C-C Bond Formation Catalyzed Heterogeneously by

Nickel-on-Graphite (Ni/C_g)

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Supporting Information

Standard Ni/C_g catalyzed cross-couplings of boronic acids with aryl halides using conventional heating. To a flame dried, argon purged 25 mL round bottom flask were added Ni/C_g (96.0 mg, 0.08 mmol) and PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.24 mmol) under argon at rt. THF (2 mL) was then added followed by *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol). The solution was allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. The aryl halide (1.00 mmol), boronic acid (2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL) were then added to the reaction mixture. The flask was loaded into a preheated oil bath and warmed to reflux. The reaction was allowed to stir until TLC indicated complete disappearance of the starting material. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/ EtOAc).

4-Methoxybiphenyl (Table 1, entry A). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C (98.0 mg, 0.08 mmol), PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.24 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol), 4-chloroanisole (0.127 mL, 1.00 mmol), phenylboronic acid (244 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL). The reaction was allowed to stir overnight at which point TLC indicated incomplete conversion of the starting material. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/ EtOAc). After purification 74 mg of the title compound was isolated (40%). R_f = 0.75 (3:1 hex/ EtOAc). Spectral data of the product matched that of previously reported spectra.¹

3,4',4-Trimethoxybiphenyl (Table 1, entry B; using Ni/C). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C (98.0 mg, 0.08 mmol), PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.24 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol), 4-chloroanisole (0.127 mL, 1.00 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylboronic acid (244 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120

mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL). The reaction was allowed to stir for 14 h at which point TLC indicated complete disappearance of the starting material. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/EtOAc). After purification 221 mg of the title compound was isolated (90%). $R_f = 0.33$ (3:1 hex/EtOAc). Spectra matched entry B, Ni/C_g.

3,4',4-Trimethoxybiphenyl (Table 1, entry B; using Ni/C_g). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (96.0 mg, 0.08 mmol), PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.24 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol), 4-chloroanisole (0.127 mL, 1.00 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylboronic acid (244 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL). The reaction was allowed to stir for 10 h at which point TLC indicated complete disappearance of the starting material. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/EtOAc). After purification 223 mg of the title compound was isolated (92%). R_f = 0.33 (3:1 hex/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.9, 1H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.3, 1H), 6.87 (m, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 160.1, 149.2, 148.8, 142.8, 134.2, 129.9, 119.6, 113.0, 112.1, 111.5, 110.6, 56.1, 55.5; HREIMS *m*/z calcd for C₁₅H₁₆O₃ 244.1099; found 244.1097.

2-Methoxybiphenyl (Table 1, entry C; using Ni/C). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C (98.0 mg, 0.08 mmol), PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.240 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol), 2-chloroanisole (0.127 mL, 1.00 mmol), phenylboronic acid (244 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL). The reaction was allowed to stir overnight at which point TLC indicated no consumption of the starting material.¹

2-Methoxybiphenyl (Table 1, entry C; using Ni/C_g + conventional heating). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (96.0 mg, 0.08 mmol), PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.24 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol), 2-chloroanisole (0.127 mL, 1.00 mmol), phenylboronic acid (244 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL). The reaction was allowed to stir for 12 h at which point TLC indicated complete disappearance of the starting material. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/EtOAc). After purification 164 mg of the title compound was isolated (89%). R_f = 0.75 (3:1 hex/EtOAc). Spectral data of the product matched that of previously reported spectra.¹

Representative Procedure for the Microwave-Assisted Nickel-on-Graphite Catalyzed Suzuki Coupling. Ni/C_g catalyzed cross-coupling of a boronic acid with an aryl halide; 2-methoxybipenyl (Table 1, entry C). To a flame dried, argon purged Emrys Optimizer 2-5 mL pyrex reaction vessel were added Ni/C_g (96.0 mg, 0.08 mmol) and PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.24 mmol) under argon at rt. THF (2 mL) was then added followed by *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol). The solution was allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. 2-Chloroanisole (0.127 mL, 1.00 mmol), phenylboronic acid (244 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL) were then added to the reaction mixture. The reaction vessel was placed in the Emrys Optimizer using the following specifications: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 2700 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/EtOAc). After purification 161 mg of the title compound was isolated (87%). R_f = 0.75 (3:1 hex/EtOAc).

2,3',4'-Trimethoxybiphenyl (Table 1, entry D). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (48.0 mg, 0.04 mmol), PPh₃ (31.5 mg, 0.120 mmol), THF (1 mL), *n*-BuLi (32µL, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.08 mmol), 2-chloroanisole (0.64 mL, 0.50 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylboronic acid (182 mg, 1.50 mmol), KF (87.0 mg, 1.50 mmol), LiOH (60.0 mg, 2.50 mmol), and dioxane (1.5 mL). Mircowave conditions: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 2700 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. After purification 81 mg of the title compound was isolated (87%). $R_f = 0.33$ (3:1 hex/EtOAc). Spectral data on the product matched that of previously reported spectra.¹

4-Methylbiphenyl (Table 1, entry E). Using the standard conventional procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (96.0 mg, 0.08 mmol), PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.240 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol), 4-bromotoluene (171 mg, 1.00 mmol), phenylboronic acid (244 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL). The reaction was allowed to stir for 9 h at which point TLC indicated complete disappearance of the starting material. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/EtOAc). After purification 146 mg of the title compound was isolated (87%). R_f = 0.79 (3:1 hex/EtOAc). Spectral data of the product matched that of previously reported spectra.¹

3,4-Dimethoxy-4'-methylbiphenyl (Table 1, entry F). Using the standard conventional procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (96.0 mg, 0.08 mmol), PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.240 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol),), 4-bromotoluene (171 mg, 1.00 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylboronic acid (244 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL). The reaction was allowed to stir for 7 h at which point TLC indicated complete disappearance of the starting material. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture

was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/EtOAc). After purification 196 mg of the title compound was isolated (86%). $R_f = 0.35$ (3:1 hex/EtOAc). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.90 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 149.3, 148.8, 138.4, 136.7, 134.4, 129.6, 126.9, 119.3, 111.6, 110.4, 56.1, 21.2; HREIMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₆O₂ 228.1150; found 228.1156.

Standard Ni/C_g catalyzed cross-couplings of boronic acids with aryl tosylates. To an Emrys Optimizer 2-5 mL pyrex reaction vessel was added Ni/C_g (96.0 mg, 0.08 mmol) and PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.240 mmol) under argon at rt. THF (2 mL) was added followed by *n*-BuLi (63 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol). The solution was allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. The aryl tosylate (1.00 mmol), boronic acid (2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol) and dioxane (2 mL) were then added to the reaction mixture. The reaction vessel was placed in the Emrys Optimizer using the following specifications: Temperature: 180 °C, Time: 2700 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was filtered and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and H₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/EtOAc).

1-PhenyInaphthalene (Table 2, entry 1). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (48.0 mg, 0.04 mmol), PPh₃ (31.5 mg, 0.120 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (32 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.08 mmol), 2-tosyloxynaphthalene (149 mg, 0.50 mmol), phenylboronic acid (122 mg, 1.00 mmol), KF (87.0 mg, 1.50 mmol), LiOH (60.0 mg, 2.50 mmol), and dioxane (1 mL). Mircowave conditions: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 7200 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. GC-MS analysis indicated 100% conversion.¹

3,4-Dimethoxy-4'-phenylbiphenyl (Table 2, entry 2). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (48.0 mg, 0.04 mmol), PPh₃ (31.5 mg, 0.120 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (32 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.08 mmol), biphenyl-4-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (162 mg, 0.50 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylboronic acid (182 mg, 1.00 mmol), KF (87.0 mg, 1.50 mmol), LiOH (60.0 mg, 2.50 mmol), and dioxane (1 mL). Mircowave conditions: Temperature: 180 °C, Time: 16200 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. After purification 118 mg of the title compound was isolated (81%). R_f = 0.29 (3:1 hex/EtOAc). Spectral data on the product matched that of previously reported spectra.

3,4-Dimethoxy-4'-phenylbiphenyl (Table 2, entry 3). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (48.0 mg, 0.04 mmol), PPh₃ (31.5 mg, 0.120 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (32 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.08 mmol), biphenyl-4-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (162 mg, 0.50 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylboronic acid (182 mg, 1.00 mmol), KF (87.0 mg, 1.50 mmol), LiOH (60.0 mg, 2.50 mmol), and dioxane (1 mL). Mircowave conditions: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 5400 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. After purification on silica gel (3:1 hex:EtOAc), 120 mg of the title compound was isolated (83%). R_f = 0.29 (3:1 hex/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.65 (m, 6H), 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.16 (m, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 149.3, 148.8, 140.1, 139.9, 129.0, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 127.2, 119.5, 111.6, 110.4, 56.1; HREIMS *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₈O₂ 290.1307; found 290.1301.

3,4-Dimethoxy-4'-phenylbiphenyl (using S-Phos). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (48.0 mg, 0.04 mmol), 2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2',6'- dimethoxybiphenyl (S-Phos, 15.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (32 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.08 mmol), biphenyl-4-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (162 mg, 0.50 mmol), 3,4-dimethoxyphenylboronic acid (182 mg, 1.00 mmol), KF (87.0 mg, 1.50 mmol), LiOH (60.0 mg, 2.50 mmol), and dioxane (1 mL). Mircowave conditions: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 5400 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample

Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. After purification 126 mg of the title compound was isolated (87%). $R_f = 0.29$ (3:1 hex/EtOAc). Spectral data on the product matched that of previously reported spectra (listed above).

1-(4'-Benzoylbiphenyl-3-yl)ethanone (Table 2, entry 4). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (96.0 mg, 0.08 mmol), PPh₃ (63.0 mg, 0.24 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (63 µL, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.16 mmol), 4-benzoylphenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (352 mg, 1.00 mmol), 3-acetylphenylboronic acid (328 mg, 2.00 mmol), KF (174 mg, 3.00 mmol), LiOH (120 mg, 5.00 mmol), and dioxane (2 mL). Microwave conditions: Temperature: 180 °C, Time: 16200 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Prestirring: 45 sec. After purification 240 mg of the title compound was isolated (80%). R_f = 0.23 (3:1 hex/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.01 (m, 1H), 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.85 (m, 3H), 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.52 (m, 2H), 2.69 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 198.1, 196.4, 144.3, 140.7, 137.9, 137.7, 136.9, 132.7, 132.0, 131.0, 130.2, 129.5, 128.5, 128.3, 127.2, 27.0; HREIMS *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₁H₁₆O₂ 300.1150; found 300.1139.

1-(4'-Methoxybiphenyl-2-yl)ethanone (Table 2, entry 5). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (48.0 mg, 0.04 mmol), PPh₃ (31.5 mg, 0.120 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (32 μ L, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.08 mmol), 2-acetylphenyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate (145 mg, 0.50 mmol), 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid (152 mg, 1.00 mmol), KF (87 mg, 1.50 mmol), LiOH (60 mg, 2.50 mmol), and dioxane (1 mL). Microwave conditions: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 5400 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. After purification 90 mg of the title compound was isolated (80%). R_f = 0.40 (3:1 hex/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.386 (m, 2H), 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.98 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 205.6, 159.7, 141.1, 140.3, 133.2, 130.9, 130.3, 130.2, 128.0, 127.2, 114.3, 55.5, 30.6; HREIMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₄O₂ 226.0994; found 226.0998.

1-(3'-(Trifluoromethyl)biphenyl-2-yl)ethanone (Table 2, entry 6). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: Ni/C_g (48.0 mg, 0.04 mmol), PPh₃ (31.5 mg, 0.120 mmol), THF (2 mL), *n*-BuLi (32 μL, 2.55 M in hexanes, 0.08 mmol), 2-acetylphenyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonate (145 mg, 0.50 mmol), 3-(trifluoromethyl)phenylboronic acid (190 mg, 1.00 mmol), KF (87 mg, 1.50 mmol), LiOH (60 mg, 2.50 mmol), and dioxane (1 mL). Microwave conditions: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 5400 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. After purification 120 mg of the title compound was isolated (91%). R_f = 0.33 (3:1 hex/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.64 (m, 3H), 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.38 (m, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 203.7, 141.8, 139.3, 132.4, 131.3, 130.7, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 125.6, 124.7, 30.5; HREIMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₁F₃O 264.0762; found 264.0771.

Negishi Carboalumination of a terminal alkyne using catalytic Cp_2ZrCl_2 / catalytic IBAO / excess Me_3Al followed by Ni/C_g catalyzed cross-coupling with an aryl tosylate; (*E*)-4-(2-methyloct-1-enyl)biphenyl (Scheme 3). To a flame dried argon purged 25 mL round bottomed (rb) flask was added bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride (14.6 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5.0 mol %), followed by the dropwise addition at 0 °C of Me_3Al (2.0 M solution in toluene, 0.75 mL, 1.50 mmol, 1.5 equiv). While stirring at 0 °C, IBAO (0.28 mL, 0.100 mmol, 10 mol %) was then added. Lastly, octyne (0.150 mL, 1.00 mmol) was introduced and the homogeneous pale yellow solution stirred at rt for 2 h until TLC analysis (5% CH_2Cl_2 /pet ether) indicated that the carboalumination was complete.

In a separate flame dried argon purged 10 mL microwave vial was combined triphenylphosphine (32 mg, 0.12 mmol) and Ni/C_g (48 mg, 0.03 mmol, 0.03 equiv) in the glove box. THF (0.5 mL) was then added via syringe followed by the dropwise addition of *n*-BuLi (20.5 μ L, 0.06 mmol) to form the active Ni(0)/C_g complex. After stirring at rt for 5 min, the vinylalane generated above was transferred to the vial via cannula. Lastly, 4-tosyloxybiphenyl (162.2 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added and the reaction vessel was placed in the Emry's Optimizer and exposed to microwave irradiation according to the following specifications: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 3600 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption:

Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. The reaction mixture was then extracted with water (3 x 10 mL) and Et₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/ EtOAc) yielding 116 mg of compound 10 as a colorless oil (83%). The other regioisomer was not detected by GC. $R_f = 0.70$ (3:1 hex/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 6.17 (m, 1H), 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.30 (m, 5H), 1.23 (m, 3H), 0.91 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 137.3, 136.0, 134.2, 131.1, 129.8, 128.6, 127.5 127.4, 123.6, 115.3, 33.2, 31.9, 29.5, 29.1, 22.8, 15.8, 14.3; HREIMS *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₆ 278.2034; found 278.2036. Standard Ni/Cg catalyzed cross-couplings of vinylzirconocenes with aryl halides. To a flame dried, argon purged 25 mL round bottom (rb) flask were added bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium chloride hydride (135 mg, 0.50 mmol) in the glove box, followed by THF (1.0 mL) via syringe. Octyne (0.075 mL, 0.50 mmol) was then added and the reaction was allowed to stir at rt until GC analysis indicated complete disappearance of the starting material. In a separate flame dried argon purged 10 mL microwave vial was combined triphenylphosphine (21 mg, 0.08 mmol) and Ni/Cg (48 mg, 0.04 mmol) in the glove box. THF (0.5 mL) was then added via syringe followed by the dropwise addition of *n*-BuLi (30.75 µL, 0.08 mmol) to form the active Ni(0)/Cg complex. After stirring at rt for 5 min, the vinylzirconocene generated above was transferred to the vial via cannula. Lastly, the aryl halide (0.50 mmol) was added and the reaction vessel was placed in the Emry's Optimizer and exposed to microwave irradiation according to the following specifications: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 900 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec.

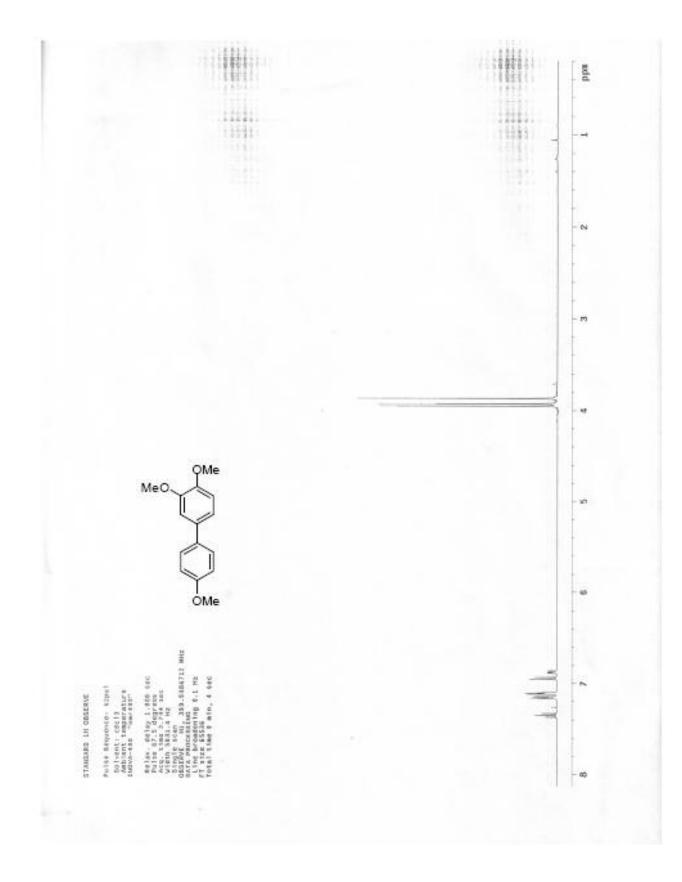
(*E*)-1-(Oct-1-enyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (Table 3, entry 1). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: zirconocene (135 mg, 0.50 mmol), octyne (0.075 mL, 0.5 mmol), Ni/C_g (48 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.1 equiv), *n*-BuLi (30.75 μ L, 0.08 mmol, 0.2 equiv), and 1-iodo-3-(triflouromethyl)benzene (0.072 mL, 0.50 mmol). The hydrozirconation was allowed to proceed for 45 min and the reaction vessel was then placed in the Emrys Optimizer using the following

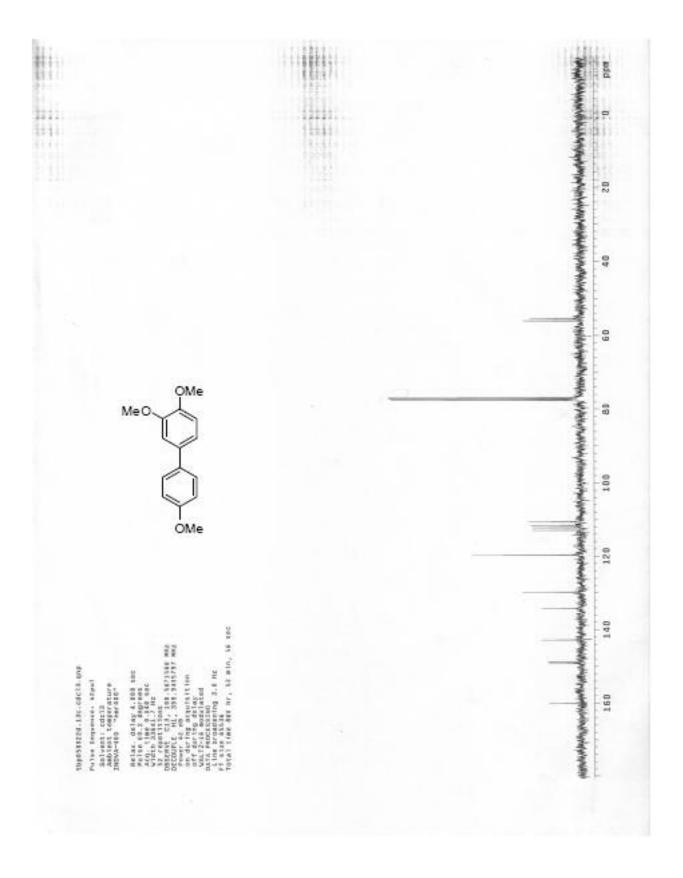
specifications: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 600 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. The reaction mixture was then extracted with water (3 x 10 mL) and Et₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexanes) affording 110 mg of the title compound as a colorless oil (85%). $R_f = 0.60$ (hexanes). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 6.40 (m, 1H), 6.25 (m, 1H), 2.21 (q, *J*=6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.30 (m, 6H), 0.91 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 141.1, 138.8, 133.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 123.9, 122.7, 33.2, 31.9, 31.8, 29.3, 29.1, 22.9, 14.3; HREIMS *m*/z calcd for C₁₅H₁₉F₃ 256.1439; found 256.1442.

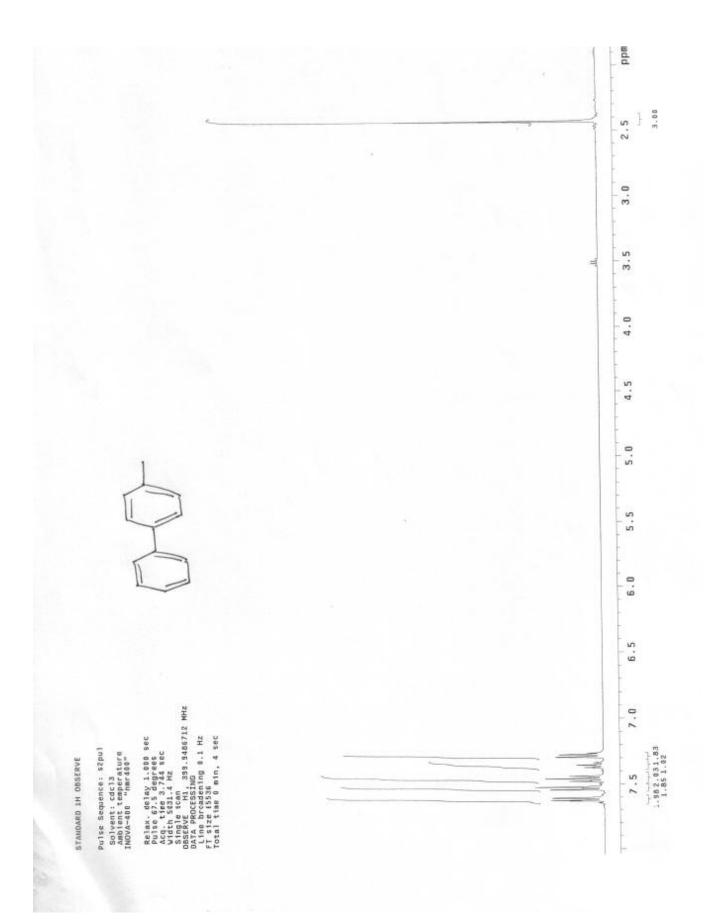
(*E*)-1-Fluoro-4-(oct-1-enyl)benzene (Table 3, entry 2). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: zirconocene (135 mg, 0.50 mmol), octyne (0.075 mL, 0.5 mmol), Ni/C_g (48 mg, 0.040 mmol, 0.1 equiv), PPh₃ (21 mg, 0.08 mmol, 0.2 equiv), *n*-BuLi (30.75 μ L, 0.08 mmol, 0.2 equiv), and 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (0.044 mL, 0.40 mmol). The hydrozirconation was allowed to proceed for 45 min and the reaction was then subjected to microwave irradiation according to the following specifications: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 900 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. The reaction mixture was then extracted with water (3 x 10 mL) and Et₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (3:1 hex/EtOAc), isolating 171 mg of the title compound as a colorless oil (83%). R_f = 0.67 (3:1 hex/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.35 (m, 2H), 6.95 (m, 2H), 6.38 (m, 1H), 6.17 (m, 1H), 2.18 (q, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (m, 8H), 0.91 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 163.2, 134.2, 131.1, 128.6, 127.5 127.4, 115.5, 115.3, 33.2, 31.9, 29.5, 29.1, 22.8, 14.3; HREIMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₉F 206.1471; found 206.1475.

(*E*)-1-(Oct-1-enyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (Table 3, entry 3). Using the standard procedure outlined above, the following amounts of reagents were used: zirconocene (135 mg, 0.50 mmol), octyne (0.075 mL, 0.5 mmol), Ni/C_g (48 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.1 equiv), *n*-BuLi (30.75 μ L, 0.08 mmol, 0.2 equiv), and 1-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (0.068 mL, 0.50 mmol). The hydrozirconation was allowed to proceed for 45 min and the reaction vessel was then placed in the Emrys Optimizer using the following specifications: Temperature: 200 °C, Time: 600 sec., Fixed Hold Time: On, Sample Absorption: Normal, Pre-stirring: 45 sec. The reaction mixture was then extracted with water (3 x 10 mL) and Et₂O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexanes), affording 115 mg of the title compound as a colorless oil (90%). R_f = 0.60 (hexanes). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 6.40 (m, 1H), 6.35 (m, 1H), 2.21 (m, 2H), 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.30 (m, 8H), 0.89 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 138.8, 133.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 122.7, 33.2, 31.9, 31.8, 29.3, 29.1, 22.8, 14.3; HREIMS *m*/z calcd for C₁₅H₁₉F₃ 256.1439; found 256.1442.

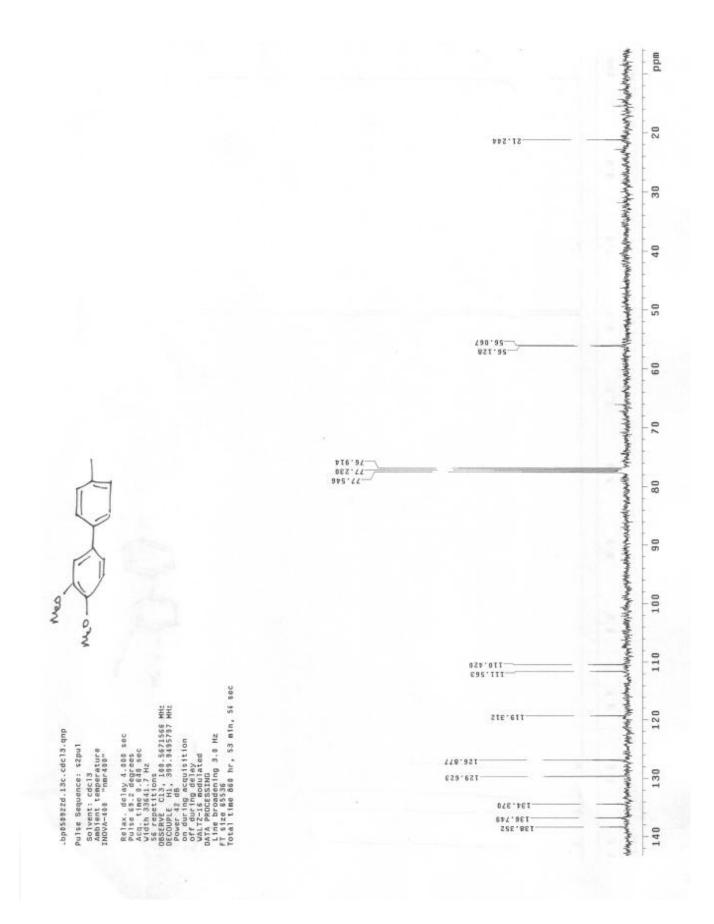
^{1.} Riggleman, S.; Deshong, P.; J. Org. Chem. 2003, 68, 8106.

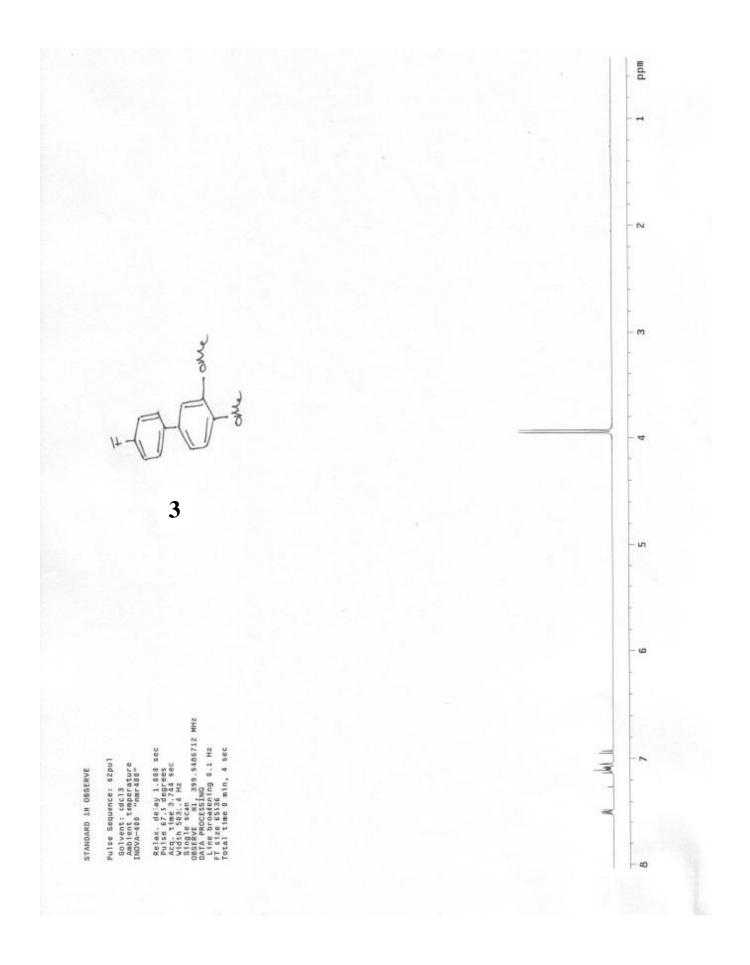


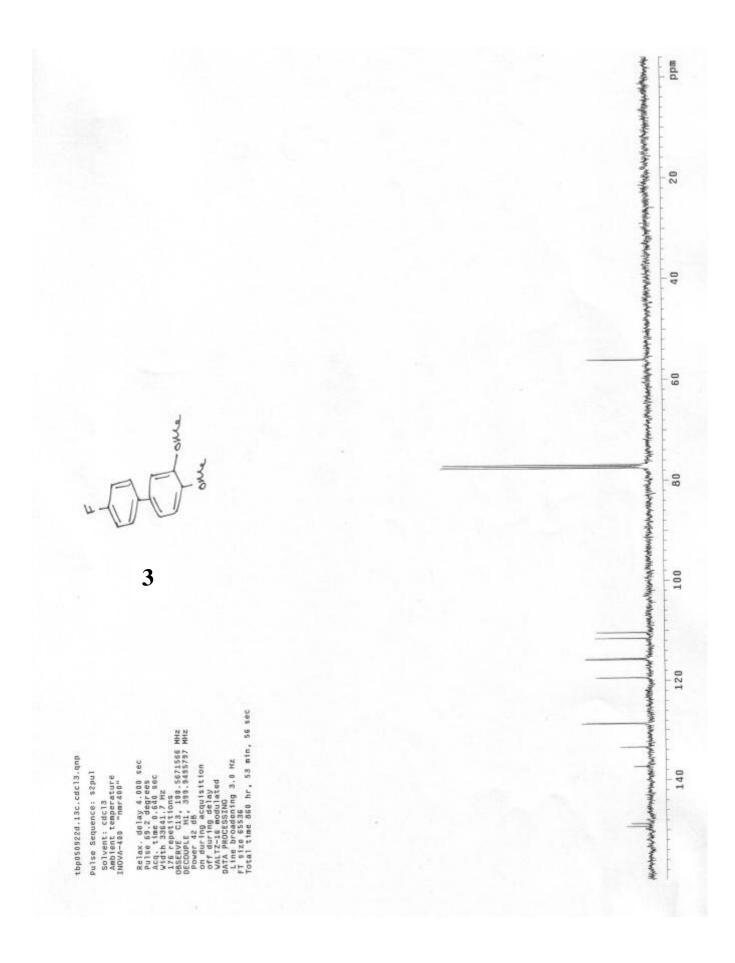


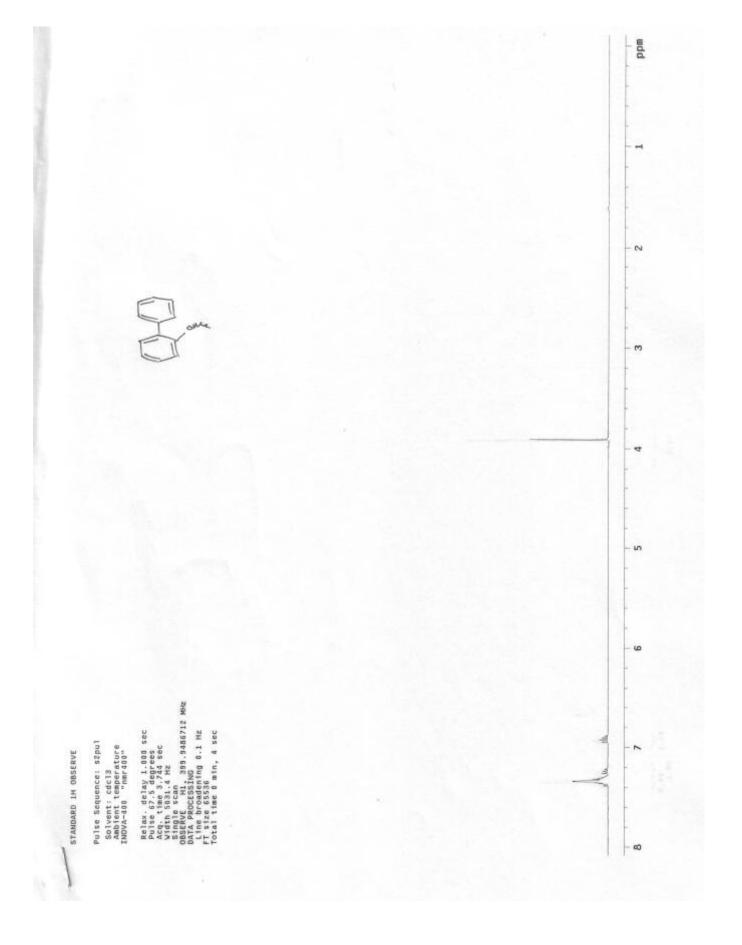


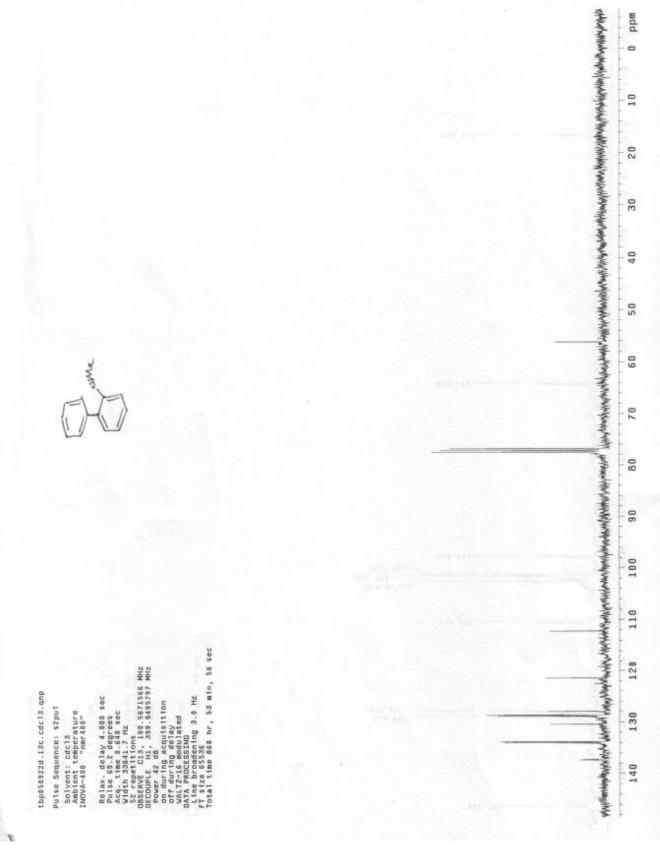








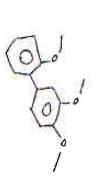




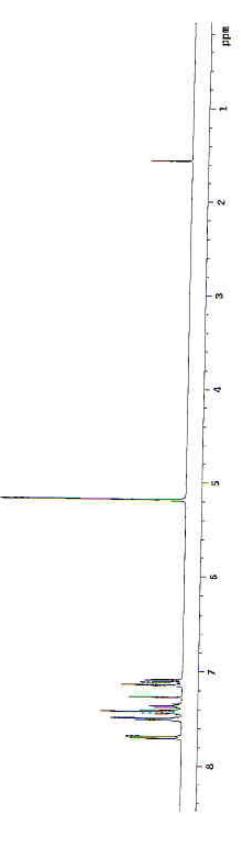


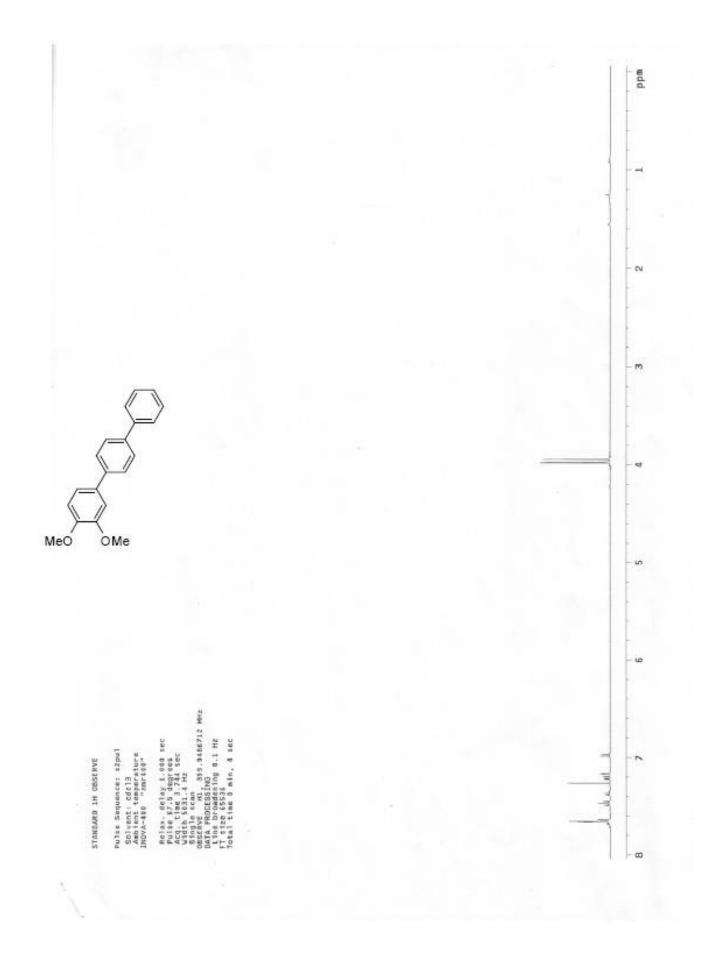
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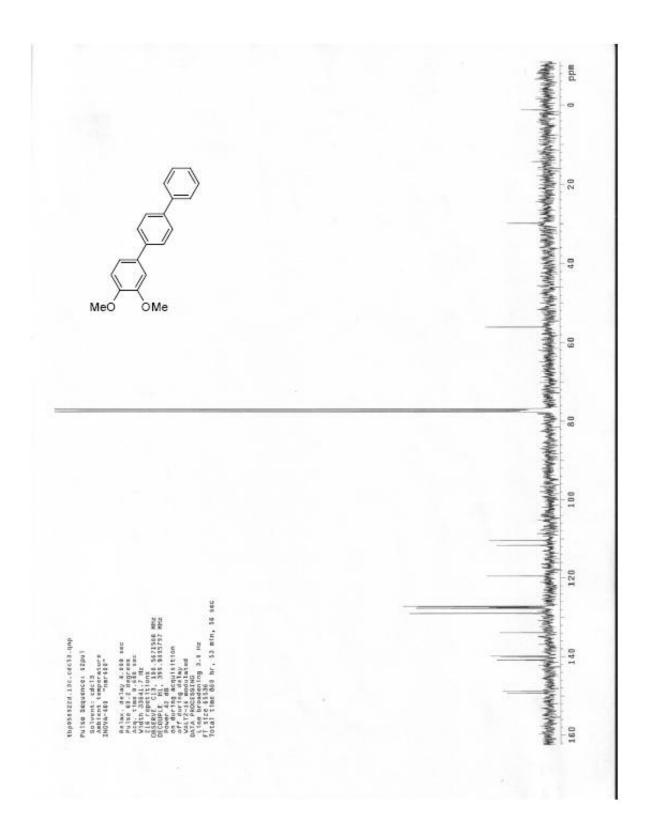
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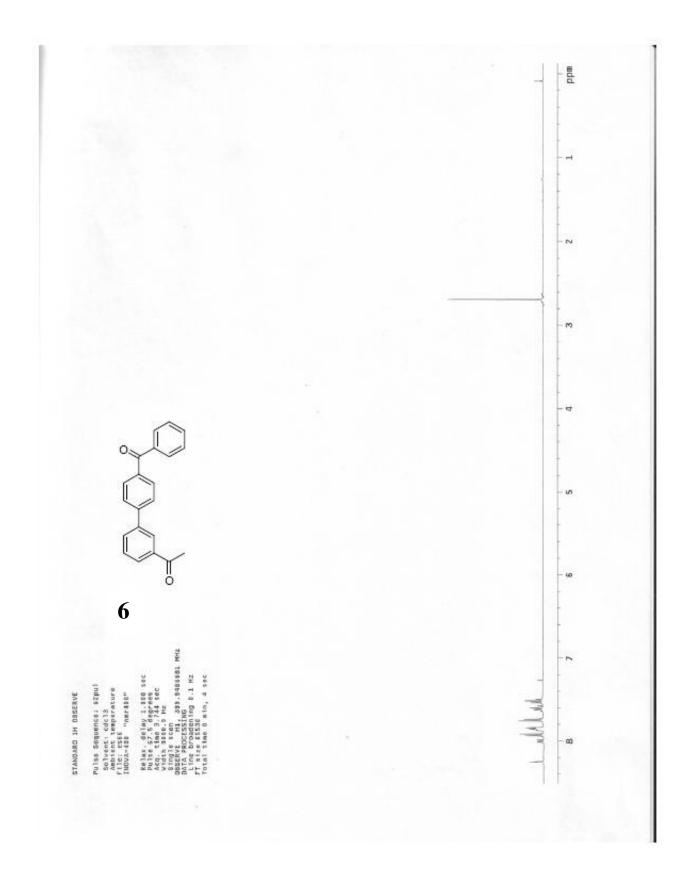


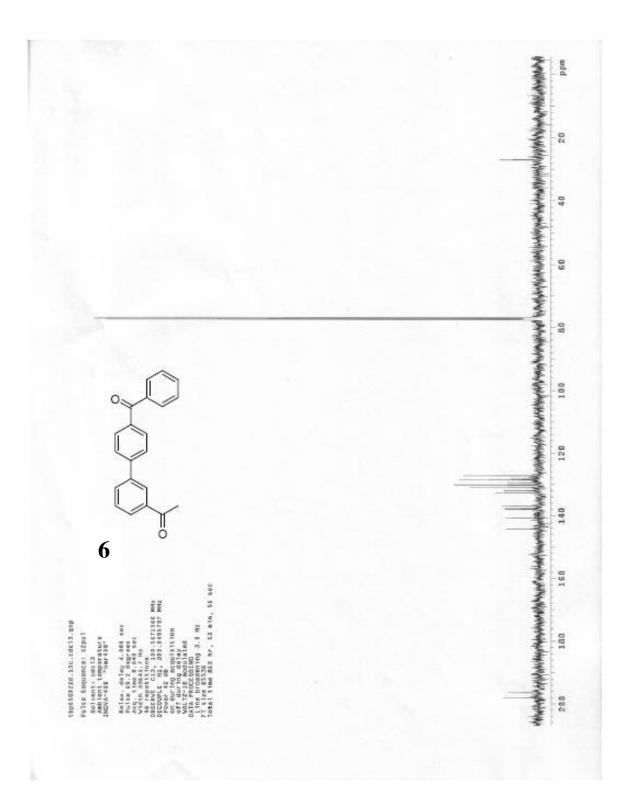
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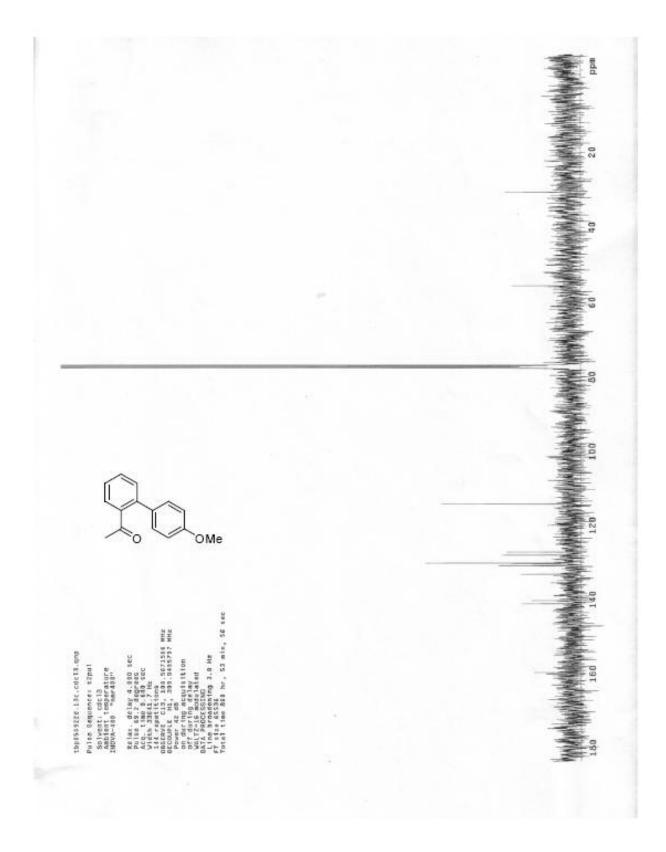


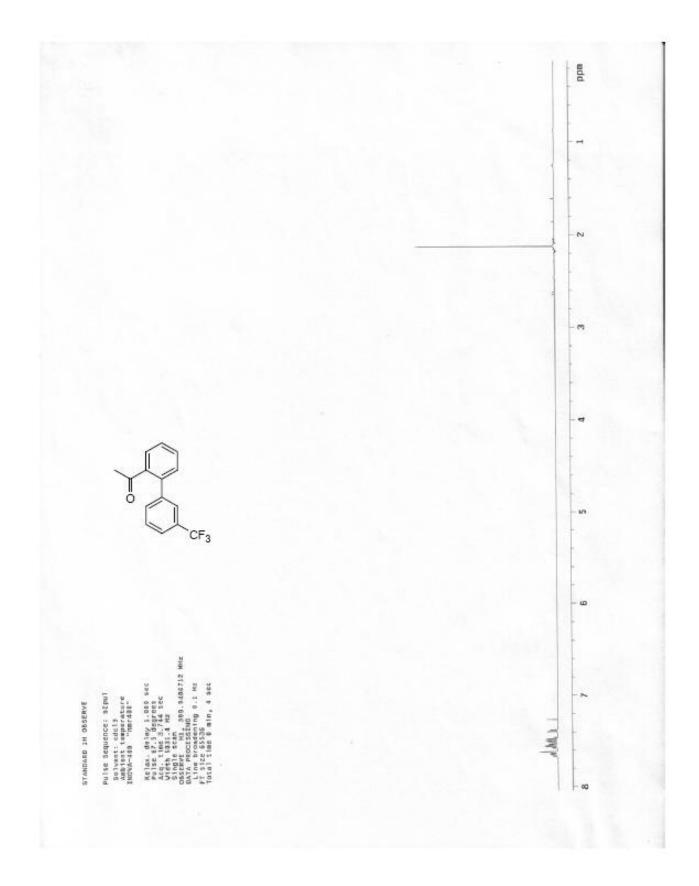


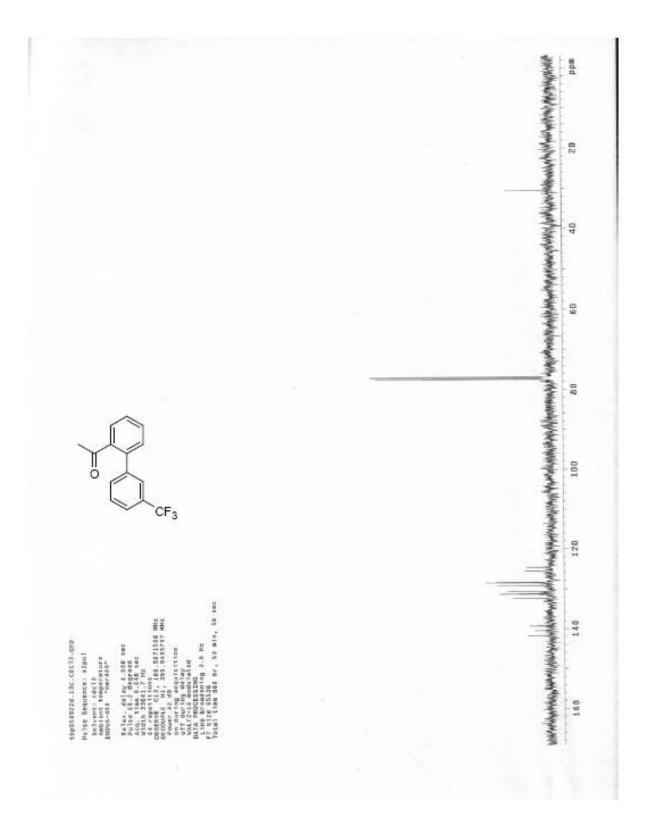


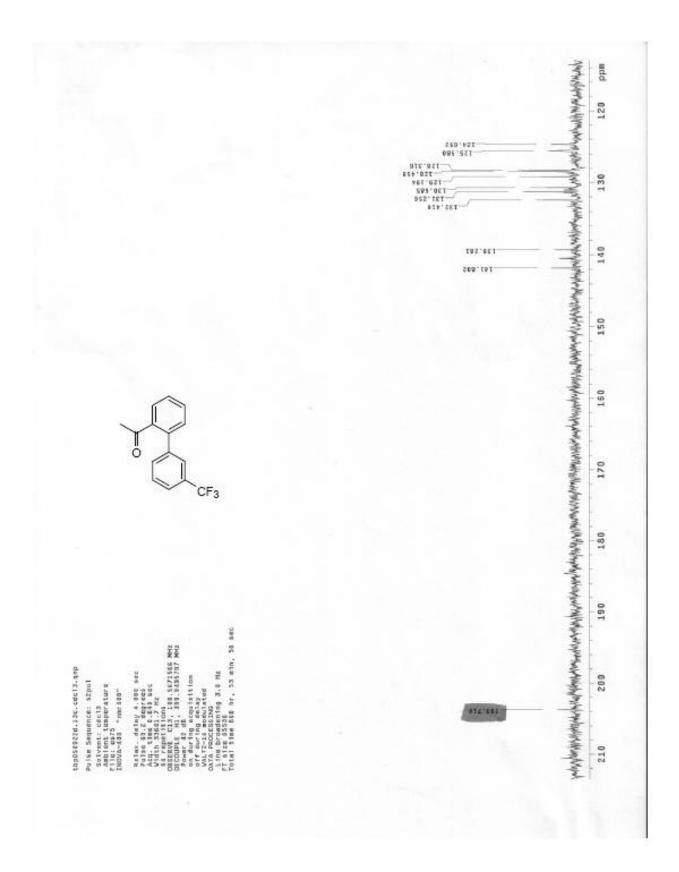


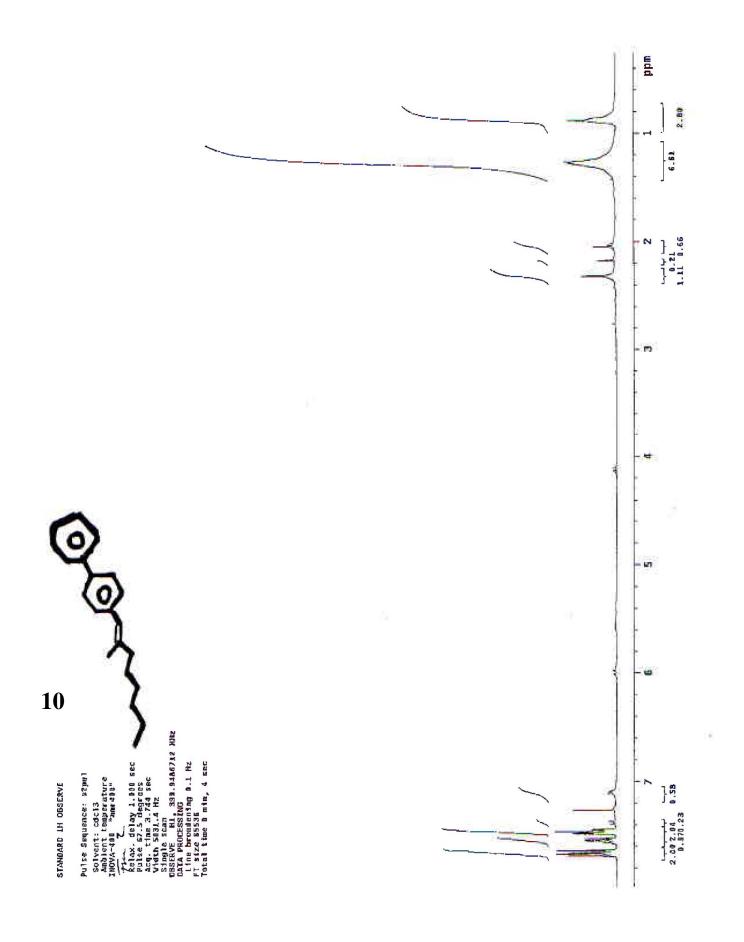


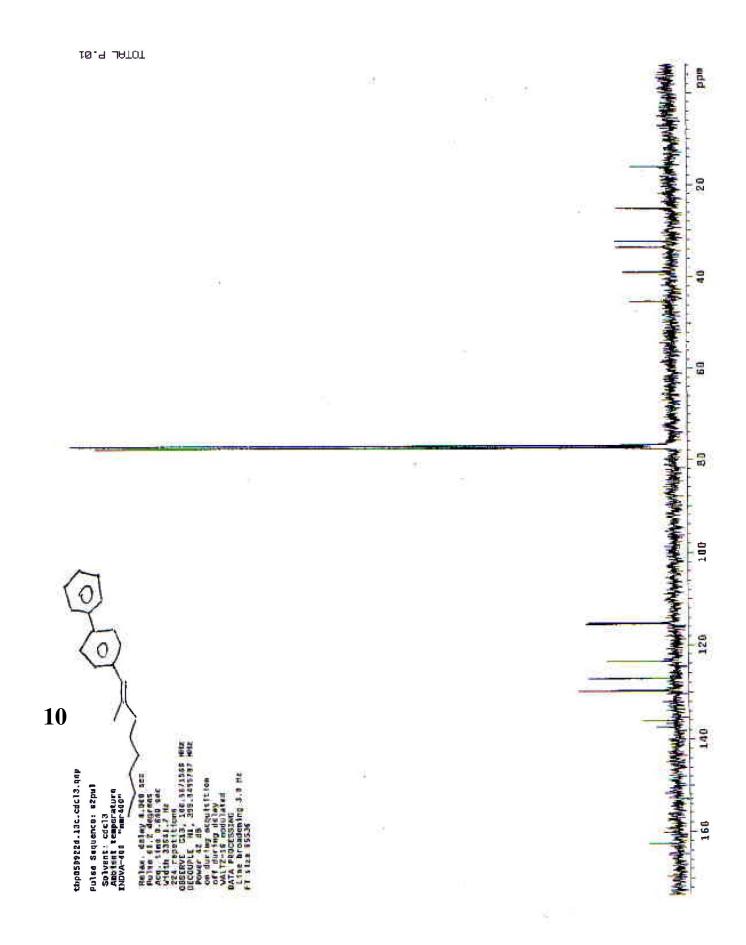


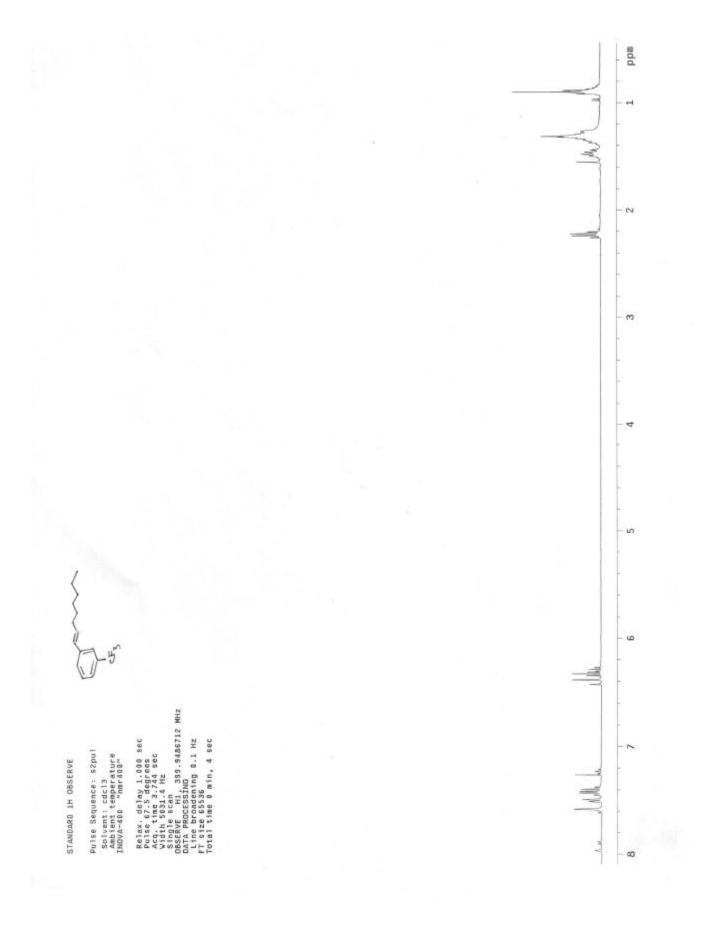












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