

## **Supporting Information**

### **Rhodium-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reaction of Arylboronates and Diazoesters and Tandem Alkylation Reaction for the Synthesis of Quaternary $\alpha,\alpha$ -Heterodiaryl Carboxylic Esters**

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## **1. General Experimental Section:**

All catalytic reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. All diazoesters were prepared according to the literature.<sup>1</sup> Boronates **2a** and **2h** were obtained commercially and used as received without purification. Other arylboronic pinacol esters were prepared by reacting the corresponding arylboronic acids with pinacol in acetone at room temperature. Bromides **3b** and **3c** were prepared according to the literature.<sup>1b</sup> Other halides were obtained commercially and used as received without purification. [Rh(cod)Cl]<sub>2</sub>,<sup>2a</sup> [Rh(cod)OH]<sub>2</sub><sup>2b</sup> and [Rh(cod)OMe]<sub>2</sub><sup>2c</sup> were prepared according to the literature.

Thin layer chromatography was performed on silica gel plates. Silica gel (Merck, 230-400 mesh) was used for flash column chromatography. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Brüker (400 MHz) NMR spectrometer. The chemical shift ( $\delta$ ) values are given in ppm and are referenced to residual solvent peaks. Coupling constants ( $J$ ) were reported in hertz (Hz). Mass spectra and high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a VG MICROMASS Fison VG platform, a Finnigan Model Mat 95 ST instrument, or a Brüker APEX 47e FT-ICR mass spectrometer. Melting points were measured on a Büchi Melting Point B-545 machine. Infra-red spectra were obtained by a Brüker Vector 22 FT-IR spectrometer. X-ray crystal structure of **4p** was obtained by a Brüker CCD area detector diffractometer.

## **2. General Experimental Procedures and Physical Characterization:**

### **2.1 Preparation of diazoesters:<sup>1</sup>**

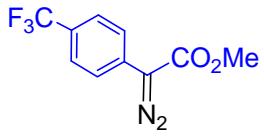
$\alpha$ -Aryldiazoesters were prepared by reaction of  $\alpha$ -arylacetate (10 mmol) with *p*-acetamidobencenesulfonylazide (12 mmol) and DBU (14 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC. Upon complete consumption of the starting materials, the reaction mixture was diluted with distilled water (20 mL), followed by extraction with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL). After washing with 10% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (3 × 10 mL) and brine (3 × 10 mL), the combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford the diazoesters.

**Methyl 4-chlorophenyldiazoacetate (1a)<sup>3b</sup>**



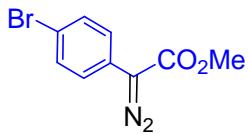
Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as an orange solid (90% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 165.2, 131.5, 129.1, 125.0, 124.1, 52.0 IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2096.6, 1698.2

**Methyl 4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyldiazoacetate (1b)<sup>3b</sup>**



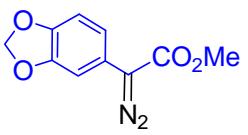
Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a yellow solid (91% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.61 (s, 4H), 3.89 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 164.7, 130.0, 125.8, 125.8, 125.7, 123.3, 52.1 <sup>19</sup>F NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>F</sub> -62.5. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2106.7, 1689.4.

**Methyl 4-bromophenyldiazoacetate (1c)<sup>3b</sup>**



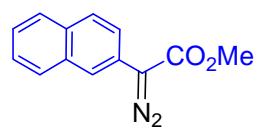
Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as an orange solid (82% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 165.1, 132.0, 125.3, 124.6, 119.3, 52.1 IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2094.8, 1698.0

**Methyl (1,3-benzodioxole)diazoacetate (1d)<sup>3a</sup>**



Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as an orange solid (45% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.84-6.85 (m, 2H), 5.97 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 165.9, 148.4, 146.1, 118.5, 117.9, 108.8, 105.8, 101.3, 52.0 IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2086.0, 1703.0.

**Methyl 2-naphthyldiazoacetate (1e)<sup>3a</sup>**



Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as an orange solid (75% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.79-7.87 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.55 (m, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 165.7, 133.6, 131.5, 128.7, 127.6, 127.6, 126.6, 125.8, 122.6, 122.6, 121.9, 52.0 IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2101.8, 1701.0.

### Methyl 2-Methoxyphenyldiazoacetate (**1f**)<sup>1b</sup>

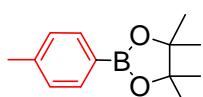


Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% ethyl acetate. The product was obtained as an orange liquid (80% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_H$  7.55 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_C$  169.1, 157.9, 132.6, 131.1, 123.6, 116.1, 113.3, 58.0, 54.4. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2093.6, 1697.2.

## 2.2 Preparation of arylboronic pinacol esters **2b-2g, 2i**:

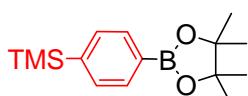
Arylboronic pinacol esters **2b-2g, 2i** were prepared by reacting the corresponding arylboronic acids (10 mmol) with pinacol (15 mmol) in acetone (20 mL) at room temperature for overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and was purified by flash chromatography to afford the arylboronic pinacol esters.

### 4-tolylboronic pinacol ester (**2b**)



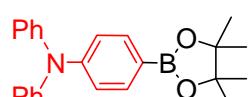
Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (91% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_H$  7.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 12H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_C$  141.4, 134.8, 128.5, 83.6, 24.8, 21.7

### 4-(trimethylsilyl)phenylboronic pinacol ester (**2c**)



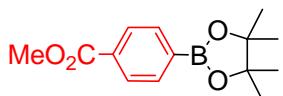
Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (90% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_H$  7.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 12H), 0.27 (s, 9H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_C$  144.2, 133.8, 132.6, 83.7, 24.8, -1.26

### 4-(diphenylamino)phenylboronic pinacol ester (**2d**)



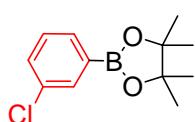
Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colorless gummy liquid (82% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_H$  7.67 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.10-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.03-7.07 (m, 4H), 1.34 (s, 12H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_C$  150.6, 147.4, 135.8, 129.3, 125.0, 123.4, 121.8, 83.6, 24.9

#### **4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic pinacol ester (2e)**



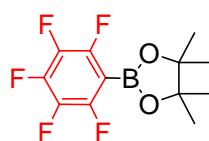
Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% ethyl acetate. The product was obtained as a white solid (88% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  8.02 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 12H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  167.1, 134.7, 132.3, 128.6, 84.2, 52.1, 24.9

#### **3-chlorophenylboronic pinacol ester (2f)**



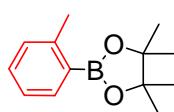
Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (92% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.77 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 1H), 1.34 (s, 12H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  134.5, 134.0, 132.6, 131.2, 129.2, 84.1, 24.8

#### **pentafluorophenylboronic pinacol ester (2g)**



Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (90% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  1.38 (s, 12H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  84.9, 24.7  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_F$  -129.5 (m), -149.8 (m), -162.0 (m)

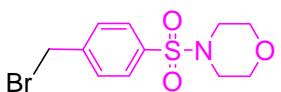
#### **2-methylphenylboronic pinacol ester (2i)**



Eluant: 90% *n*-Hexane/10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colorless liquid (87% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.76-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 12H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  144.8, 135.8, 130.6, 129.7, 124.7, 83.4, 24.9, 22.2

### **2.3 Preparation of 4-(bromomethyl)benzene-1-sulfonylmorpholine (3b)<sup>1b</sup>:**

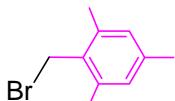
Morpholine (10 mmol) and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (11 mmol) were dissolved in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL), and the solution was stirred at 0°C. To the  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  solution, 4-(bromomethyl)benzene-1-sulfonyl chloride (11 mmol) in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL) was slowly added. After stirring for 6 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered and the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography.



Eluant: 80% *n*-Hexane/20% ethyl acetate. The product was obtained as a white solid (80% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.73 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.75 (bs, 4H), 3.02 (bs, 4H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  145.4(C), 137.5(C), 132.1(C-H), 130.8(C-H), 68.5(CH<sub>2</sub>), 48.4(CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.8(CH<sub>2</sub>).

#### 2.4 Preparation of (1,3,5-trimethylphenyl)methyl bromide (**3c**)<sup>1b</sup>:

Benzyl bromides **3c** were prepared by reacting the corresponding alcohols (25 mmol) with  $\text{PBr}_3$  (10 mmol) in THF at 0°C. The reaction was monitored by TLC, when the starting materials were completely consumed, the reaction mixture was diluted with distilled water (20 mL), followed by extraction with DCM ( $3 \times 10$  mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by distillation to afford the aryl bromides.



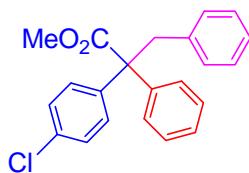
The product was obtained as a white solid (84% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  6.90 (s, 2H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 6H), 2.31 (s, 3H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  140.9, 139.9, 133.5, 131.7, 32.2, 23.5, 21.6.

#### 2.5 A general procedure for the rhodium-catalyzed three-component coupling reaction of arylboronates, diazoesters and alkyl halides for the synthesis of $\alpha,\alpha$ -heterodiaryl carboxylic esters

All the catalytic reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. In a 8 mL-reaction vial with a Teflon-lined cap,  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})\text{OH}]_2$  (1 mol %) and  $\text{KO}t\text{Bu}$  (3 equiv) were pre-mixed in MTBE (0.5 mL) at room temperature for 2 min. Afterwards, arylboronic pinacol ester (3 equiv) dissolved in a minimum amount of MTBE was added to the reaction vial, and the mixture was stirred for 2 min. Then diazoester (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and benzyl/alkyl halide (3 equiv) dissolved in a minimum amount of MTBE separately were added to the reaction vial. The reaction mixture (c.a. 1 – 2 mL) was heated in a 40 °C oil bath for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and the organic mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated. The mixture was passed through a short plug of silica with 50 mL of the eluant used for flash chromatography. The filtrate was concentrated by rotary evaporation. For separation of arylboronic pinacol ester

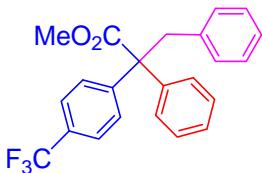
from the crude mixture, methanol (2 mL) was added to the mixture with 4.5 M aqueous potassium hydrogen fluoride (5.7 equiv) in a reaction vial for 20 min to react all unconsumed arylboronic pinacol ester as potassium aryltrifluoroborate for separation.<sup>4</sup> The organic mixture was extracted with DCM. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The mixture was purified by flash chromatography on a silica gel column to give the desired product.

### **methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-diphenylpropanoate (4a)**



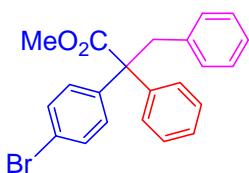
Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (86%). Melting point: 100.5 – 101.4 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.28 (s, 3H), 7.20-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.06-7.15 (m, 5H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.62 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 173.6(C=O), 142.4(C), 141.2(C), 136.9(C), 132.8(C), 130.8(C-H), 130.7(C-H), 128.9(C-H), 127.9(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 127.1(C-H), 126.4(C-H), 61.6(C), 52.3(CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.3(CH<sub>2</sub>). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1721.4. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 165.1, 178.1, 199.0, 231.0, 259.0, 291.1, 350.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub>NaCl: 373.0971, found: 373.0986.

### **methyl 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2,3-diphenylpropanoate (4b)**



Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (85%). Melting point: 55.2 – 56.8 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.31 (m, 7H), 7.07-7.15 (m, 3H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 173.4(C=O), 146.7(C), 142.1(C), 136.7(C), 130.6(C-H), 129.9(C-H), 128.8(C-H), 128.0(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 127.3(C-H), 126.6(C-H), 124.4(C), 124.4(C-H), 124.3(C-H), 124.3(C), 62.0(C), 52.4(CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.3(CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>F</sub> -62.5. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1726.6. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 165.1, 178.1, 233.0, 265.1, 293.1, 325.1, 384.2. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub>NaF<sub>3</sub>: 407.1235, found: 407.1239.

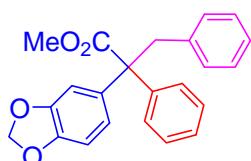
### **methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2,3-diphenylpropanoate (4c)**



Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (84%). Melting point: 101.7 – 102.8 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (bs,

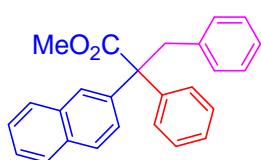
3H), 7.22 (bs, 2H), 7.07-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.81 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  173.5(C=O), 142.3(C), 141.8(C), 136.8(C), 131.2(C-H), 130.7(C-H), 130.6(C-H), 128.9(C-H), 127.9(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 127.1(C-H), 126.4(C-H), 120.9(C), 61.7(C), 52.3( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 44.3( $\text{CH}_2$ ). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1724.7. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 165.1, 178.1, 275.0, 303.0, 335.0, 394.0. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{NaBr}$ : 417.0466, found: 417.0469.

#### **methyl 2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-6-yl)-2,3-diphenylpropanoate (4d)**



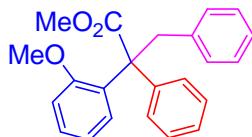
Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colorless gummy liquid (88%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.24-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.78-7.84 (m, 5H), 6.72-6.75 (m, 5H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 3.73-3.78 (m, 4H), 3.64 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  173.9(C=O), 147.1(C), 146.3(C), 142.7(C), 137.2(C), 136.7(C), 130.8(C-H), 129.2(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 127.4(C-H), 126.8(C-H), 126.3(C-H), 122.4(C-H), 110.1(C-H), 107.3(C-H), 101.0( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 61.7(C), 52.2( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 44.6( $\text{CH}_2$ ). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1730.9. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 152.1, 209.0, 241.1, 269.1, 291.1, 301.1, 360.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$ : 383.1259, found: 383.1274.

#### **methyl 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2,3-diphenylpropanoate (4e)**



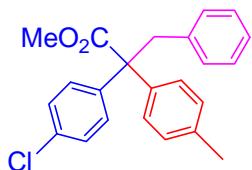
Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colorless gummy liquid (85%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.78-7.84 (m, 3H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.11-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.04-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.72 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.98 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  173.9(C=O), 142.5(C), 140.1(C), 137.2(C), 132.8(C), 132.2(C), 130.8(C-H), 129.4(C-H), 128.3(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 127.5(C-H), 127.3(C-H), 127.1(C-H), 126.8(C-H), 126.3(C-H), 126.1(C-H), 126.0(C-H), 62.1(C), 52.2( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 44.4( $\text{CH}_2$ ). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1730.8. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 215.1, 275.1, 307.1, 366.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$ : 389.1517, found: 389.1524.

**methyl 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-diphenylpropanoate (4f)**



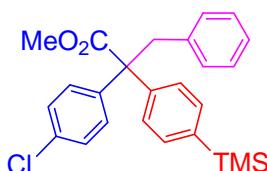
Eluant: 90% *n*-hexane/ 10% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (61%). Melting point: 96.5 – 97.9 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.61 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.33 (m, 4H), 6.99-7.07 (m, 4H), 6.85 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.74-6.78 (m, 3H), 4.03 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.50 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  174.4(C=O), 157.4(C), 141.6(C), 137.9(C), 131.8(C), 130.9(C-H), 129.8(C-H), 129.4(C-H), 128.2(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 127.1(C-H), 126.8(C-H), 125.9(C-H), 119.3(C-H), 111.7(C-H), 58.4(C), 55.0( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 51.8( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 42.6( $\text{CH}_2$ ). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1726.1. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 152.1, 165.1, 195.1, 255.1, 287.1, 346.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ : 369.1467, found: 369.1483.

**methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenyl-2-p-tolylpropanoate (4g)**



The reaction was run for 3 h. Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (81%). Melting point: 120.4 – 121.8 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.09-7.18 (m, 9H), 7.01 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.86 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.52 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  173.7(C=O), 141.3(C), 139.5(C), 137.0(C), 136.8(C), 132.6(C), 130.9(C-H), 130.8(C-H), 128.7(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 127.5(C-H), 126.4(C-H), 61.3(C), 52.2( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 44.3( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 20.9( $\text{CH}_3$ ). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1724.7. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 178.1, 213.0, 245.1, 273.1, 305.1, 364.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2\text{NaCl}$ : 387.1128, found: 387.1115.

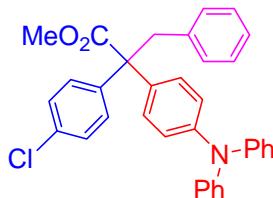
**methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(4-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl)-3-phenylpropanoate (4h)**



Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colorless gummy liquid (81%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.46 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.04-7.26 (m, 9H), 6.71 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.90 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 0.32 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  173.6(C=O), 142.8(C), 141.1(C), 139.3(C), 136.9(C), 133.0(C-H), 132.6(C), 130.9(C-H), 130.7(C-H), 128.0(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 127.5(C-H), 126.4(C-H), 61.6(C), 52.2( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 44.2( $\text{CH}_2$ ),

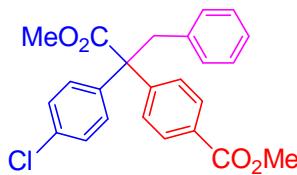
-1.16(CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1733.3. LRMS (EI): 73.1, 91.1, 199.0, 303.1, 316.1, 331.1, 363.1, 422.2. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>27</sub>O<sub>2</sub>NaSiCl: 445.1367, found: 445.1375.

**methyl 2-(4-(diphenylamino)phenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenylpropanoate (4i)**



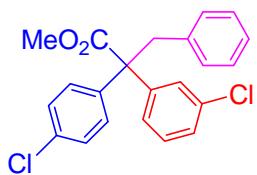
Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (67%). Melting point: 182.7 – 183.7 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.24-7.31 (m, 6H), 7.13-7.18 (m, 9H), 7.03-7.08 (m, 4H), 6.97-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.73-3.76 (m, 4H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 173.7(C=O), 147.5(C), 146.6(C), 141.3(C), 137.1(C), 136.0(C), 132.7(C), 130.8(C-H), 130.7(C-H), 129.7(C-H), 129.2(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 127.6(C-H), 126.4(C-H), 124.4(C-H), 122.9(C-H), 122.6(C-H), 61.2(C), 52.3(CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.5(CH<sub>2</sub>). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1724.3. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Cl: 518.1887, found: 518.1865.

**methyl 4-(1-(methoxycarbonyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenylethyl)benzoate (4j)**



The reaction was run for 9 h. Eluant: 90% *n*-hexane/ 10% ethyl acetate. The product was obtained as a light yellow gummy liquid (81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 5H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.78 (m, 5H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 173.0(C=O), 166.7(C=O), 147.4(C), 140.7(C), 136.3(C), 133.1(C), 130.6(C-H), 130.5(C-H), 129.2(C-H), 128.9(C-H), 128.8(C), 127.9(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 126.6(C-H), 61.7(C), 52.4(CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.0(CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.1(CH<sub>2</sub>). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1724.9. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 289.0, 317.1, 349.1, 408.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Cl: 409.1207, found: 409.1217.

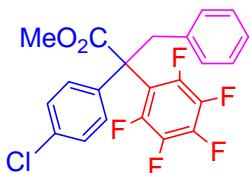
**methyl 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenylpropanoate (4k)**



Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colorless gummy liquid (83%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.01-7.25 (m, 11H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.67 (m, 2H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 173.1(C=O), 144.4(C), 140.6(C), 136.4(C), 133.8(C), 133.1(C),

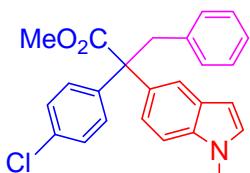
130.6(C-H), 130.5(C-H), 129.2(C-H), 129.0(C), 127.9(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 127.3(C-H), 127.3(C-H), 126.7(C-H), 61.5(C), 52.5(CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.3(CH<sub>2</sub>). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1734.6. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 139.0, 199.0, 265.0, 293.1, 325.1, 384.1.

#### **methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(perfluorophenyl)-3-phenylpropanoate (4l)**



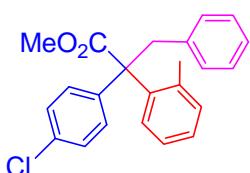
The reaction was run for 8 h. Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (66%). Melting point: 155.3 – 156.7 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.11-7.14 (m, 3H), 6.95-6.97 (m, 2H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.26 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 171.2(C=O), 139.1(C), 135.8(C), 133.8(C), 130.2(C-H), 128.6(C-H), 128.5(C-H), 127.9(C-H), 127.2(C-H), 57.1(C), 53.0(CH<sub>3</sub>), 40.9(CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>F</sub> -133.37 (d, *J* = 20 Hz), -154.70 (t, *J* = 24 Hz), -162.40 (t, *J* = 20 Hz) IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1738.4. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 321.0, 349.0, 381.0, 440.1.

#### **methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(1-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl)-3-phenylpropanoate (4m)**



Eluant: 90% *n*-hexane/ 10% ethyl acetate. The product was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid (57%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.16 (m, 7H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.49 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>C</sub> 174.2(C=O), 142.0(C), 137.3(C), 135.7(C), 133.6(C), 132.2(C), 131.2(C-H), 130.8(C-H), 129.3(C-H), 128.0(C), 127.6(C-H), 127.2(C-H), 126.3(C-H), 122.8(C-H), 120.5(C-H), 108.8(C-H), 101.4(C-H), 61.4(C), 52.1(CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.7(CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.8(CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1729.6. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Cl: 404.1417, found: 404.1431.

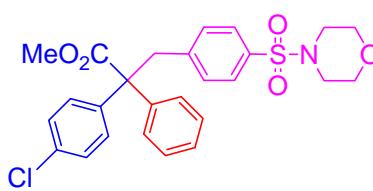
#### **methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenyl-2-o-tolylpropanoate (4n)**



Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colorless gummy liquid (76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ<sub>H</sub> 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.22 (m, 8H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H),

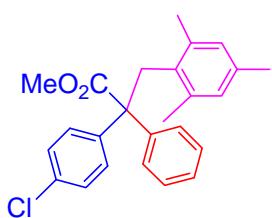
3.53 (d,  $J = 12.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.79 (s, 3H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  173.2(C=O), 141.3(C), 140.6(C), 137.6(C), 136.2(C), 132.4(C), 132.3(C-H), 130.6(C-H), 130.6(C-H), 127.6(C), 127.6(C-H), 127.4(C-H), 127.3(C-H), 126.7(C-H), 125.7(C-H), 59.7(C), 52.1(CH<sub>3</sub>), 46.4(CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.9(CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1728.9. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 178.1, 213.0, 245.1, 273.1, 305.1, 364.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2\text{NaCl}$ : 387.1128, found: 387.1112.

### **methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-3-(phenyl-4-sulfonyl morpholino)propanoate (4p)**



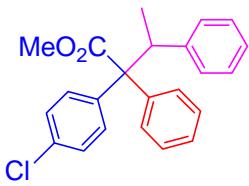
Eluant: 50% *n*-hexane/ 50% ethyl acetate. The product was obtained as a white solid (76%). Melting point: 176.2 – 177.5 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.42 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 7.07 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.83 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.72-3.75 (m, 8H), 2.90 (bs, 4H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  173.3(C=O), 143.2(C), 141.6(C), 140.7(C), 133.1(C), 132.6(C), 131.3(C-H), 130.5(C-H), 128.9(C-H), 128.0(C-H), 127.9(C-H), 127.4(C-H), 127.0(C-H), 66.0(CH<sub>2</sub>), 61.7(C), 52.8(CH<sub>3</sub>), 46.0(CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.1(CH<sub>2</sub>). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1719.8. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_5\text{SCl}$ : 500.1298, found: 500.1297.

### **methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-mesityl-2-phenylpropanoate (4q)**



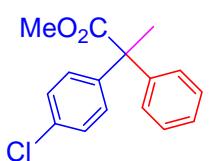
Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a white solid (61%). Melting point: 113.2 – 114.5 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.12-7.28 (m, 7H), 6.92-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.68 (s, 2H), 3.93 (dd,  $J = 12.8, 14$  Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 6H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  175.1(C=O), 142.1(C), 140.5(C), 138.5(C), 136.0(C), 132.7(C), 131.4(C), 131.3(C-H), 129.0(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 127.2(C-H), 127.0(C-H), 60.6(C), 52.4(CH<sub>3</sub>), 37.2(CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.7(CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.4(CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1733.9. LRMS (EI): 91.1, 133.1, 165.1, 259.0, 333.1, 392.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2\text{NaCl}$ : 415.1441, found: 415.1459.

**methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-diphenylbutanoate (4r)**



The product is a mixture of diastereomers in 1:1 NMR ratio. Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid (61%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.47 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.41 (m, 6H), 7.11-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.53-4.65 (m, 1H), 3.55, 3.58 (two set of s, 3H), 1.24 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  173.7(C=O), 173.6(C=O), 141.6(C), 141.5(C), 141.3(C), 140.0(C), 138.2(C), 137.0(C), 133.6(C-H), 133.0(C), 132.8(C), 131.8(C-H), 131.6(C-H), 130.6(C-H), 130.5(C-H), 129.8(C-H), 128.0(C-H), 127.8(C-H), 127.2(C-H), 127.2(C-H), 127.1(C-H), 127.0(C-H), 126.8(C-H), 126.6(C-H), 126.4(C-H), 65.9(C), 65.9(C), 52.1(CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.0(CH<sub>3</sub>), 42.6(CH), 42.1(CH), 17.4(CH<sub>3</sub>), 17.0(CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1731.6. LRMS (EI): 77.1, 105.1, 165.1, 199.0, 231.0, 260.0, 303.1, 364.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2\text{NaCl}$ : 387.1128, found: 387.1147.

**methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenylpropanoate (4s)**

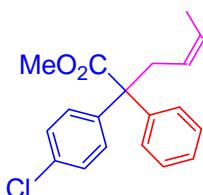


Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a light yellow gummy liquid (79%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.27-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.16-7.22 (m, 4H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  175.1(C=O), 144.0(C), 142.9(C), 132.7(C), 129.5(C-H), 128.2(C-H), 128.1(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 127.0(C-H), 56.1(C), 52.5(CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.0(CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1731.6. LRMS (EI): 77.1, 103.1, 165.1, 179.1, 215.1, 274.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{NaCl}$ : 297.0658, found: 297.0650.

## 2.6 A modified procedure for the synthesis of 4t

The catalytic reaction was carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. In a 8 mL-reaction vial with a Teflon-lined cap,  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})\text{OH}]_2$  (10 mol % Rh) and KO*t*Bu (3 equiv) were pre-mixed in MTBE (0.5 mL) at room temperature for 2 min. Afterwards, **2a** (3 equiv) dissolved in a minimum amount of MTBE was added to the reaction vial, and the mixture was stirred for 2 min. Then, **1a** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in a minimum amount of MTBE and was added to the reaction vial. 3,3-Dimethylallyl bromide (**3f**) dissolved in 1 mL of MTBE for syringe addition to the reaction vial over 1 h. The reaction mixture (ca. 1 – 2 mL) was placed in a 40 °C oil bath for 2 h. The work-up procedure was same as the standard procedure.

### methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-2-phenylhex-4-enoate (**4t**)

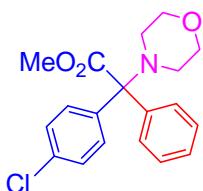


Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colourless gummy liquid (57%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.23-7.29 (m, 7H), 7.16-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.98 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H) 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.98-3.11 (m, 2H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  174.4(C=O), 142.3(C), 141.2(C), 135.2(C), 132.6(C), 130.5(C-H), 128.7(C-H), 127.9(C-H), 127.7(C-H), 126.9(C-H), 119.1(C-H), 60.2(C), 52.4(CH<sub>3</sub>), 36.8(CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.8(CH<sub>3</sub>), 17.5(CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1731.8. LRMS (EI): 69.1, 105.0, 139.0, 165.1, 199.0, 231.0, 259.0. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{Cl}$ : 329.1319, found: 329.1308.

## 2.7 A modified procedure for the synthesis of 4u

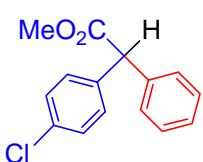
The catalytic reaction was carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. In a 8 mL-reaction vial with a Teflon-lined cap,  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})\text{Cl}]_2$  (10 mol % Rh) and KO*t*Bu (3 equiv) were pre-mixed in MTBE (0.5 mL) at room temperature for 2 min. Afterwards, **2a** (3 equiv) dissolved in a minimum amount of MTBE was added to the reaction vial, and the mixture was stirred for 2 min. Then, **1a** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in minimum amount of MTBE was added to the reaction vial. After 2 h, *N*-chloromorpholine (**3g**) was added neat to the reaction vial. The reaction mixture (c.a. 1 – 2 mL) was placed in a 40 °C oil bath for 24 h. The work-up procedure was same as the standard procedure.

**methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-morpholino-2-phenylacetate (4u)**



Eluant: 80% *n*-hexane/ 20% ethyl acetate. The product was obtained as a light yellow gummy liquid (25%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.36-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.30 (m, 5H), 3.80 (t,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, 4H) 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.45 (bs, 4H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  170.6(C=O), 138.6(C), 137.9(C), 132.9(C), 130.1(C-H), 128.6(C-H), 128.0(C-H), 127.9(C-H), 127.3(C-H), 78.5(C), 67.5(CH<sub>2</sub>), 51.9(CH<sub>3</sub>), 48.9(CH<sub>2</sub>). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1727.8. LRMS (EI): 105.0, 139.0, 165.1, 286.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3\text{Cl}$ : 346.1210, found: 346.1198.

**methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenylacetate (5a)**



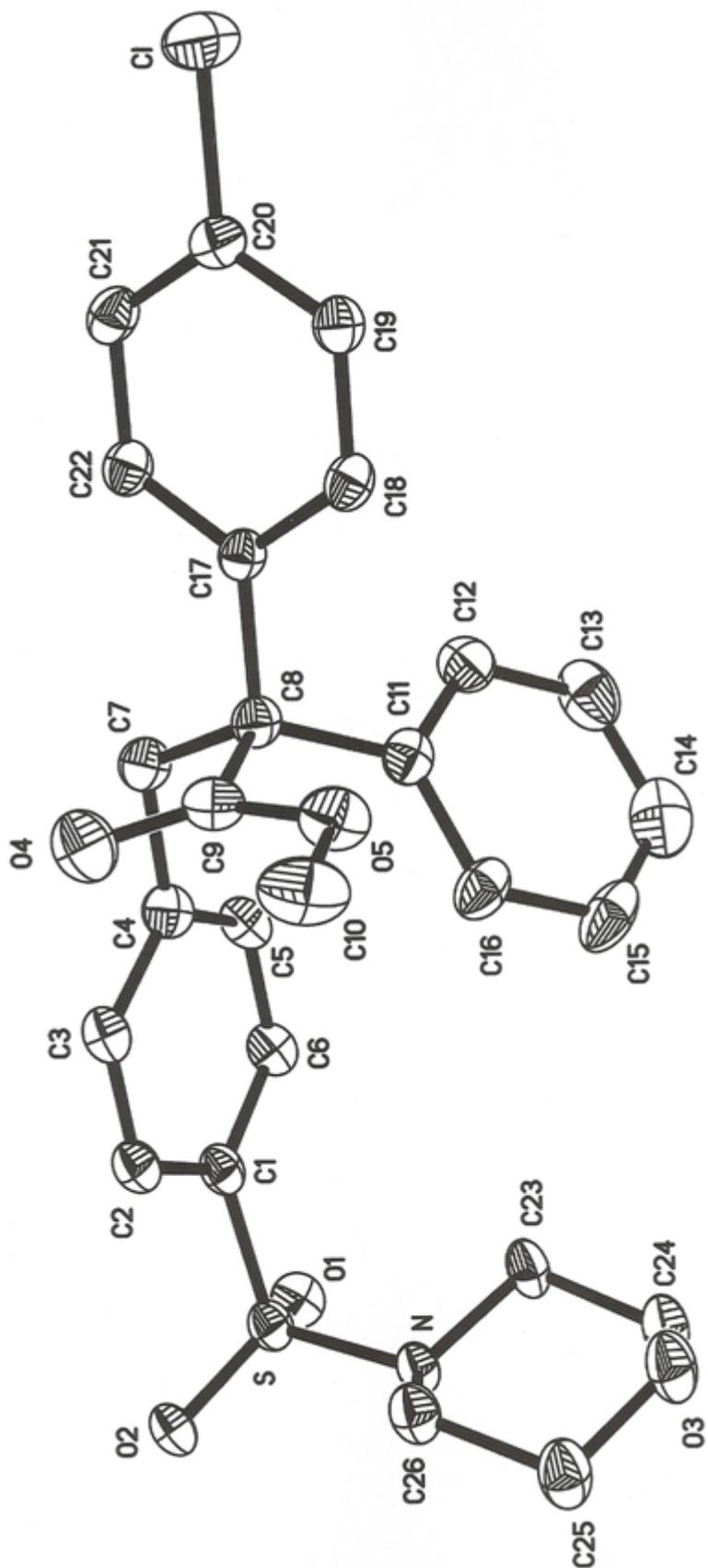
Eluant: 95% *n*-hexane/ 5% diethyl ether. The product was obtained as a colorless liquid (95%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_H$  7.26-7.37 (m, 9H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H)  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_C$  172.5(C=O), 138.1(C), 137.1(C), 133.2(C), 129.9(C-H), 128.7(C-H), 128.4(C-H), 127.4(C-H), 56.3(C), 52.4(CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1737.0. LRMS (EI): 82.3, 165.1, 201.1, 260.0. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{NaCl}$ : 283.0502, found: 283.0505.

### 3. X-ray crystallographic data:

**Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 4p**

Empirical formula	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>26</sub> Cl N O <sub>5</sub> S		
Formula weight	499.99		
Temperature	296(2) K		
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		
Crystal system	Orthorhombic		
Space group	Pbca		
Unit cell dimensions	a = 13.4805(6) Å	α = 90°	
	b = 18.6319(8) Å	β = 90°	
	c = 19.8561(9) Å	γ = 90°	
Volume	4987.2(4) Å <sup>3</sup>		
Z	8		
Density (calculated)	1.332 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>		
Absorption coefficient	0.274 mm <sup>-1</sup>		
F(000)	2096		
Crystal size	0.38 x 0.20 x 0.18 mm <sup>3</sup>		
Theta range for data collection	2.05 to 26.98°.		
Index ranges	-16<=h<=16, -23<=k<=21, -25<=l<=25		
Reflections collected	34128		
Independent reflections	4810 [R(int) = 0.0550]		
Completeness to theta = 26.98°	88.5 %		
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents		
Max. and min. transmission	0.7454 and 0.6201		
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>		
Data / restraints / parameters	4810 / 0 / 307		
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.005		
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0629, wR2 = 0.1893		
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1313, wR2 = 0.2332		
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.786 and -0.460 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>		

**Figure S1 . methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-3-(phenyl-4-sulfonyl morpholino)propanoate (4p)**



**Table S2. Atomic coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for 4p. U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized  $U_{ij}$  tensor.**

	x	y	z	U(eq)
Cl(1)	2568(1)	1070(1)	5896(1)	98(1)
S(1)	1116(1)	1456(1)	-411(1)	60(1)
O(1)	744(1)	2146(1)	-592(1)	74(1)
O(2)	719(1)	832(1)	-721(1)	72(1)
O(3)	4392(1)	1422(1)	-409(1)	87(1)
O(4)	1943(2)	-265(1)	2656(1)	90(1)
O(5)	3504(1)	112(1)	2680(1)	80(1)
N(1)	2316(2)	1466(1)	-570(1)	57(1)
C(1)	1012(2)	1362(1)	466(1)	57(1)
C(2)	961(2)	674(1)	749(1)	61(1)
C(3)	973(2)	604(1)	1440(1)	62(1)
C(4)	1071(2)	1203(1)	1854(1)	61(1)
C(5)	1072(2)	1882(1)	1568(1)	63(1)
C(6)	1057(2)	1957(1)	875(1)	61(1)
C(7)	1165(2)	1120(2)	2612(1)	64(1)
C(8)	2240(2)	999(1)	2857(1)	56(1)
C(9)	2526(2)	216(2)	2707(1)	67(1)
C(10)	3848(3)	-618(2)	2597(2)	100(1)
C(11)	2905(2)	1562(1)	2528(1)	61(1)
C(12)	2920(2)	2244(2)	2785(2)	77(1)
C(13)	3438(3)	2797(2)	2478(2)	102(1)
C(14)	3964(3)	2679(2)	1896(2)	114(1)
C(15)	3946(2)	2003(2)	1619(2)	99(1)
C(16)	3431(2)	1439(2)	1929(2)	75(1)
C(17)	2306(2)	1033(1)	3634(1)	52(1)
C(18)	3230(2)	1010(1)	3953(1)	56(1)
C(19)	3316(2)	1019(1)	4643(1)	58(1)
C(20)	2476(2)	1054(1)	5032(1)	59(1)
C(21)	1546(2)	1086(1)	4737(1)	63(1)
C(22)	1479(2)	1073(1)	4041(1)	59(1)
C(23)	2855(2)	2070(2)	-266(2)	70(1)
C(24)	3899(2)	2082(2)	-532(2)	81(1)
C(25)	3883(2)	857(2)	-732(2)	90(1)
C(26)	2834(2)	778(2)	-461(2)	72(1)

**Table S3. Bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for 4p**

Cl(1)-C(20)	1.721(3)
S(1)-O(2)	1.4215(19)
S(1)-O(1)	1.4258(19)
S(1)-N(1)	1.649(2)
S(1)-C(1)	1.755(3)
O(3)-C(25)	1.411(4)
O(3)-C(24)	1.418(3)
O(4)-C(9)	1.196(3)
O(5)-C(9)	1.333(3)
O(5)-C(10)	1.448(4)
N(1)-C(23)	1.470(3)
N(1)-C(26)	1.475(3)
C(1)-C(6)	1.376(4)
C(1)-C(2)	1.402(4)
C(2)-C(3)	1.378(4)
C(2)-H(2B)	0.9300
C(3)-C(4)	1.392(4)
C(3)-H(3A)	0.9300
C(4)-C(5)	1.387(4)
C(4)-C(7)	1.519(4)
C(5)-C(6)	1.382(4)
C(5)-H(5A)	0.9300
C(6)-H(6A)	0.9300
C(7)-C(8)	1.546(3)
C(7)-H(7A)	0.9700
C(7)-H(7B)	0.9700
C(8)-C(11)	1.526(4)
C(8)-C(9)	1.539(4)
C(8)-C(17)	1.546(4)
C(10)-H(10A)	0.9600
C(10)-H(10B)	0.9600
C(10)-H(10C)	0.9600
C(11)-C(12)	1.370(4)
C(11)-C(16)	1.404(4)
C(12)-C(13)	1.386(4)
C(12)-H(12A)	0.9300

C(13)-C(14)	1.374(5)
C(13)-H(13A)	0.9300
C(14)-C(15)	1.373(5)
C(14)-H(14A)	0.9300
C(15)-C(16)	1.402(4)
C(15)-H(15A)	0.9300
C(16)-H(16A)	0.9300
C(17)-C(22)	1.380(3)
C(17)-C(18)	1.398(3)
C(18)-C(19)	1.376(4)
C(18)-H(18A)	0.9300
C(19)-C(20)	1.372(4)
C(19)-H(19A)	0.9300
C(20)-C(21)	1.384(4)
C(21)-C(22)	1.385(4)
C(21)-H(21A)	0.9300
C(22)-H(22A)	0.9300
C(23)-C(24)	1.503(4)
C(23)-H(23A)	0.9700
C(23)-H(23B)	0.9700
C(24)-H(24A)	0.9700
C(24)-H(24B)	0.9700
C(25)-C(26)	1.520(4)
C(25)-H(25A)	0.9700
C(25)-H(25B)	0.9700
C(26)-H(26A)	0.9700
C(26)-H(26B)	0.9700
O(2)-S(1)-O(1)	119.74(12)
O(2)-S(1)-N(1)	107.12(11)
O(1)-S(1)-N(1)	106.63(11)
O(2)-S(1)-C(1)	108.57(12)
O(1)-S(1)-C(1)	108.27(12)
N(1)-S(1)-C(1)	105.66(11)
C(25)-O(3)-C(24)	110.0(2)
C(9)-O(5)-C(10)	117.2(2)
C(23)-N(1)-C(26)	111.8(2)
C(23)-N(1)-S(1)	114.48(17)

C(26)-N(1)-S(1)	115.28(17)
C(6)-C(1)-C(2)	120.2(3)
C(6)-C(1)-S(1)	120.1(2)
C(2)-C(1)-S(1)	119.6(2)
C(3)-C(2)-C(1)	119.0(2)
C(3)-C(2)-H(2B)	120.5
C(1)-C(2)-H(2B)	120.5
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	120.8(2)
C(2)-C(3)-H(3A)	119.6
C(4)-C(3)-H(3A)	119.6
C(5)-C(4)-C(3)	119.4(3)
C(5)-C(4)-C(7)	119.9(2)
C(3)-C(4)-C(7)	120.7(2)
C(6)-C(5)-C(4)	120.0(2)
C(6)-C(5)-H(5A)	120.0
C(4)-C(5)-H(5A)	120.0
C(1)-C(6)-C(5)	120.4(2)
C(1)-C(6)-H(6A)	119.8
C(5)-C(6)-H(6A)	119.8
C(4)-C(7)-C(8)	113.9(2)
C(4)-C(7)-H(7A)	108.8
C(8)-C(7)-H(7A)	108.8
C(4)-C(7)-H(7B)	108.8
C(8)-C(7)-H(7B)	108.8
H(7A)-C(7)-H(7B)	107.7
C(11)-C(8)-C(9)	115.0(2)
C(11)-C(8)-C(17)	111.4(2)
C(9)-C(8)-C(17)	102.6(2)
C(11)-C(8)-C(7)	108.4(2)
C(9)-C(8)-C(7)	108.2(2)
C(17)-C(8)-C(7)	111.2(2)
O(4)-C(9)-O(5)	122.6(3)
O(4)-C(9)-C(8)	124.2(3)
O(5)-C(9)-C(8)	113.1(2)
O(5)-C(10)-H(10A)	109.5
O(5)-C(10)-H(10B)	109.5
H(10A)-C(10)-H(10B)	109.5
O(5)-C(10)-H(10C)	109.5

H(10A)-C(10)-H(10C)	109.5
H(10B)-C(10)-H(10C)	109.5
C(12)-C(11)-C(16)	117.4(3)
C(12)-C(11)-C(8)	119.1(2)
C(16)-C(11)-C(8)	123.2(2)
C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	122.2(3)
C(11)-C(12)-H(12A)	118.9
C(13)-C(12)-H(12A)	118.9
C(14)-C(13)-C(12)	120.7(3)
C(14)-C(13)-H(13A)	119.6
C(12)-C(13)-H(13A)	119.6
C(15)-C(14)-C(13)	118.3(4)
C(15)-C(14)-H(14A)	120.8
C(13)-C(14)-H(14A)	120.8
C(14)-C(15)-C(16)	121.3(3)
C(14)-C(15)-H(15A)	119.3
C(16)-C(15)-H(15A)	119.3
C(15)-C(16)-C(11)	120.0(3)
C(15)-C(16)-H(16A)	120.0
C(11)-C(16)-H(16A)	120.0
C(22)-C(17)-C(18)	117.2(2)
C(22)-C(17)-C(8)	122.7(2)
C(18)-C(17)-C(8)	120.1(2)
C(19)-C(18)-C(17)	121.7(2)
C(19)-C(18)-H(18A)	119.2
C(17)-C(18)-H(18A)	119.2
C(20)-C(19)-C(18)	119.5(2)
C(20)-C(19)-H(19A)	120.3
C(18)-C(19)-H(19A)	120.3
C(19)-C(20)-C(21)	120.7(3)
C(19)-C(20)-Cl(1)	120.2(2)
C(21)-C(20)-Cl(1)	119.1(2)
C(20)-C(21)-C(22)	118.7(2)
C(20)-C(21)-H(21A)	120.6
C(22)-C(21)-H(21A)	120.6
C(17)-C(22)-C(21)	122.2(2)
C(17)-C(22)-H(22A)	118.9
C(21)-C(22)-H(22A)	118.9

N(1)-C(23)-C(24)	109.3(2)
N(1)-C(23)-H(23A)	109.8
C(24)-C(23)-H(23A)	109.8
N(1)-C(23)-H(23B)	109.8
C(24)-C(23)-H(23B)	109.8
H(23A)-C(23)-H(23B)	108.3
O(3)-C(24)-C(23)	111.4(2)
O(3)-C(24)-H(24A)	109.3
C(23)-C(24)-H(24A)	109.3
O(3)-C(24)-H(24B)	109.3
C(23)-C(24)-H(24B)	109.3
H(24A)-C(24)-H(24B)	108.0
O(3)-C(25)-C(26)	111.3(3)
O(3)-C(25)-H(25A)	109.4
C(26)-C(25)-H(25A)	109.4
O(3)-C(25)-H(25B)	109.4
C(26)-C(25)-H(25B)	109.4
H(25A)-C(25)-H(25B)	108.0
N(1)-C(26)-C(25)	107.7(2)
N(1)-C(26)-H(26A)	110.2
C(25)-C(26)-H(26A)	110.2
N(1)-C(26)-H(26B)	110.2
C(25)-C(26)-H(26B)	110.2
H(26A)-C(26)-H(26B)	108.5

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Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

**Table S4. Anisotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for 4p. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:  $-2\pi^2 [ h^2 a^* b^* U_{11} + \dots + 2 h k a^* b^* U_{12} ]$**

	U11	U22	U33	U23	U13	U12
Cl(1)	111(1)	121(1)	63(1)	-6(1)	4(1)	8(1)
S(1)	47(1)	66(1)	66(1)	-1(1)	-10(1)	-1(1)
O(1)	62(1)	77(1)	82(1)	7(1)	-14(1)	17(1)
O(2)	60(1)	82(1)	74(1)	-12(1)	-14(1)	-18(1)
O(3)	51(1)	78(1)	132(2)	-5(1)	-13(1)	1(1)
O(4)	94(1)	68(1)	107(2)	0(1)	-8(1)	0(1)
O(5)	76(1)	77(1)	87(1)	-13(1)	-4(1)	27(1)
N(1)	46(1)	50(1)	74(1)	-5(1)	-8(1)	-2(1)
C(1)	42(1)	60(2)	69(2)	-4(1)	-11(1)	1(1)
C(2)	55(2)	60(2)	70(2)	-5(1)	-9(1)	-3(1)
C(3)	55(2)	55(2)	76(2)	0(1)	-9(1)	-3(1)
C(4)	43(1)	71(2)	70(2)	-1(1)	-7(1)	13(1)
C(5)	57(1)	54(2)	78(2)	-11(1)	-13(1)	10(1)
C(6)	57(2)	53(2)	72(2)	1(1)	-13(1)	9(1)
C(7)	50(1)	72(2)	70(2)	-3(1)	1(1)	8(1)
C(8)	46(1)	65(2)	57(2)	-1(1)	1(1)	6(1)
C(9)	76(2)	68(2)	58(2)	-2(1)	-3(1)	6(2)
C(10)	113(2)	91(2)	95(2)	-23(2)	-10(2)	49(2)
C(11)	48(1)	69(2)	66(2)	11(1)	-7(1)	8(1)
C(12)	88(2)	72(2)	71(2)	9(2)	-7(2)	-6(2)
C(13)	117(3)	73(2)	115(3)	20(2)	-22(2)	-21(2)
C(14)	97(3)	113(3)	130(3)	47(2)	-23(2)	-14(2)
C(15)	54(2)	164(3)	79(2)	52(2)	9(2)	18(2)
C(16)	52(2)	103(2)	70(2)	18(2)	7(1)	15(2)
C(17)	48(1)	49(1)	58(2)	-1(1)	4(1)	3(1)
C(18)	45(1)	59(2)	63(2)	7(1)	6(1)	6(1)
C(19)	52(1)	54(2)	68(2)	1(1)	0(1)	1(1)
C(20)	67(2)	52(1)	56(2)	0(1)	4(1)	5(1)
C(21)	60(2)	59(2)	70(2)	-1(1)	16(1)	4(1)
C(22)	50(1)	62(2)	65(2)	4(1)	4(1)	3(1)
C(23)	54(2)	51(2)	106(2)	-8(2)	-7(2)	-9(1)
C(24)	56(2)	67(2)	120(3)	1(2)	-9(2)	-8(2)
C(25)	61(2)	68(2)	141(3)	-14(2)	2(2)	2(2)
C(26)	59(2)	56(2)	101(2)	-6(2)	-6(2)	2(1)

**Table S5. Hydrogen coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for 4p.**

	x	y	z	U(eq)
H(2B)	919	270	475	74
H(3A)	916	151	1633	74
H(5A)	1082	2287	1842	76
H(6A)	1077	2413	684	73
H(7A)	760	717	2755	76
H(7B)	903	1547	2827	76
H(10A)	4560	-624	2586	149
H(10B)	3593	-810	2183	149
H(10C)	3620	-905	2968	149
H(12A)	2571	2339	3179	92
H(13A)	3429	3253	2668	122
H(14A)	4322	3047	1694	136
H(15A)	4283	1919	1218	119
H(16A)	3438	984	1737	90
H(18A)	3802	988	3691	67
H(19A)	3938	1002	4845	69
H(21A)	978	1114	5001	76
H(22A)	855	1091	3842	71
H(23A)	2864	2019	220	84
H(23B)	2525	2518	-376	84
H(24A)	3887	2175	-1012	97
H(24B)	4264	2469	-317	97
H(25A)	4242	412	-663	108
H(25B)	3858	949	-1212	108
H(26A)	2491	394	-695	86
H(26B)	2851	664	15	86

**Table S6.** Torsion angles [°] for 4p.

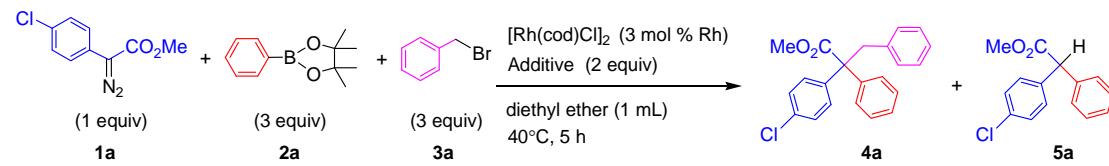
O(2)-S(1)-N(1)-C(23)	-178.25(19)
O(1)-S(1)-N(1)-C(23)	52.4(2)
C(1)-S(1)-N(1)-C(23)	-62.6(2)
O(2)-S(1)-N(1)-C(26)	-46.5(2)
O(1)-S(1)-N(1)-C(26)	-175.82(19)
C(1)-S(1)-N(1)-C(26)	69.1(2)
O(2)-S(1)-C(1)-C(6)	-160.4(2)
O(1)-S(1)-C(1)-C(6)	-29.0(2)
N(1)-S(1)-C(1)-C(6)	85.0(2)
O(2)-S(1)-C(1)-C(2)	24.5(2)
O(1)-S(1)-C(1)-C(2)	155.9(2)
N(1)-S(1)-C(1)-C(2)	-90.1(2)
C(6)-C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	-1.1(4)
S(1)-C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	173.98(19)
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	-2.3(4)
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	5.4(4)
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)-C(7)	-175.2(2)
C(3)-C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	-5.2(4)
C(7)-C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	175.5(2)
C(2)-C(1)-C(6)-C(5)	1.3(4)
S(1)-C(1)-C(6)-C(5)	-173.77(19)
C(4)-C(5)-C(6)-C(1)	1.9(4)
C(5)-C(4)-C(7)-C(8)	-94.3(3)
C(3)-C(4)-C(7)-C(8)	86.4(3)
C(4)-C(7)-C(8)-C(11)	48.6(3)
C(4)-C(7)-C(8)-C(9)	-76.7(3)
C(4)-C(7)-C(8)-C(17)	171.4(2)
C(10)-O(5)-C(9)-O(4)	-1.2(4)
C(10)-O(5)-C(9)-C(8)	175.0(2)
C(11)-C(8)-C(9)-O(4)	-146.6(3)
C(17)-C(8)-C(9)-O(4)	92.3(3)
C(7)-C(8)-C(9)-O(4)	-25.3(4)
C(11)-C(8)-C(9)-O(5)	37.2(3)
C(17)-C(8)-C(9)-O(5)	-83.8(3)
C(7)-C(8)-C(9)-O(5)	158.5(2)
C(9)-C(8)-C(11)-C(12)	-159.8(2)

C(17)-C(8)-C(11)-C(12)	-43.6(3)
C(7)-C(8)-C(11)-C(12)	79.0(3)
C(9)-C(8)-C(11)-C(16)	27.0(4)
C(17)-C(8)-C(11)-C(16)	143.1(2)
C(7)-C(8)-C(11)-C(16)	-94.2(3)
C(16)-C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	-0.6(4)
C(8)-C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	-174.3(3)
C(11)-C(12)-C(13)-C(14)	-0.1(5)
C(12)-C(13)-C(14)-C(15)	1.3(5)
C(13)-C(14)-C(15)-C(16)	-1.8(5)
C(14)-C(15)-C(16)-C(11)	1.1(5)
C(12)-C(11)-C(16)-C(15)	0.2(4)
C(8)-C(11)-C(16)-C(15)	173.5(2)
C(11)-C(8)-C(17)-C(22)	128.9(2)
C(9)-C(8)-C(17)-C(22)	-107.6(3)
C(7)-C(8)-C(17)-C(22)	7.8(3)
C(11)-C(8)-C(17)-C(18)	-52.5(3)
C(9)-C(8)-C(17)-C(18)	71.0(3)
C(7)-C(8)-C(17)-C(18)	-173.5(2)
C(22)-C(17)-C(18)-C(19)	0.6(4)
C(8)-C(17)-C(18)-C(19)	-178.2(2)
C(17)-C(18)-C(19)-C(20)	-0.2(4)
C(18)-C(19)-C(20)-C(21)	-0.5(4)
C(18)-C(19)-C(20)-Cl(1)	-179.73(19)
C(19)-C(20)-C(21)-C(22)	0.7(4)
Cl(1)-C(20)-C(21)-C(22)	179.98(19)
C(18)-C(17)-C(22)-C(21)	-0.3(4)
C(8)-C(17)-C(22)-C(21)	178.4(2)
C(20)-C(21)-C(22)-C(17)	-0.3(4)
C(26)-N(1)-C(23)-C(24)	55.1(3)
S(1)-N(1)-C(23)-C(24)	-171.5(2)
C(25)-O(3)-C(24)-C(23)	60.4(4)
N(1)-C(23)-C(24)-O(3)	-56.6(3)
C(24)-O(3)-C(25)-C(26)	-61.7(3)
C(23)-N(1)-C(26)-C(25)	-55.4(3)
S(1)-N(1)-C(26)-C(25)	171.6(2)
O(3)-C(25)-C(26)-N(1)	58.6(3)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

#### 4. Results for Optimization Studies:

**Table S7: Additive screening**



entry <sup>a</sup>	additive	<b>4a (%)</b>	<b>5a (%)</b>
1	KOtBu	59	<1
2	NaOtBu	<1	99
3	LiOtBu	4	<1
4	NaOMe	0	100
5	KOMe	0	100
6	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	7	<1
7	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	8	<1
8	KOH	2	72
9 <sup>b, c</sup>	none	0	0
10 <sup>d, e</sup>	none	0	7

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in a 0.2 mmol-scale of **1a**. Yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>b</sup> 65% of **1a** remained, yield was determined by NMR using dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>c</sup> 0.578 mmol of **2a** remained, 0.535 mmol of **3a** remained, yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>d</sup> [Rh(cod)OH]<sub>2</sub> (3 mol% of Rh) was used. <sup>e</sup> 61% of **1a** remained, yield was determined by NMR using dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard.

**Table S8: Boron source screening**

The reaction scheme shows the conversion of starting materials **1a**, **2a**, and **3a** under specific reaction conditions to products **4a** and **5a**. The starting materials are **1a** (1 equiv), **2a** (3 equiv), and **3a** (3 equiv). The reaction conditions are  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})\text{Cl}]_2$  (3 mol % Rh),  $\text{KOtBu}$  (2 equiv), diethyl ether (1 mL), and  $40^\circ\text{C}$ , 5 h. The products are **4a** and **5a**.

entry <sup>a</sup>	boron source	<b>4a</b> (%)	<b>5a</b> (%)
1		59	<1
2		0	78
3		2	94
4		18	70
5		<1	0
6		<1	0

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in a 0.2 mmol-scale of **1a**. Yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard.

**Table S9: Solvent screening**

The reaction scheme illustrates the coupling of three reagents: 1a (1 equiv), 2a (3 equiv), and 3a (3 equiv). The reaction conditions include [Rh(cod)Cl]₂ (3 mol % Rh) and KOtBu (2 equiv) in a solvent (1 mL) at 40°C for 5 h. The products are 4a and 5a.

entry <sup>a</sup>	solvent	<b>4a (%)</b>	<b>5a (%)</b>
1	diethyl ether	59	<1
2	MTBE	68	5
3	1,4-dioxane	58	3
4	THF	50	0
5	toluene	4	6
6	acetone	2	4
7	DMF	2	1
8	DMA	3	<1
9	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0	<1
10	DCM	2	3

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in a 0.2 mmol-scale of **1a**. Yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard.

**Table S10: Screening of addition method for the diazo reagent**

entry <sup>a</sup>	addition method	1a remained <sup>d</sup> (%)	4a (%)	5a (%)
		(%)		
1	one pot	0	68	5
2	syringe addition 5 h	40	7	0
3	2 batches	35	21	<1
4	3 batches	38	22	2
5	2 batches <sup>b</sup>	0	64	5
6	2 batches <sup>c</sup>	0	55	10

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in a 0.2 mmol-scale of **1a**. Yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>b</sup> second batch (0.1 mmol) was syringe added for 3 h. <sup>c</sup> second batch (0.134 mmol) was syringe added for 3 h. <sup>d</sup> **1a** was determined by NMR using dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard.

**Table S11: Substrate ratios study**

entry <sup>a</sup>	Substrate ratio 1a:2a:3a:base	limiting reagent remained <sup>b</sup> (%)	4a (%)	5a (%)
1	1:3:3:2	0	68	5
2	2:3:1:2	0	77	24
3 <sup>c</sup>	2:3:1:2	4	74	12
4	2:1:3:2	46	0	0
5	1:3:3:3	0	68	0
6	1:5:3:2	0	73	3

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in a 0.2 mmol-scale of the limiting reagent. Yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>b</sup> **1a** was determined by NMR using dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard, other limited reagent were determined by GC/FID. <sup>c</sup> MS4Å (0.1g) was added.

**Table S12: Catalyst precursor screening**

The reaction scheme shows the conversion of substrates **1a**, **2a**, and **3a** to products **4a** and **5a**. Substrate **1a** (1 equiv) reacts with substrate **2a** (3 equiv) and substrate **3a** (3 equiv) in the presence of [Rh] precursor (3 mol % Rh), KOtBu (3 equiv), MTBE (1 mL), and at 40°C for 5 h. The products are **4a** and **5a**.

entry <sup>a</sup>	Rh precursor	<b>1a</b> remained <sup>b</sup> (%)	<b>4a</b> (%)	<b>5a</b> (%)
1	[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	0	68	0
2	[Rh(cod)OH] <sub>2</sub>	0	84	0
3	[Rh(dppe)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	70	<1	0
4	Rh(PPh) <sub>3</sub> Cl	40	0	0

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in a 0.2 mmol-scale of **1a**. Yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>b</sup> **1a** was determined by NMR using dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard.

**Table S13: Substrate ratios study 2**

The reaction scheme shows the conversion of substrates **1a**, **2a**, and **3a** to products **4a** and **5a**. Substrate **1a** (1 equiv) reacts with substrate **2a** (3 equiv) and substrate **3a** (3 equiv) in the presence of [Rh(cod)OH]<sub>2</sub> (3 mol % Rh), KOtBu, MTBE (1 mL), and at 40°C for 5 h. The products are **4a** and **5a**.

entry <sup>a</sup>	Substrate ratio	<b>1a</b> remained <sup>b</sup> (%)	<b>4a</b> (%)	<b>5a</b> (%)
	<b>1a</b> : <b>2a</b> : <b>3a</b> :base			
1	1:3:3:3	0	84	0
2	1:3:2:3	0	80	0
4	1:3:1.5:3	0	74	0
6	1:2.5:1.5:3	30	3	0
7	1:3:1.5:2	0	65	1
8	1:3:1.5:1.5	0	48	23
9	1:2:1.5:2	0	76	0
10	1:1.5:1.5:1.5	0	58	12
11	1:2:3:2	0	70	2
12	1:3:3:2	0	76	0

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in a 0.2 mmol-scale of **1a**. Yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>b</sup> **1a** was determined by NMR using dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard.

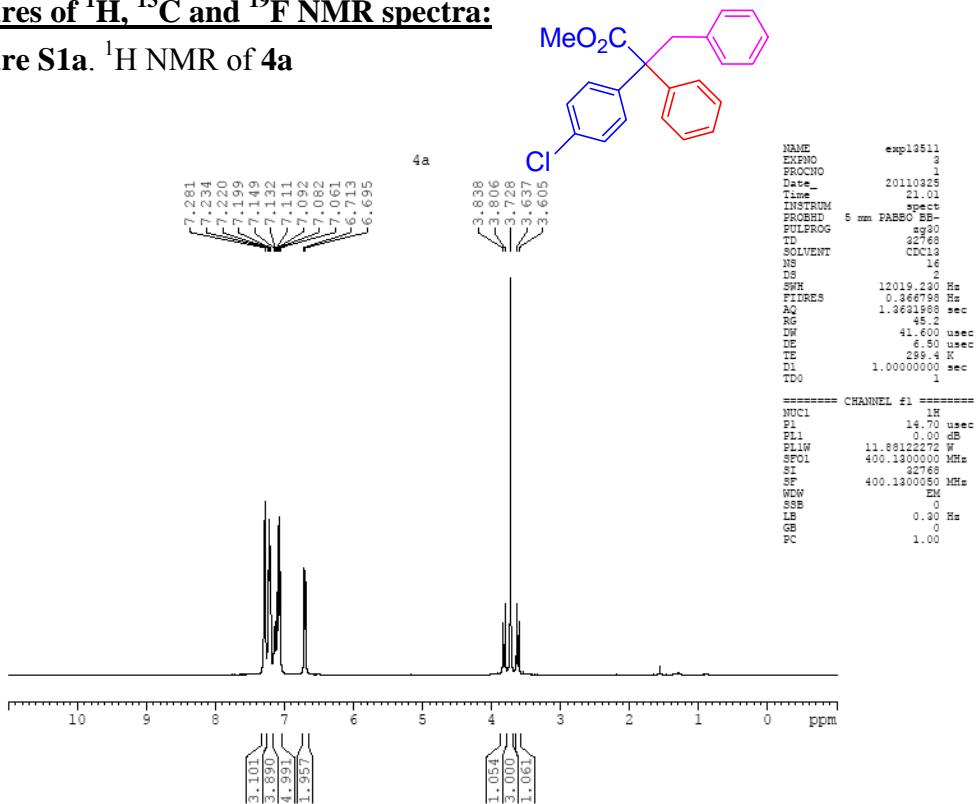
**Table S14: Catalyst loading screening**

entry <sup>a</sup>	Rh loading	<b>1a</b> remained <sup>b</sup> (%)	<b>4a</b> (%)	<b>5a</b> (%)
1	3 mol %	0	84	0
2	2 mol %	0	85	0
3 <sup>c</sup>	2 mol %	0	86 <sup>d</sup>	0
4	1 mol %	20	47	0
5 <sup>e</sup>	none	85	0	0

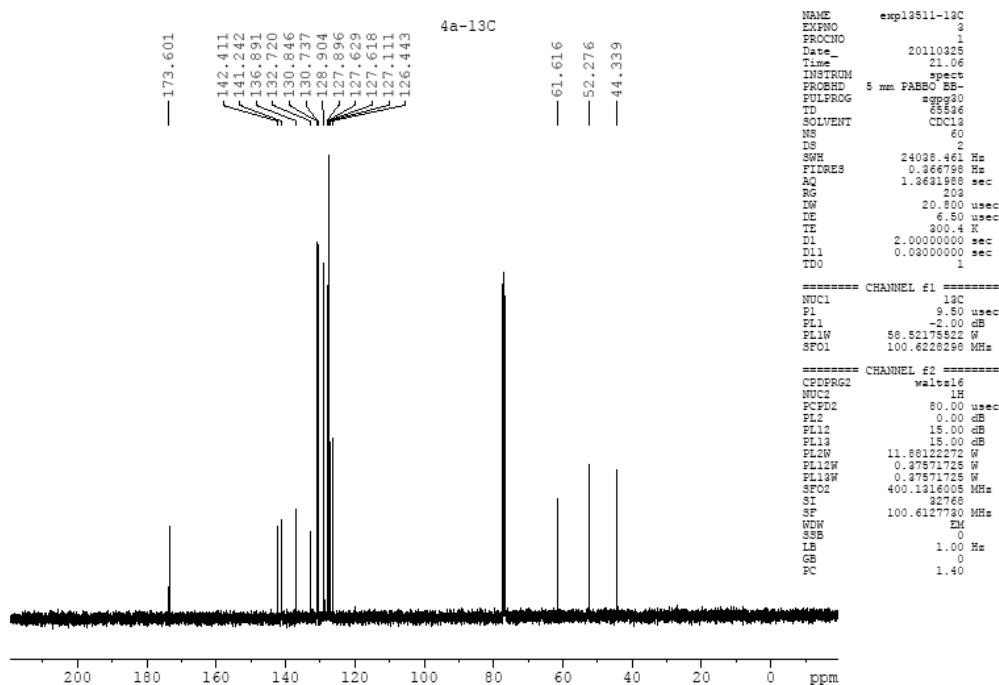
<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in a 0.2 mmol-scale of **1a**. Yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>b</sup> **1a** was determined by NMR using dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard. <sup>c</sup> The reaction was run 4 h. <sup>d</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>e</sup> 0.195 mmol of **2a** remained, 0.492 mmol of **3a** remained, yields were determined by GC/FID using dodecane (0.1 mmol) as internal standard..

## 5. Figures of $^1\text{H}$ , $^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR spectra:

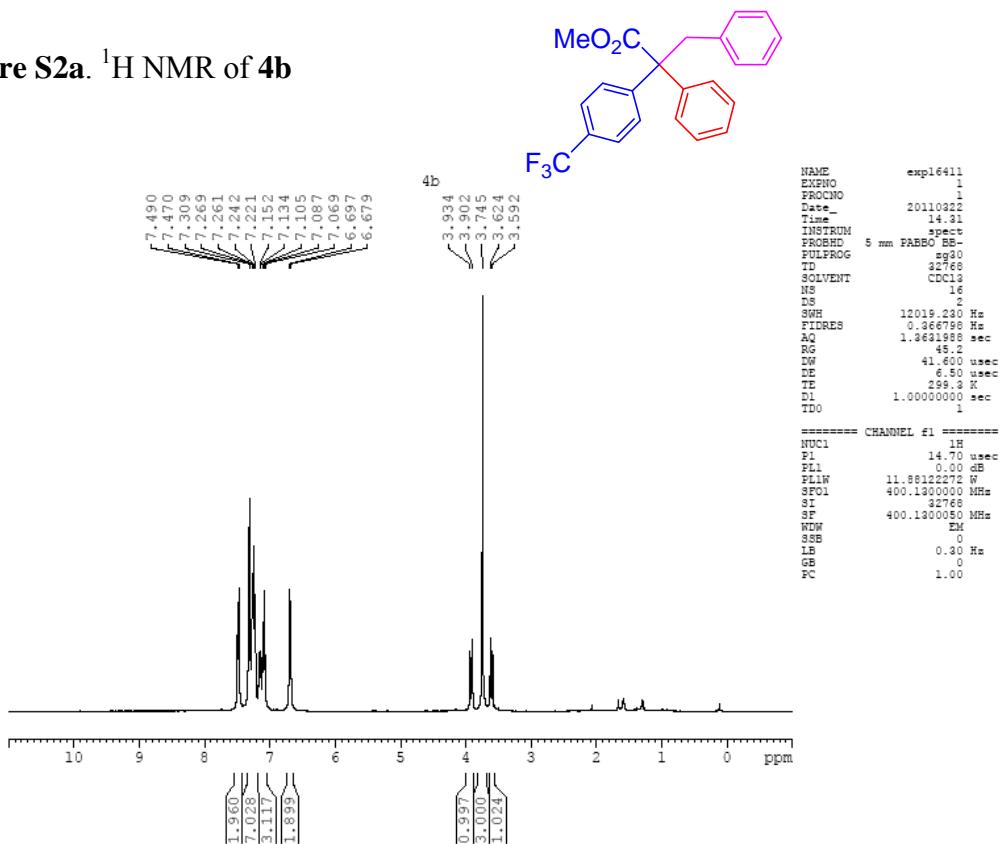
**Figure S1a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4a**



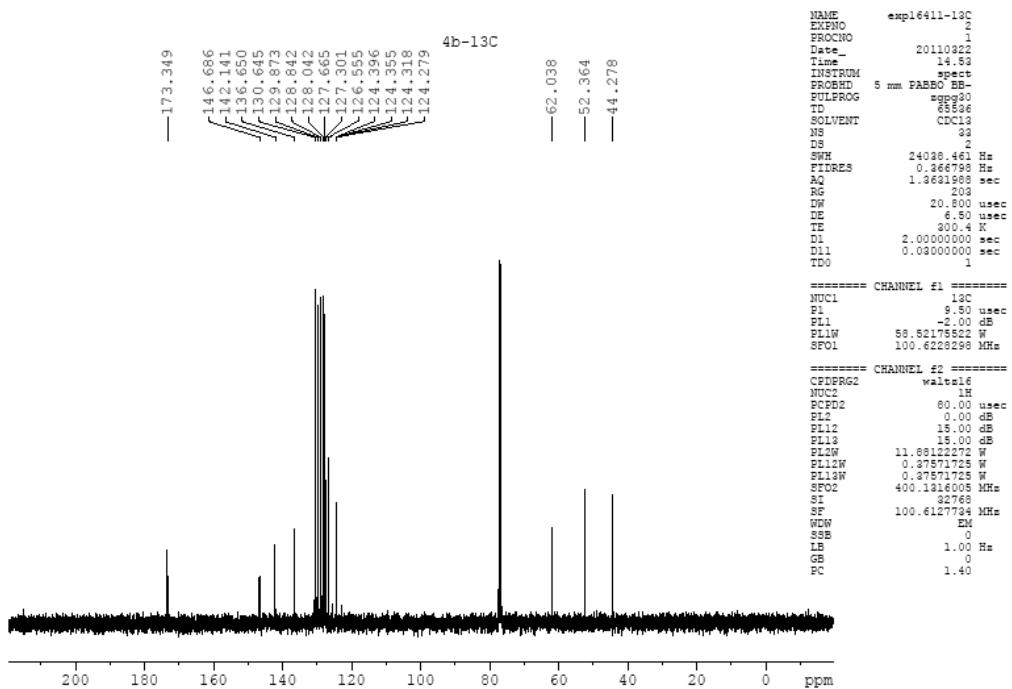
**Figure S1b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4a**



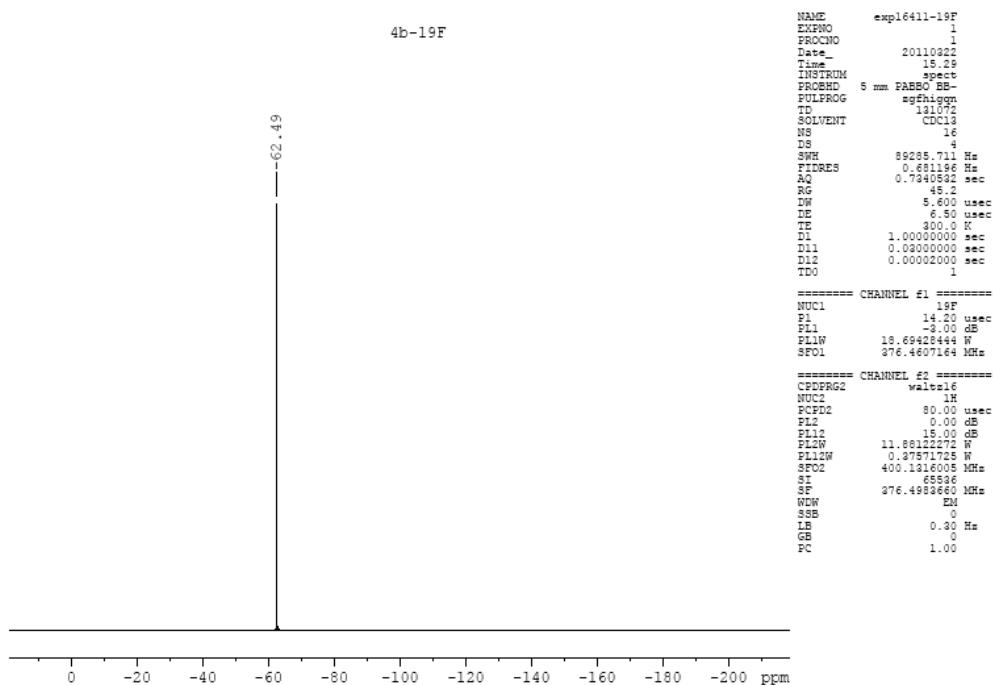
**Figure S2a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4b**



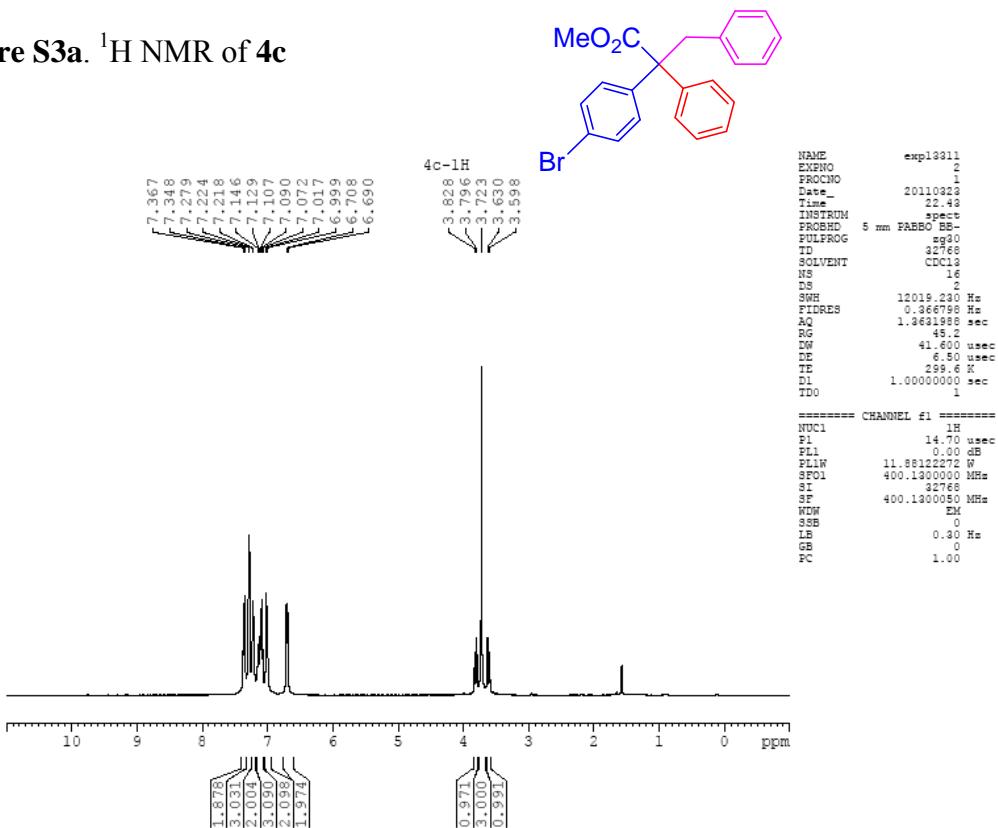
**Figure S2b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4b**



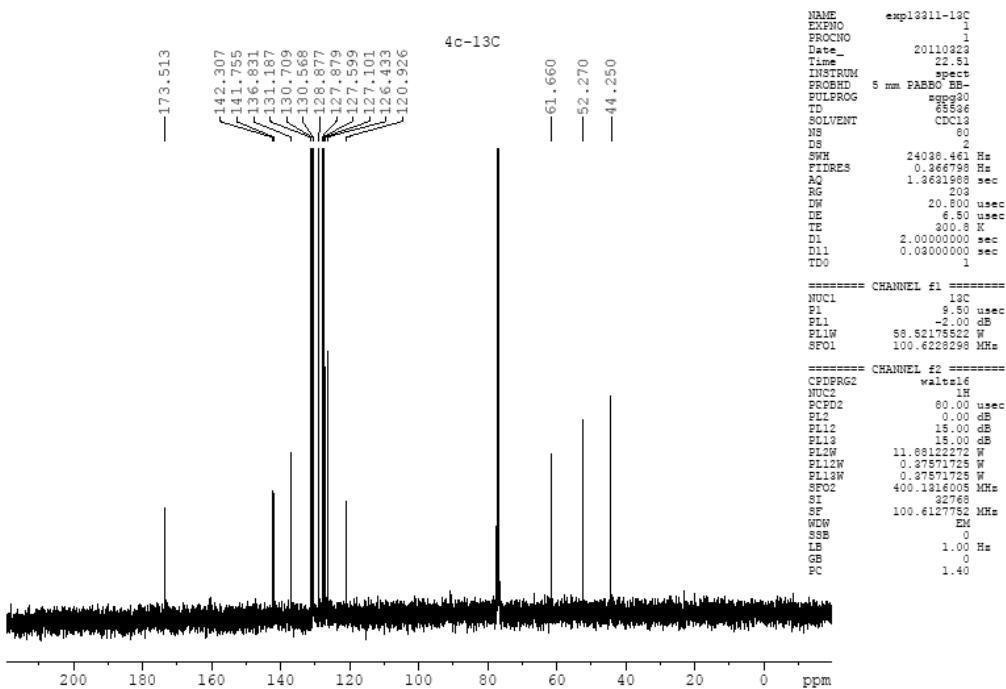
**Figure S2c.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR of **4b**



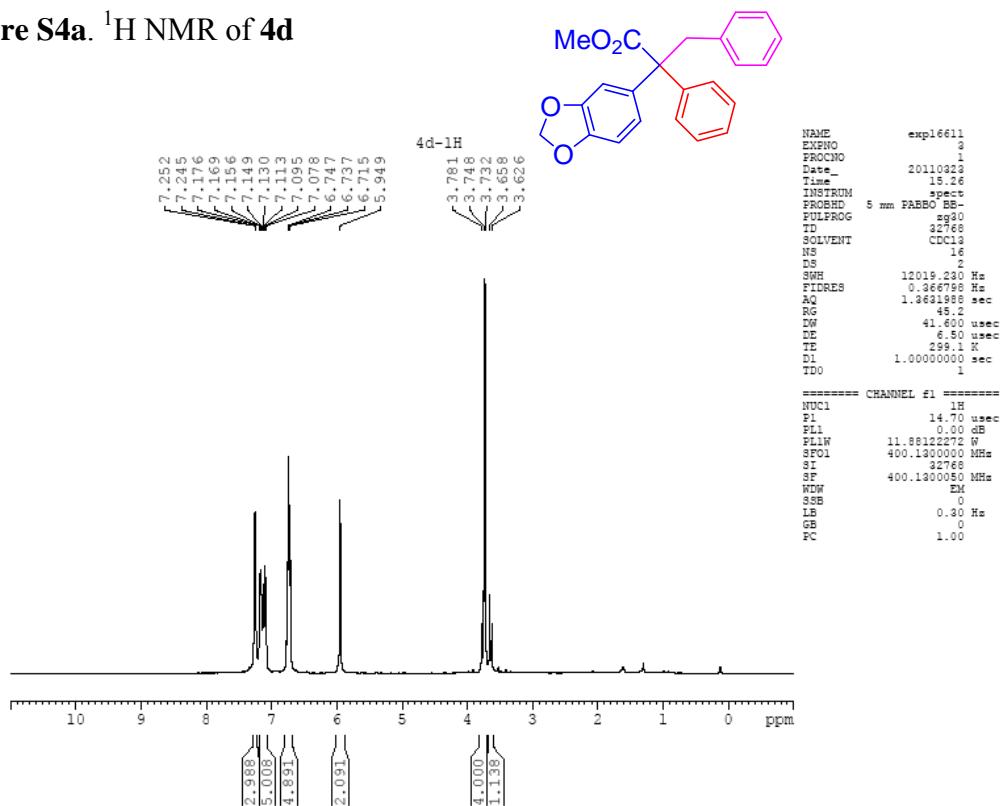
**Figure S3a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4c**



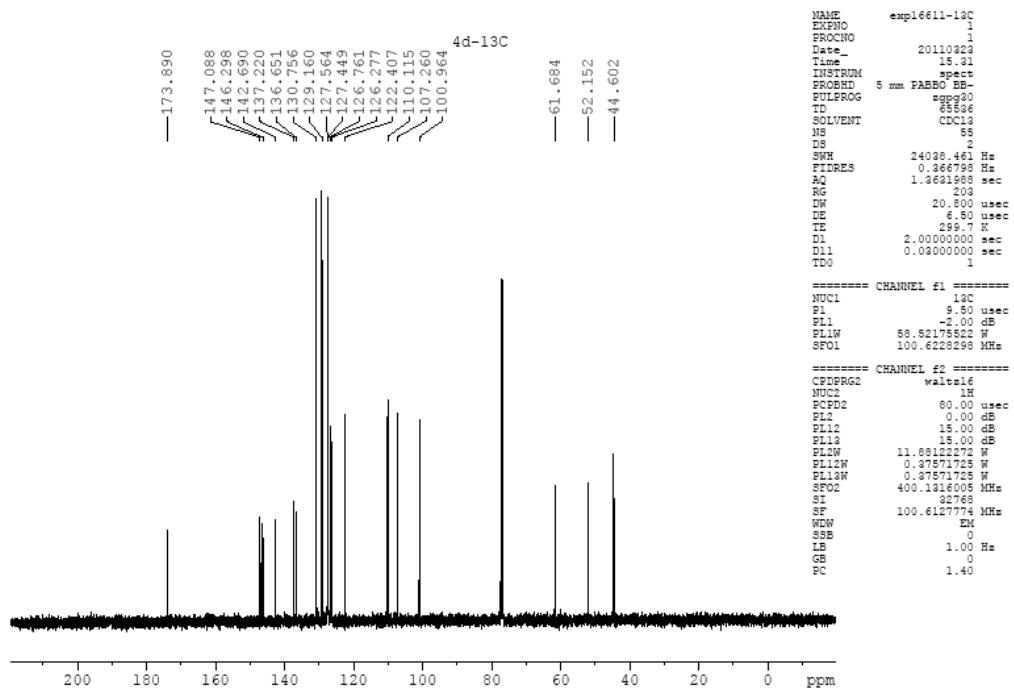
**Figure S3b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4c**



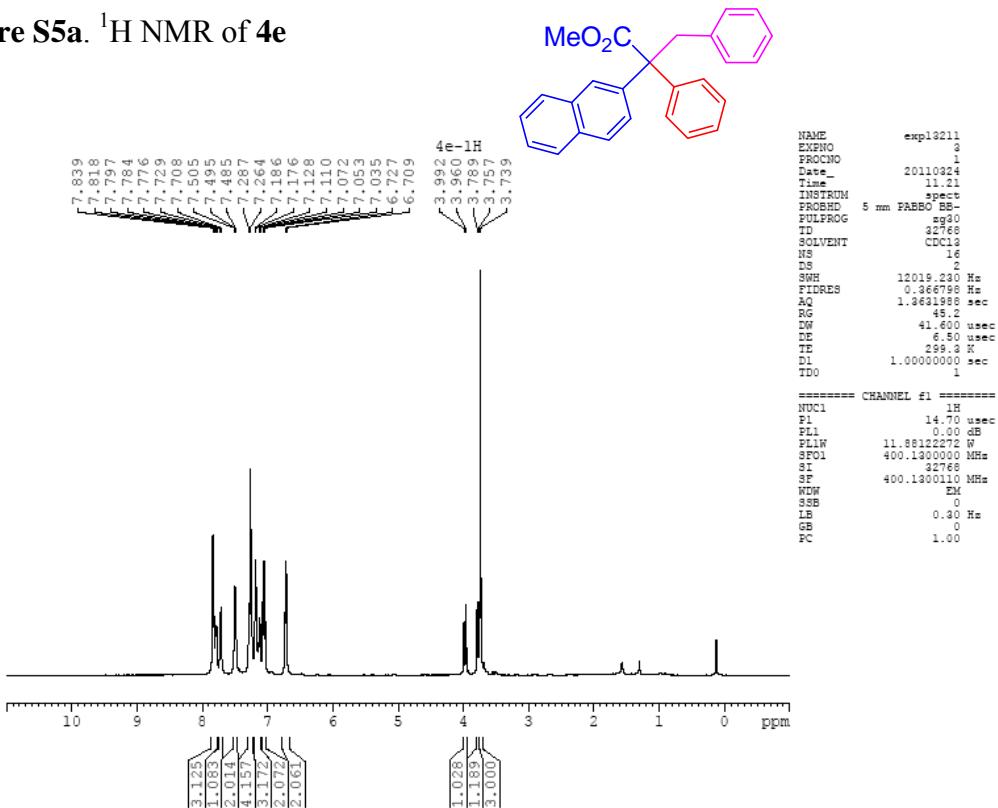
**Figure S4a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4d**



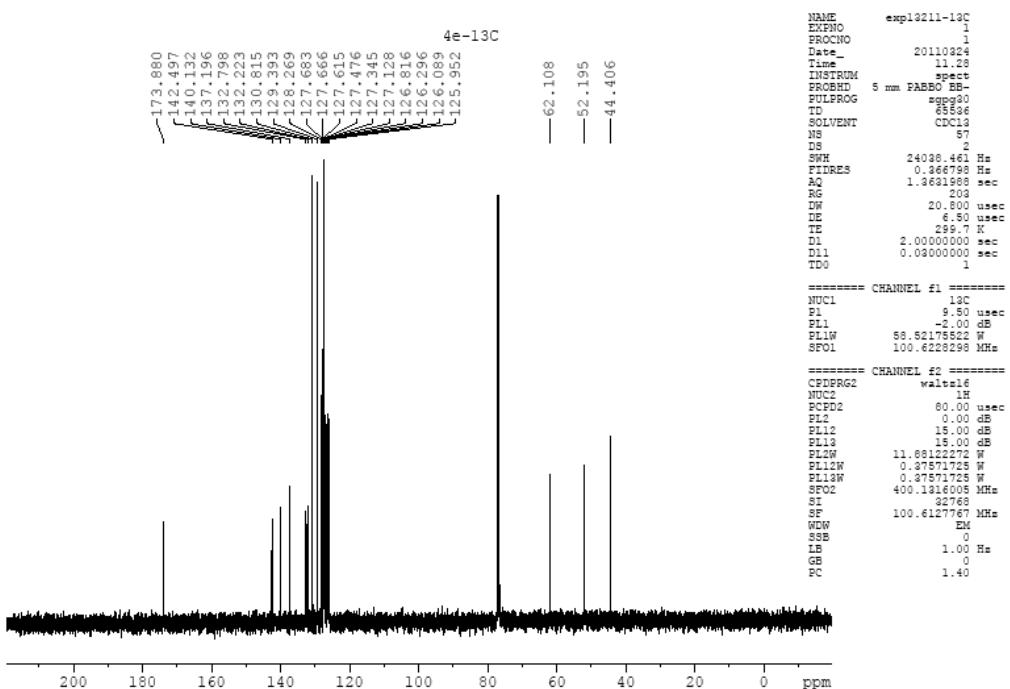
**Figure S4b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4d**



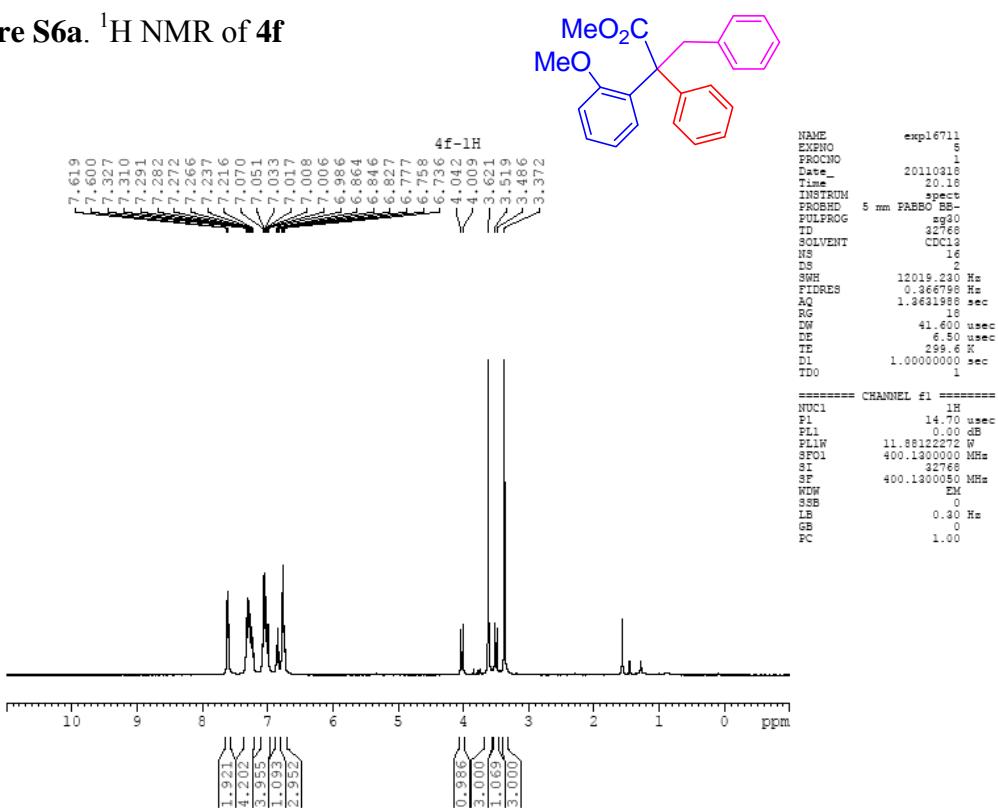
**Figure S5a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4e**



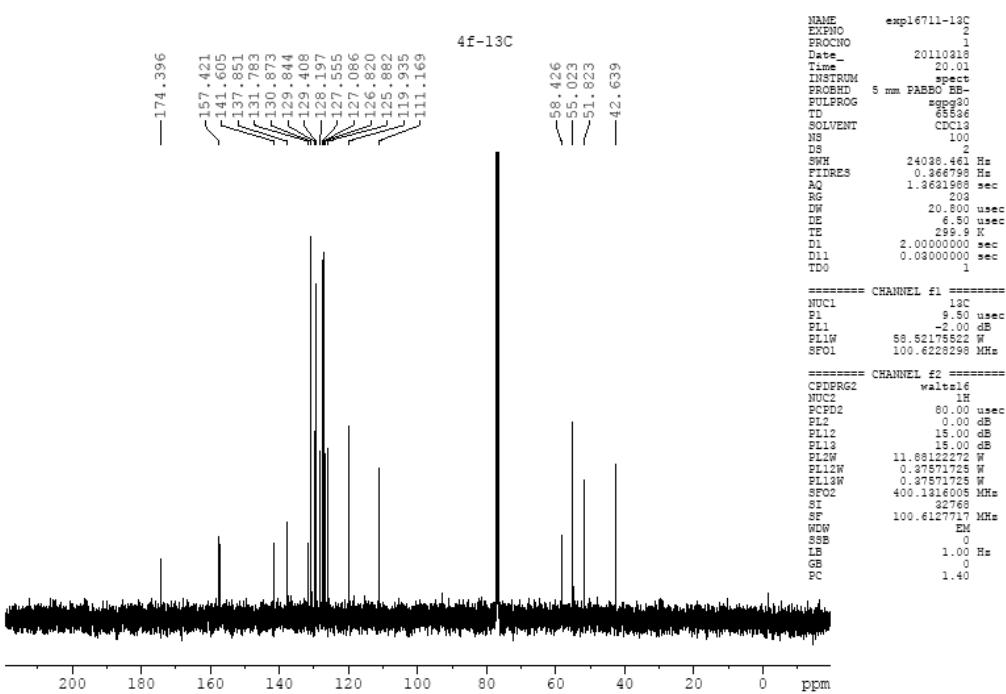
**Figure S5b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4e**



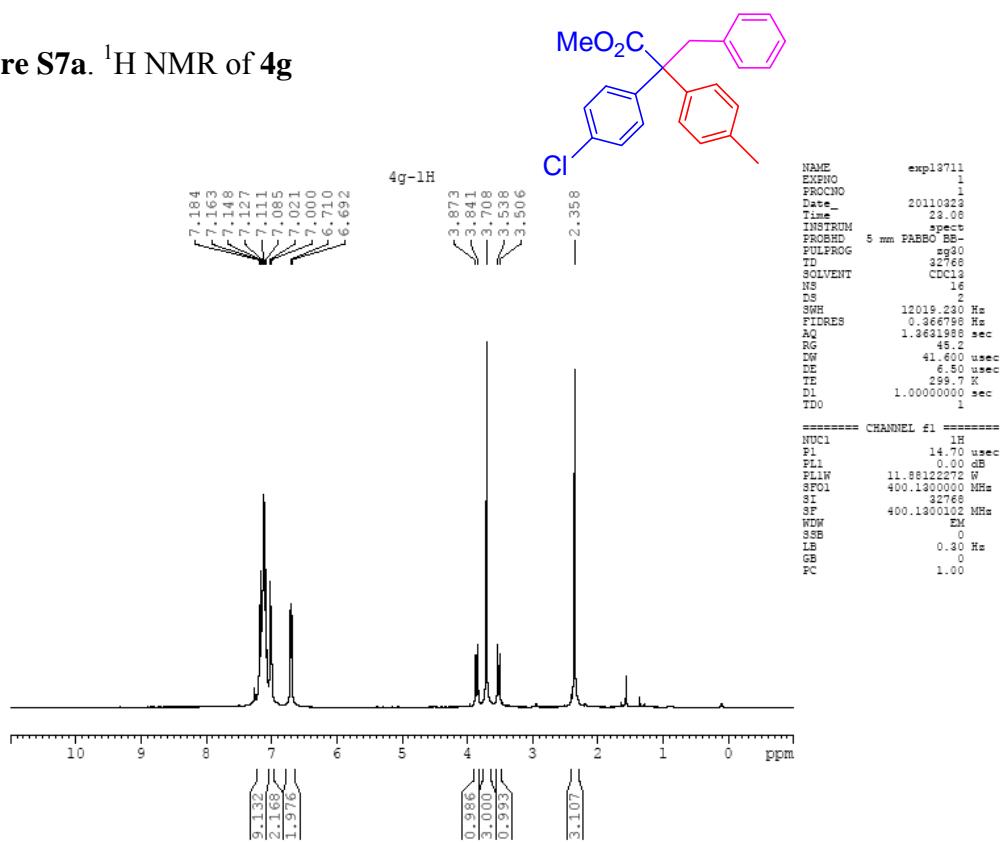
**Figure S6a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4f**



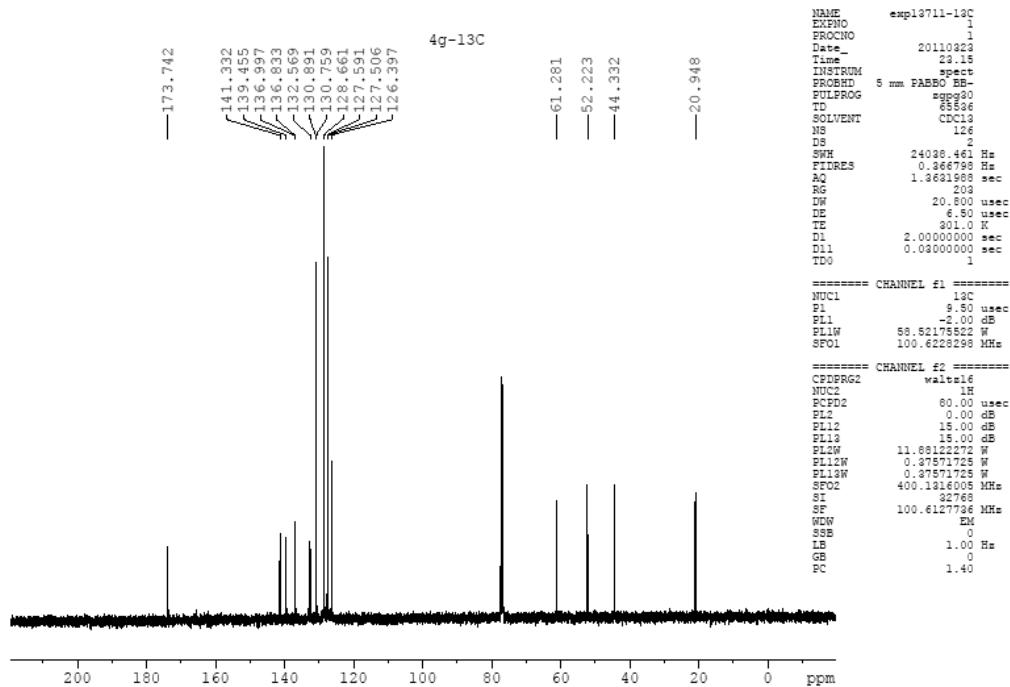
**Figure S6b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4f**



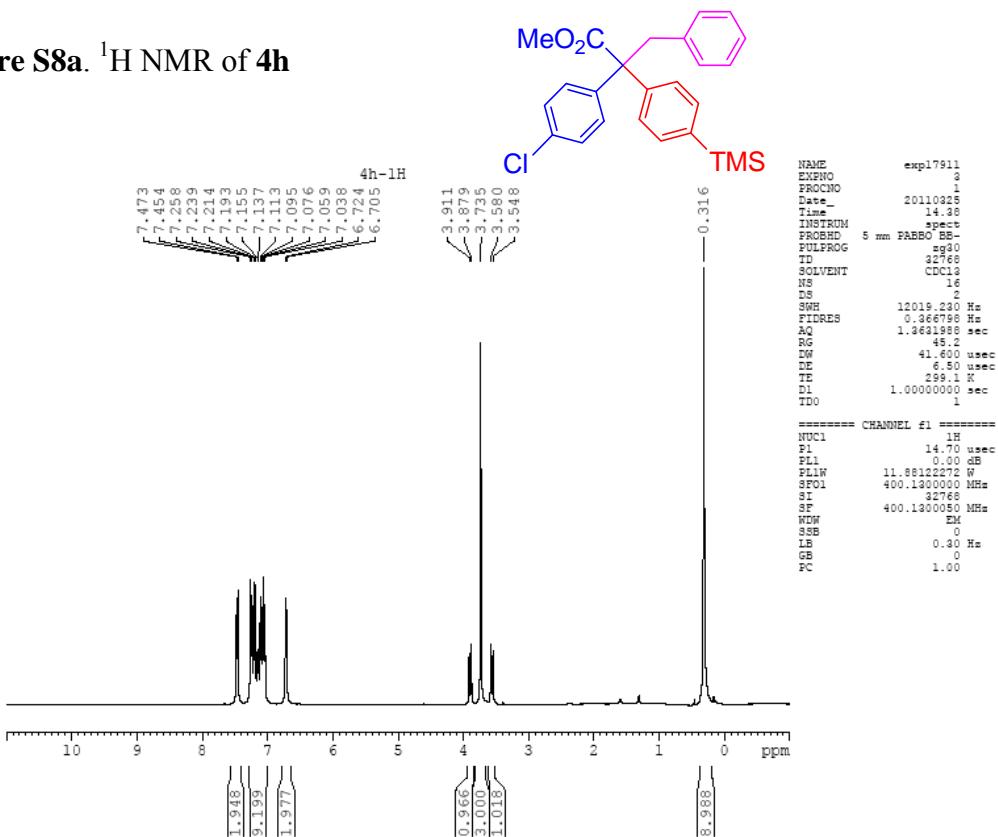
**Figure S7a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4g**



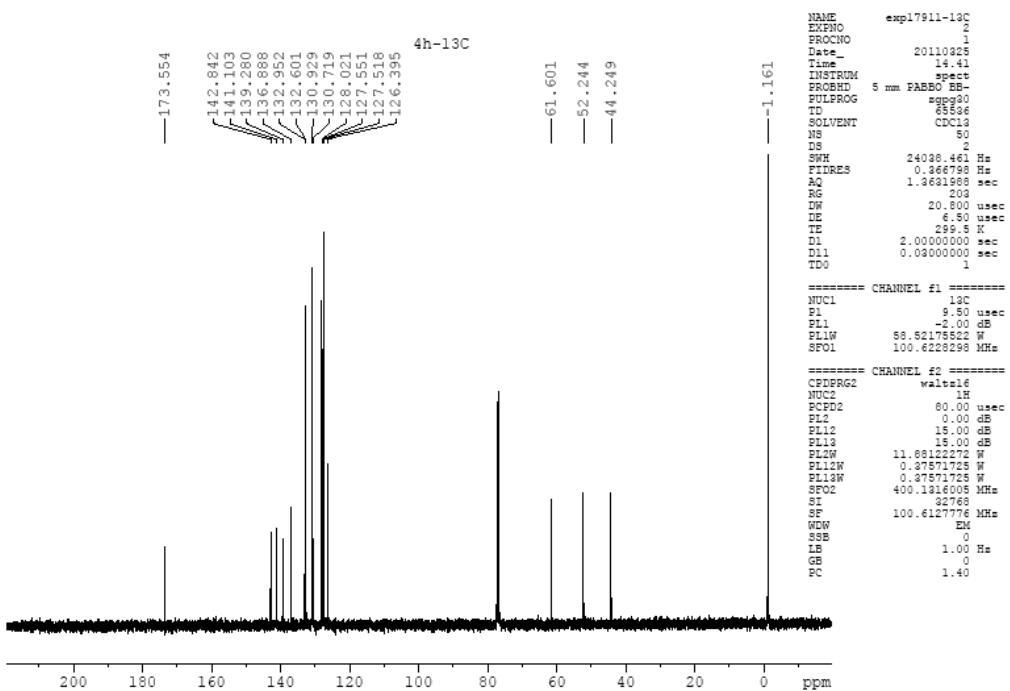
**Figure S7b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4g**



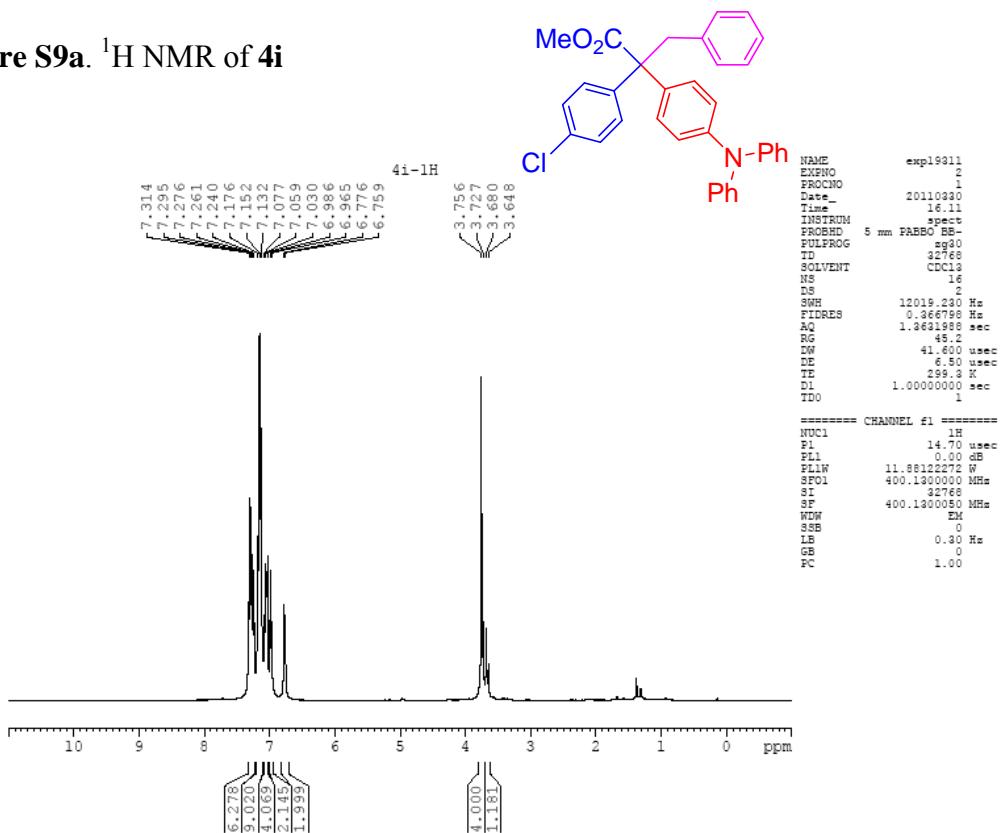
**Figure S8a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4h**



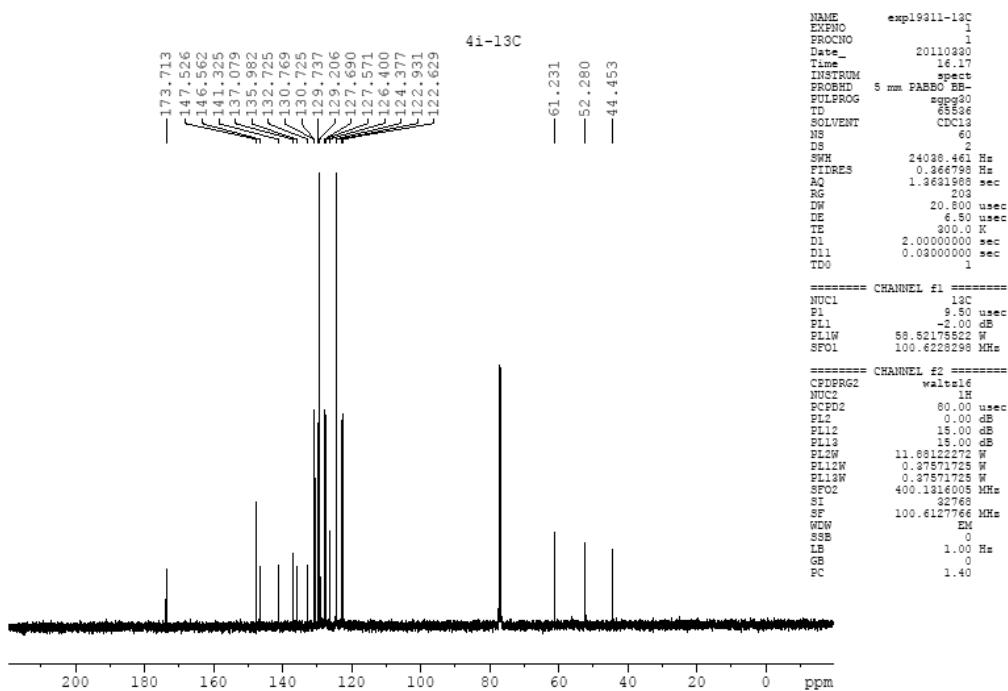
**Figure S8b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4h**



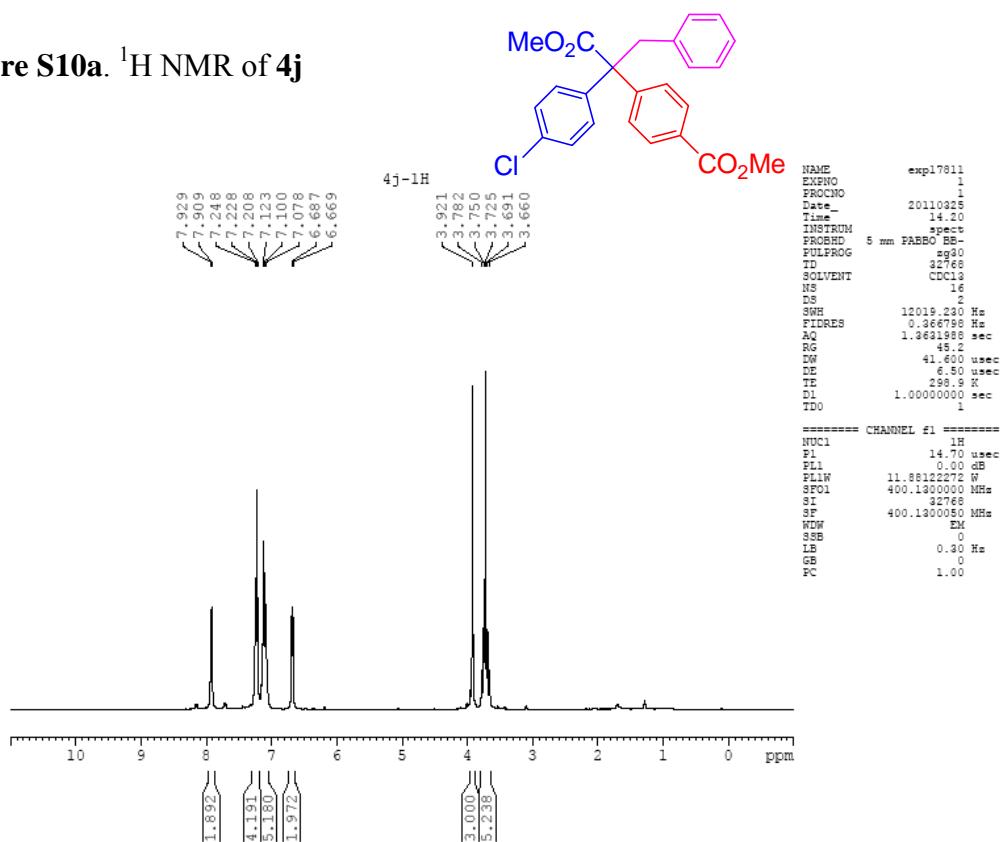
**Figure S9a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4i**



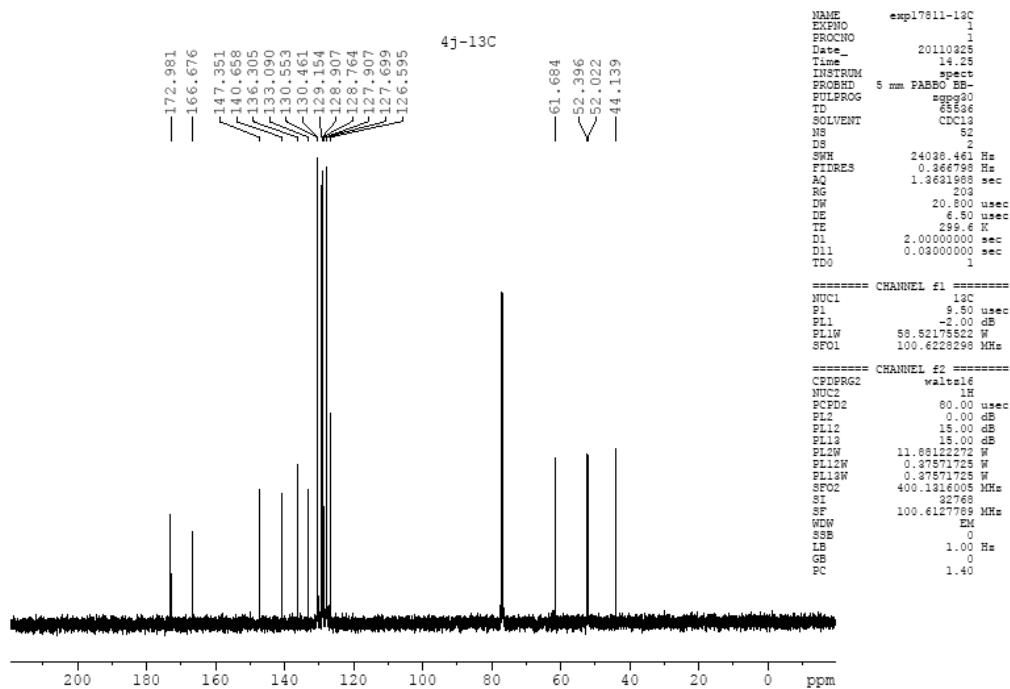
**Figure S9b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4i**



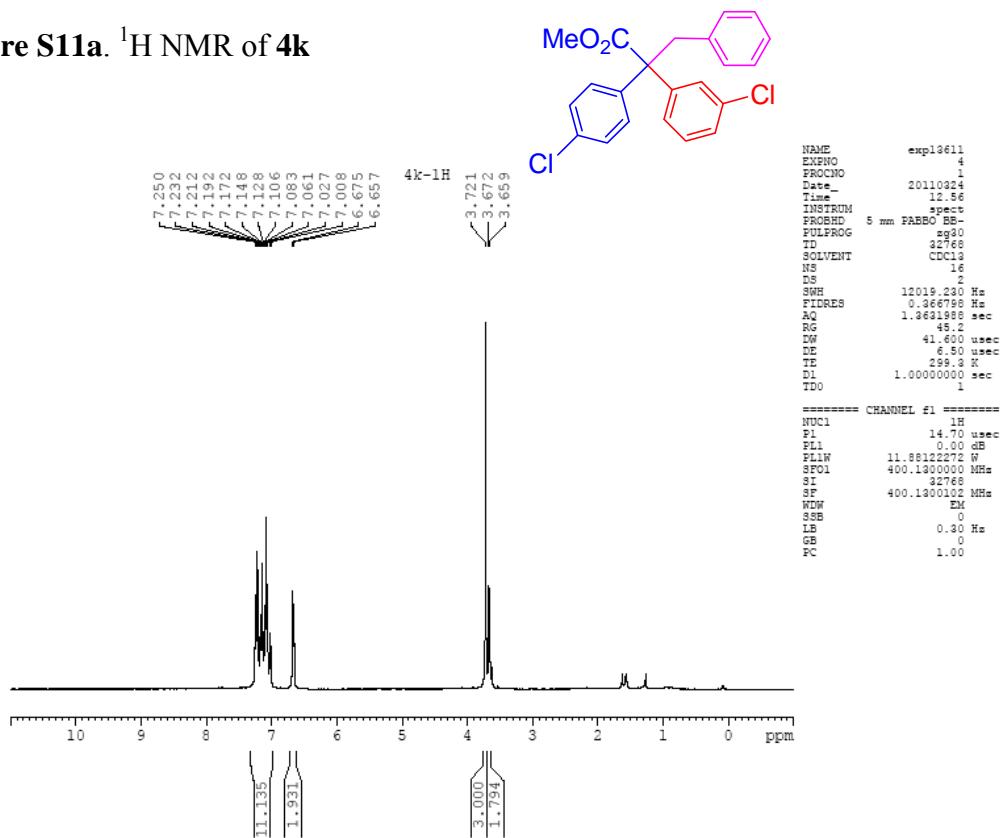
**Figure S10a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4j**



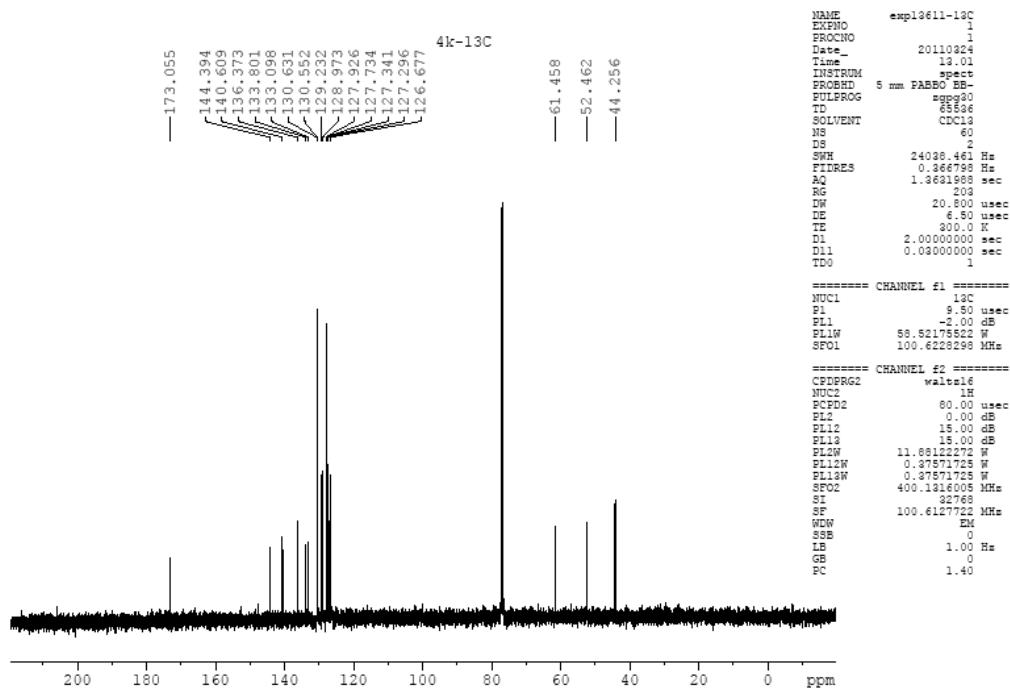
**Figure S10b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4j**



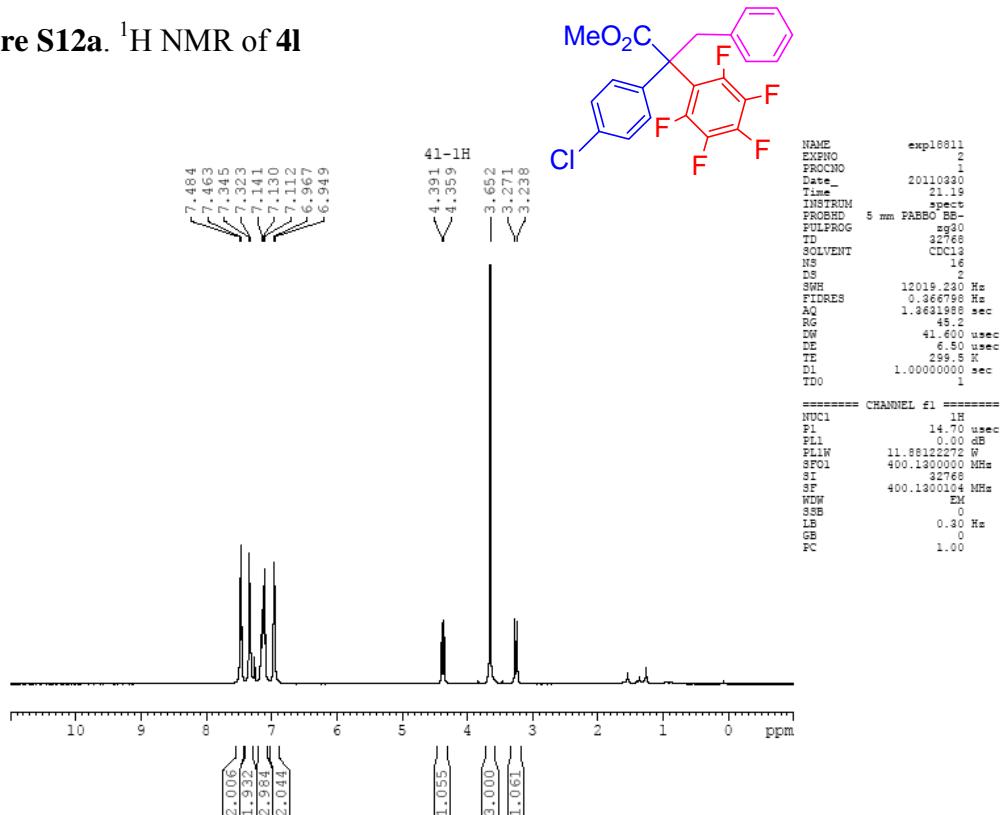
**Figure S11a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4k**



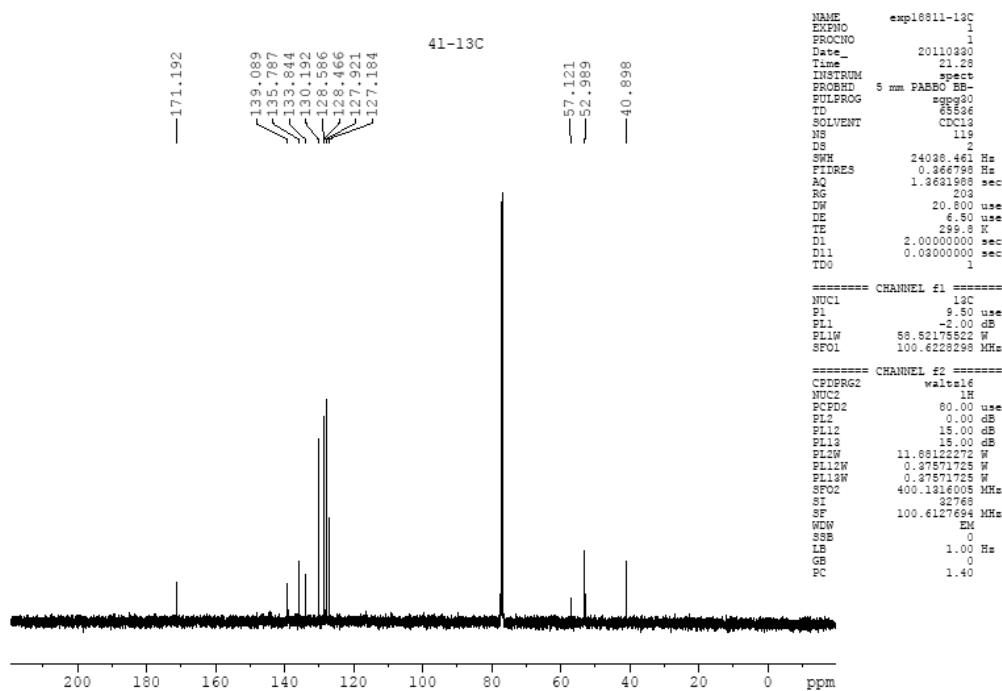
**Figure S11b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4k**



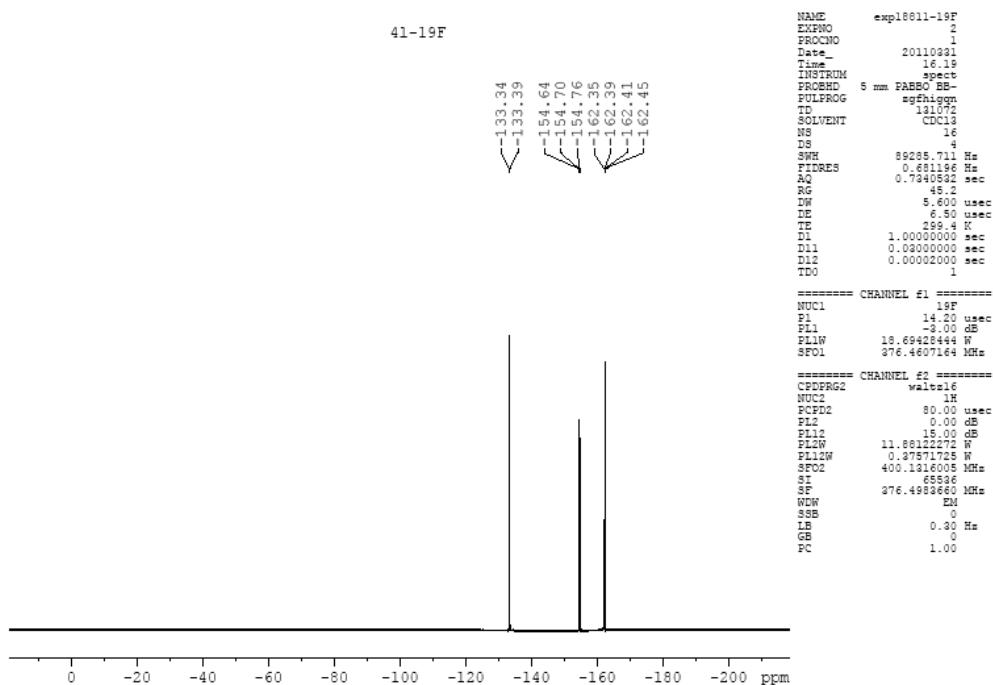
**Figure S12a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4l**



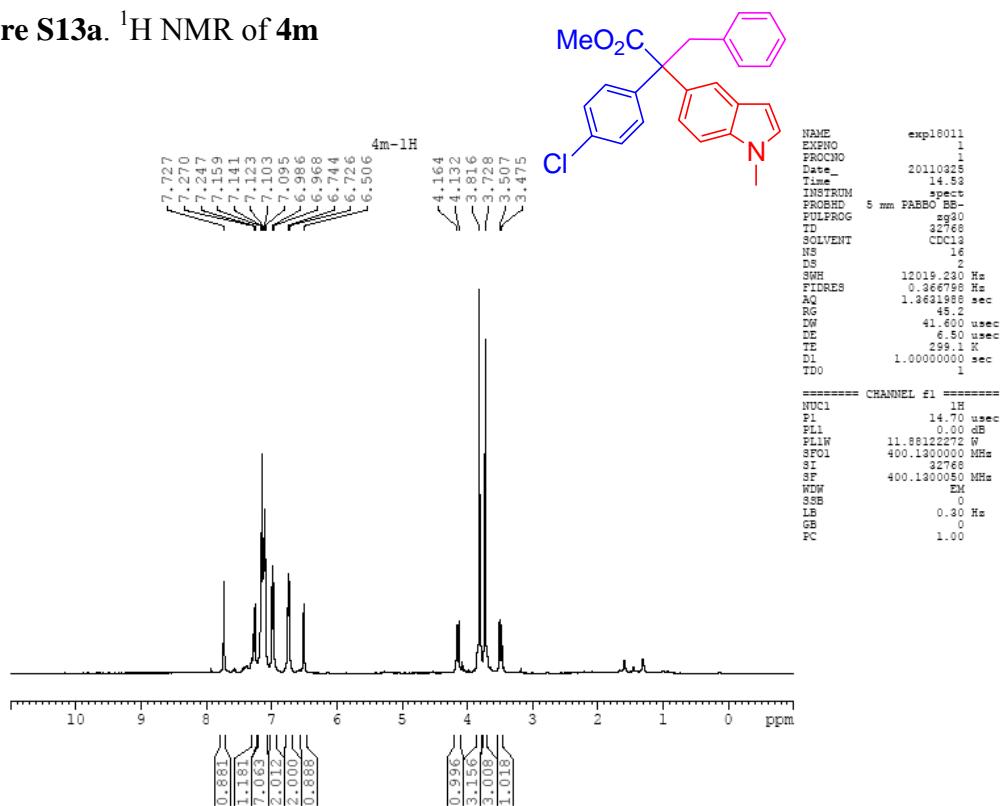
**Figure S12b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4l**



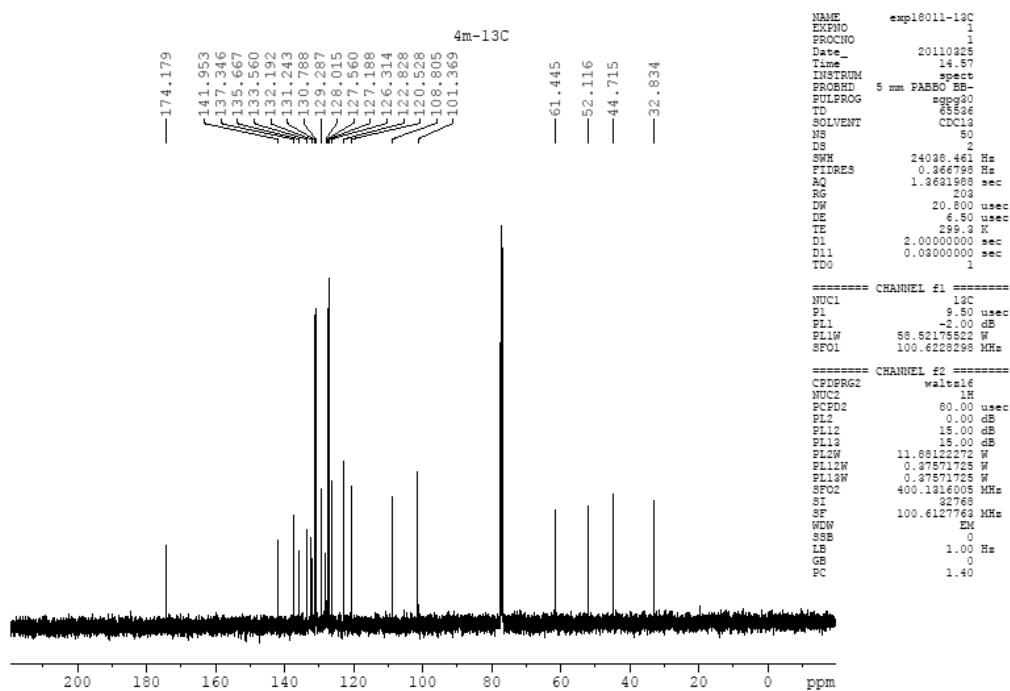
**Figure S12c.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR of **4l**



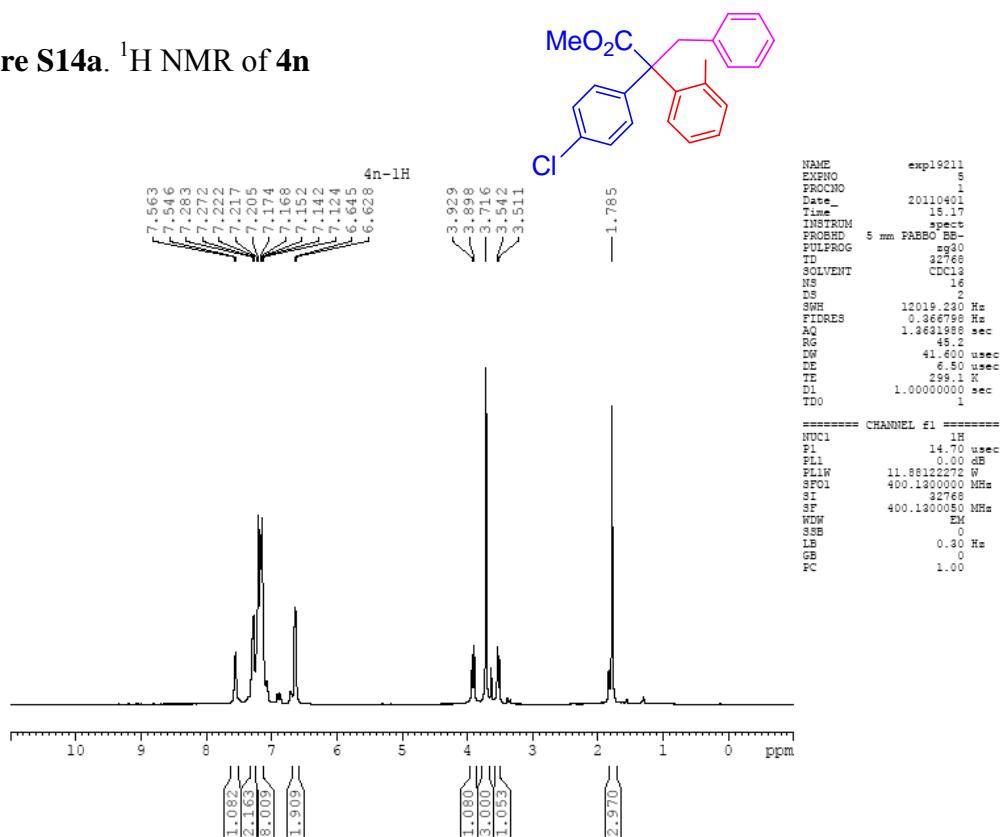
**Figure S13a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4m**



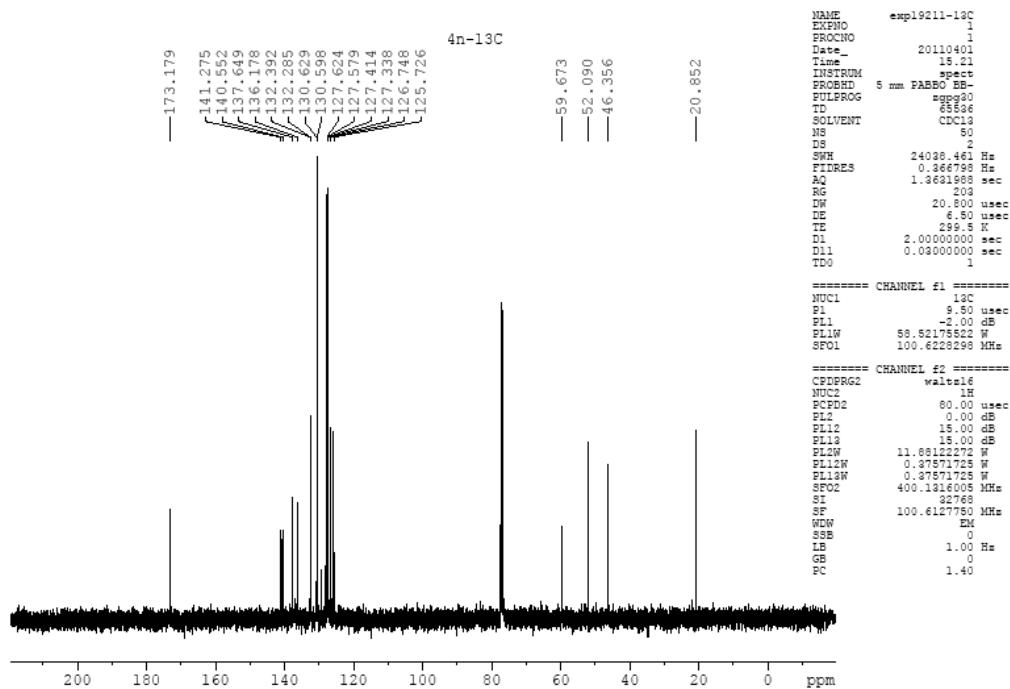
**Figure S13b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4m**

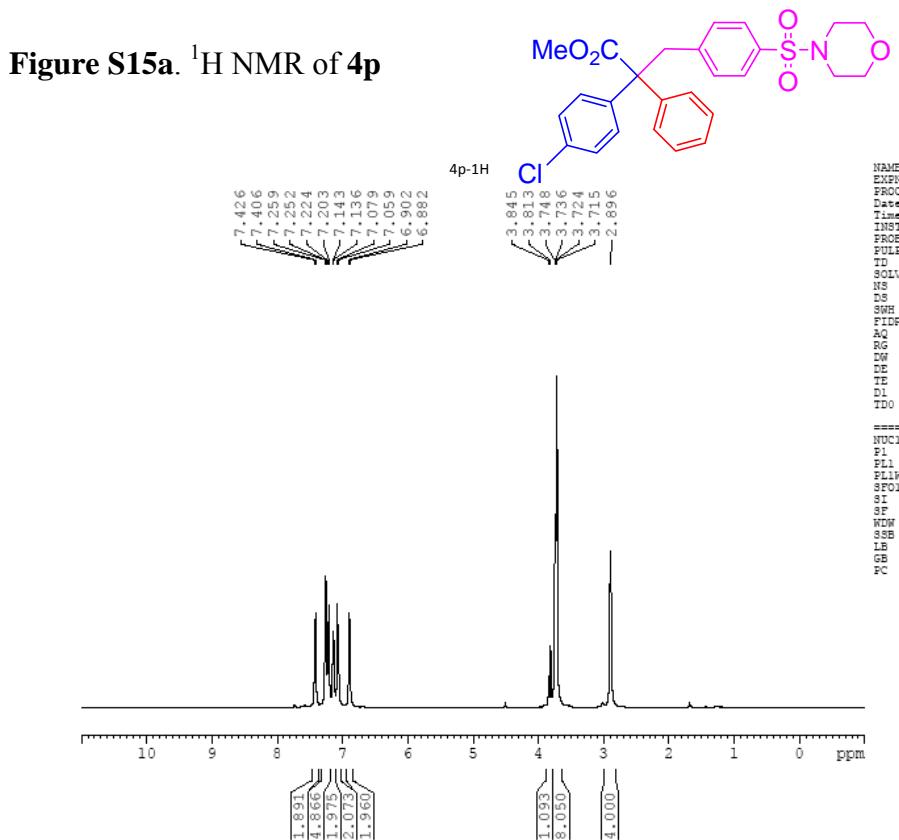


**Figure S14a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4n**

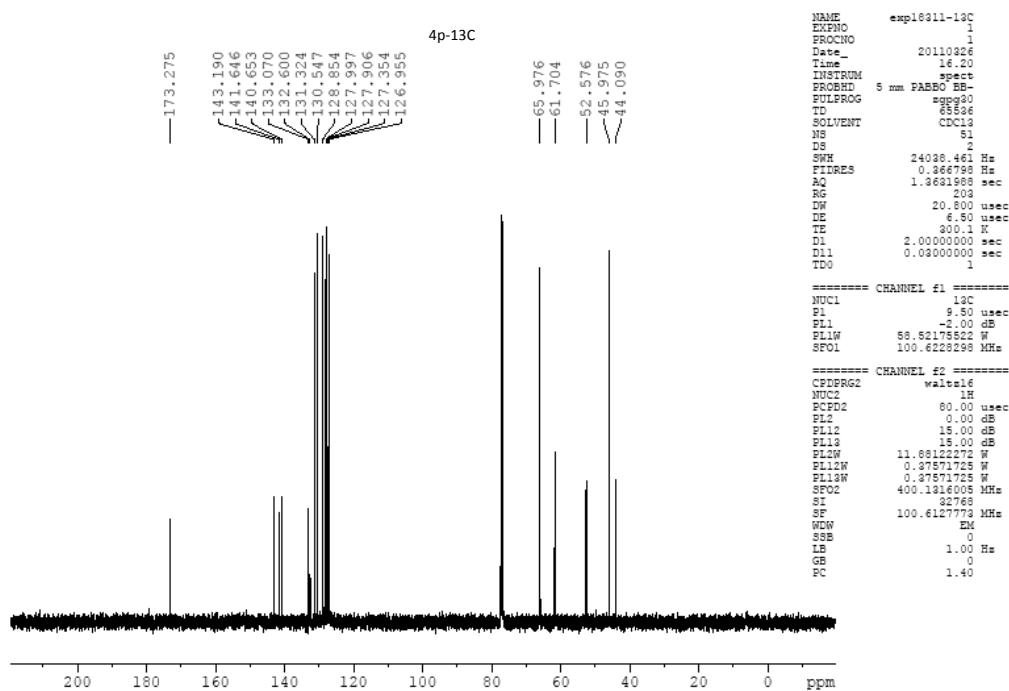


**Figure S14b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4n**

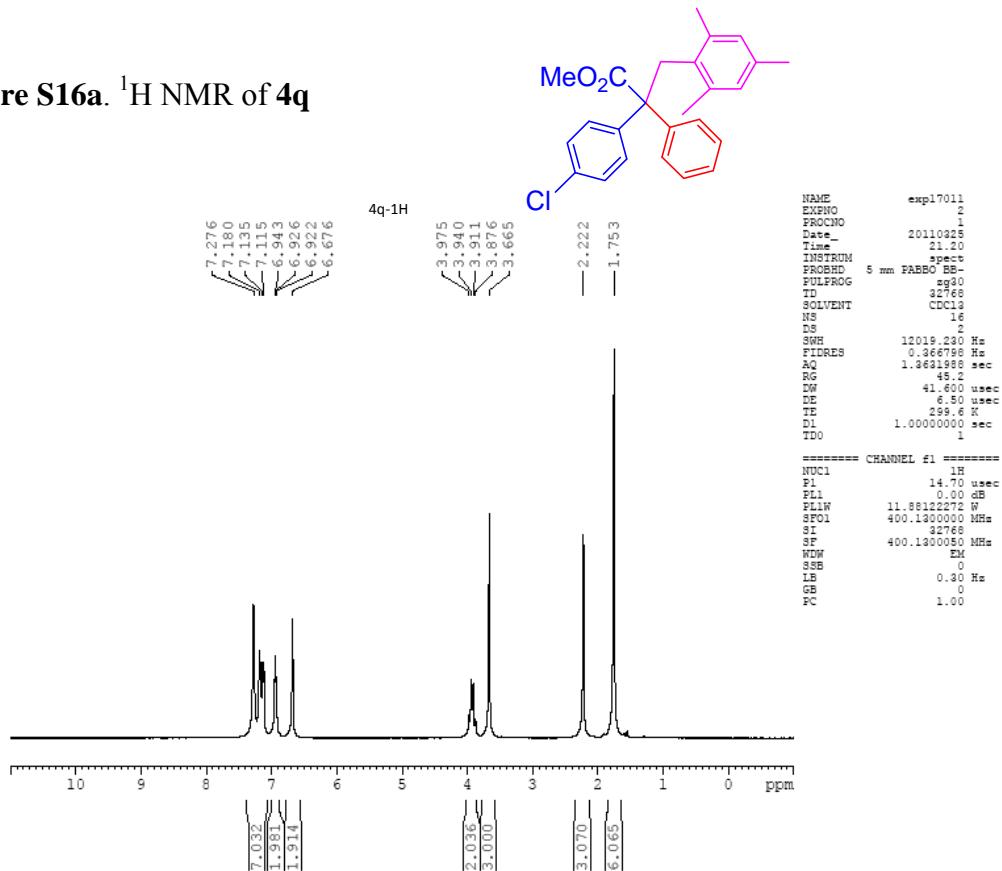




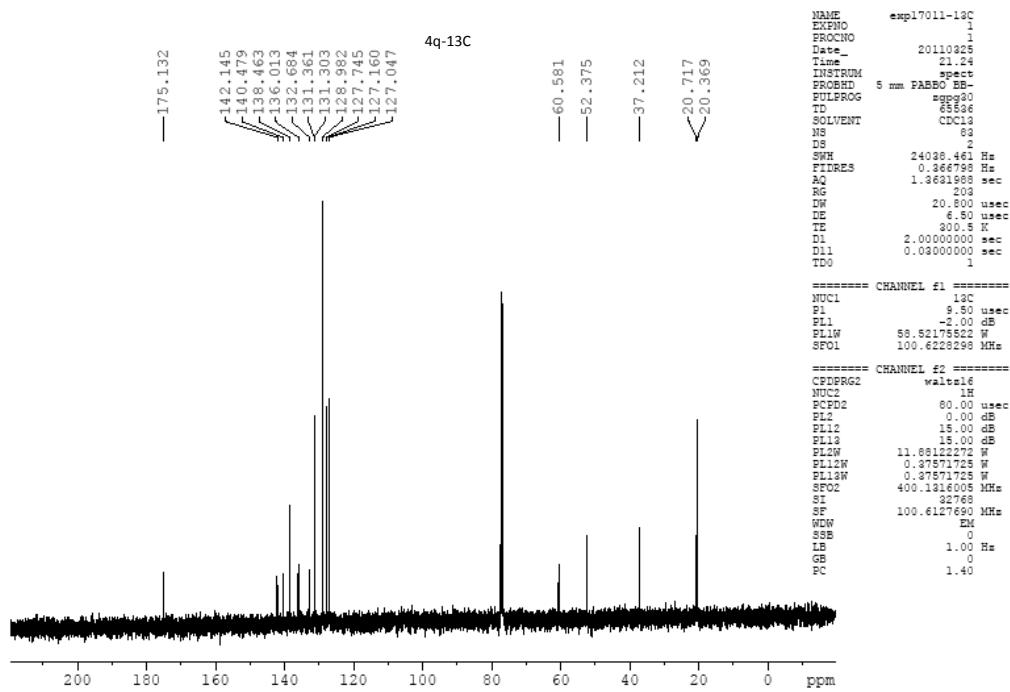
**Figure S15b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of 4p



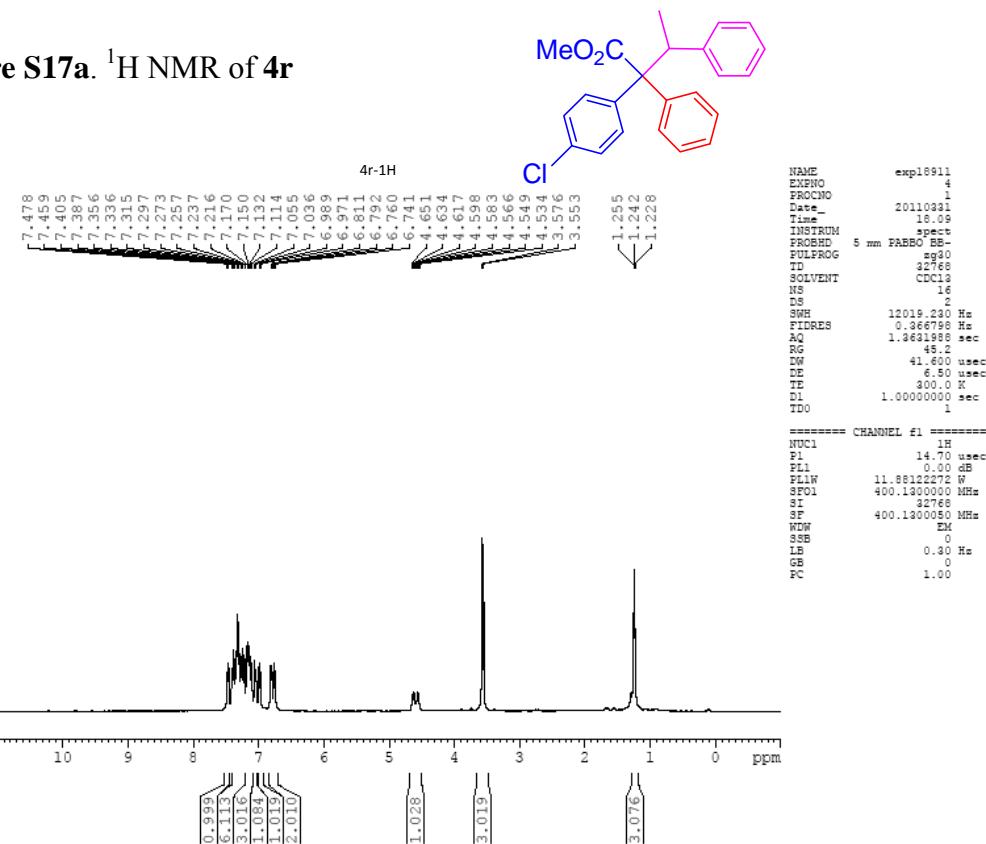
**Figure S16a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4q**



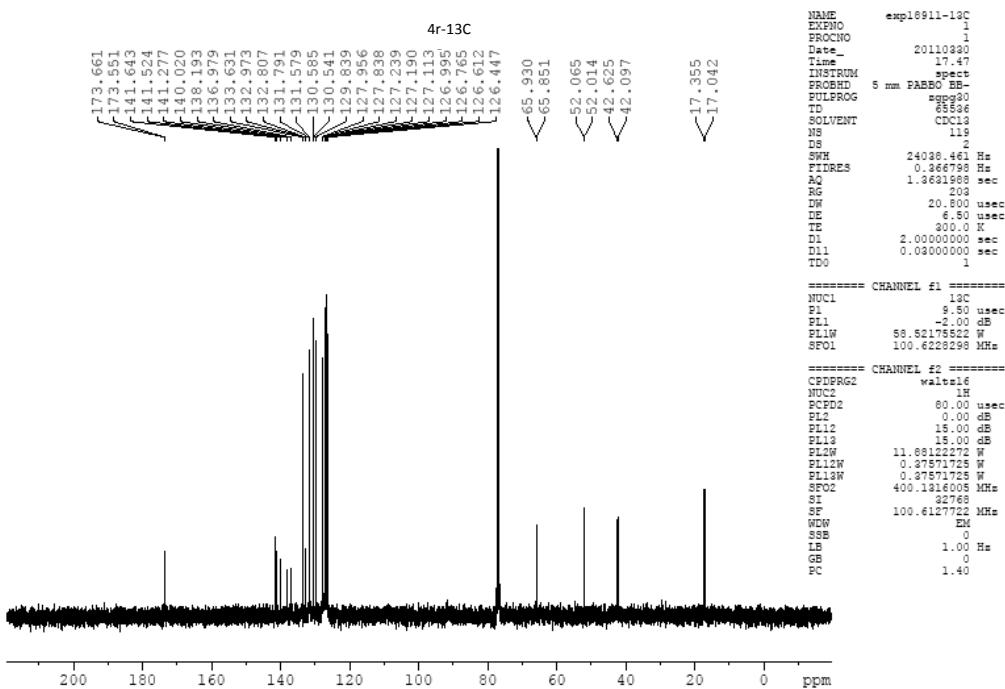
**Figure S16b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4q**



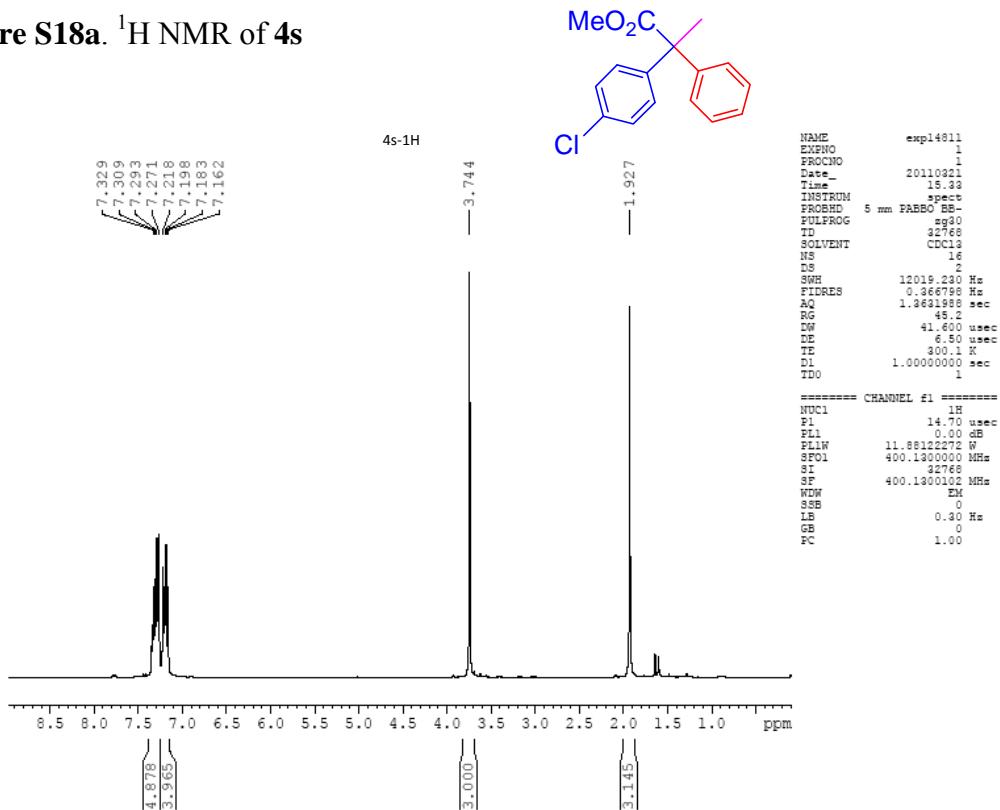
**Figure S17a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4r**



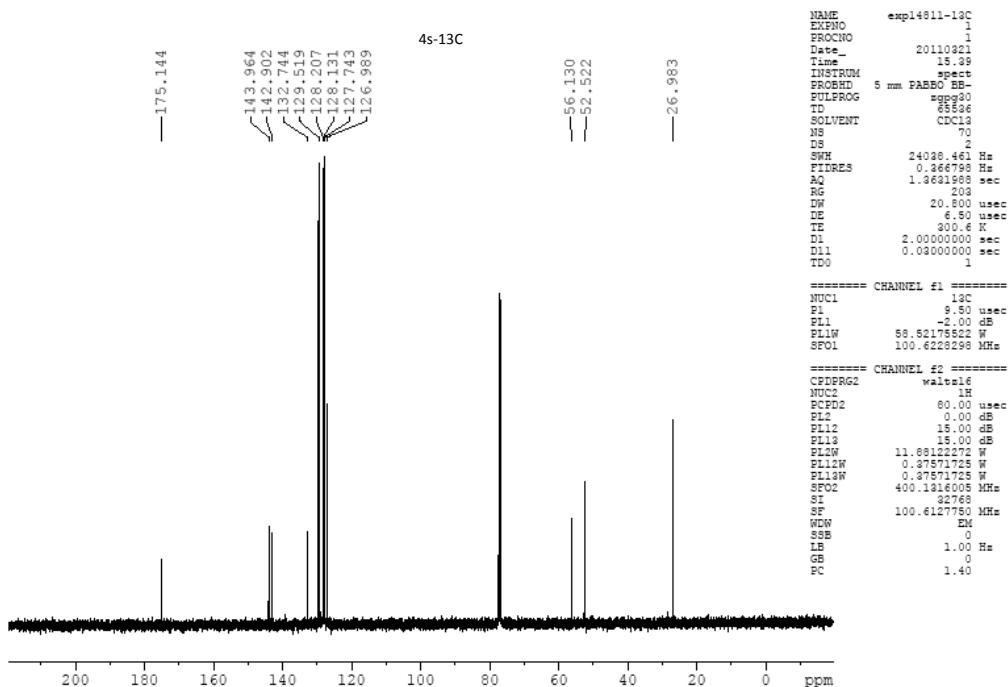
**Figure S17b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4r**



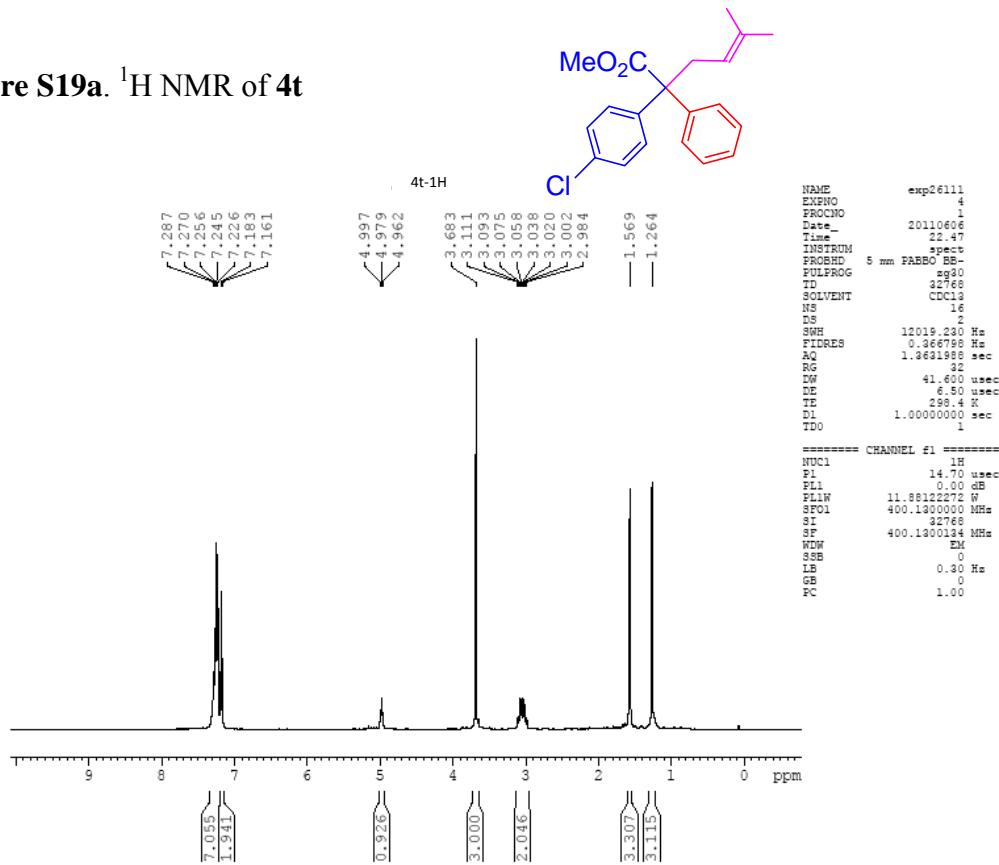
**Figure S18a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4s**



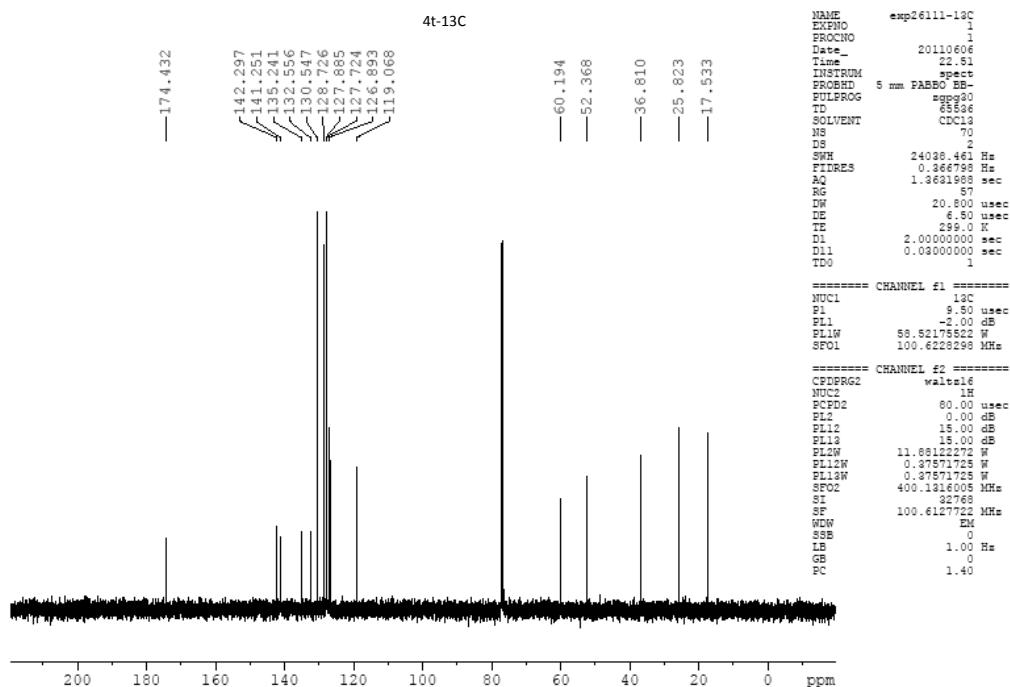
**Figure S18b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4s**



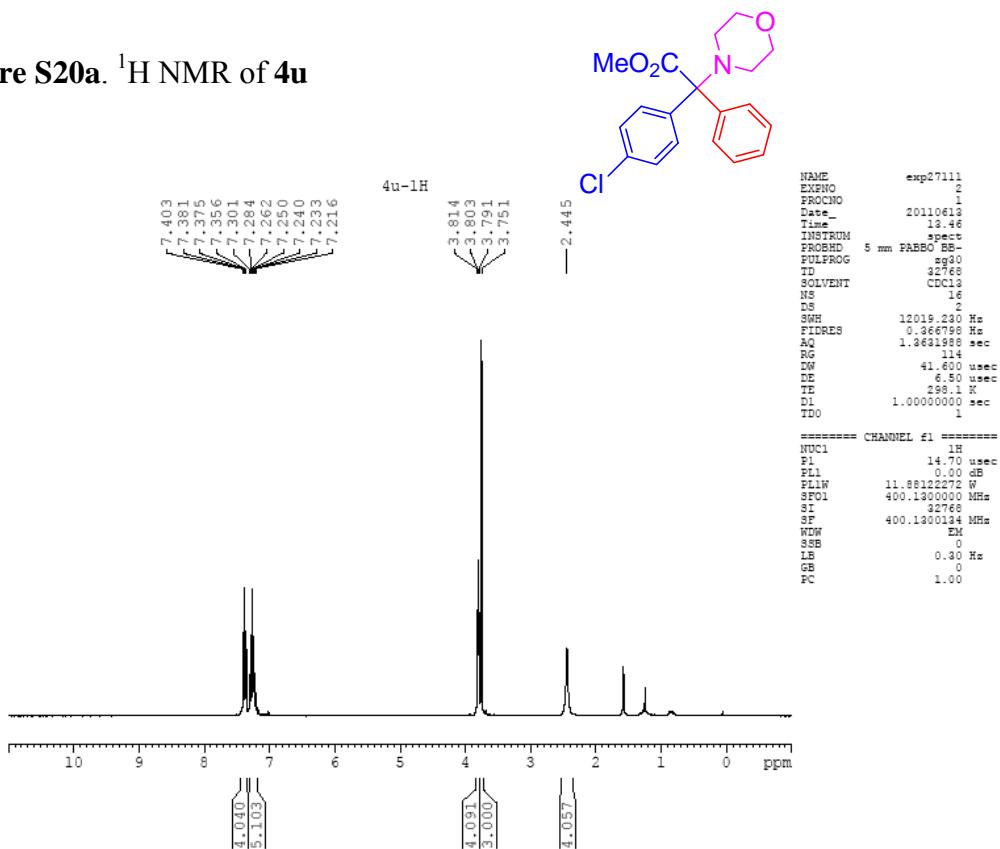
**Figure S19a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4t**



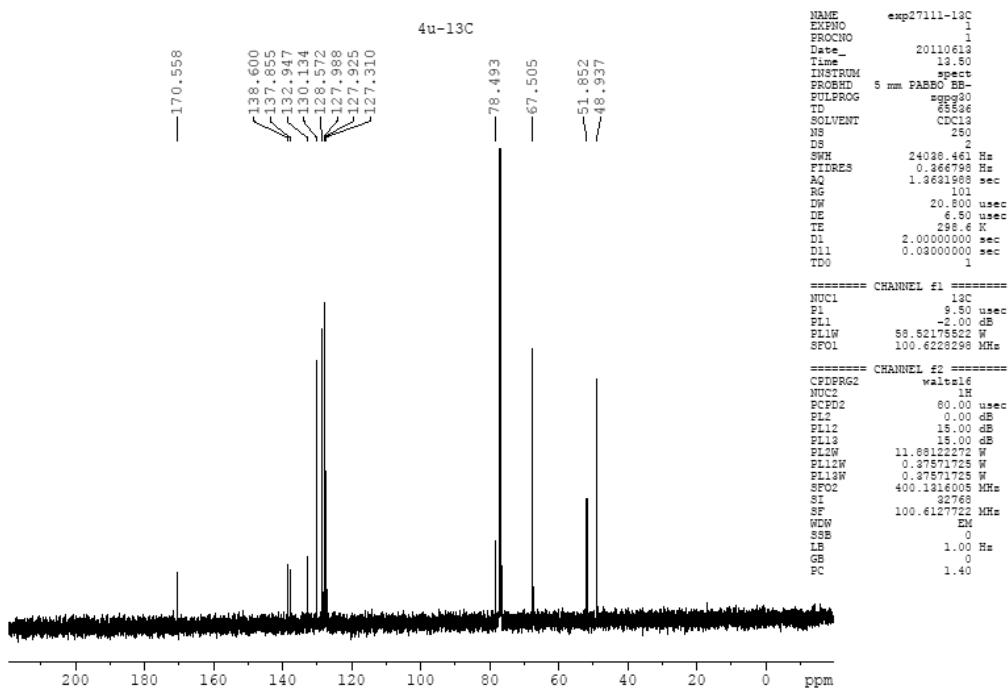
**Figure S19b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4t**



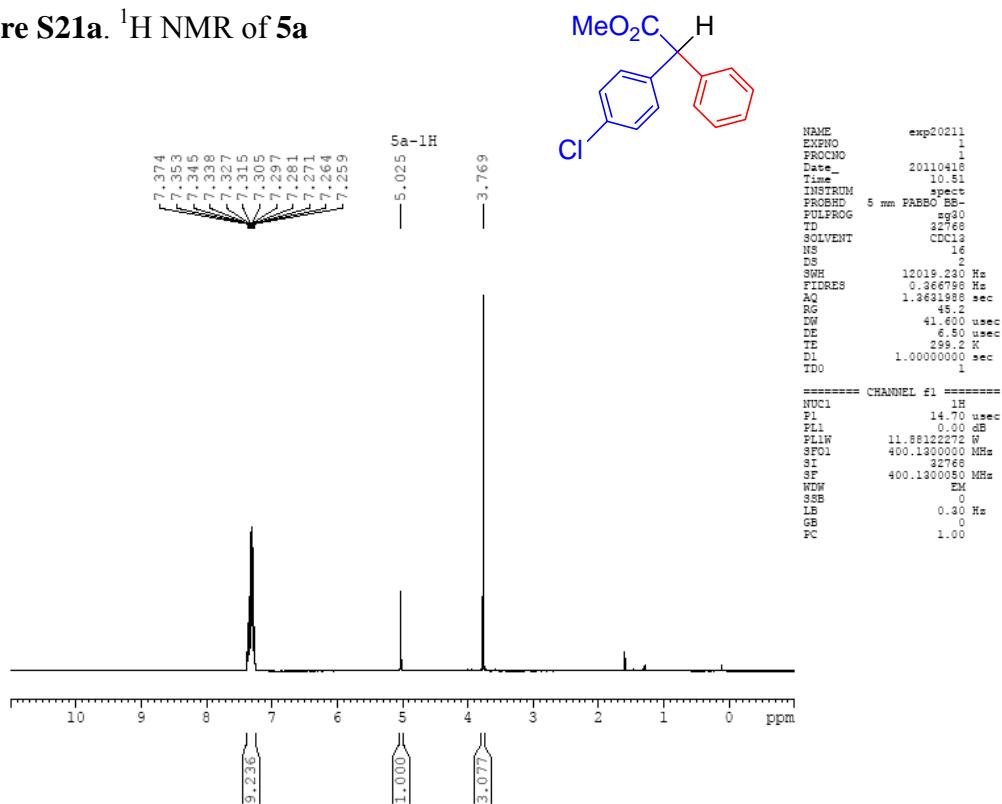
**Figure S20a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4u**



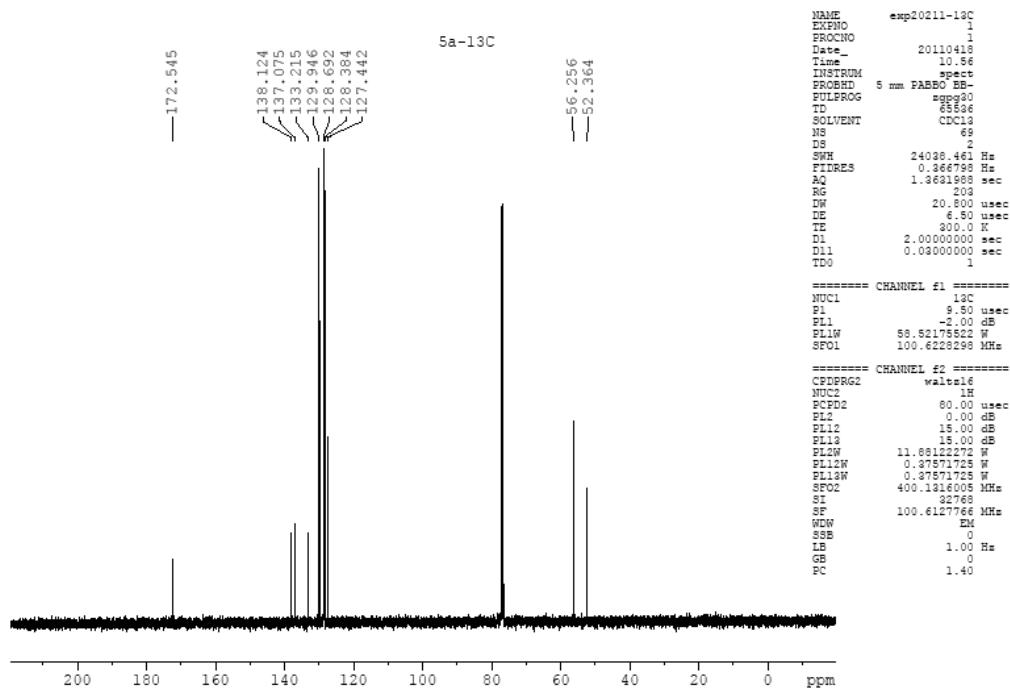
**Figure S20b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **4u**



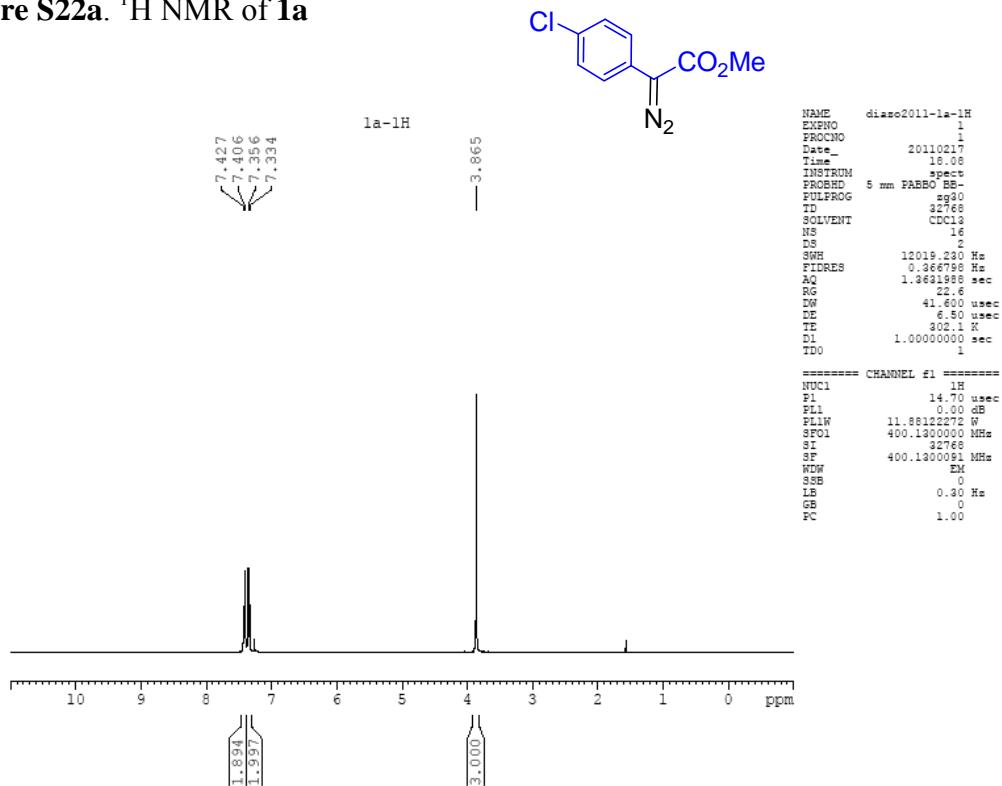
**Figure S21a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **5a**



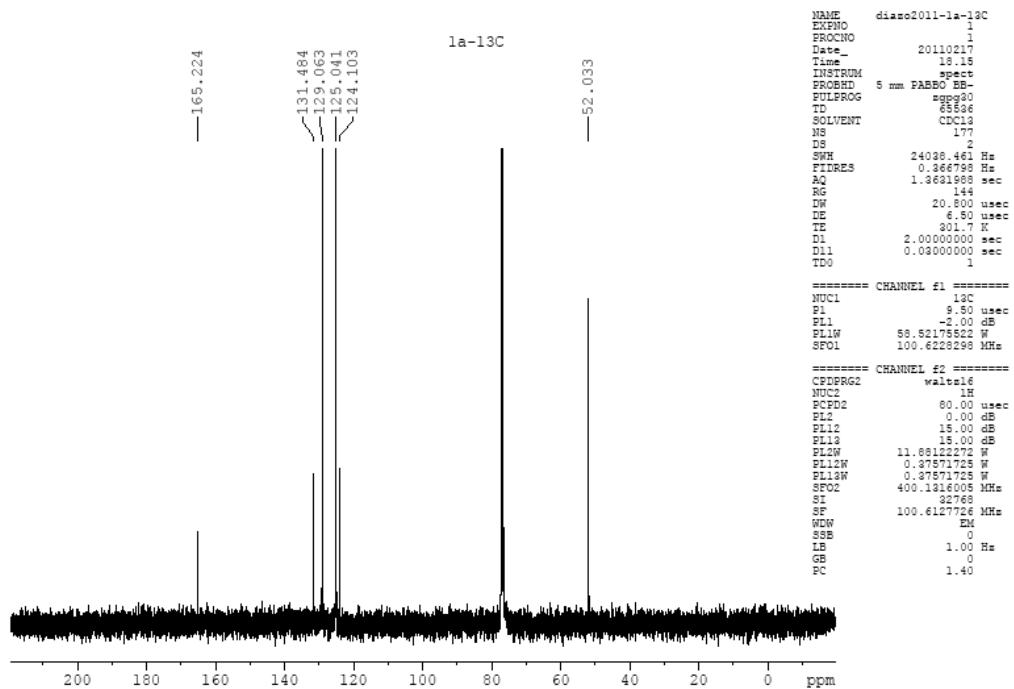
**Figure S21b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **5a**



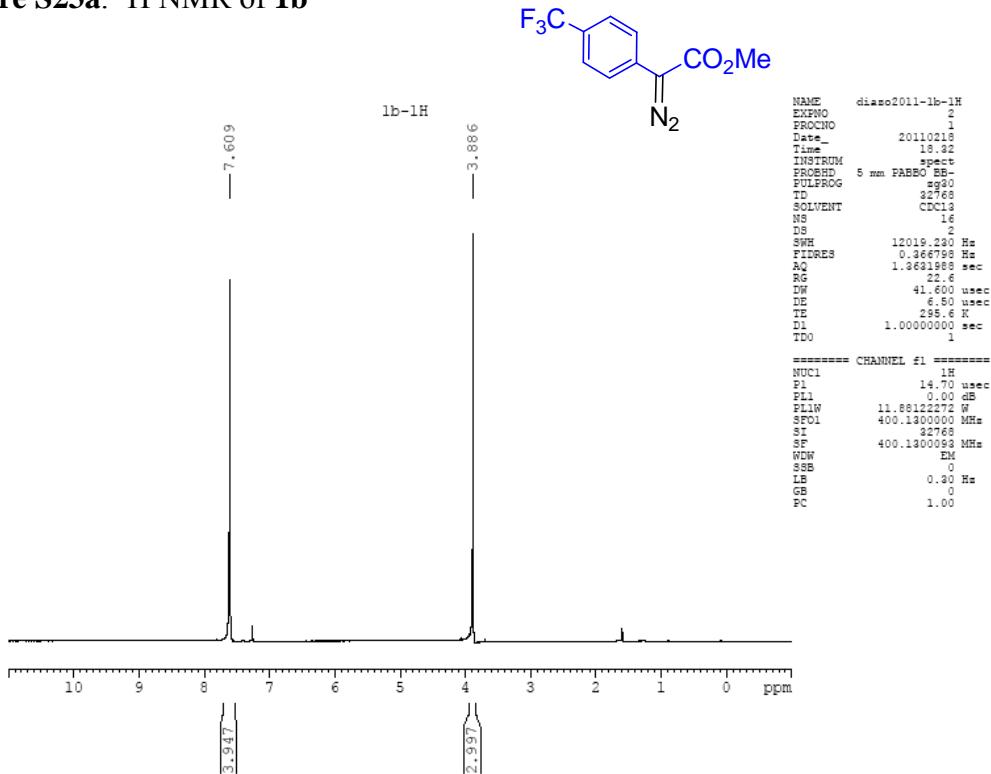
**Figure S22a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1a**



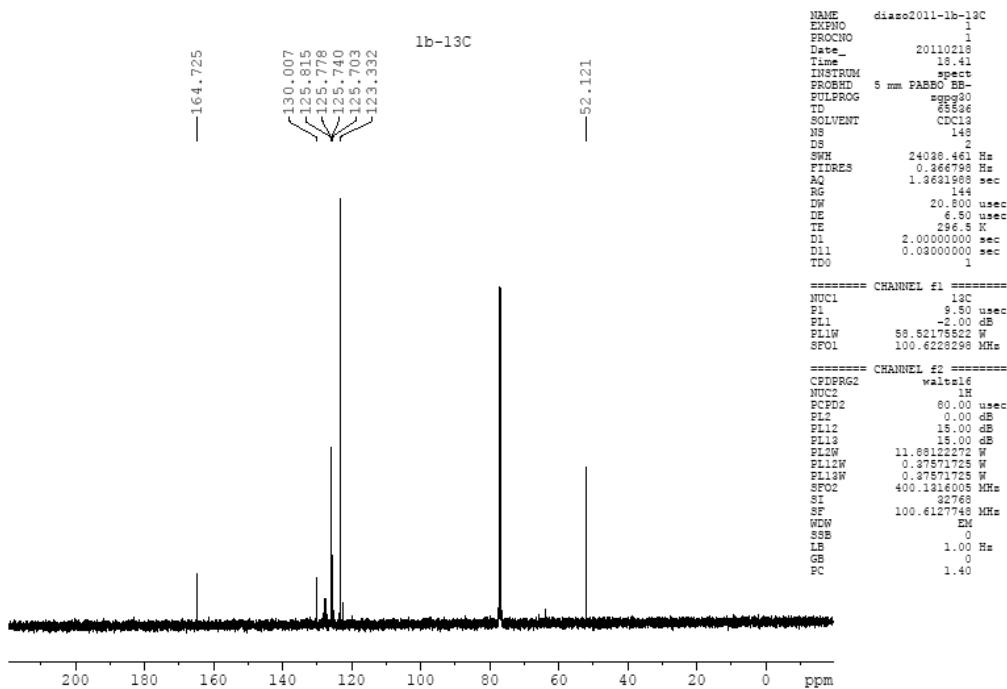
**Figure S22b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **1a**



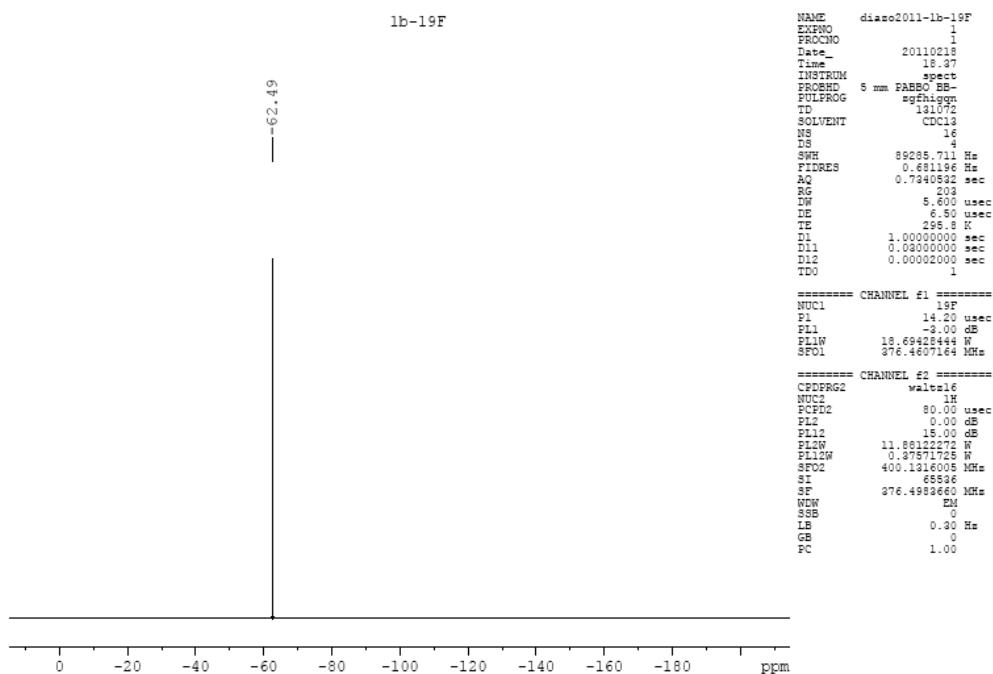
**Figure S23a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1b**



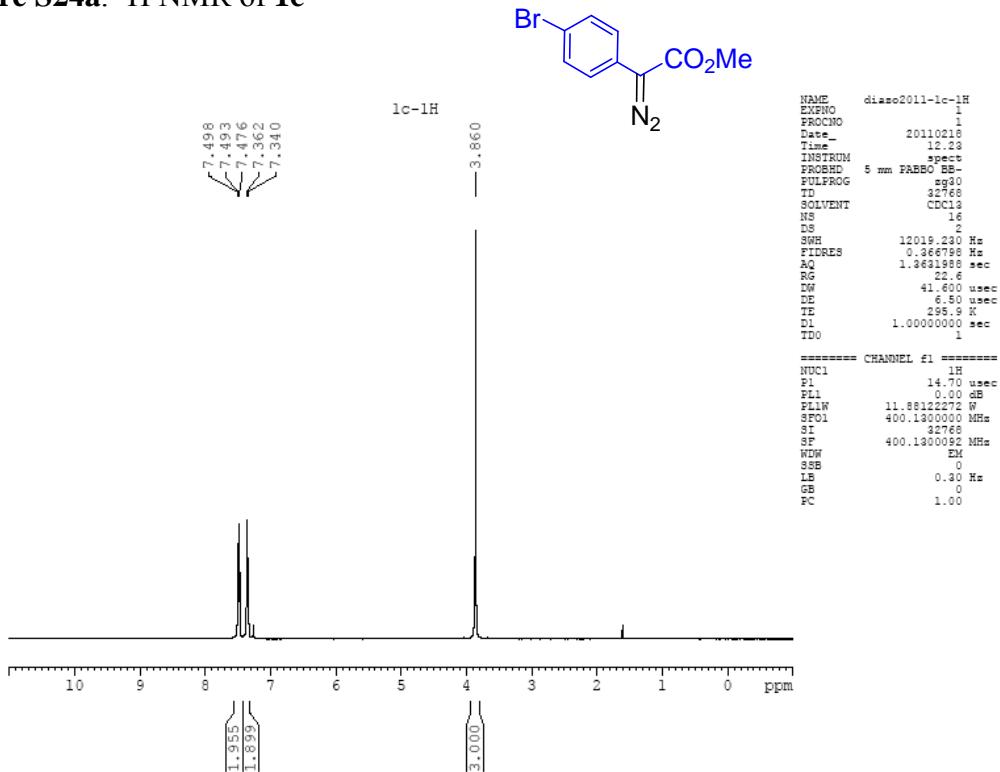
**Figure S23b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **1b**



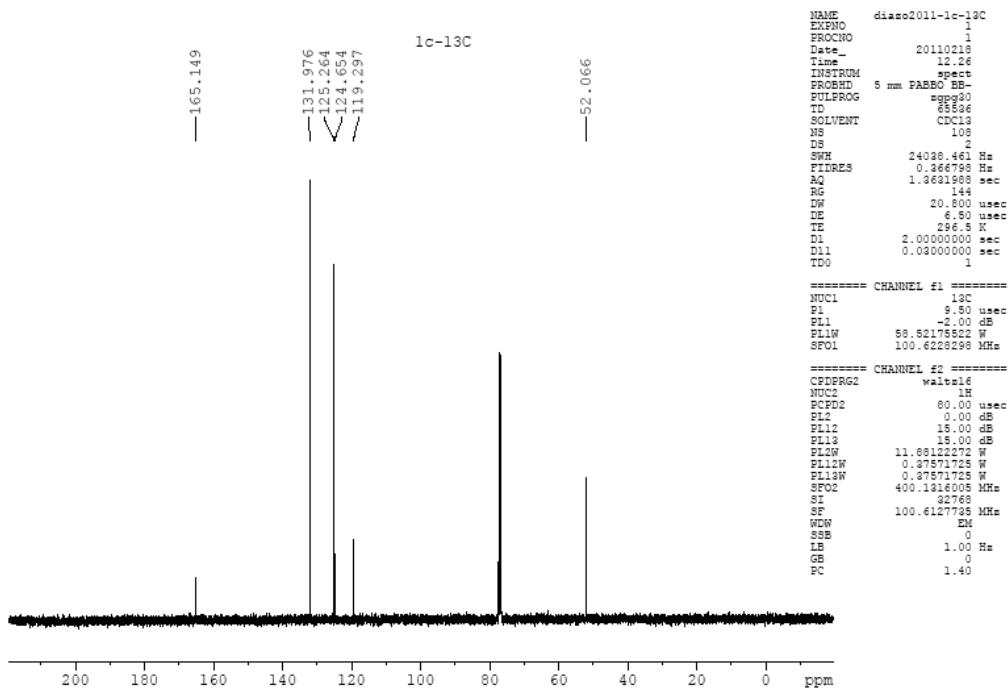
**Figure S23c.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR of **1b**



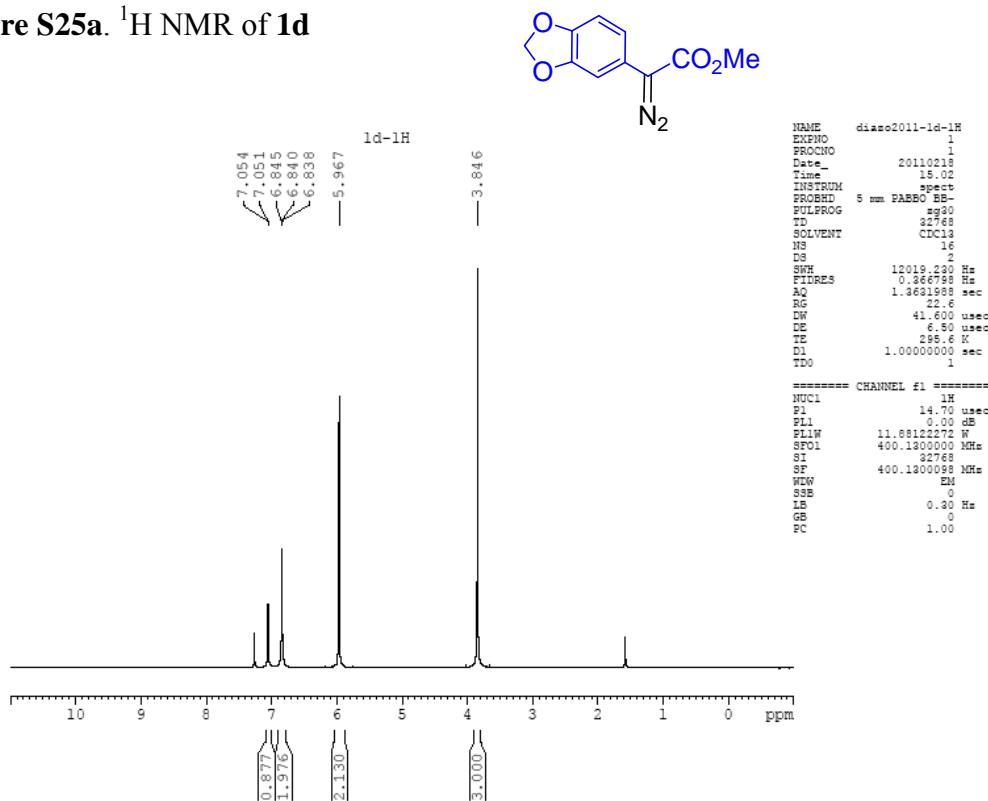
**Figure S24a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1c**



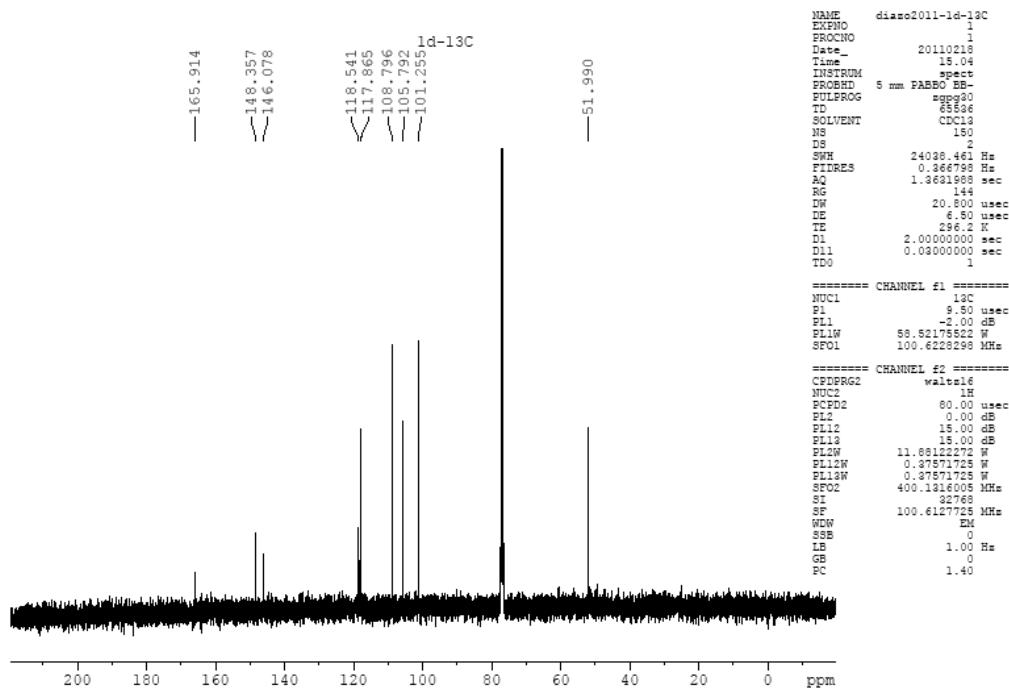
**Figure S24b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **1c**



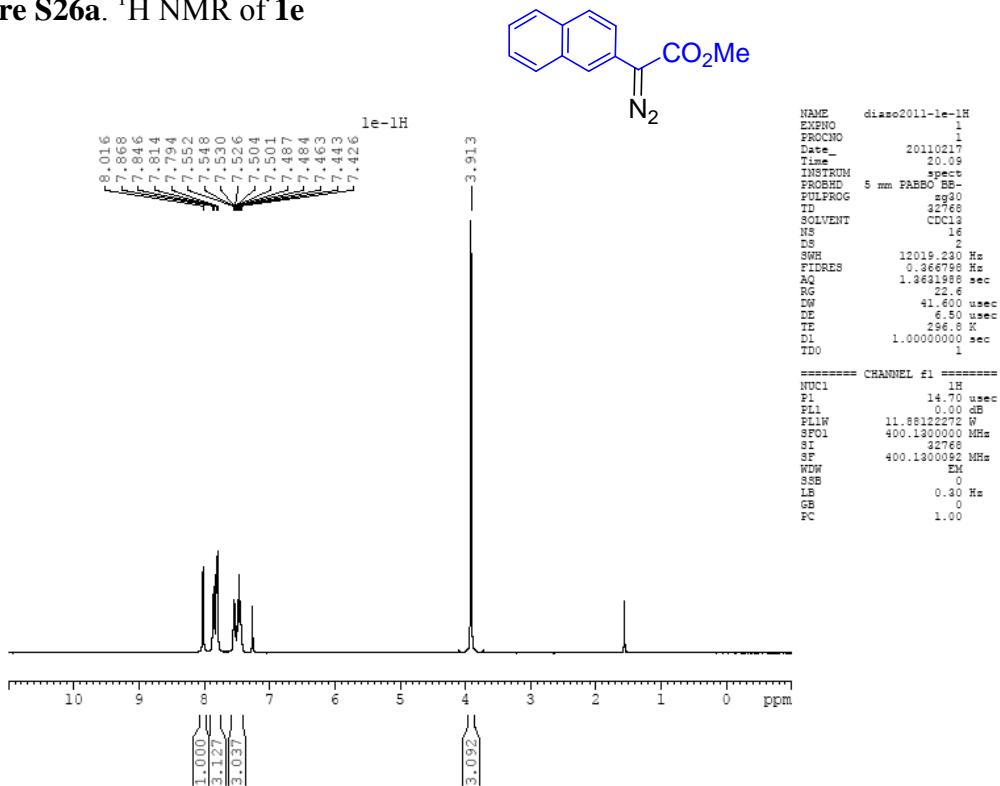
**Figure S25a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1d**



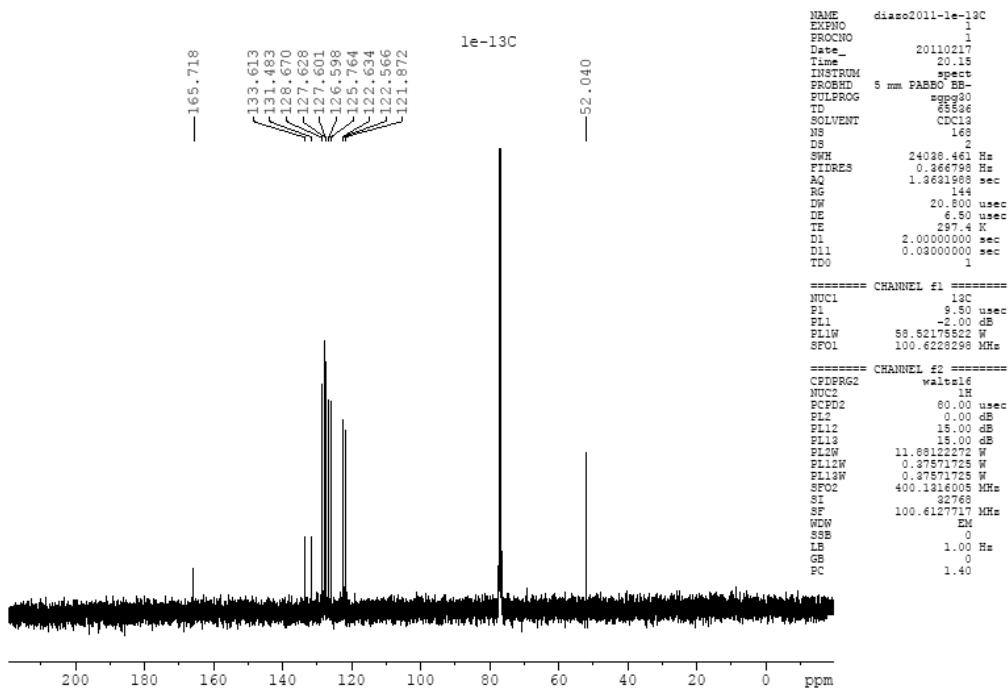
**Figure S25b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **1d**



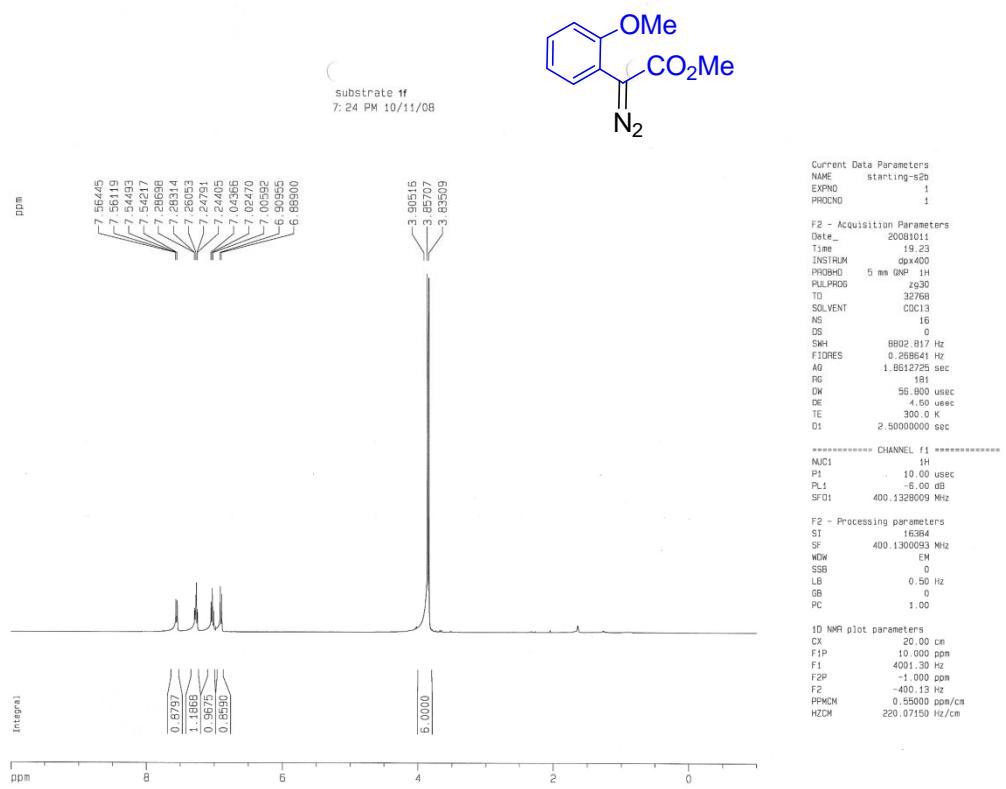
**Figure S26a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1e**



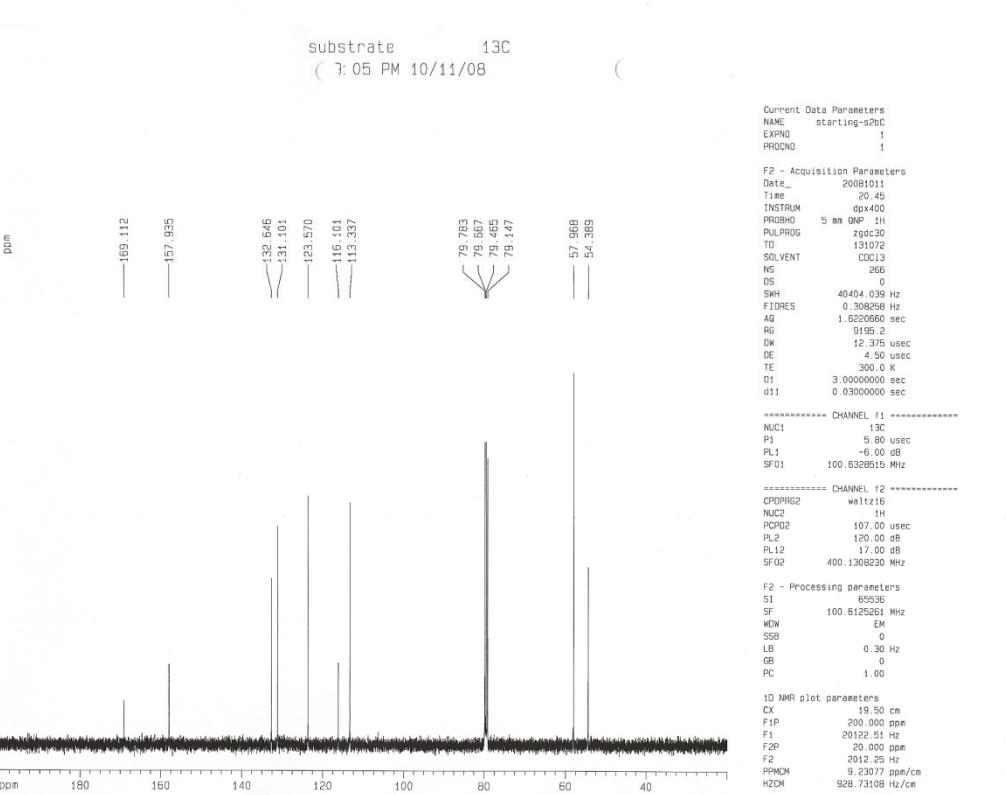
**Figure S26b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **1e**



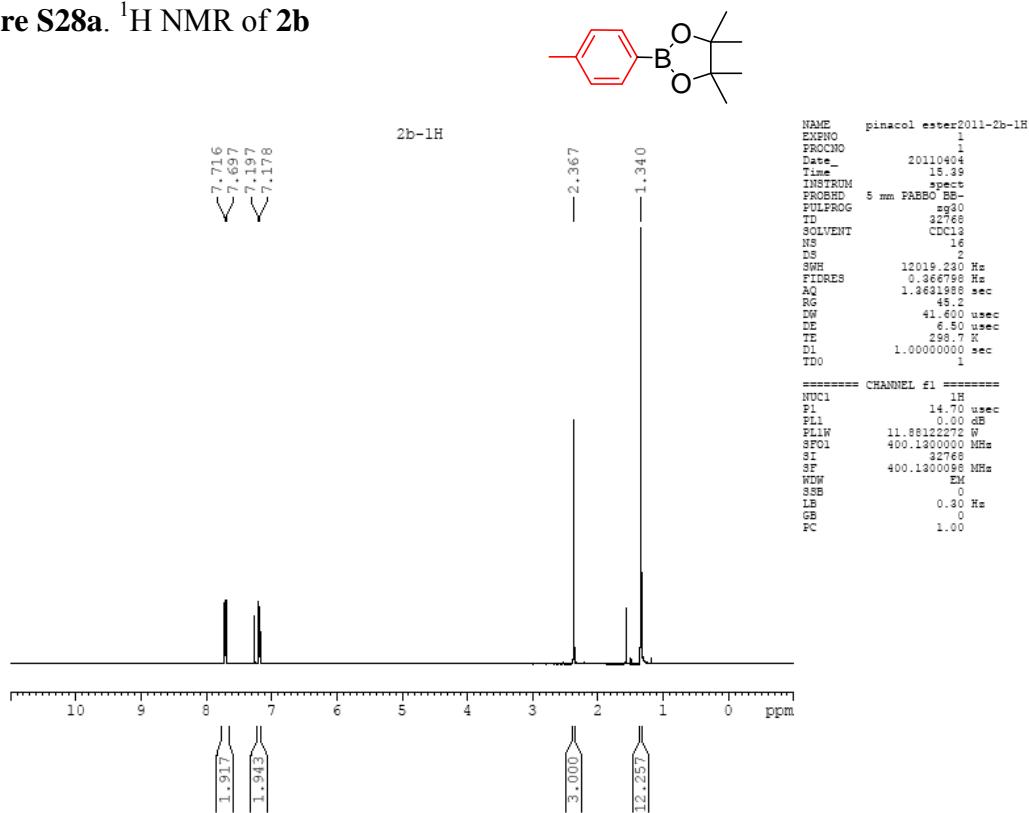
**Figure S27a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1f**



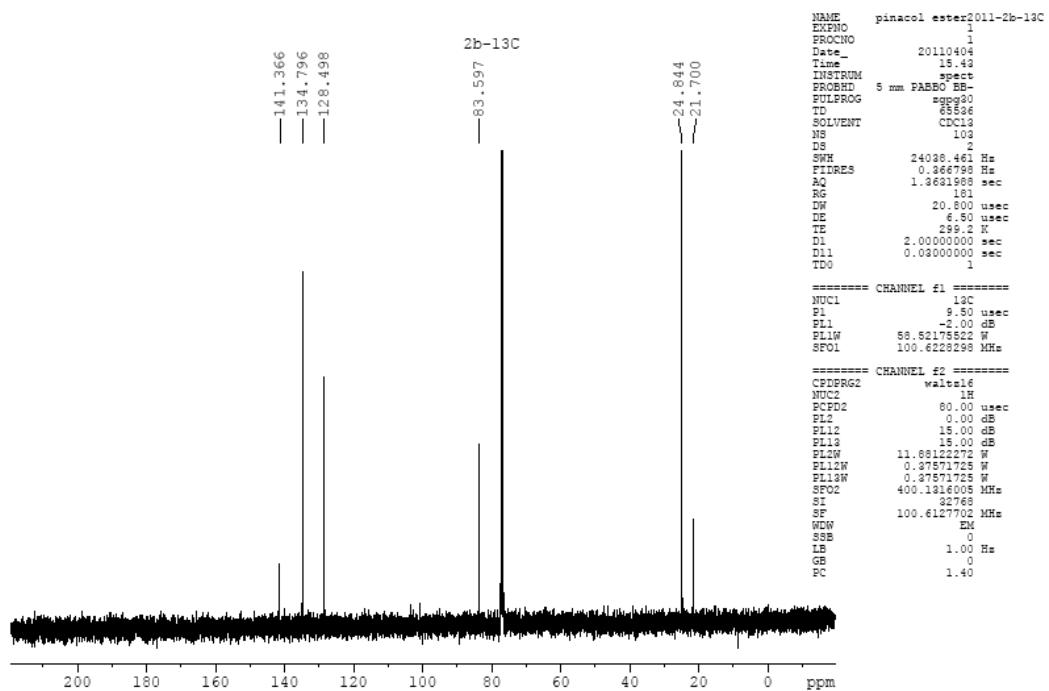
**Figure S27b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **1f**



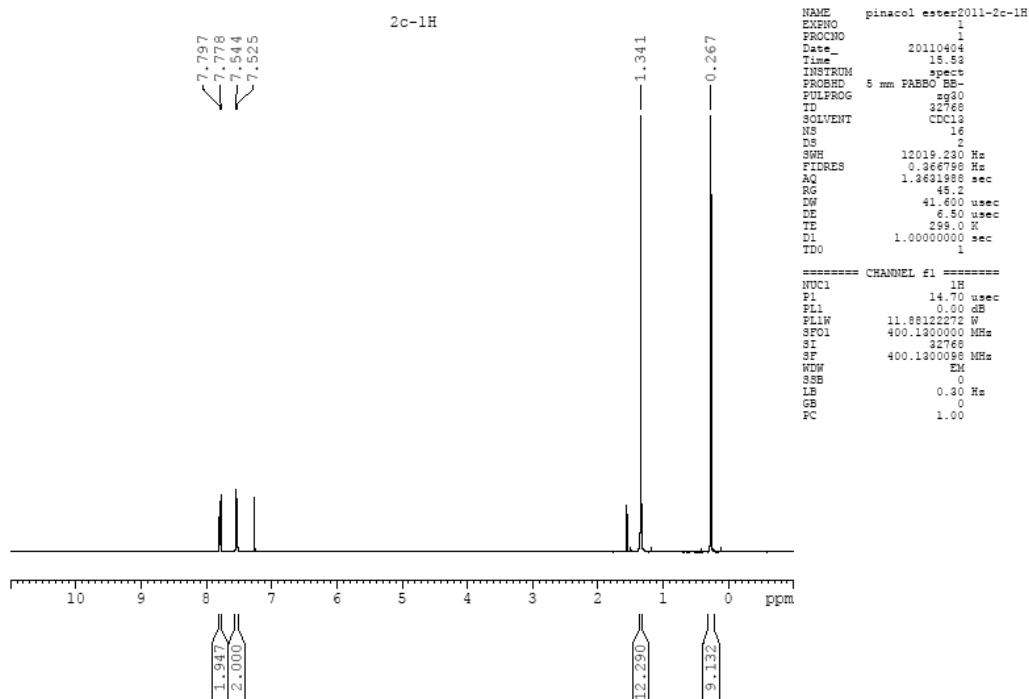
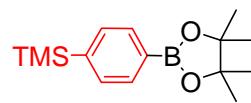
**Figure S28a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **2b**



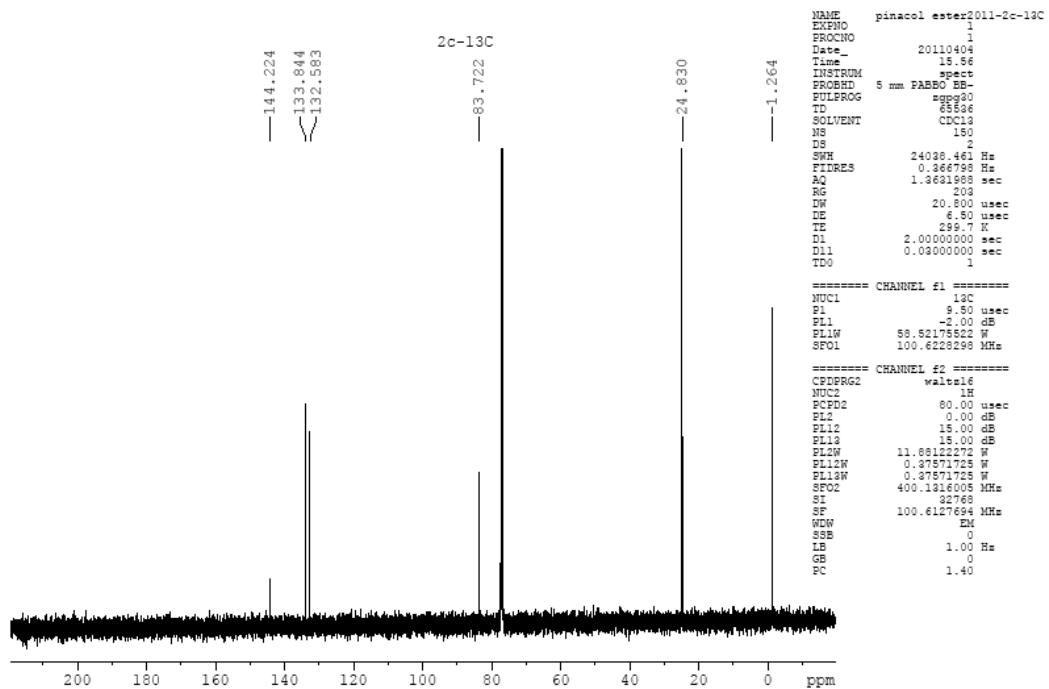
**Figure S28b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2b**



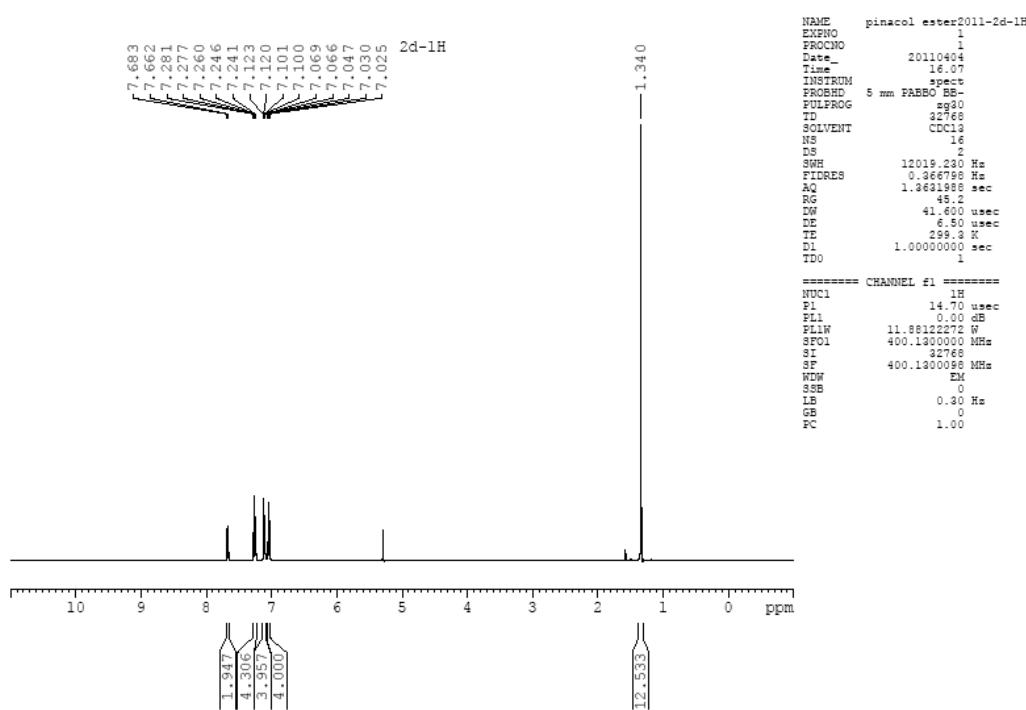
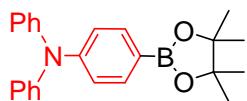
**Figure S29a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **2c**



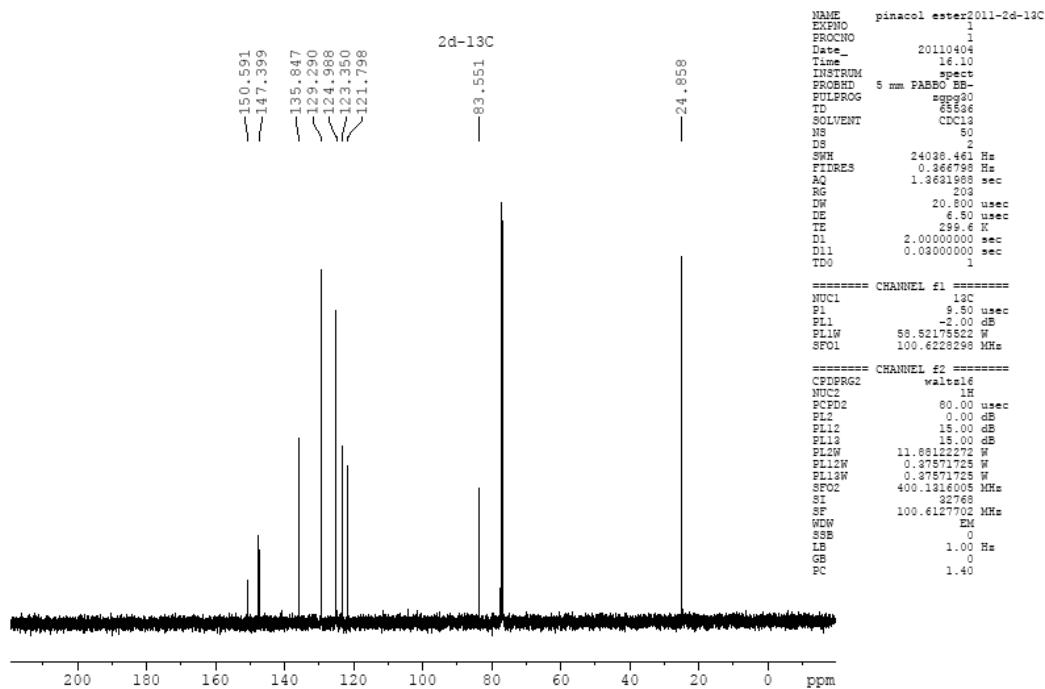
**Figure S29b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2c**



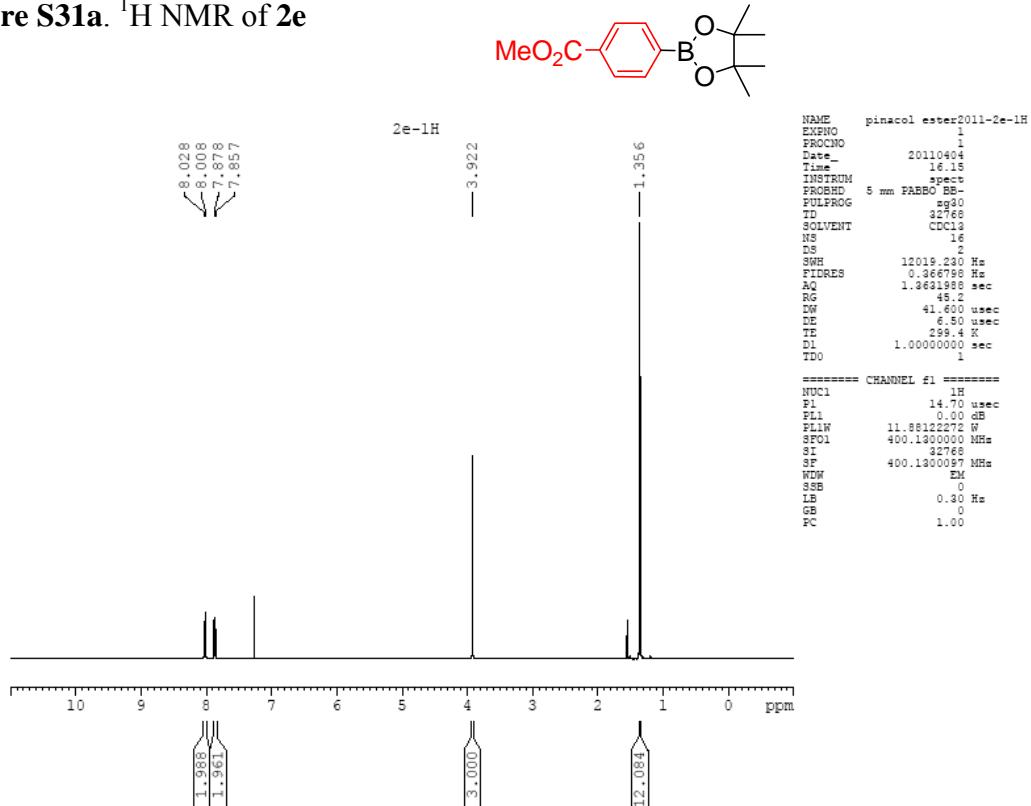
**Figure S30a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **2d**



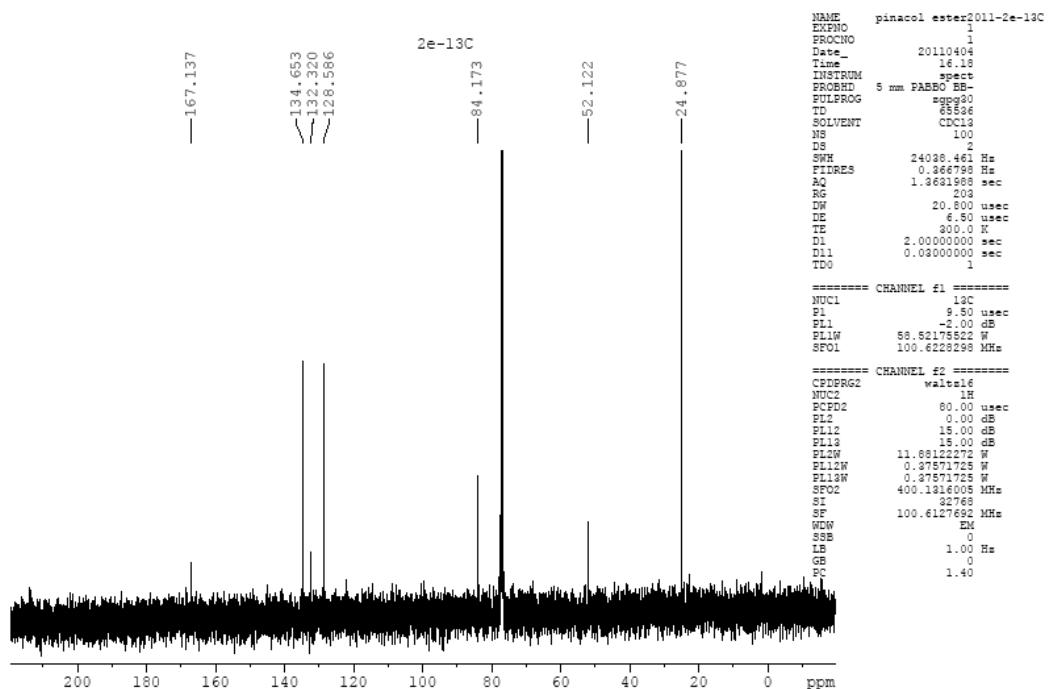
**Figure S30b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2d**



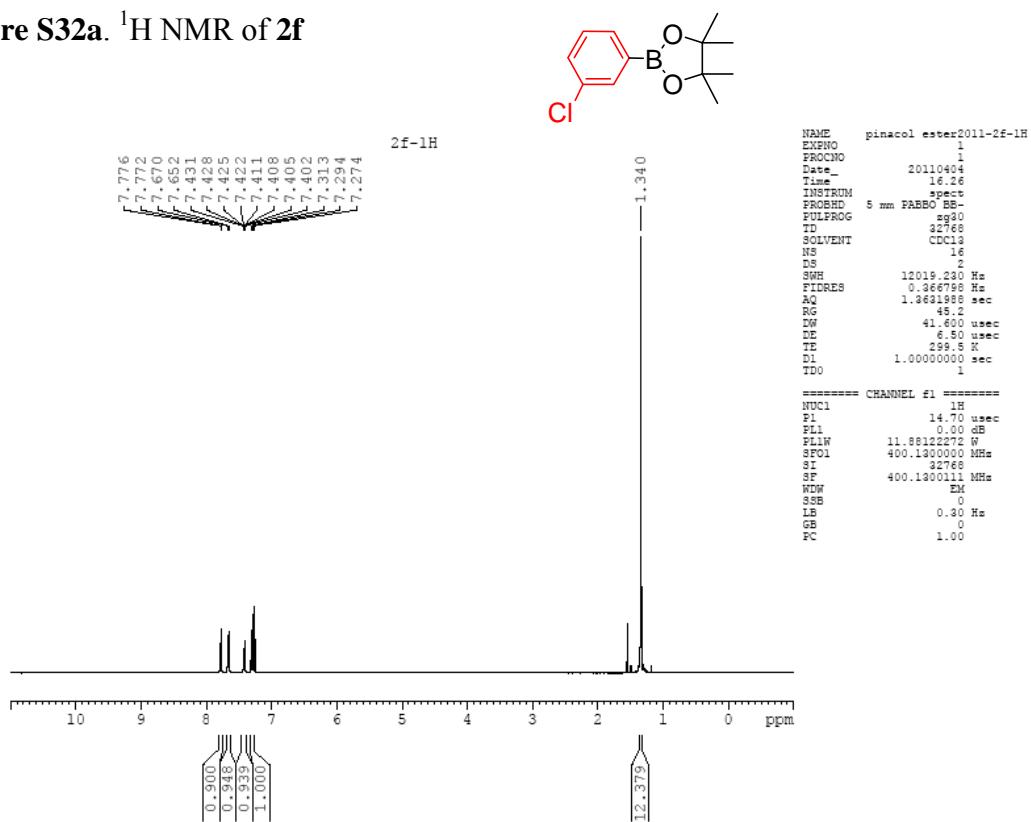
**Figure S31a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **2e**



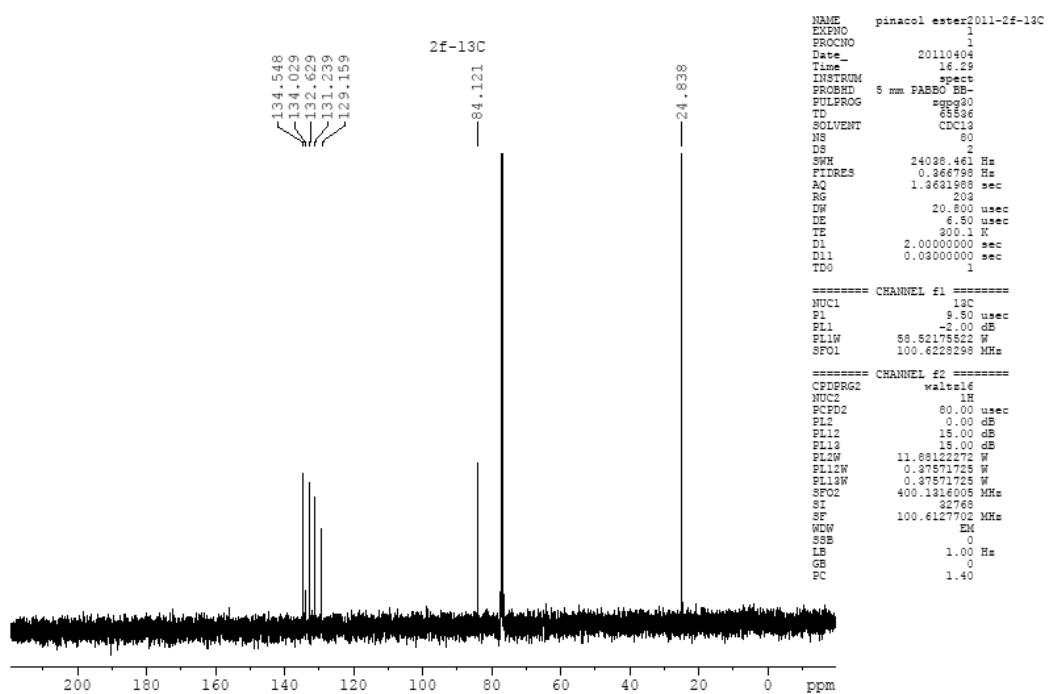
**Figure S31b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2e**



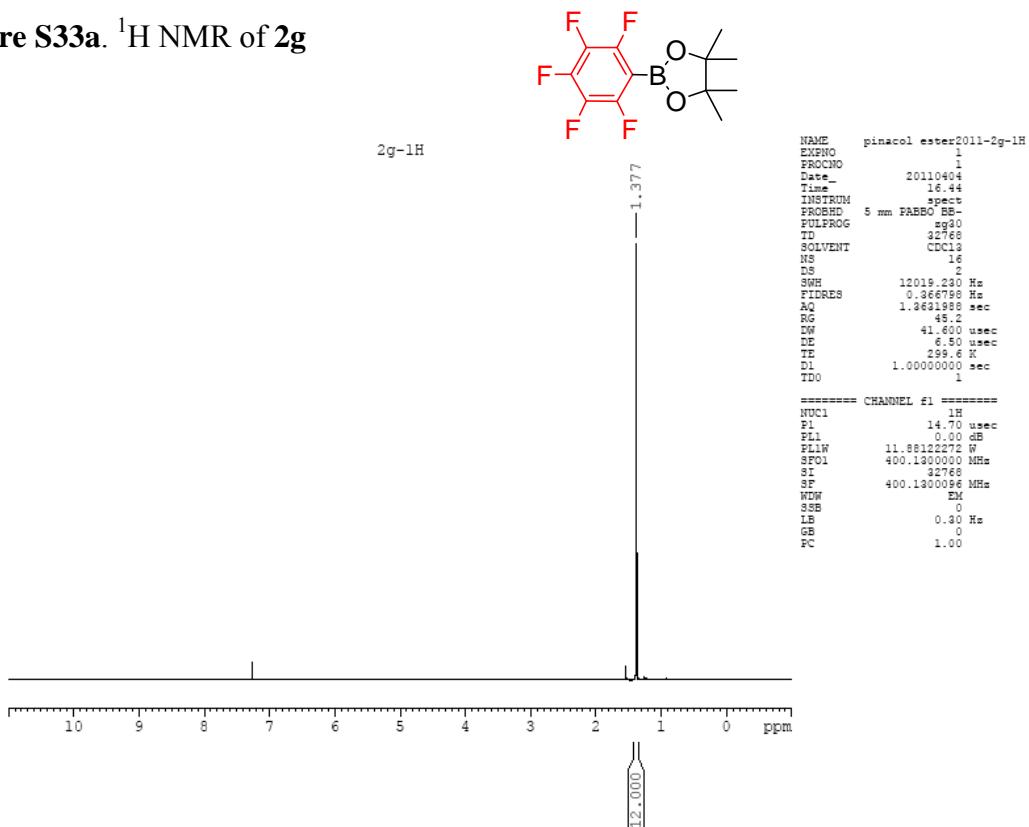
**Figure S32a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **2f**



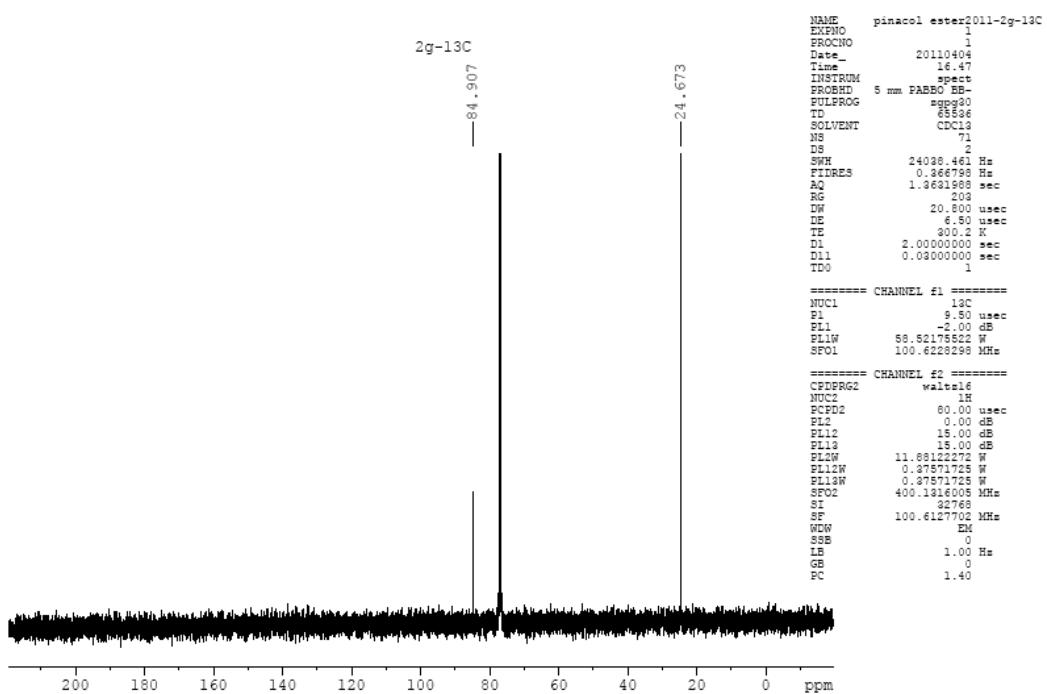
**Figure S32b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2f**



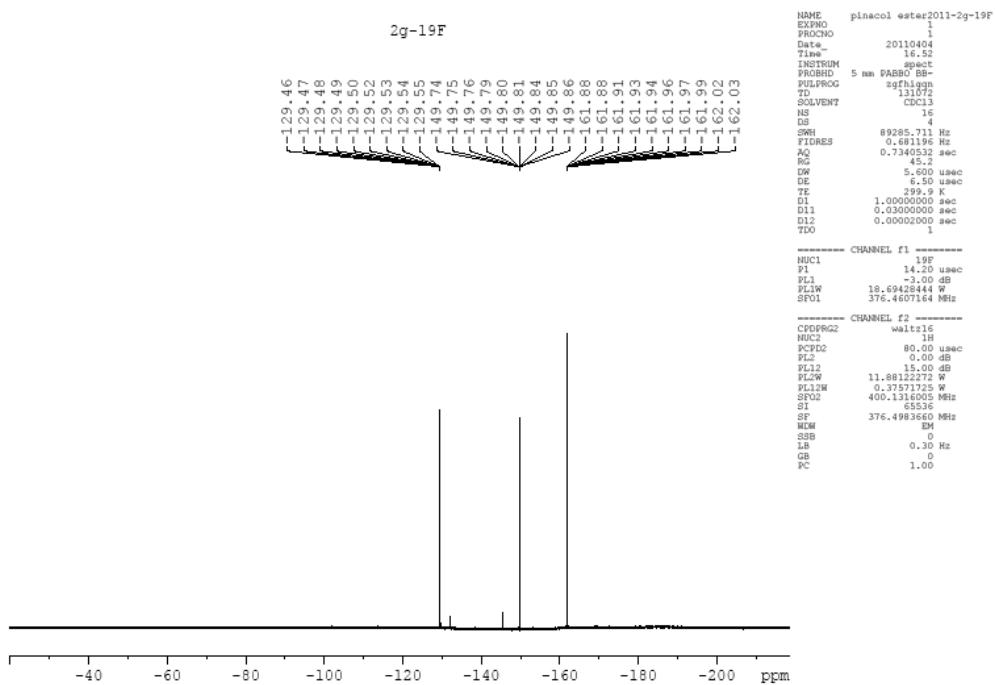
**Figure S33a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **2g**



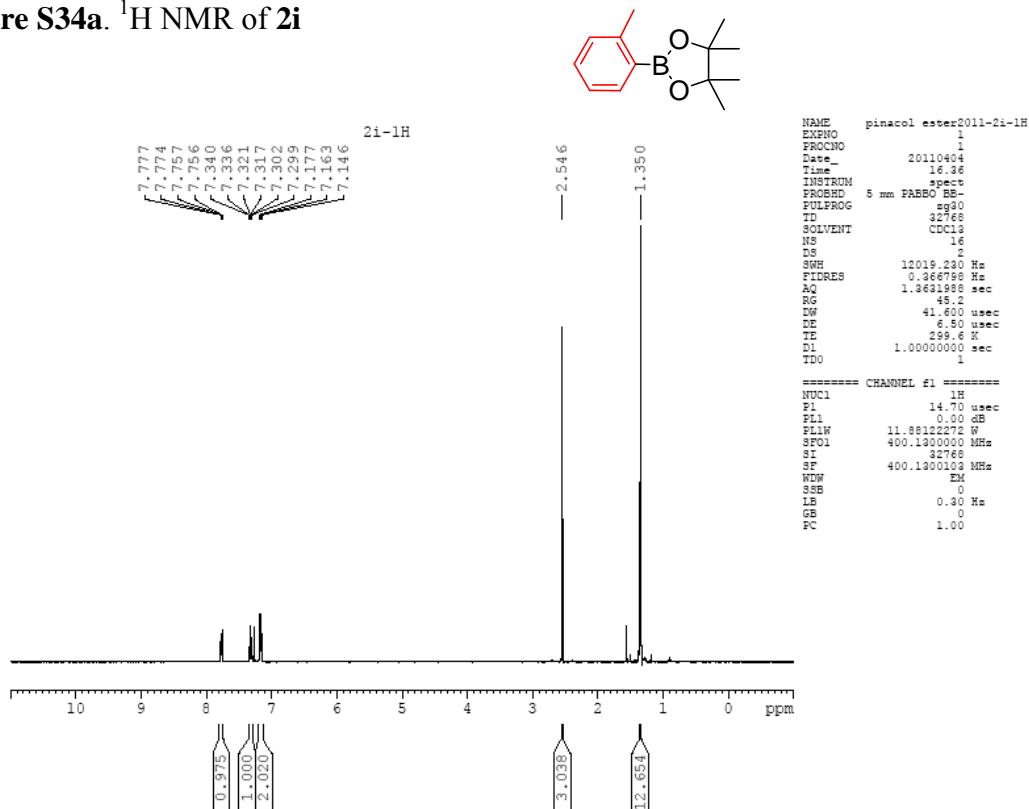
**Figure S33b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2g**



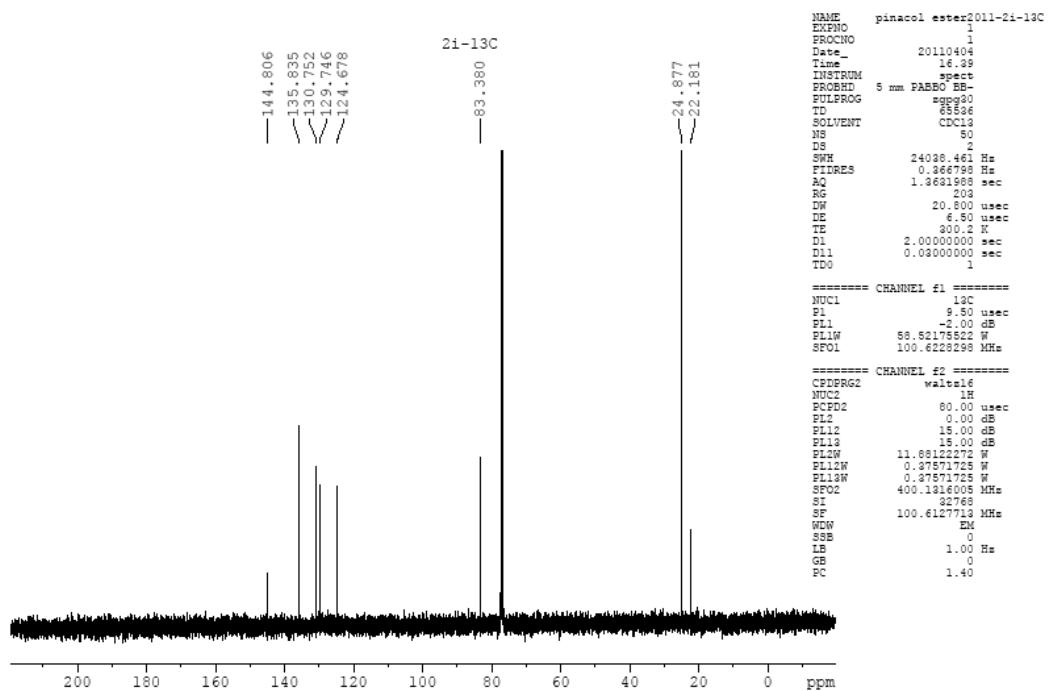
**Figure S33c.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR of **2g**



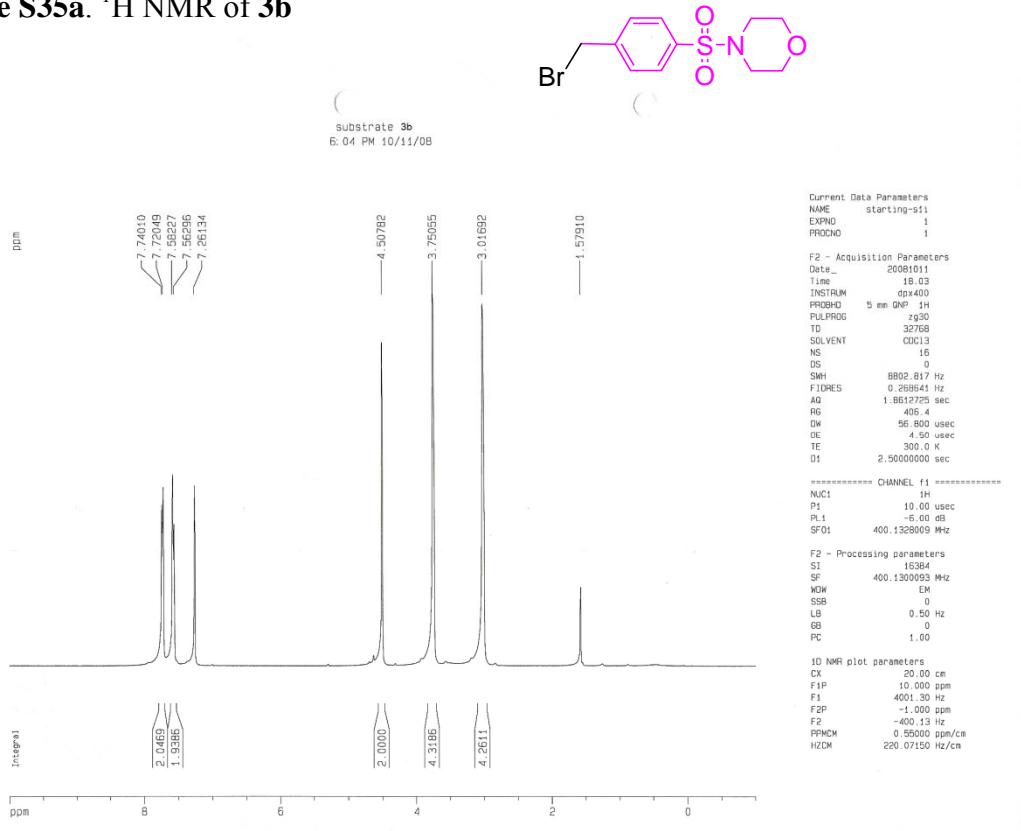
**Figure S34a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **2i**



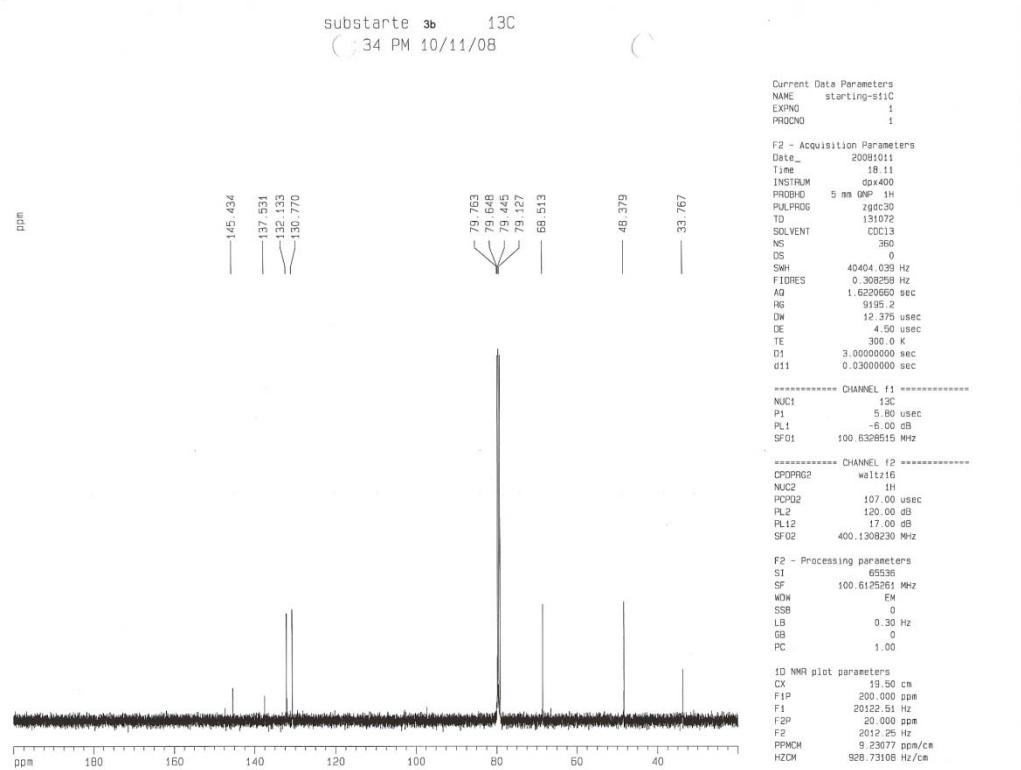
**Figure S34b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2i**



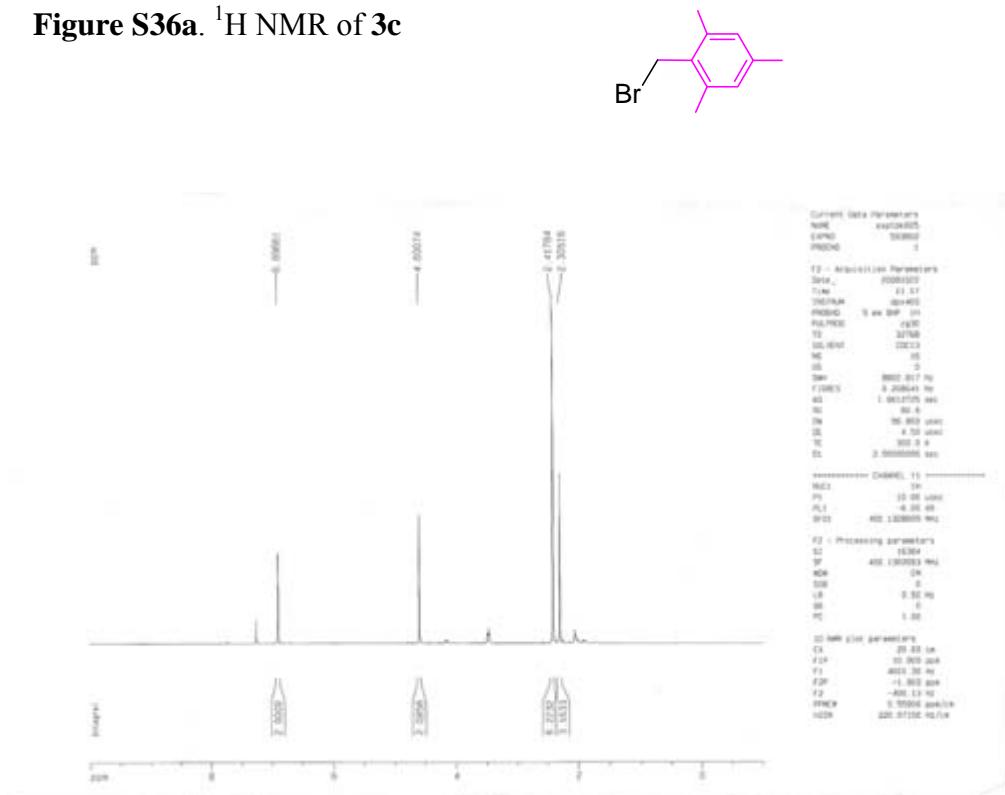
**Figure S35a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **3b**



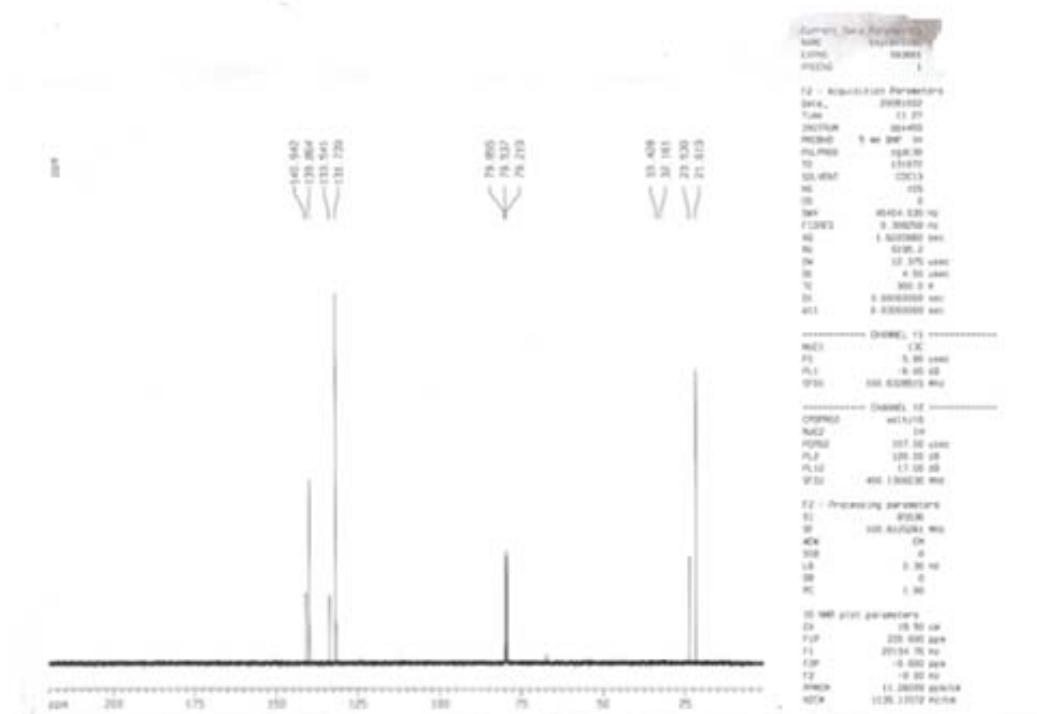
**Figure S35b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3b**



**Figure S36a.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **3c**



**Figure S36b.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **3c**



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1. (a) Chan, W.-W.; Yeung, S.-H.; Zhou, Z.; Chan, A. S. C.; Yu, W.-Y. *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12*, 604. (b) Yu, W.-Y.; Tsoi, Y.-T.; Zhou, Z.; Chan, A. S. C. *Org. Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 469. (c) Starmans, W. A. J.; Thijs, L.; Zwanenburg, B. *Tetrahedron* **1998**, *54*, 629.
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3. (a) Davies, H. M. L.; Townsend, R. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 6595. (b) Davies, H. M. L.; Hansen, T.; Churchill, M. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 3063.
4. Yuen, A. K. L.; Hutton, C. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2005**, *46*, 7899.