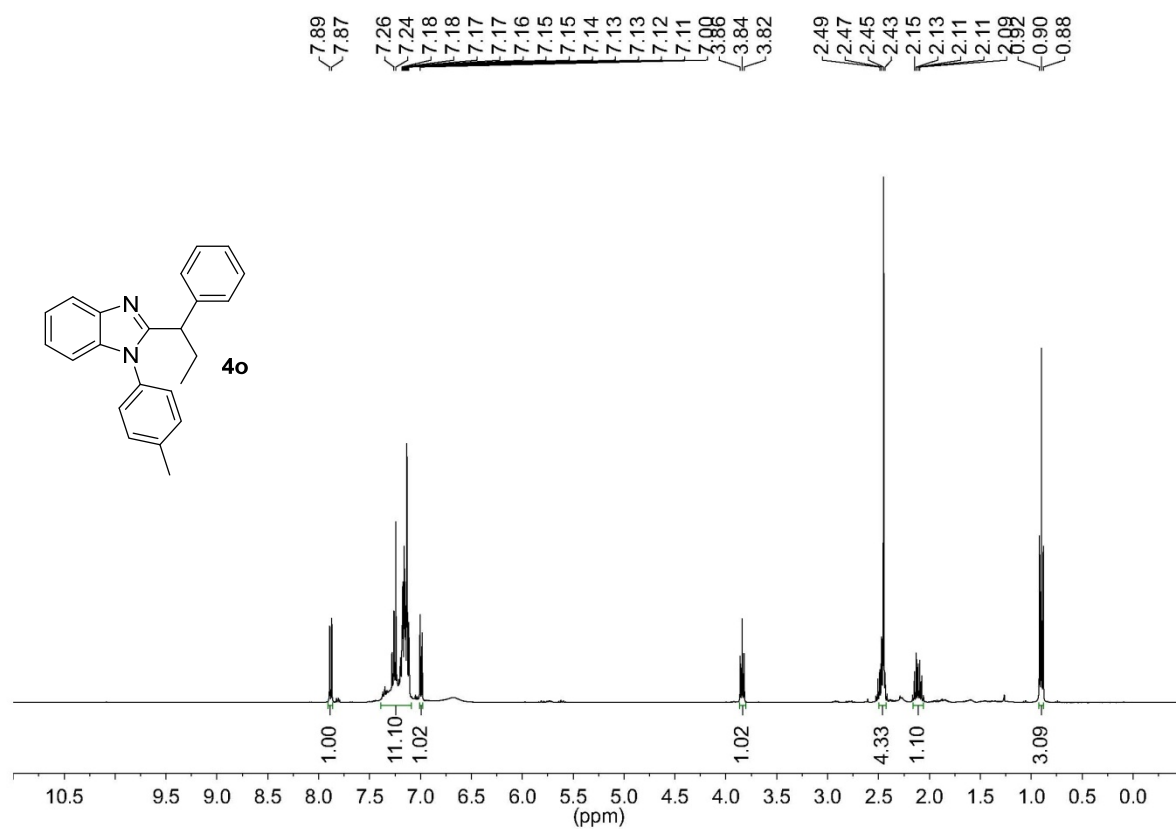


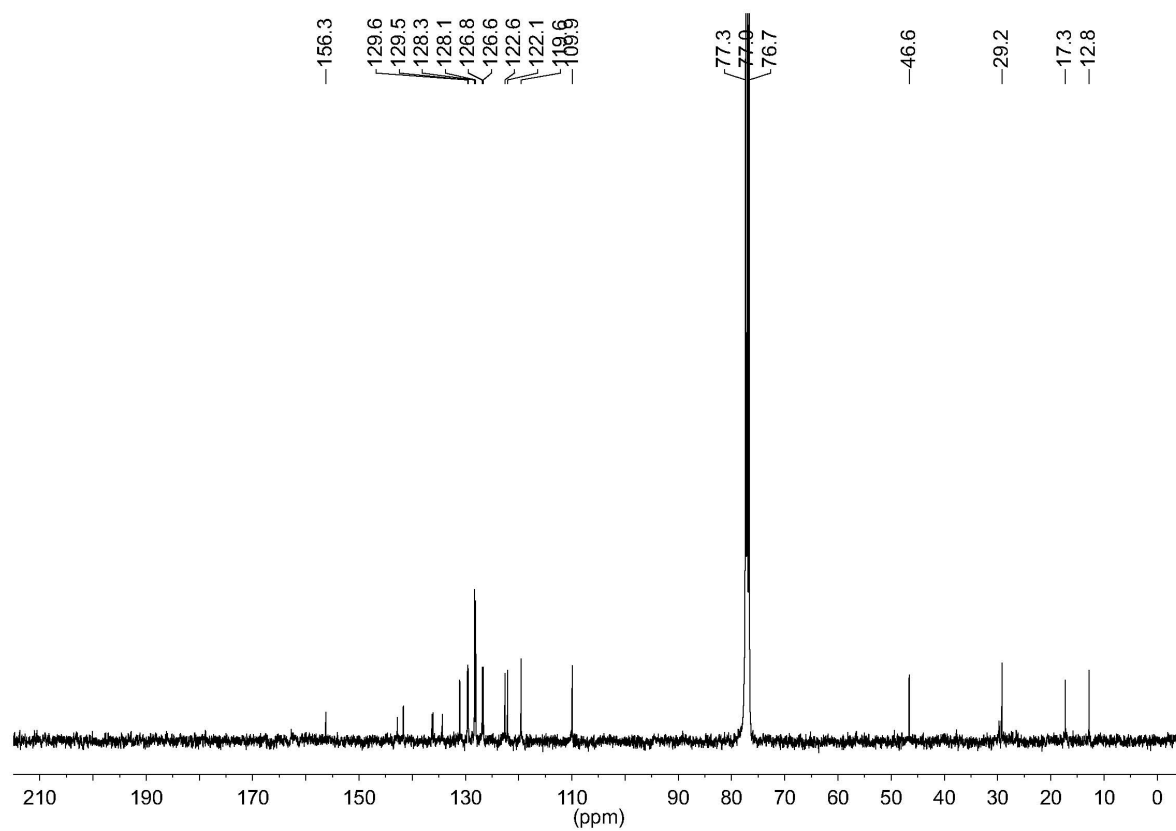
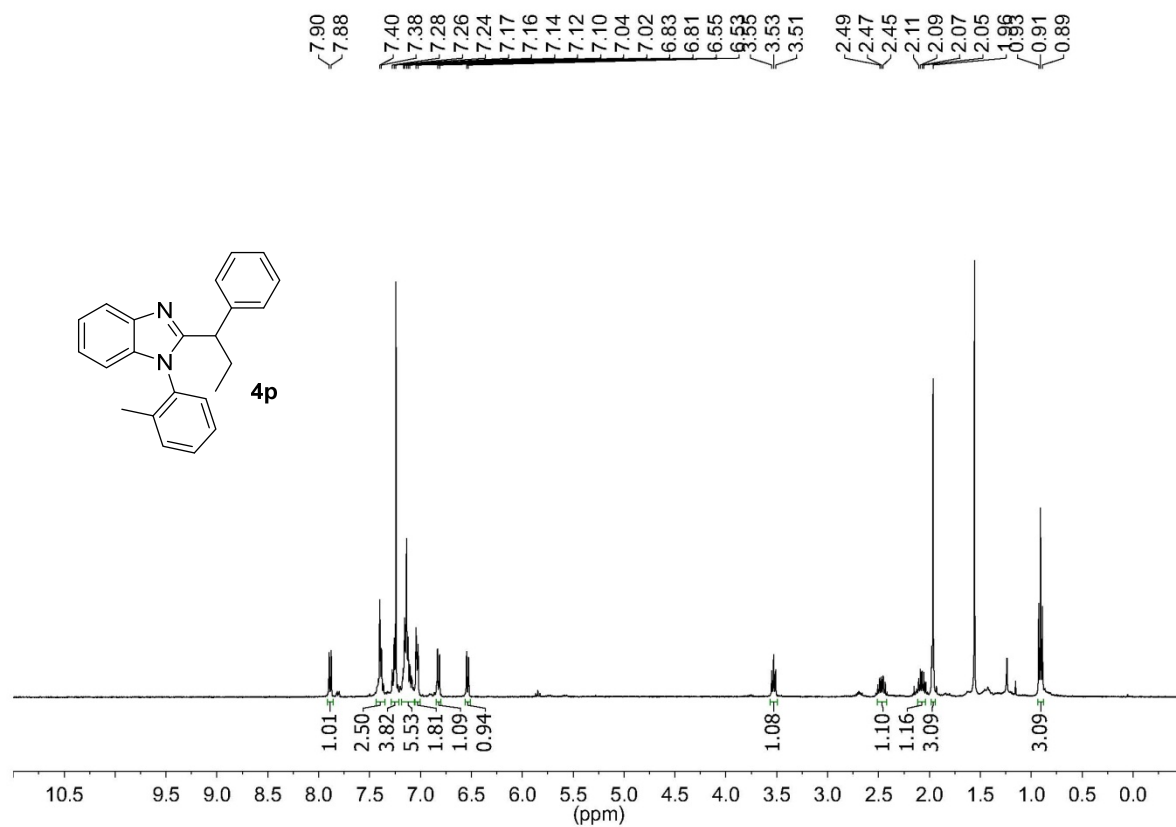


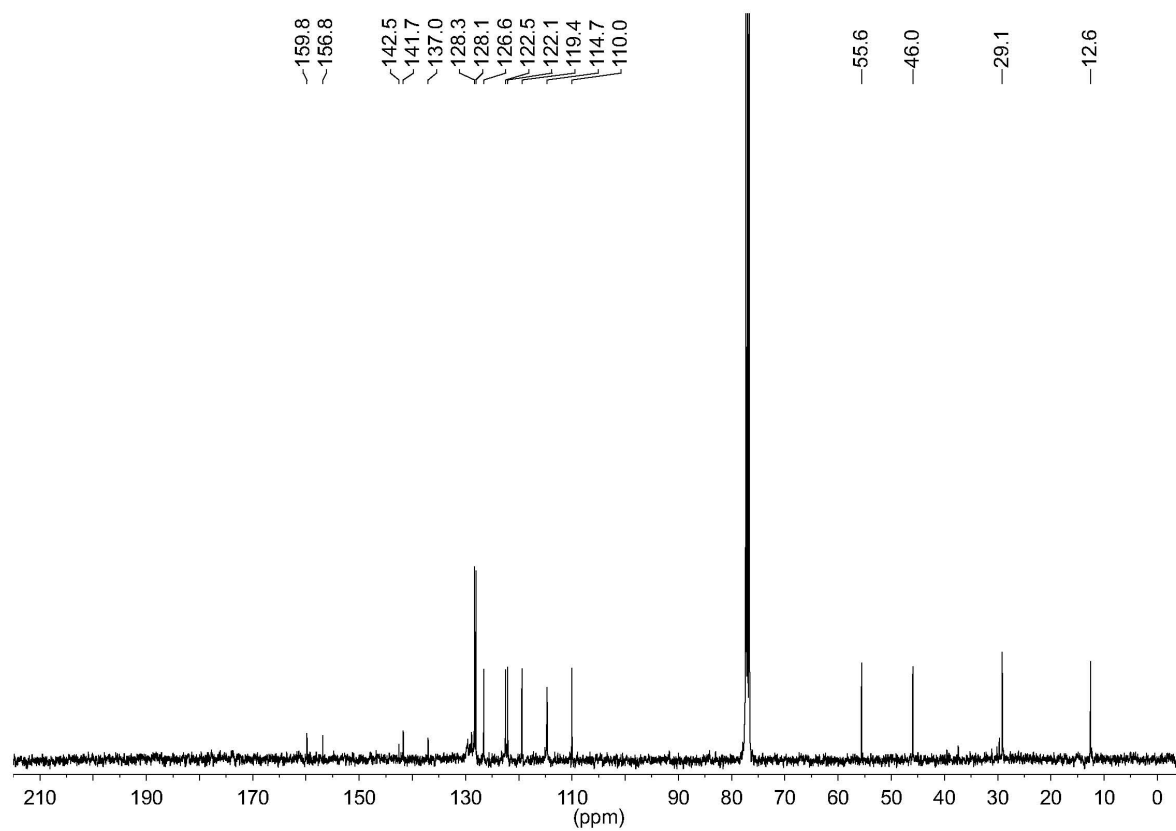
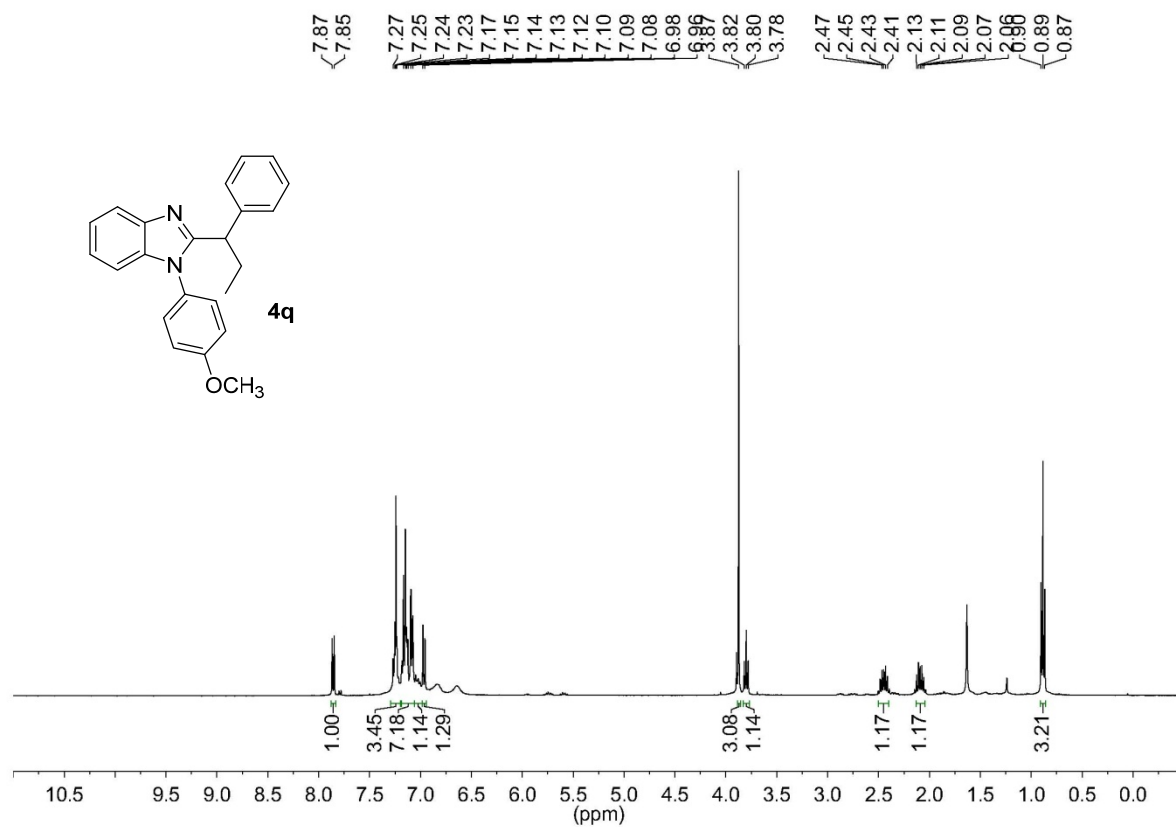


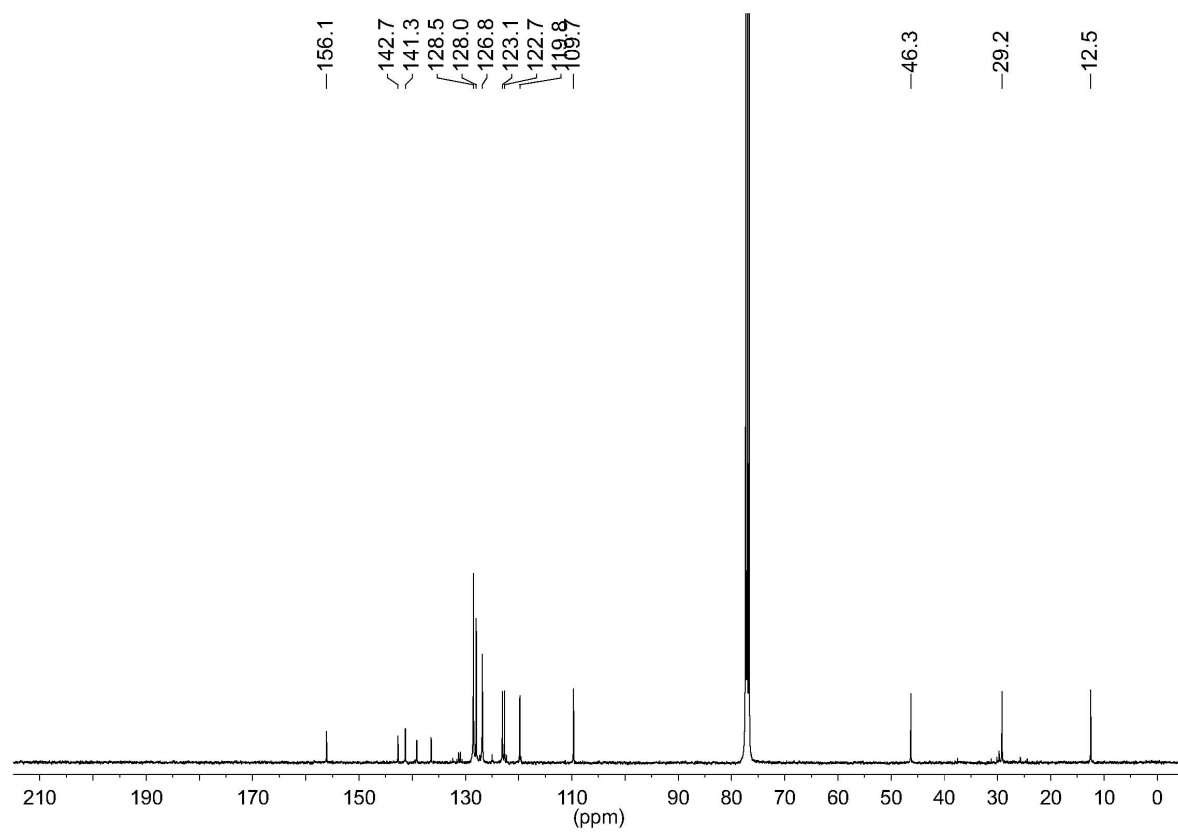
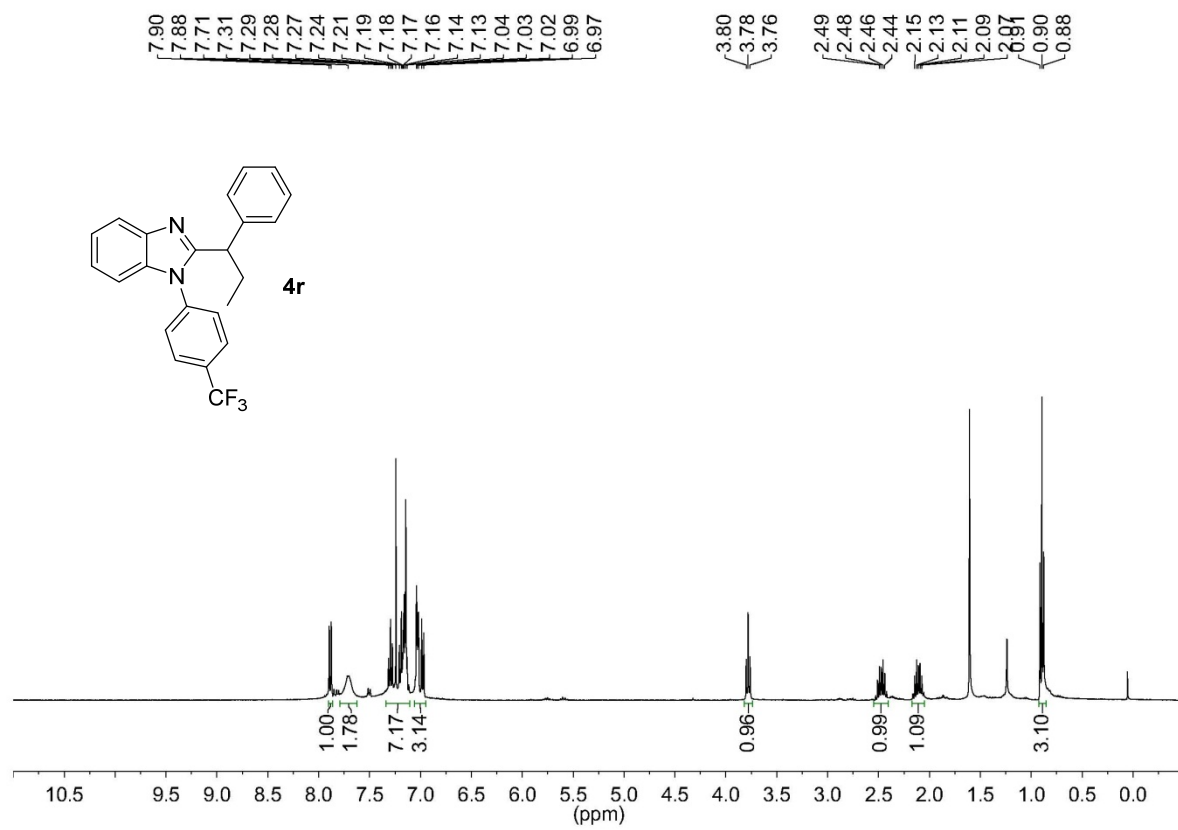


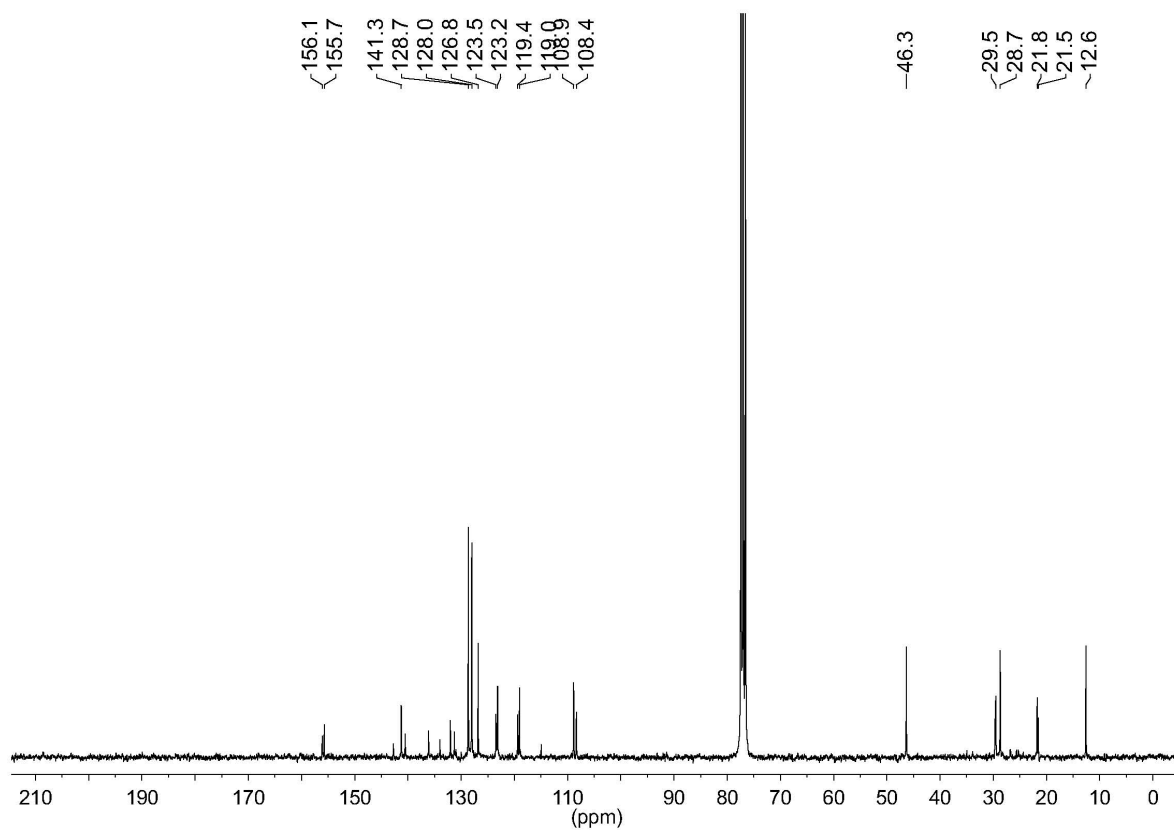
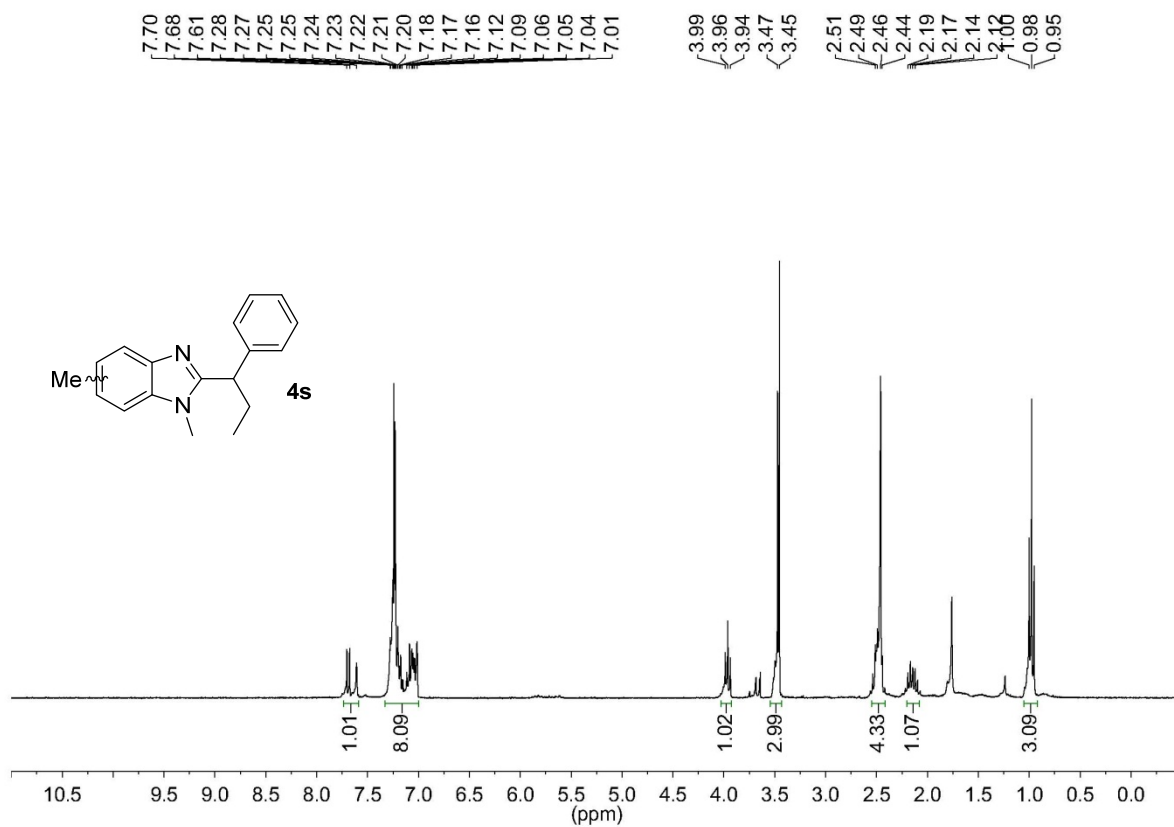


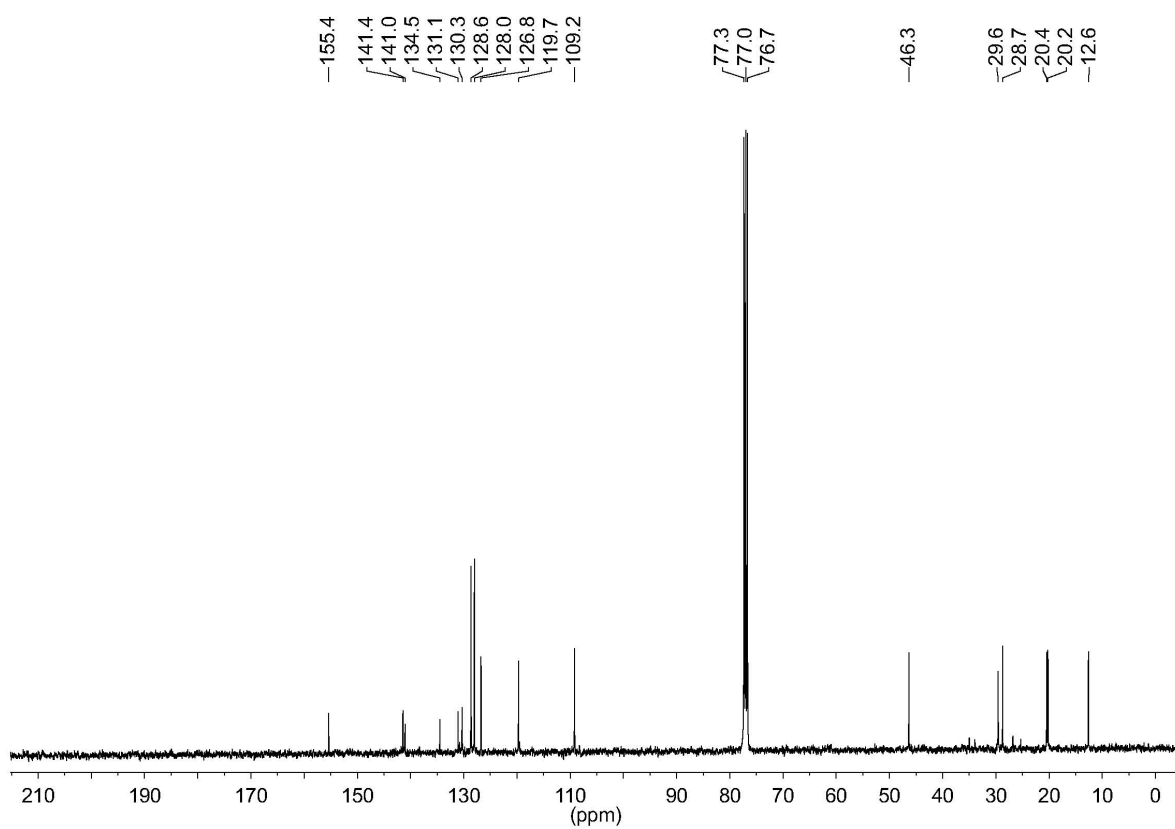
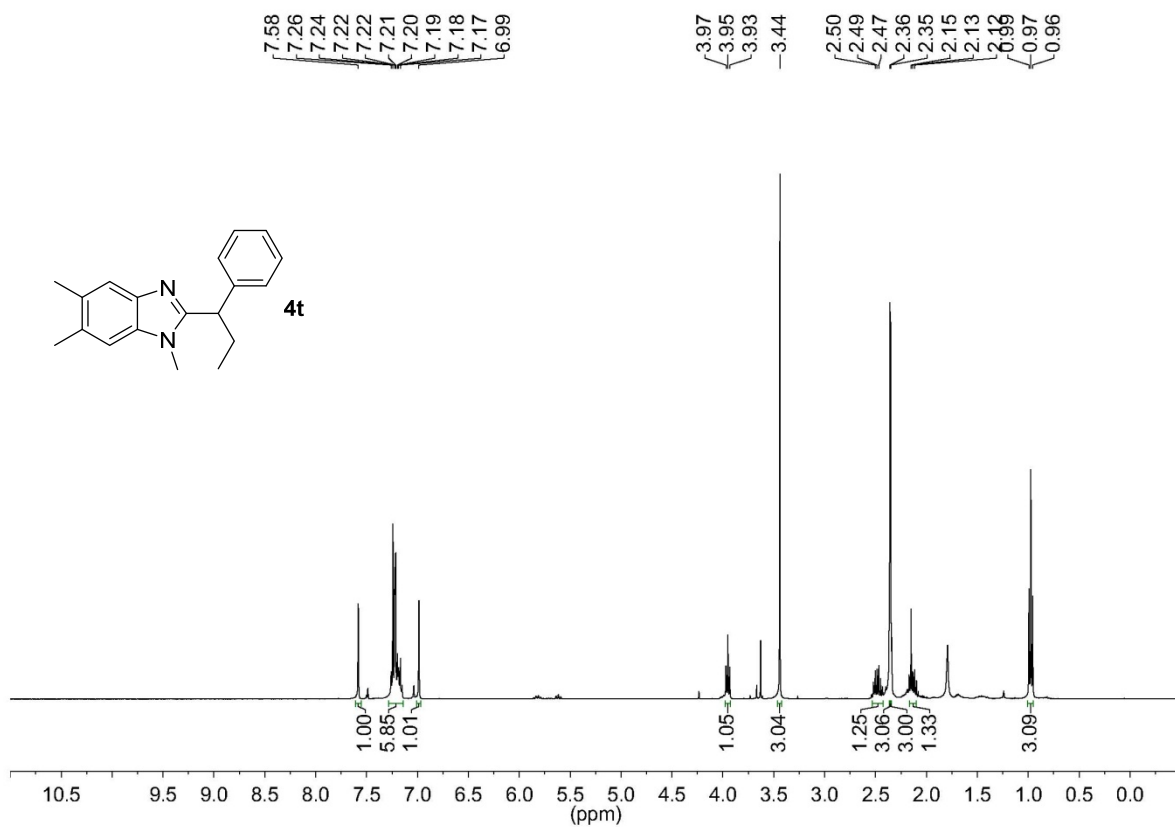


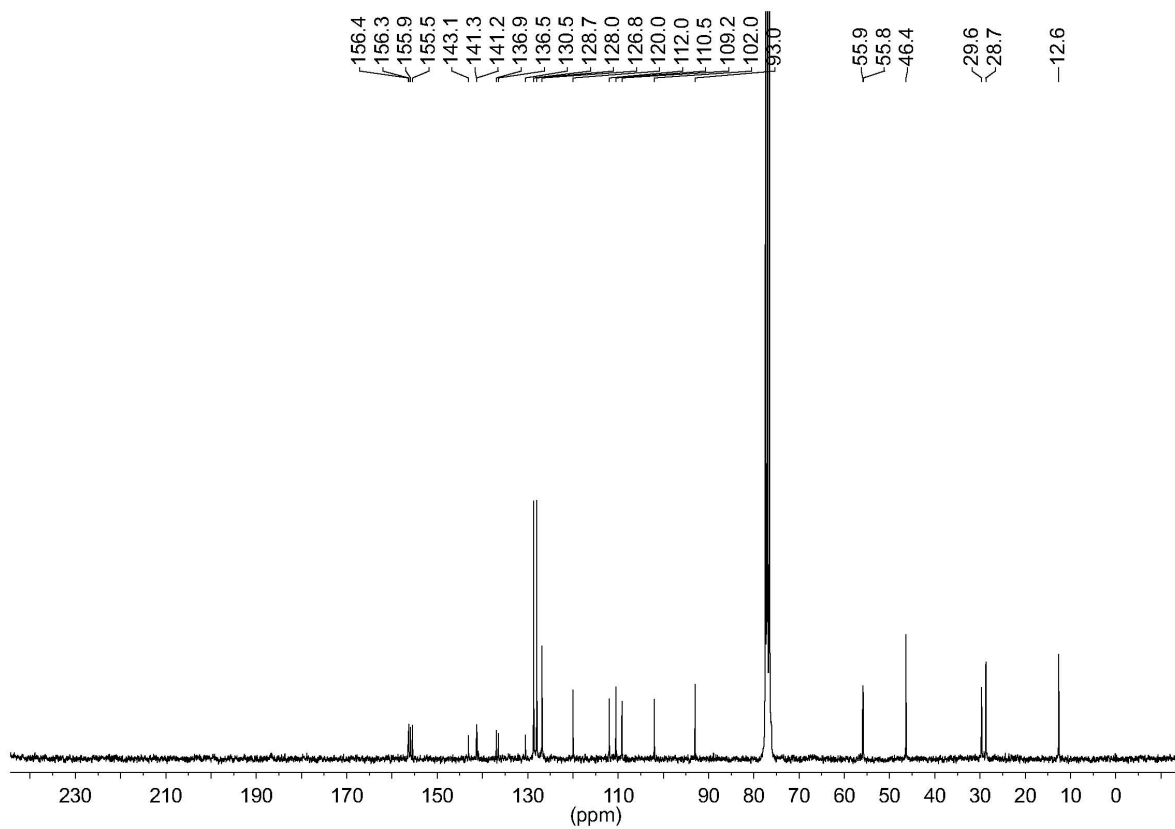
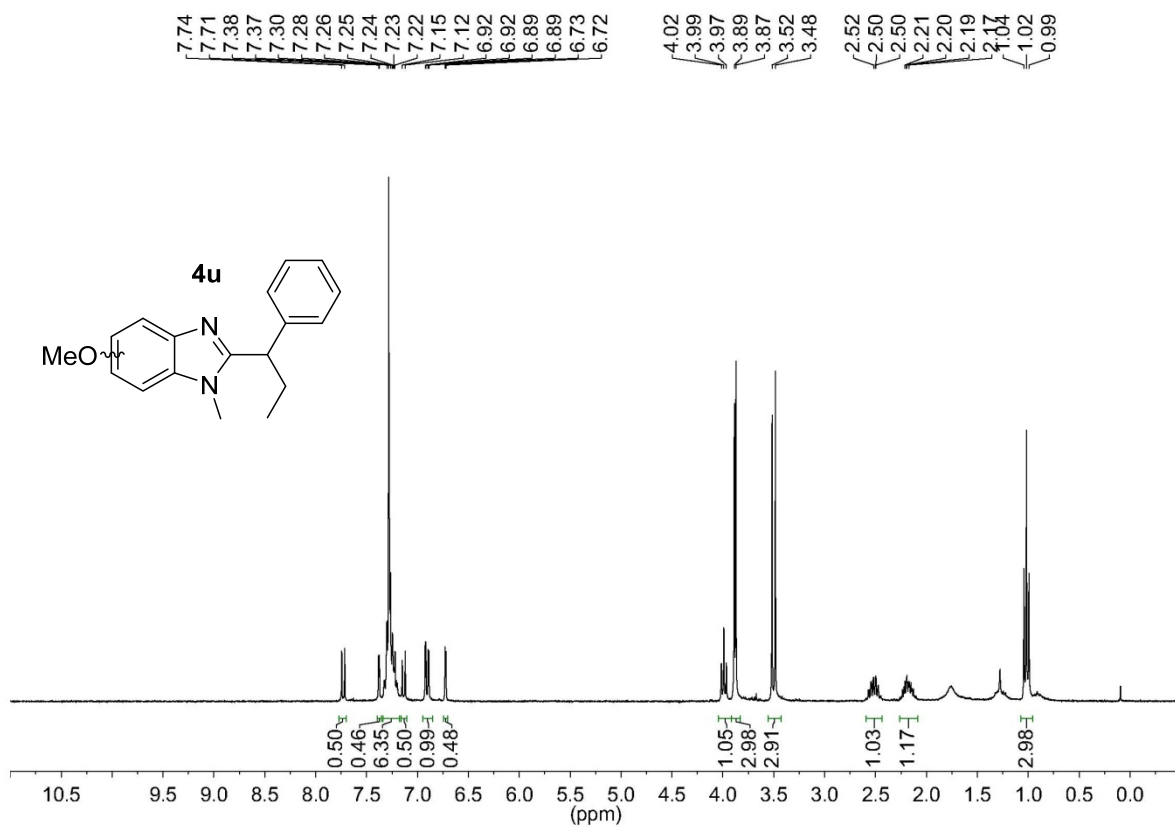


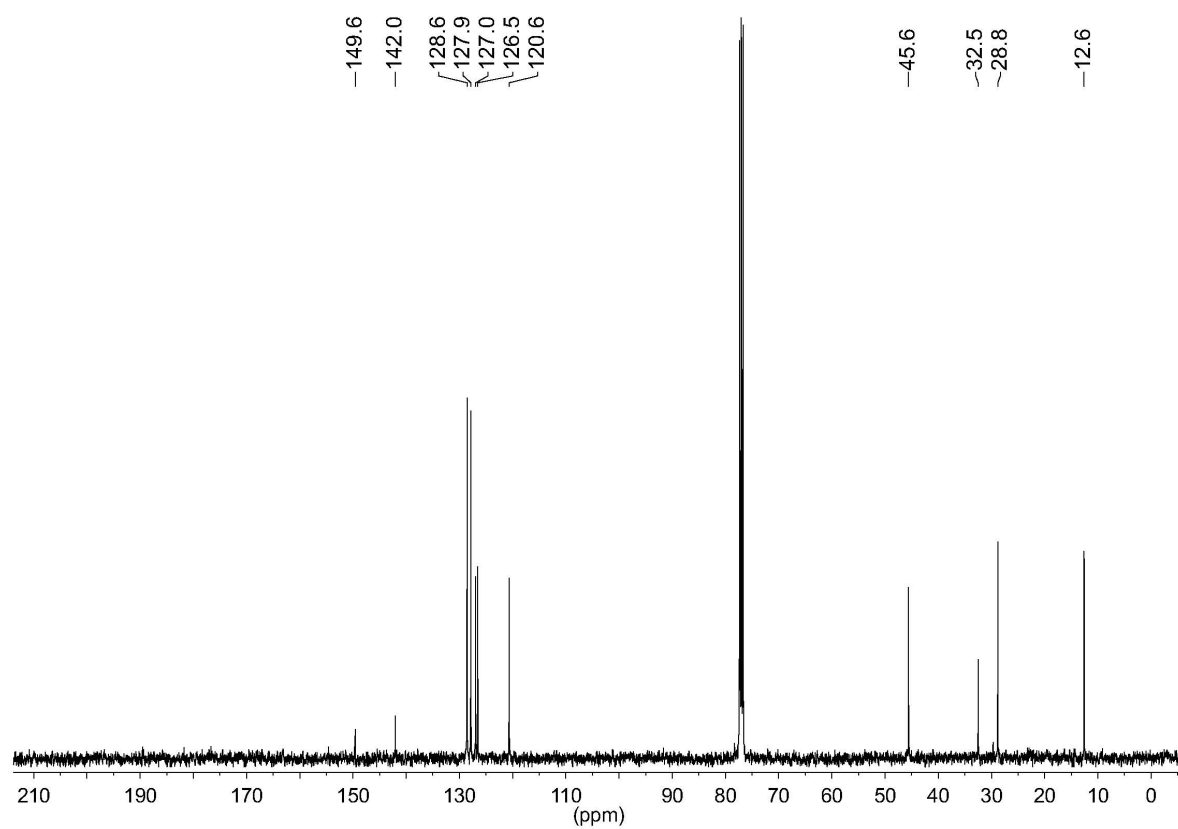
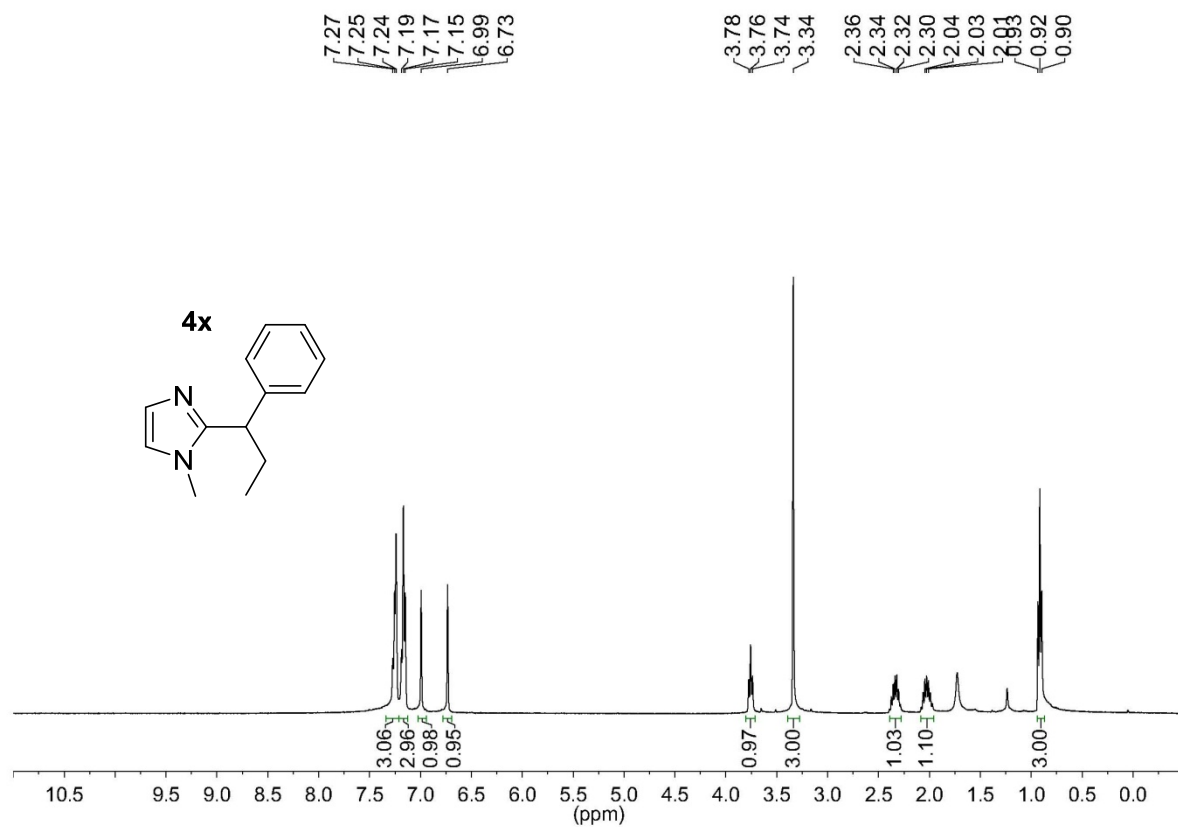


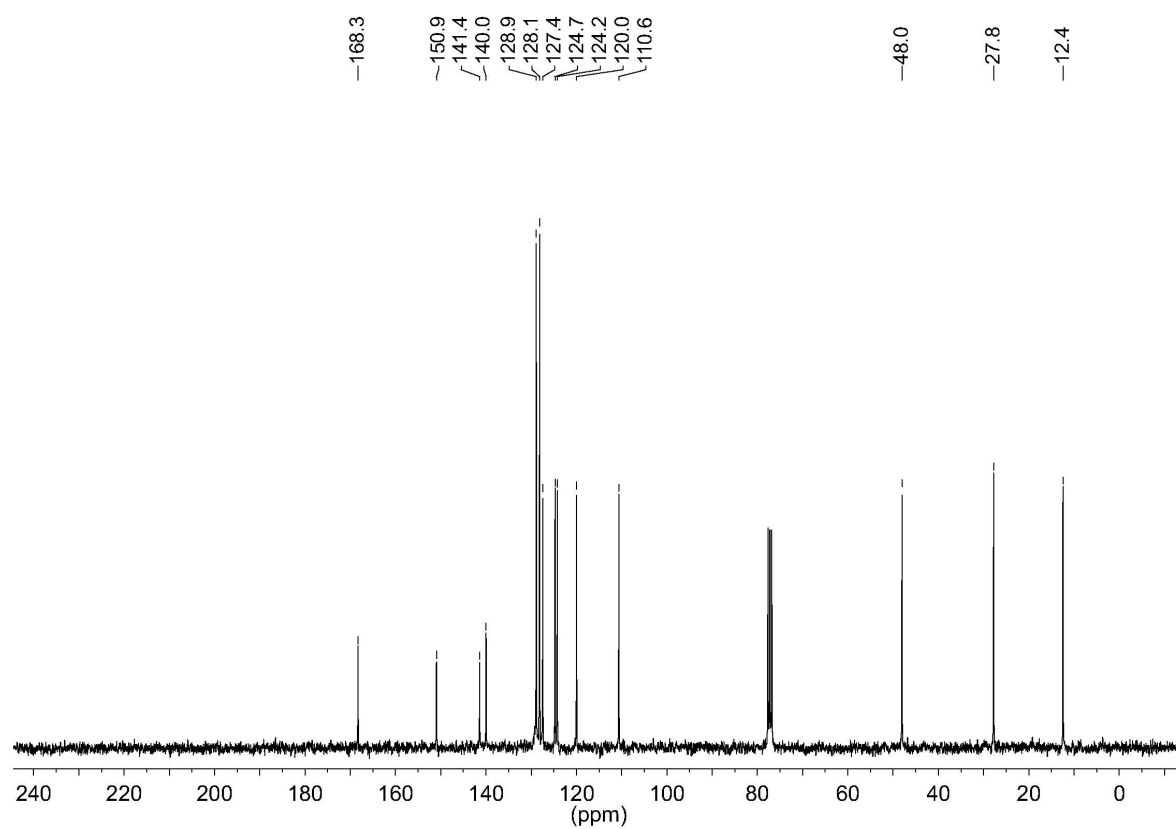
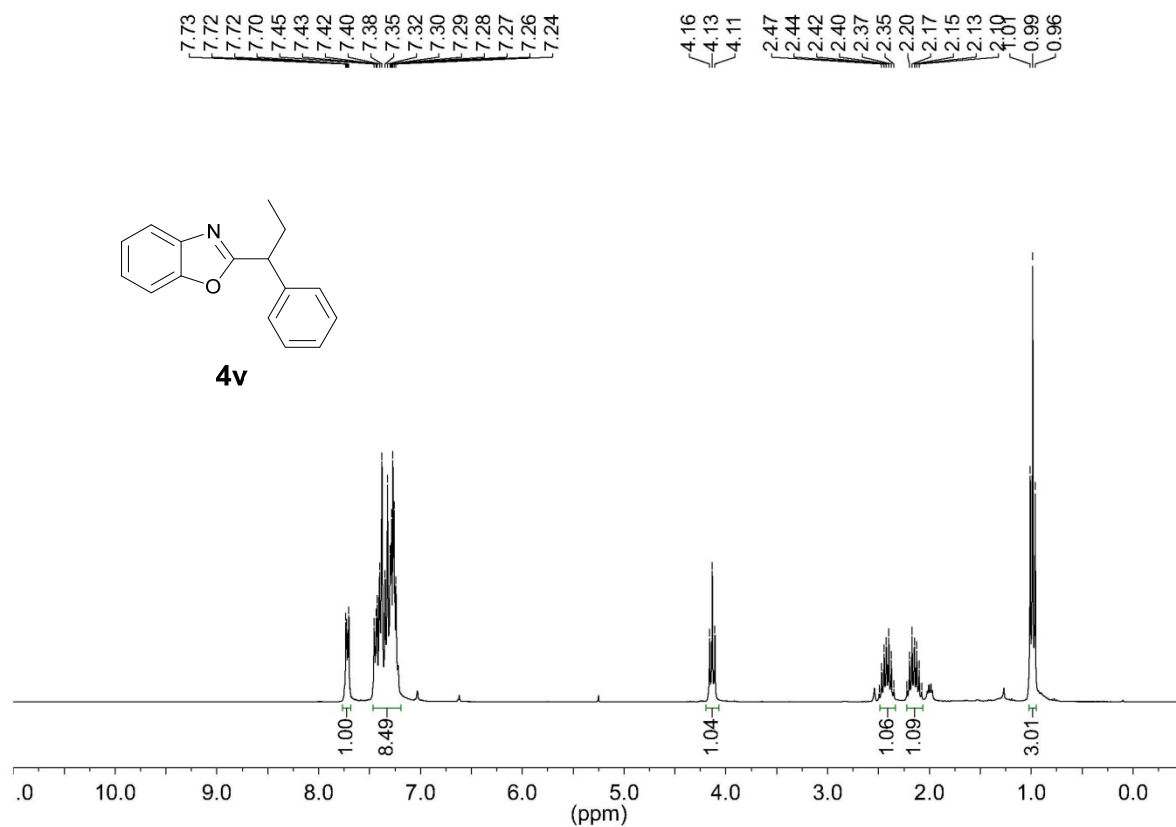


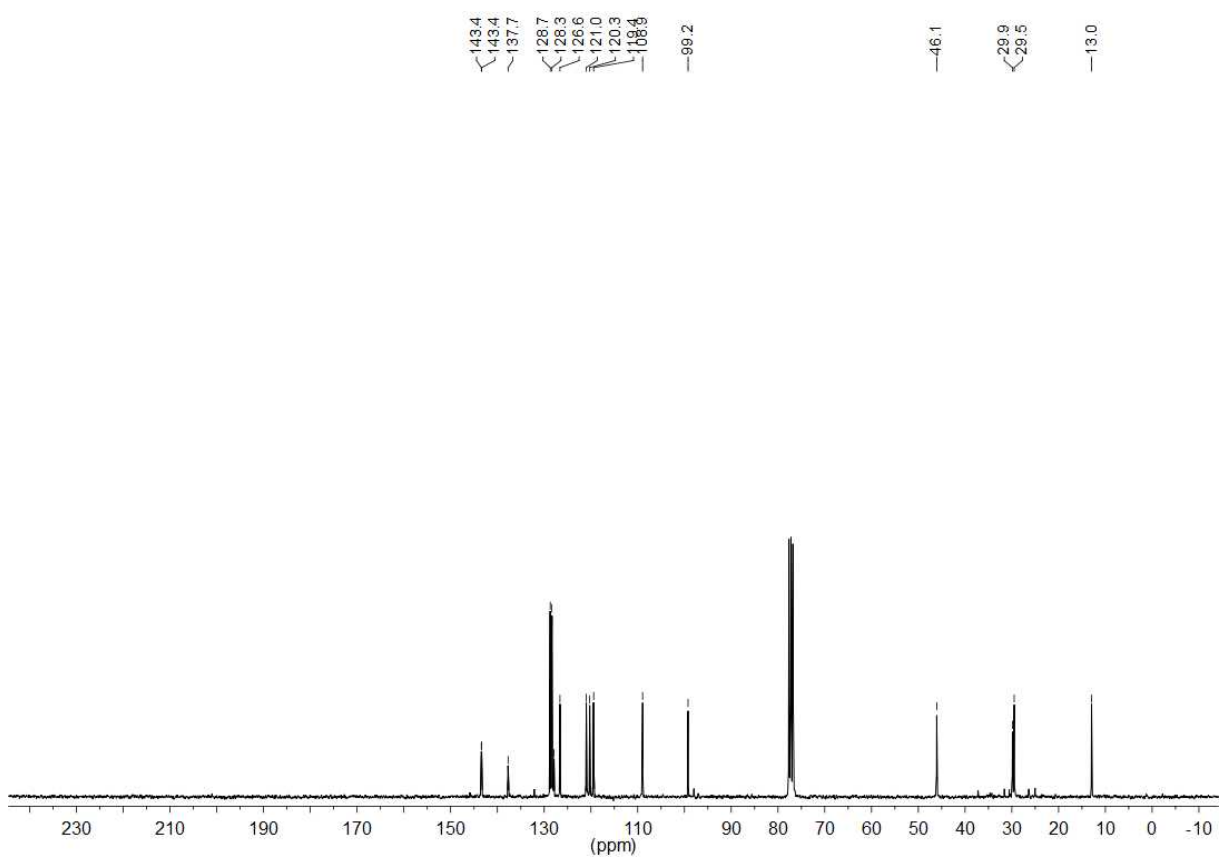
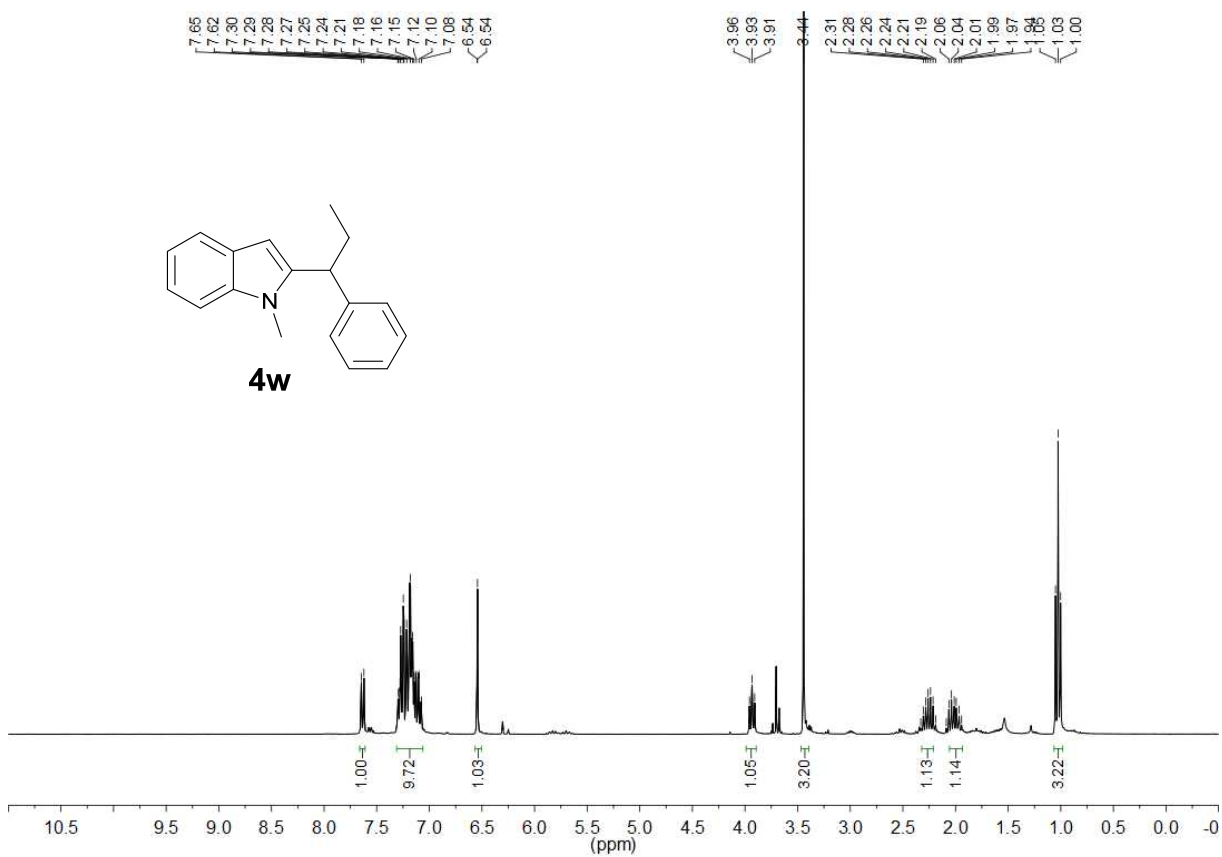


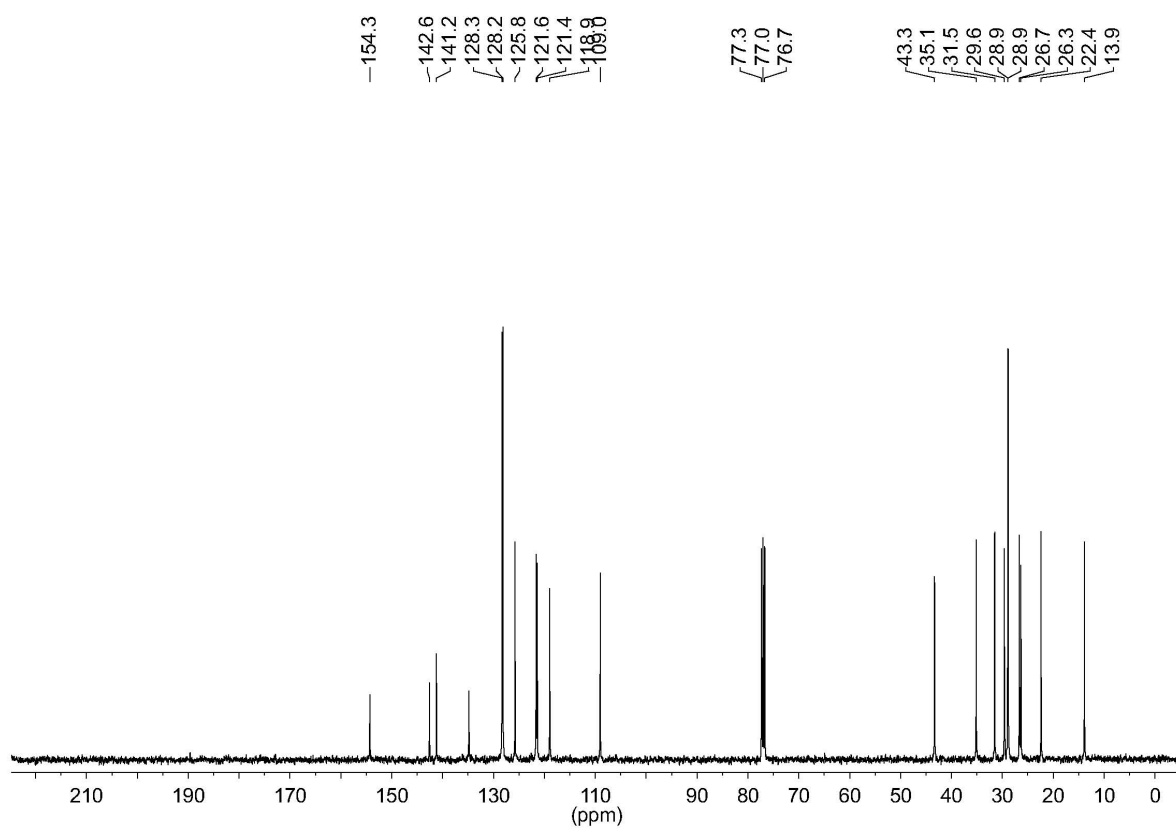
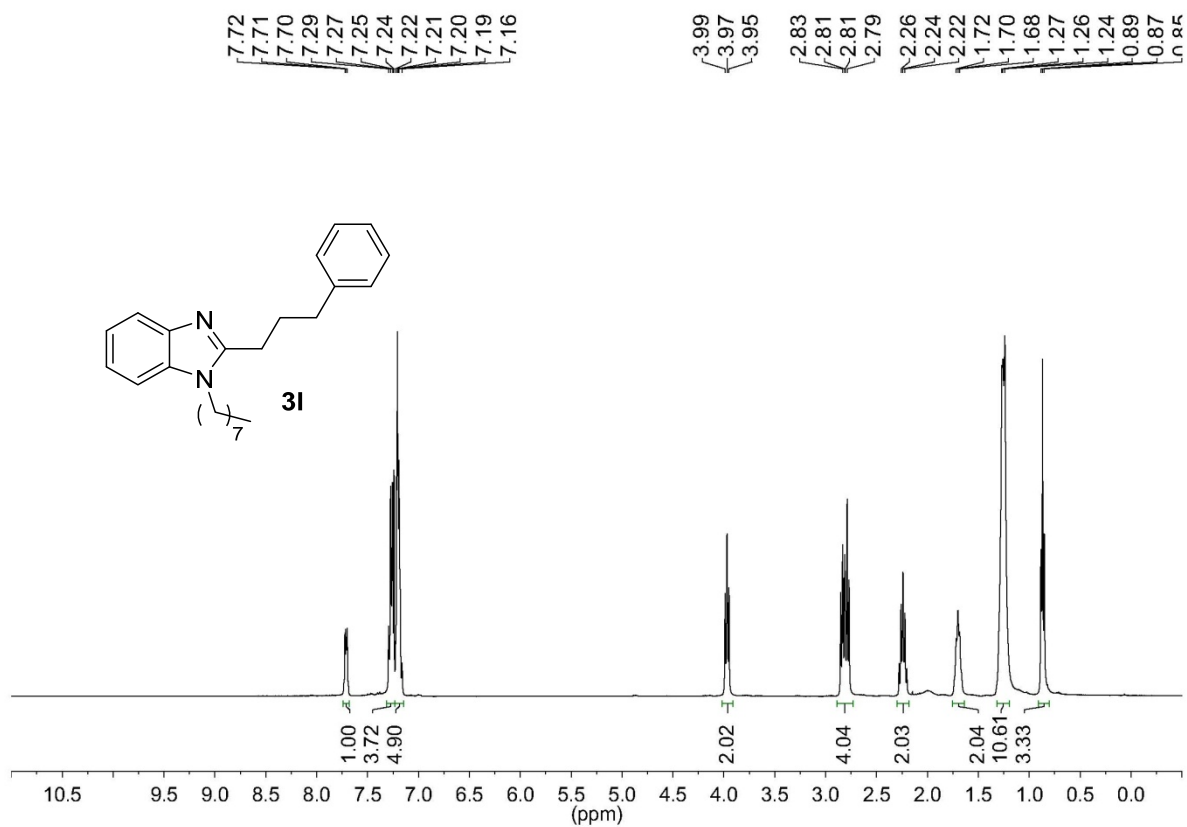


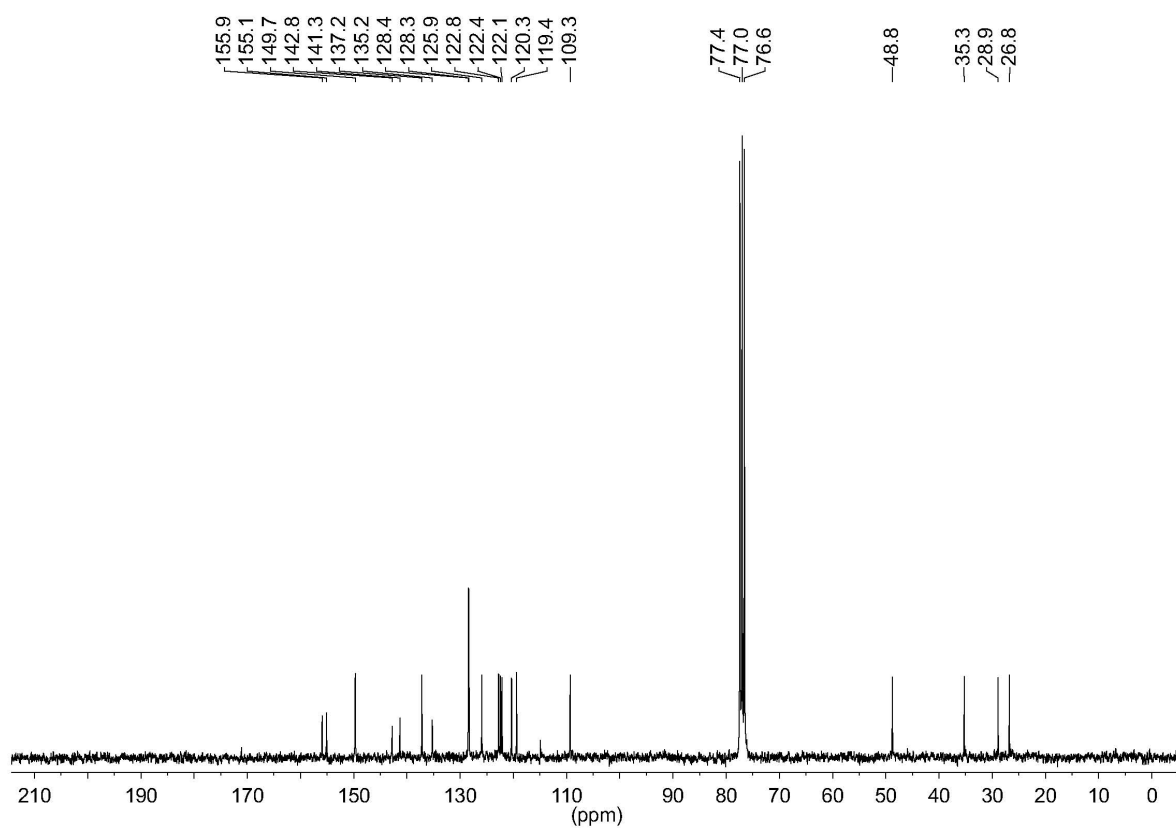
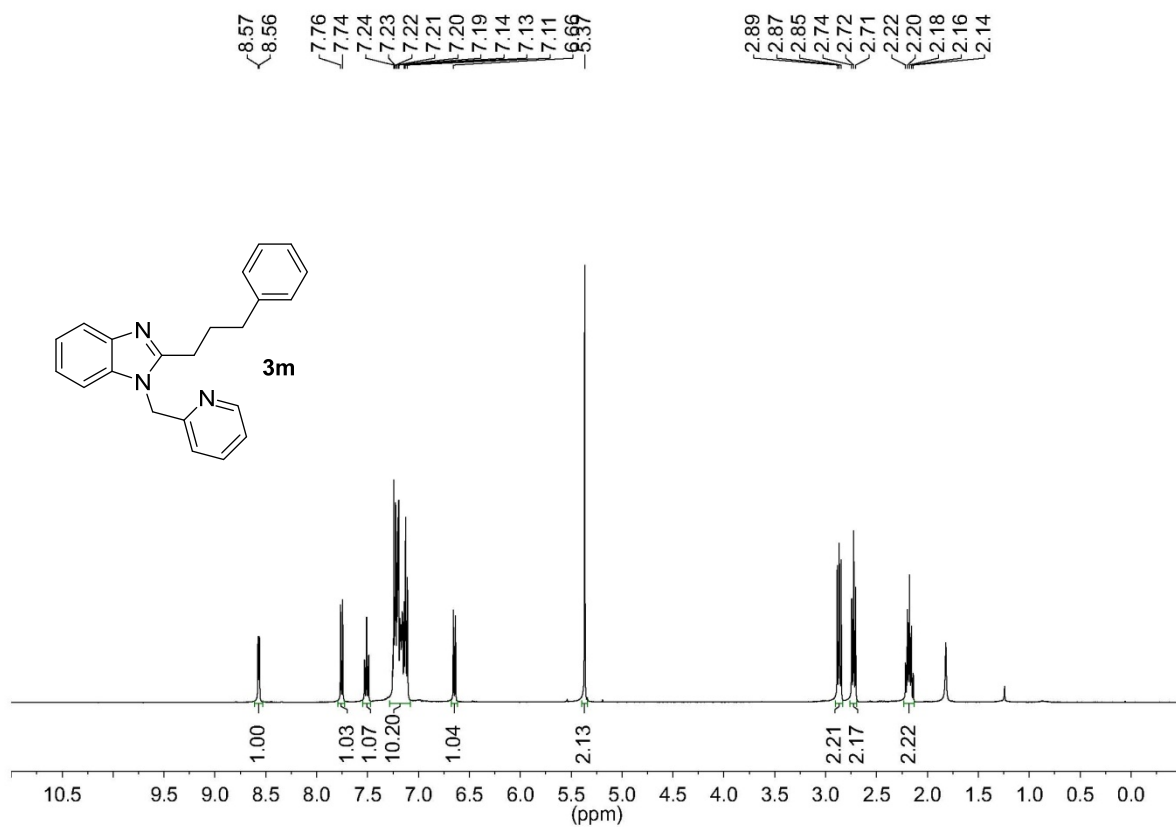


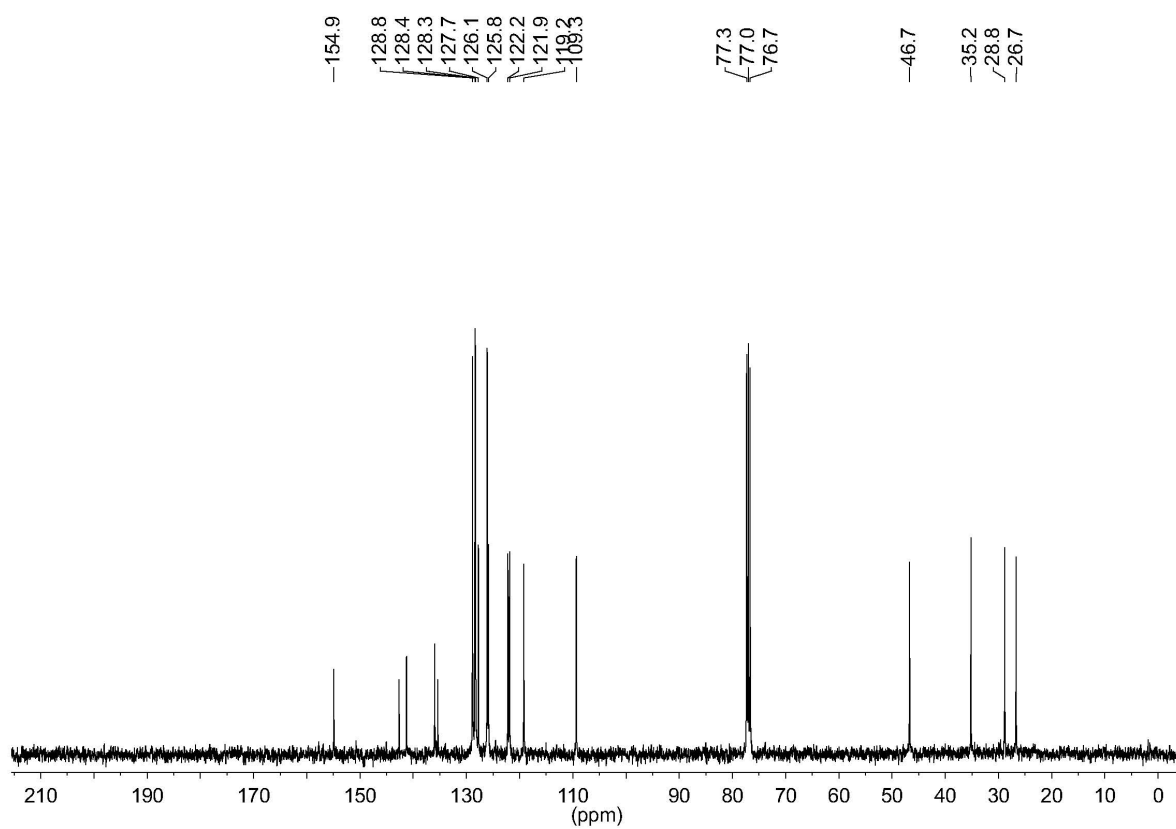
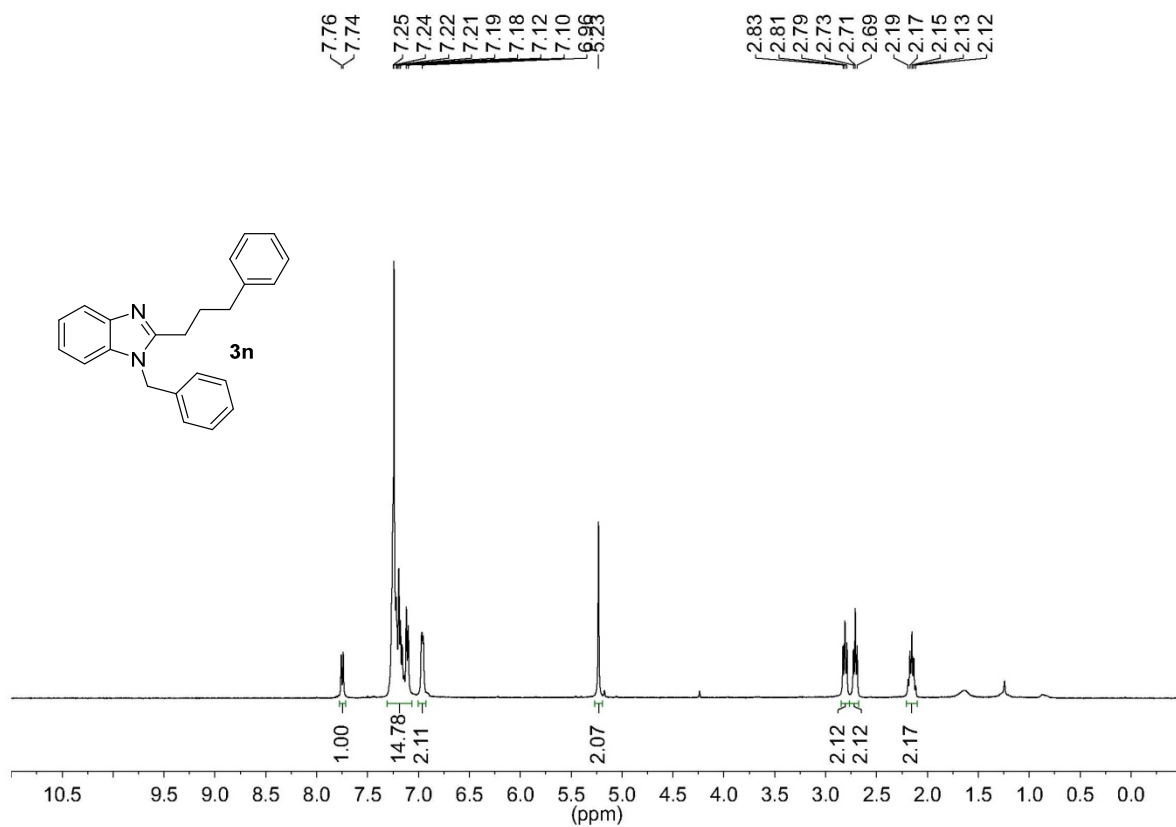


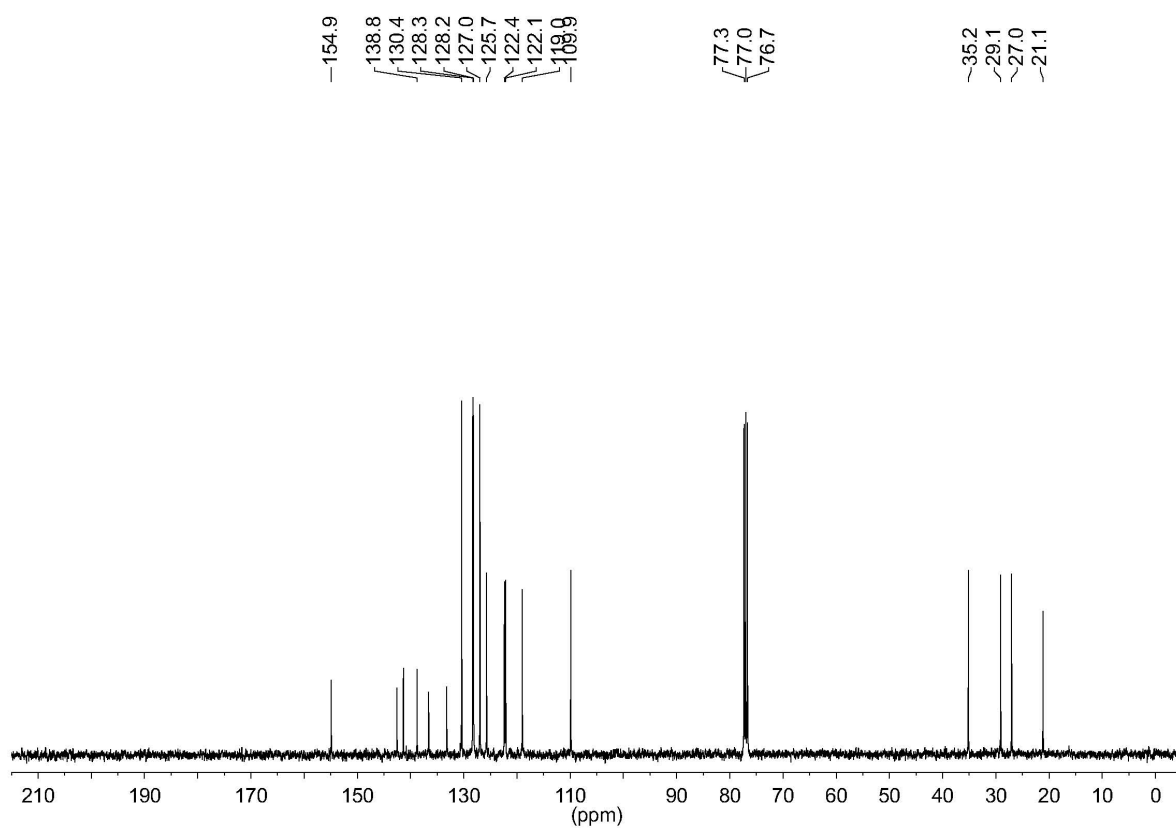
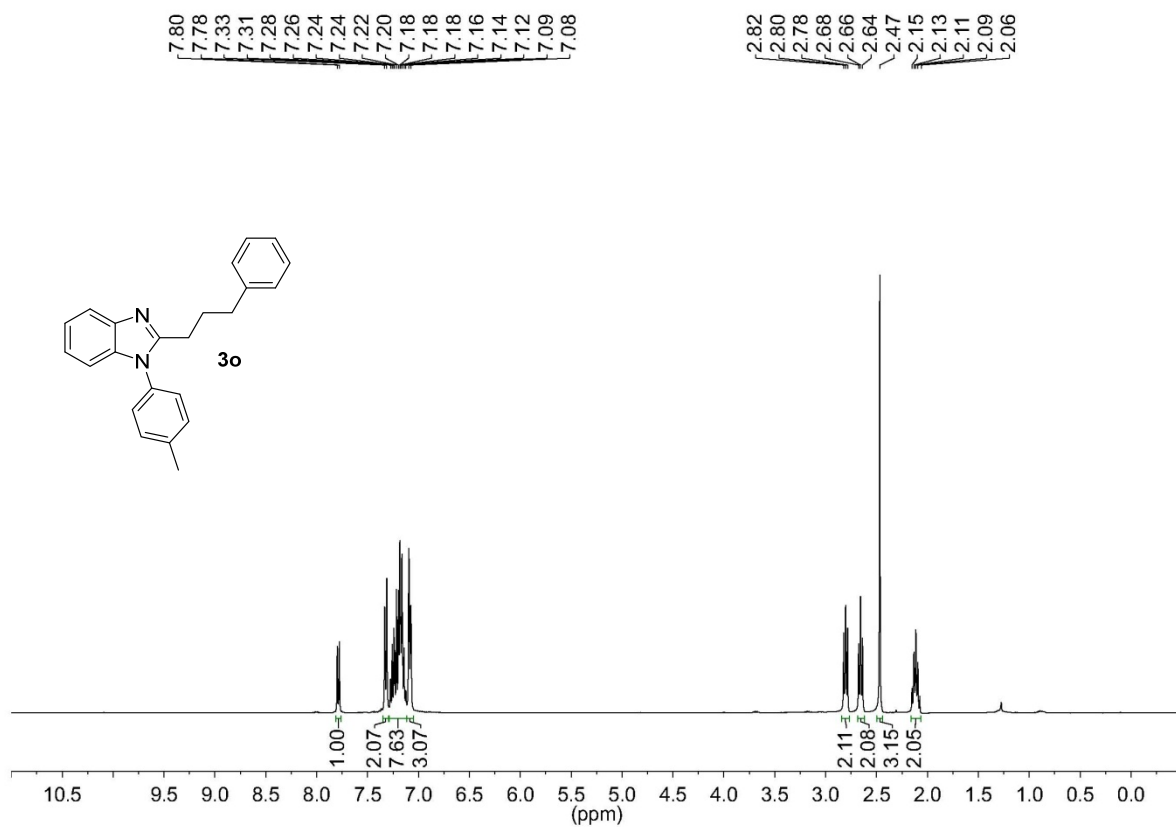


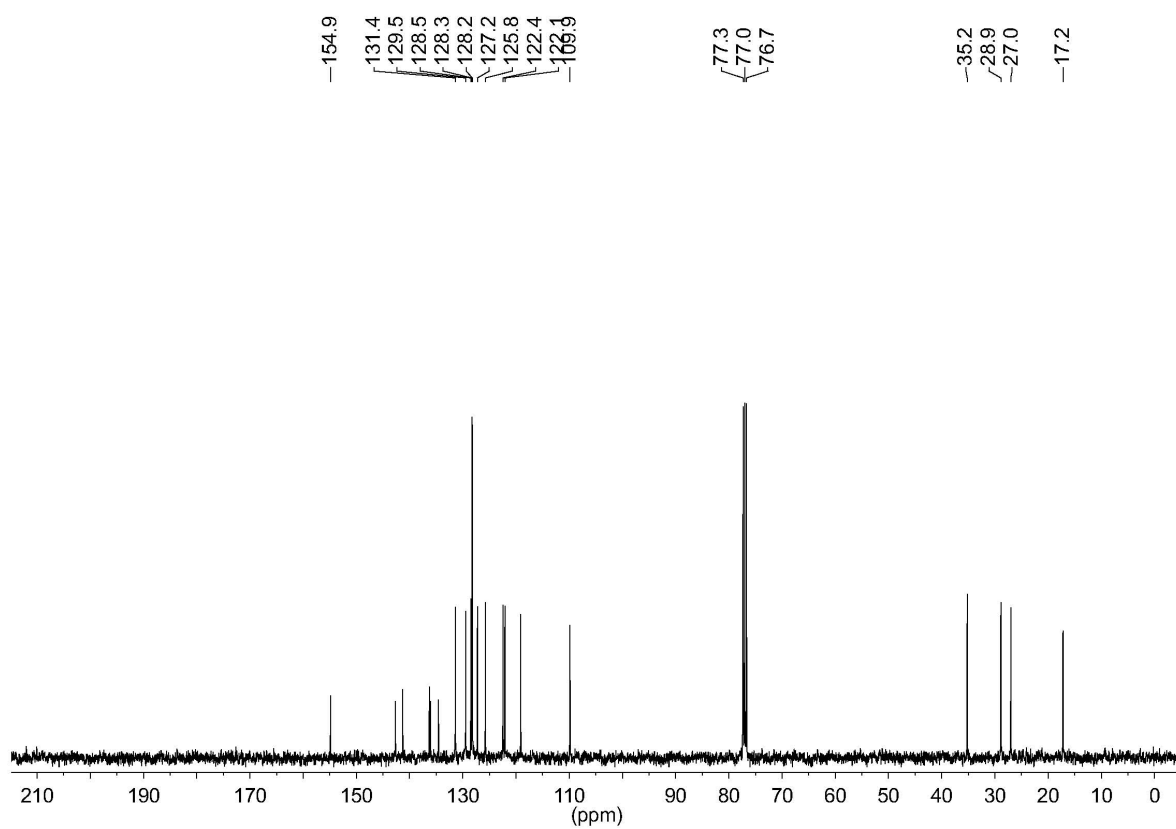
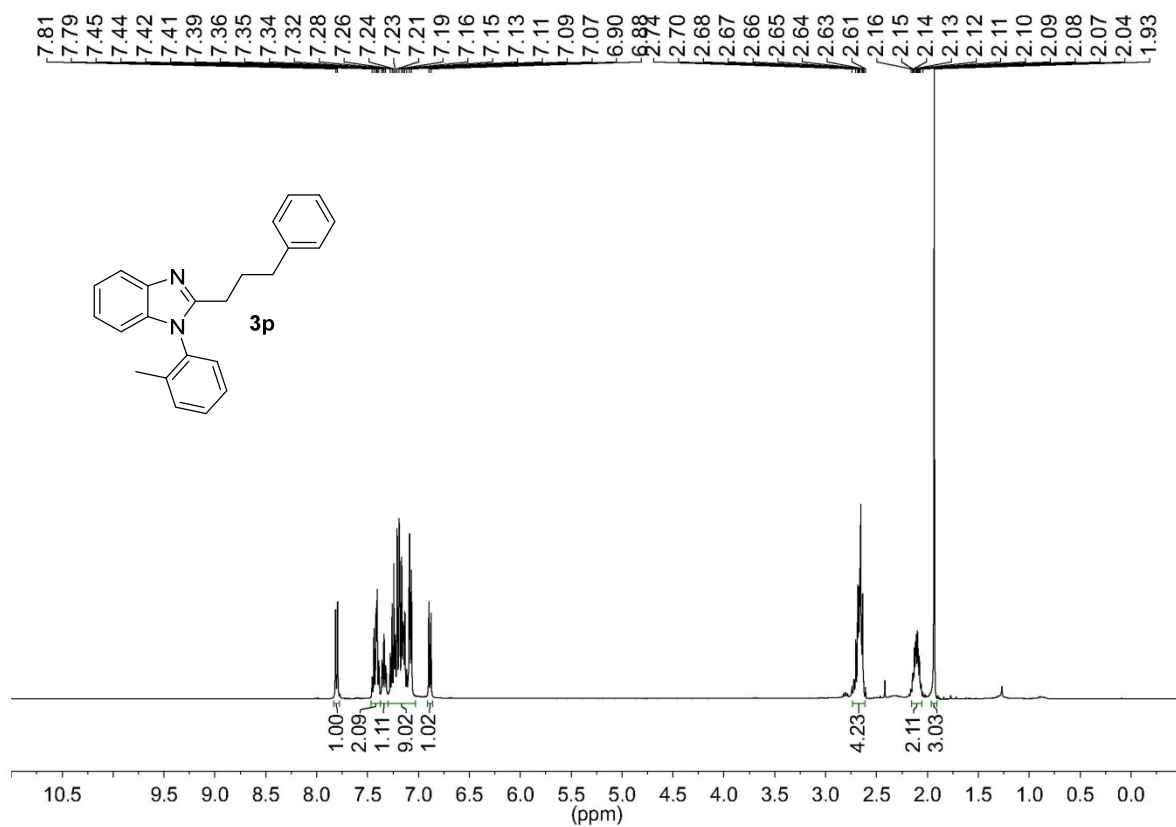


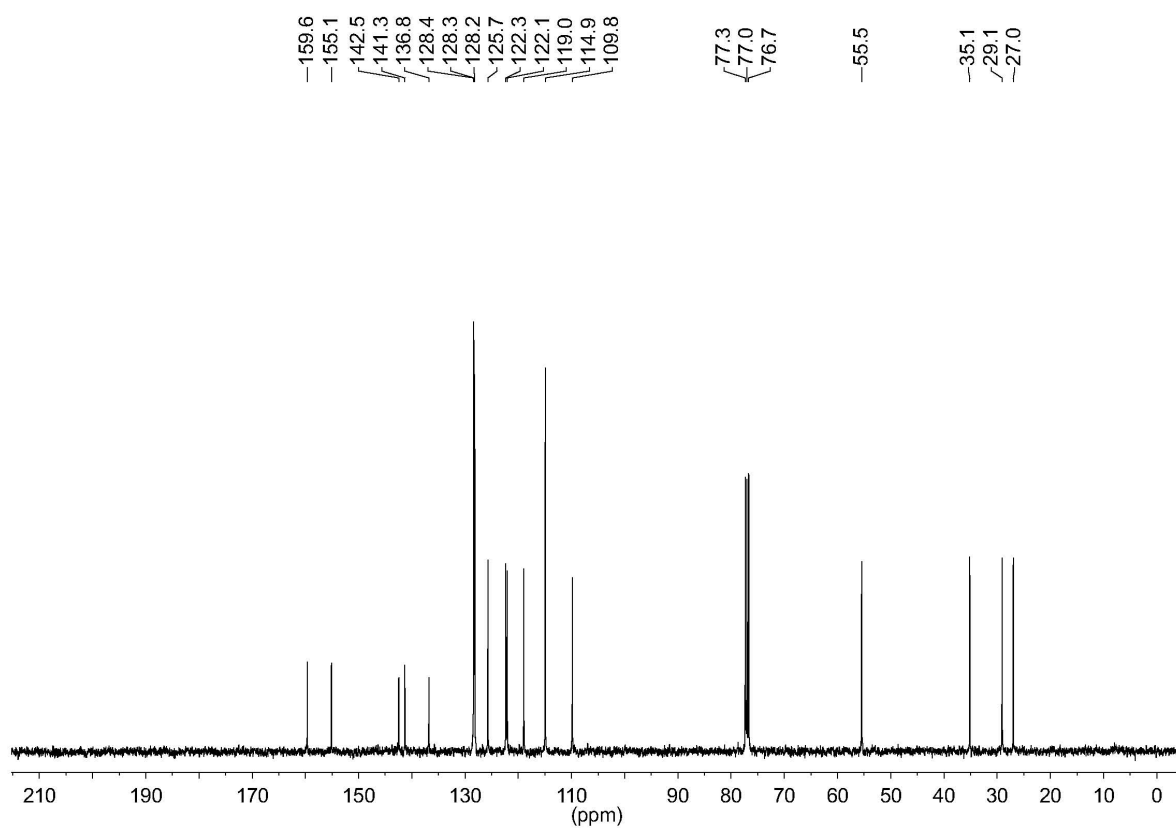
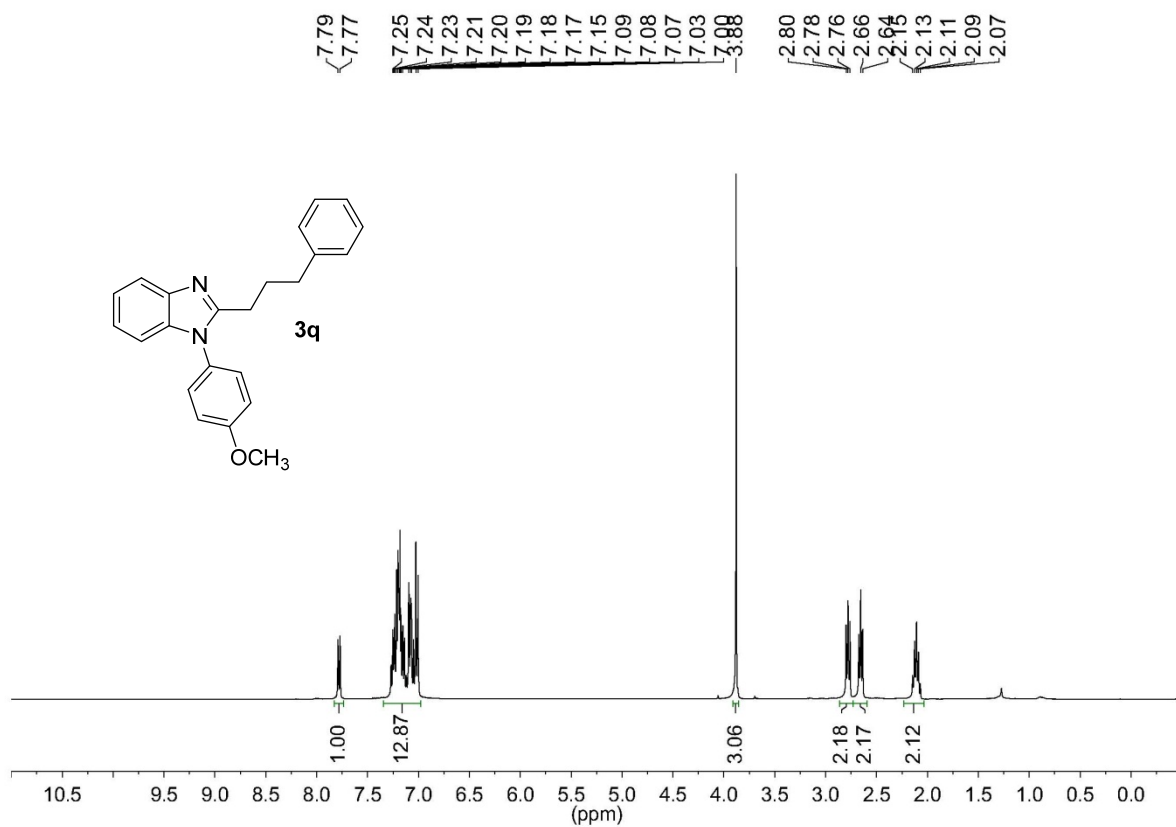


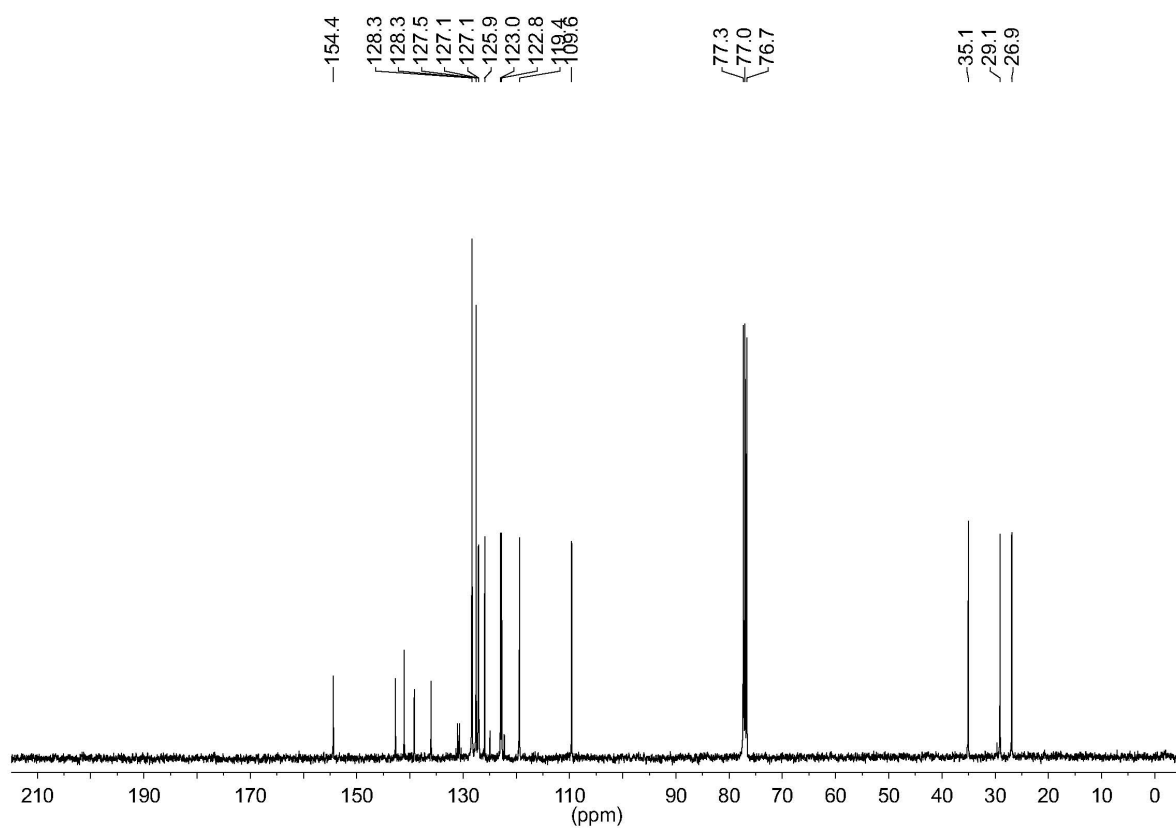
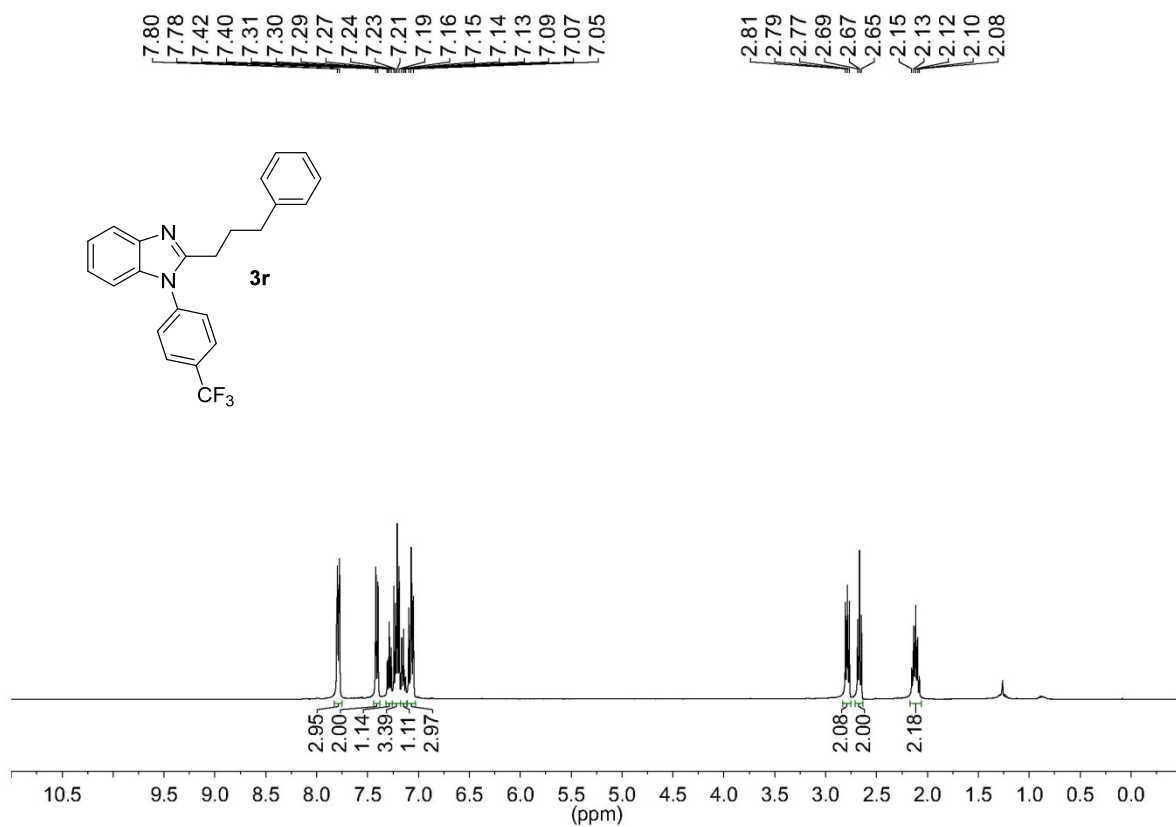


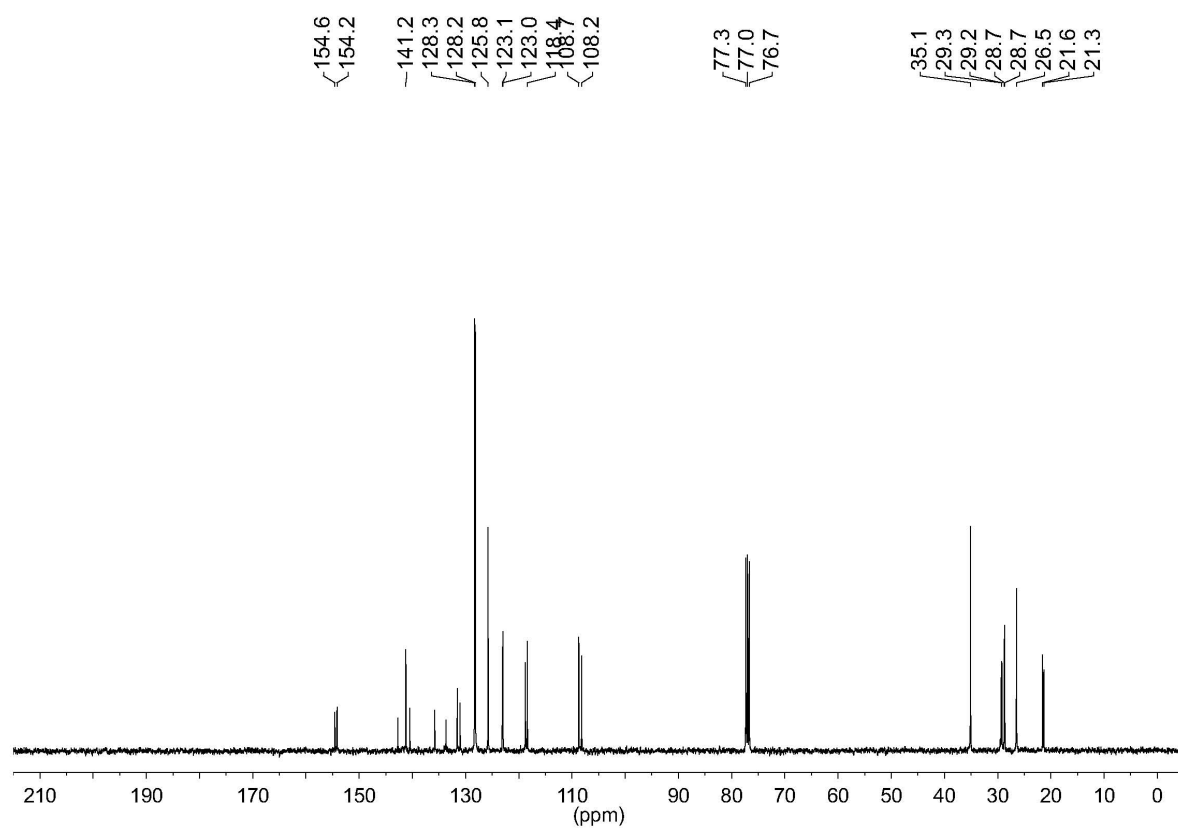
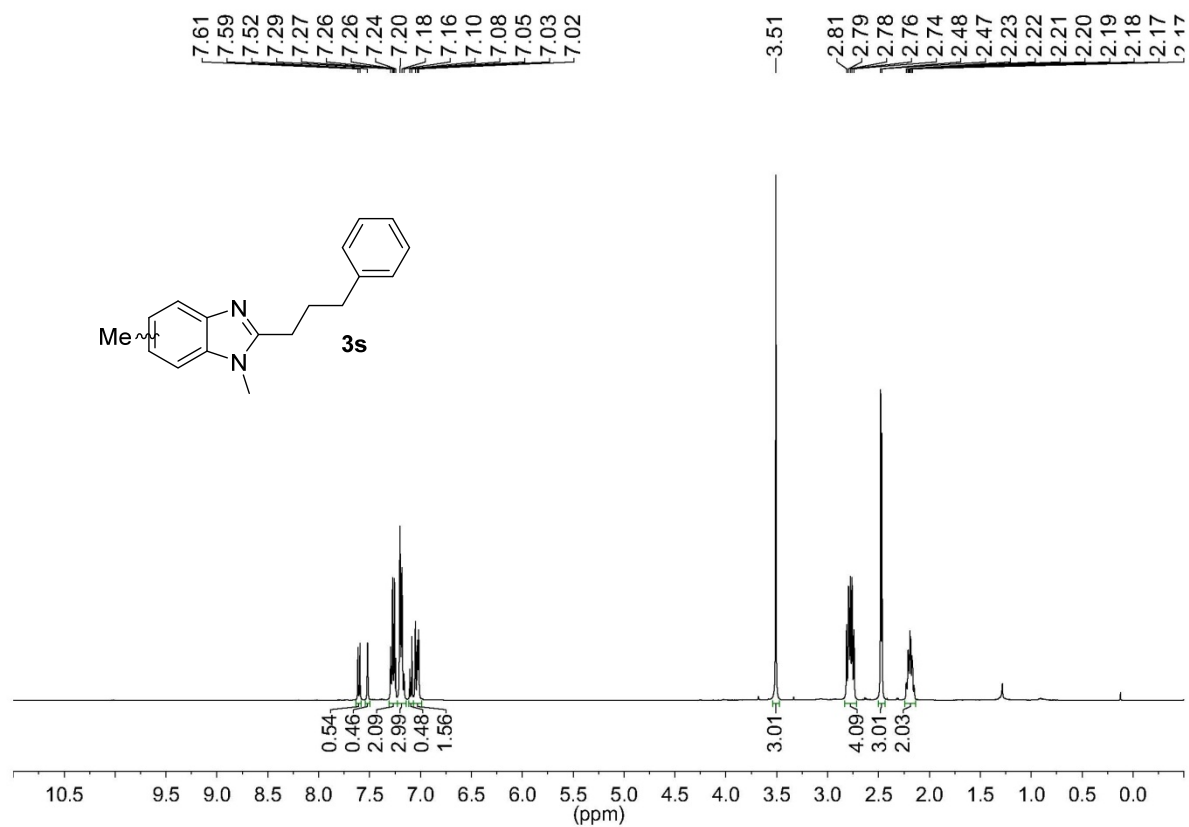


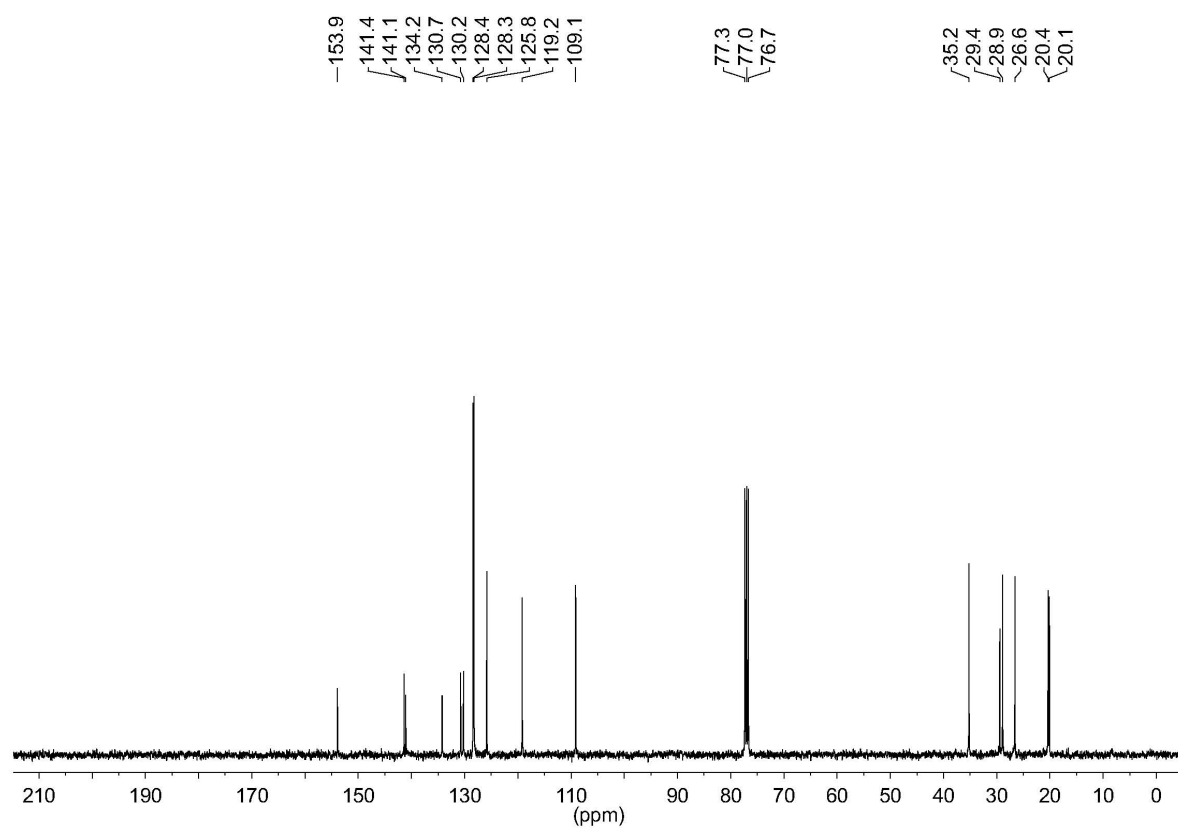
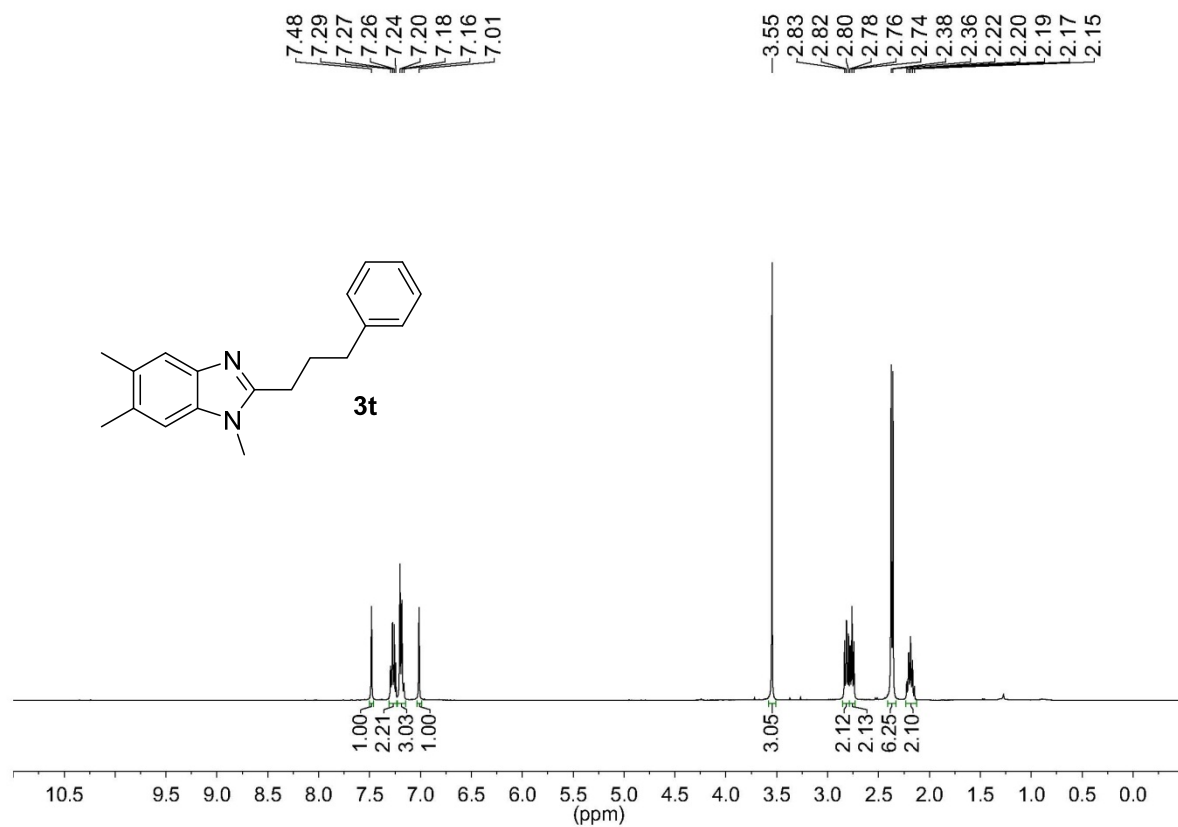


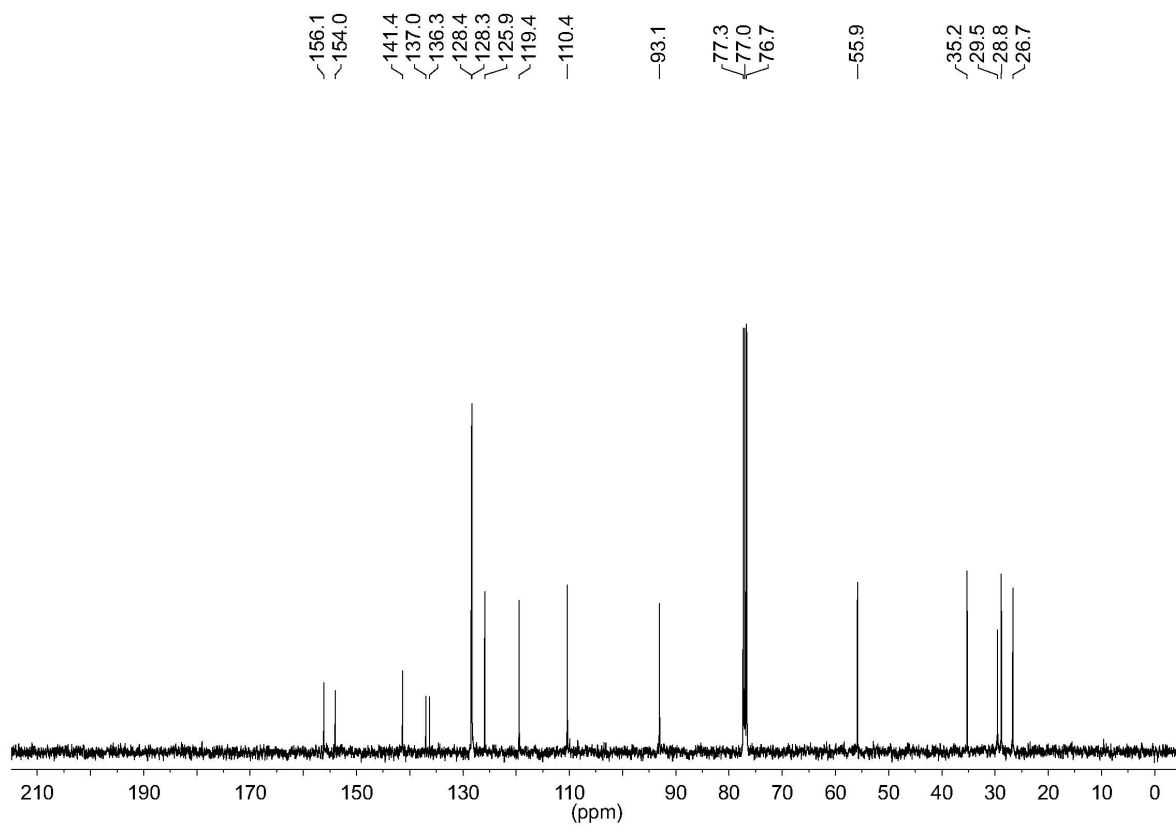
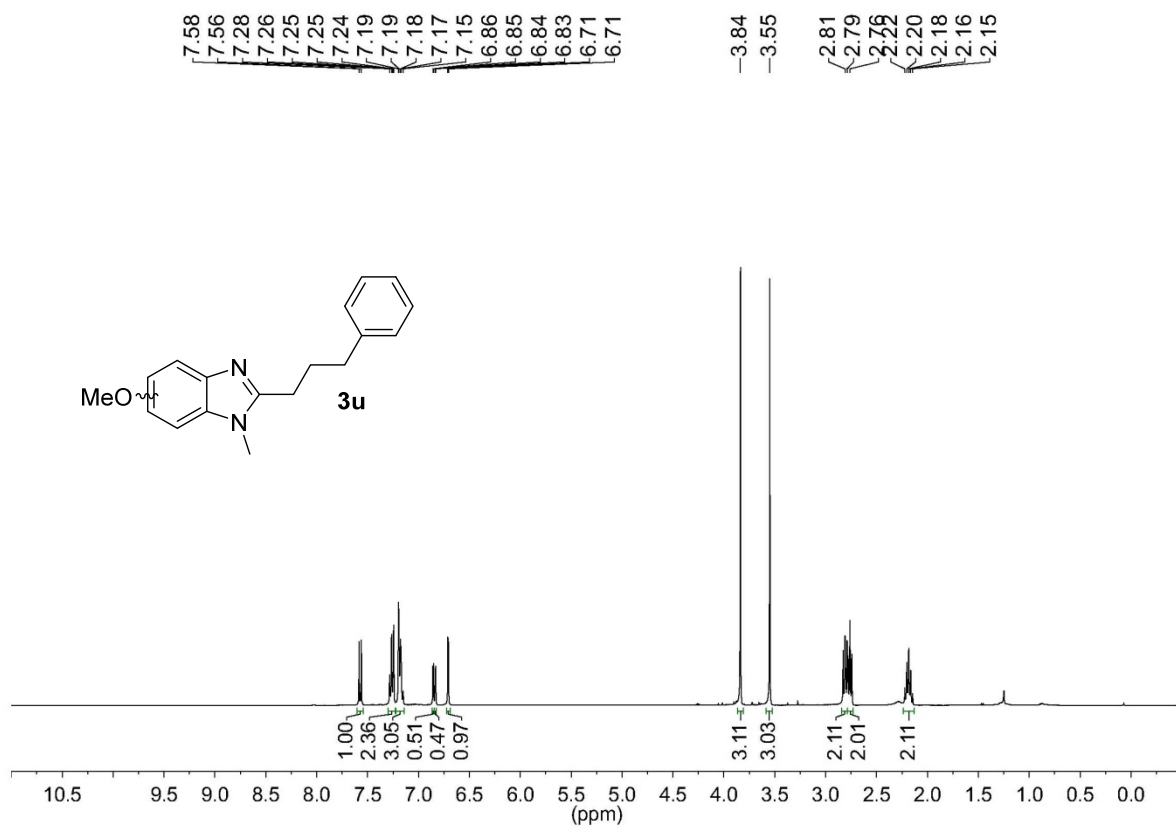


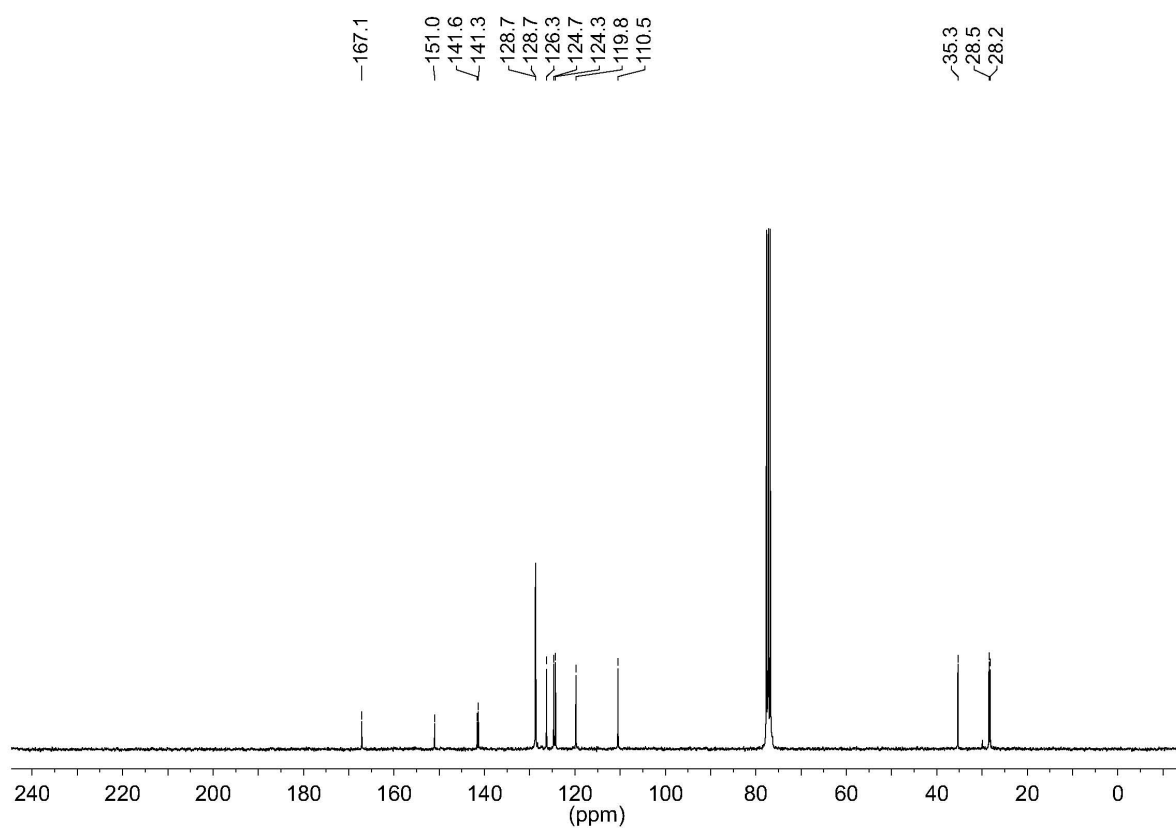
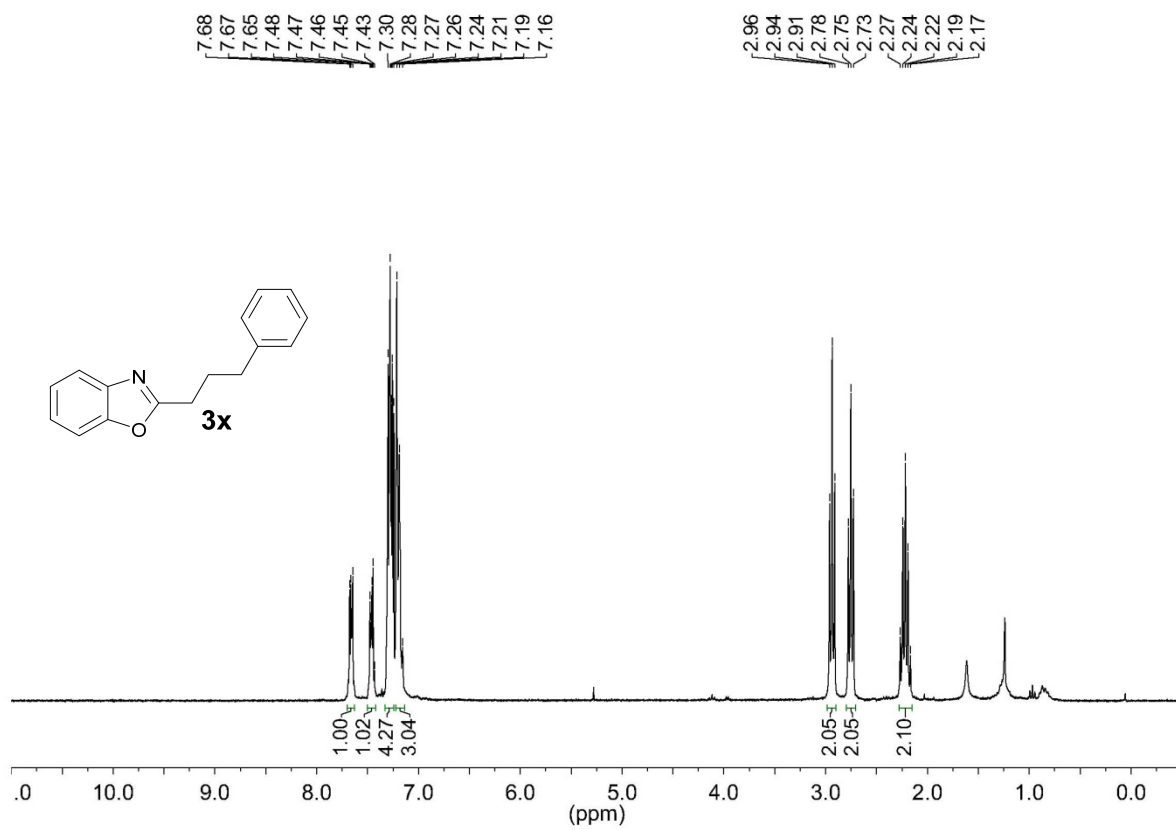






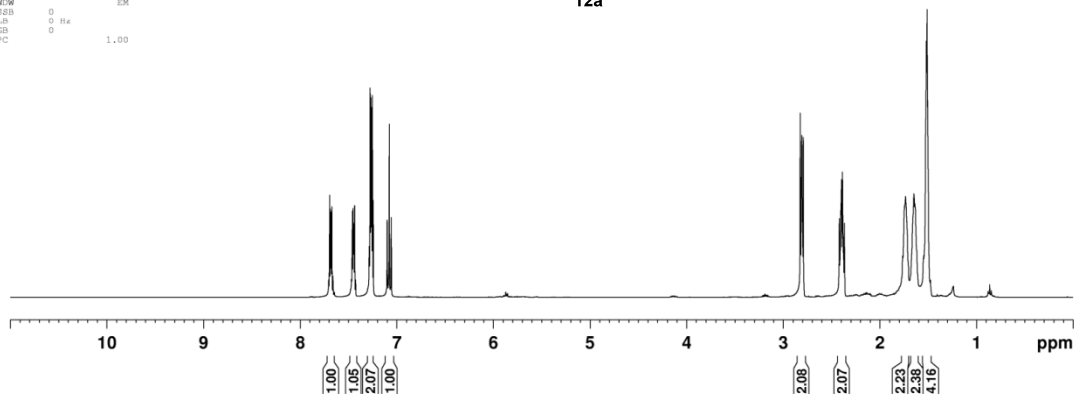
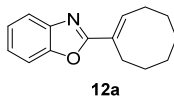






Current Data Parameters  
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 PROCNO: 1  
 F2 - Acquisition Parameters  
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 Time: 11.23  
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 PROBHD: 5 mm PABBO BB-  
 PULPROG: zg30  
 TD: 16384  
 SOLVENT: CDCl3  
 NS: 16  
 DS: 0  
 SWH: 5597.015 Hz  
 FIDRES: 0.341615 Hz  
 AQ: 1.4636374 sec  
 RG: 90.5  
 DW: 89.333 usec  
 DE: 6.50 usec  
 TE: 300.0 K  
 D1: 2.0000000 sec  
 TD0: 1  
 ===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
 NUC1: 1H  
 P1: 13.40 usec  
 PL1: -2.00 dB  
 PL1W: 16.12334061 W  
 SFO1: 400.1326012 MHz  
 F2 - Processing parameters  
 SI: 32  
 SF: 400.1300168 MHz  
 WDW: EM  
 SSB: 0  
 LB: 0 Hz  
 GB: 0  
 PC: 1.00

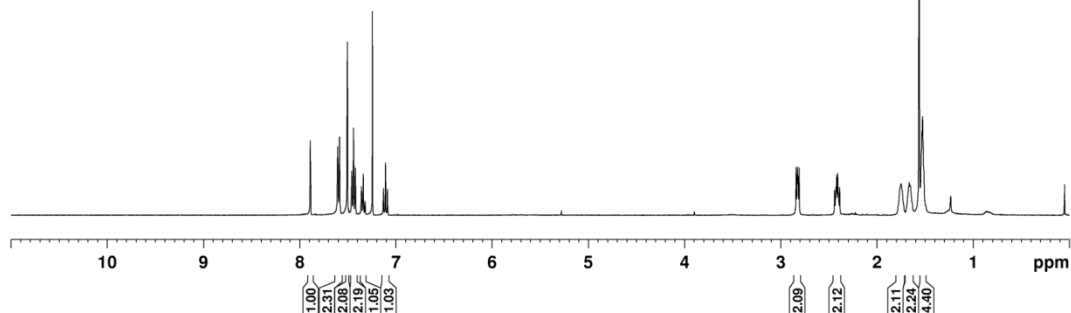
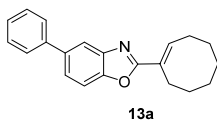
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Current Data Parameters  
 NAME C3H120214  
 EXPNO 1  
 PROCNO 1  
 F2 - Acquisition Parameters  
 Date\_ 20120314  
 Time 11.05  
 INSTRUM spect  
 PROBRD 5 mm PARBO BB-  
 PULPROG zg30  
 TD 16384  
 SOLVENT CDCl3  
 NS 16  
 DS 8  
 SWH 5597.015 Hz  
 FIDRES 0.341615 Hz  
 AQ 1.4636374 sec  
 RG 203  
 DW 89.333 usec  
 DE 6.50 usec  
 TE 300.0 K  
 D1 2.00000000 sec  
 D11 1  
 D10 1  
 ----- CHANNEL f1 -----  
 NUC1 1H  
 P1 13.40 usec  
 PL1 -2.00 dB  
 PL1W 16.12334061 W  
 SFO1 400.1326012 MHz  
 F2 - Processing parameters  
 SI 8192  
 SF 400.1300175 MHz  
 WUW no  
 SSB 0  
 LB 0 Hz  
 GB 0  
 PC 1.00

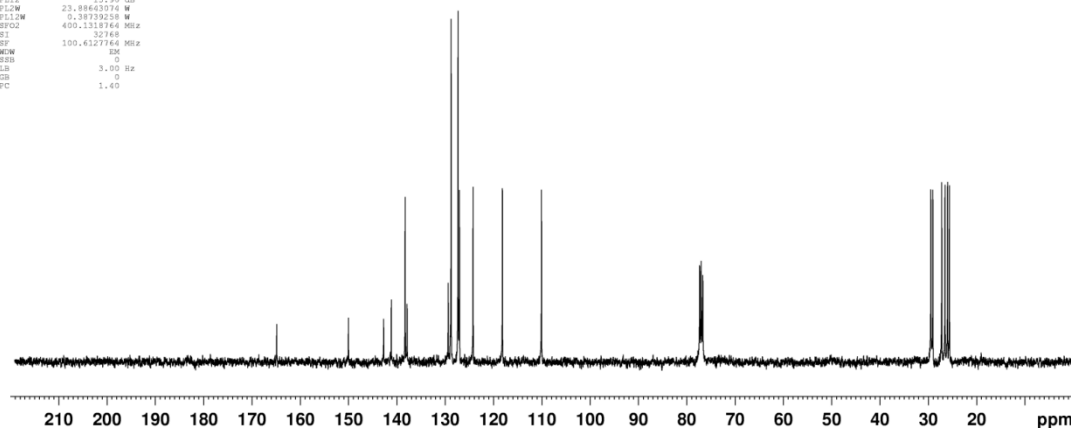
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NAME C3H120423  
 EXPNO 4  
 PROCNO 1  
 Date\_ 20120423  
 Time 16.55  
 INSTRUM spect  
 PROBRD 5 mm Dual 1H/13C  
 PULPROG zgpg30  
 TD 32768  
 SOLVENT CDCl3  
 NS 101  
 DS 8  
 SWH 23880.814 Hz  
 FIDRES 0.731836 Hz  
 AQ 0.4832628 sec  
 RG 20642.5  
 DW 20.850 usec  
 DE 6.50 usec  
 TE 296.2 K  
 D1 3.00000000 sec  
 D11 0.03000000 sec  
 D10 1  
 ----- CHANNEL f1 -----  
 NUC1 13C  
 P1 6.00 usec  
 PL1 -1.00 dB  
 PL1W 47.43416395 W  
 SFO1 100.6228293 MHz  
 ----- CHANNEL f2 -----  
 NUC2 1H  
 P2 90.00 usec  
 PL2 -12.00 dB  
 PL2W 23.88643074 W  
 SFO2 400.1318764 MHz  
 SI 32768  
 SF 100.6127764 MHz  
 WUW no  
 SSB 0  
 LB 3.00 Hz  
 GB 0  
 PC 1.40

164.88  
150.03  
142.74  
141.17  
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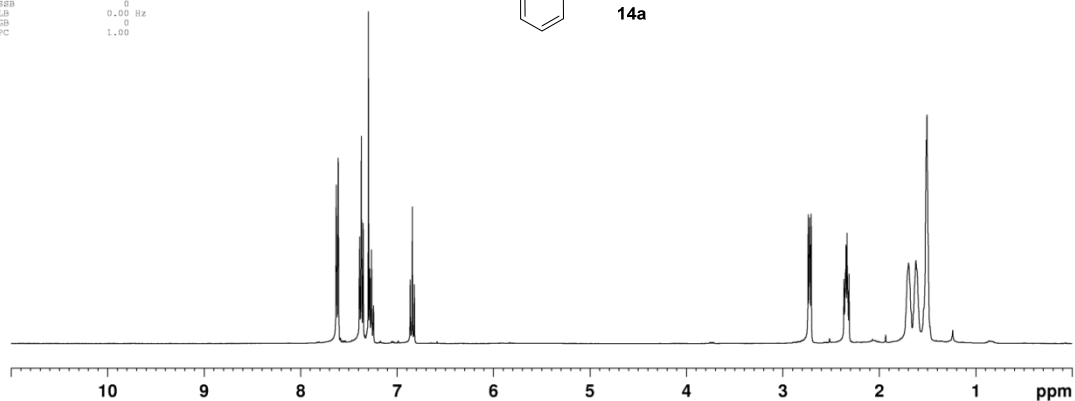
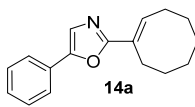


NAME CJH120424  
EXPNO 1  
PROCNO 1  
Date\_ 20120424  
Time 14.24  
INSTRUM spect  
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB-  
PULPROG zg30  
TD 16384  
SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 12  
DS 0  
SWH 5597.015 Hz  
FIDRES 0.341615 Hz  
AQ 1.463653 sec  
RG 45.2  
DM 89.333 usec  
DE 6.50 usec  
TE 300.0 K  
D1 2.0000000 sec  
D11 1  
D10 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
NUC1 1H  
P1 13.40 usec  
PL1 -2.00 dB  
PL1W 16.12334061 W  
SFO1 400.1326012 MHz  
SI 8192  
SF 400.1300175 MHz  
WDW no  
SSB 0  
LB 0.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.00

7.625  
7.607  
7.386  
7.367  
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7.280  
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6.839  
6.817

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1.611  
1.512  
1.505



NAME CJH120424  
EXPNO 1  
PROCNO 1  
Date\_ 20120424  
Time 15.22  
INSTRUM spect  
PROBHD 5 mm Dual 13C/  
PULPROG zgpg30  
TD 32768  
SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 49  
DS 8  
SWH 23980.814 Hz  
FIDRES 0.701836 Hz  
AQ 0.6832628 sec  
RG 18390.4  
DM 20.850 usec  
DE 6.50 usec  
TE 298.0 K  
D1 3.0000000 sec  
D11 0.03000000 sec  
D10 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
NUC1 13C  
P1 6.00 usec  
PL1 0.00 dB  
PL1W 47.43416395 W  
SFO1 100.6226293 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====  
CPDPRG2 waltz16  
NUC2 1H  
PCPD2 90.00 usec  
PL2 -2.00 dB  
PL12 15.80 dB  
PL2W 23.88643074 W  
SFO2 5.38739259 MHz  
PL12W 5.38739259 MHz  
SFO2 400.1318764 MHz  
SI 32768  
SF 100.6127793 MHz  
WDW DM  
SSB 0  
LB 3.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.40

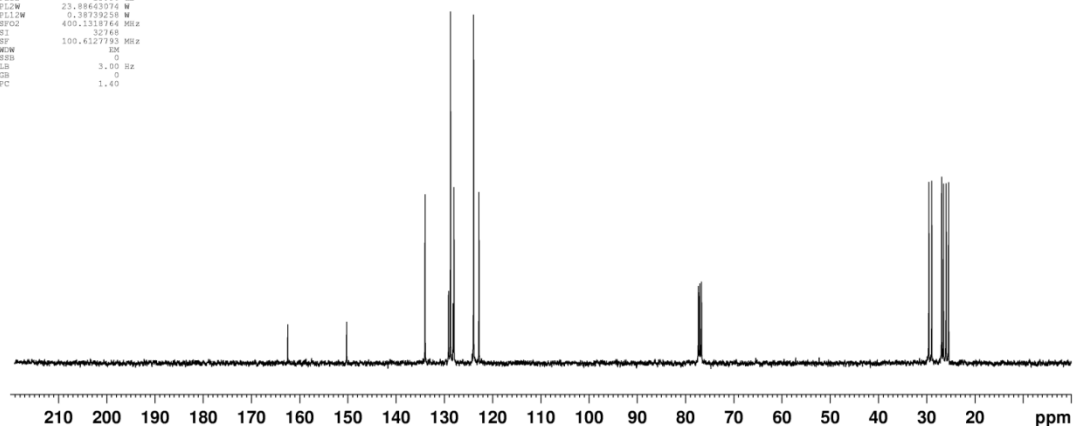
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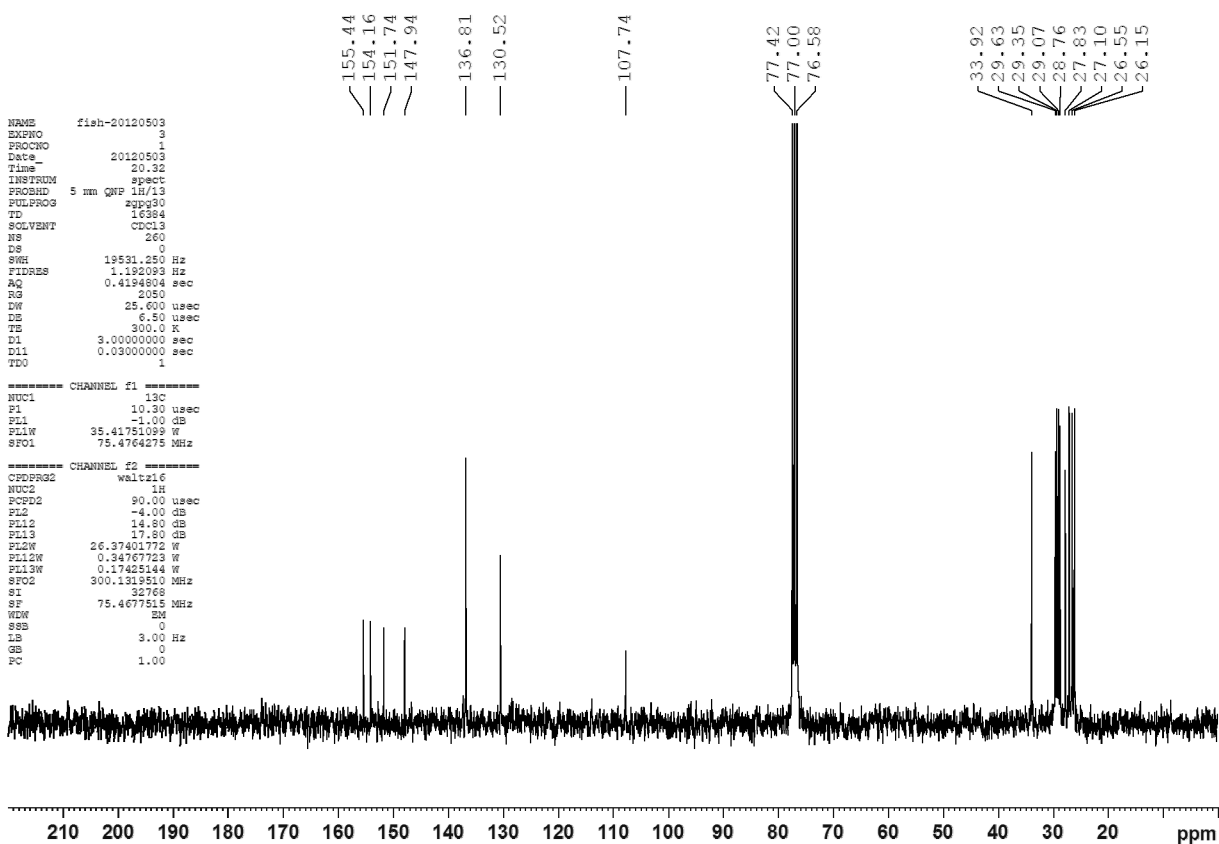
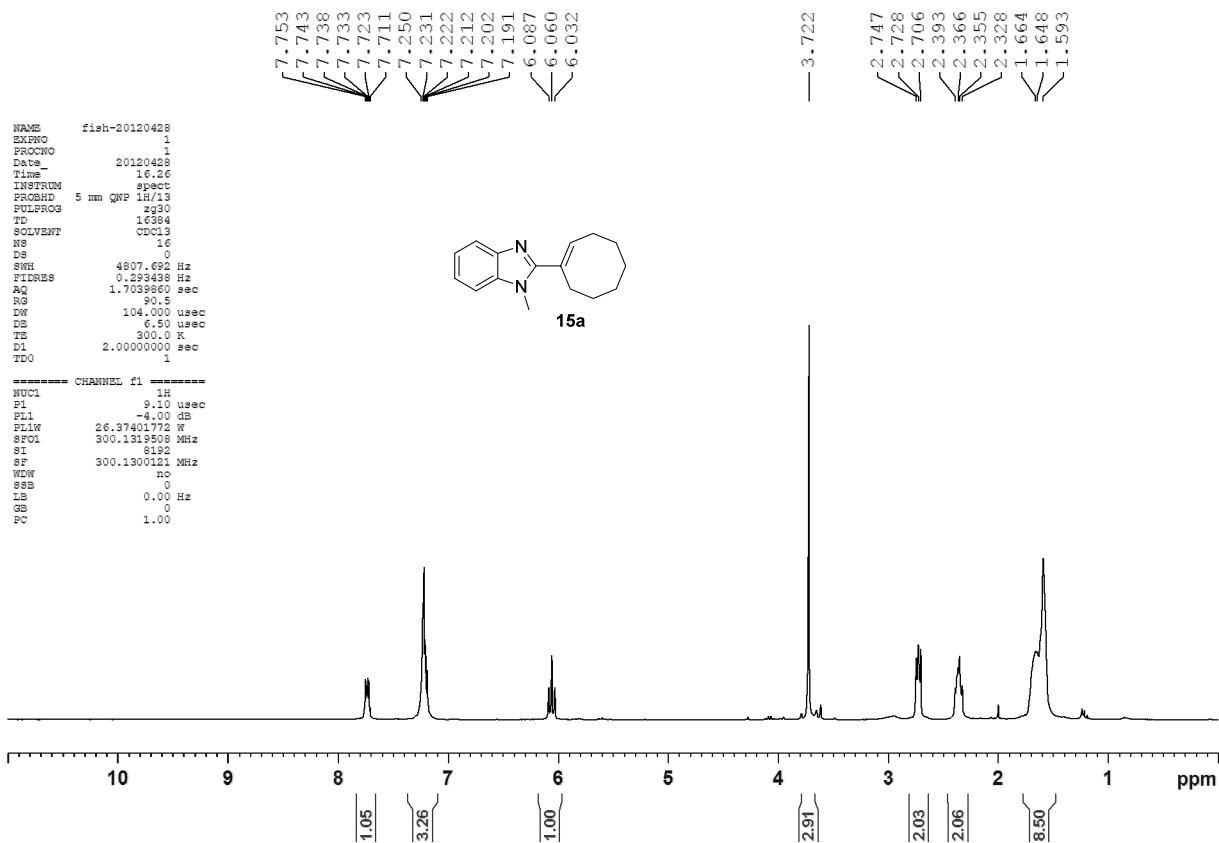
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128.01  
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122.82

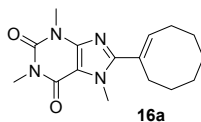
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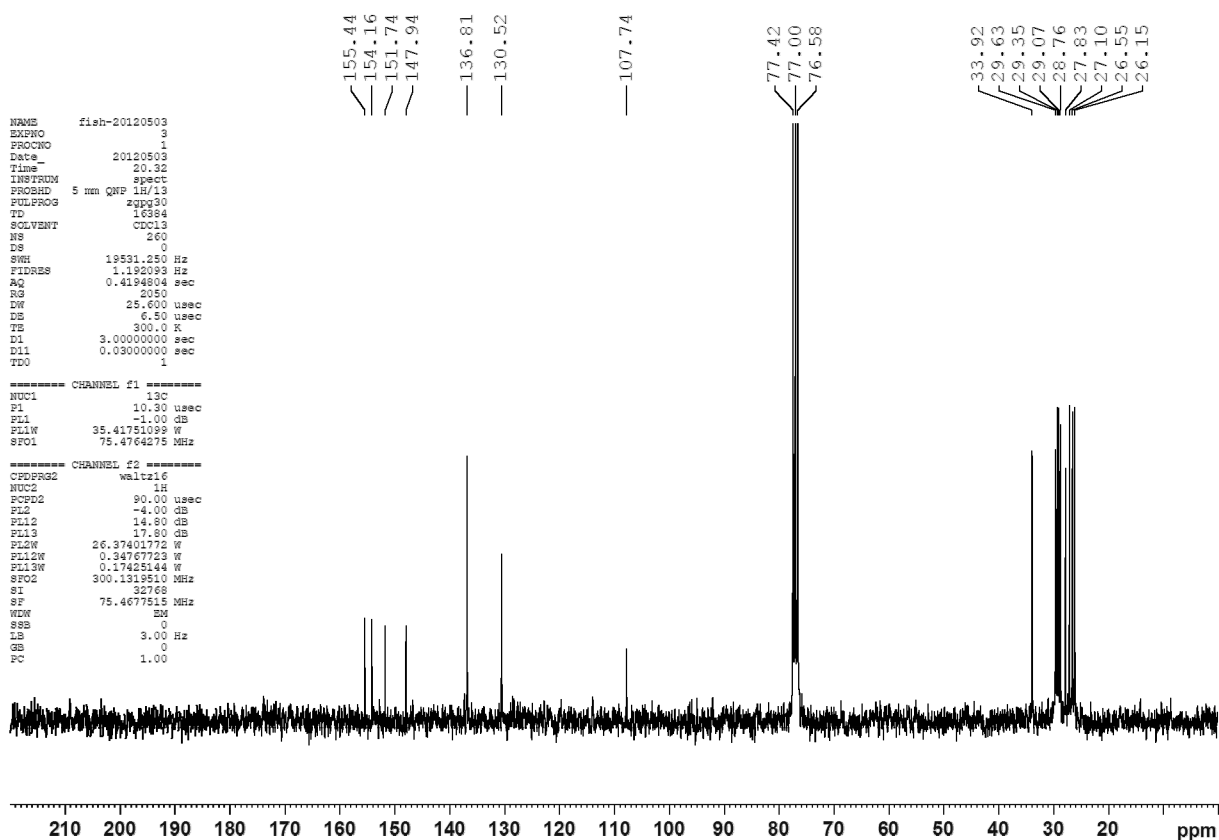
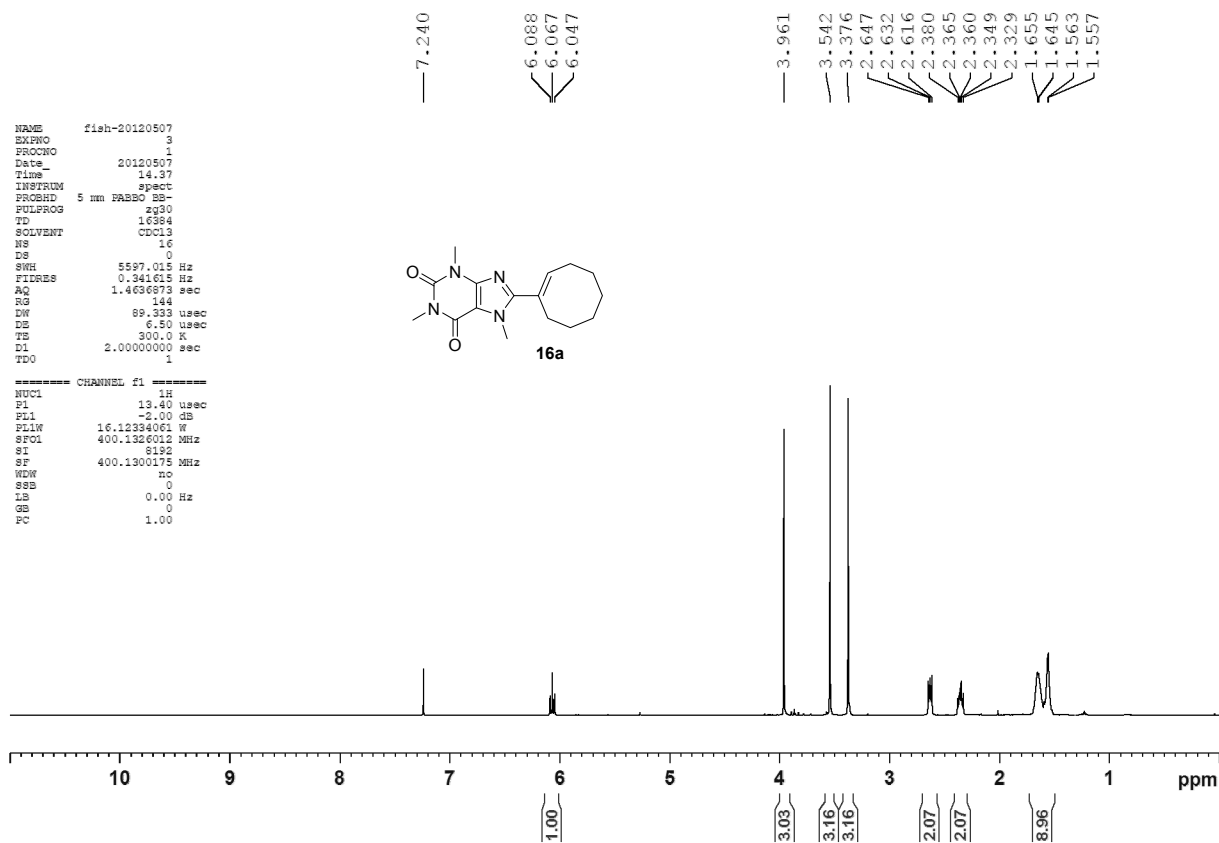




NAME fish-20120507  
EXPNO 3  
PROCNO 1  
Date\_ 20120507  
Time\_ 14.37  
INSTRUM spect  
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB-  
PULPROG zgpg30  
TD 16384  
SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 16  
DS 0  
SWH 5597.015 Hz  
FIDRES 0.341615 Hz  
AQ 1.4636973 sec  
RG 144  
DW 89.333 usec  
DE 6.50 usec  
TE 300.0 K  
D1 2.00000000 sec  
TD0 1



===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
NUC1 1H  
P1 13.40 usec  
PL1 -2.00 dB  
PL1W 16.12334061 W  
SFO1 400.1326012 MHz  
SI 8192  
SF 400.1300175 MHz  
WDW hc  
SSB 0  
LB 0.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.00



NAME fish-20120503  
EXPNO 3  
PROCNO 1  
Date\_ 20120503  
Time\_ 20.32  
INSTRUM spect  
PROBHD 5 mm QNP 1H/13  
PULPROG zgpg30  
TD 16384  
SOLVENT CDCl3  
NS 260  
DS 0  
SWH 19531.250 Hz  
FIDRES 1.192093 Hz  
AQ 0.4194804 sec  
RG 2050  
DW 25.600 usec  
DE 6.50 usec  
TE 300.0 K  
D1 3.00000000 sec  
D11 0.03000000 sec  
TD0 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
NUC1 13C  
P1 10.30 usec  
PL1 -1.00 dB  
PL1W 35.41751099 W  
SFO1 75.4764275 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====  
CPDPRG2 waltz16  
NUC2 1H  
PCPD2 90.00 usec  
PL2 -4.00 dB  
PL12 14.80 dB  
PL13 17.80 dB  
PL2W 26.37401772 W  
PL12W 0.34767723 W  
PL13W 0.17425144 W  
SFO2 300.1319510 MHz  
SI 32768  
SF 75.4677515 MHz  
WDW SM  
SSB 0  
LB 3.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.00

