

Acid Catalyzed Activation of Peroxyketals: Tunable Radical Initiation at Ambient Temperature and Below

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Supporting Information

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1 Experimental details

1.1 General details

Unless otherwise indicated, all reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial distributors and used as received. For details concerning the peroxyketals, see below.

Solvents (pentane, hexanes, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, methanol) used for column chromatography were of technical grade and used after distillation in a rotary evaporator.

Air sensitive reactions were performed using classical Schlenk line techniques under an atmosphere of argon (*Air Liquide*, >99.5%).

TLC was used to check the reactions for full conversion and was performed on Macherey-Nagel Polygram Sil G/UV₂₅₄ thin layer plates. TLC spots were visualized by UV-light irradiation and/or staining with solutions of KMnO₄ or anisaldehyde.

Flash column chromatography was carried out using Merck Silica Gel 60 (40-63 µm). Yields refer to pure isolated compounds.

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured with Bruker AV 600, AV 500 and AV 400 spectrometers. All chemical shifts are given in ppm downfield relative to TMS and were referenced to the solvent residual peaks.¹ ¹H NMR chemical shifts are designated using the following abbreviations as well as their combinations: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad signal, app. = apparent. For ¹³C NMR data the following abbreviations are used: p = primary (*CH*₃), s = secondary (*CH*₂), t = tertiary (*CH*), q = quaternary (*C*).

High resolution mass spectra were recorded with a Bruker APEX III FTICR-MS or a Finnigan SSQ 7000 quadrupole MS or a Finnigan MAT 95 double focusing sector field MS instrument.

Abbreviations: MsOH: methane sulfonic acid; pTsOH: *paratoluene sulfonic acid*; Me: methyl; tBu: *tert*butyl; Ph: phenyl; DCM: dichloromethane; AcOEt: ethyl acetate; MeOH: methanol; MeCN: acetonitrile; NBS: N-bromosuccinimide; TMS: trimethylsilyl.

1.2 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, working with peroxides

Although we never experienced any problems in the experiments as described in this work, precautions should be taken when working with peroxides. In particular, it should be avoided as much as possible to expose neat peroxides or even the commercial solutions to heat or to mix them undiluted with reactive compounds. Performing such reactions behind a blast shield is recommended. In this report, the peroxides were generally added to the reagents in solvent and the catalyst was added last; we did not encounter any problems using this approach. Pure peroxides were only synthesized on relatively small scale, as described below, and were stored in the dark in a fridge.

1.3 Use of commercial peroxyketals

Peroxide **1a** (Trigonox 22, 50 % solution in mineral oil) was purchased from Acros Organics (catalog n° 361310100)

Peroxide **3a** (Trigonox D, 50% solution in aromatic free mineral spirit) was purchased from Acros Organics (catalog n° 349830100)

Peroxide **4** (Trigonox 301, 41% solution in aromatic free mineral spirit) was purchased from Acros Organics (catalog n° 349940050)

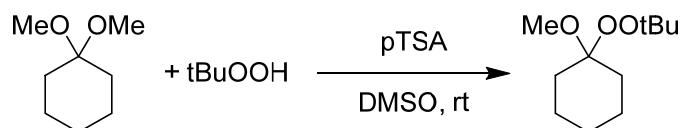
Peroxide **5** (Luperox DHD-9, 32% solution in phthalate-free plasticizer mixture) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (catalog n° 524670)

General note on using the commercial mineral oil solutions

Use of the commercial solutions of peroxides in mineral oil often leads to a biphasic system with the mineral oil floating on top, especially in acetonitrile. This can also happen in other solvents, especially when the peroxide solution is used in larger amounts. In our hands, this never seemed to cause problems: results with the pure peroxide **1a**, synthesized according to a literature procedure,² gave essentially identical results as with the use of the commercial solution of **1a**. Reactions with such biphasic systems were always stirred at high speed (~700 rpm) to ensure optimal mixing, just in case.

2 Synthesis of substrates

2.1 1-(tert-butylperoxy)-1-methoxycyclohexane (**1b**)



Synthesized according to the report of Matsuyama and Minoshima.³

In a 25mL round bottom flask, 1,1-dimethoxycyclohexane (1g, 6.94 mmol, 1eq) was dissolved in DMSO (5 mL) and tBuOOH (5.5M solution in decane, 1 eq) was added followed by *p*TsOH (400 mg, 0.3 eq) and the resulting mixture stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. Pentane (15 ml) was then added, followed by aqueous NaOH (2M, 10 mL). Phases were separated and the organic phase washed with distilled water (2 x 15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The resulting clear oil was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (prewashed with pentane containing 1% NEt₃) and pentane as eluant to afford **1b** as a clear oil (544 mg, 2.69 mmol, 39% yield)

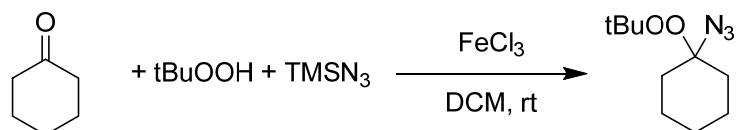
¹H NMR (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 3.15 (s, 3H); 1.63-1.56 (m, 4H); 1.52-1.31 (m, 6H); 1.20 (s, 9H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 102.77 (q); 78.23 (q); 47.36 (CH₃); 31.28 (CH₂); 26.40 (3x CH₃); 25.00 (CH₂); 22.31 (CH₂)

MS (EI): 197 (2); 145 (27); 129 (73); 113 (30); 97 (85); 87 (50); 69 (80); 57 (100); 41 (41)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₁H₂₂O₃Na: 225.1461; found: 225.1460

2.2 1-Azido-1-(tert-butylperoxy)cyclohexane (**1c**)



Synthesized according to the procedure of Ghorai.⁴

In a 25mL round bottom flask, cyclohexanone (103μL, 1 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (10 mL) and cooled to 0°C in an ice bath. tBuOOH (5.5M solution in decane, 182μL, 1 mmol) and TMSN₃ (330μL, 2.5 mmol) was added followed by FeCl₃ (16 mg, 0.1 mmol). The ice bath was removed and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. The mixture was filtered over a pad of silica to remove the iron catalyst and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The resulting clear oil was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes as eluant) to afford **1c** as a clear oil (166 mg, 0.78 mmol, 78% yield)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 1.75 (t, J=5.9 Hz, 4H); 1.60-1.50 (m, 2H); 1.48-1.34 (m, 4H); 1.24 (s, 9H)

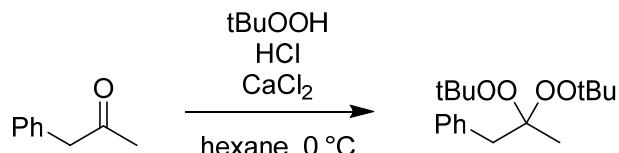
¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 96.54 (C); 79.69 (C); 32.09 (CH₂); 26.03 (CH₃);

24.27 (CH₂); 21.99 (CH₂)

MS (ESI-pos): 409 (100); 320 (76); 236 (M+Na, 32); 213 (32)

HRMS (ESI-pos): calculated for C₁₀H₁₉N₃O₂Na₁: 236.1369; found: 236.1370

2.3 (2,2-bis(tert-butylperoxy)propyl)benzene (3b)



Synthesized according to a reported method.⁵

In a 50 mL round bottom flask, phenyl acetone (1g, 7.46 mmol) was dissolved in hexanes (6 mL) and cooled to 0°C (ice bath). Ground calcium chloride (500 mg) was added followed by tBuOOH (70% solution in water, 4 mL) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (0.5 mL), making sure the temperature does not exceed 5°C. The resulting mixture was vigorously stirred at 0°C for 4 hours. Hexane (30 mL) was added and the phases separated. The organic phase was then successively washed with an aqueous NaOH solution (2M, 15 mL) and distilled water (2x 15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The resulting clear liquid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (prewashed with hexane containing 1% NEt₃) and hexane as eluant to afford **3b** as white solid (1.846 g, 6.23 mmol, 83% yield).

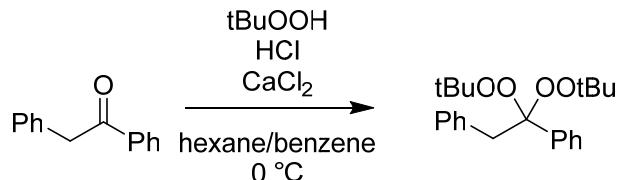
¹H NMR (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 7.31-7.26 (m, 4H); 7.25-7.19 (m, 1H) 3.03 (s, 2H); 1.19 (s, 18H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 136.29 (Ar C); 130.62 (Ar CH); 127.74 (Ar CH); 126.34 (Ar CH); 107.95 (C); 79.13 (C); 40.73 (CH₂); 26.37 (CH₃); 18.99 (CH₃)

MS (EI): 207 (3); 91 (18); 73 (100); 57 (8); 43 (18)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₇H₂₈O₄Na: 319.1880; found: 319.1878

2.4 (1,1-bis(tert-butylperoxy)ethane-1,2-diyldibenzene (3c)



Synthesized in analogy to a reported method.⁵

In a 50 mL round bottom flask, deoxybenzoin (1g, 5.1 mmol) was dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of benzene and hexanes (6 mL in total) and cooled to 0°C (ice bath). Ground calcium chloride (500 mg) was added followed by tBuOOH (70% solution in water, 4 mL) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (0.5 mL), making sure the temperature did

not exceed 5°C. The resulting mixture was vigorously stirred at 0°C for 4 hours. Hexane (30 mL) was added and the phases separated. The organic phase was then successively washed with an aqueous NaOH solution (2M, 15 mL) and distilled water (2x 15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The resulting clear liquid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (prewashed with hexane containing 1% NEt₃) and hexane as eluant to afford **3c** as white solid (217 mg, 0.60 mmol, 11% yield).

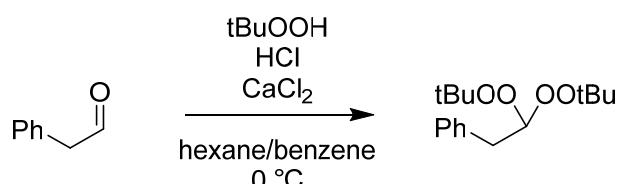
¹H NMR (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 7.24-7.16 (m, 3H); 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H); 7.09-7.03 (m, 3H); 6.84-6.78 (m, 2H); 3.29 (s, 3H); 1.29 (s, 18H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 137.46 (Ar C); 135.08 (Ar C); 130.56 (Ar CH); 127.69 (Ar CH); 127.22 (Ar CH); 127.09 (Ar CH); 126.91 (Ar CH); 126.09 (Ar CH); 108.51 (C); 79.45 (C); 42.10 (CH₂); 26.55 (CH₃)

MS (EI): 269 (4); 197 (3); 105 (34); 91 (19); 73 (100)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₂₂H₃₀O₄Na: 381.2036; found: 381.2034

2.5 (2,2-bis(tert-butylperoxy)ethyl)benzene (3d)



Synthesized according to a reported method.⁵

In a 50 mL round bottom flask, phenylacetaldehyde (1g, 8.33 mmol) was dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of benzene and hexanes (6 mL in total) and cooled to 0°C (ice bath). Ground calcium chloride (500 mg) was added followed by tBuOOH (70% solution in water, 4 mL) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (0.5 mL), making sure the temperature did not exceed 5°C. The resulting mixture was vigorously stirred at 0°C for 4 hours. Hexane (30 mL) was added and the phases separated. The organic phase was then successively washed with an aqueous NaOH solution (2M, 15 mL) and distilled water (2x 15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The resulting clear liquid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (prewashed with hexane containing 1% NEt₃) and hexane as eluant to afford **3d** as clear oil (1.3 g, 4.60 mmol, 55% yield).

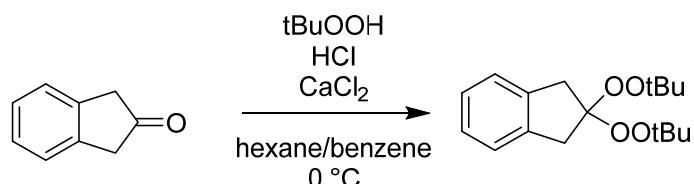
¹H NMR (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 7.35-7.18 (m, 5H); 5.34 (t, J=6.2 Hz, 1H); 2.97 (d, J=6.2 Hz, 2H); 1.10 (s, 18H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 136.23 (Ar q); 129.58 (Ar CH); 128.13 (Ar CH); 126.48 (Ar CH); 108.39 (CH); 80.13 (C); 36.47 (CH₂); 26.07 (3x CH₃)

MS (EI): 193 (3); 91 (31); 73 (100); 57 (11); 43 (8)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₆H₂₆O₄Na: 305.1723; found: 305.1722

2.6 2,2-bis(tert-butylperoxy)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene (6a)

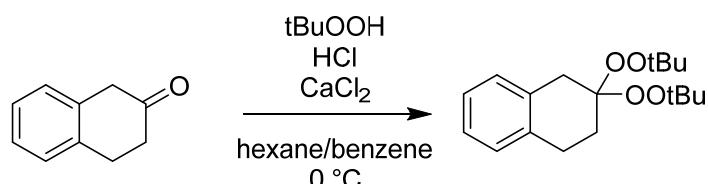


Synthesized according to the method by Colombo et al.⁶

In a 50 mL round bottom flask, 2-indanone (1g, 7.57 mmol) was dissolved in a 6:1 mixture of benzene and hexanes (6 mL in total) and cooled to 0°C (ice bath). Ground calcium chloride (500 mg) was added followed by tBuOOH (70% solution in water, 4 mL) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (0.5 mL), making sure the temperature did not exceed 5°C. The resulting mixture was vigorously stirred at 0°C for 5 hours. Hexane (30 mL) was added and the phases separated. The organic phase was then successively washed with an aqueous NaOH solution (2M, 15 mL) and distilled water (2x 15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The resulting clear liquid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (prewashed with hexane containing 1% NEt₃) and hexane as eluant to afford **6a** as white solid (1.176 g, 4.055 mmol, 53% yield).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 7.22-7.12 (m, 4H); 3.25 (s, 4H); 1.19 (s, 18H)
¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 139.19 (Ar C); 126.57 (Ar CH); 124.55 (Ar CH); 116.45(C); 79.56 (C); 39.63 (CH₂); 26.36 (CH₃)
MS (EI): 205 (4); 104 (16); 73 (100); 57 (5); 43 (7)
HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₇H₂₆O₄Na: 317.1723; found: 317.1721

2.7 2,2-bis(tert-butylperoxy)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (6b)



Synthesized according to the method by Colombo et al.⁶

In a 50 mL round bottom flask, 2-tetralone (1g, 6.85 mmol) was dissolved in a 2:4 mixture of benzene and hexanes (6 mL in total) and cooled to 0°C (ice bath). Ground calcium chloride (500 mg) was added followed by tBuOOH (70% solution in water, 4 mL) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (0.5 mL), making sure the temperature did not exceed 5°C. The resulting mixture was vigorously stirred at 0°C for 5 hours. Hexane (30 mL) was added and the phases separated. The organic phase was then successively washed with an aqueous NaOH solution (2M, 15 mL) and distilled water (2x 15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The resulting clear liquid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (prewashed with hexane containing 1% NEt₃) and hexane as eluant to afford **6b** as white solid (1.176 g, 4.055 mmol, 53% yield).

containing 1% NEt_3) and hexane as eluant to afford **6b** as white solid (1.512 g, 4.909 mmol, 71% yield).

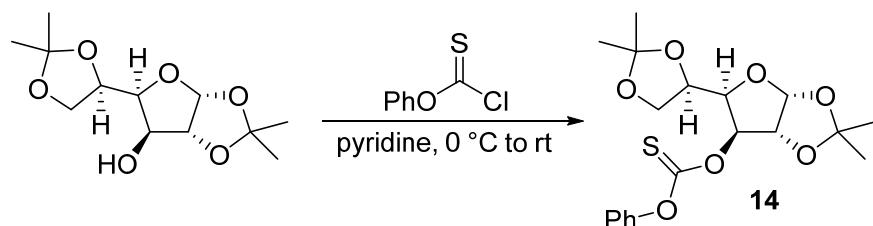
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 7.14-7.03 (m, 4H); 3.07 (s, 2H); 2.80 (t, $J=6.7$ Hz, 2H); 2.05 (t, $J=6.7$ Hz, 2H); 1.17 (s, 18H)

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 135.68 (Ar C); 133.42 (Ar C); 128.79 (Ar CH); 127.94 (Ar CH); 125.76 (Ar CH); 125.68 (Ar CH); 106.78 (C); 79.12 (C); 34.74 (CH_2); 27.62 (CH_2); 26.38 (CH_3); 26.31 (CH_2)

MS (EI): 219 (12); 104 (8); 73 (100)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$: 331.1880; found: 331.1879

2.8 O-((3a*R*,6*S*,6a*R*)-5-((*R*)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)-2,2-dimethyltetrahydrofuro[2,3-d][1,3]dioxol-6-yl) O-phenyl carbonothioate (14)



Synthesized according to the method by Roy et al.,⁷ in 94% yield as a colorless solid.

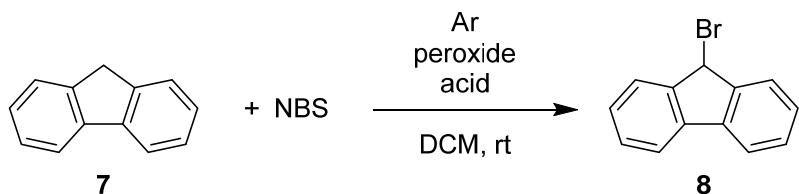
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 7.51-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 5.99(d, $\text{Hz}=1.96$, 1H), 5.48(d, $\text{Hz}=1.50$, 1H), 4.85(d, $\text{Hz}=1.96$, 1H), 4.28-4.20 (m, 2H), 4.05-4.00 (m, 1H), 3.86-3.84 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H)

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 193.15, 152.80, 129.82, 126.87, 121.63, 111.52, 108.54, 104.57, 85.10, 82.21, 78.72, 71.85, 65.89, 26.56, 26.28, 25.99, 29.10

HRMS (ESIpos): calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_7\text{SNa}$: 419.1135; found: 419.1134

3 Wohl-Ziegler bromination of fluorene.

3.1 Reaction at room temperature.



In an oven-dried Schlenk flask was fluorene **7** (83 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq), *N*-bromosuccinimide (98 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 eq) were dissolved in DCM (5 mL). The desired peroxide (0.025 mmol, 5 mol %) was introduced and the resulting mixture was degassed by the freeze-pump-thaw method (3 cycles). After warming to room temperature, the acid catalyst was added under a stream of argon and after the desired reaction time, the reaction mixture was quenched with NEt₃ (250 μ L), CH₂Br₂ (0.5 mmol) added as a standard and an aliquot taken for direct ¹H NMR analysis. Yield was determined by integrating a reference peak of **8** (5.9 ppm, s, 1H; determined from an authentic sample) relative to the peak of CH₂Br₂.

Results are presented in table 1 of the main text.

3.2 Reaction at cryogenic temperatures.

Using the same experimental procedure, the reaction was evaluated at low temperature (Table S1).

Table S1: Wohl-Ziegler bromination of fluorene at cryogenic temperatures.

entry	temp. (°C)	peroxide	MsOH	additive	yield (%)
1	0	1a (5%)	5 mol %	/	30%
2	-10	1a (5%)	5 mol %	/	trace
3	-10	1a (1 equiv)	1 equiv	/	60
4	-10	<i>t</i> BuOOH (2 equiv)	1 equiv	cyclohexanone (1 equiv)	17
5	-10	<i>t</i> BuOOH (2 equiv)	1 equiv	/	0
6	-20	1a (1 equiv)	1 equiv	/	trace
7	-20	6b (1 equiv)	1 equiv	/	25
8	-30	6b (1 equiv)	1 equiv	/	trace

First the reaction was performed under the same reaction conditions than at room temperature (i.e. 5 mol % **1a** and MsOH) to give 30% of **8** after 24 hours (entry 1). Lowering the temperature to -10°C, only trace amount of **8** could be detected (entry 2). Using stoichiometric amounts of **1a** and MsOH, a satisfying 60% yield of **2** was obtained after 24 hours (entry 3). This was directly compared with our previous method of generating radicals by using the ketone (cyclohexanone in this case) and *t*BuOOH. Although **8** was still obtained in 17% yield (entry 4), it was considerably less efficient than to use **1a** preformed (17% Vs 60%). A control experiment was

performed excluding cyclohexanone and no trace of **8** was detected after 24 hours, excluding any background reaction from the combination of tBuOOH and MsOH (entry 5). Lowering the temperature further to -20°C led to only traces of **2** after 24 hours (entry 6). Using **6b**, more reactive than **1a**, 25% of **8** was formed at -20°C (entry 7) but only traces if the temperature was further lowered to -30°C (entry 8).

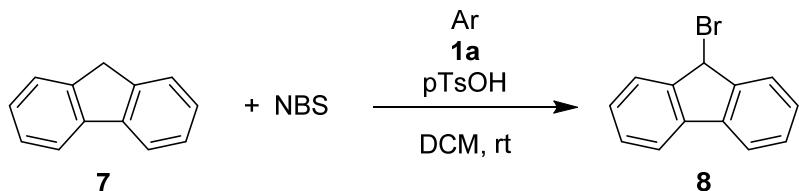
Note: Care was taken to exclude light in order to avoid potential photochemical initiation. The reactions were carried out in a fume hood with the lights switched off and the Schlenk flask was wrapped in aluminium foil after the reaction mixture was degassed and warmed to the desired temperature.



Figure S1: picture of the experimental set-up used. Left stirring plate: reaction performed at cryogenic temperature using a cryostat and an ethanol bath. Right stirring plate: reaction performed at room temperature (22-23°C) using an oil bath as temperature regulator.

4 Synthesis of products.

4.1 9-bromo-9H-fluorene (8)



In an oven-dried Schlenk flask was fluorene **7** (166 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq), N-bromosuccinimide (195 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.1 eq) were dissolved in DCM (10 mL). **1a** (50% solution, 52 mg, 0.05 mmol) was introduced and the resulting mixture was degassed by the freeze-pump-thaw method (3 cycles). After warming to room temperature, *para*-toluenesulfonic acid (9.5 mg; 0.05 mmol) was added under a stream of argon and after three hours, a small amount of silica was added, the solvent was removed under vacuo and the resulting white powder was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (Hex/AcOEt 99:1 as eluent) to afford **2** as a white solid (237mg, 96% yield). Analytical data was in accordance with reported values.⁸

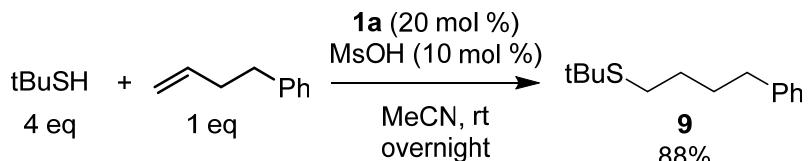
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.68 (br t, J=7.5 Hz, 4H); 7.41 (td, J=7.5 and 1 Hz; 2H); 7.35 (td, J=7.5 and 1 Hz, 2H); 6.01 (s, 1H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 144.17 (Ar C); 139.80 (Ar C); 129.24 (Ar CH); 128.11 (Ar CH); 126.38 (Ar CH); 120.30 (Ar CH); 46.08 (CH)

MS (EI): 246 (7); 244 (7); 165 (100)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₃H₉Br: 243.9888; found: 243.9889

4.2 tert-butyl(4-phenylbutyl)sulfane (9)



In an oven dried Schlenk tube, tBuSH (225 μ L, 2 mmol), 4-phenyl butane (75 μ L, 0.5 mmol) and **1a** (50% solution, 52 mg, 0.1 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL). The resulting mixture was degassed (Freeze-Pump-Thaw technique, 3 cycles), brought to room temperature and methane sulfonic acid (3.5 μ L, 0.05 mmol) was added and the mixture left to react overnight. The mixture was transferred to an extraction funnel, diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with NaOH (2M, 2x 10 mL) and distilled water (2x 10 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, evaporated to dryness and the resulting oil was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (Hex/AcOEt 99:1 as eluent) to afford **9** as a clear oil (98mg, 88% yield)

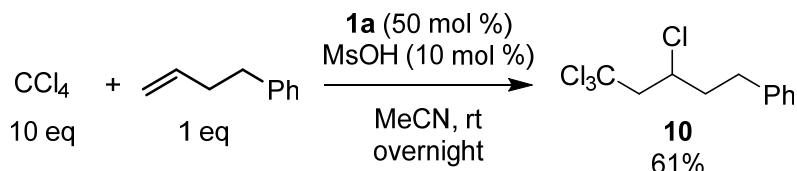
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H); 7.21-7.15 (m, 2H); 2.64 (t, J=7.6 Hz, 2H); 2.55 (t, J=7.4 Hz, 2H); 1.78-1.70 (m, 2H); 1.67-1.59 (m, 2H); 1.32 (s, 9H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 142.30 (Ar C); 128.43 (Ar CH); 128.31 (Ar CH); 125.74 (Ar CH); 41.83 (C); 35.60 (CH₂); 31.01 (CH₃); 29.46 (CH₂); 29.44 (CH₂); 28.15 (CH₂)

MS (EI): 222 (32); 166 (29); 165 (33); 164 (21); 131 (25); 104 (36); 91 (63); 87 (22); 57 (100)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₄H₂₂S: 222.1442; found: 222.1444

4.3 (3,5,5,5-tetrachloropentyl)benzene (10)



In an oven dried Schlenk tube, CCl₄ (962 μL, 10 mmol), 4-phenyl butane (150 μL, 1 mmol) and **1a** (50% solution, 260 mg, 0.5 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (1 mL). The resulting mixture was degassed (Freeze-Pump-Thaw technique, 3 cycles), brought to room temperature and methane sulfonic acid (7 μL, 0.1 mmol) was added and the mixture left to react overnight. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the resulting oil was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane as eluent) to afford **10** as a clear oil (172 mg, 60% yield). Analytical data of ¹³C-NMR was in accordance with reported values.⁹

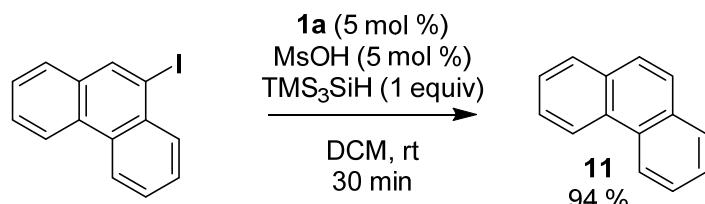
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.25-7.19 (m, 2 H); 7.16-7.11 (m, 3 H); 4.20-4.14 (m, 1H); 3.23 (dd, J=5.5 and 15.6 Hz, 1H); 3.06 (dd, J=4.6 and 15.6 Hz, 1H); 2.86 (ddd, J=4.8, 9.6 and 14 Hz, 1H); 2.72 (ddd, J=6.8, 9.5 and 13.8 Hz, 1H); 2.24-2.16 (m, 1H); 2.10-2.01 (m, 1H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 140.29 (Ar C); 128.62 (Ar CH); 128.52 (Ar CH); 126.35 (Ar CH); 96.76 (C); 62.26 (CH₂); 57.11 (CH); 40.57 (CH₂); 32.33 (CH₂)

MS (EI): 286 (10); 284 (8); 92 (60); 91 (100); 65 (11)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₁H₁₂Cl₄: 283.9693; found: 283.9695

4.4 Phenanthrene (11)



In an oven dried Schlenk tube, 9-iodophenanthrene (304 mg, 1 mmol), was dissolved in dichloromethane (10 mL). The resulting solution was degassed (Freeze-Pump-Thaw technique, 3 cycles), brought to room temperature and **1a** (50% solution, 26 mg, 0.05 mmol) and TMS₃SiH (308 μL, 1 mmol) were added. The mixture was degassed once more and after being brought back to room temperature, methane sulfonic acid (3.5 μL, 0.05 mmol) was added and the mixture left to react for 30

minutes. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the resulting slightly yellow oil was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane as eluent) to afford **11** as a white solid (168 mg, 94% yield).

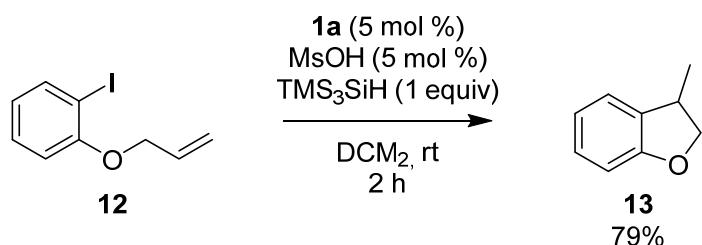
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.75 (br d, J=8.1 Hz, 2H); 7.96 (dd, J=1 and 7.8 Hz, 2H); 7.80 (s, 2H); 7.74-7.64 (m, 4H);

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 132.16 (C); 130.41 (C); 128.68 (CH); 127.03 (CH); 126.67 (CH); 122.78 (CH)

MS (EI): 178 (100)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₄H₁₀: 178.0783; found: 178.0781

4.5 3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (**13**)



Note: **12** was synthesized according to a reported procedure.¹⁰

In an oven dried Schlenk tube, **12** (259 mg, 1 mmol), was dissolved in dichloromethane (10 mL). The resulting solution was degassed (Freeze-Pump-Thaw technique, 3 cycles), brought to room temperature and **1a** (50% solution, 26 mg, 0.05 mmol) and TMS₃SiH (308 μL, 1 mmol) were added. The mixture was degassed once more and after being brought back to room temperature, methane sulfonic acid (3.5 μL, 0.05 mmol) was added and the mixture left to react for 2 hours. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the resulting slightly yellow oil was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (pentane as eluent) to afford **13** as a clear oil (106 mg, 79% yield). Analytical data was in accordance with reported values.¹¹

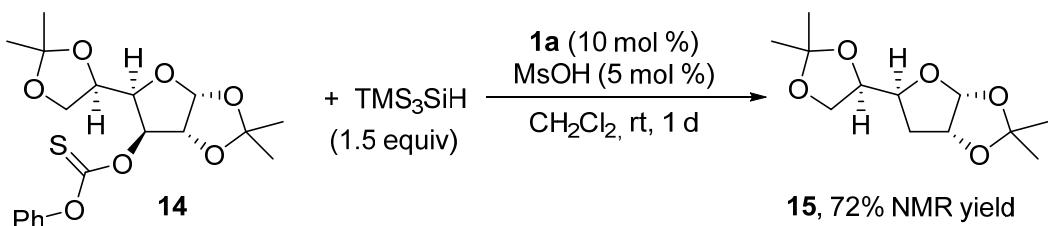
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.16 (br d, J=7.5 Hz, 1H); 7.12 (br t, J=7.8 Hz, 1H); 6.88 (td, J=7.5 and 1 Hz, 1H); 6.79 (br d, H=7.8 Hz, 1H); 4.68 (t, J=8.8 Hz, 1H); 4.07 (dd, J=7.5 and 8.8 Hz, 1H); 3.55 (m, 1H); 1.34 (d, J=7 Hz, 3H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 159.82 (Ar C); 132.38 (Ar C); 128.11 (Ar CH); 123.93 (Ar CH); 120.55 (Ar CH); 109.58 (Ar CH); 78.47 (CH₂); 36.60 (CH); 19.33 (CH₃)

MS (EI): 134 (72); 119 (100); 91 (94)

HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₉H₁₀ONa: 157.0624; found: 157.0624

4.6 Barton-McCombie deoxygenation



Representative procedure, used for initial isolation and characterization of **15**, on the basis of a reported method:¹²

In an oven dried Schlenk tube, **14** (198.23 mg, 0.5 mmol), was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL). The resulting solution was degassed (Freeze-Pump-Thaw technique, 3 cycles), brought to room temperature and **1a** (50% solution, 13 mg, 0.05 mmol) and TMS₃SiH (153.49 μL, 1 mmol) were added. The mixture was degassed once more and after being brought back to room temperature, methane sulfonic acid (1.62 μL, 0.05 mmol) was added and the mixture left to react for 2 days. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the resulting slightly yellow oil was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (pentane as eluent) to afford 13 3aR,6aR)-5-((R)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)-2,2-dimethyltetrahydrofuro[2,3-d][1,3]dioxole (**15**) as a clear oil (34.2 mg, 28% yield). The analytical data was in accordance with literature data.¹²

¹H NMR (500 MHz, d6-DMSO): 5.74 (d, ³J = 1.83 Hz, 1H), 4.75-4.72 (m, 1H), 4.07-3.98 (m, 3H), 3.69-3.65 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H)

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d6-DMSO): 110.23, 108.61, 105.07, 79.85, 77.92, 76.18, 66.09, 34.64, 26.63, 26.30, 26.05, 25.16

HRMS (ESIpos): calculated for C₁₂H₂₀O₅Na: 267.1203; found: 267.1200

The reaction conditions were then varied to improve the product yield and study the effect of acid and peroxide loading. For this purpose, 1.0 equivalents (relative to **14**) of internal standard 1,4-dimethoxybenzene were added to the reaction before addition of dichloromethane. Aliquots of 0.1 mL were then taken at the time indicated in the table below, mixed with 0.4 mL of DMSO-d₆, which was found to effectively quench the reaction, and analyzed by ¹H-NMR.

entry	TMS ₃ SiH	peroxide	MsOH	solvent	yield SM/P (%) ^a	time
1a	1 equiv	1a (5%)	5 mol %	DCM	61.3 / 32.4	2 h
1b	1 equiv	1a (5%)	5 mol %	DCM	54.8 / 42.9	1 d
2a	1 equiv	1a (10%)	10 mol %	DCM	52.5 / 41.1	2 h
2b	1 equiv	1a (10%)	10 mol %	DCM	53.4 / 15.8	1 d
3	1 equiv	1a (5%)	5 mol %	toluene	-	1 d
4	1 equiv	1a (5%)	5 mol %	acetonitrile	-	1 d
5a	1 equiv	1a (10%)	5 mol %	DCM	57.7 / 43.5	2 h
5b	1 equiv	1a (10%)	5 mol %	DCM	54.9 / 45.1	1 d
6a	1.5 equiv	1a (10%)	5 mol %	DCM	27.6 / 72.1	1 d
6b	1.5 equiv	1a (10%)	5 mol %	DCM	19.5 / 66.6	2 d

^a NMR yields relative to internal standard 1,4-dimethoxybenzene.

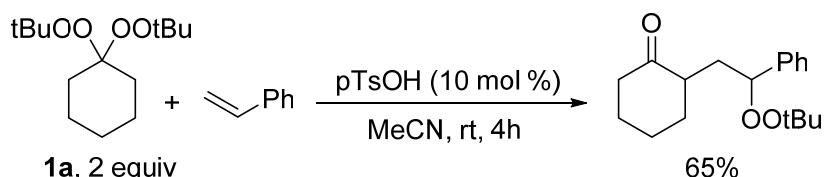
Common entry numbers indicate a single experiment from which two samples (a, b) were taken for analysis.

An increased amount of acid catalyst doesn't increase conversion of substrate significantly while it enhances decomposition of the product over time (cf. entries 1a, 1b and entries 2a, 2b). Similarly, the product yield goes down if the reaction is allowed to take place for too long, most likely by acid-catalyzed cleavage of the ketal groups (entries 6a, 6b).

An increase of the amount of peroxide initiator leads to a small increase in conversion and product yield (cf. entries 1a and 5a). Excess of silane (1.5 equiv vs. 1.0 equiv) leads to an increase of conversion as well as of product yield (cf. entries 5a and 6a).

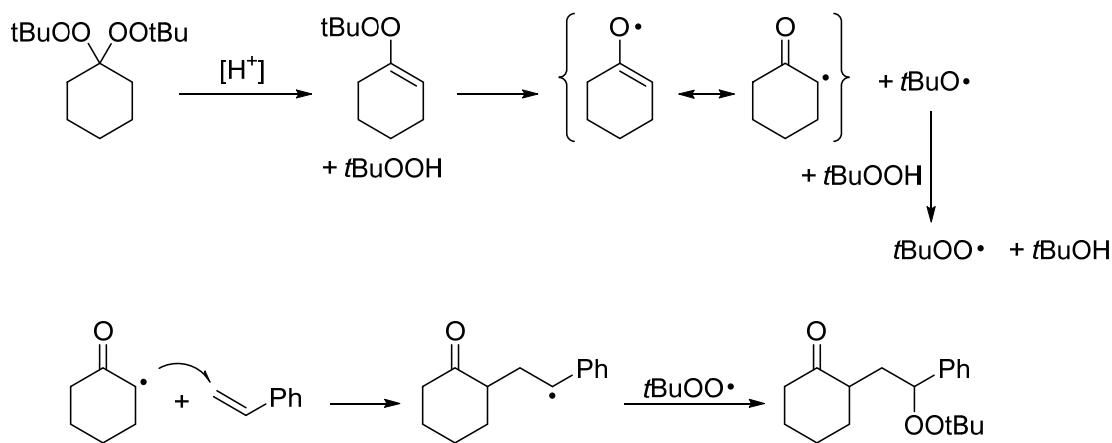
5 Trapping of generated radicals with styrene

In order to support the presumed structure of the radicals generated, the acid-mediated decomposition of perketal **1a** was performed in the presence of styrene:



The resulting γ -peroxyketone (2-(2-(tert-butylperoxy)-2-phenylethyl)cyclohexan-1-one) was received in 65% isolated yield after 4 hours of reaction time at ambient temperature. The product was found to be identical with the one previously synthesized from cyclohexanone, *tert*-butylhydroperoxide and styrene,¹³ according to the characterization data. In contrast to this three-component reaction, the reaction time was shorter and the required reaction temperature lower.

This supports the proposed *in situ* generation of alkenyl peroxides and the corresponding radicals generated thereof by homolytic O-O bond cleavage. The formation of the peroxy radical is explained by a fast hydrogen atom transfer between the initially formed oxyl radical and *tert*-butylhydroperoxide:¹³⁻¹⁴



Synthetic procedure:

In an oven dried Schlenk tube, **1a** (50% solution, 520 mg, 1 mmol) and styrene (58 μ L, 0.5 mmol) were dissolved in acetonitrile (2 mL). The resulting solution was degassed (Freeze-Pump-Thaw technique, 3 cycles), brought to room temperature and paratoluene sulfonic acid (9.5 mg, 0.05 mmol) was added and the mixture left to react for 2 hours. The mixture was diluted, a small amount of silica added and evaporated to dryness and the resulting slightly yellow powder was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/AcOEt 95/5 as eluent) to afford 2-(2-(tert-butylperoxy)-2-phenylethyl)cyclohexan-1-one as a clear oil (94 mg, 65% yield). Analytical data was found to be consistent with previously reported data.¹³

¹H NMR: (CDCl_3 ; 500 MHz, 2 diastereoisomers): 7.42-7.22 (m, 5H); 5.02-4.96 (m, 1H); 2.62-2.53 (m, 1H, major); 2.51-2.43 (m, 1H, minor); 2.44-2.38 (m, 1H); 2.38-2.14 (m, 3H); 2.12-2.01 (m, 1H); 1.91-1.81 (m, 1H); 1.74-1.57 (m, 3H); 1.53-1.35 (m, 2H); 1.21 (s, 9H, minor); 1.18 (s, 9H, major)

¹³C NMR: (CDCl₃; 125 MHz; 2 diastereoisomers): 212.63 (C); 141.83 (Ar q, major); 141.48 (Ar q, minor); 128.21 (Ar CH, major); 128.17 (Ar CH, minor); 127.63 (Ar CH, minor); 127.53 (Ar CH; major); 126.94 (Ar CH, major); 126.72 (Ar CH; minor); 84.01 (CH, major); 83.05 (CH, minor); 80.08 (C); 47.65 (CH, minor); 47.26 (CH, major); 42.28 (CH₂, major); 42.11 (CH₂, minor); 35.60 (CH₂, minor); 35.06 (CH₂, major); 34.93 (CH₂, major); 34.41 (CH₂, minor); 28.26 (CH₂, minor); 28.08 (CH₂, major); 26.50 (3x CH₃, major); 26.49 (3x CH₃, minor); 25.33 (CH₂, major); 25.00 (CH₂, minor)

MS (EI): 217 (3.8); 201 (100); 105 (16); 91 (26)

HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₁₈H₂₆O₃Na]⁺ (M+Na⁺): 313.1774; found: 313.1775

6 NMR-spectra

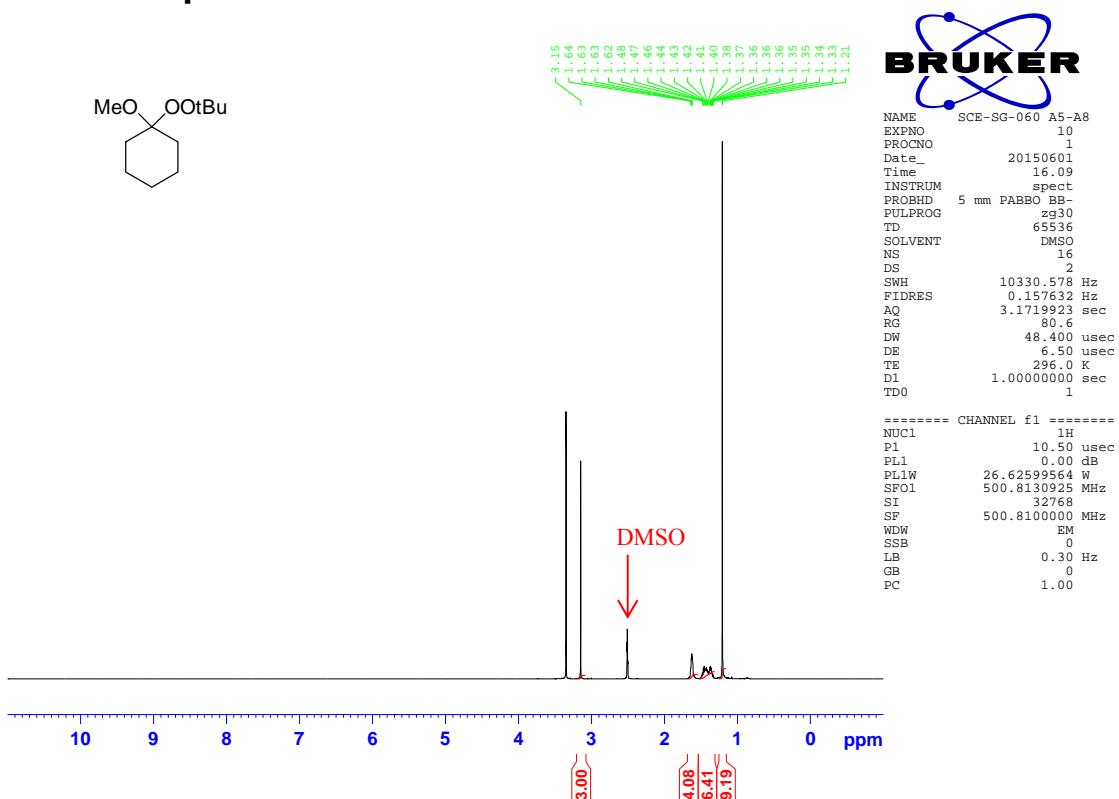


Figure S2: ^1H -NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz) of compound 1b.

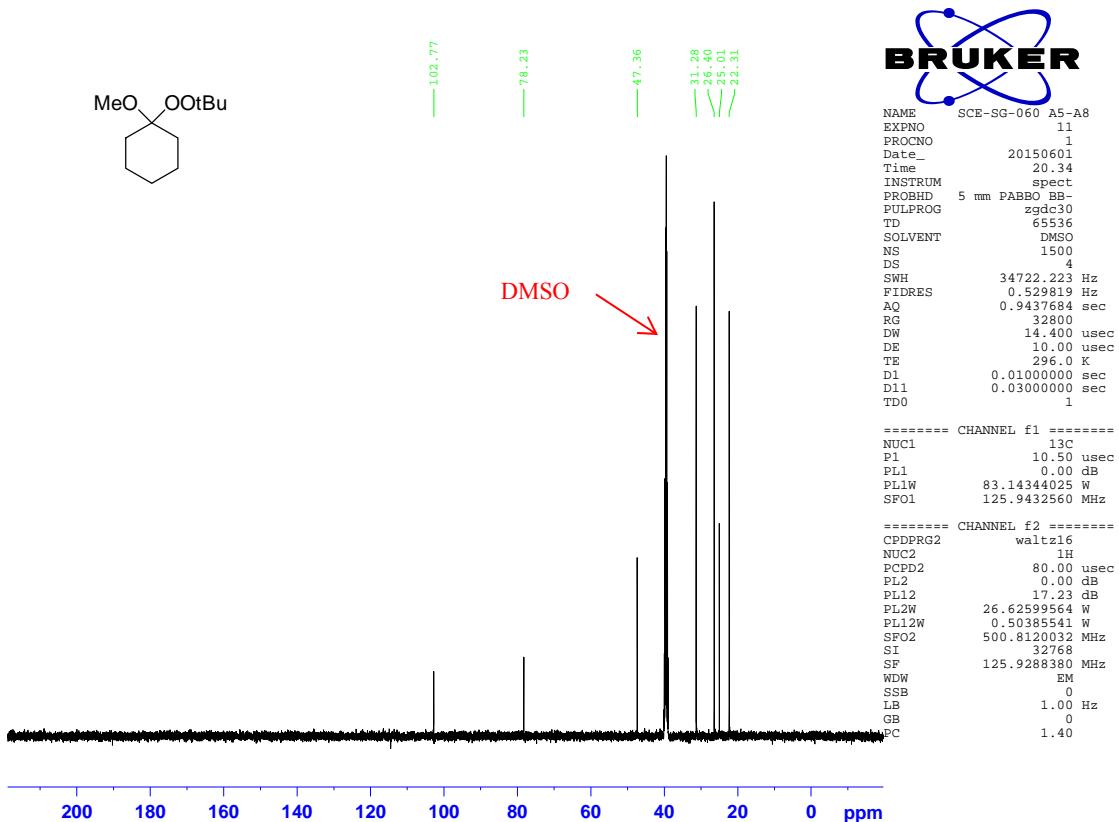


Figure S3: ^{13}C -NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz) of compound 1b.

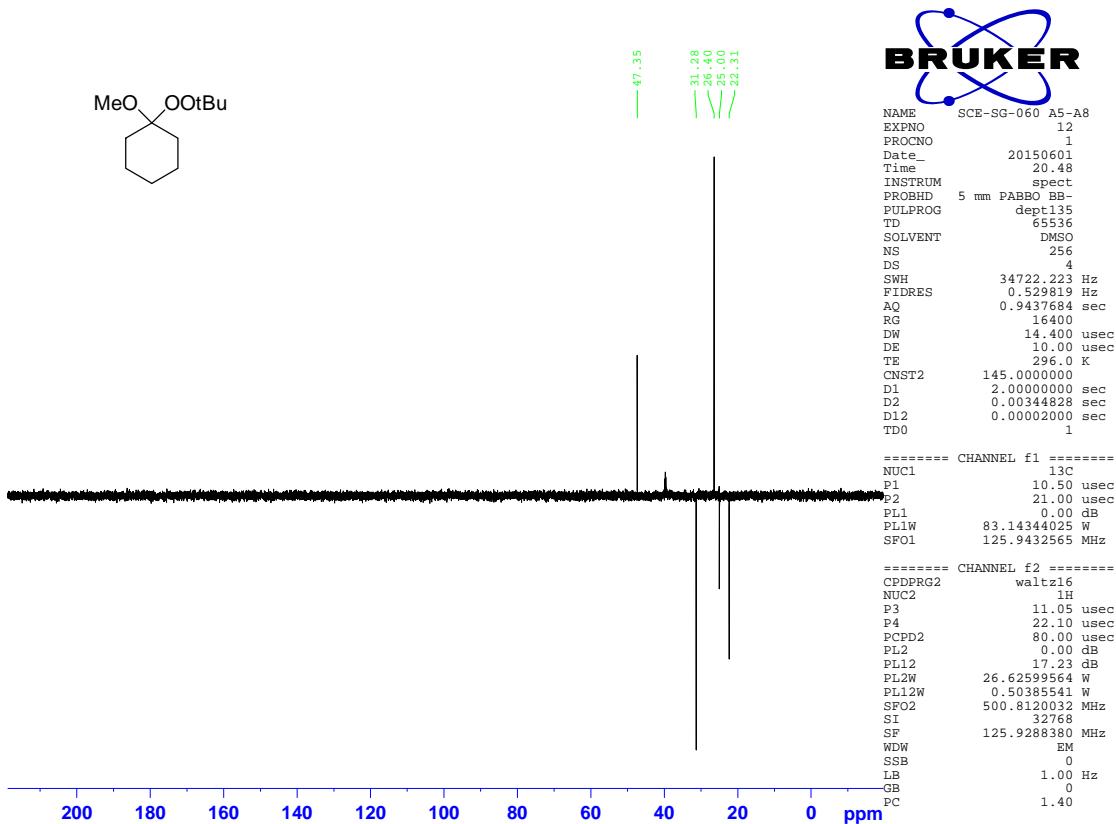


Figure S4: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 1b.

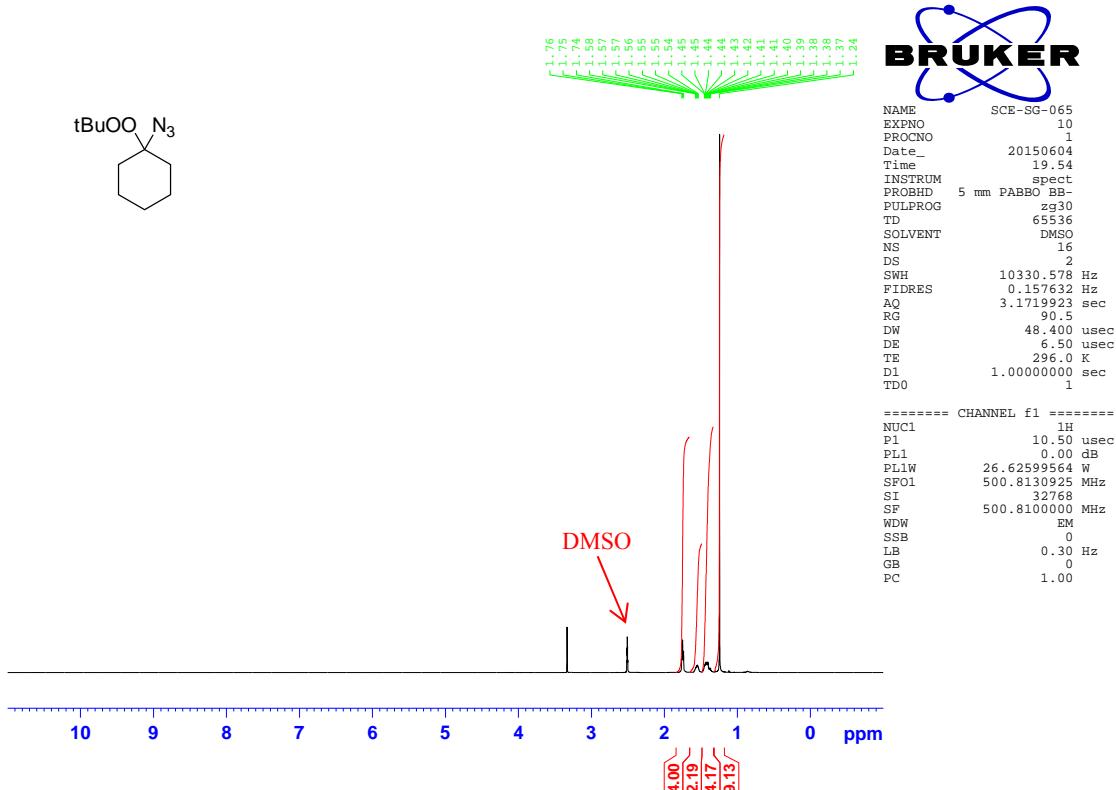


Figure S5: ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of compound 1c.

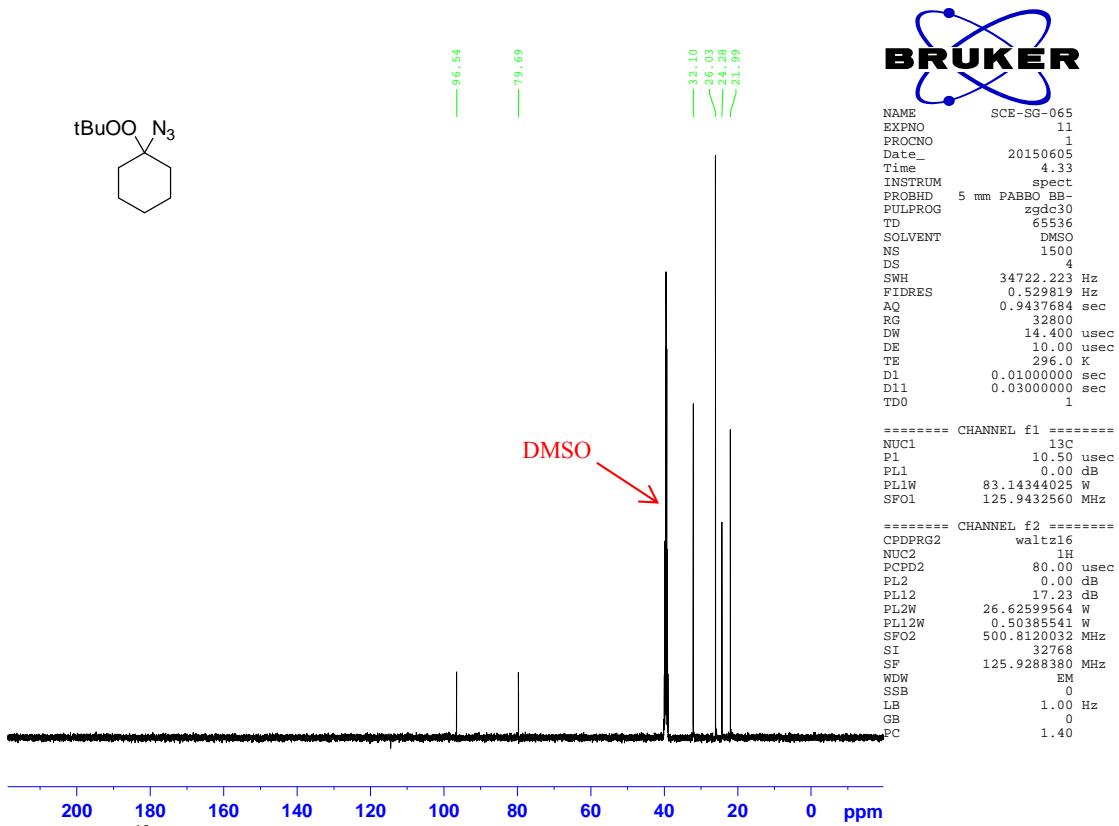


Figure S6: ^{13}C -NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 1c.

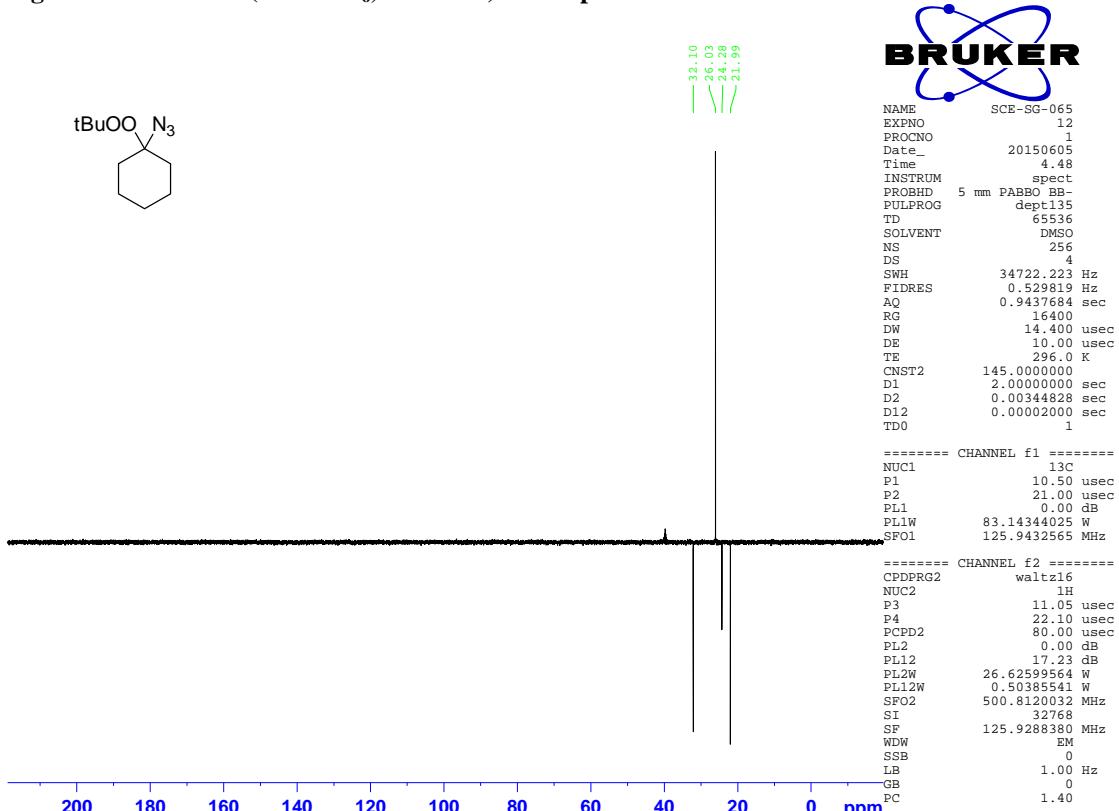


Figure S7: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 1c.

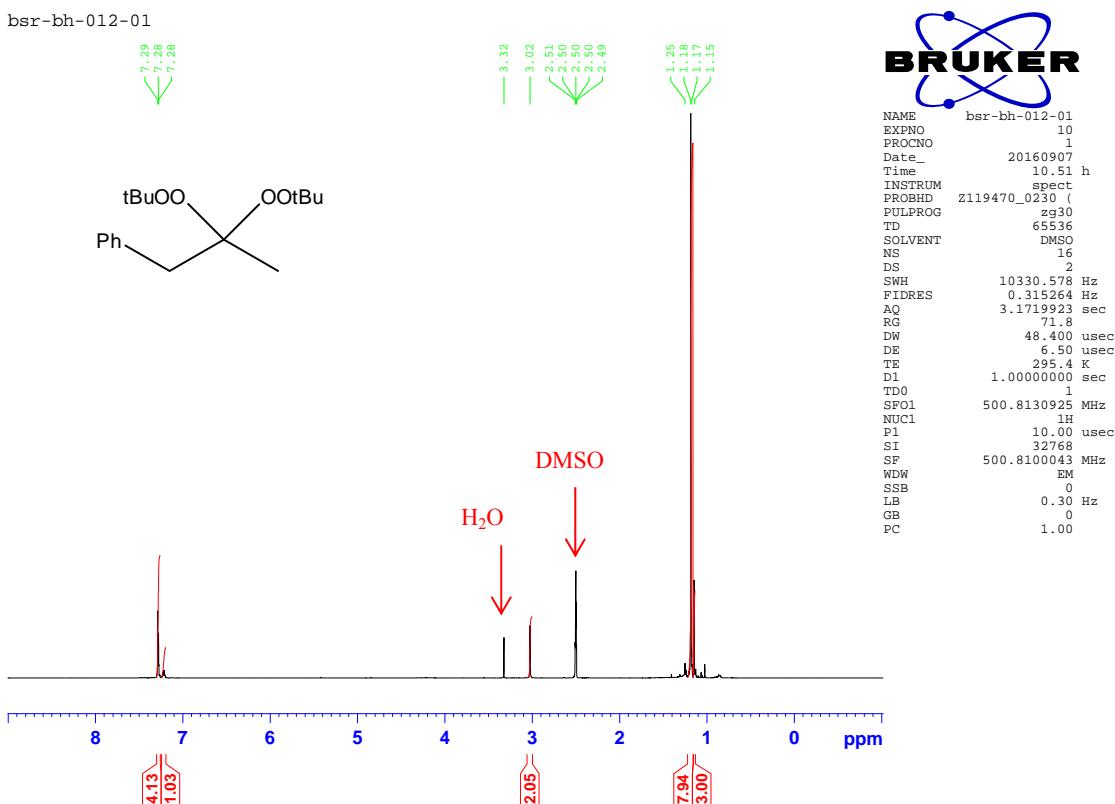


Figure S8: ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of compound 3b.

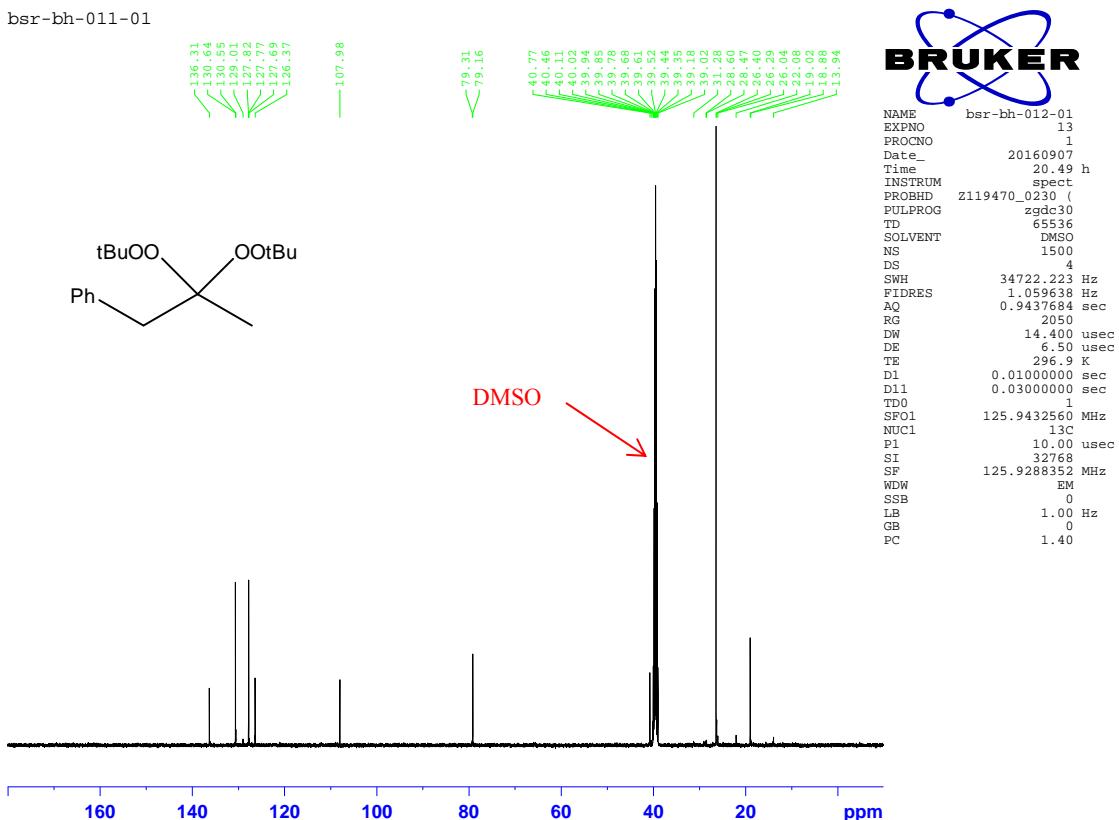


Figure S9: ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 3b.

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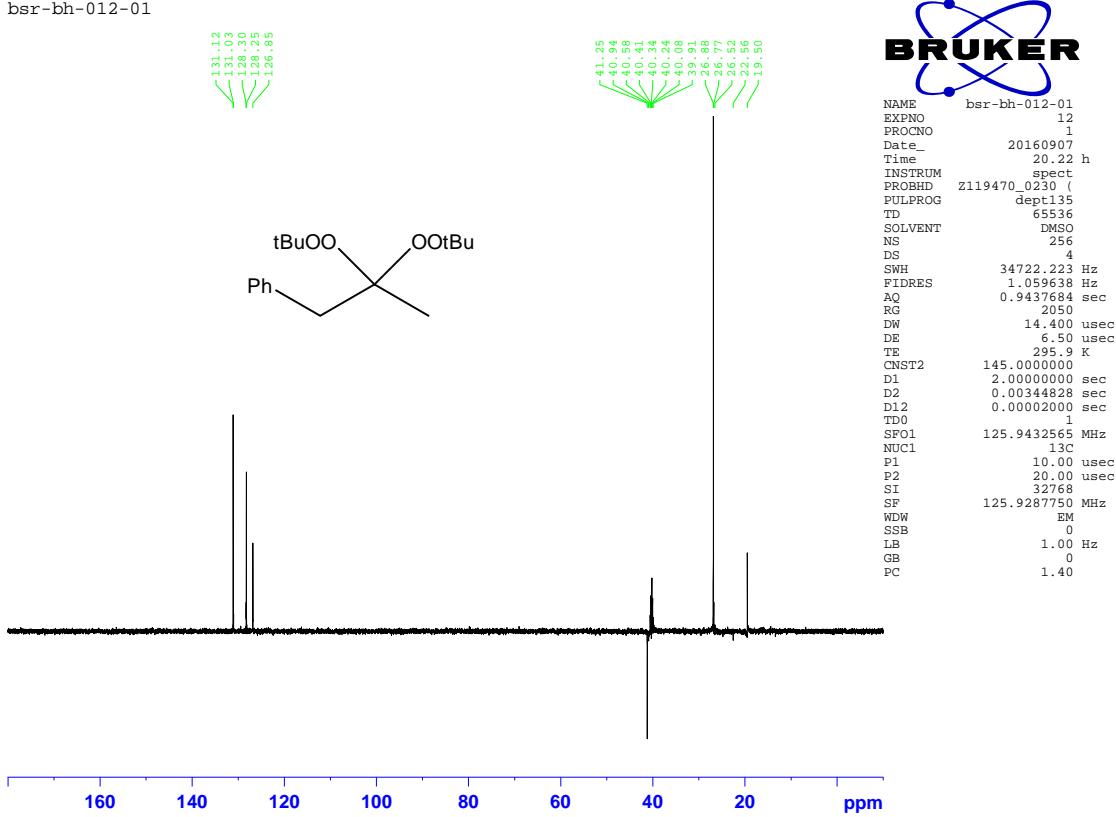


Figure S10: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 3b.

bsr-bh-013-01

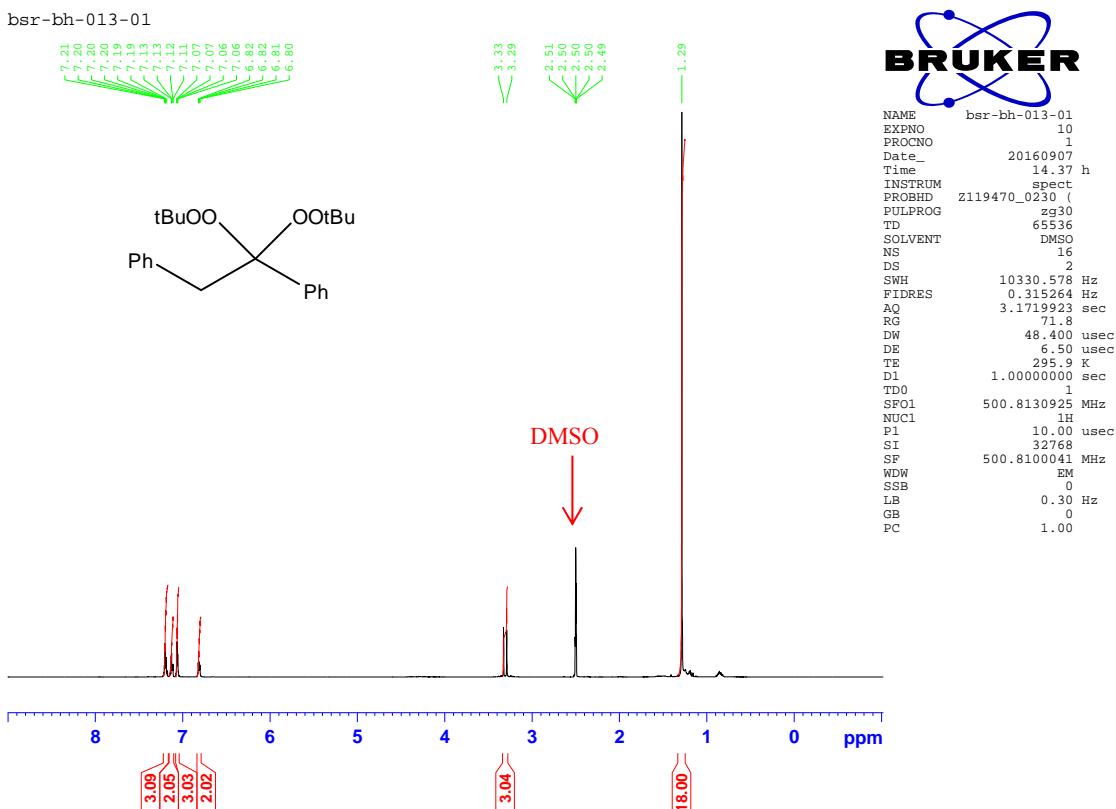


Figure S11: ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of compound 3c.

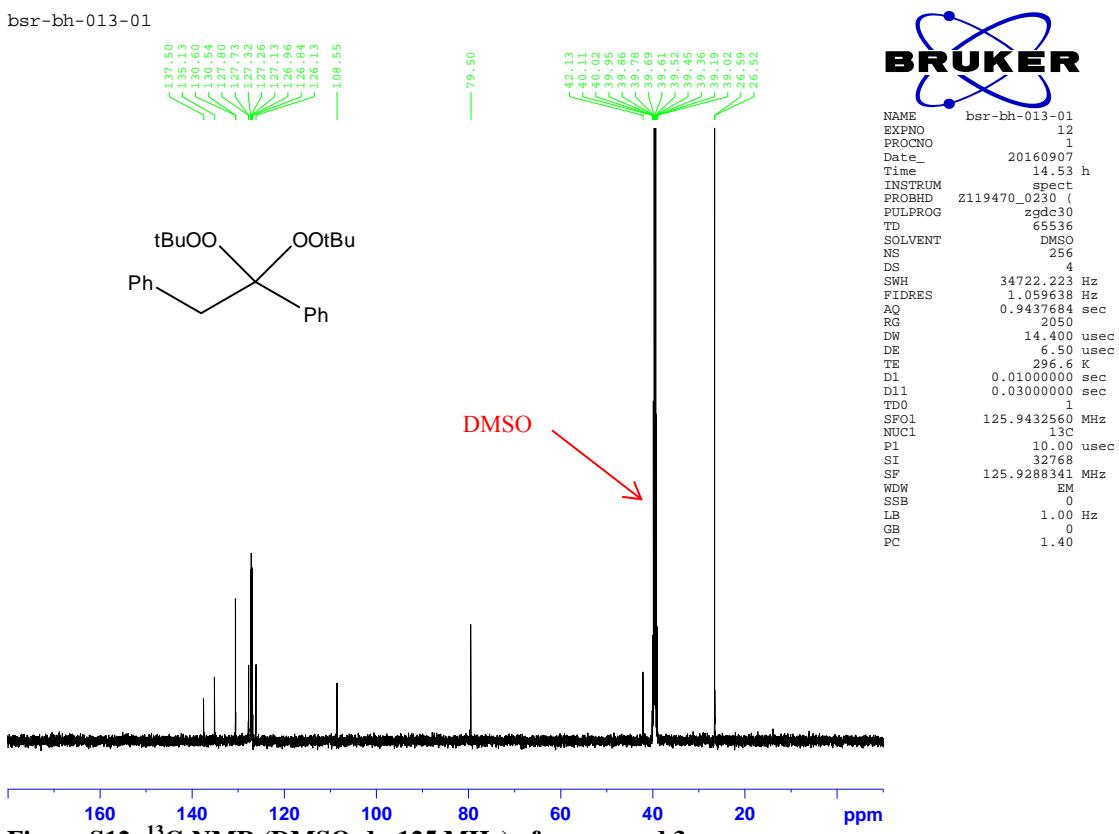


Figure S12: ^{13}C -NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 3c.

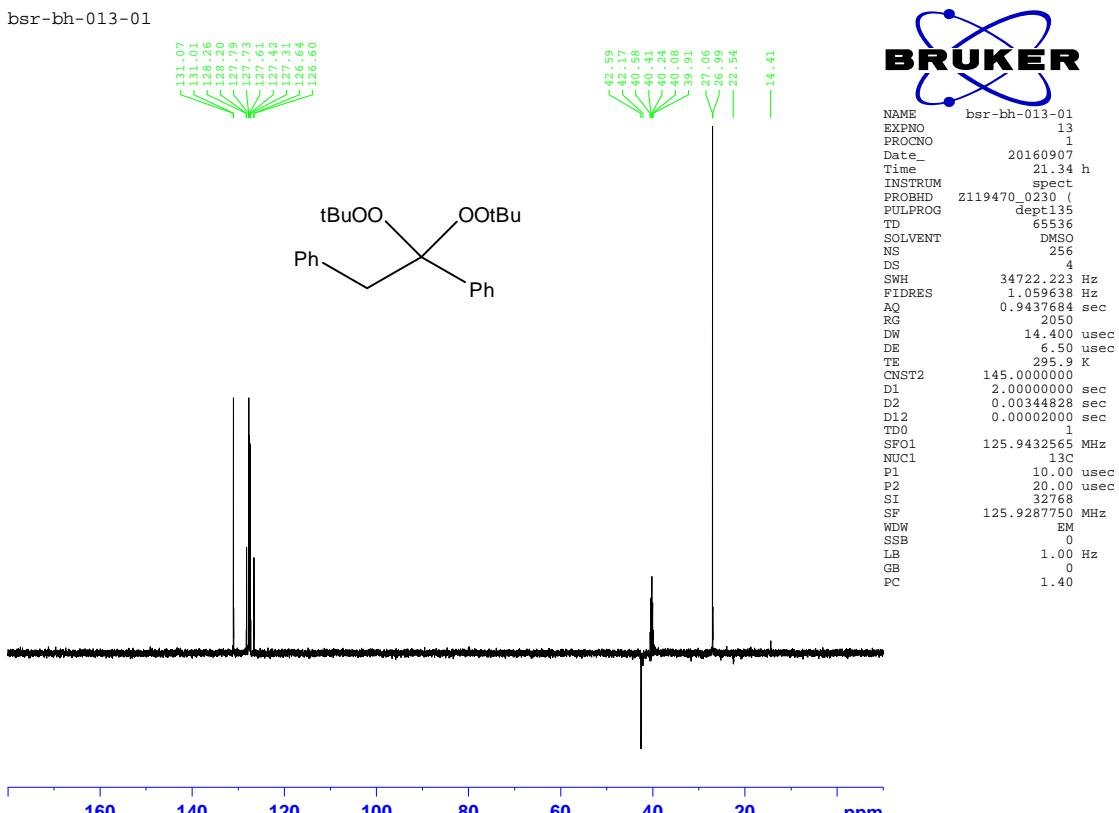


Figure S13: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 3c.

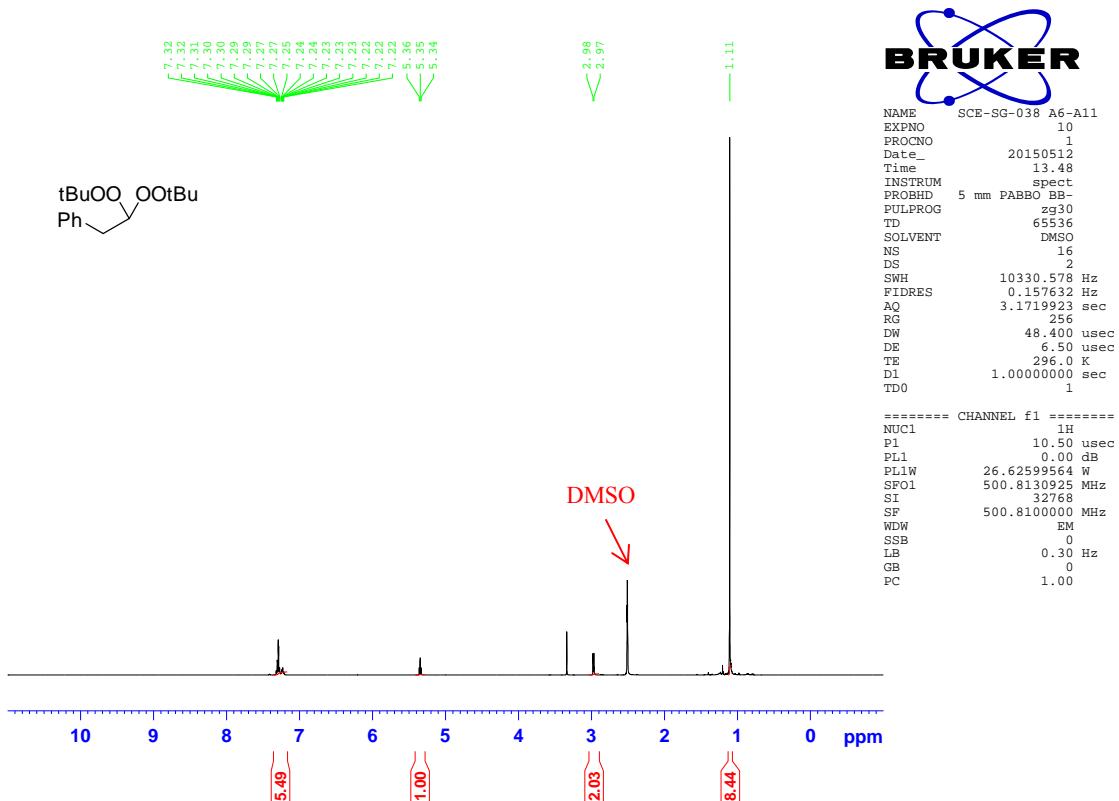


Figure S14: ^1H -NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of compound 3d.

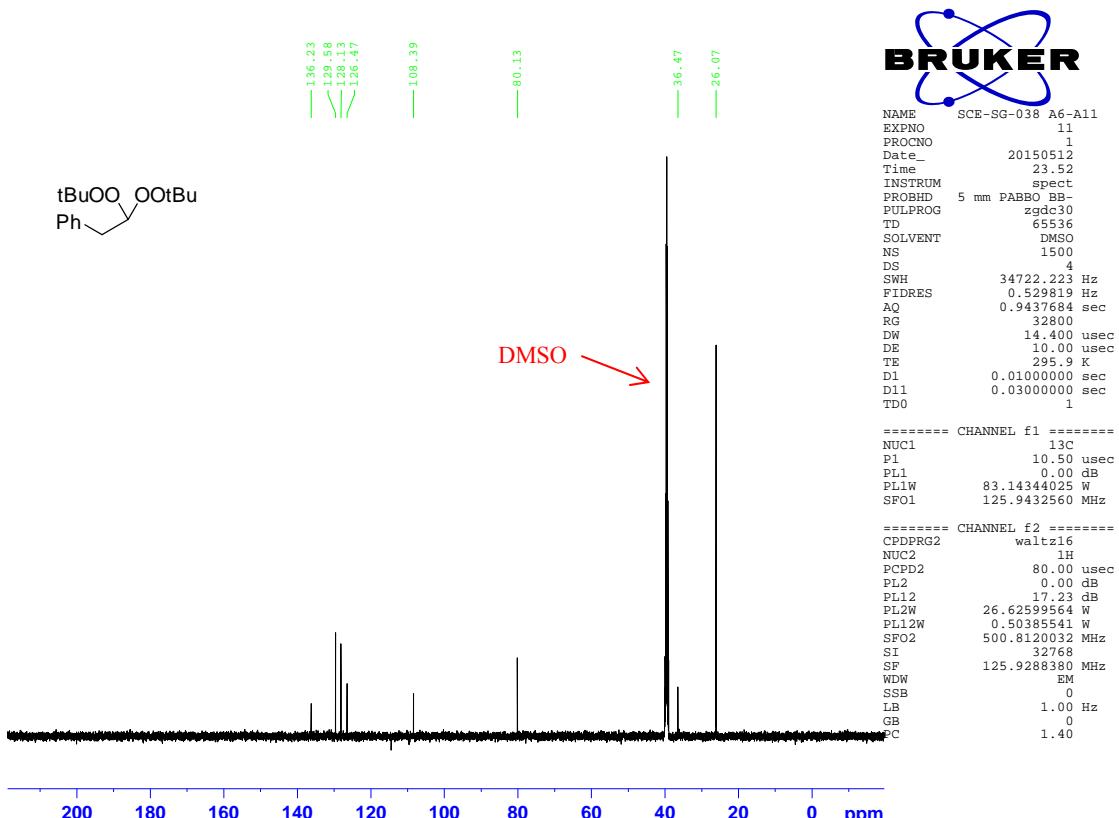


Figure S15: ^{13}C -NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 3d.

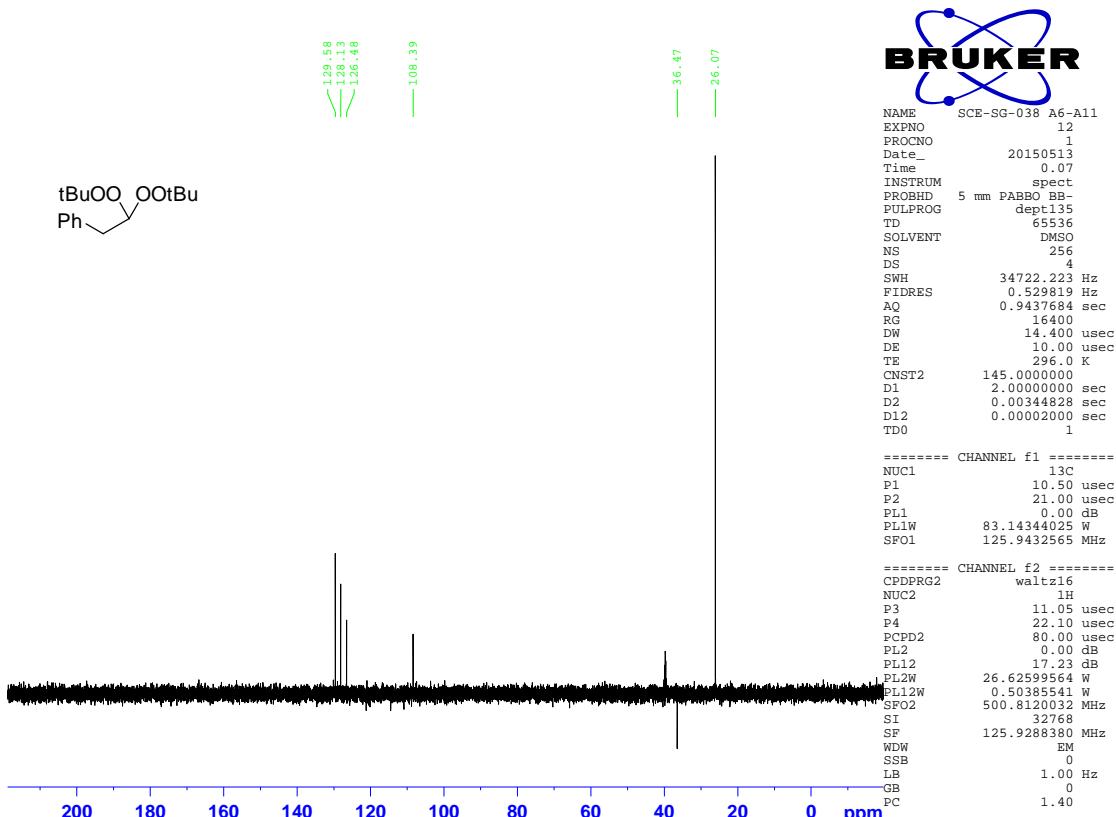


Figure S16: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 3d.

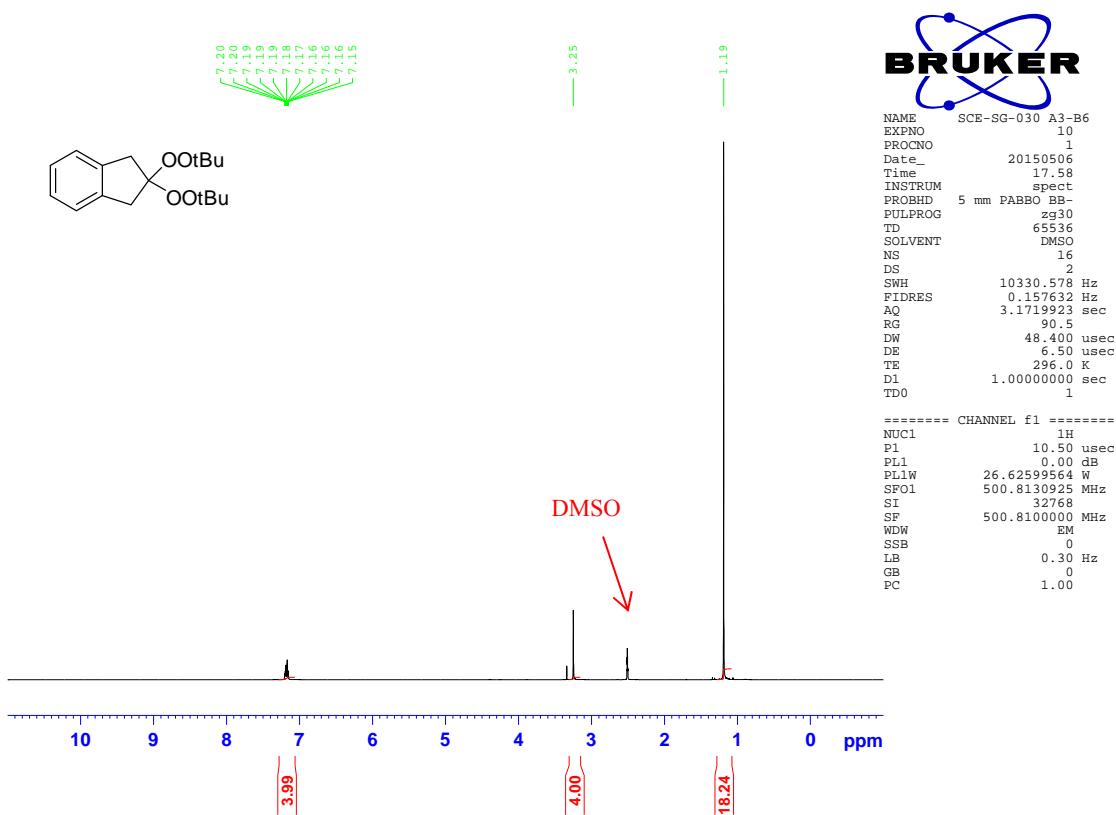


Figure S17: ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of compound 6a.

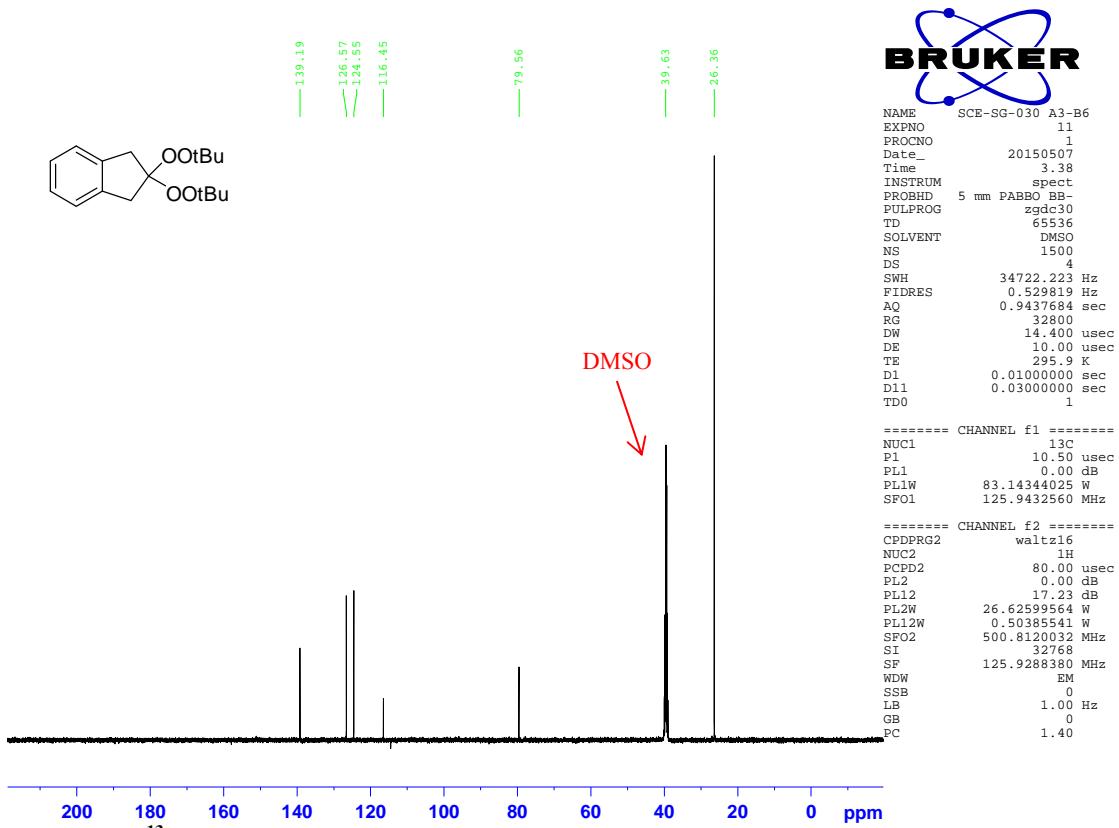


Figure S18: ^{13}C -NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz) of compound 6a.

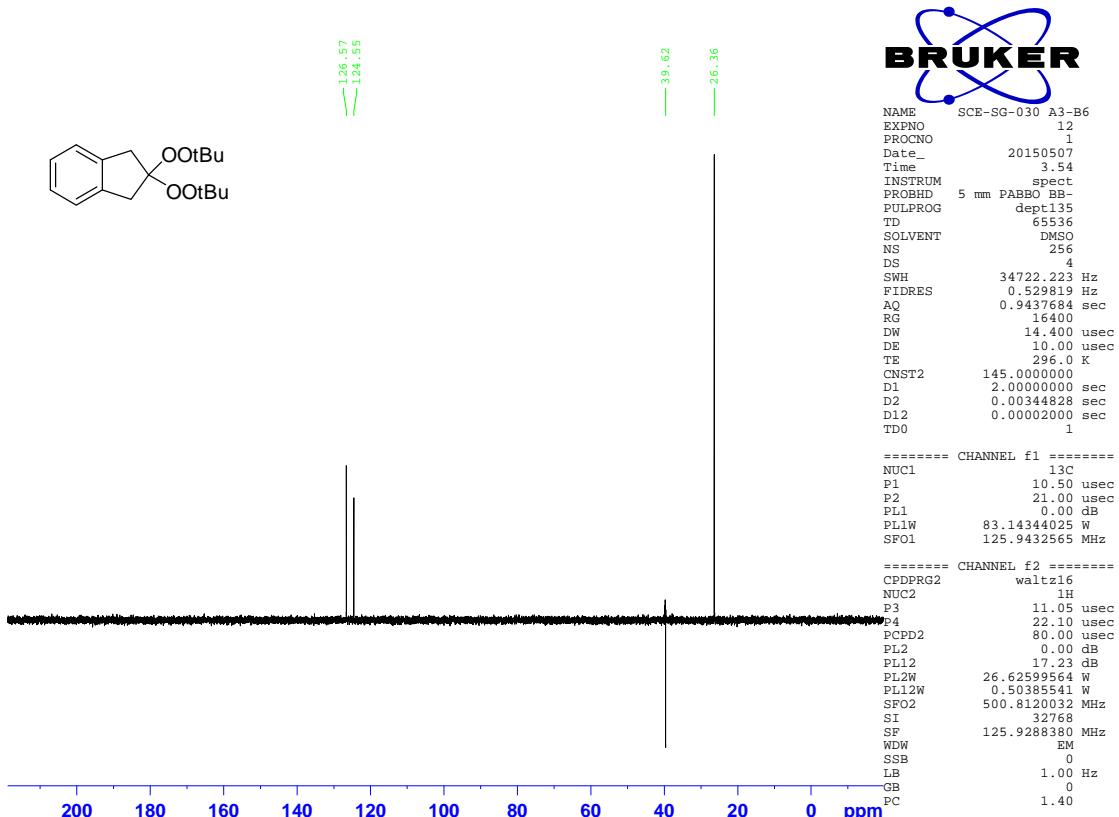


Figure S19: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz) of compound 6a.

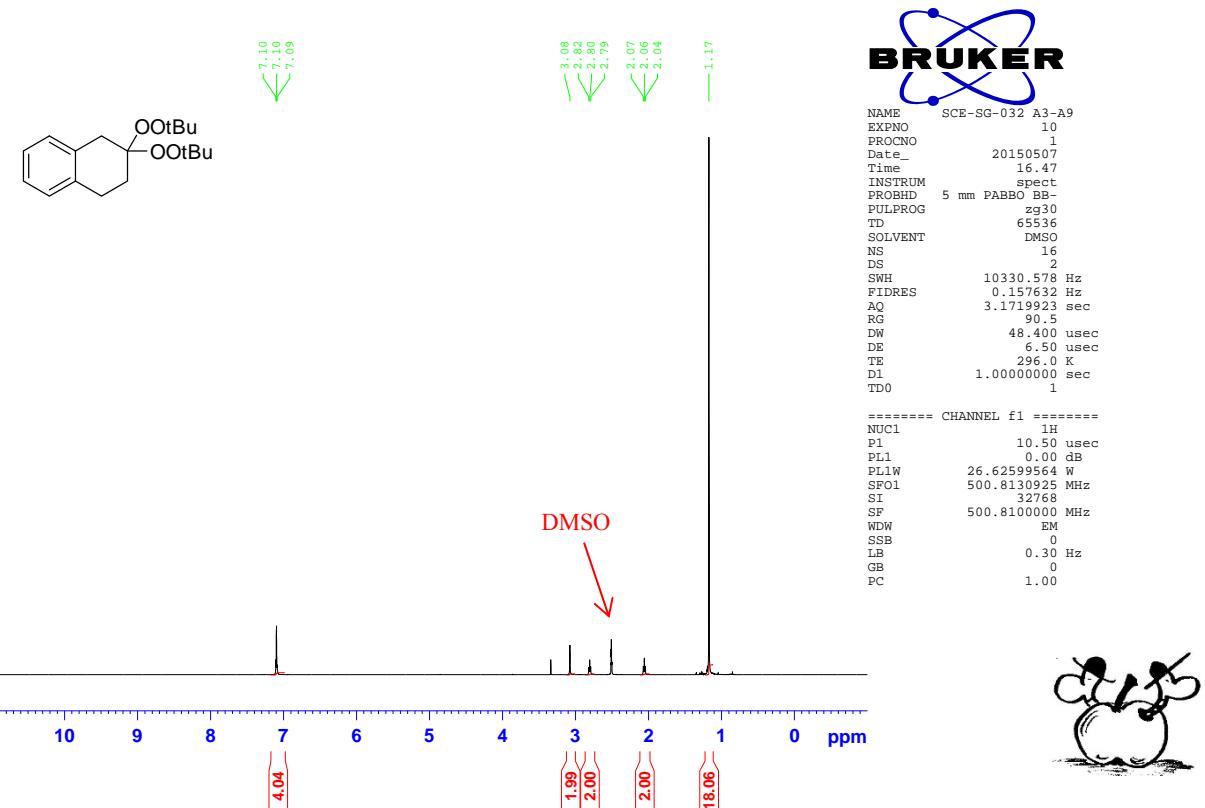


Figure S20: ^1H -NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of compound 6b.

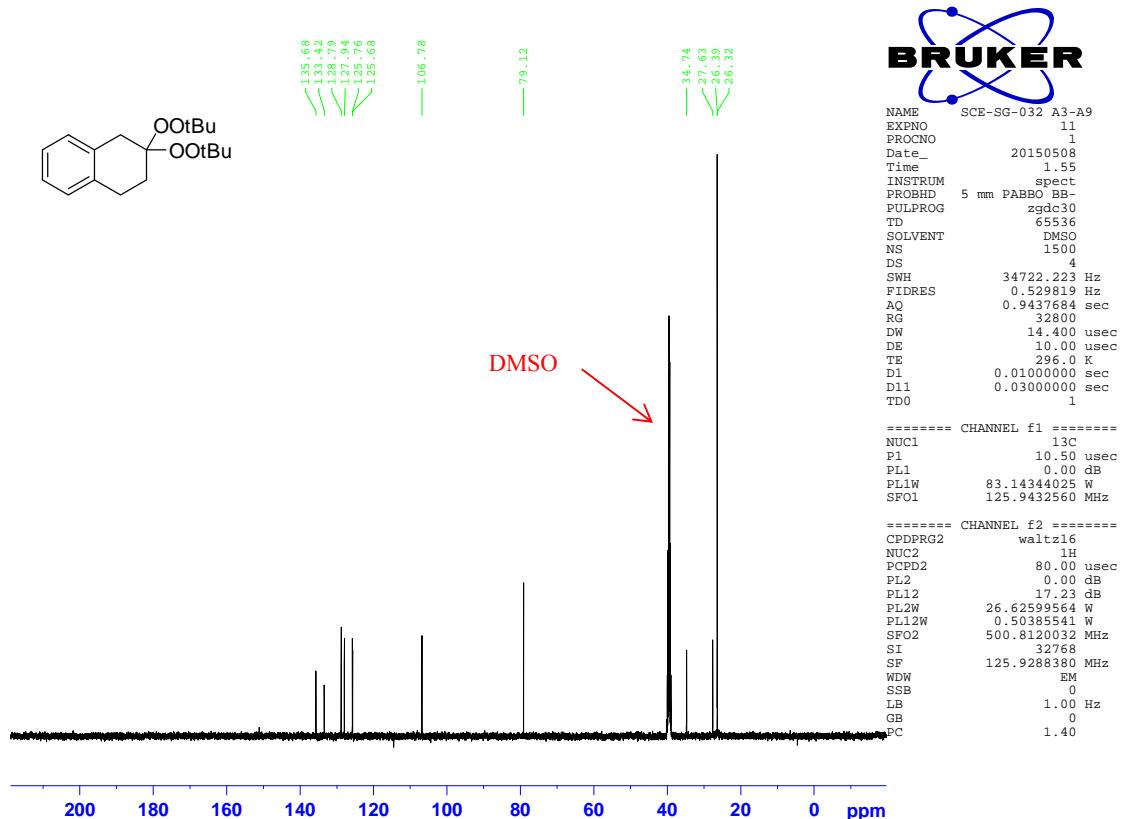


Figure S21: ^{13}C -NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 6b.

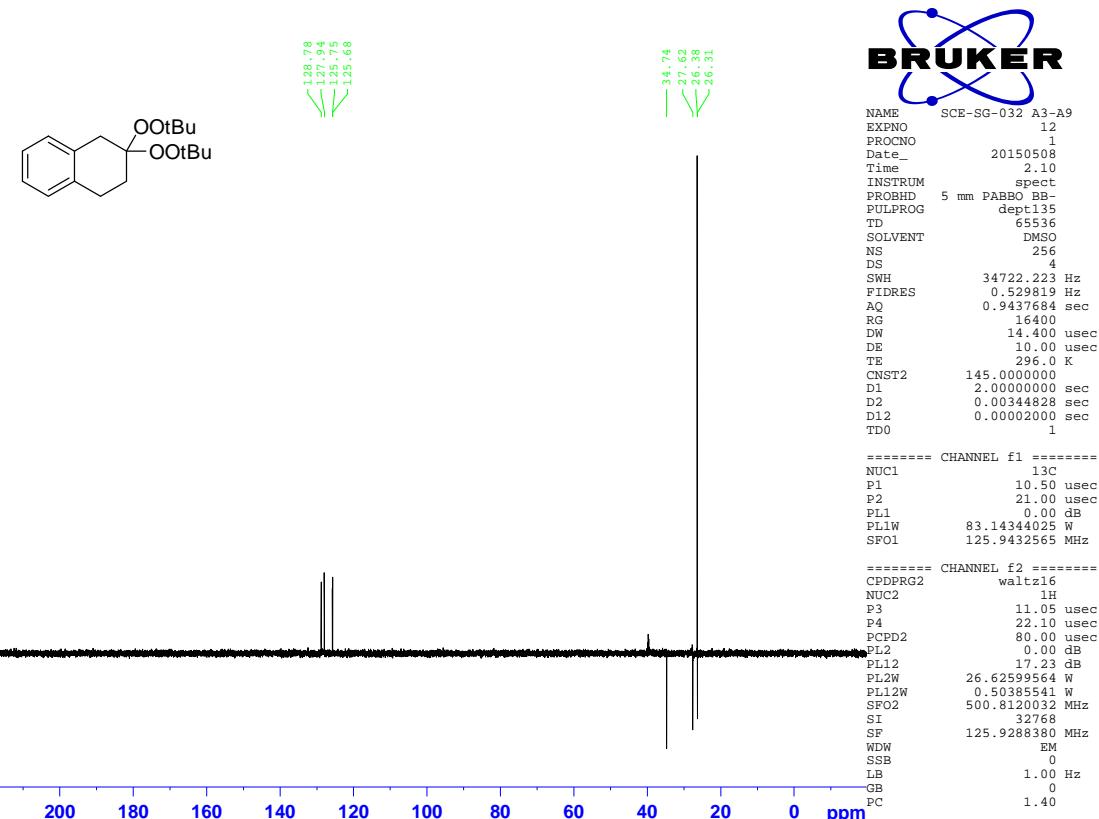


Figure S22: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz) of compound 6b.

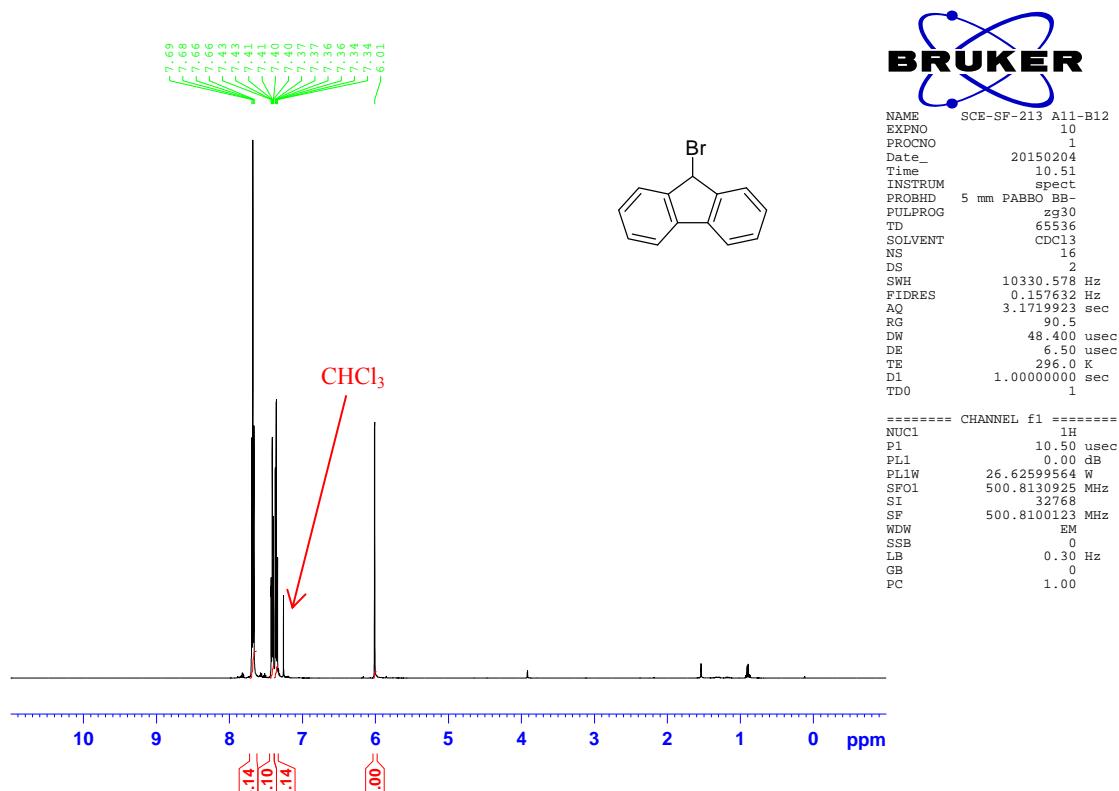


Figure S23: ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) of compound 8.

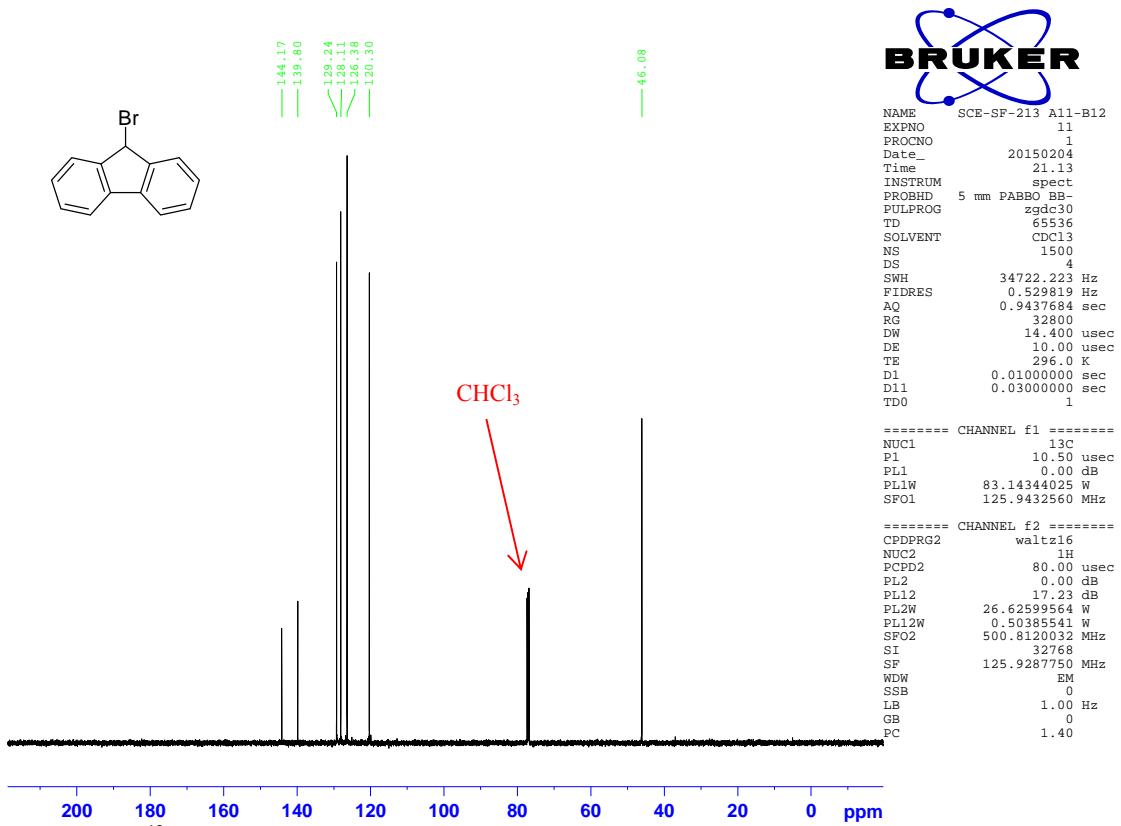


Figure S24: ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) of compound 8.

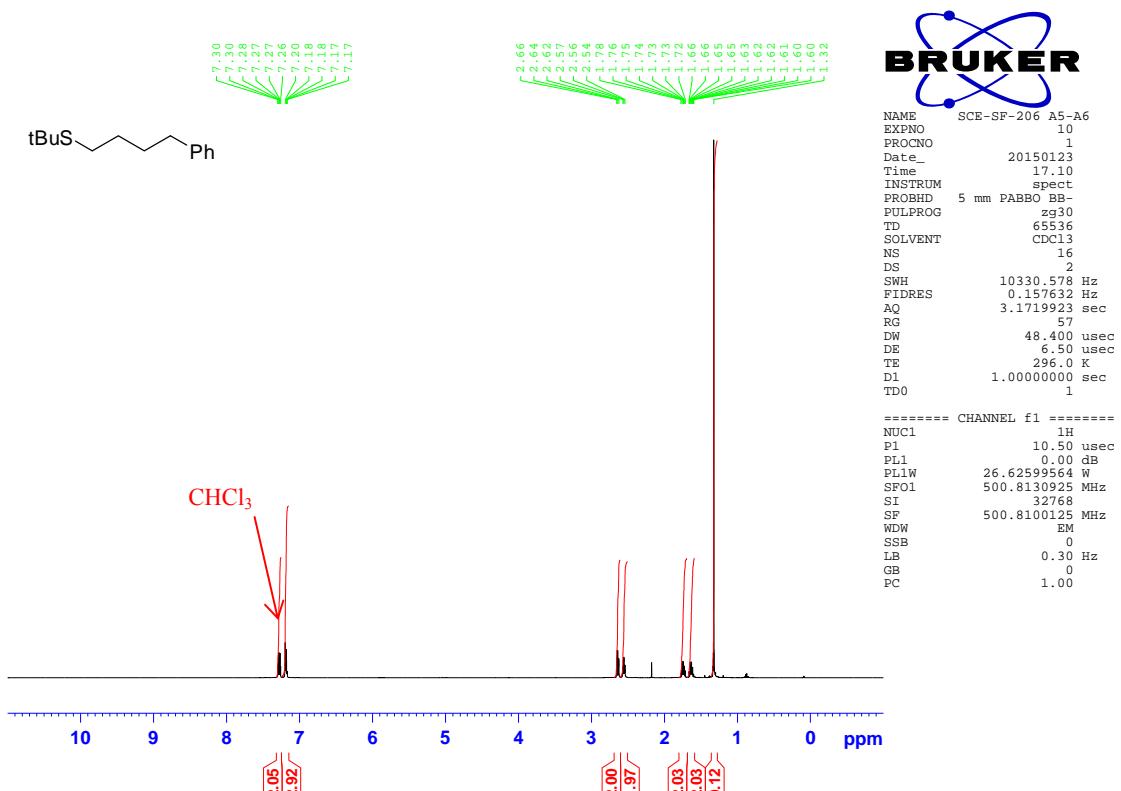


Figure S25: ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) of compound 9.

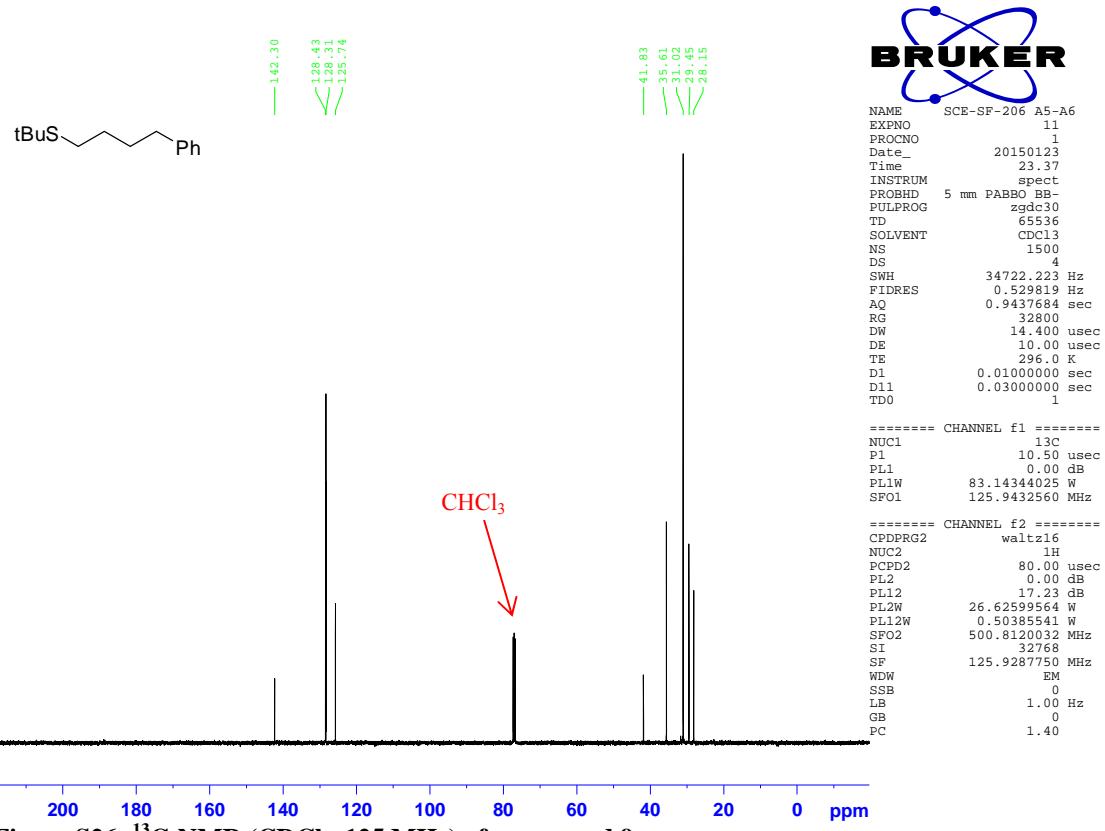


Figure S26: ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) of compound 9.

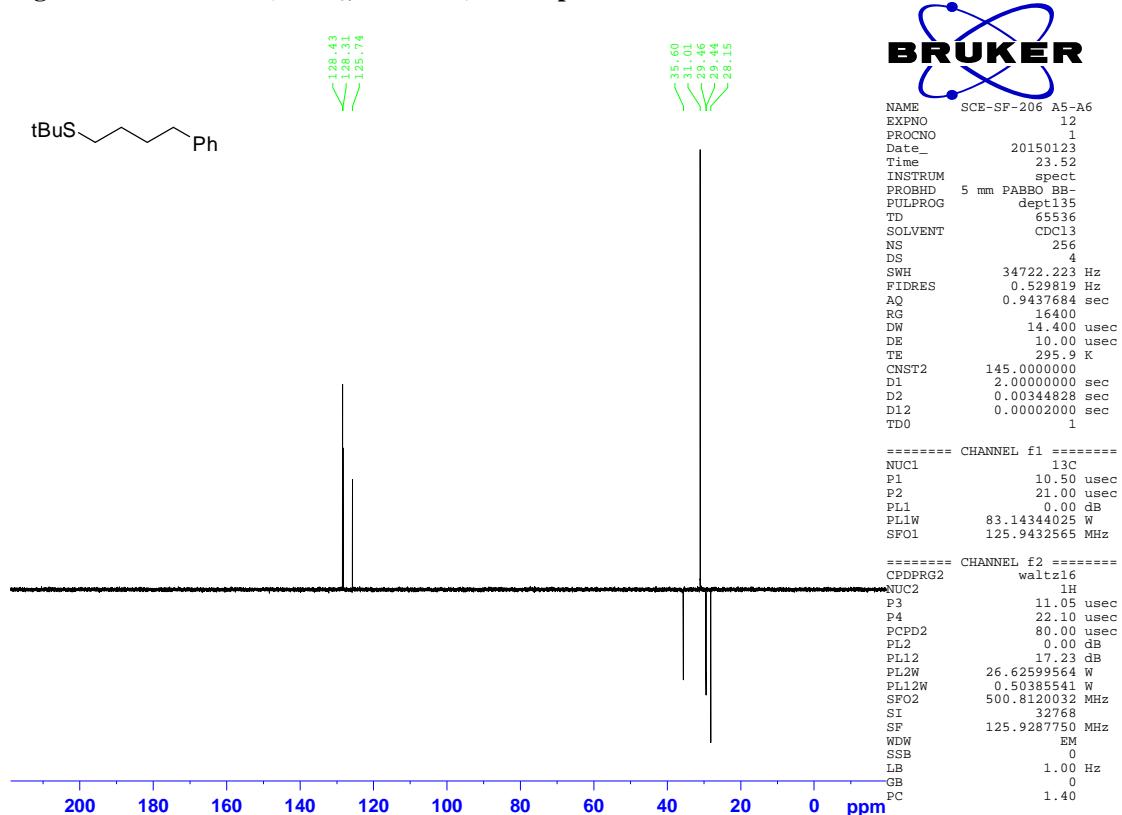


Figure S27: DEPT 135-NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) of compound 9.

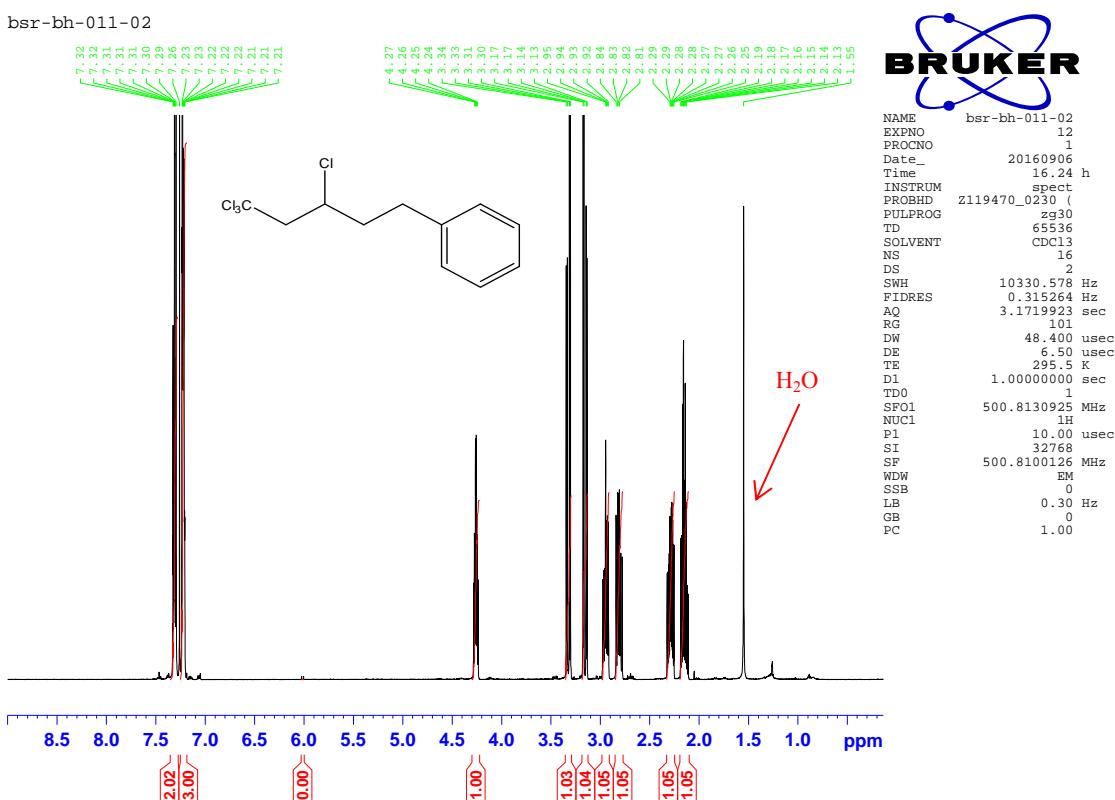


Figure S28: ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) of compound 10.

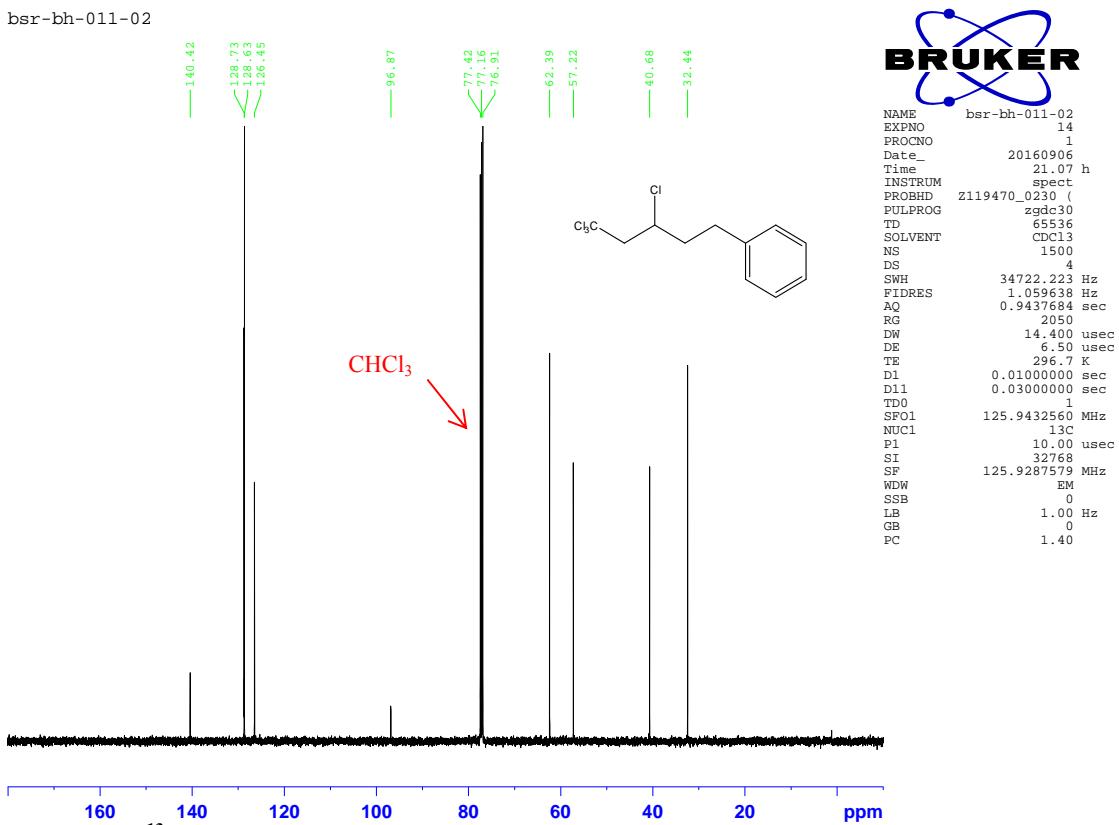


Figure S29: ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) of compound 10.

bsr-bh-011-02

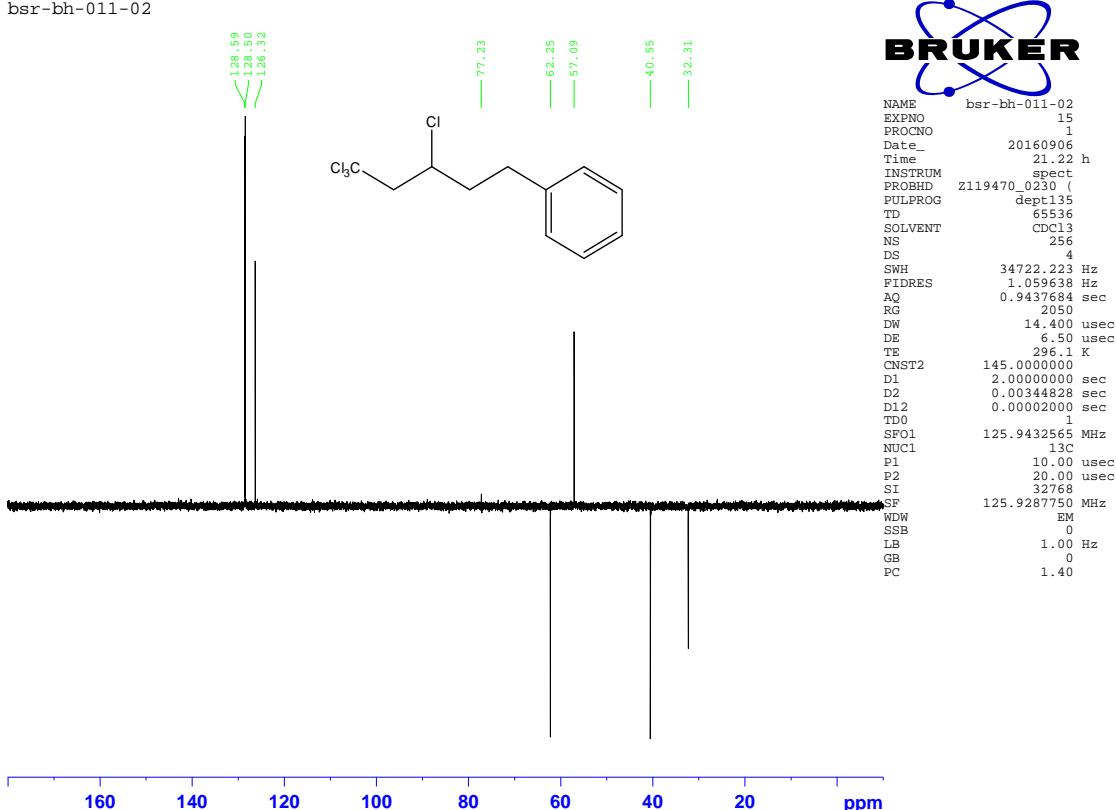


Figure S30: DEPT 135-NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) of compound 10.

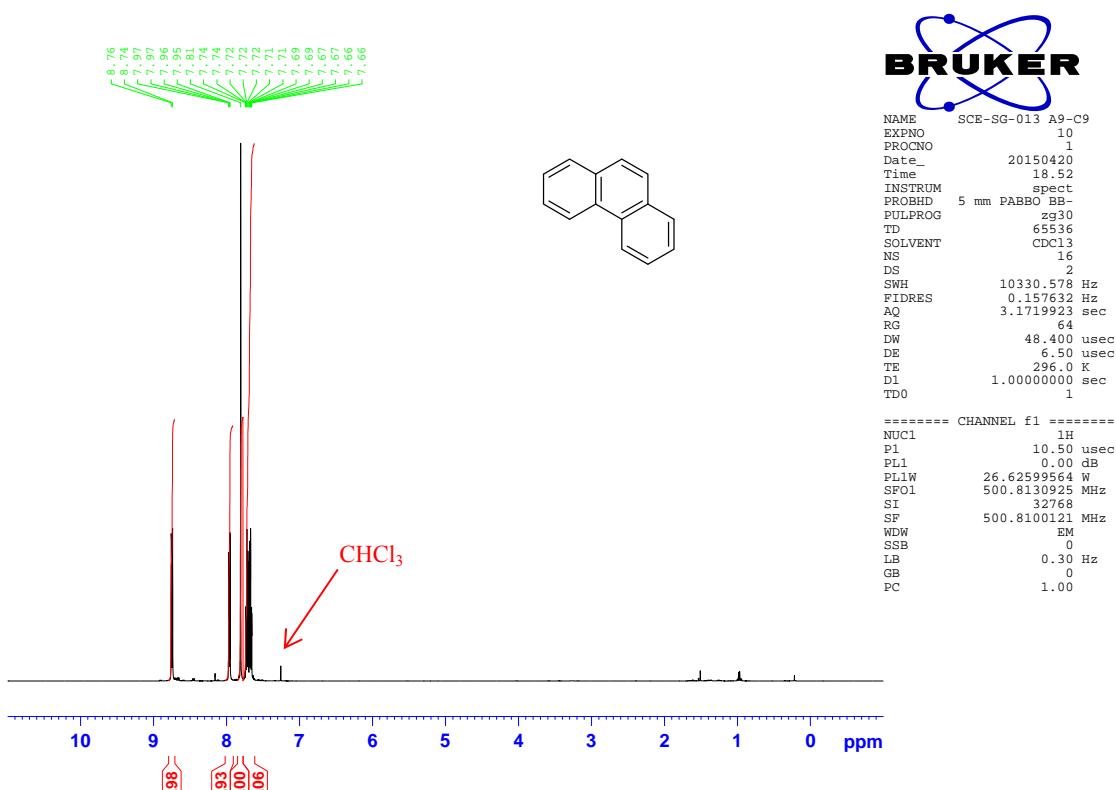


Figure S31: ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) of compound 11.

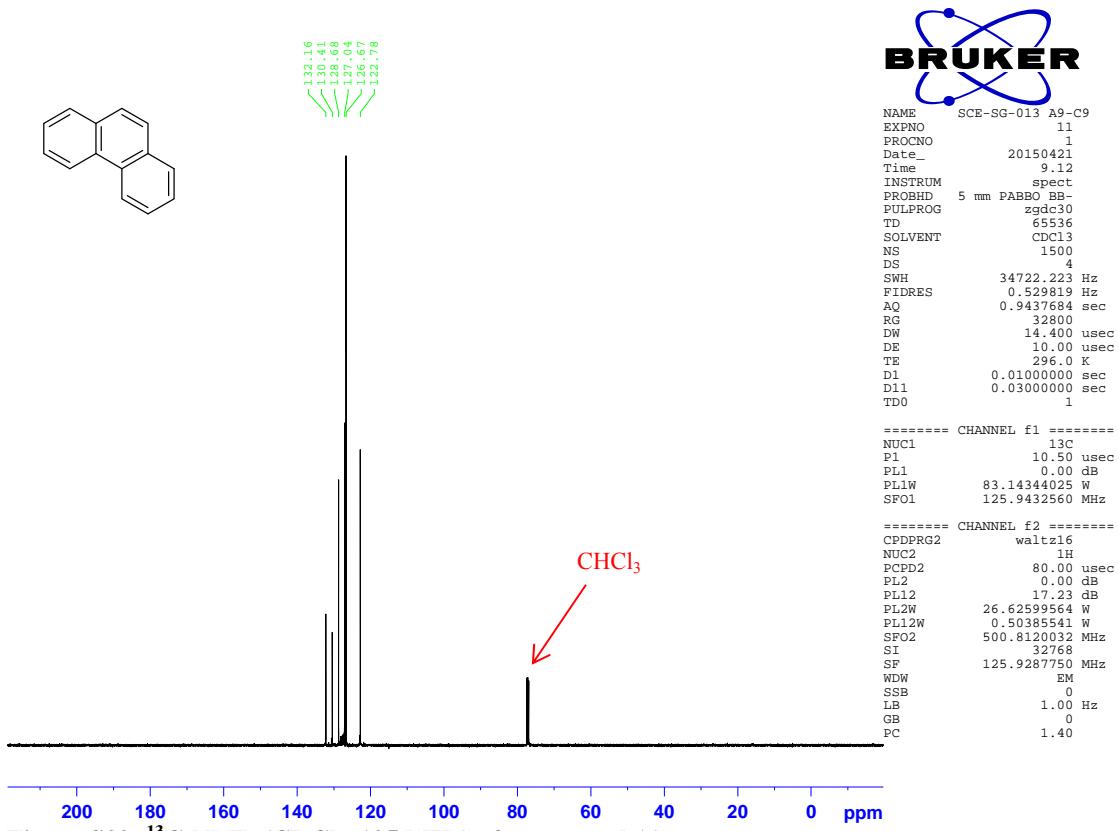


Figure S32: ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) of compound 11.

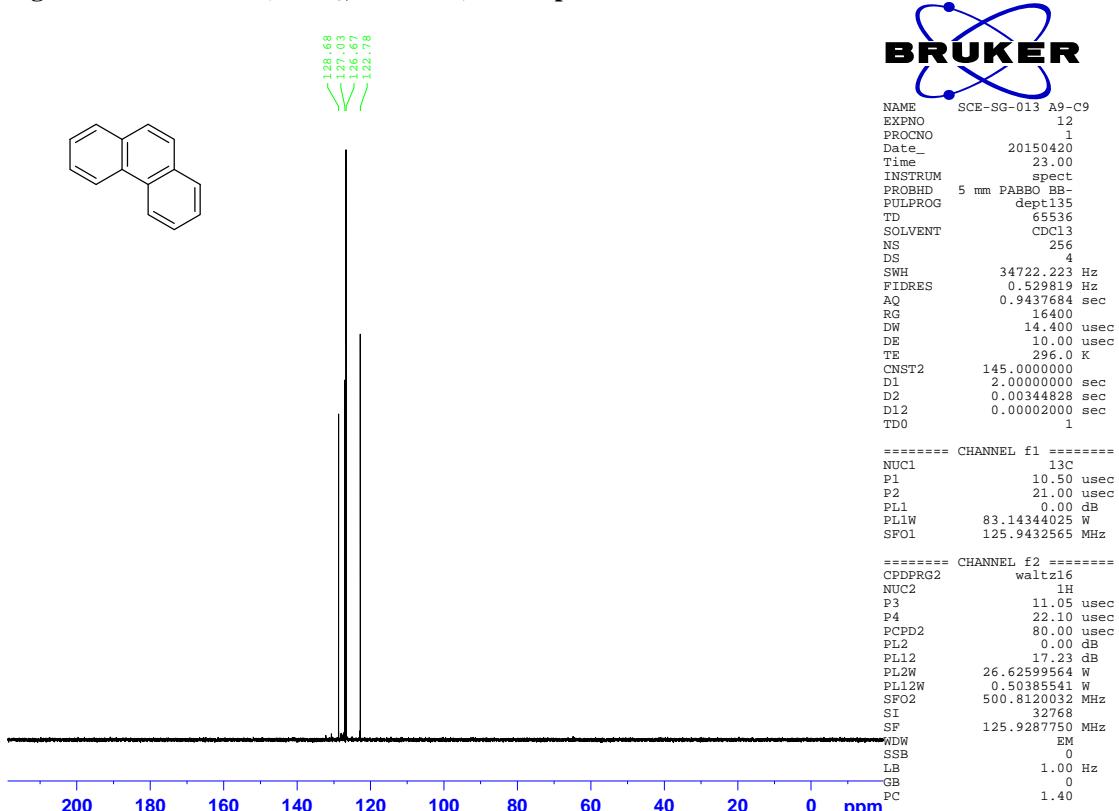


Figure S33: DEPT 135-NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) of compound 11.

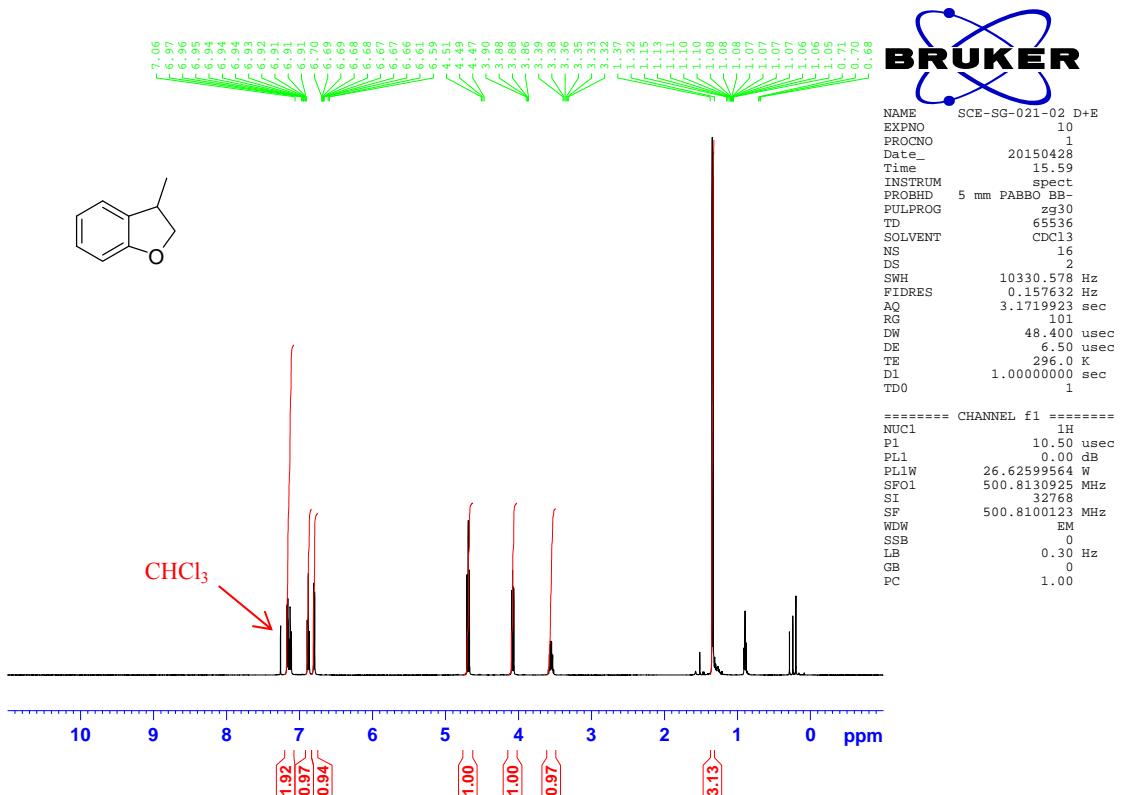


Figure S34: ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) of compound 13.

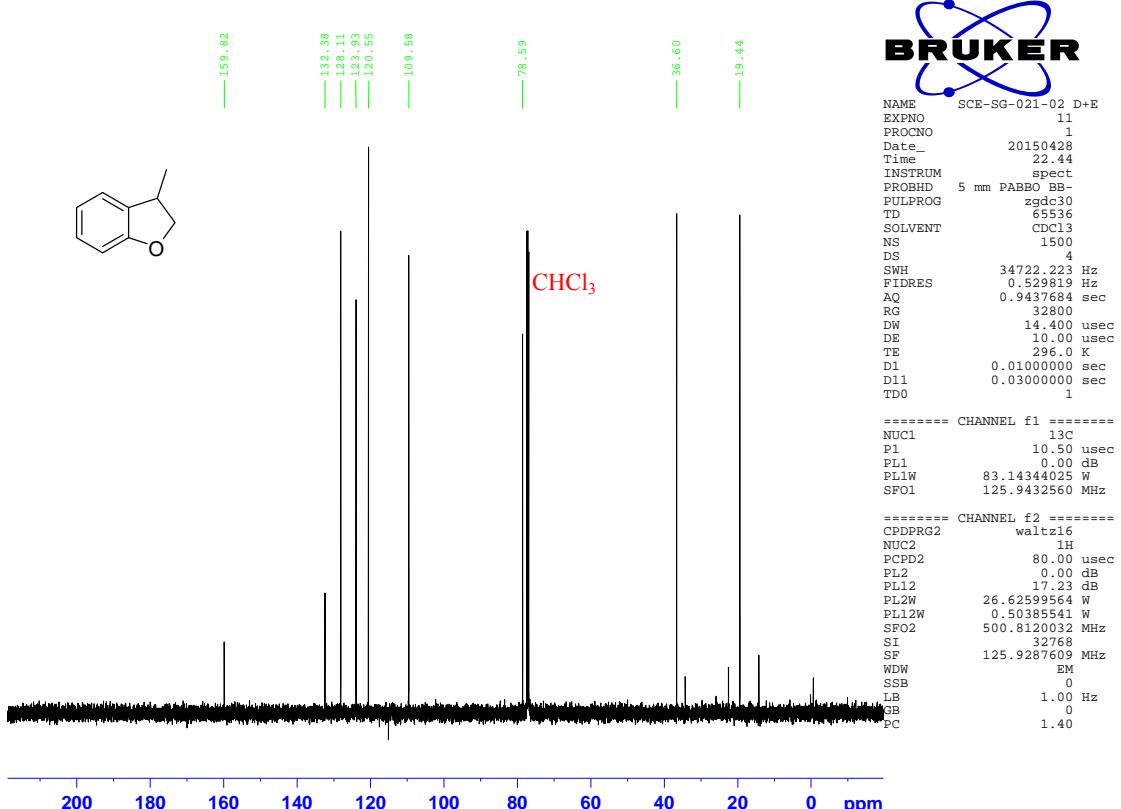


Figure S35: ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) of compound 13.

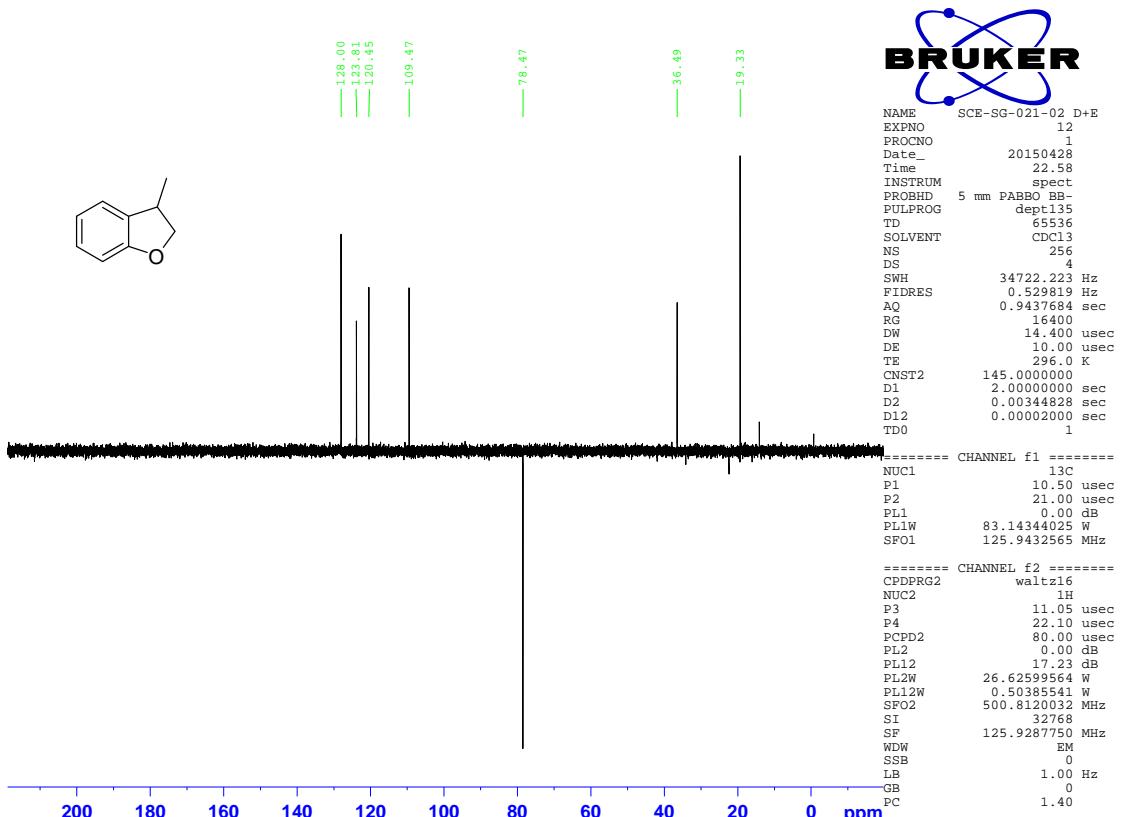


Figure S36: DEPT 135-NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) of compound 13.

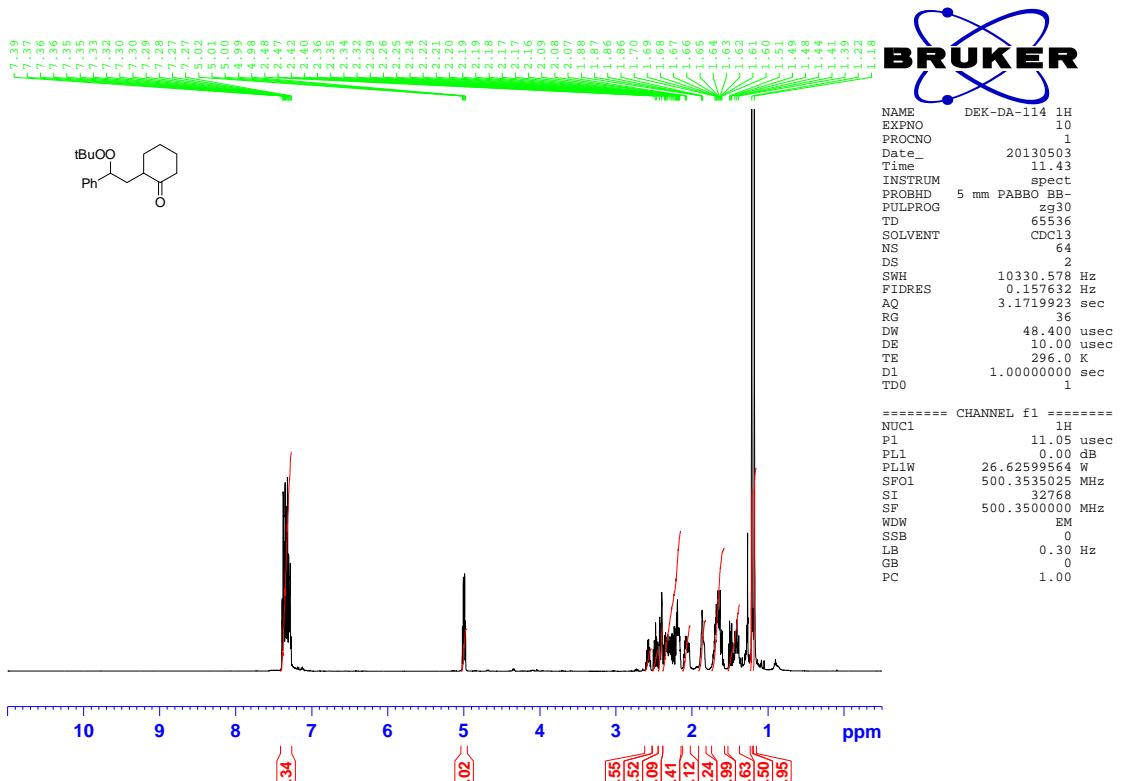


Figure S37: $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) of 2-(2-(tert-butylperoxy)-2-phenylethyl)cyclohexan-1-one.

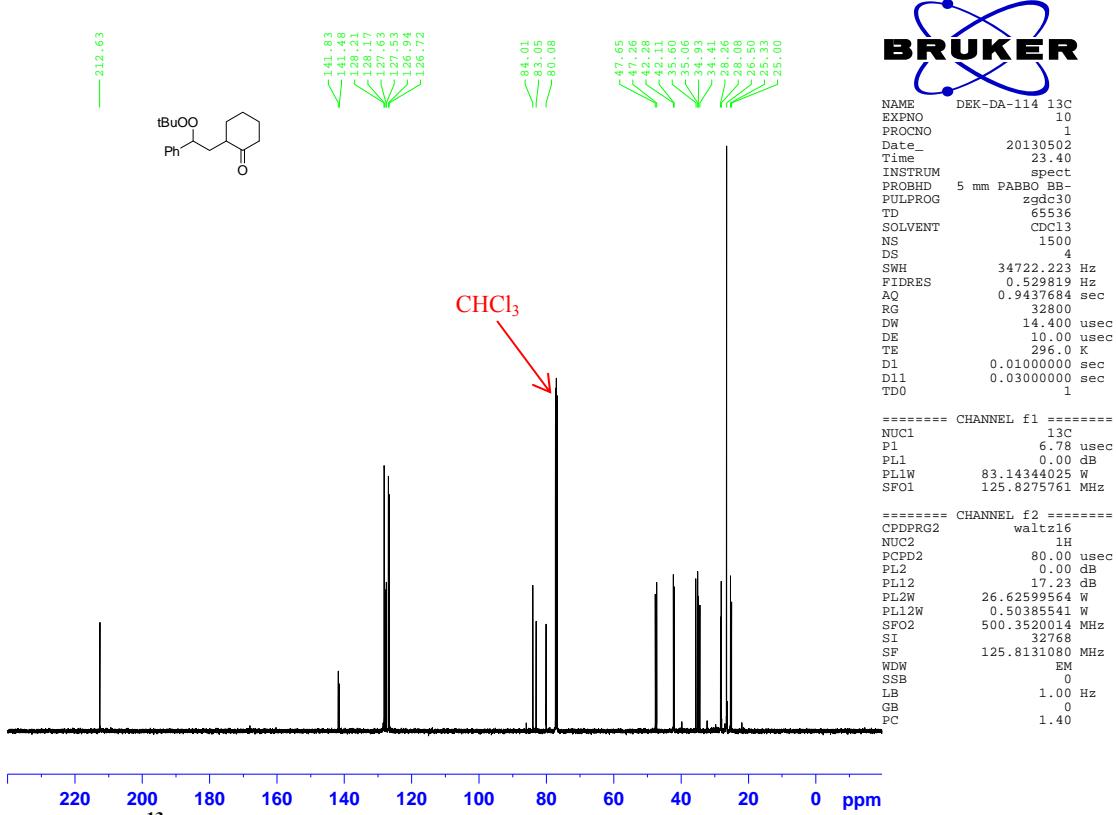


Figure S38: ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) of 2-(2-(tert-butylperoxy)-2-phenylethyl)cyclohexan-1-one.

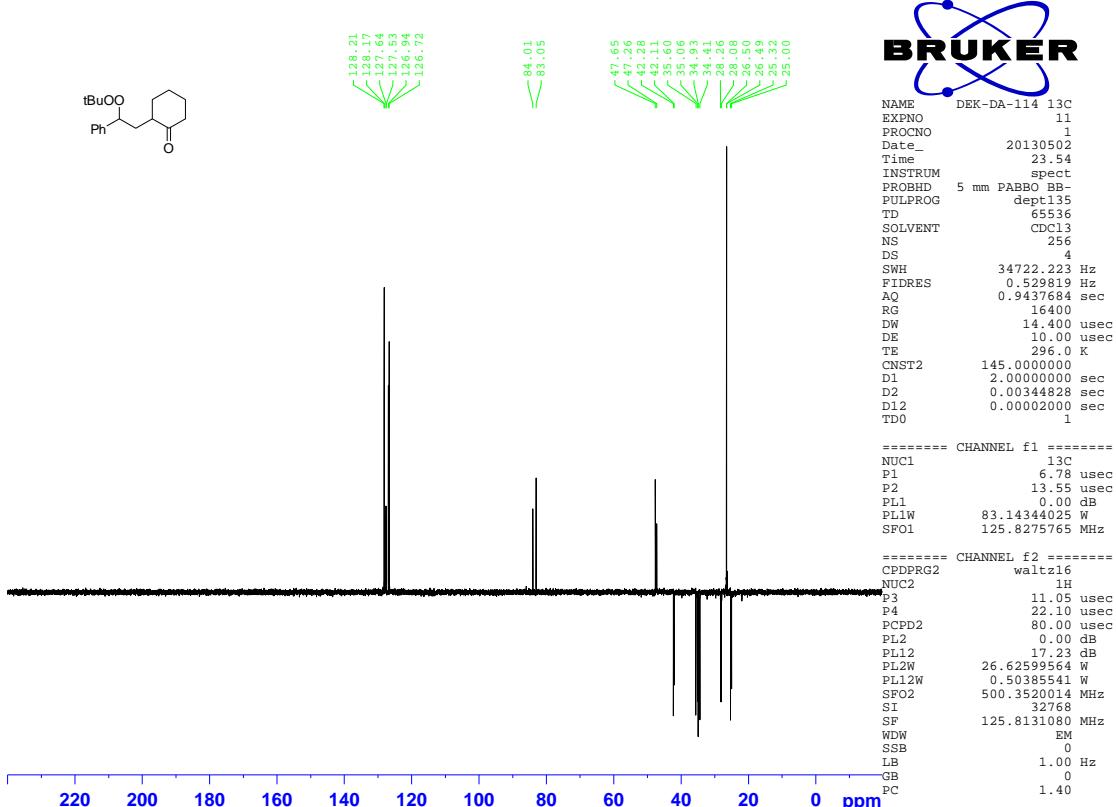


Figure S39: DEPT 135-NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) of 2-(2-(tert-butylperoxy)-2-phenylethyl)cyclohexan-1-one.

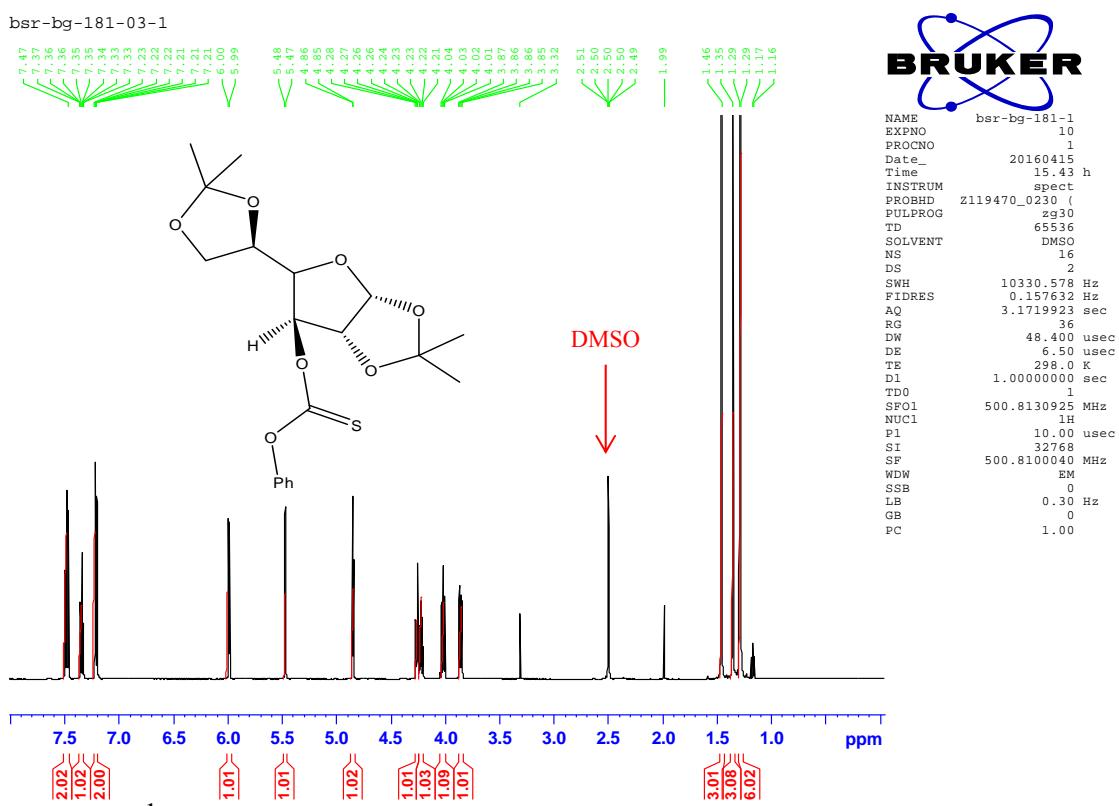


Figure S40: ^1H -NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of compound 14.

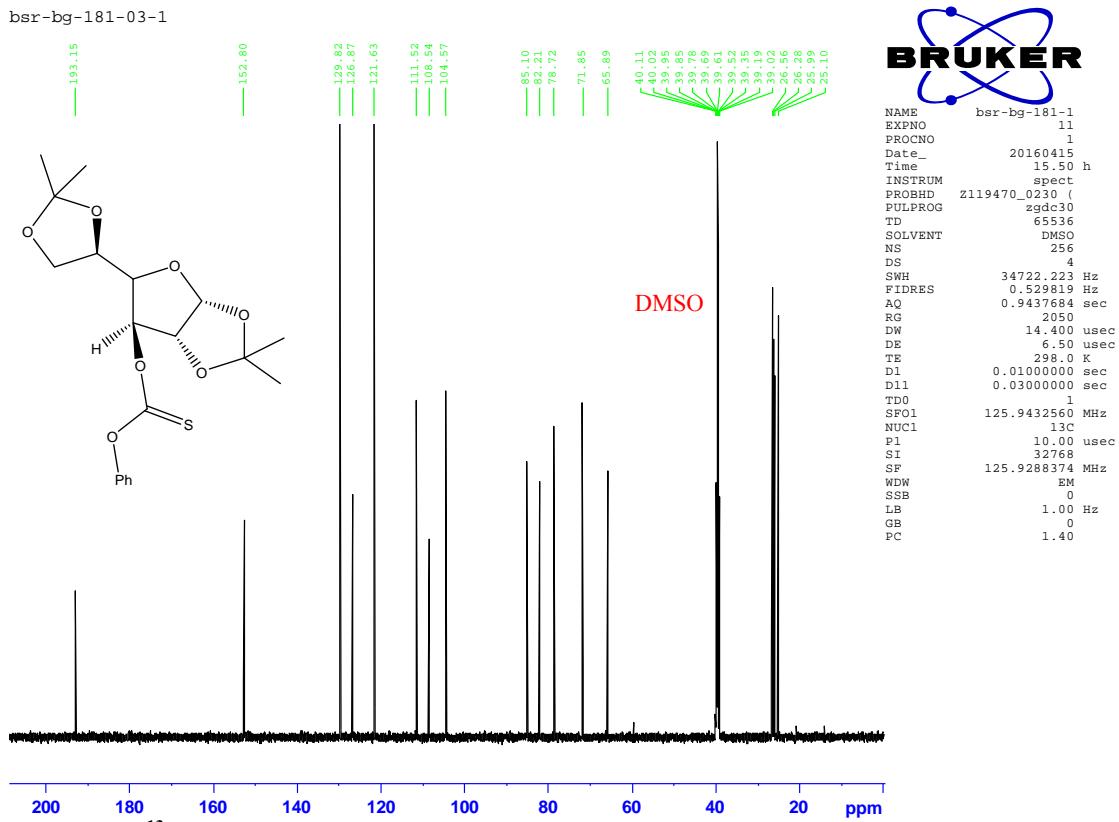


Figure S41: ^{13}C -NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 14.

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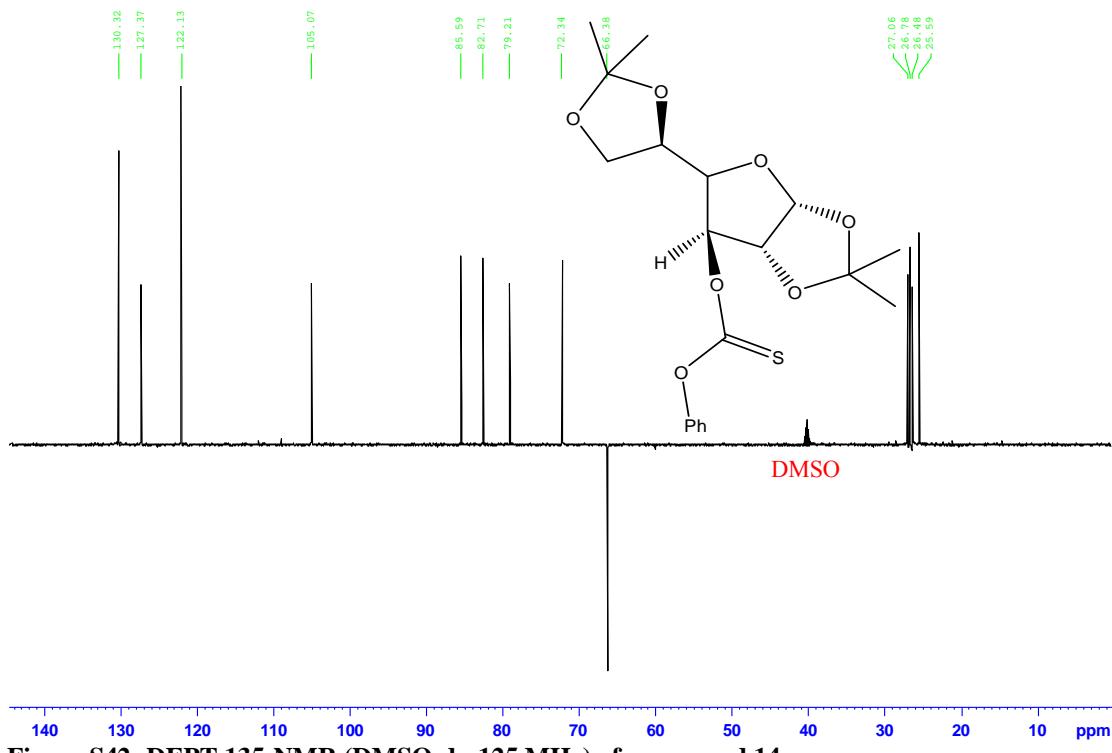


Figure S42: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 125 MHz) of compound 14.

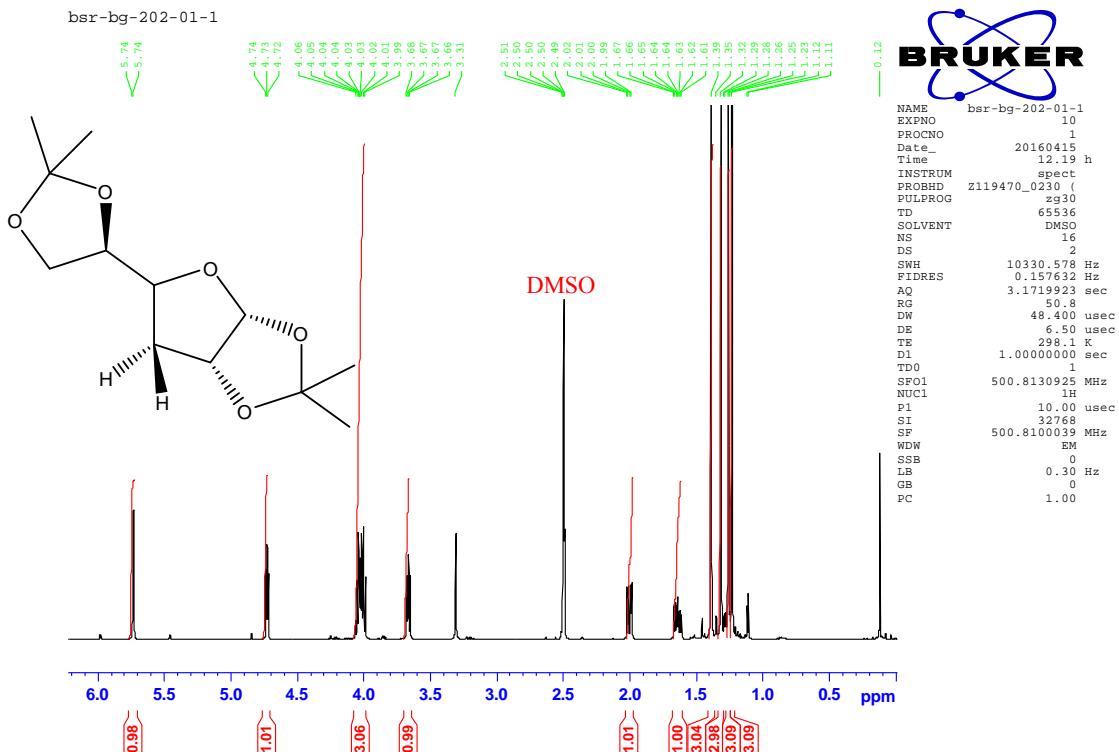


Figure S43: ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) of compound 15.

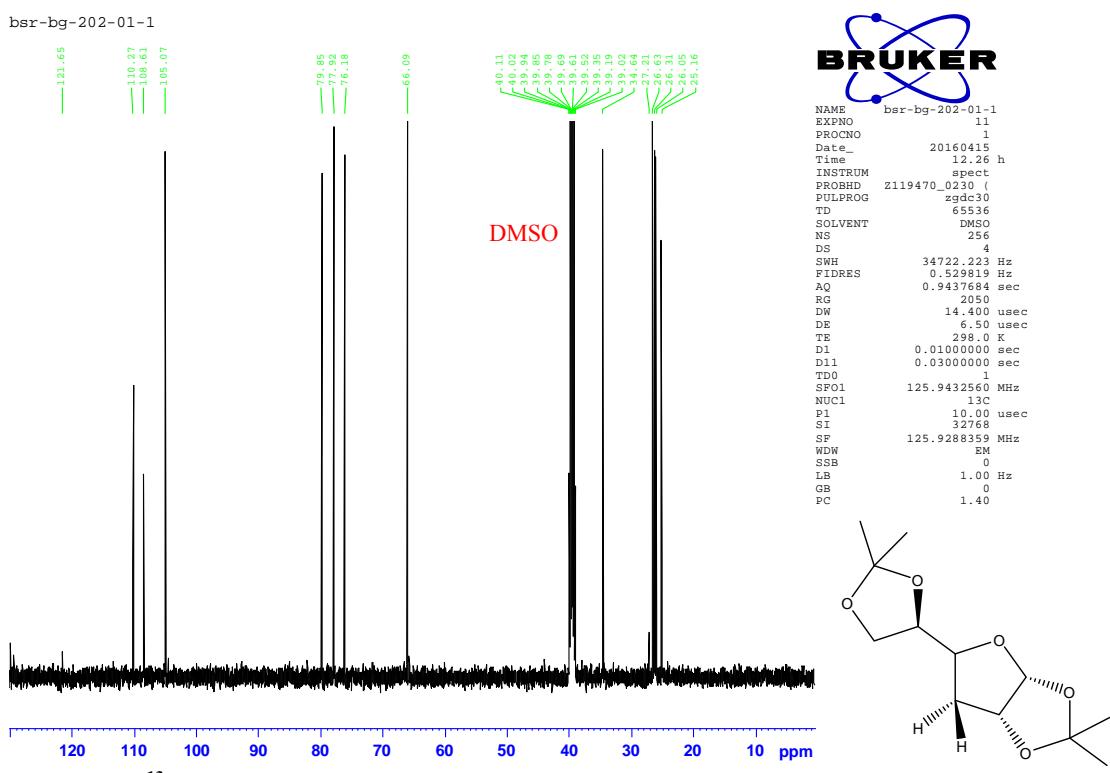


Figure S44: ^{13}C -NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz) of compound 15.

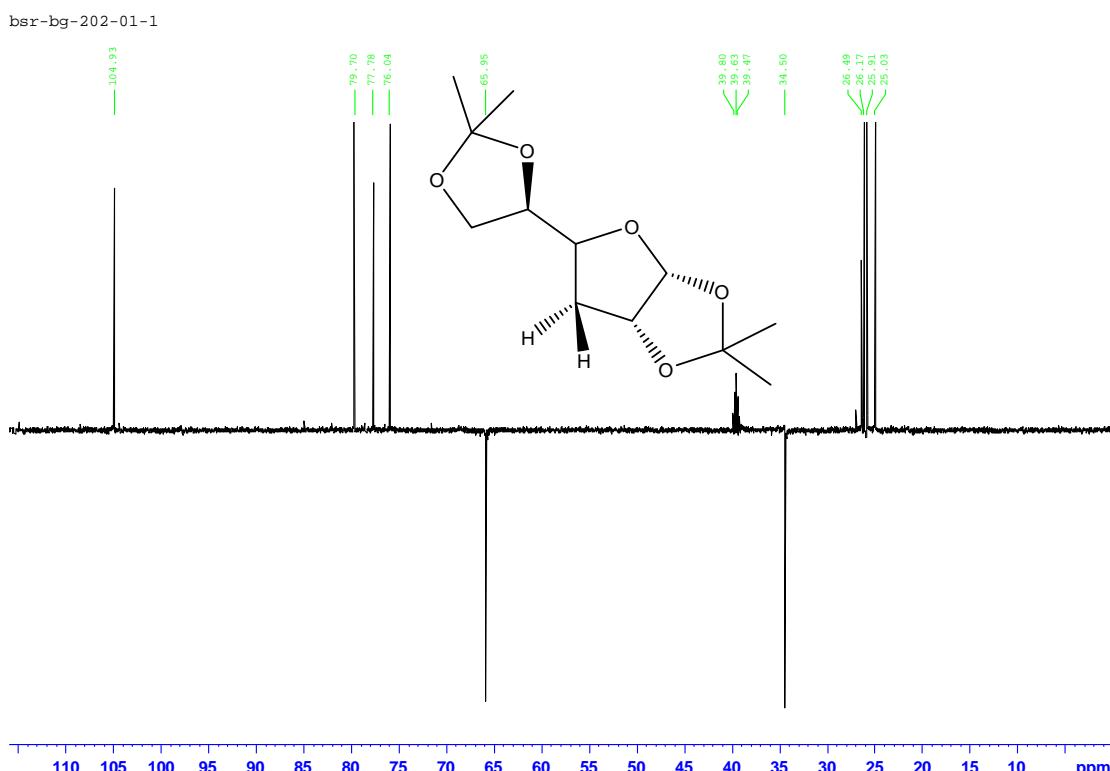


Figure S45: DEPT 135-NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz) of compound 15.

7 Supporting References

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