

# **Supporting Information for**

## **Copper(0)/Selectfluor System-promoted Oxidative Carbon-Carbon Bond Cleavage/Annulation of *o*-Aryl Chalcones: An Unexpected Synthesis of 9,10-Phenanthraquinone Derivatives**

Hanyang Bao, Zheng Xu, Degui Wu, Haifeng Zhang, Hongwei Jin,\* and Yunkui Liu\*

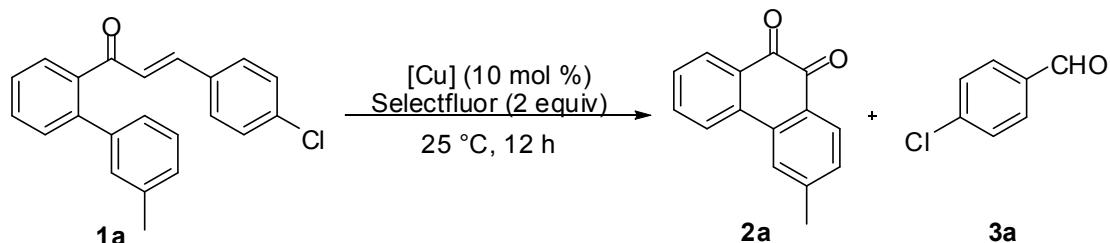
State Key Laboratory Breeding Base of Green Chemistry-Synthesis Technology, College of Chemical Engineering, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou 310014, P. R. Chin  
Email: ykuiliu@zjut.edu.cn; jhwei828@zjut.edu.cn

### **Contents**

1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions	S2–S5
2. Mechanistic Experiments	S6
2.1 Reaction of <b>1ze</b> in CH <sub>3</sub> CN-H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>18</sup> (50:1, V/V)	S6–S7
2.2 Studies on the Intermolecular Kinetic Isotope Effects (KIE) Based on Substrate <b>1u</b> and <b>1u-d5</b>	S7
3. <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra of <b>2a-2zd</b>	S8–S32
4. <sup>1</sup> H spectrum of <b>1u-d5</b>	S32

## 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions

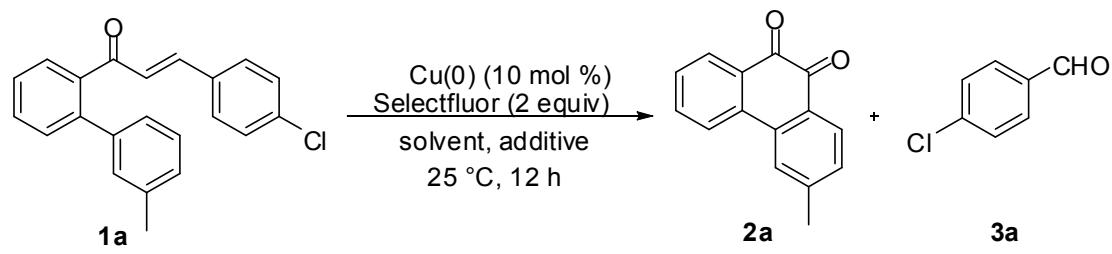
**Table S1.** Screening with different catalysts <sup>a</sup>



entry	[Cu]	solvent	yield of <b>2a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Cu(0) <sup>c</sup>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	70
2	Cu(0)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	75
<b>3</b>	<b>Cu(0)</b>	<b>CH<sub>3</sub>CN/H<sub>2</sub>O = 50:1 (V/V)</b>	<b>80</b>
4	Cu(0) <sup>d</sup>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	69
5	Cu(0) <sup>e</sup>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	55
6	--	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	0
7	CuBr	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	64
8	CuI	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	57
9	CuCl	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	55
10	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	60
11	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	50
12	Cu(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	52

<sup>a</sup> Reactions carried out with **1a** (0.3 mmol), copper catalyst (10 mol % based on **1a**), Selectfluor (2 equiv), solvent (3 mL), 25 °C for 12 h unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup> Using 5 mol % of Cu(0) powder. <sup>d</sup>Using 20 mol % of Cu(0) powder. <sup>e</sup>The reaction temperature is 50 °C.

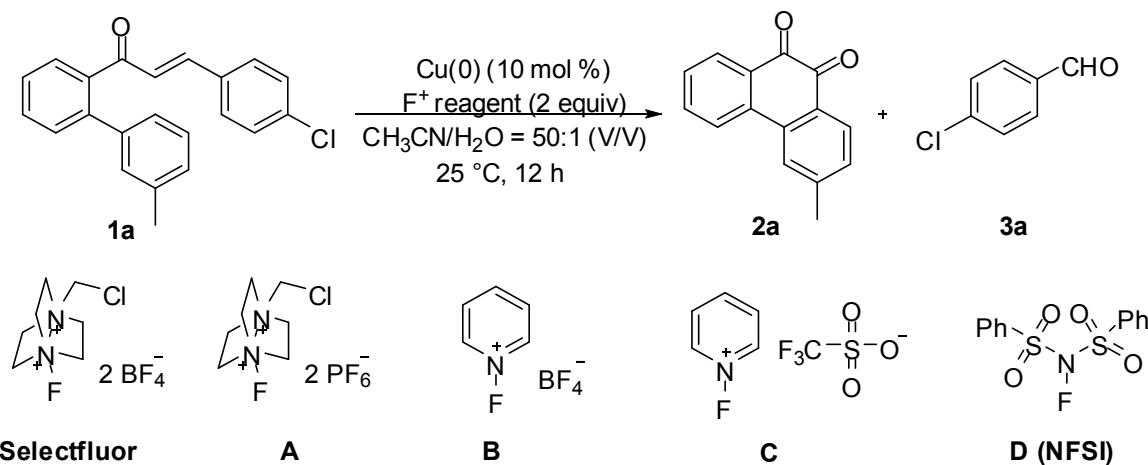
**Table S2.** Screening with different solvents, additives and reaction times<sup>a</sup>



entry	solvent	additive	yield of <b>2a</b> (%), <sup>b</sup>
1	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	--	75
2	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	68
3	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	64
4	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	67
5	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	57
<b>6</b>	<b>CH<sub>3</sub>CN/H<sub>2</sub>O = 50:1 (V/V)</b>	--	<b>80</b>
7	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 25:1 (V/V)	--	65
8	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 100:1 (V/V)	--	77
9	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 200:1 (V/V)	--	75
10	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 400:1 (V/V)	--	73
11	Acetone/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	0
12	EtOAc/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	0
13	MeOH/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	0
14	EtOH/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	0
15	DMF/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	0
16	toluene/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	0
17	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	0
18	1,4-dioxane/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	0
19	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	70 <sup>c</sup>
20	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	65 <sup>d</sup>
21	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O = 50:1 (V/V)	--	30 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reactions carried out with **1a** (0.3 mmol), copper powder (10 mol % based on **1a**), Selectfluor (2 equiv), solvent (3 mL), 25 °C for 12 h unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup>The reaction time is 6 h. <sup>d</sup>The reaction time is 4 h. <sup>e</sup>The reaction time is 2 h.

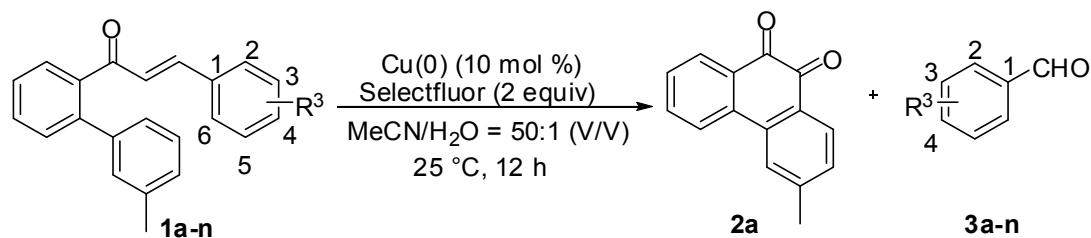
**Table S3.** Screening with different oxidants <sup>a</sup>



entry	$\text{F}^+$ reagent	yield of <b>2a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
<b>1</b>	<b>Selectfluor</b>	<b>80</b>
2	Selectfluor	40 <sup>c</sup>
3	Selectfluor	62 <sup>d</sup>
4	<b>A</b>	40
5	<b>B</b>	trace
6	<b>C</b>	10
7	<b>D</b>	50

<sup>a</sup> Reactions carried out with **1a** (0.3 mmol), copper powder (10 mol % based on **1a**),  $\text{F}^+$  reagent (2 equiv),  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  mixture (50:1 (V/V), 3 mL), 25 °C for 12 h unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup> The use of 1.0 equivalent of Selectfluor. <sup>d</sup> The use of 3.0 equivalents of Selectfluor.

**Table S4.** Investigation of the effect of different benzylidene moieties in **1a-n** on the formation of **2a**<sup>a</sup>



entry	R <sup>3</sup> ( <b>1a-n</b> )	aldehyde ( <b>3a-n</b> )	yield of <b>2a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	4-Cl ( <b>1a</b> )	<b>3a</b>	80
2	2-Cl ( <b>1a-1</b> )	<b>3a-1</b>	66
3	3-Cl ( <b>1a-2</b> )	<b>3a-2</b>	60
4	4-Br ( <b>1a-3</b> )	<b>3a-3</b>	61
5	3,5-dichloro ( <b>1a-4</b> )	<b>3a-4</b>	65
6	2,6-dichloro ( <b>1a-5</b> )	<b>3a-5</b>	63
7	4-NO <sub>2</sub> ( <b>1a-6</b> )	<b>3a-6</b>	45
8	4-CH <sub>3</sub> ( <b>1a-7</b> )	<b>3a-7</b>	32
9	H ( <b>1a-8</b> )	<b>3a-8</b>	60

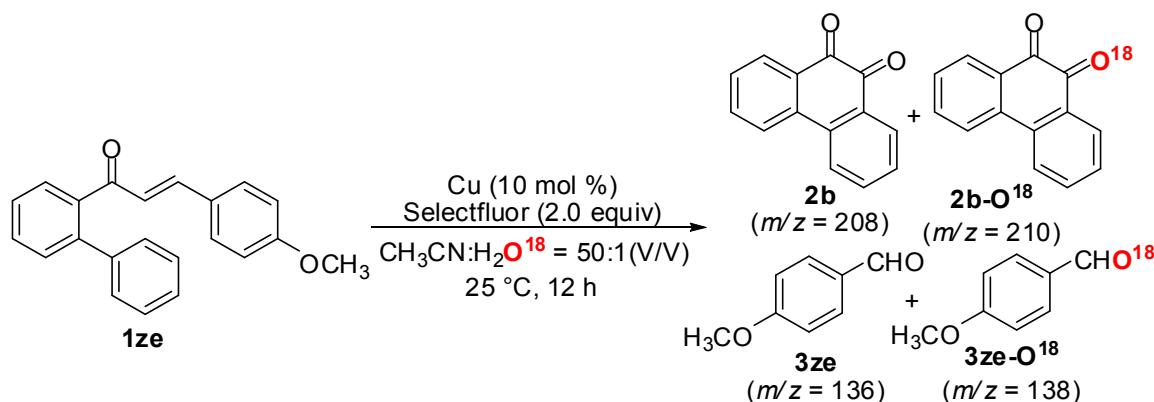
<sup>a</sup> Reactions carried out with **1a-n** (0.3 mmol), copper catalyst (10 mol % based on **1a-n**),

Selectfluor (2 equiv), CH<sub>3</sub>CN/H<sub>2</sub>O = 50:1 (V/V) (3 mL), 25 °C for 12 h unless otherwise noted.

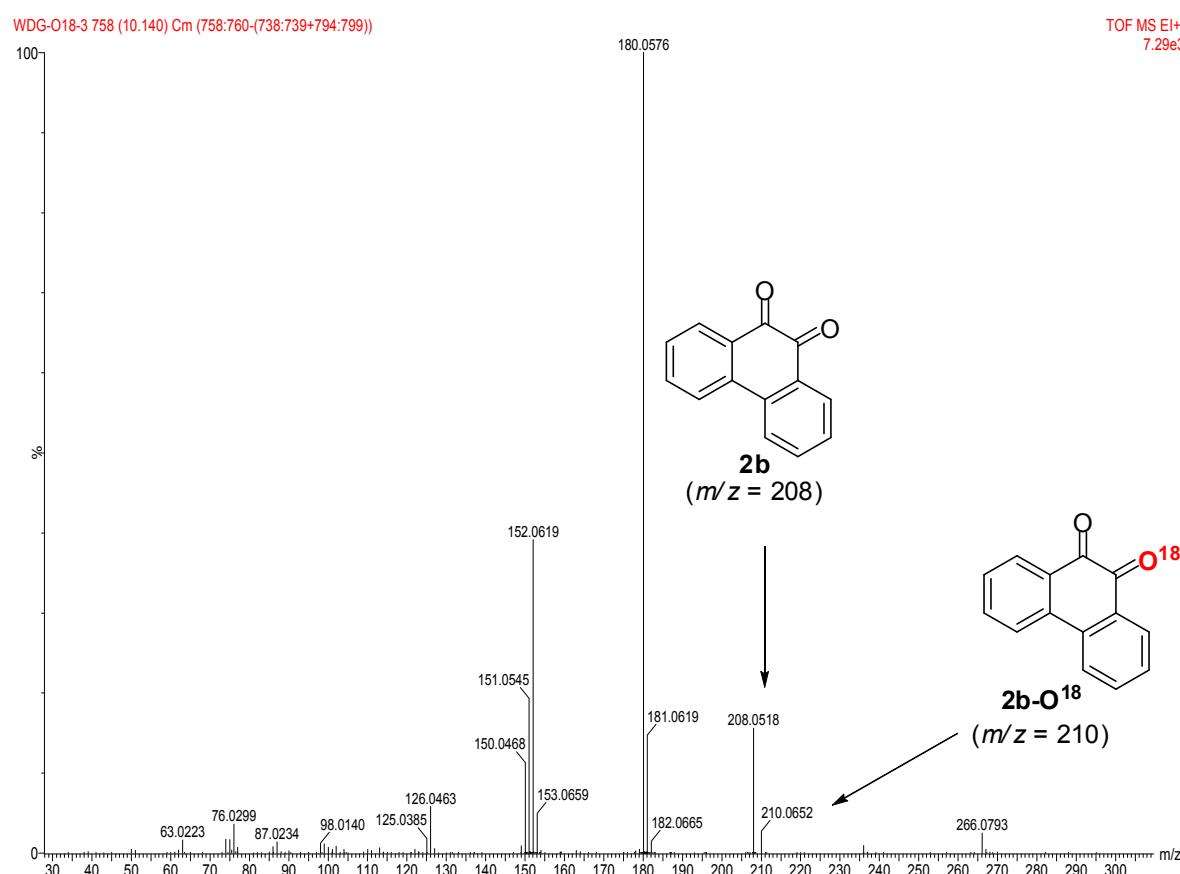
<sup>b</sup> Isolated yields.

## 2. Mechanistic Experiments

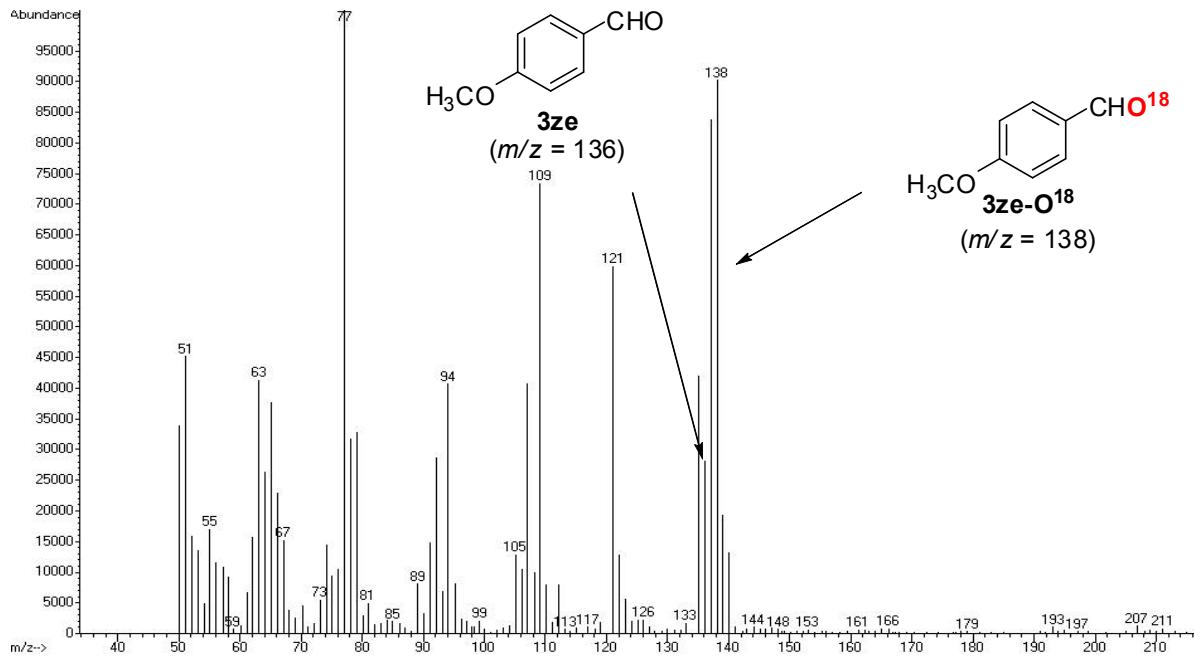
### 2.1 Reaction of 1ze in CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>18</sup> (50:1, V/V)



### MS-analytical Results:



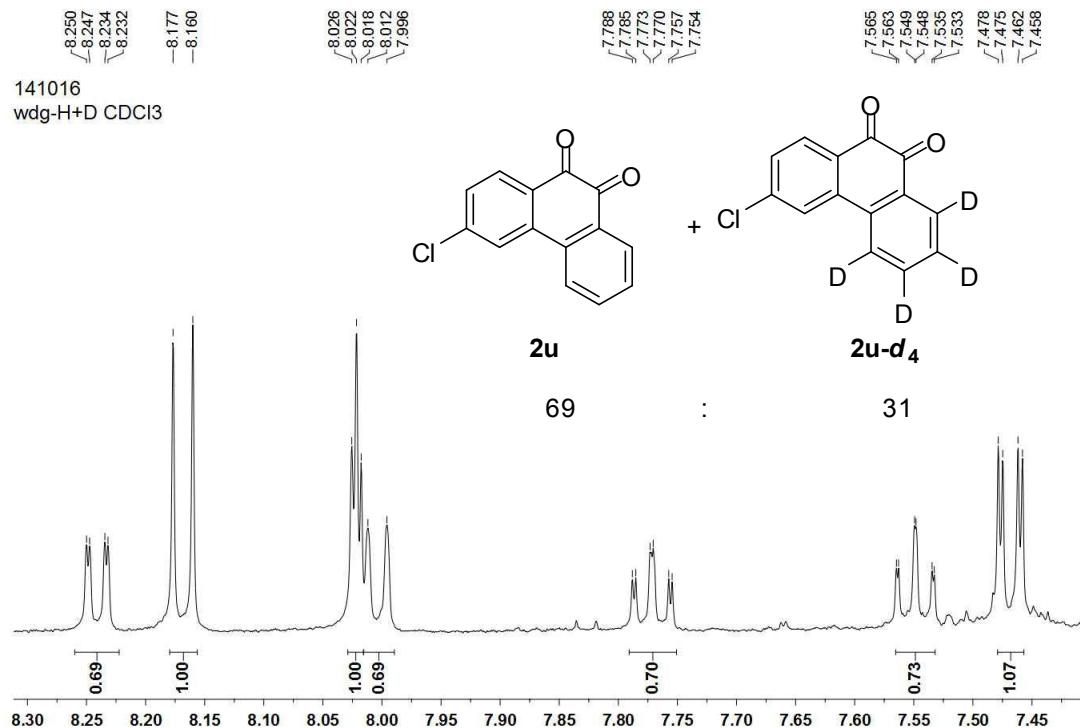
**Figure S1.** The MS-spectrum of **2b/2b-O<sup>18</sup>**



**Figure S2.** The MS-spectrum of **3ze/3ze-O<sup>18</sup>**

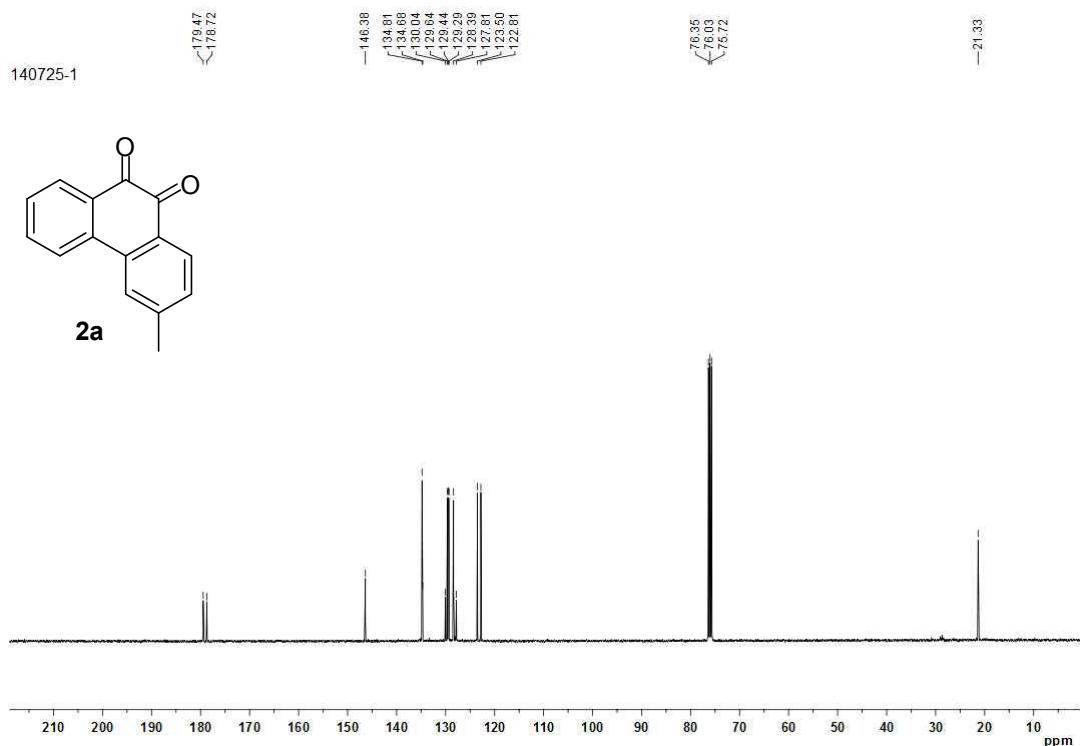
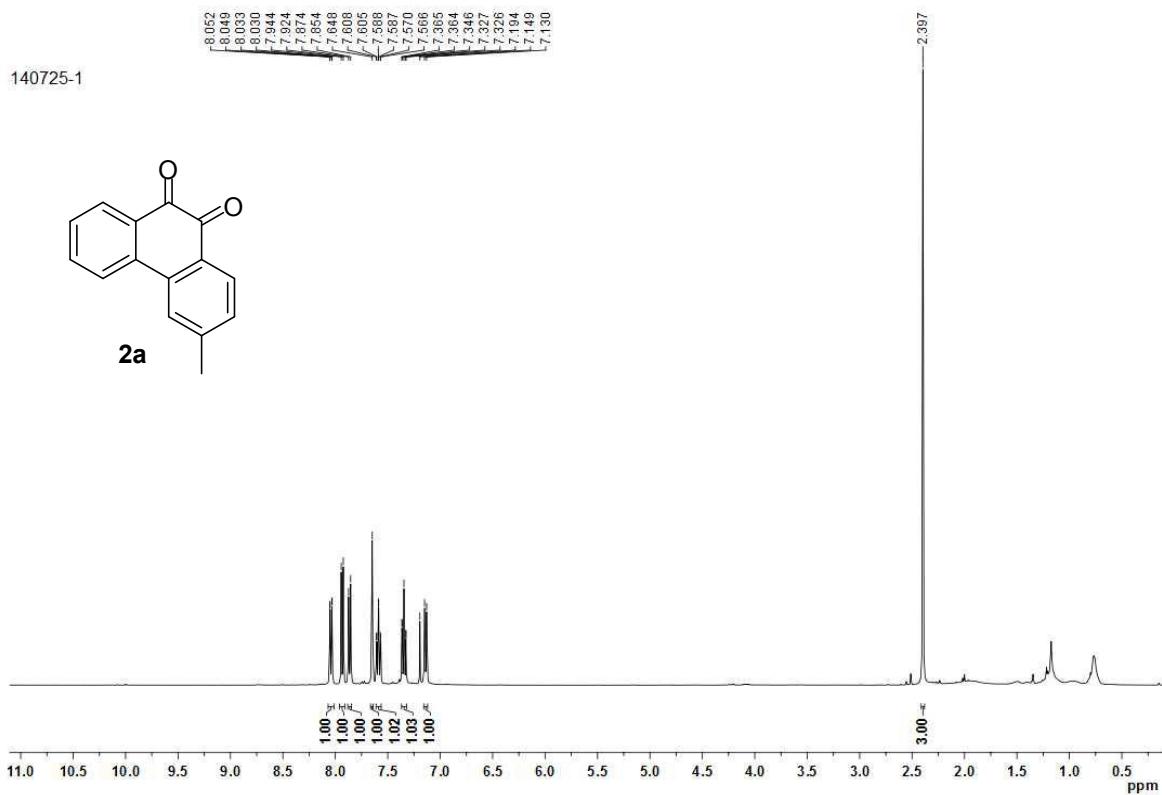
## 2.2 Studies on the Intermolecular Kinetic Isotope Effects (KIE) Based on Substrate **1u** and **1u-d<sub>5</sub>**.

### <sup>1</sup>H NMR Analytical Results:

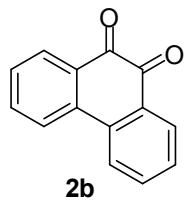


**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the mixture of **2u** and **2u-d<sub>4</sub>**

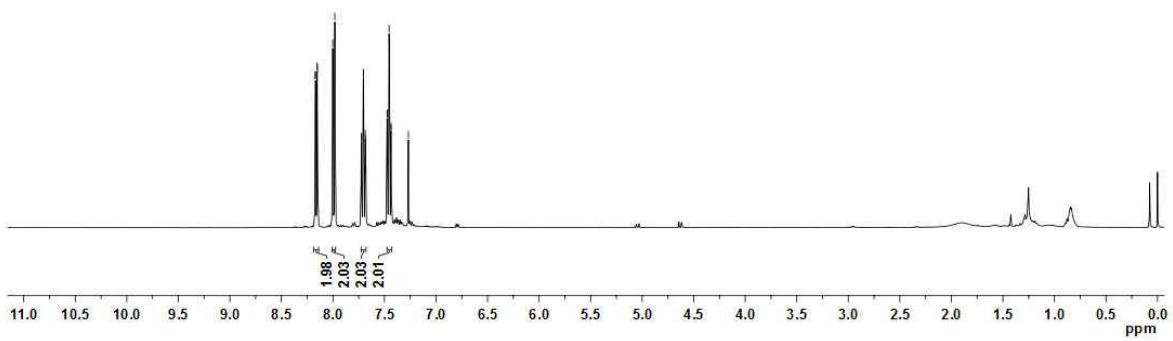
**3.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of 2a-2zd**



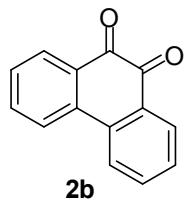
140725-7



8.173  
8.169  
8.153  
8.150  
8.052  
8.002  
7.982  
7.925  
7.722  
7.705  
7.703  
7.887  
7.883  
7.475  
7.473  
7.455  
7.437  
7.435  
7.268

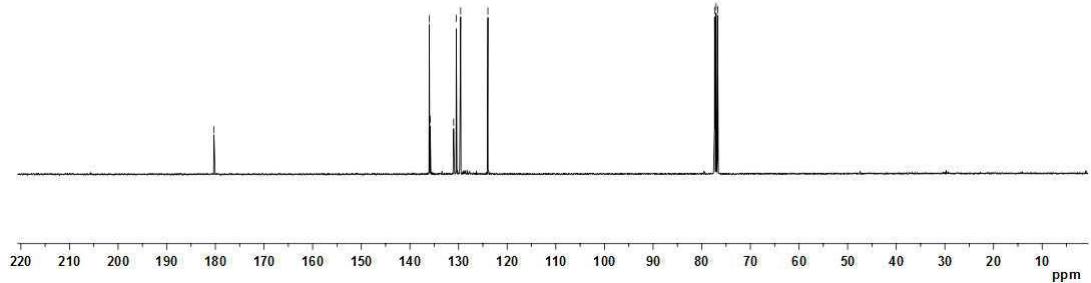


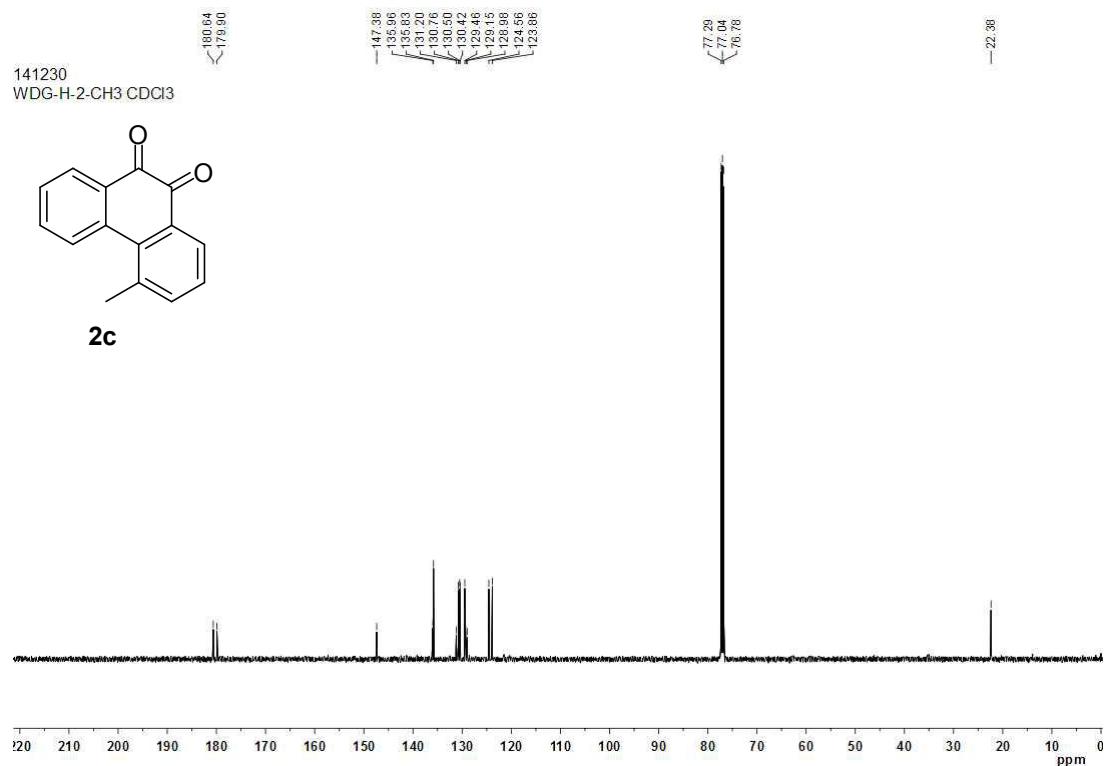
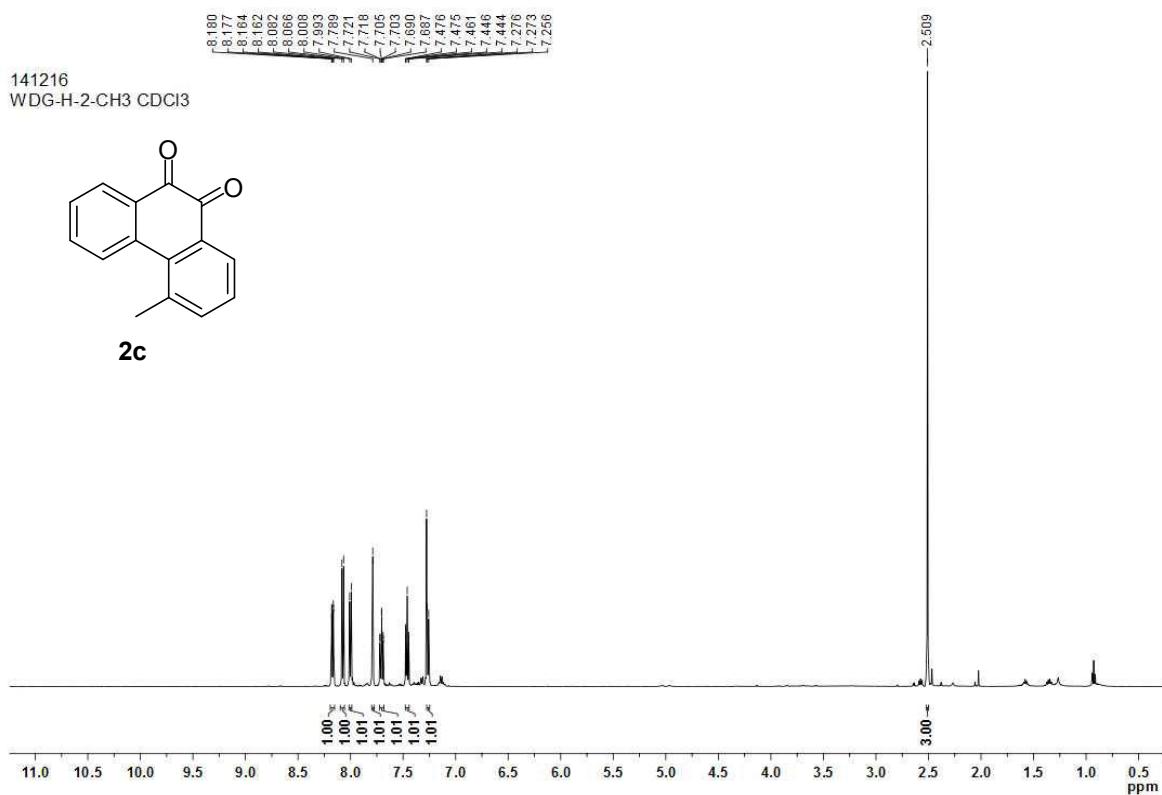
140725-7



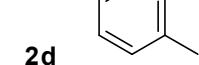
—180.30  
136.02  
135.84  
131.02  
130.46  
129.57  
123.97

77.36  
77.04  
76.72



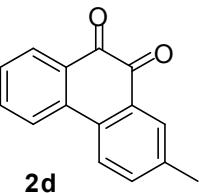


140725-12



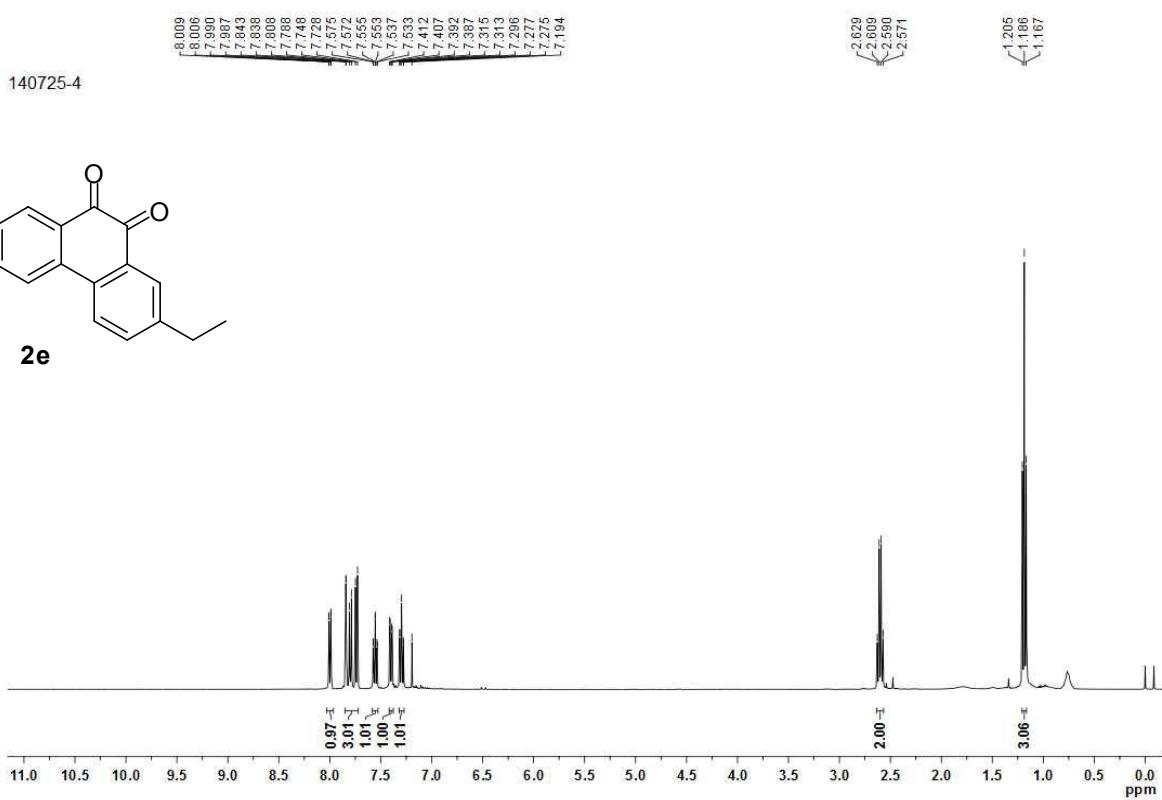
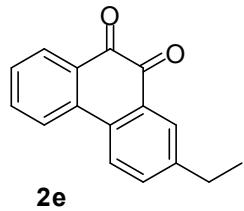
11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 ppm

140725-12

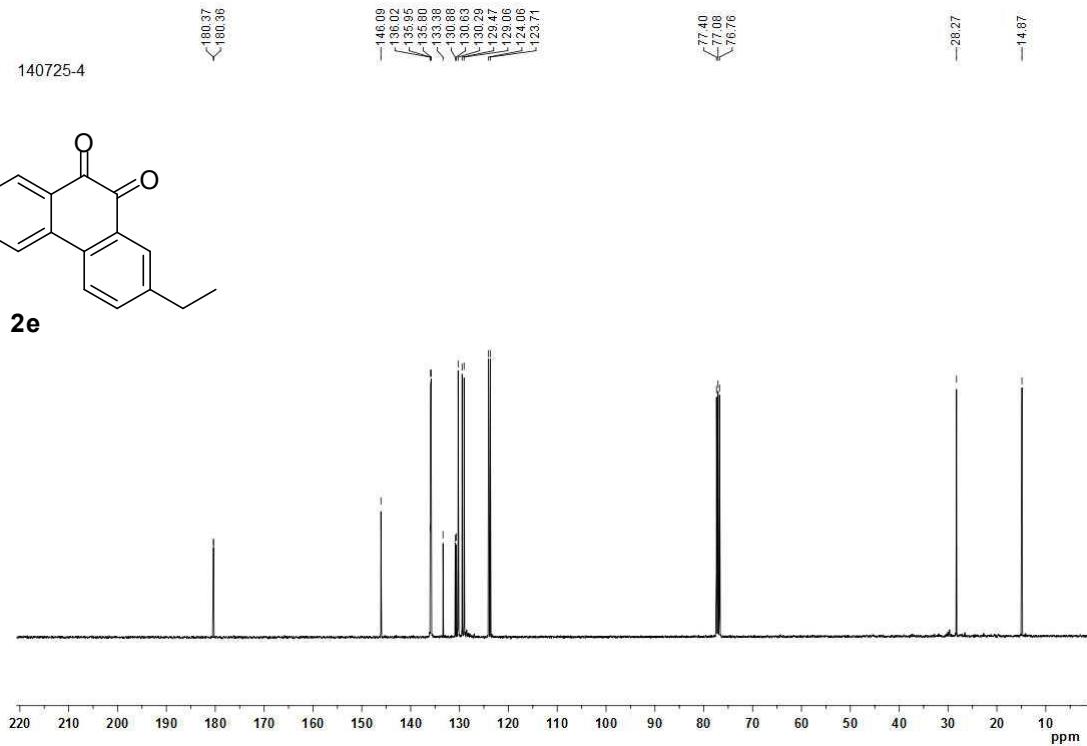
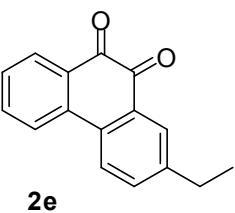


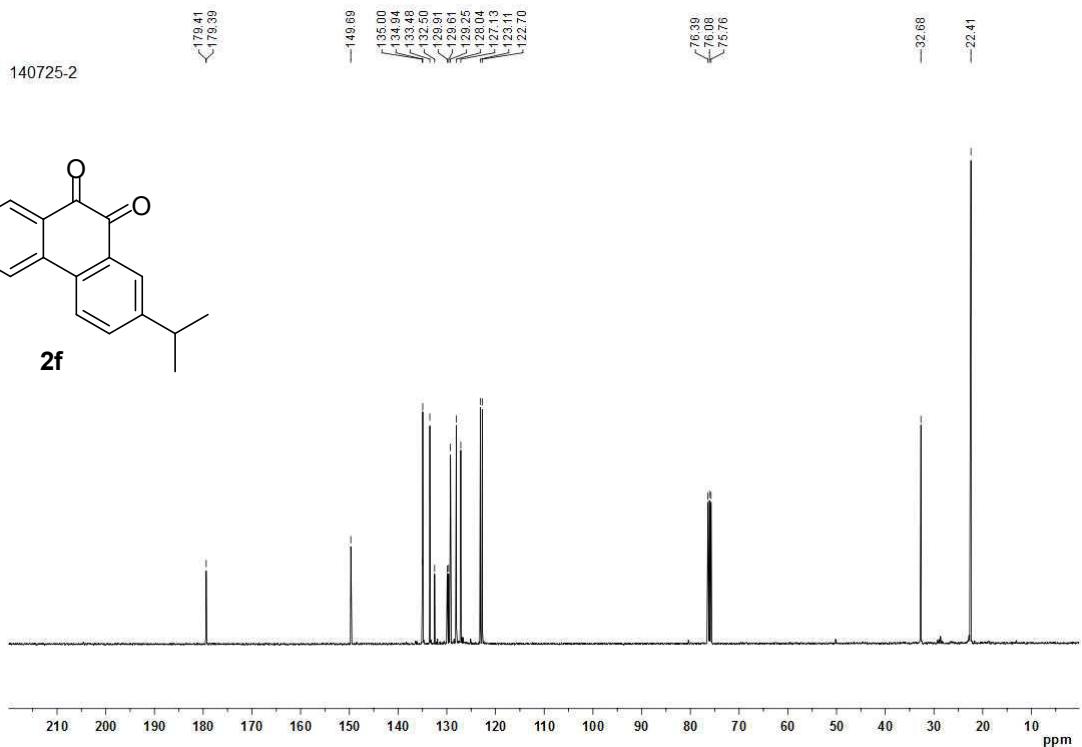
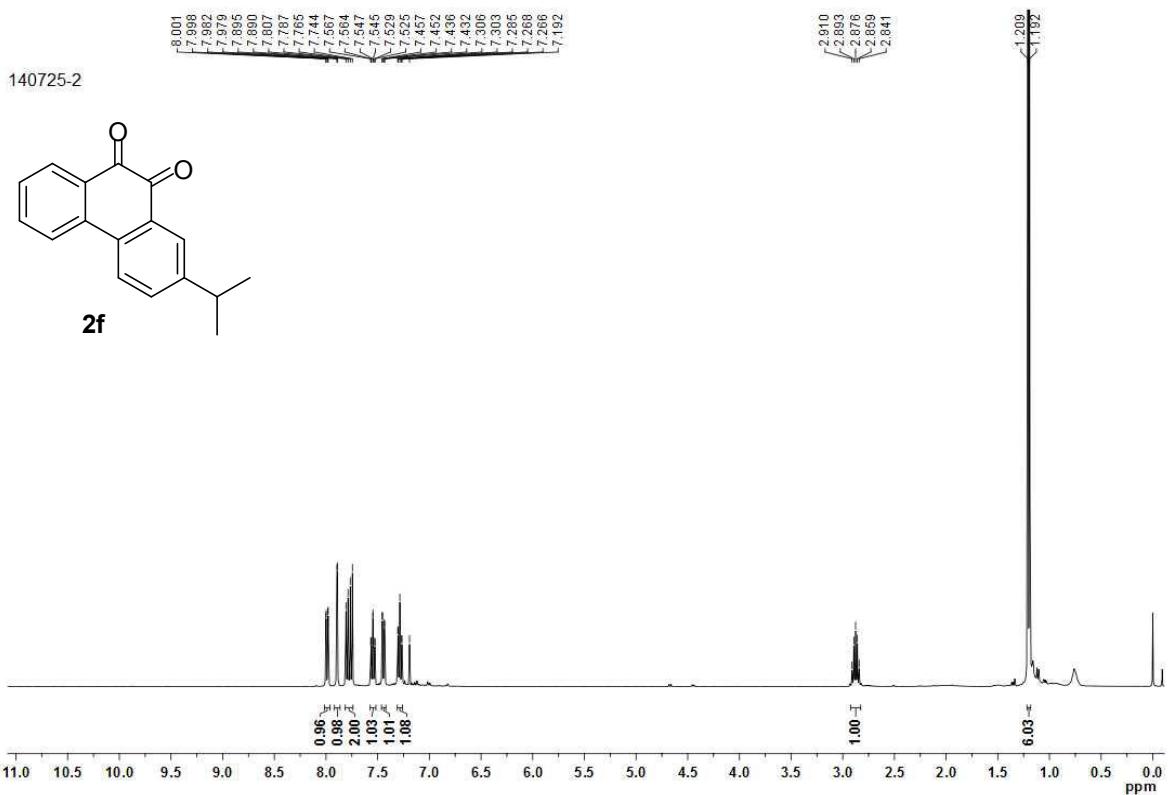
220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm

140725-4



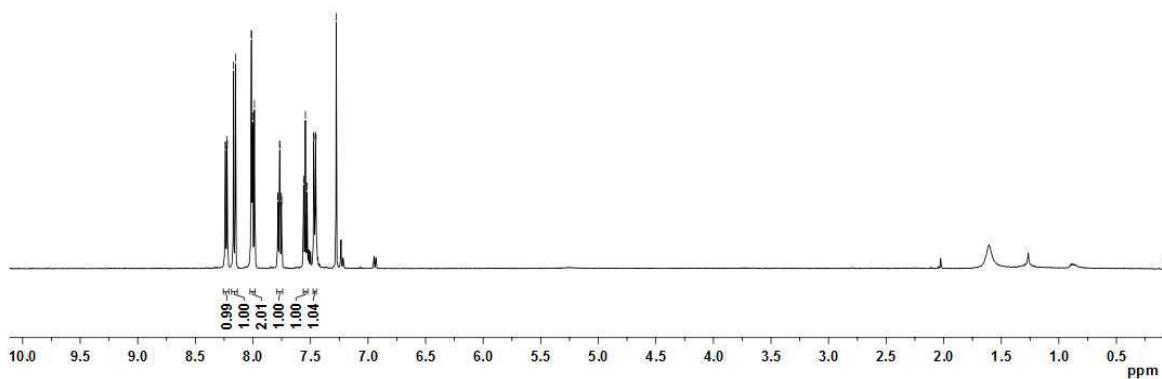
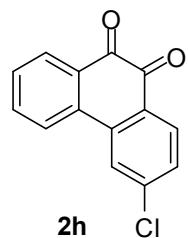
140725-4



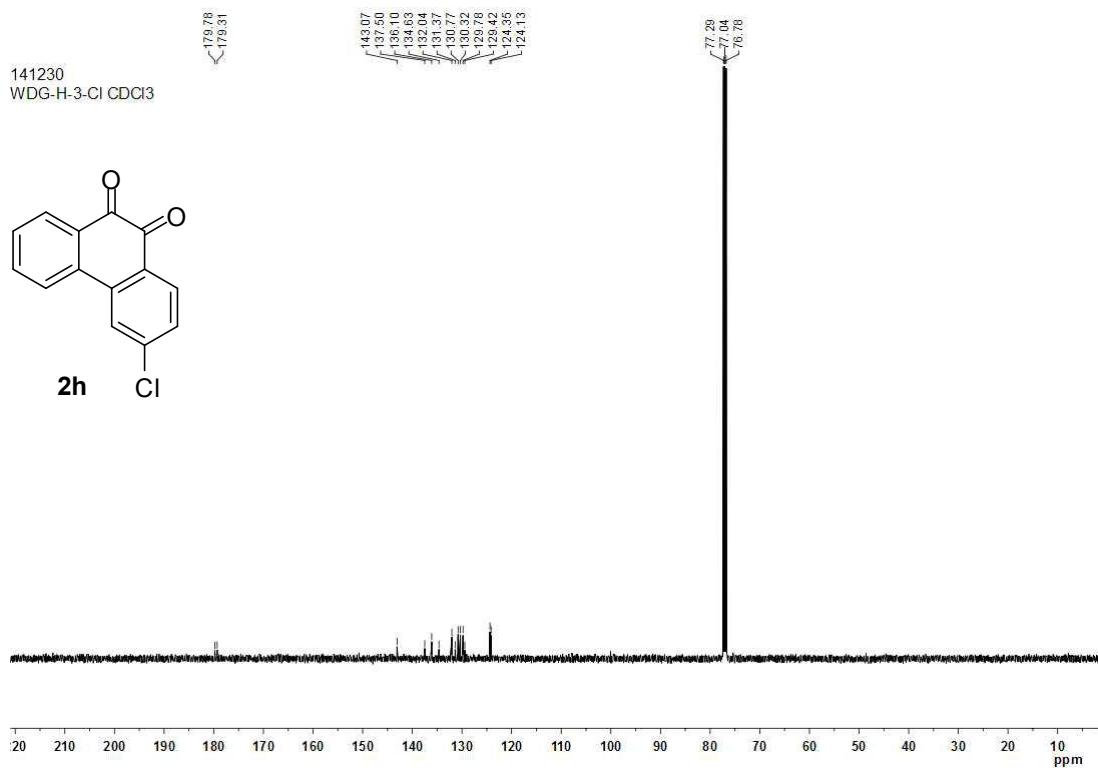
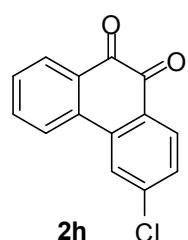




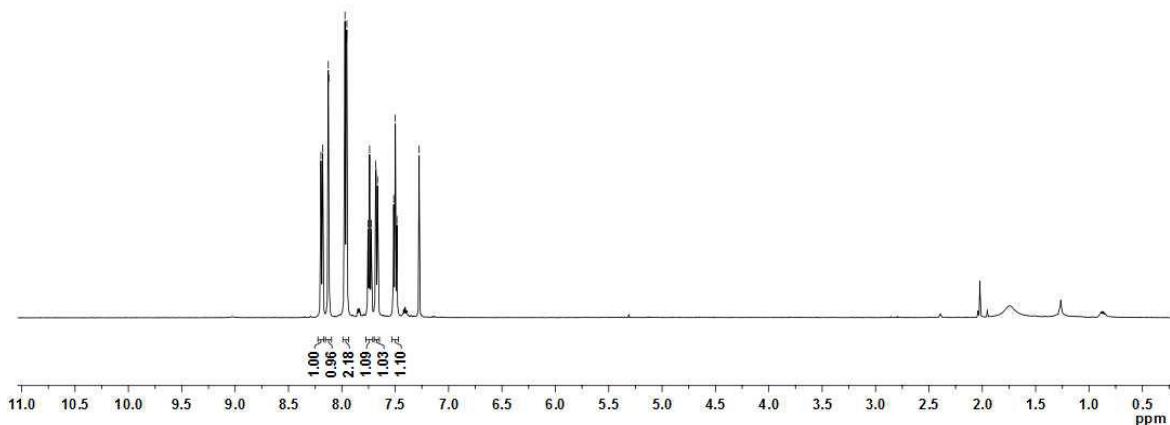
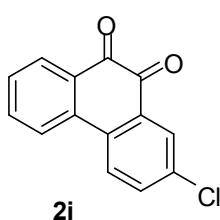
141208  
WDG-4-Cl-H CDCl<sub>3</sub>



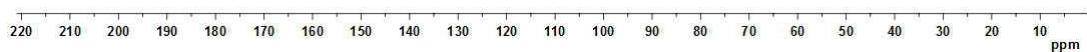
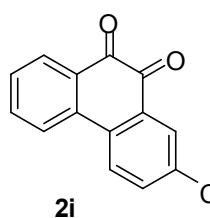
141230  
WDG-H-3-Cl CDCl<sub>3</sub>

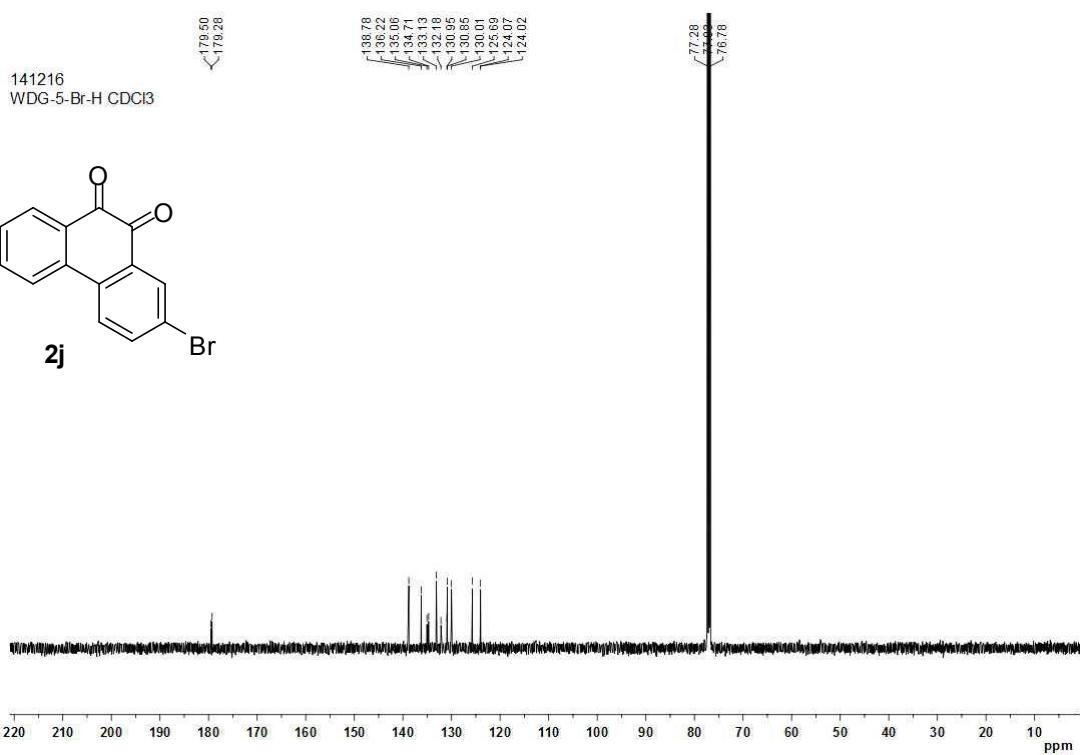
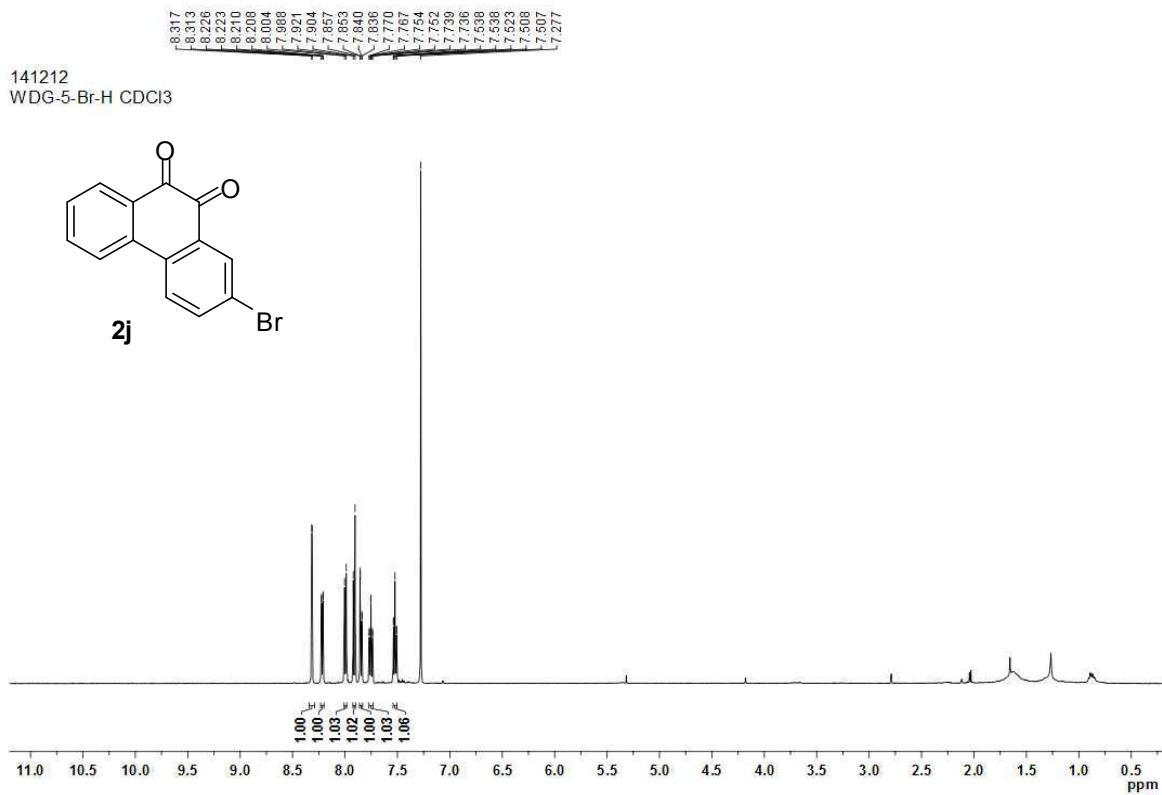


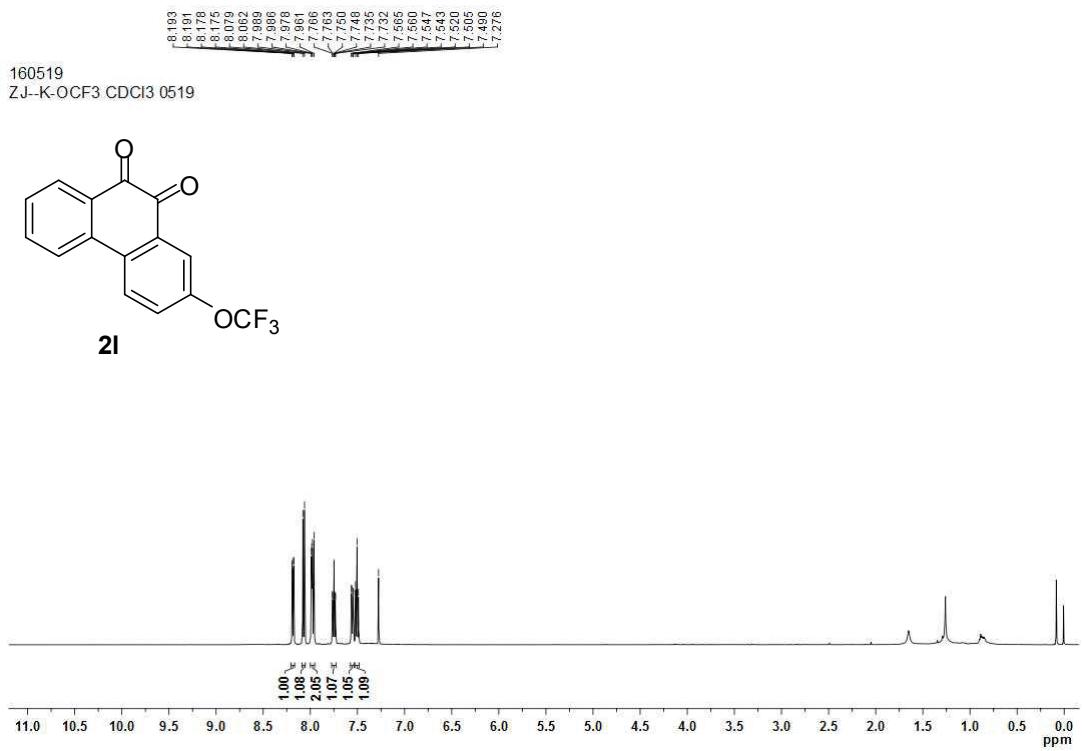
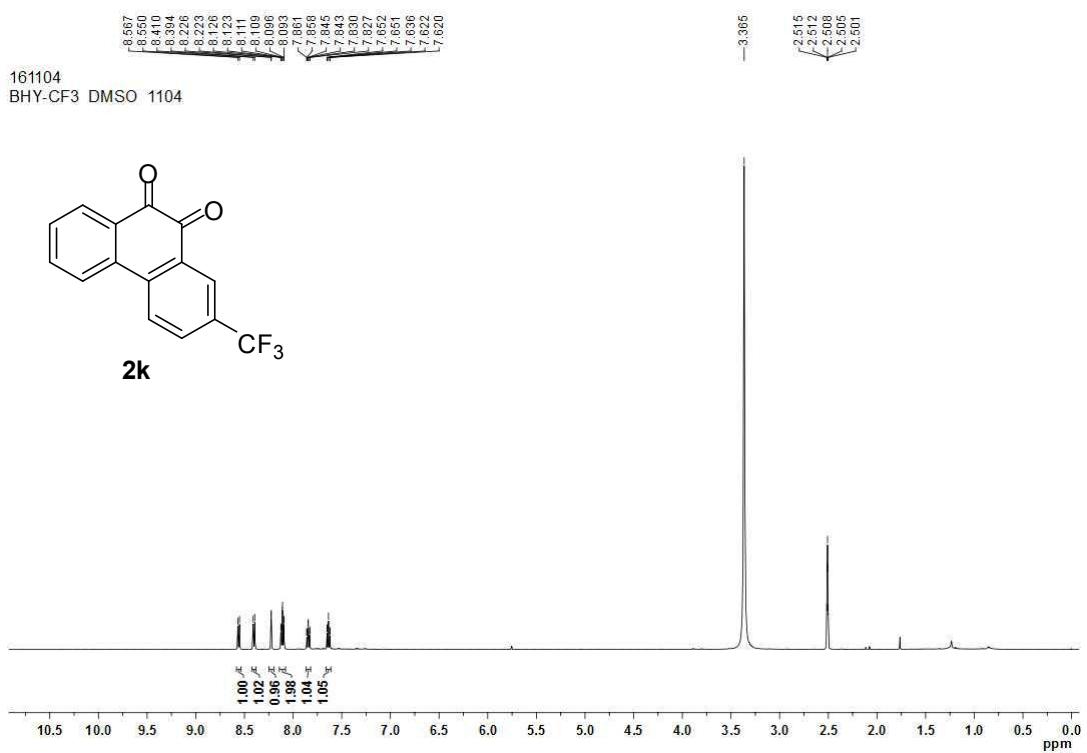
160523  
ZJ-K-5Cl CDCl<sub>3</sub> 0523

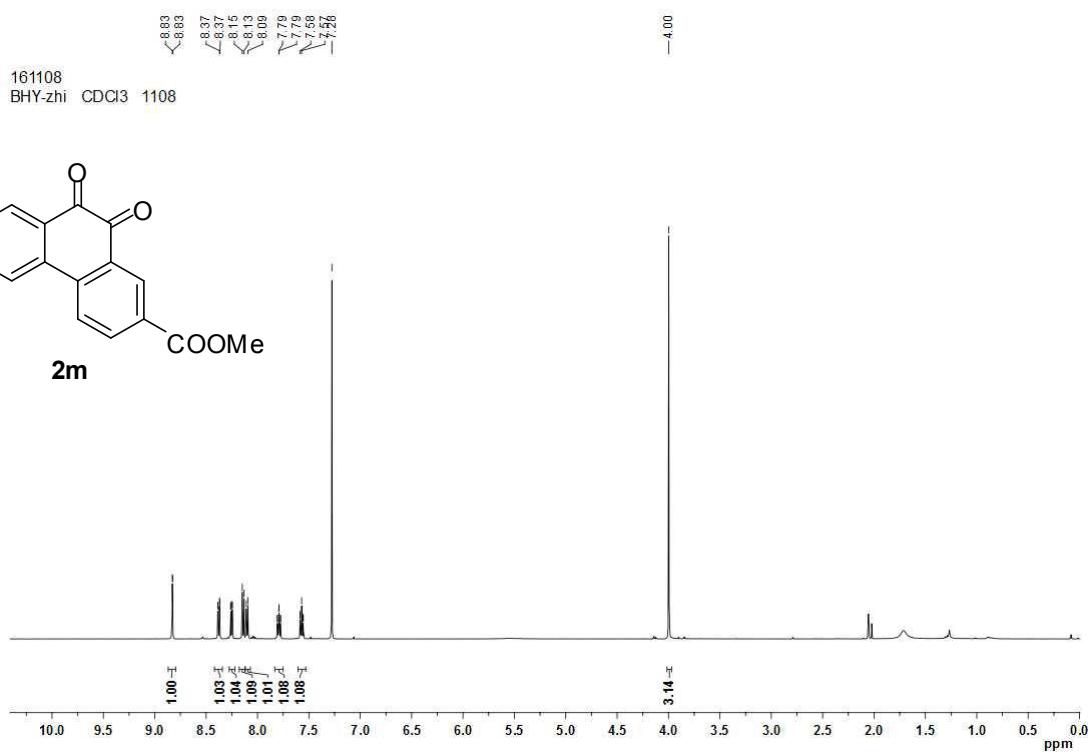
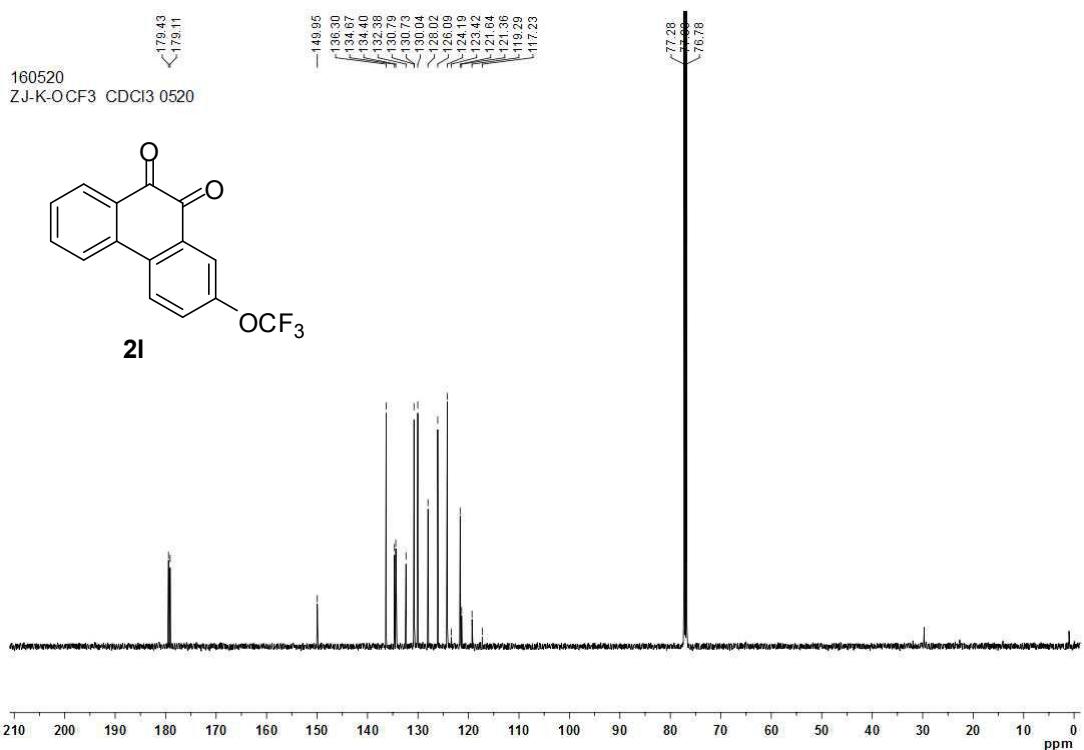


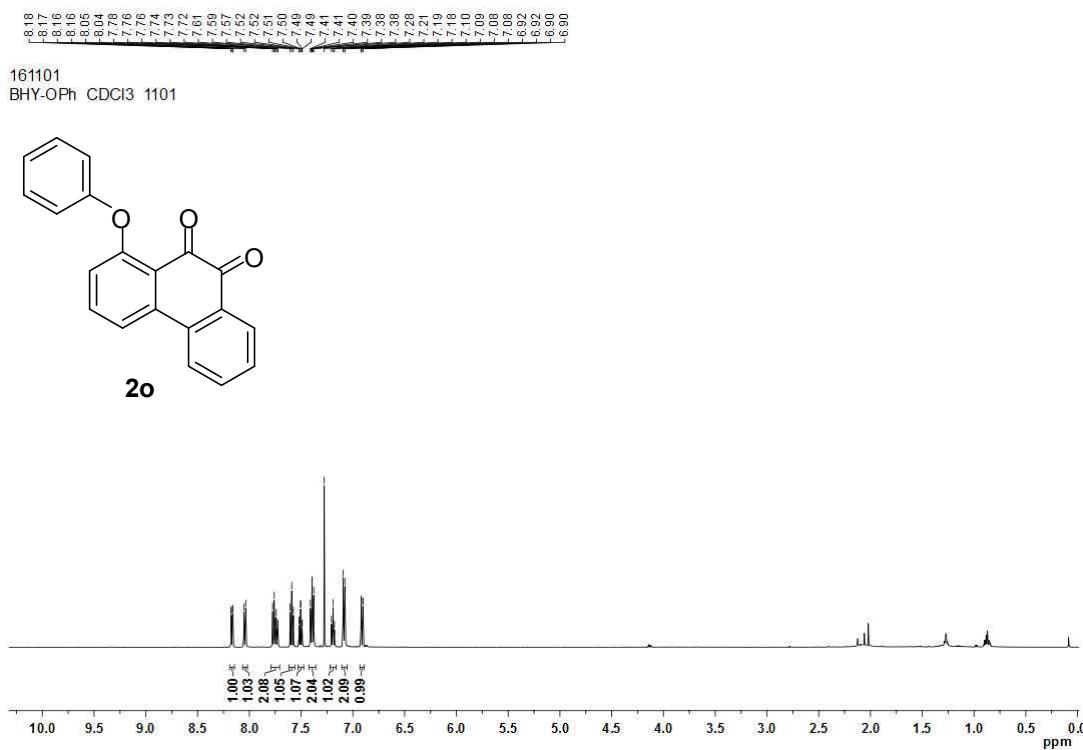
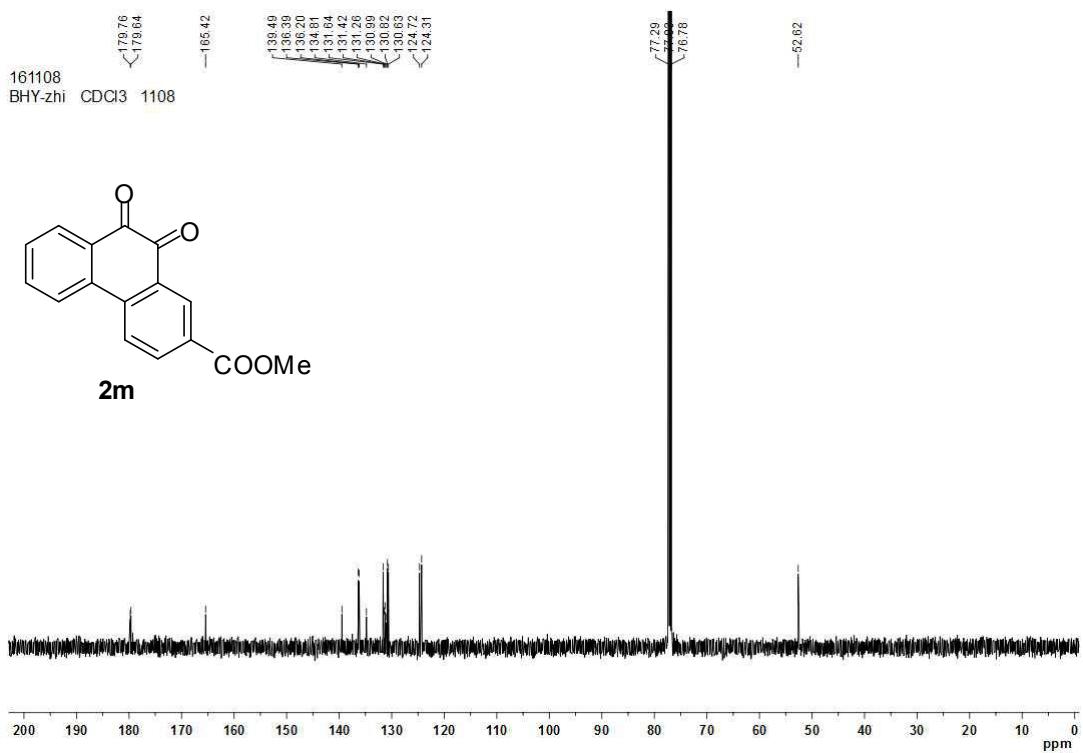
141205  
WDG-H-4-Cl CDCl<sub>3</sub>

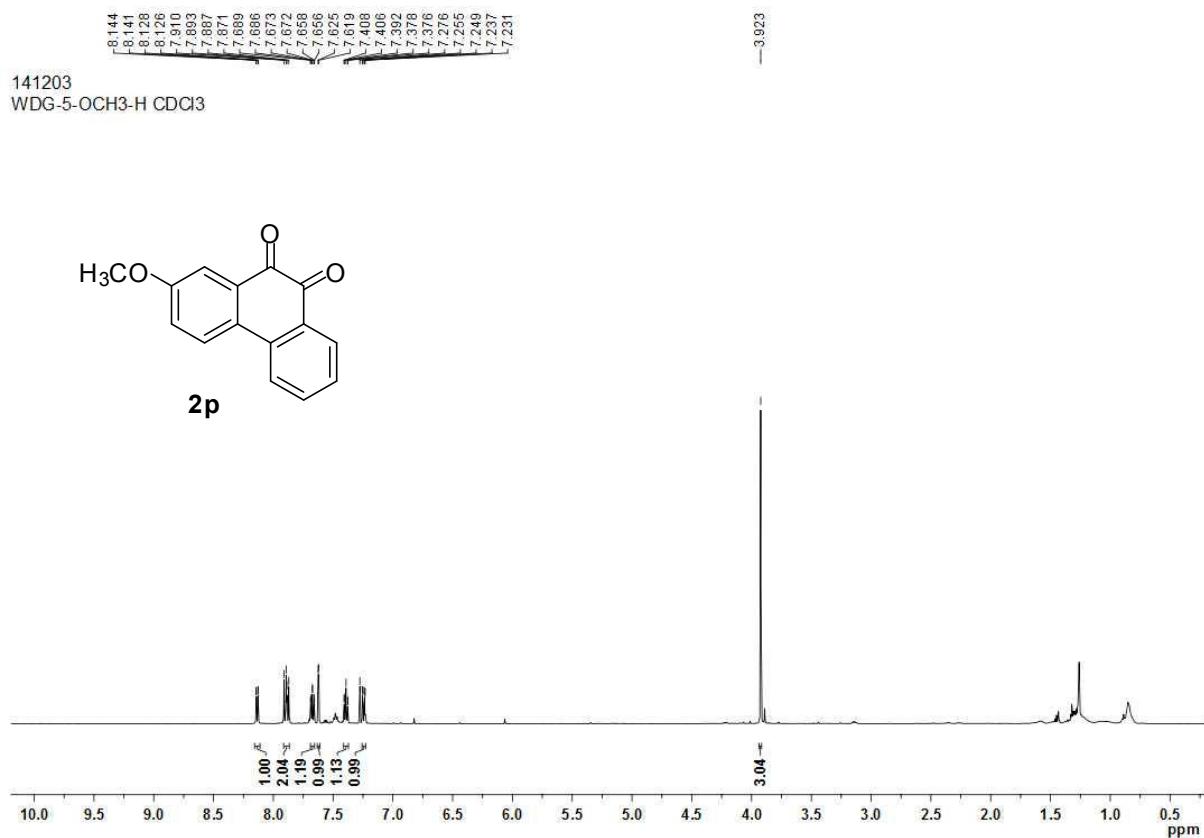
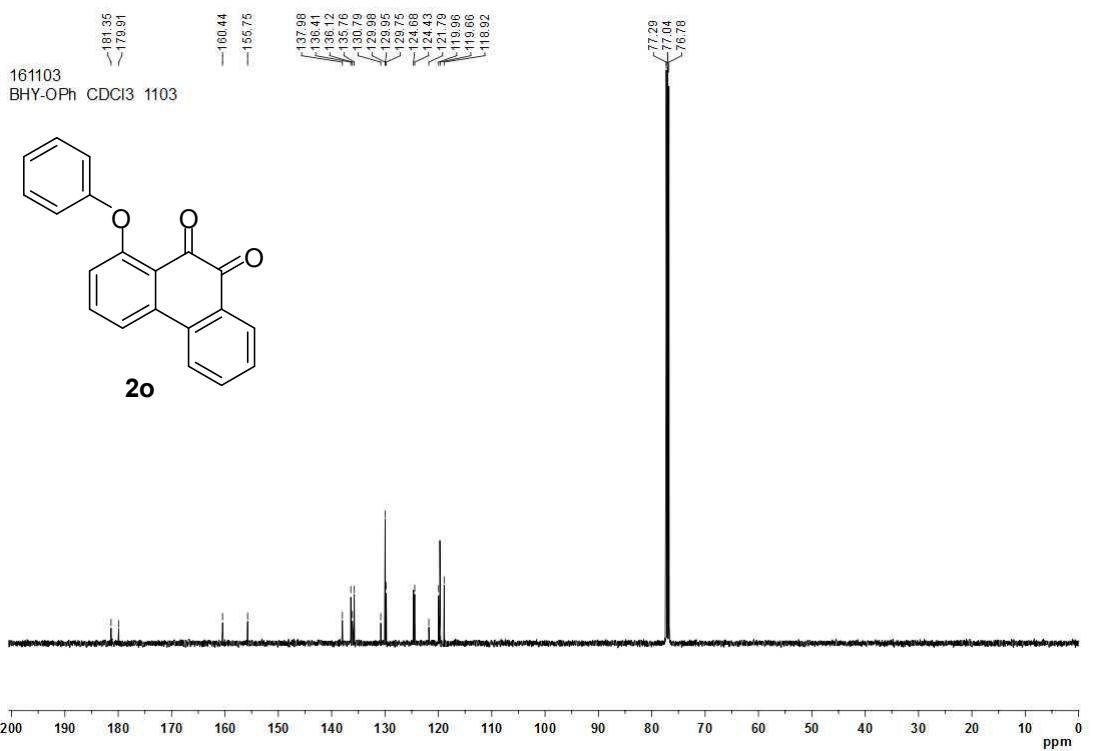


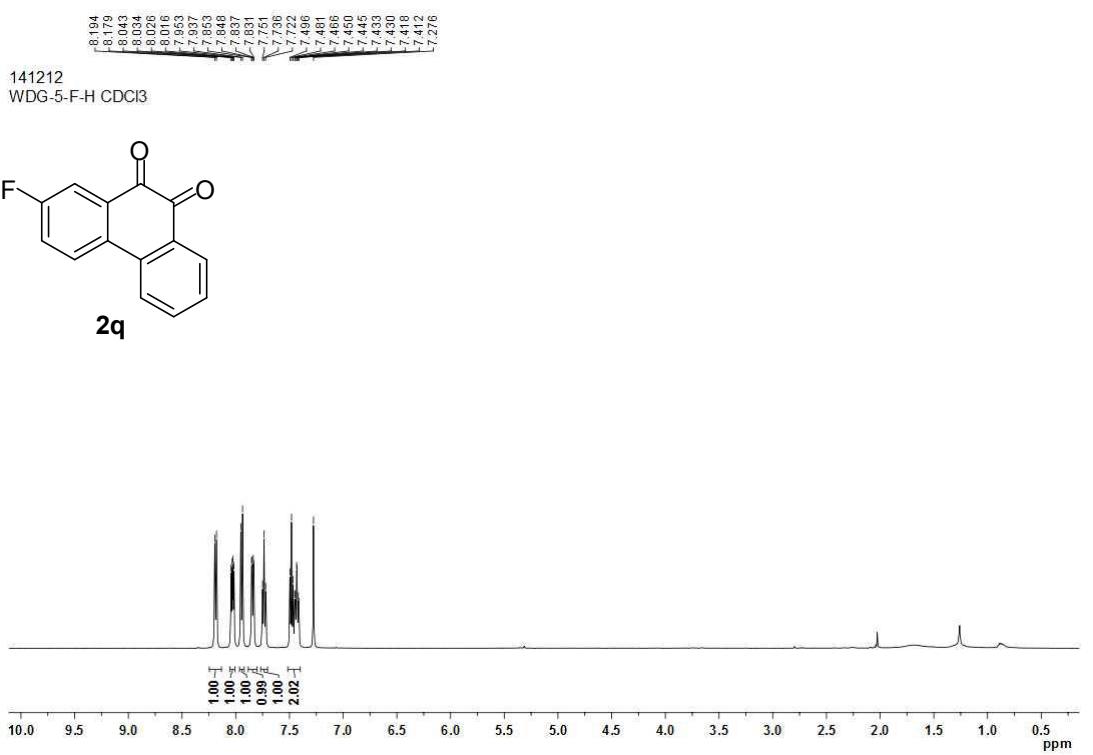
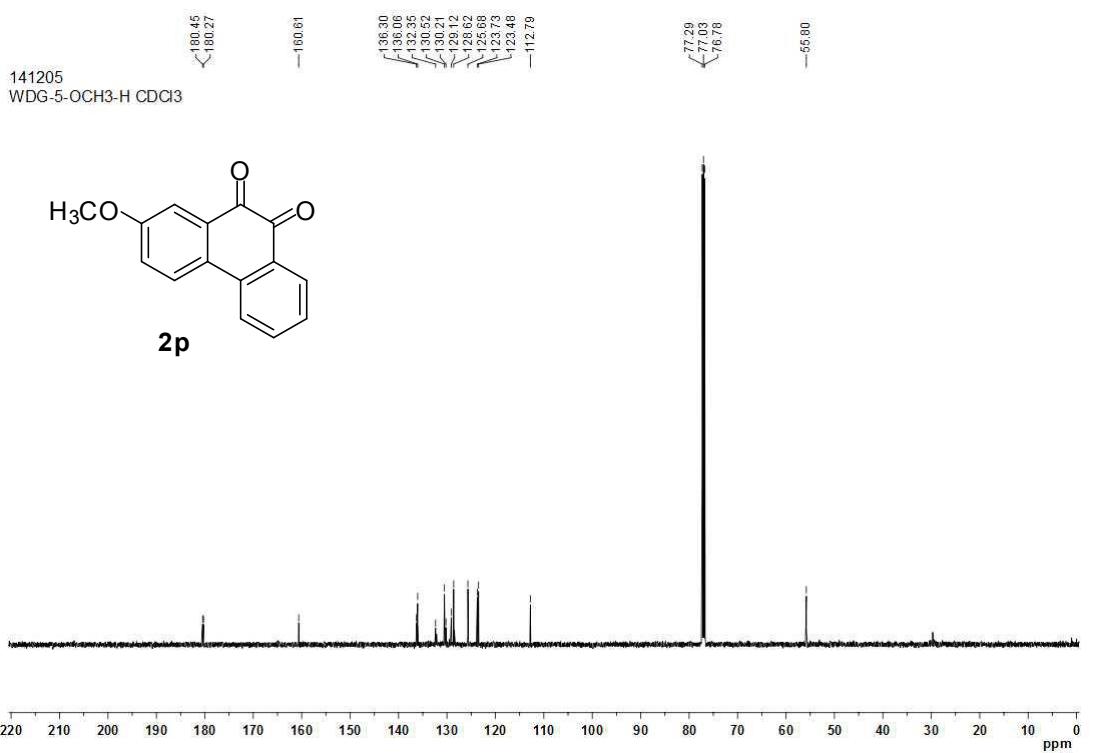


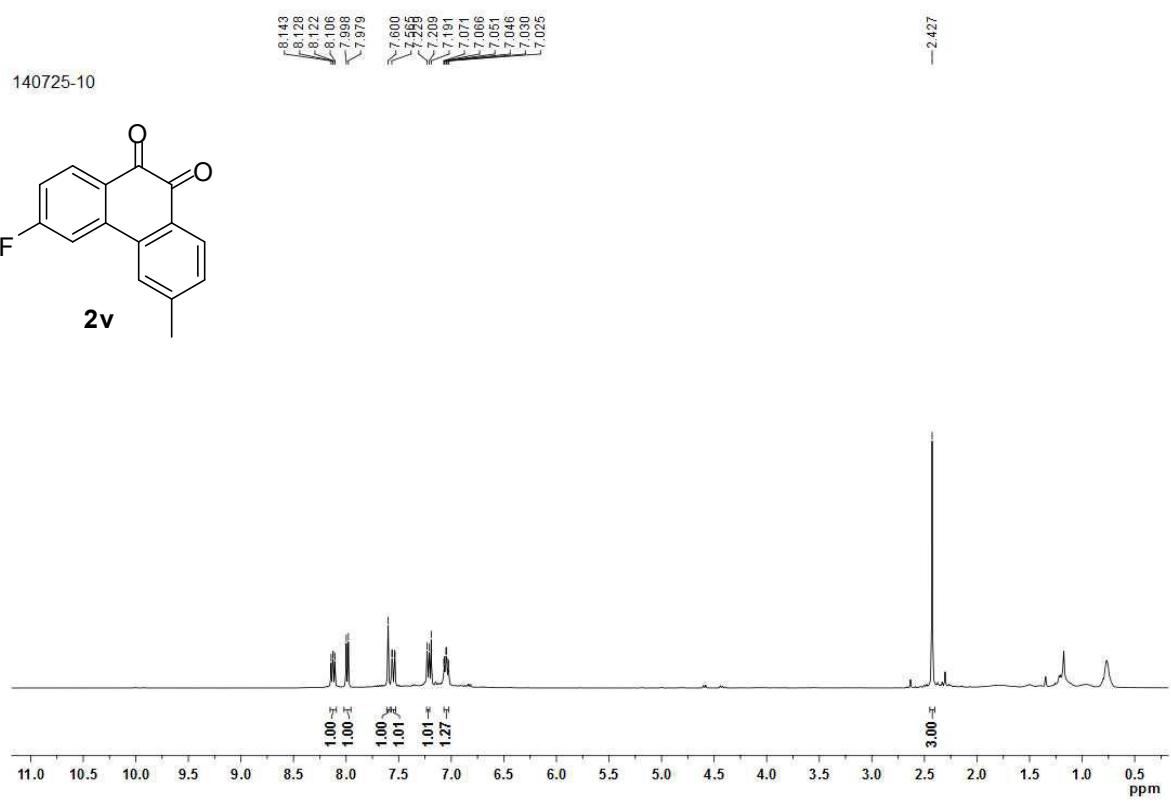
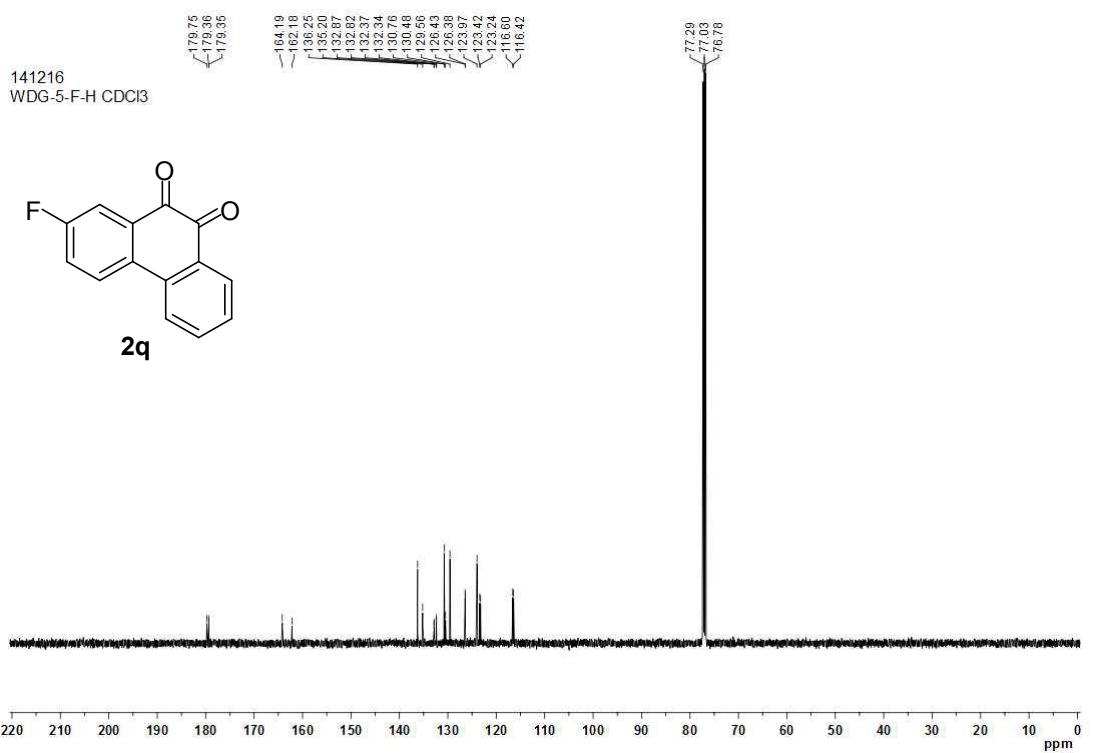




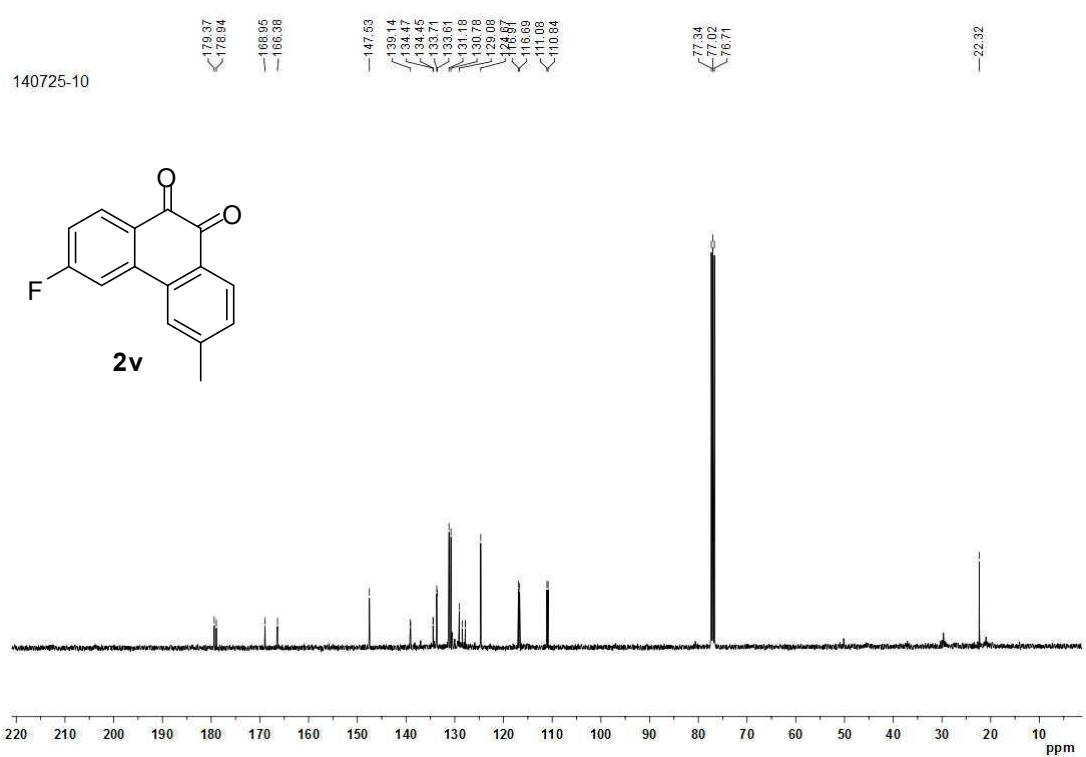
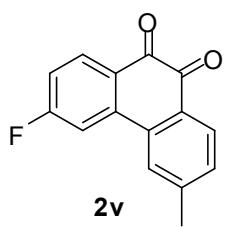




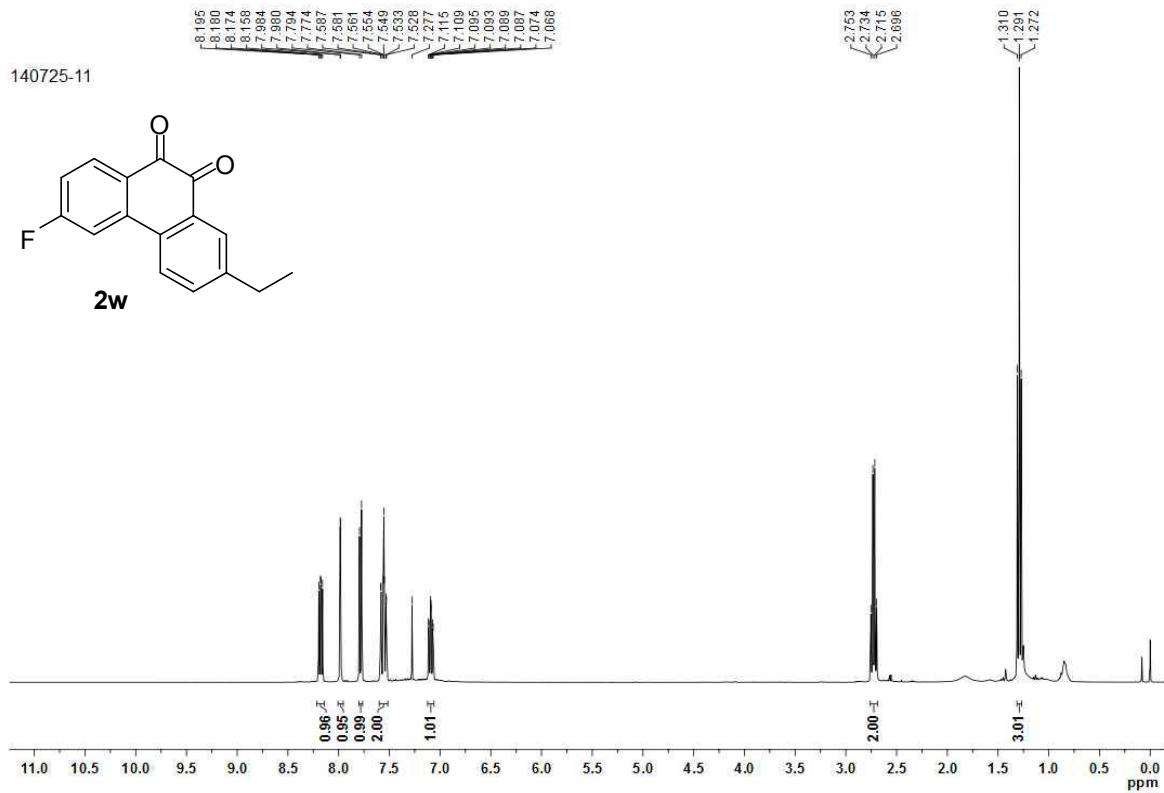
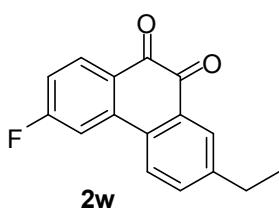


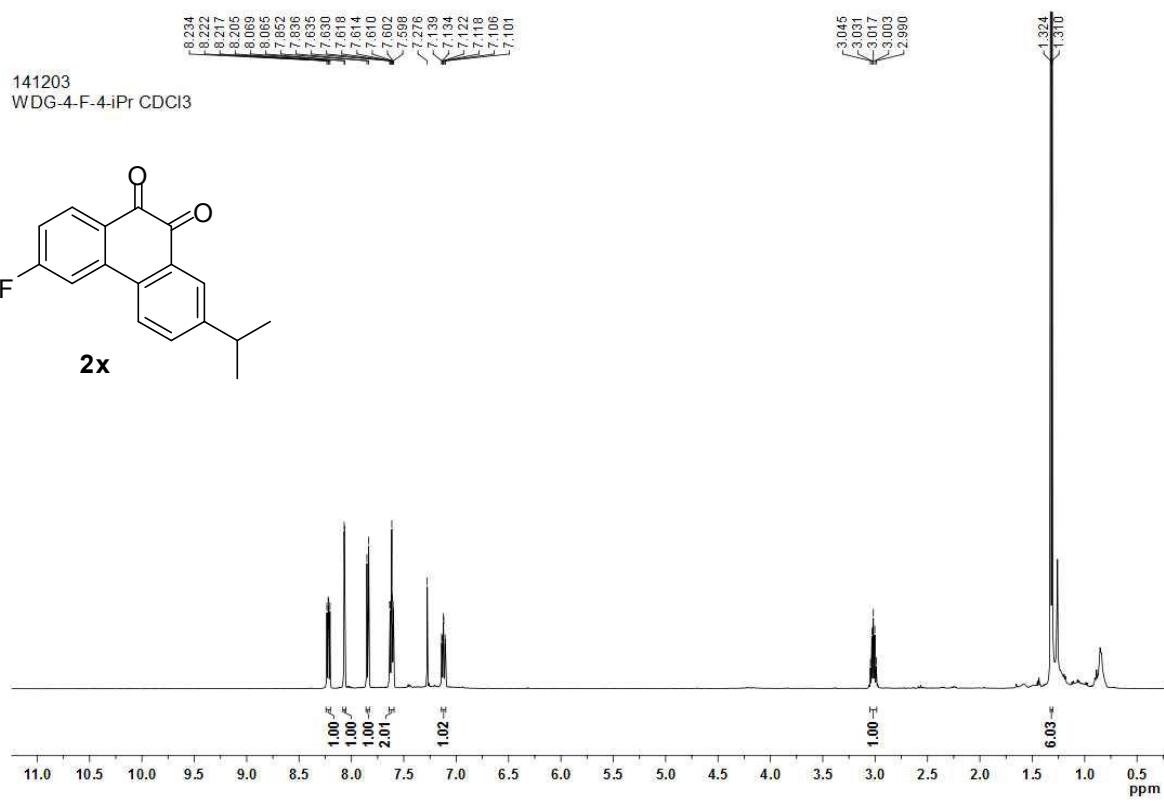
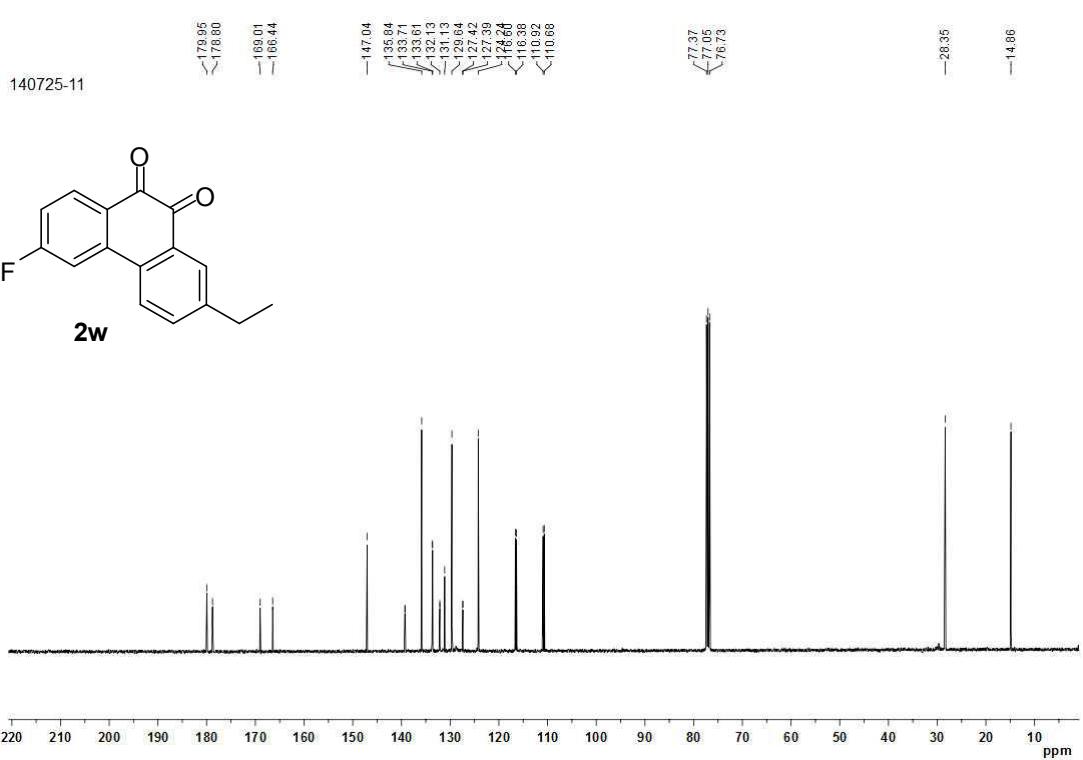


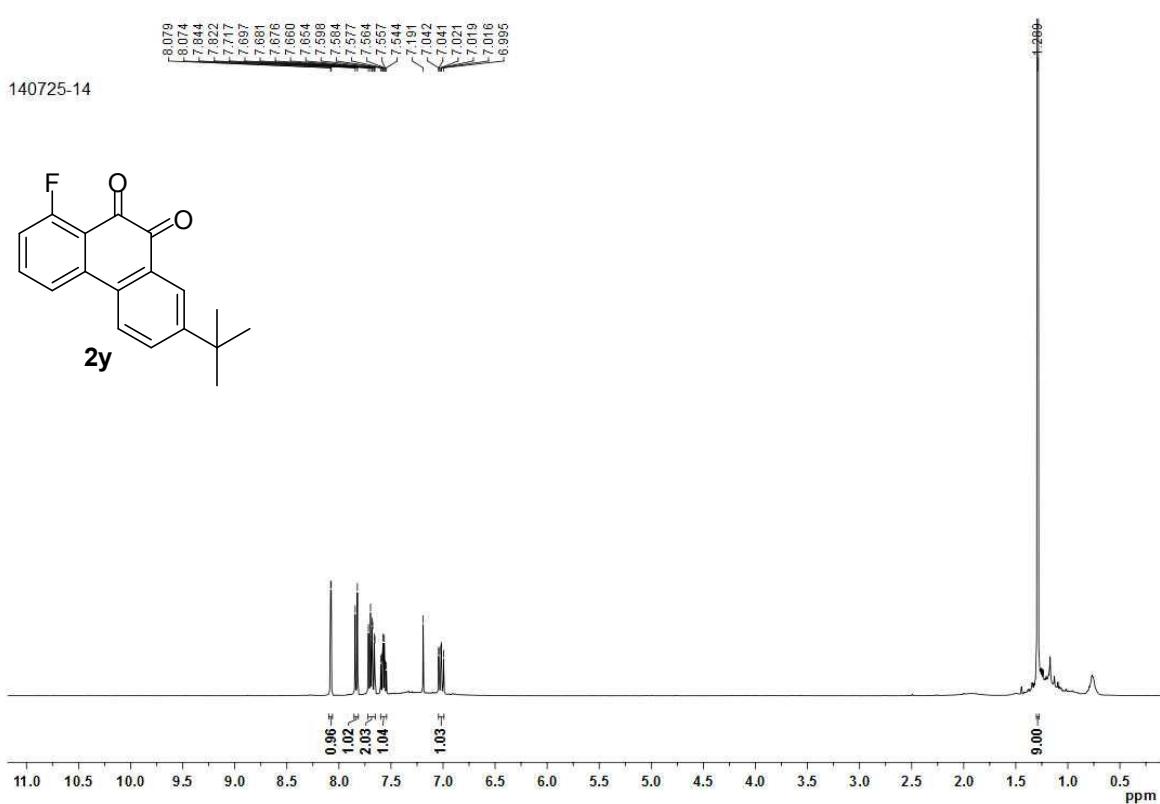
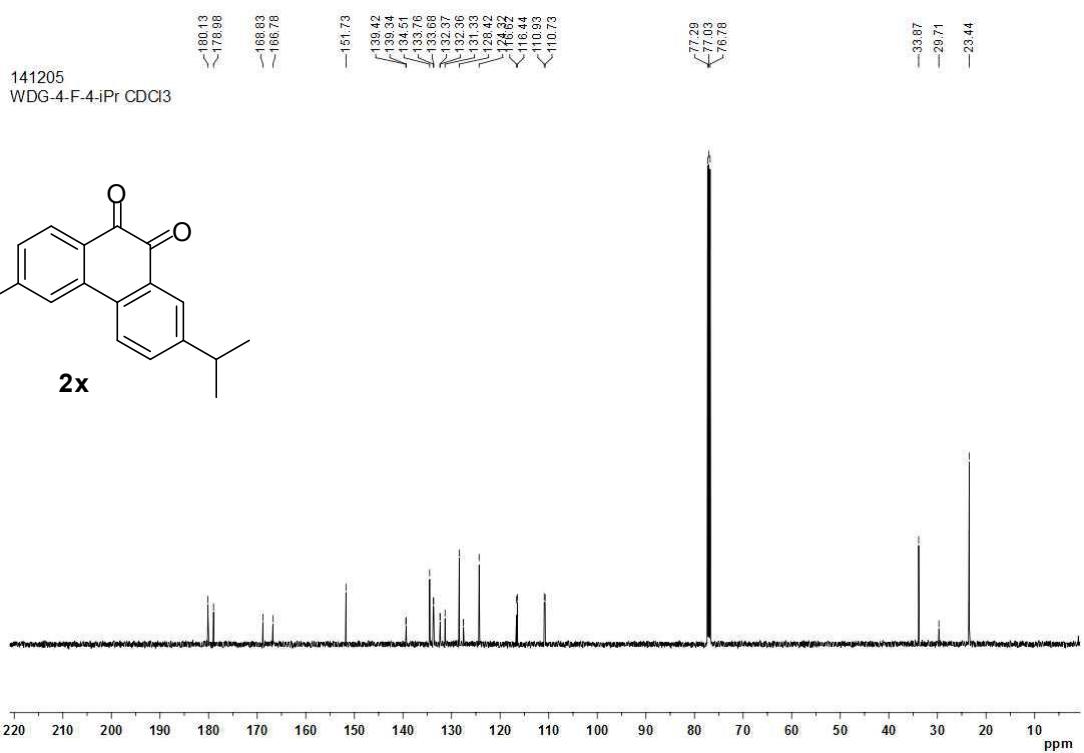
140725-10



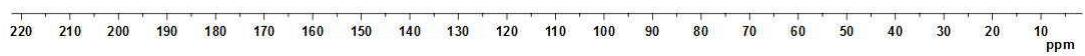
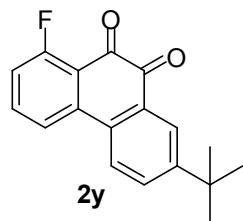
140725-11



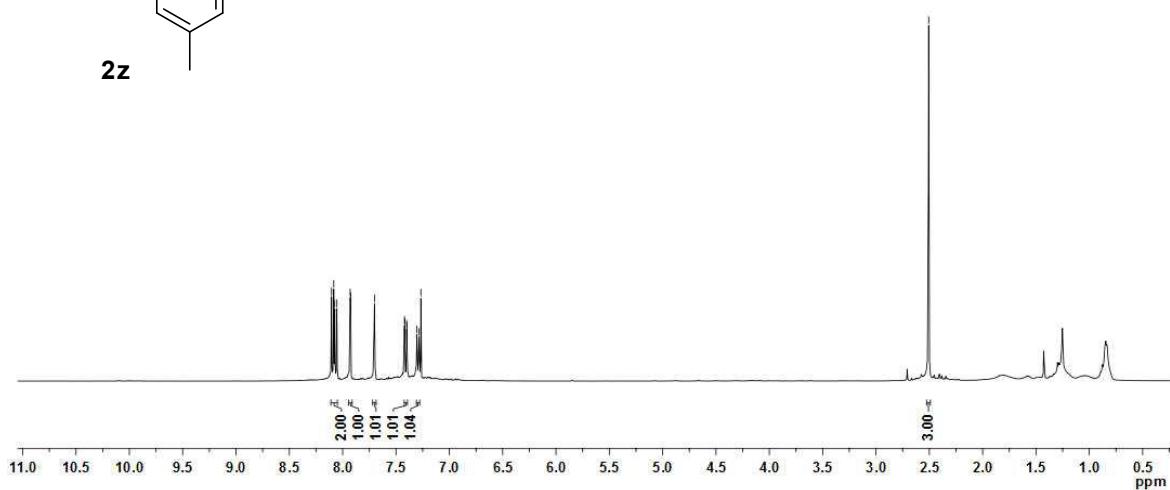
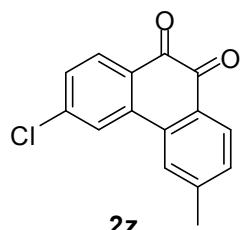


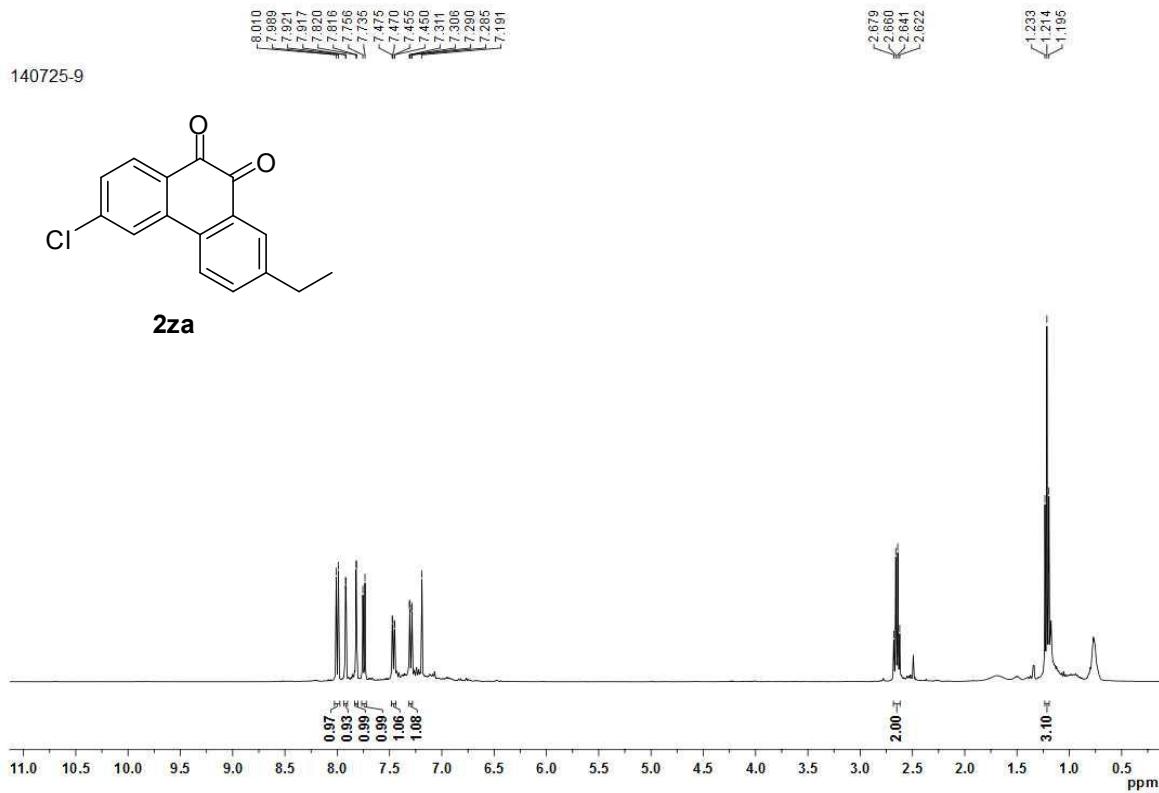
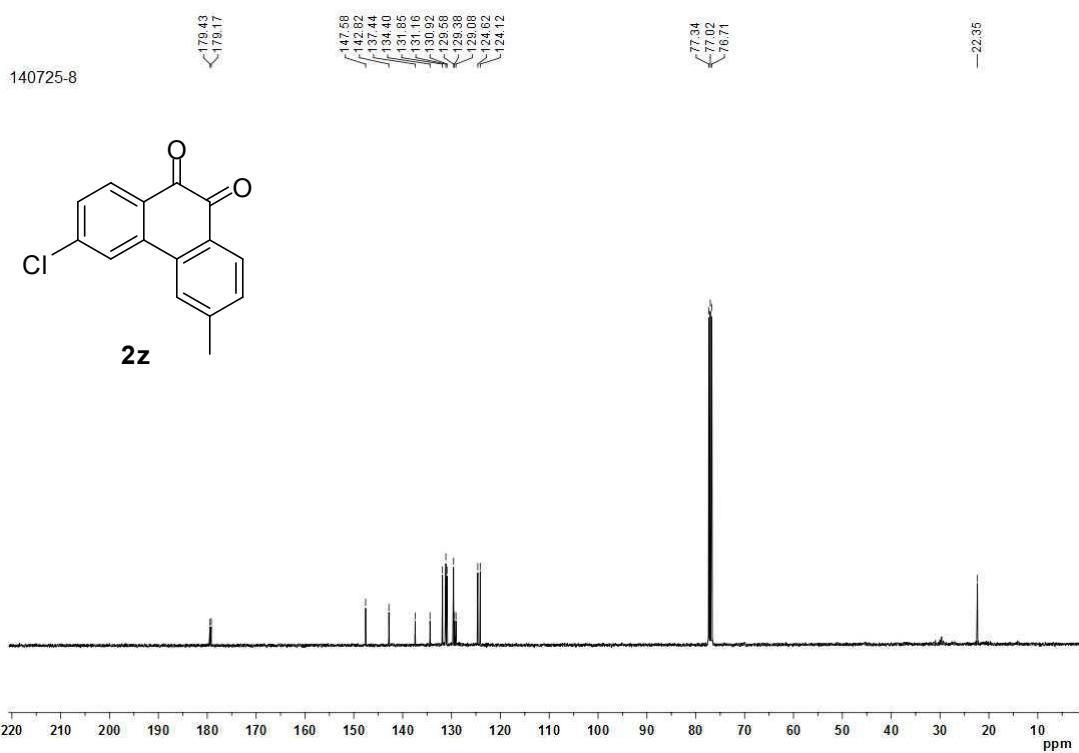


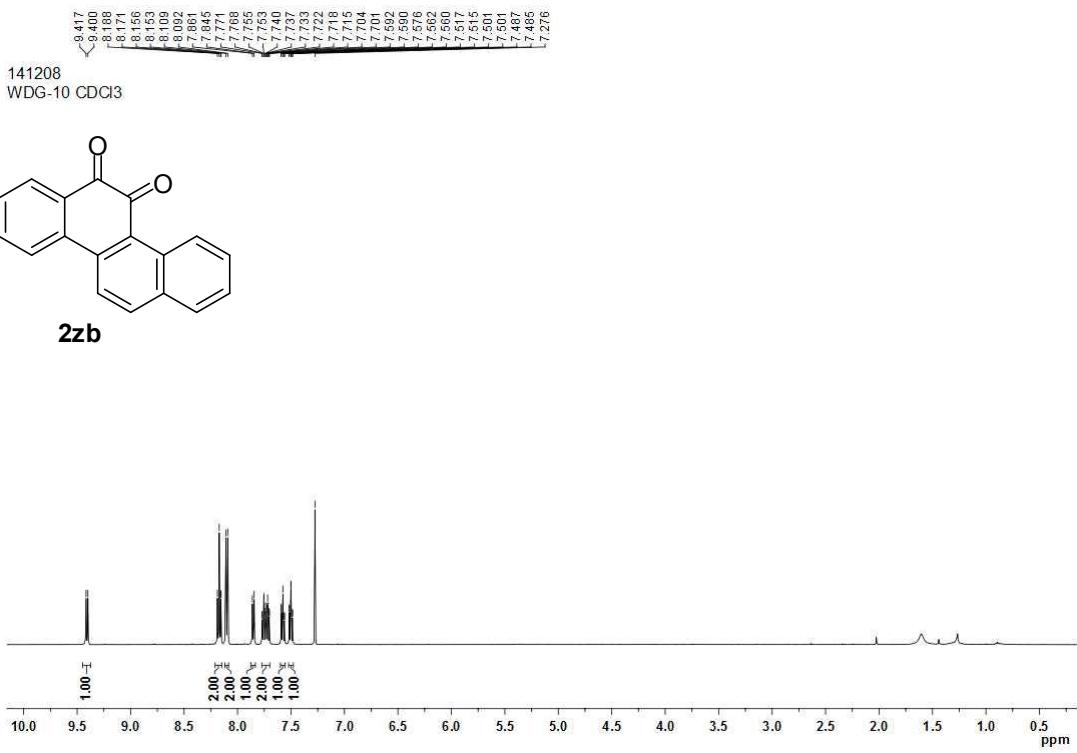
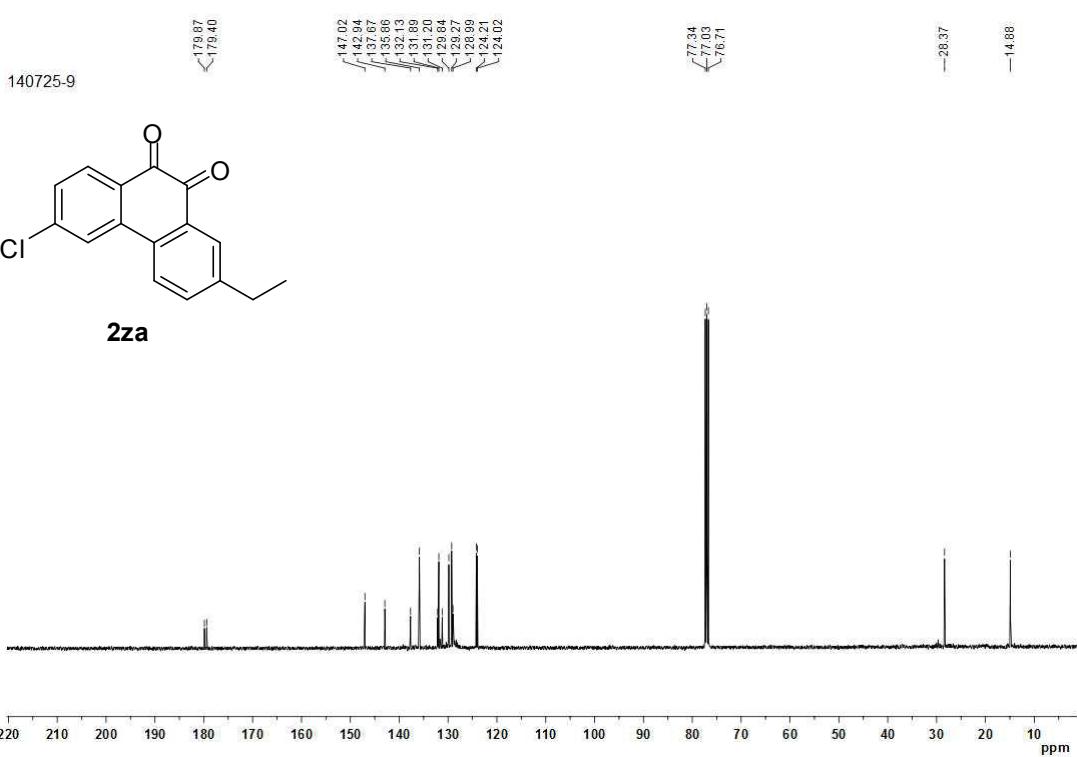
140725-14



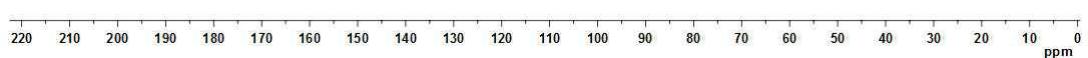
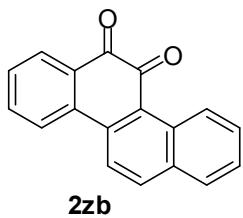
140725-8



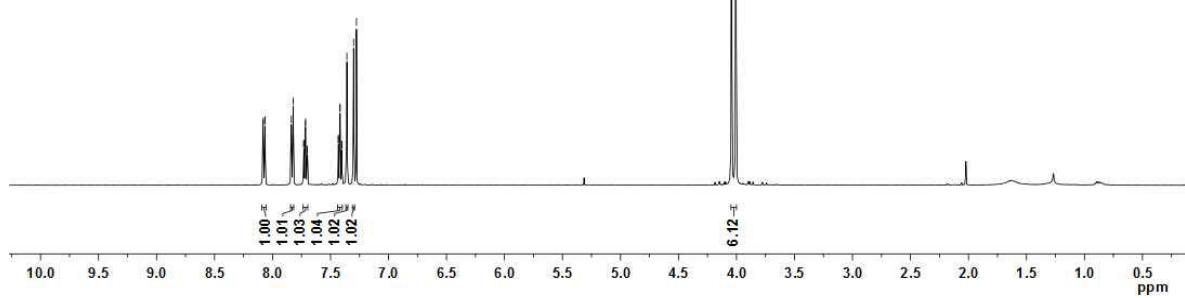
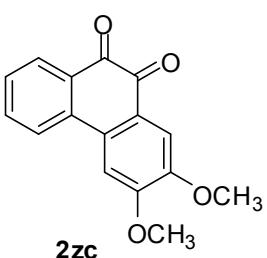




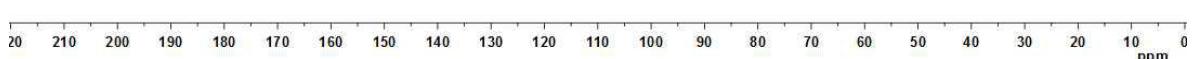
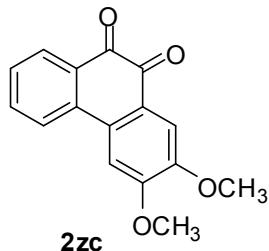
141209  
WDG-10 CDCl<sub>3</sub>



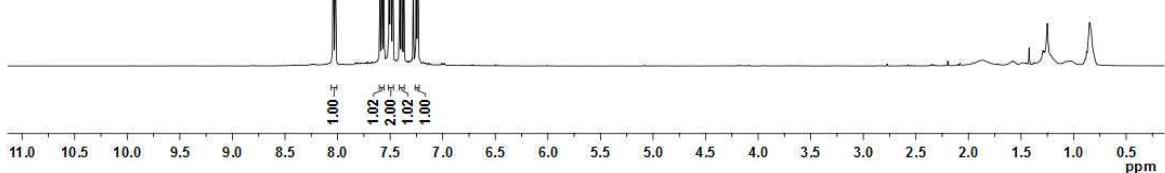
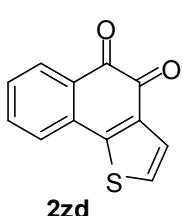
141229  
WDG-H-4,5-OCH<sub>3</sub> CDCl<sub>3</sub>

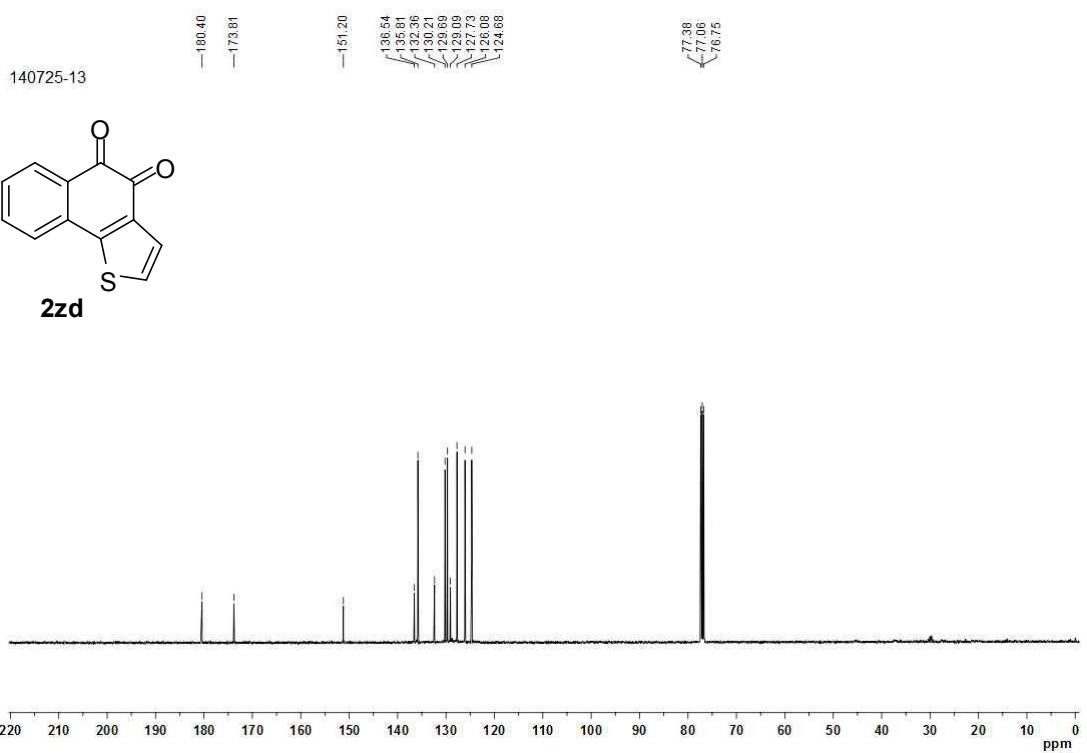


141230  
WDG-H-4,5-OCH<sub>3</sub> CDCl<sub>3</sub>



140725-13





#### 4. <sup>1</sup>H spectrum of **1u-d<sub>5</sub>**

