

Supporting Information

Amide-Ligand-Controlled Highly *para*-Selective Arylation of Monosubstituted Simple Arenes with Arylboronic Acids

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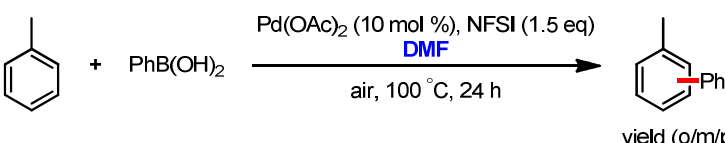
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1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, all solvents were received from commercial sources without further purification. Commercially available reagents were used as received. All reagents were handled under air except for AgSbF₆ due to its high hygroscopicity. Non-commercially available compounds were synthesized following reported protocols. Silica gel (particle size 40-63 μm) was used for flash column chromatography. GC-MS spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific ISQ Single Quadrupole GC/MS with a flame ionization detector. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV 400 spectrometer at 400 MHz (¹H NMR), 100 MHz (¹³C NMR), 376 MHz (¹⁹F NMR). Proton and carbon chemical shifts are reported relative to the solvent used as an internal reference. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent 6520 Q-TOF LC/MS with Electron Spray Ionization (ESI) resource.

2. Reaction Optimization

Table S1. DMF Loading Effects

		
entry	DMF (eq)	yield (o/m/p) ^a
1	0.2 (3 μL)	9% (2.3:1:0)
2	2.0 (30 μL)	13% (0.8:1:6.9)
3	10.0 (154 μL)	8% (0.6:1:8.5)
4	20.0 (308 μL)	7% (0.5:1:9.1)
5	35.0 (500 μL)	5% (0.2:1:13)
6	140 (2 mL/0.2mL toluene)	4% (0: 0: 1)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.02 mmol), NFSI (0.3 mmol), 100 °C under air for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S2. Screening of Acids and Bases

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	acid/base (eq)	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	K ₂ CO ₃ (0.5)	8% (0:1:15)
2	KOAc (0.5)	7% (0.5:1:21)
3	TFA (10)	9% (1.4:1:0)
4	TFA (5)	12% (1.6:1:0.9)
5	TFA (0.5)	13% (0.8:1:4.0)
6	TFA (10) + KH ₂ PO ₄ (0.5)	5% (1:1:0)
7	HOAc (5)	6% (1:1:16)
8	HOAc (0.5)	10% (1:1:8)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.02 mmol), NFSI (0.3 mmol), DMF (2 eq), 100 °C under air for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S3. Screening of Palladium Catalysts

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	[Pd]	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	Pd(OAc) ₂	15% (1:1:7)
2	Pd(TFA) ₂	14% (1:1:6)
3	PdCl ₂ /AgOTf (1:2)	22% (1:1:10)
4	PdCl₂/AgSbF₆ (1:2)	41% (0.6:1:16)
5	PdCl ₂ (CH ₃ CN) ₂	22% (1:2:15)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), [Pd] (0.02 mmol), NFSI (0.3 mmol), DMF (2 eq), 100 °C under air for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S4. Screening of Oxidants

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	oxidant	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	NFSI	41% (0.6:1:16)
2	PhI(OAc) ₂	0.4% (1:1:1)
3	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₈	0
4	SelectFluor	2% (1:1:15)
5		0

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (0.04 mmol), DMF (2 eq), 100 °C under air for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S5. Loading Effect of AgSbF₆ and NFSI and Atmosphere Effect

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	AgSbF ₆ (mol %)	NFSI (eq)	atmosphere	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	20	1.5	air	41% (0.6:1:16)
2	30	1.5	air	44% (0.6:1:22)
3	30	3.0	air	54% (0.6:1:19)
4	30	3.0	N ₂	51% (0.5:1:23)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), DMF (2 eq), 100 °C for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Note: Due to the high hygroscopicity, AgSbF₆ has to be handled under N₂. And thus, the following screening reactions were run under N₂ for convenience because the reaction under either air or N₂ gave almost the same result.

Table S6. Screening of Additives

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	additive	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1		49% (0.6:1:19)
2	DCM (0.2 mL)	38% (1:1:45)
3	TBABF ₄ (2 eq)	16% (1:1:23)
4	CH ₃ CN (0.1 mL)	25% (0.3:1:23)
5	CH ₃ CN (0.1 mmol)	38% (1:1:80)
6	ⁱPrOH (0.1 mL)	58% (1:1:50)
7	BQ (0.16 mmol)	3% (0:0:1)
8	BQ (0.04 mmol)	33% (1:1:50)
9	4Å MS (12 mg)	48% (0.5:1:25)
10	N(ⁿ Bu) ₃ (0.04 mmol)	45% (0.5:1:25)
11	NaF (1 mmol)	49% (0.3:1:40)
12	cod (0.08 mmol)	0.7% (0:1:10)
13	cod (0.01 mmol)	47% (0.3:1:40)
14	acetone (0.6 mmol)	43% (0.2:1:30)
15	DMSO (0.02 mmol)	45% (0.3:1:30)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (0.06 mmol), NFSI (0.6 mmol), DMF (2 eq), 100 °C unde N₂ for 24 h; Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S7. Screening of the loading of *i*PrOH

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	<i>i</i> PrOH (eq)	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	0.5 (8 μL)	36% (0.5:1:24)
2	1.0 (15 μL)	33% (0.5:1:35)
3	3.0 (46 μL)	48% (0:1:50)
4	6.0 (91 μL)	50% (0:1:35)
5	12.5 (190 μL)	47% (0.3:1:25)
6	25 (380 μL)	24% (1.3:1:20)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.02 mmol), NFSI (0.3 mmol), 100 °C under N₂ for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S8. Screening of Reaction Temperature

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	temperature (°C)	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	50	20% (0:1:80)
2	60	36% (0:1:65)
3	70	57% (0.3:1:53)
4	80	59% (0.1:1:30)
5	90	55% (0.2:1:40)
6	100	54% (0.2:1:30)
7	110	48% (0.2:1:30)
8	120	51% (0.3:1:30)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (0.06 mmol), NFSI (0.6 mmol), DMF (2 eq), *i*PrOH (3 eq), under N₂ for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S9. Loading Effect of *i*PrOH and H₂O

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	additive	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	<i>i</i> PrOH (3.0 eq)	59% (0.1:1:26)
2	<i>i</i> PrOH (3.0 eq), H ₂ O (0.1 mmol, 2 uL)	56% (0.2:1:38)
3	<i>i</i> PrOH (3.0 eq), H ₂ O (0.2 mmol, 4 uL)	63% (0.2:1:36)
4	<i>i</i> PrOH (3.0 eq), H ₂ O (0.5 mmol, 9 uL)	58% (0.3:1:37)
5	<i>i</i> PrOH (3.0 eq), H ₂ O (1.0 mmol, 18 uL)	48% (0.3:1:34)
6	<i>i</i> PrOH (3.0 eq), H ₂ O (2.0 mmol, 36 uL)	33% (0.3:1:40)
7	<i>i</i>PrOH/H₂O (v/v = 10:1) (46 uL)	63% (0.2:1:30)
8	<i>i</i> PrOH/H ₂ O (v/v = 10:1) (100 uL)	57% (0.1:1:30)
9	<i>i</i> PrOH/H ₂ O (v/v = 10:1) (200 uL)	41% (0.1:1:30)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (0.06 mmol), NFSI (0.6 mmol), DMF (2 eq), under N₂ for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S10. HFIP Effect

yield (o/m/p)^a

entry	HFIP, DMF, H ₂ O	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	HFIP (0.5 mL), DMF (0.3 mL), <i>i</i> PrOH/H ₂ O (10:1, 100 uL)	69% (0.3:1:25)
2	HFIP (0.5 mL), DMF (0.3 mL), H ₂ O (10 uL)	68% (0.3:1:26)
3	HFIP (0.5 mL), DMF (0.3 mL), H₂O (20 uL)	73% (0.3:1:27)
4	HFIP (0.5 mL), DMF (0.3 mL), H ₂ O (30 uL)	67% (0.3:1:27)
5	HFIP (0.3 mL), DMF (0.4 mL), H ₂ O (10 uL)	69% (0.3:1:22)
6	HFIP (0.3 mL), DMF (0.3 mL), H ₂ O (10 uL)	68% (0.3:1:23)
7	HFIP (0.3 mL), DMF (0.2 mL), H ₂ O (10 uL)	70% (0.3:1:26)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (0.06 mmol), NFSI (0.6 mmol), 80 °C under N₂ for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S11. Temperature Screening in the Presence of HFIP

entry	temperature (°C)	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	rt	70% (0.6:1:120)
2	40	80% (0.4:1:89)
3	60	82% (0.6:1:110)
4	80	74% (0.5:1:63)
5	100	75% (0.5:1:45)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (0.06 mmol), NFSI (0.6 mmol), DMF (0.3 mL), HFIP (0.5 mL), H₂O (20 μL), under N₂ for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S12. Loading Effects of Catalyst and Toluene

entry	PdCl ₂ (mol %)/AgSbF ₆ (mol %)	toluene (mL)	yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	10/30	2.0	82% (0.6:1:110)
2	10/30	1.5	80% (0.4:1:99)
3	10/30	1.0	72% (0.5:1:128)
4	5/15	2.0	78% (0.4:1:91)
5	3/9	2.0	61% (0.3:1:64)

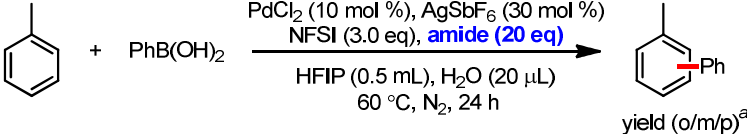
^a Reaction condition: phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), NFSI (0.6 mmol), DMF (0.3 mL), HFIP (0.5 mL), H₂O (20 μL), under N₂ for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity was determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S13. Screening of Bidentate Amide Ligands

 L13 , 7% (2.5:1:1.4)	 L14 , 11% (2.6:1:1.4)	 L15 , 8% (2.6:1:1.9)	 L16 , 4% (1.8:1:11)
 L17 , 7% (2.4:1:3.1)	 L18 , 4% (2.2:1:2.8)	 L19 , 5% (2.3:1:1.9)	

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (0.06 mmol), NFSI (0.6 mmol), iPrOH (0.5 mL), 80 °C under N₂ for 24 h; ^b Combined yield and regioselectivity was determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

Table S14. Ligand Effects under Optimized Conditions



 L1 , 3.2% (0:1:50)	 L2 , 5.6% (0:1:48)	 L3 , 0.8% (0:1:3.0)	 L4 , 0
 L5 , 1.1% (1.2:1:2.8)	 L6 , 17% (2.6:1:12)	 L7 , 82% (0.6:1:110)	 L8 , 45% (0.9:1:79)
 L9 , 8% (0.6:1:46)	 L10 , 53% (0.7:1:60)	 L11 , 22% (0.7:1:76)	 L12 , 61% (0.6:1:88)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), PdCl₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (30 mol %), amide (20 eq), HFIP (0.5 mL), H₂O (20 μL), N₂, 60 °C for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

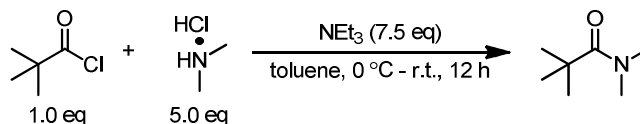
Table S15. DMF Loading Effects under Optimized Conditions

$ \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_3 + \text{PhB(OH)}_2 \xrightarrow[\text{60 } ^\circ\text{C, N}_2, 24 \text{ h}]{\text{PdCl}_2 (10 \text{ mol } \%), \text{AgSbF}_6 (30 \text{ mol } \%) \text{ NFSI (3.0 eq), DMF HFIP (0.5 mL), H}_2\text{O (20 } \mu\text{L)}} $			yield (o/m/p) ^a
entry	DMF (eq)		yield (o/m/p) ^b
1	0		3% (4.0:1:5)
2	0.5 (8 μL)		7% (0.5:1:23)
3	1.0 (15 μL)		13% (3.3:1:95)
4	2.0 (31 μL)		24% (0.9:1:133)
5	6.5 (100 μL)		43% (1.5:1:296)
6	20.0 (307 μL)		82% (0.6:1:110)
7	32.5 (500 μL)		74% (0.7:1:117)

^a Reaction condition: toluene (2.0 mL), phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.02 mmol), AgSbF₆ (30 mol %), NFSI (0.3 mmol), HFIP (0.5 mL), H₂O (20 μL), 60 °C under N₂ for 24 h; ^b Combined yield of isomers and regioselectivity were determined by GC with dodecane as an internal standard.

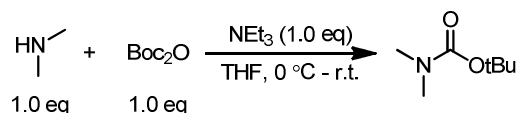
3. Ligand Preparation

2,2,N,N-Tetramethylpropionamide (L3)^[1]



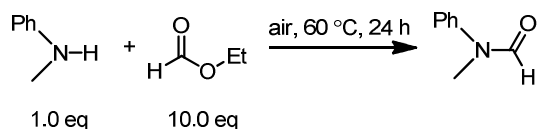
To a stirred solution of N,N-dimethylamine hydrochloride (4.08 g, 50 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) were added NEt₃ (10.4 mL, 75 mmol) at 0 °C. Pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) was subsequently added dropwise and stirred for 1 h. Then the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for another 12 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, quenched by 4 mL of 1 M aqueous HCl and 20 mL of water. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash column chromatography yielded the amide as a colourless oil (516.5 mg, 40%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₄-MeOH) 3.05 (s, 6H), 1.28 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₄-MeOH) δ 178.3, 39.7, 38.9, 28.4.

***tert*-Butyl-dimethylcarbamate (L4) ^[2]**



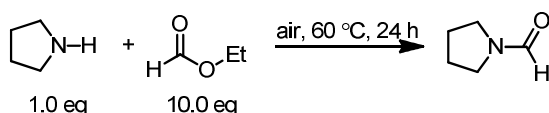
A solution of dimethylamine (33 % in water) (2.73 g, 20 mmol) and NEt₃ (2.8 mL, 20 mmol) in 10 mL of THF was cooled to 0 °C, and di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (4.37 mg, 20 mmol) was added portionwise. The mixture was stirred for 10 min, warmed to room temperature and stirred for another 12 h. The mixture was diluted with 15 mL of water and extracted with ethyl acetate (2×20 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, concentrated to give a crude product. Distillation under reduced pressure afforded the desired product as a colorless oil 1.68 g (58%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₄-MeOH) δ 2.88 (s, 6H), 1.48 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₄-MeOH) δ 157.7, 80.8, 36.5, 36.2, 28.7.

N-Methyl-N-phenylformamide (L9) ^[3]



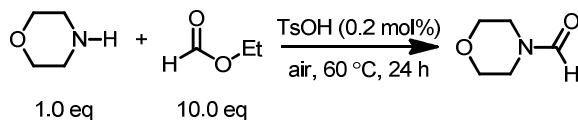
Ethyl formate (4.0 mL, 50.0 mmol) and N-methylaniline (542.8 μL , 5.0 mmol) were combined to form a solution and the mixture was heated at 60 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was evaporated to remove excess ethyl formate and crude products were obtained. Further purification by flash column chromatography afforded the desired product as light yellow oil (601.3 mg, 89%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.41 (s, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.2, 141.9, 129.7, 126.2, 122.2, 32.2.

Pyrrolidine-1-carbaldehyde (L10) ^[4]



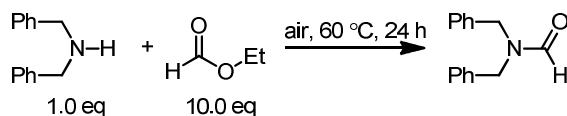
The procedure for the preparation of N-methyl-N-phenylformamide was followed, except that pyrrolidine was used. Further purification by distillation afforded pyrrolidine-1-carbaldehyde as colorless oil (302.5 mg, 62%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_4 -MeOH) δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 3.59 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.39 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.03-1.89 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_4 -MeOH) δ 163.0, 47.3, 44.2, 25.8, 25.1.

Morpholine-4-carbaldehyde (L11) ^[4]



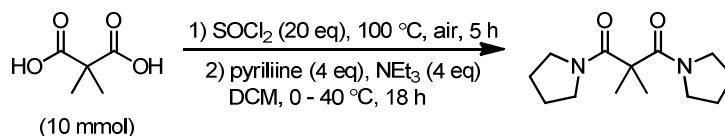
The procedure for the preparation of N-methyl-N-phenylformamide was followed, except that morpholine was used and 0.2 mol % TsOH was added. Further purification by distillation afforded morpholine-4-carbaldehyde as colorless oil (322.2 mg, 56%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_4 -MeOH) δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 3.71 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.55 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, d_4 -MeOH) δ 163.1, 68.2, 67.2, 47.0, 41.6.

N,N-Dibenzylformamide (L12) ^[5]



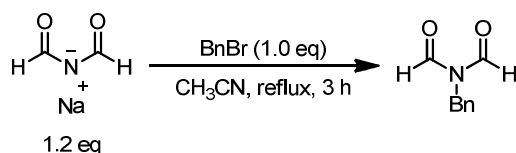
The procedure for the preparation of N-methyl-N-phenylformamide was followed, except that dibenzylamine was used. Further purification by flash column chromatography afforded N,N-dibenzylformamide as light yellow solid (968.7 mg, 86%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.25 (m, 6H), 7.24-7.14 (m, 4H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 4.26 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.0, 136.1, 135.7, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 50.3, 44.8.

2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-di(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,3-dione (L13):



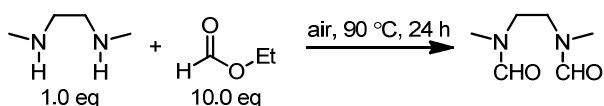
The mixture of dimethylmalonic acid (660.5 mg, 5.0 mmol) in SOCl₂ (20 mL) was refluxed for 5 hours. After cooled to room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the corresponding crude acid chloride. Then DCM (30 mL) was added and the solution was cooled to 0°C, followed by dropwise addition of NEt₃ (2.8 mL, 20.0 mmol) and pyrrolidine (1.6 mL, 20.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, extracted by DCM. The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give a crude product. Purification by flash chromatography afforded the product as light yellow solid (715.0 mg, 60%). m.p. 169-172 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.51 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.26 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 4H), 1.94-1.74 (m, 8H), 1.41 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 49.6, 47.3, 46.4, 26.9, 23.6, 23.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₃H₂₂N₂O₂Na ([M+Na]⁺) 261.1573, Found 261.1576.

N-Benzyl-N-formylformamide (L14) ^[6]



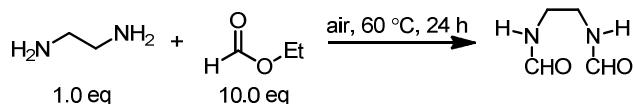
To a solution of sodium diformylamide (1.36 g, 12.0 mmol) in CH₃CN (5 mL) was added benzyl bromide (1.2 mL, 10.0 mmol) under nitrogen. The mixture was refluxed for 3 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated. Purification by flash column chromatography afforded N-benzyl-N-formylformamide as white solid (995.4 mg, 61%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.83 (s, 2H), 7.43-7.25 (m, 5H), 4.79 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.0, 135.6, 129.0, 128.8, 128.2, 42.4.

N,N'-(Ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(N-methylformamide) (L15)



Ethyl formate (4.0 mL, 50.0 mmol) and N,N'-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine (538.1 μL, 5.0 mmol) were combined to form a solution and the mixture was heated at 90 °C for 24 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was washed with 1 mL of 2M HCl and extracted with DCM (3×5 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of the solvent afforded the desired product as light yellow solid (216.3 mg, 30%). m.p. 70-72 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07-7.99 (m, 2H), 3.57-3.40 (m, 4H), 3.01-2.91 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.3, 163.0, 162.6, 47.6, 46.5, 42.6, 40.5, 35.5, 34.7, 29.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₆H₁₃N₂O₂ ([M+H]⁺) 145.0972, Found 145.0977.

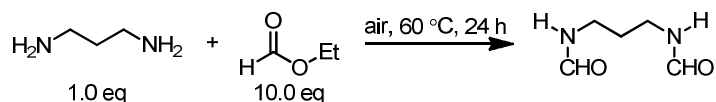
N,N'-(Ethane-1,2-diyl)diformamide (L16) ^[7]



The procedure for the preparation of N-methyl-N-phenylformamide was followed, except that ethane-1,2-diamine was used. After removing excess ethyl formate under vacuum, N,N'-(ethane-1,2-diyl)diformamide was obtained as white solid (551.5 mg,

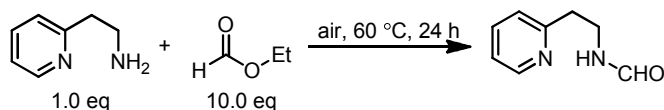
95%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 8.18-7.83 (m, 4H), 3.16-3.13 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 164.6, 161.4, 36.9.

N,N'-(Propane-1,3-diyl)diformamide (L17)



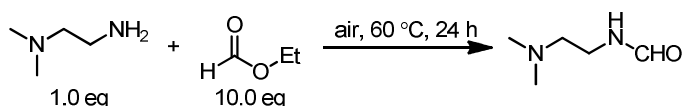
The procedure for the preparation of N-methyl-N-phenylformamide was followed, except that propane-1,3-diamine was used. After removing excess ethyl formate under vacuum, N,N'-(propane-1,3-diyl)diformamide was obtained as colorless oil (572.6 mg, 88%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 8.02 (br s, 2H), 8.00 (s, 2H), 3.08 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.54 (p, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 161.3, 35.0, 29.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 131.0815, Found 131.0815.

N-(2-(Pyridin-2-yl)ethyl)formamide (L18)



The procedure for the preparation of N-methyl-N-phenylformamide was followed, except that 2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethanamine was used. Further purification by flash column chromatography afforded N-(2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethyl)formamide as colorless oil (555.6 mg, 74%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 8.48 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.87 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 161.1, 159.0, 148.8, 136.4, 123.2, 121.6, 37.2, 37.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 151.0866, Found 151.0866.

N-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)formamide (L19)

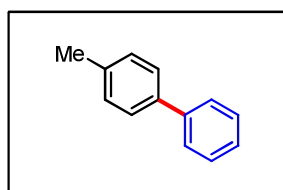


The procedure for the preparation of N-methyl-N-phenylformamide was followed, except that N,N-dimethylethylenediamine was used. Further purification by flash column chromatography afforded N-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)formamide as yellow

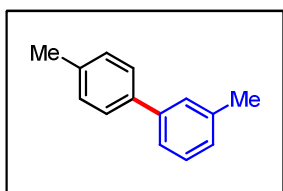
oil (447.2 mg, 77%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 3.16 (q, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 160.9, 58.1, 45.2, 35.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₅H₁₃N₂O₁ ([M+H]⁺) 117.1022, Found 117.1026.

4. Typical Procedure of *para*-Selective Arylation of Simple Arenes

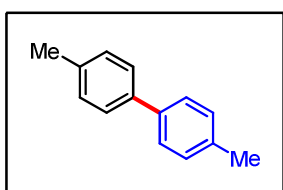
To a 15 mL sealed tube were added PdCl₂ (3.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF₆ (20.6 mg, 0.06 mmol, 30 mol %), NFSI (189.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3.0 eq), arylboronic acid (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq), and arene (2.0 mL) under N₂ atmosphere, then HFIP (0.5 mL), DMF (0.3 mL), and H₂O (20 μL) were subsequently added. The tube was sealed with a Teflon cap and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After cooled to room temperature, the crude product was diluted with EtOAc, and detected by GC with dodecane (10.0 μL, 0.044 mmol) as an internal standard to obtain regioisomer ratios. The minor isomers were determined by contrasting with GC spectra of corresponding compounds obtained by Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reactions. Then the mixture was filtered through a short pad of Celite, and the filtrate was concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography to give an isolated combined yield of all regioisomers. The pure major *para*-isomer for characterization was obtained by further purification on a silica gel column with a gradient eluent (hexane to hexane/dichloromethane).



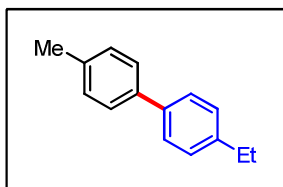
3a: 4-methylbiphenyl.^[8] White solid (78% yield). m.p. 44-45 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.3, 138.5, 137.1, 129.6, 128.8, 127.1, 21.2.



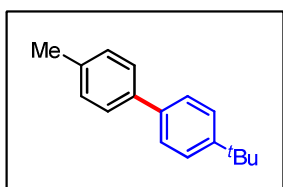
3b: 3,4'-dimethylbiphenyl.^[9] Colorless oil (82% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.3, 138.6, 138.4, 137.0, 129.5, 128.7, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 124.2, 21.7, 21.2.



3c: 4,4'-dimethylbiphenyl.^[10] White solid (62% yield). m.p. 123-124 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 2.38 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.4, 136.8, 129.6, 126.9, 21.2.

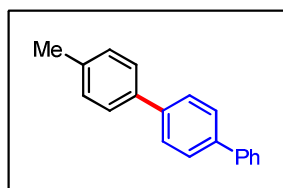


3d: 4-methyl-4'-ethyl-biphenyl.^[11] White solid (76% yield). m.p. 56-58 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 4H), 2.69 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.2, 138.7, 138.4, 136.8, 129.6, 128.4, 127.0, 126.9, 28.6, 21.2, 15.8.

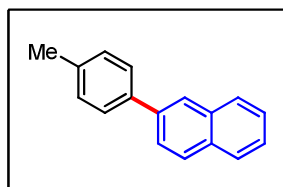


3e: 4-methyl-4'-tertiary butyl-biphenyl.^[12] White solid (77% yield). m.p. 74-77 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45-7.36 (m, 6H), 7.15 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s,

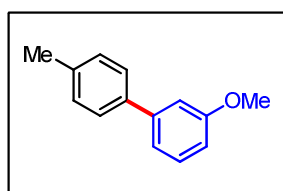
3H), 1.28 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.1, 138.4, 138.3, 136.8, 129.6, 127.0, 126.7, 125.8, 34.6, 31.5, 21.2.



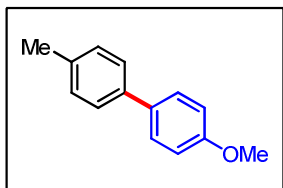
3f: 4-(4-methylphenyl)biphenyl.^[13] White solid (84% yield). m.p. 198-200 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (s, 4H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.9, 140.2, 140.0, 137.9, 137.3, 129.7, 128.9, 127.6, 127.4, 127.2, 127.0, 21.3.



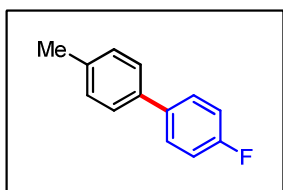
3g: 2-p-tolynaphthalene.^[11] White solid (64% yield). m.p. 91-92 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.94-7.84 (m, 3H), 7.75 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 138.6, 138.4, 137.3, 133.8, 132.6, 129.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 127.43, 126.4, 125.9, 125.7, 125.6, 21.1.



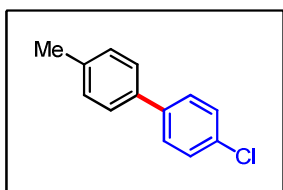
3h: 3-methoxy-4'-methyl-biphenyl.^[14] White solid (57% yield). m.p. 72-74 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.47 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.86 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.0, 142.8, 138.3, 137.3, 129.8, 129.5, 127.1, 119.6, 112.8, 112.4, 55.2, 21.2.



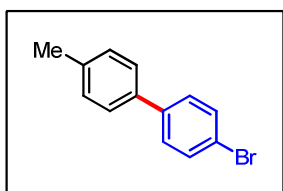
3i: 4-methyl-4'-methoxybiphenyl.^[11] White solid (41% yield). m.p. 103-105 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.51 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.0, 138.1, 136.5, 133.9, 129.7, 128.0, 126.6, 114.1, 55.2, 21.2.



3j: 4-fluoro-4'-methylbiphenyl.^[15] White solid (68% yield). m.p. 73-75 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.4 (d, J = 244 Hz), 137.5, 137.4 (d, J = 3 Hz), 137.2, 129.7, 128.6 (d, J = 8 Hz), 127.0, 115.6 (d, J = 21 Hz), 21.1. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -116.3.

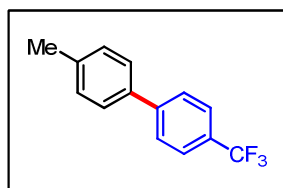


3k: 4-chloro-4'-methylbiphenyl.^[10] White solid (78% yield). m.p. 116-118 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 139.7, 137.6, 137.2, 133.2, 129.7, 129.0, 128.3, 126.9, 21.2.

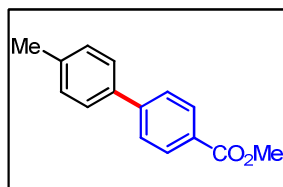


3l: 4-methyl-4'-bromo-biphenyl.^[12] White solid (73% yield). m.p. 128-129 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.24 (d, J =

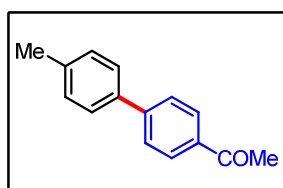
8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.2, 137.6, 137.2, 131.9, 129.8, 128.6, 126.9, 121.3, 21.2.



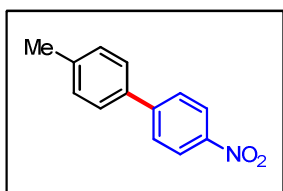
3m: 4-methyl-4'-trifluoromethyl-biphenyl.^[16] White solid (61% yield). m.p. 123-125 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (s, 4H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.8, 138.3, 136.9, 129.9, 129.2 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 127.3, 127.2, 125.8 (q, J = 4.0 Hz), 123.2, 21.2. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.3.



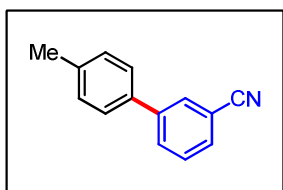
3n: 4-methoxycarbonyl-4'-methyl-biphenyl.^[16] White solid (80% yield). m.p. 111-113 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.08 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.2, 145.7, 138.1, 137.2, 130.2, 129.8, 128.7, 127.2, 126.9, 52.1, 21.3.



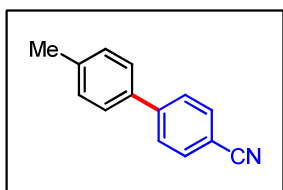
3o: 4-acetyl-4'-methyl-biphenyl.^[16] White solid (59% yield). m.p. 112-113 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.0, 145.9, 138.3, 137.0, 135.7, 129.8, 129.0, 127.2, 127.1, 26.9, 21.3.



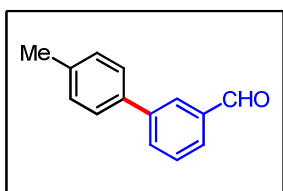
3p: 4-methyl-4'-nitro-biphenyl.^[17] White solid (77% yield). m.p. 139-140 °C. ^1H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.19 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ^{13}C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.7, 146.9, 139.2, 135.9, 130.0, 127.6, 127.3, 124.2, 21.0.



3q: 3-cyano-4'-methyl-biphenyl.^[18] White solid (71% yield). m.p. 72-75 °C. ^1H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ^{13}C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 142.5, 138.5, 136.1, 131.4, 130.6, 130.5, 130.0, 129.7, 127.0, 119.1, 113.0, 21.3.

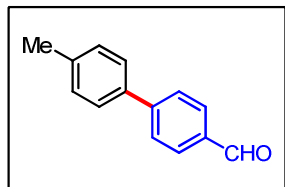


3r: 4-cyano-4'-methyl-biphenyl.^[11] White solid (56% yield). m.p. 109-110 °C. ^1H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.76-7.68 (m, 4H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ^{13}C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.7, 138.8, 136.4, 132.7, 130.0, 127.6, 127.2, 119.1, 110.6, 21.0.

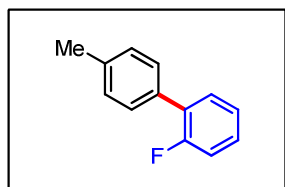


3s: 3-formyl-4'-methyl-biphenyl.^[19] White solid (82% yield). m.p. 125-127 °C. ^1H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.07 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.85-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.58 (t, $J =$

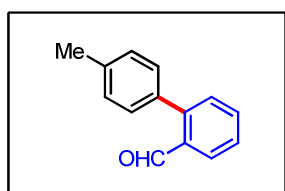
7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.6, 142.2, 138.0, 137.0, 136.9, 133.0, 129.8, 129.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.1, 21.3.



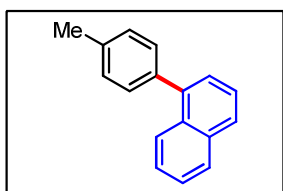
3t: 4-formyl-4'-methyl-biphenyl.^[18] White solid (57% yield). m.p. 108-110 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.04 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.1, 147.3, 138.7, 136.9, 135.1, 130.4, 129.9, 127.5, 127.3, 21.3.



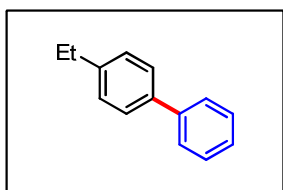
3v: 2-fluoro-4'-methylbiphenyl.^[20] Colorless oil (74% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.01 (m, 5H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.9 (d, $J = 248.5$ Hz), 137.6, 133.0, 130.8 (d, $J = 3.03$ Hz), 129.3, 129.0 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 128.8, 128.7, 124.4 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 116.2 (d, $J = 22.2$ Hz), 21.3. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -118.1.



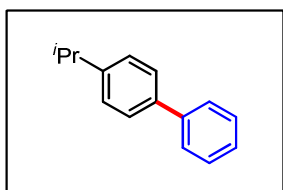
3w: 2-formyl-4'-methyl-biphenyl.^[21] Light yellow oil (64% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.99 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.28 (s, 4H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.5, 146.2, 138.2, 134.9, 133.9, 133.7, 130.9, 130.2, 129.3, 128.5, 127.7, 21.3.



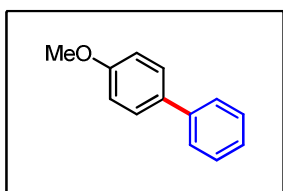
3x: 1-p-tolynaphthalene.^[11] Colorless oil (43% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.36 (m, 6H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.4, 137.9, 137.0, 133.9, 131.8, 130.1, 129.1, 128.4, 127.6, 127.0, 126.2, 126.1, 125.8, 125.5, 21.3.



4a: 4-ethyl-biphenyl.^[22] Colorless oil (79% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 3H), 2.70 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.5, 141.3, 138.7, 128.8, 128.4, 127.2, 127.1, 127.1, 28.7, 15.8.

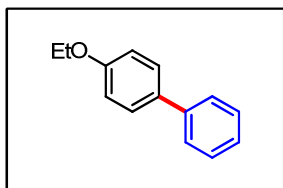


4b: 4-isopropyl-biphenyl.^[23] Colorless oil (61% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 3H), 3.01-2.89 (m, 1H), 1.29 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.1, 141.3, 138.9, 128.8, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 33.9, 24.2.

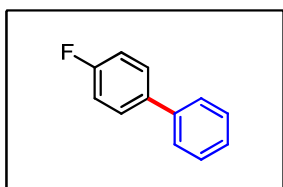


4c: 4-methoxy-biphenyl.^[24] White solid (87% yield). m.p. 83-84 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H),

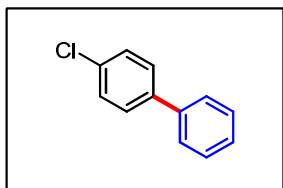
6.97 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.3, 140.9, 133.9, 128.9, 128.3, 126.9, 126.8, 114.3, 55.5.



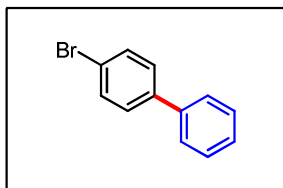
4d: 4-ethoxy-biphenyl.^[25] White solid (52% yield). m.p. 74-75 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.59-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.09 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 141.0, 133.7, 128.8, 128.3, 126.8, 126.7, 114.9, 63.6, 15.0.



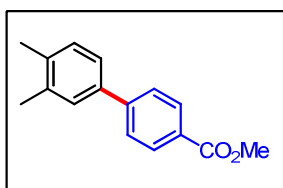
4e: 4-fluoro-biphenyl.^[26] White solid (79% yield). m.p. 72-73 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.63-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.6 (d, $J = 244.6$ Hz), 140.4, 137.5 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 129.0, 128.8 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 127.4, 127.2, 115.7 (d, $J = 21.3$ Hz). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -115.8.



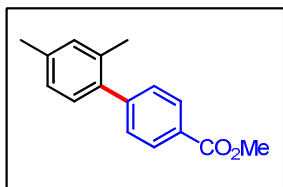
4f: 4-chloro-biphenyl.^[10] White solid (38% yield). m.p. 73-76 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.34 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.1, 139.8, 133.5, 129.0, 129.0, 128.5, 127.7, 127.1.



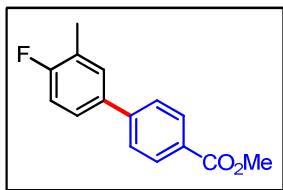
4g: 4-bromo-biphenyl.^[27] White solid (36% yield). m.p. 87-89 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.3, 140.2, 132.0, 129.0, 128.9, 127.8, 127.1, 121.7.



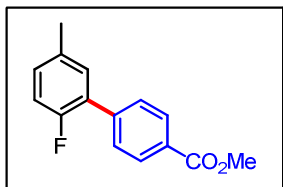
4h: methyl 3',4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. White solid (80% yield). m.p. 97-100 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 145.8, 137.7, 137.3, 136.9, 130.3, 130.2, 128.6, 126.9, 124.7, 52.2, 20.1, 19.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₇O₂ ([M+H]⁺) 241.1229, Found 241.1229.



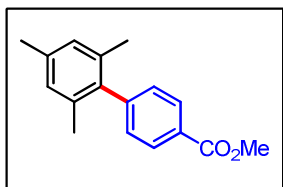
4i: methyl 2',4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. White solid (72% yield). m.p. 62-64 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.06 (m, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 146.9, 138.1, 137.7, 135.1, 131.4, 129.6, 129.5, 129.5, 128.5, 126.8, 52.3, 21.2, 20.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₇O₂ ([M+H]⁺) 241.1229, Found 241.1221.



4j: methyl 4'-fluoro-3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. White solid (67% yield). m.p. 92-94 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.08 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.1, 161.6 (d, $J = 245.0$ Hz), 144.9, 135.9 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 130.5 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz), 130.2, 128.9, 127.0, 126.3 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 125.5 (d, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 115.6 (d, $J = 22.5$ Hz), 52.26, 14.84. $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -118.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{FO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 245.0972, Found 245.0970.



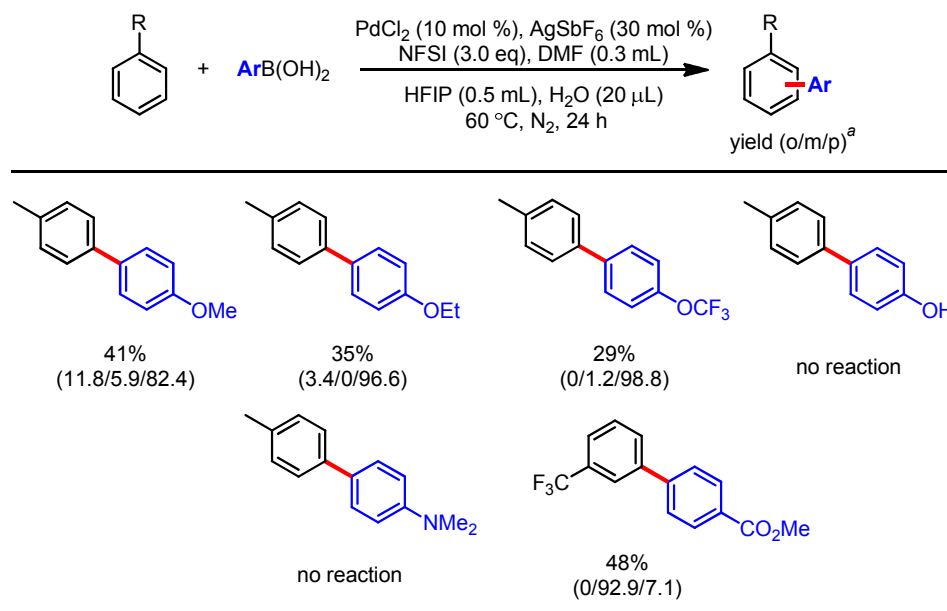
4k: methyl 2'-fluoro-5'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. White solid (65% yield). m.p. 59-62 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, $J = 9.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.1, 158.0 (d, $J = 244.5$ Hz), 140.7, 134.0 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 131.1 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 130.3 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 129.8, 129.2, 129.1 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 127.6 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz), 116.1 (d, $J = 22.5$ Hz), 52.3, 20.8. $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -122.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{FO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 245.0972, Found 245.0972.



4l: methyl 2',4',6'-trimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate.^[28] White solid (56% yield). m.p. 117-119 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.95 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.98 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 146.4, 138.1, 137.2, 135.6, 130.0, 129.6, 128.6, 128.3, 52.3, 21.12, 20.8.

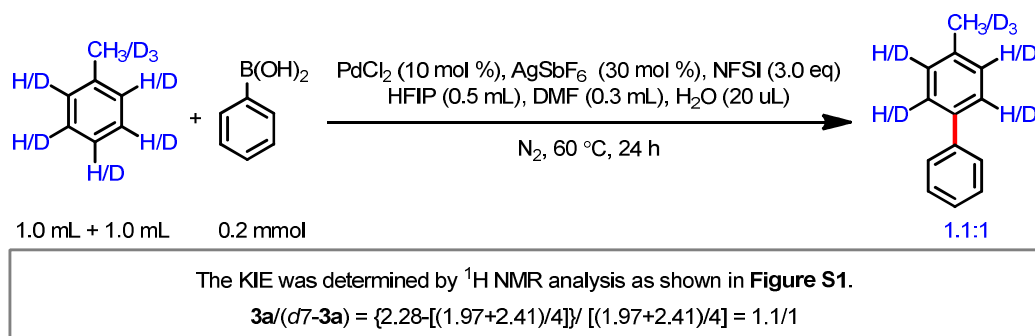
Table S16. Electronic effect of substituted group on arene and arylboronic acid



5. Mechanistic Study

5.1 KIE determined by competition reaction

To a 15 mL sealed tube were added PdCl₂ (3.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%), AgSbF₆ (20.6 mg, 0.06 mmol, 30 mol%), NFSI (189.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3.0 eq), and phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq) under N₂ atmosphere. Then toluene (1.0 mL), toluene-*d*₈ (1.0 mL), HFIP (0.5 mL), DMF (0.3 mL), and H₂O (20 μL) were subsequently added. The tube was sealed with a Teflon cap and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and biaryl products were obtained by preparative thin-layer chromatography.



Scheme S1. KIE determined by competition reaction

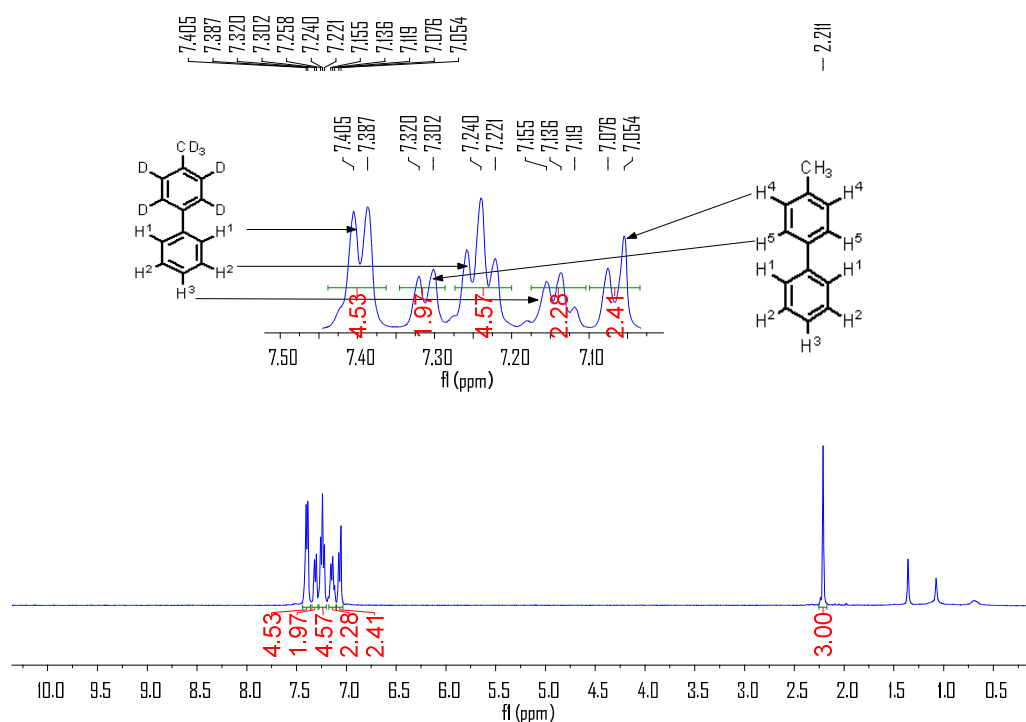
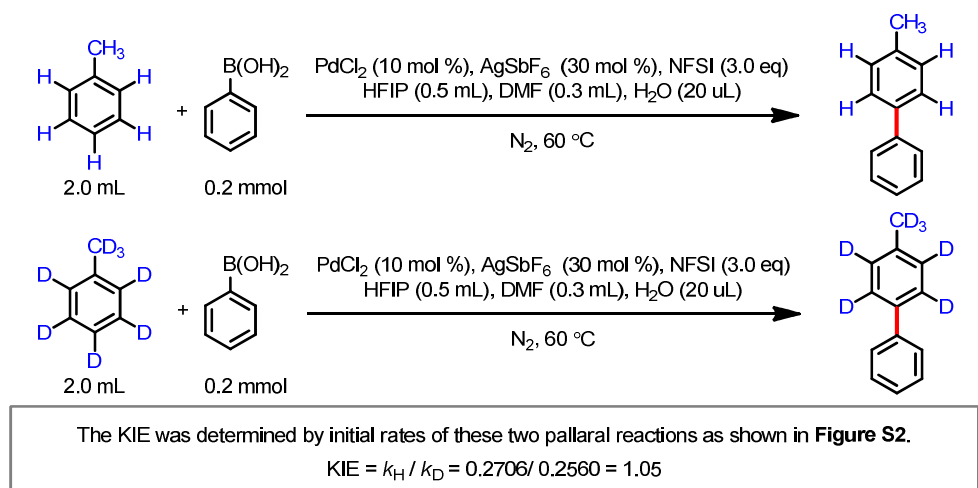


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum of the mixture of 3a and $d_7\text{-}3\text{a}$

5.2 KIE determined by initial rate measurements of two parallel reactions

Side-by-side reactions were set-up following general procedure for the arylation of simple arenes with toluene (2.0 mL) and d_8 -toluene (2.0 mL). Aliquots were taken at 5 minute intervals for the first half an hour. Product yield was determined by GC/MS using n-dodecane as an internal standard. Data points represent the average of two runs.



Scheme S2. KIE determined by initial rate measurements of parallel reactions

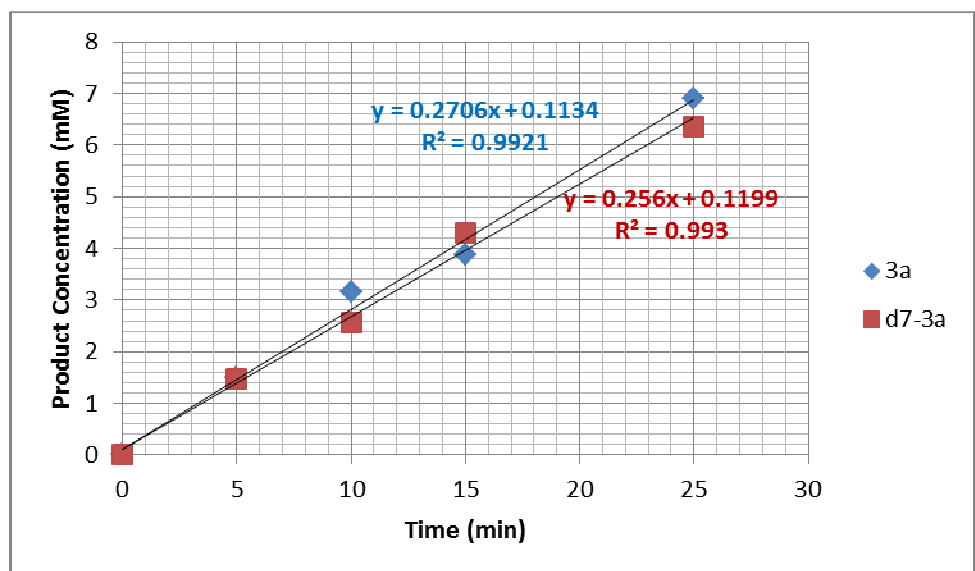
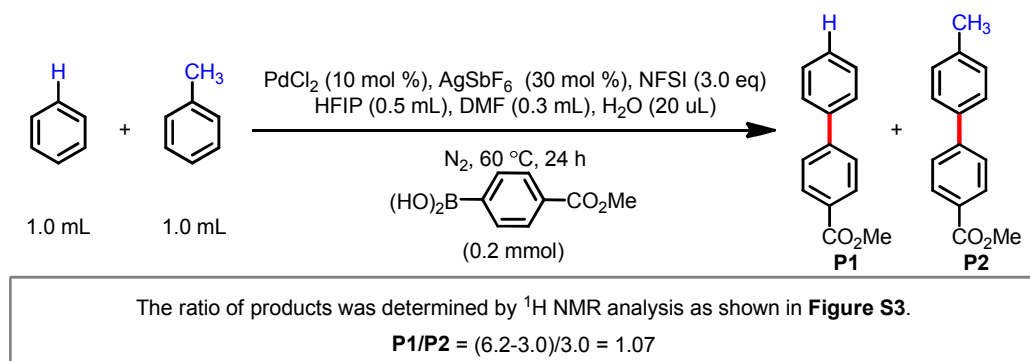


Figure S2. Initial reaction rate measurement for arylations of toluene (blue) and *d*₈-toluene (red). Data points represent the average of two runs.

5.3 Competition reactions between benzene and *para*-substituted arenes

To a 15 mL sealed tube were added PdCl₂ (3.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%), AgSbF₆ (20.6 mg, 0.06 mmol, 30 mol%), NFSI (189.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3.0 eq), and 4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq) under N₂ atmosphere. Then benzene (1.0 mL) and the other arene (1.0 mL) [toluene, fluorobenzene or anisole], HFIP (0.5 mL), DMF (0.3 mL), and H₂O (20 μL) were subsequently added. The tube was sealed with a Teflon cap and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated

under vacuum and the cross coupling products were obtained by preparative thin-layer chromatography. The ratios of products were determined by ^1H NMR analysis.



Scheme S3. Competition reaction between benzene and toluene (1:1)

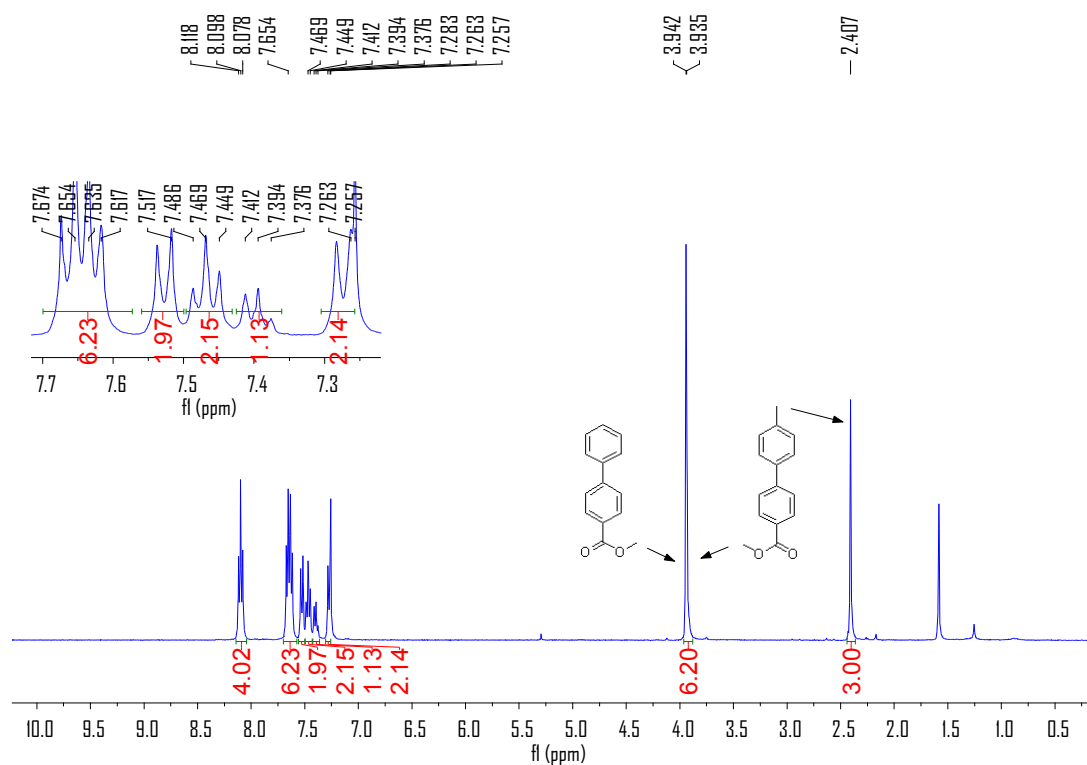
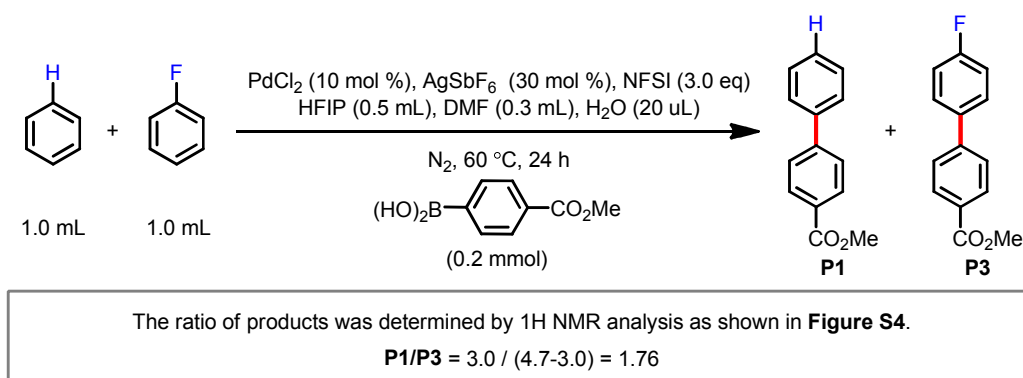


Figure S3. ^1H NMR spectrum of the mixture of products



Scheme S4. Competition reaction between benzene and fluorobenzene (1:1)

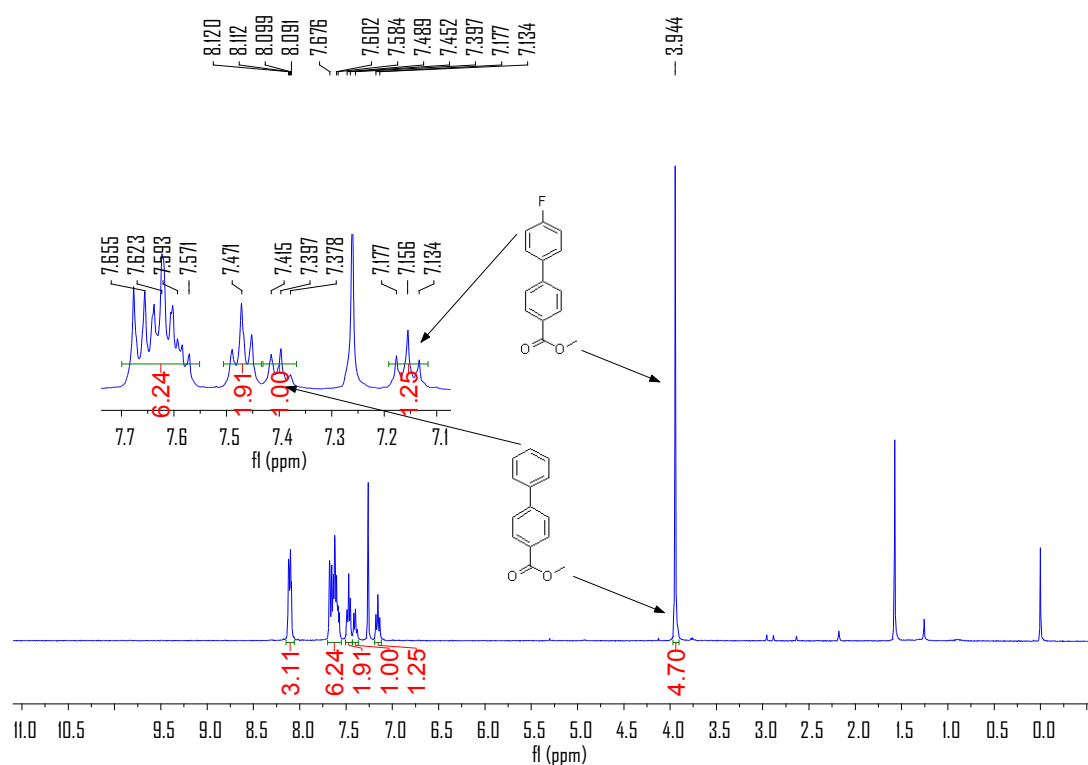
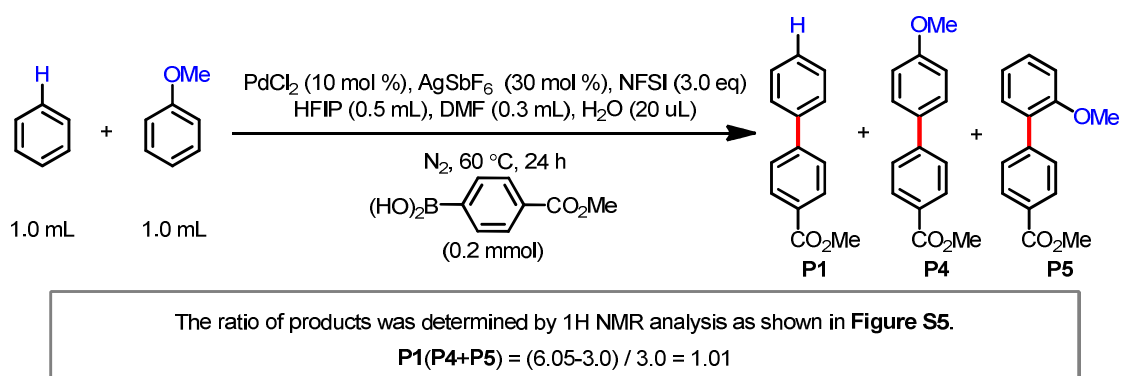


Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum of the mixture of products



Scheme S5. Competition reaction between benzene and anisole (1:1)

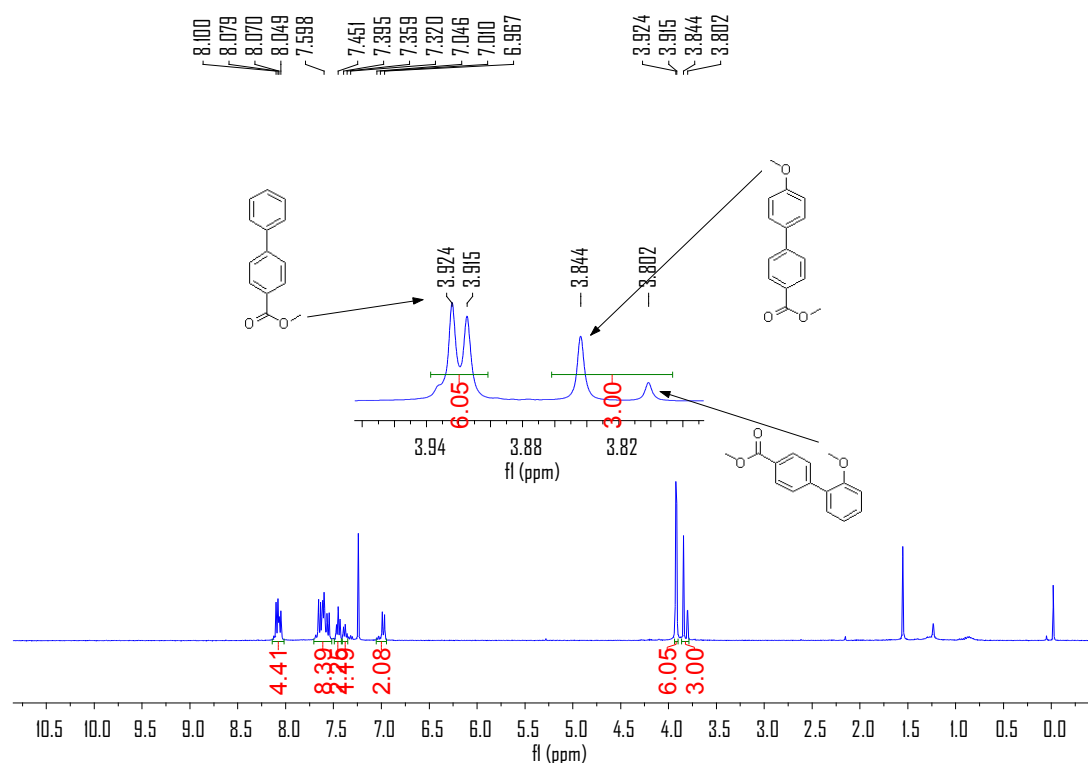


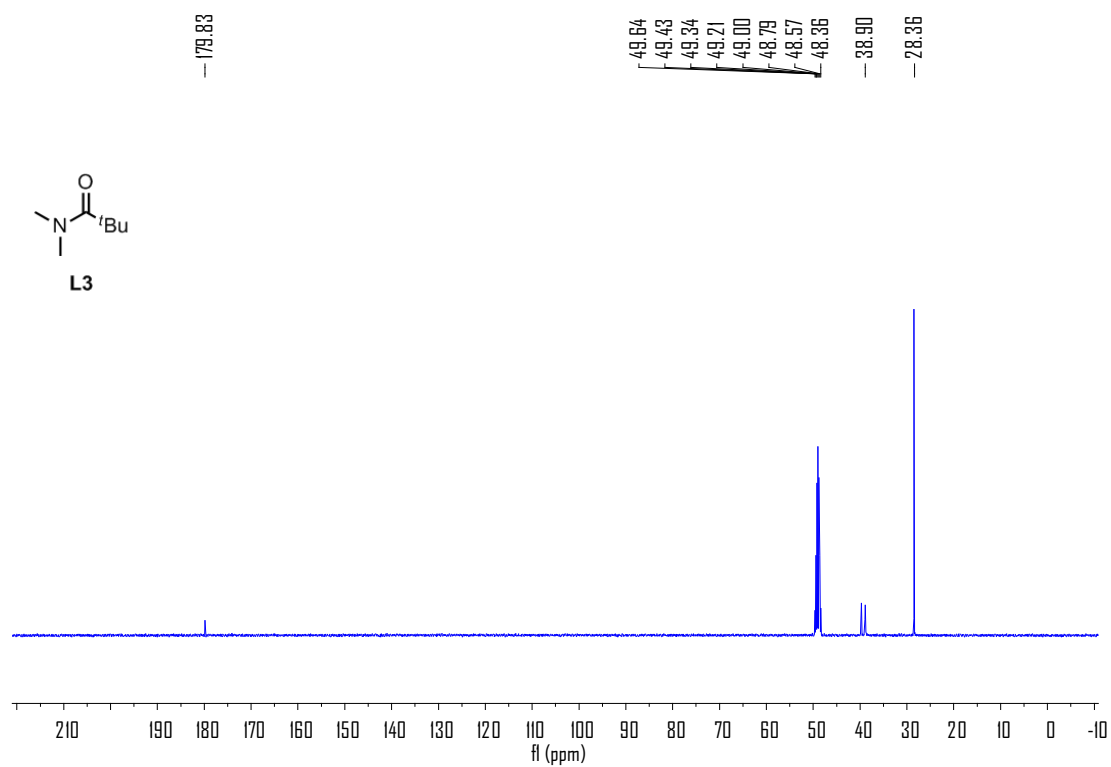
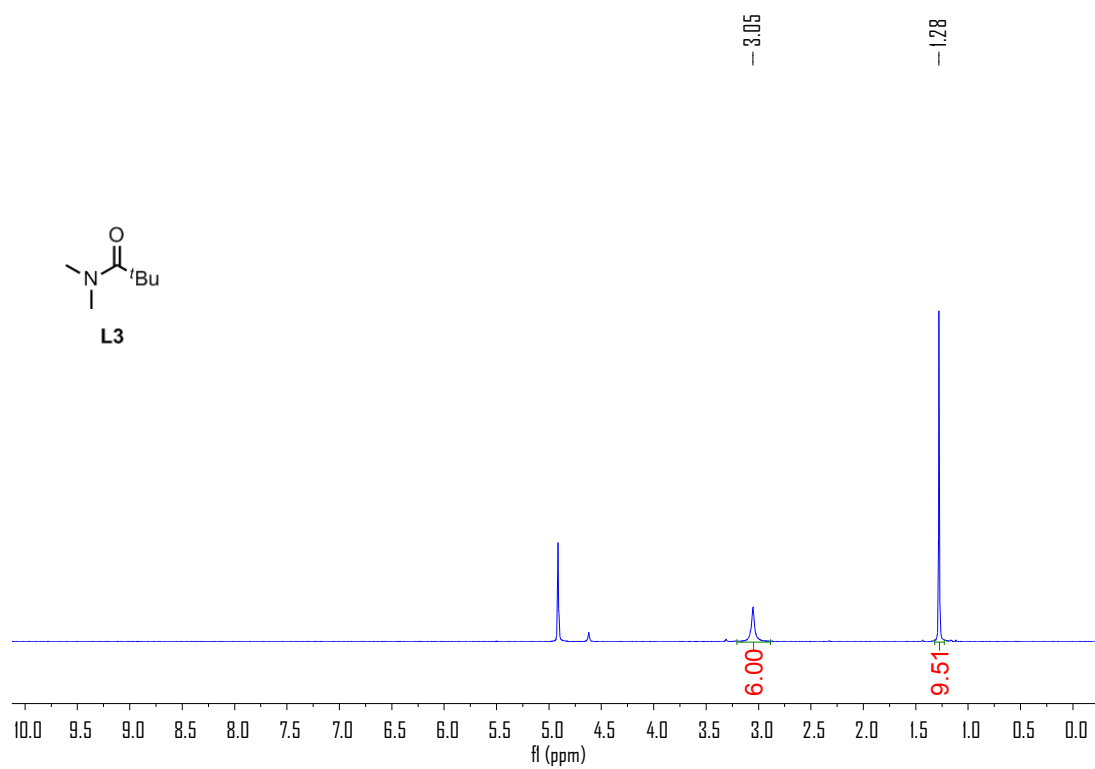
Figure S5. ^1H NMR spectrum of the mixture of products

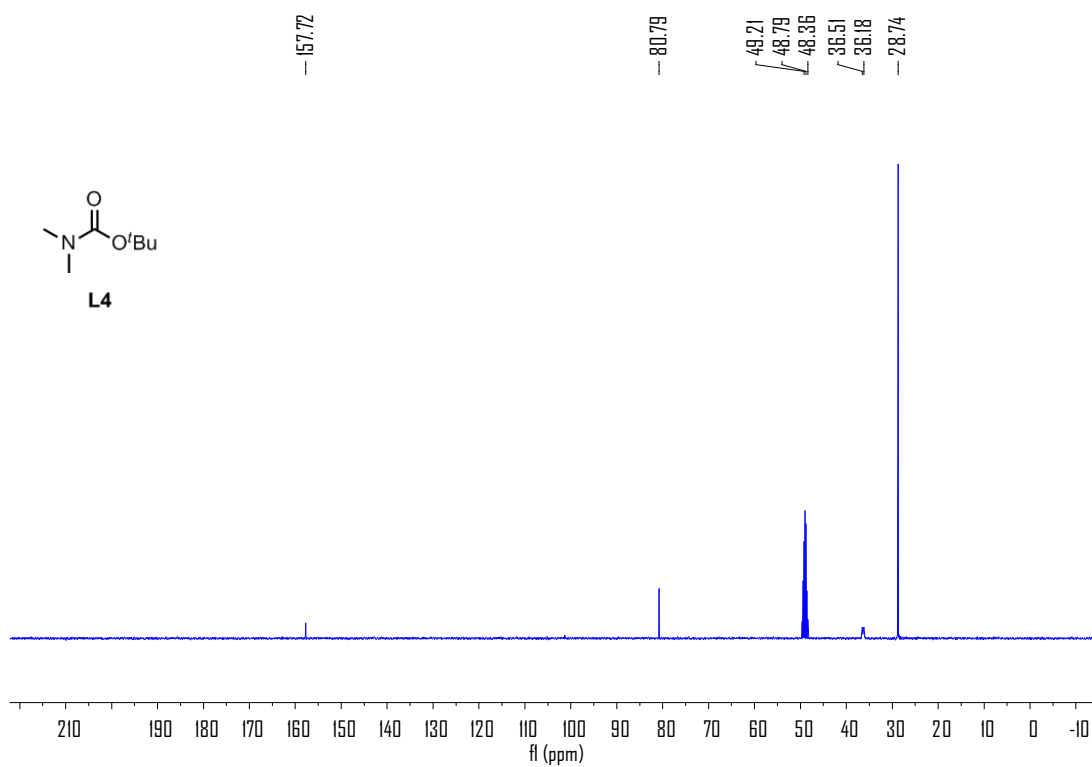
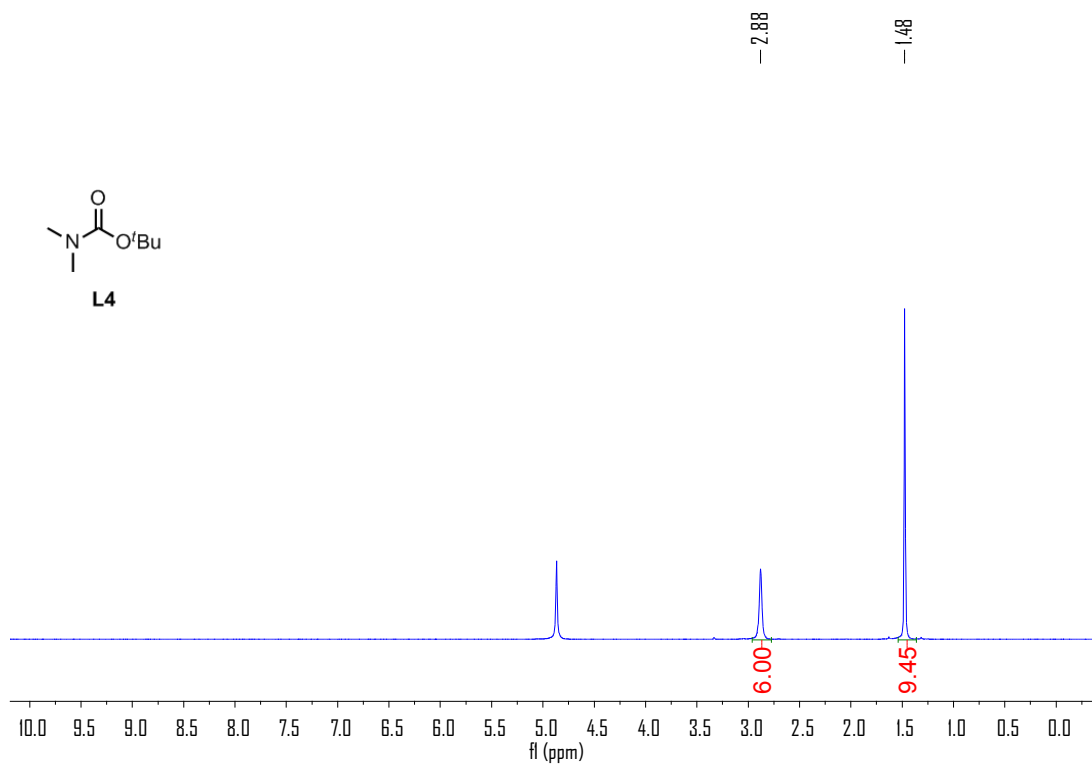
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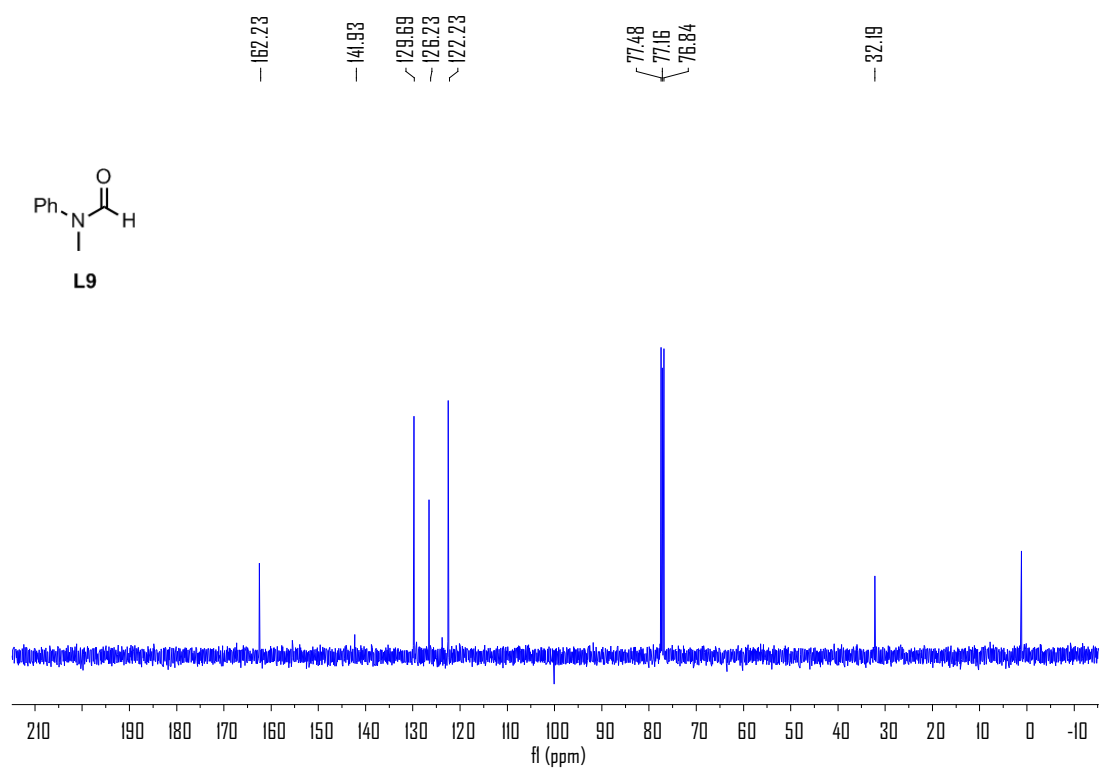
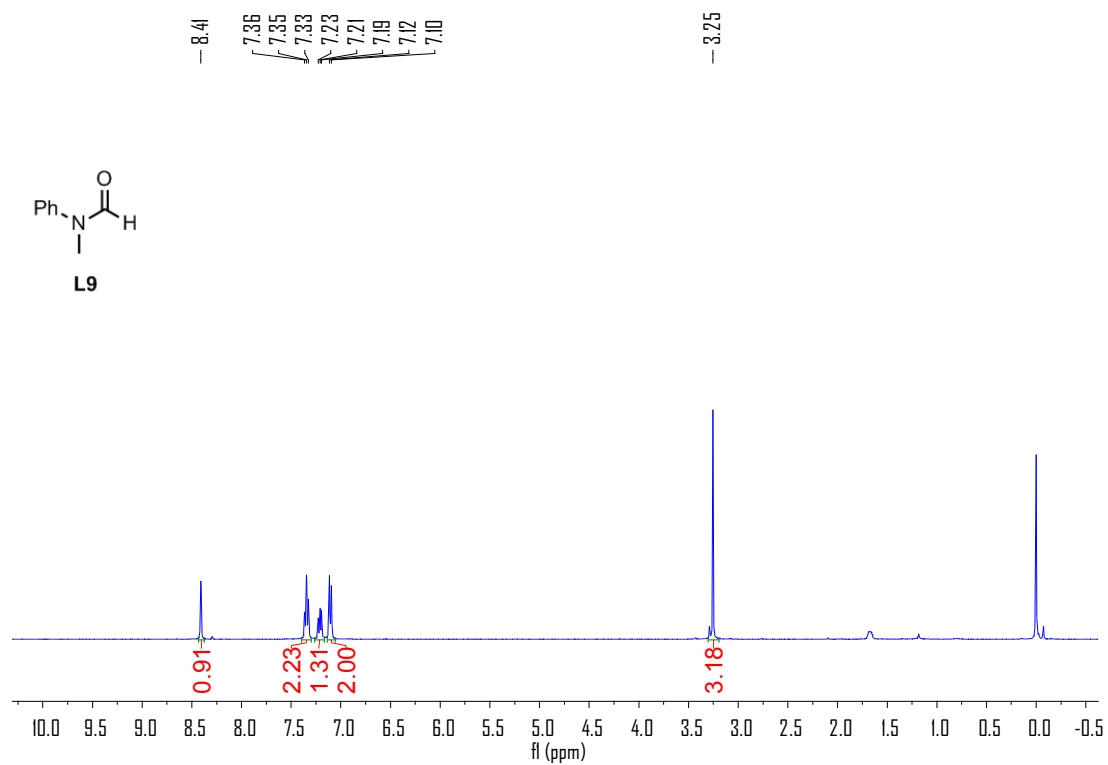
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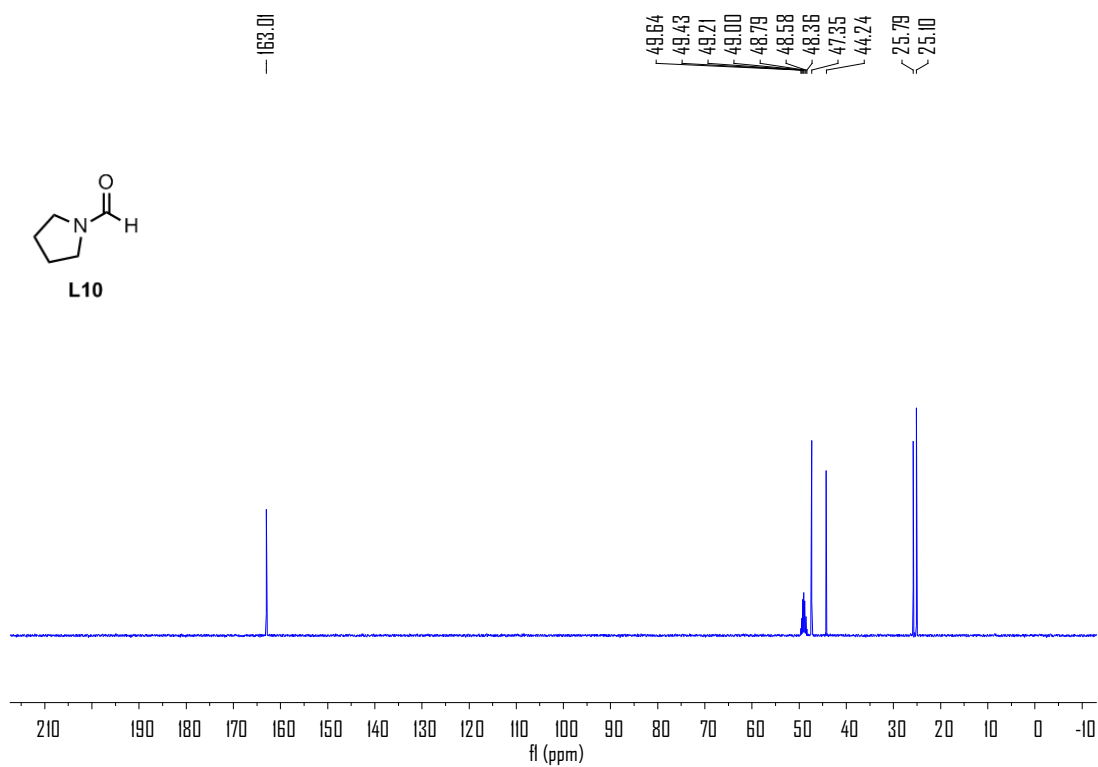
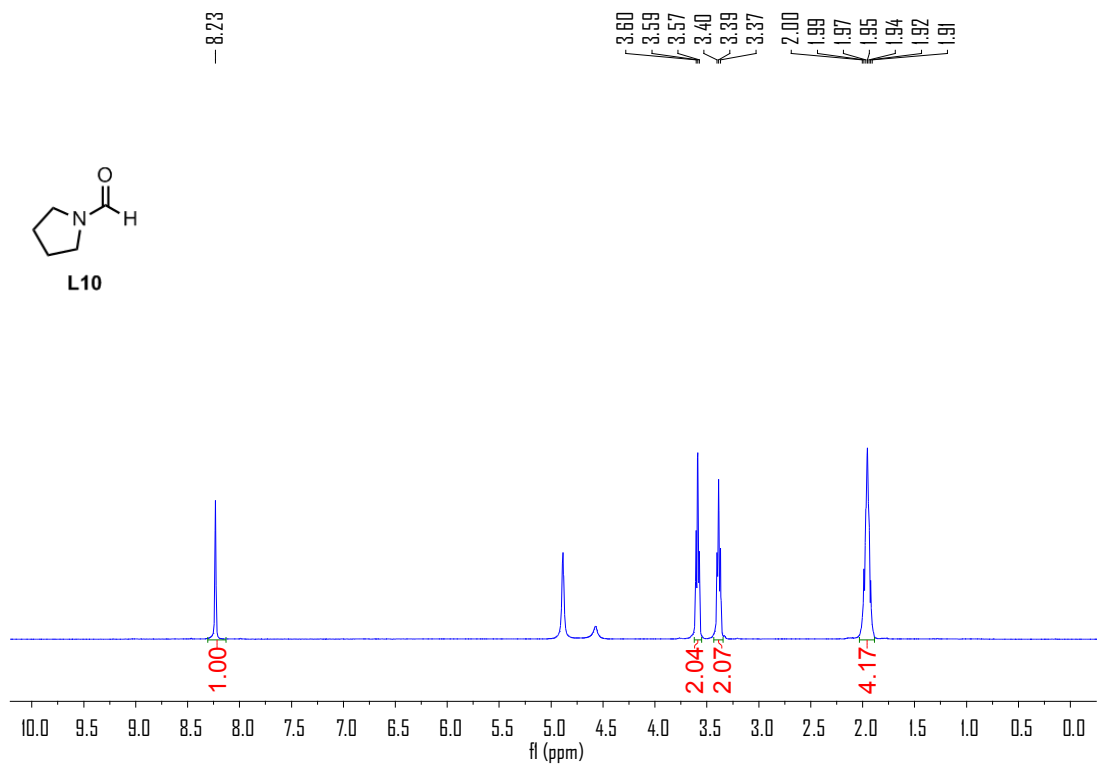
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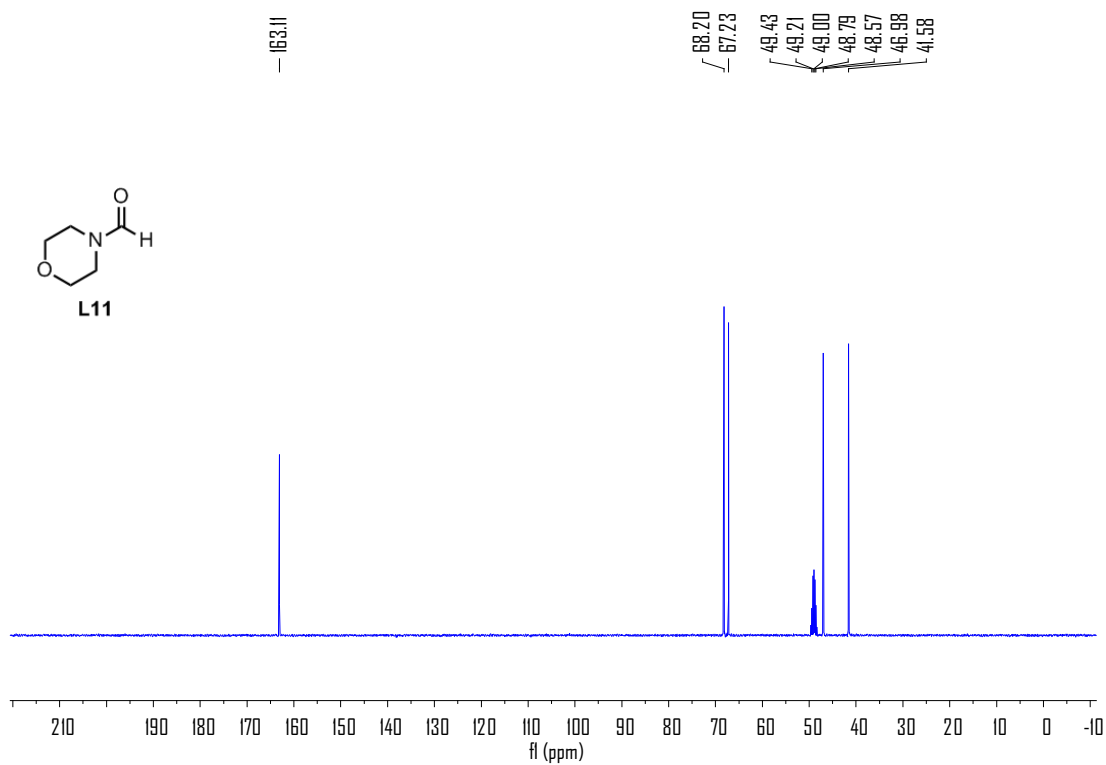
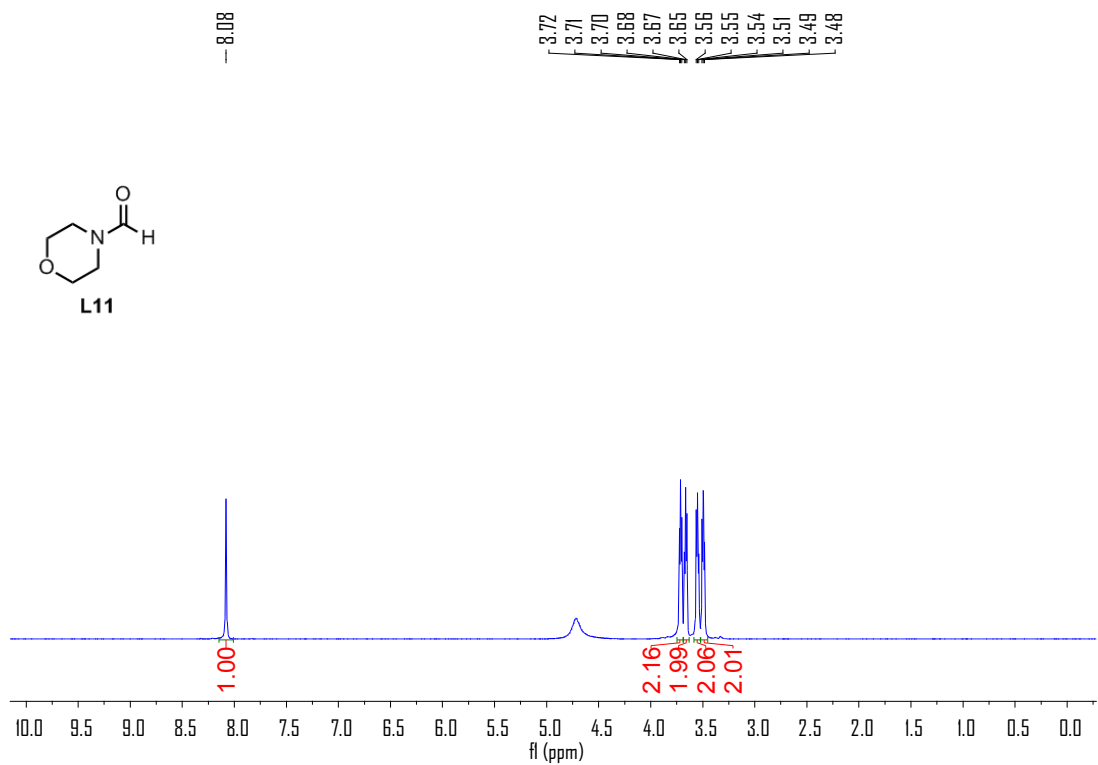
6. NMR Spectra

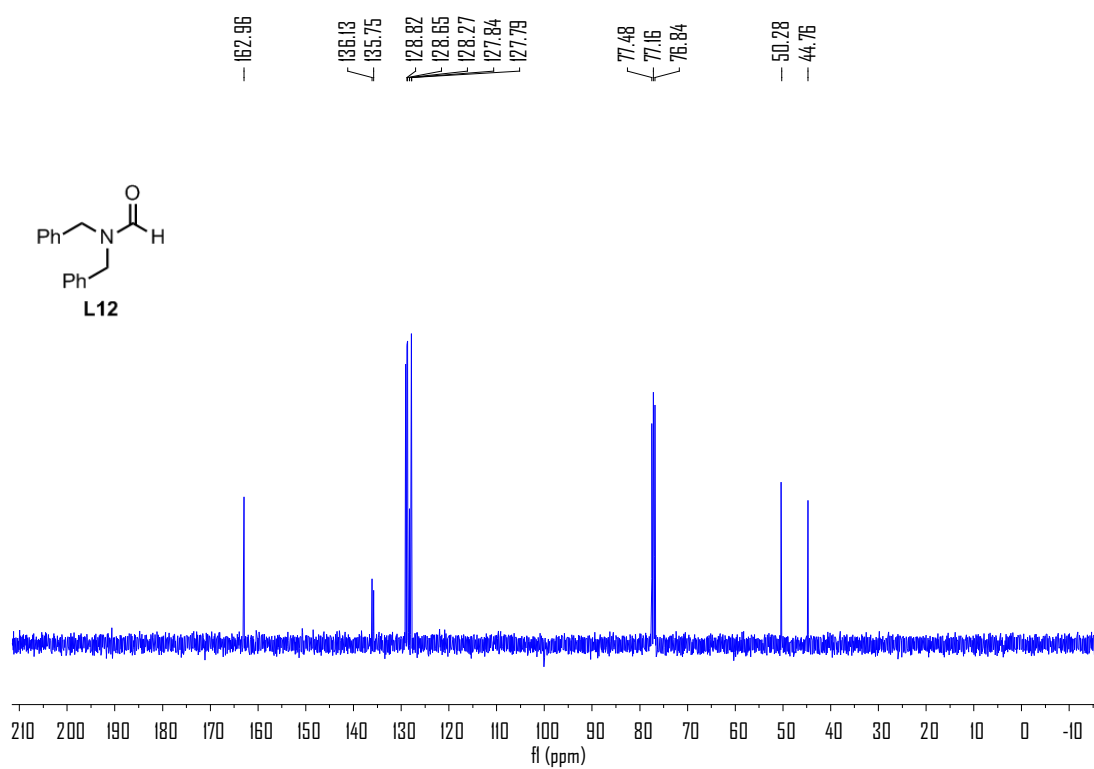
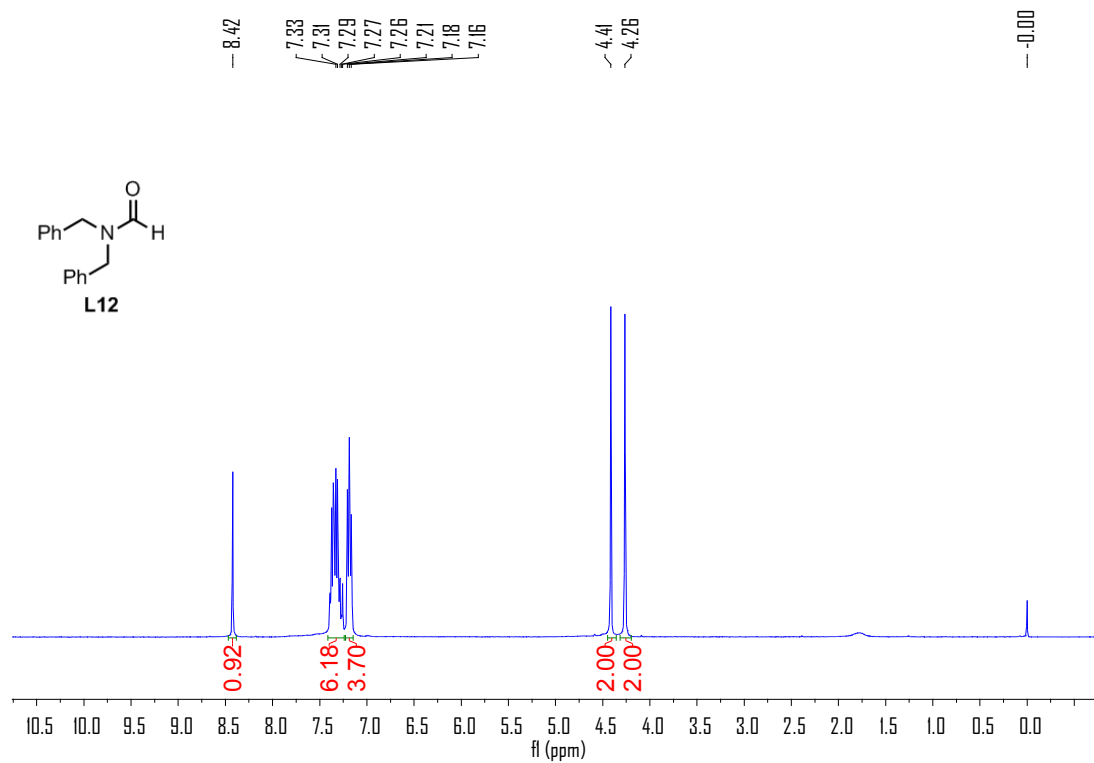


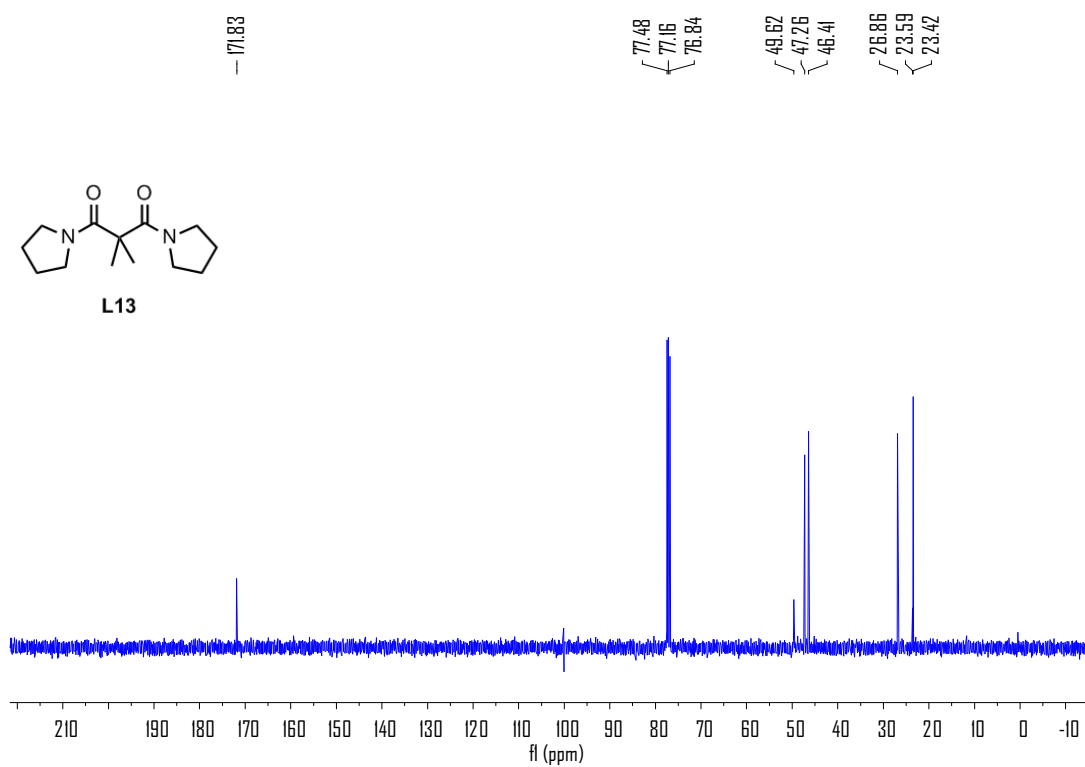
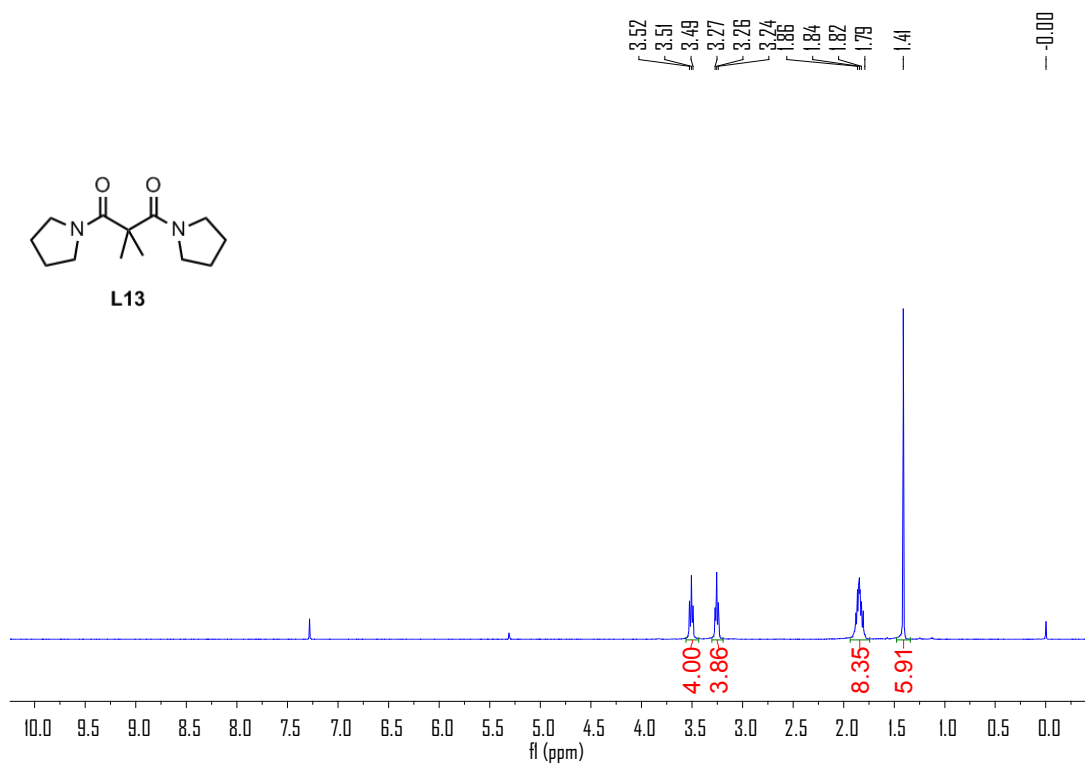


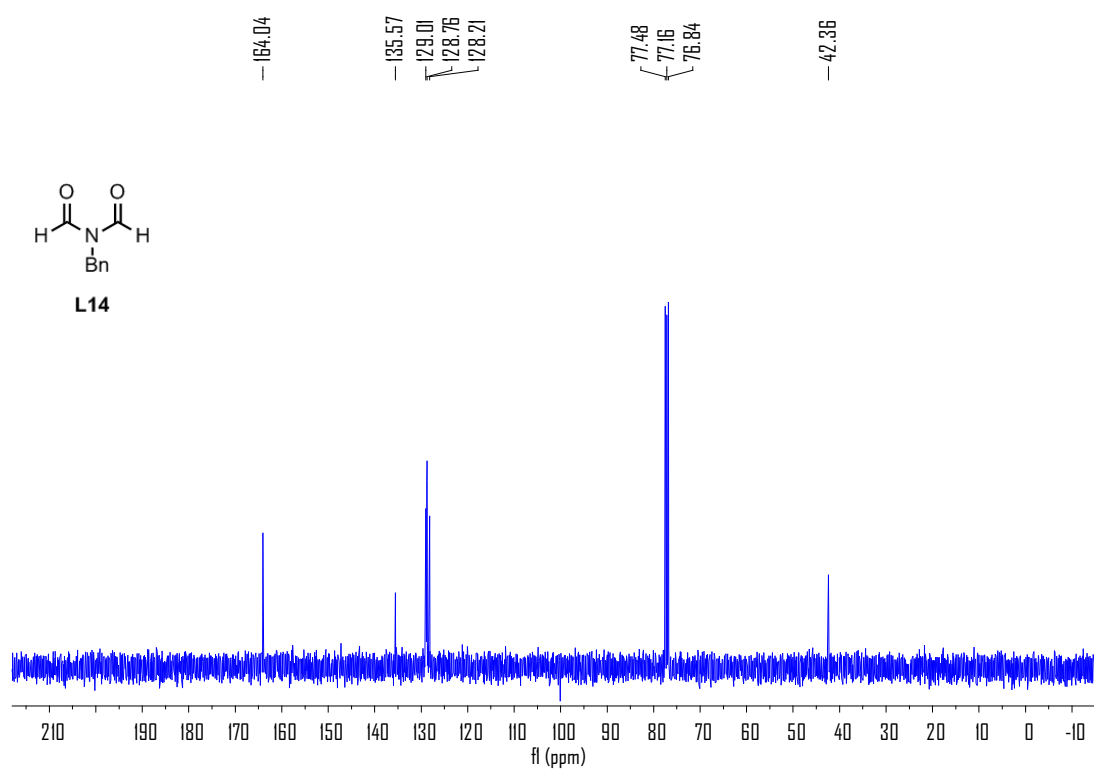
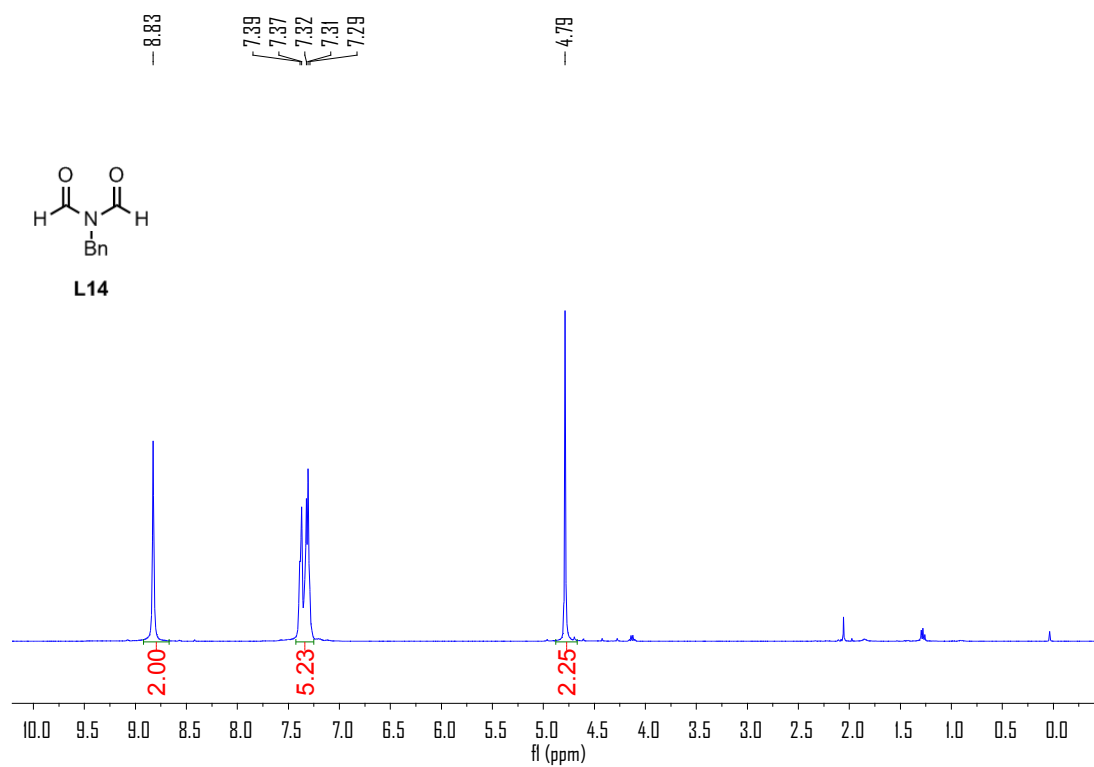


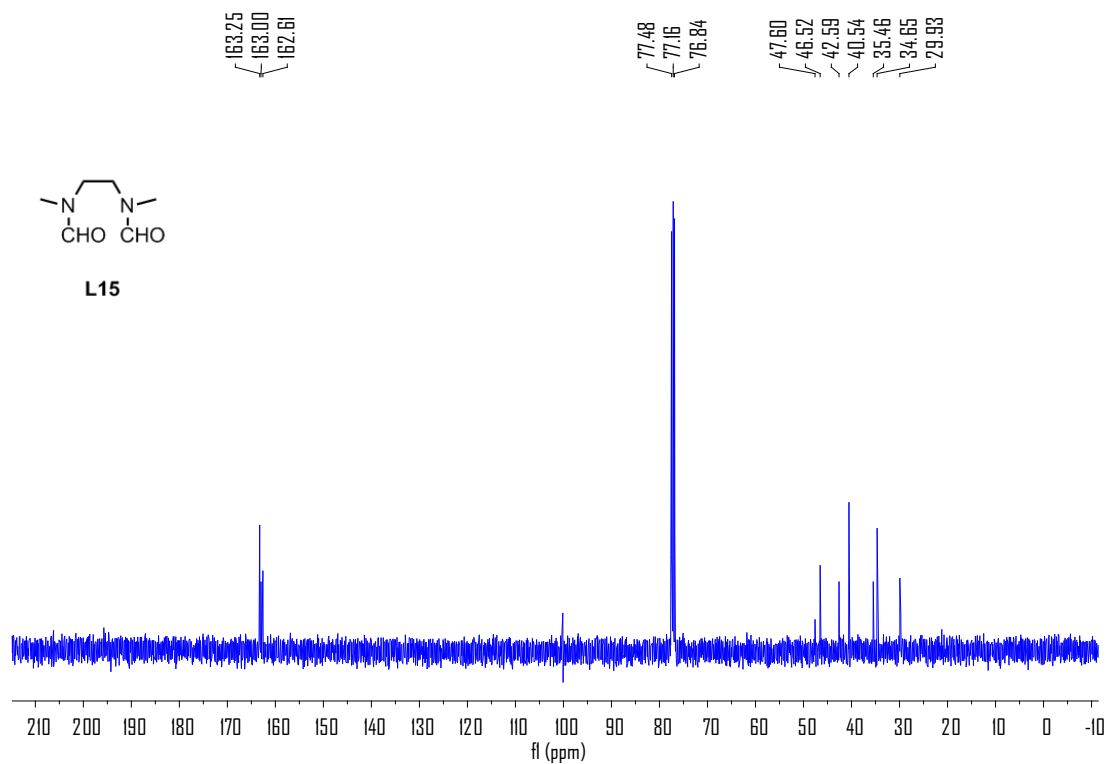
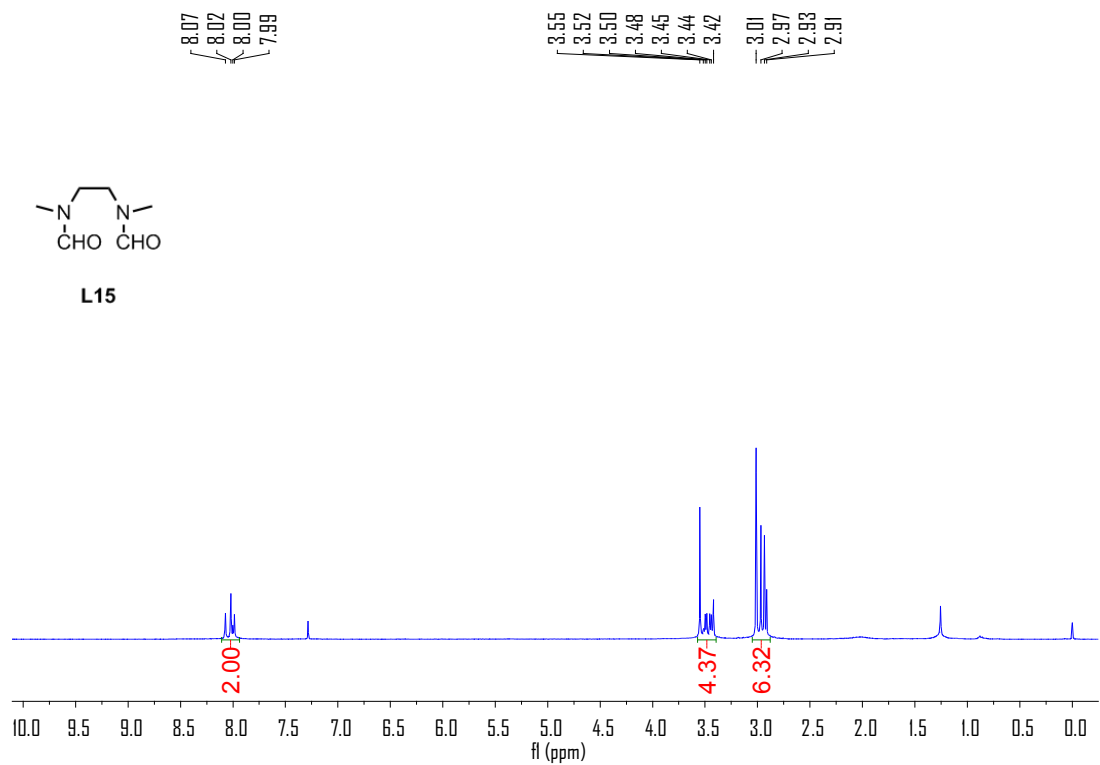


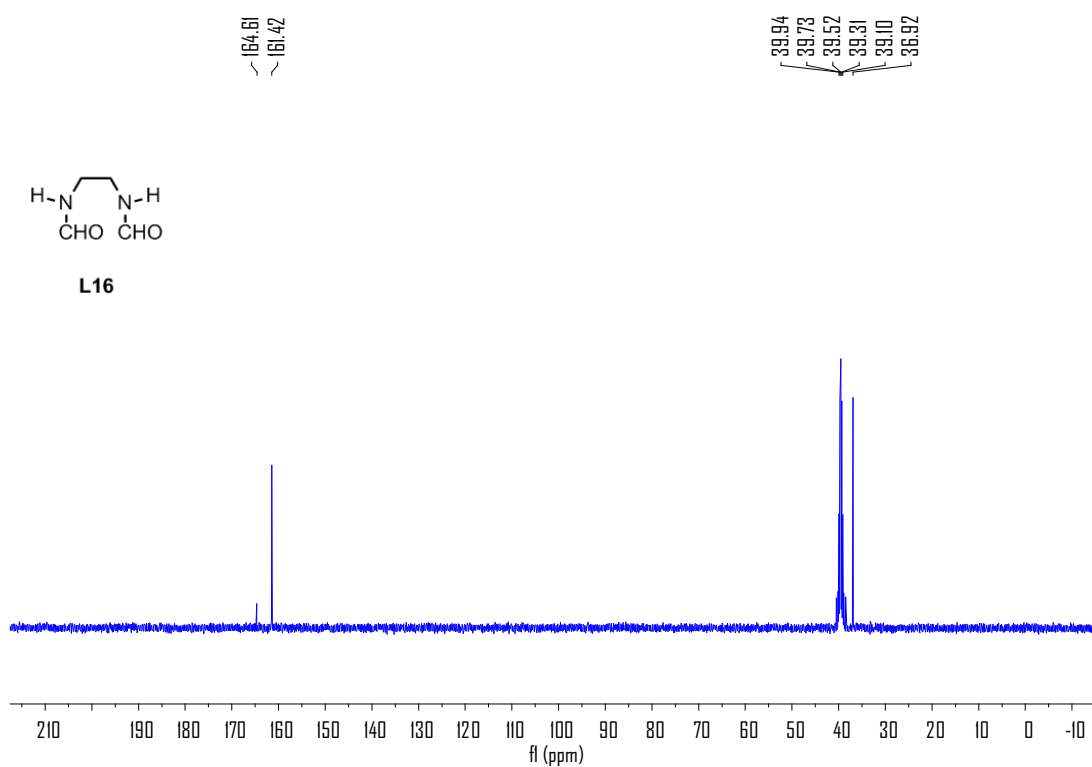
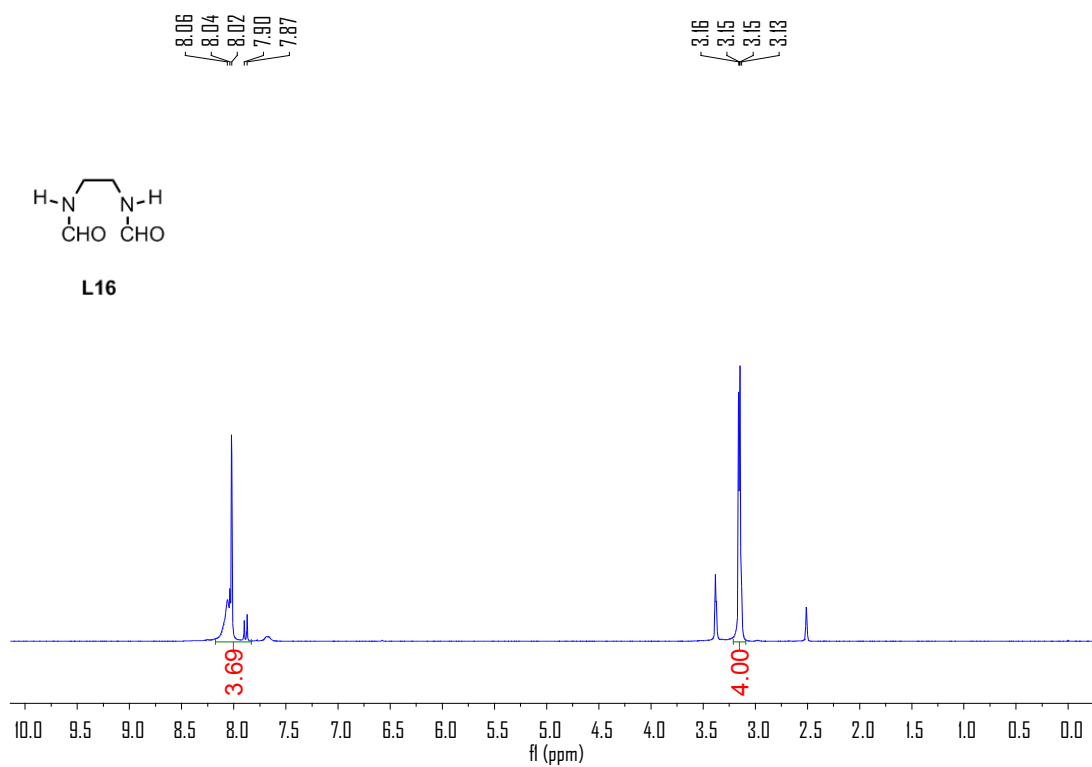


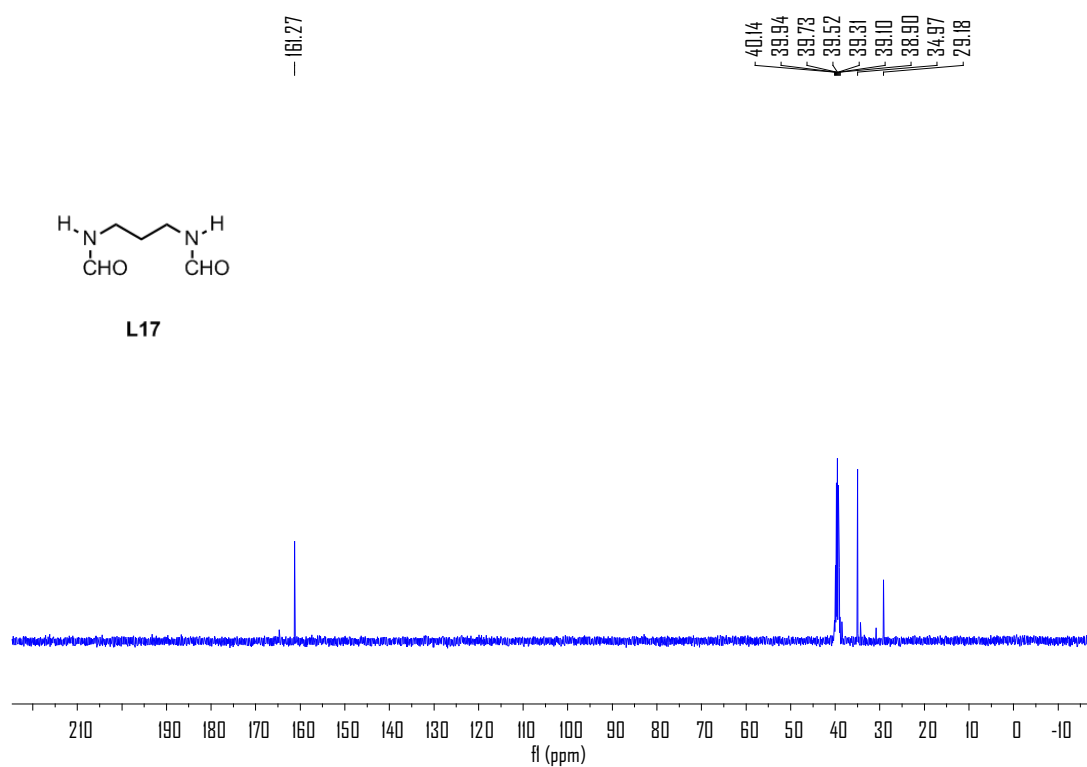
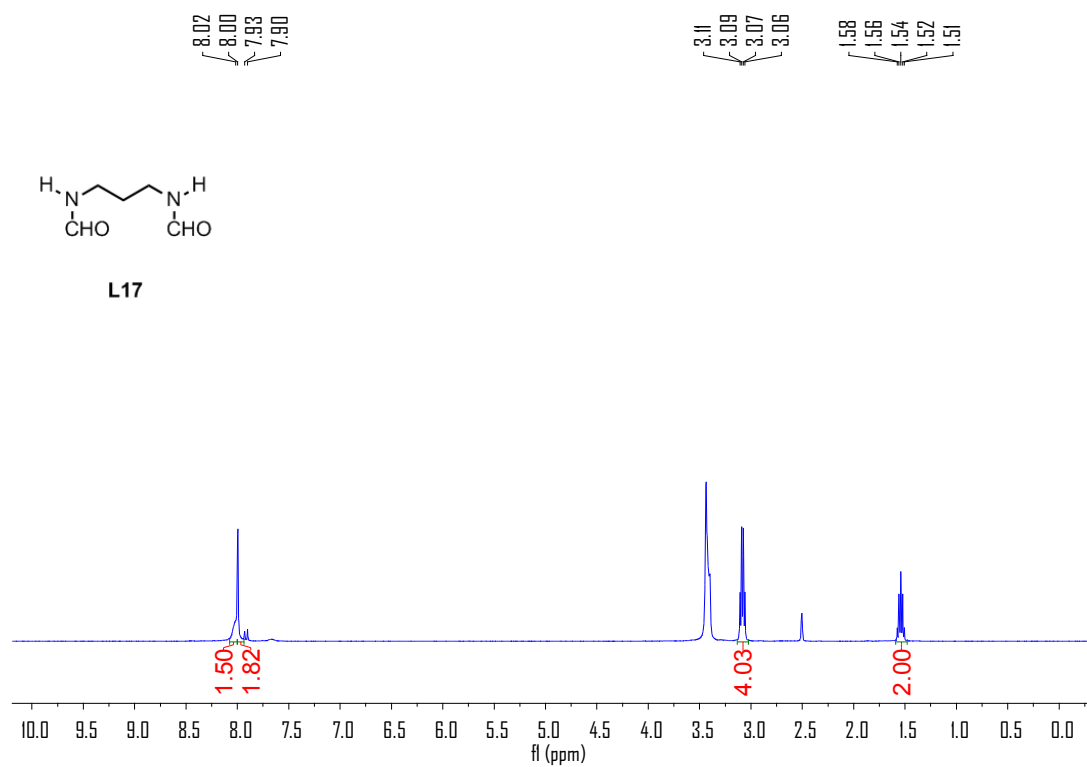


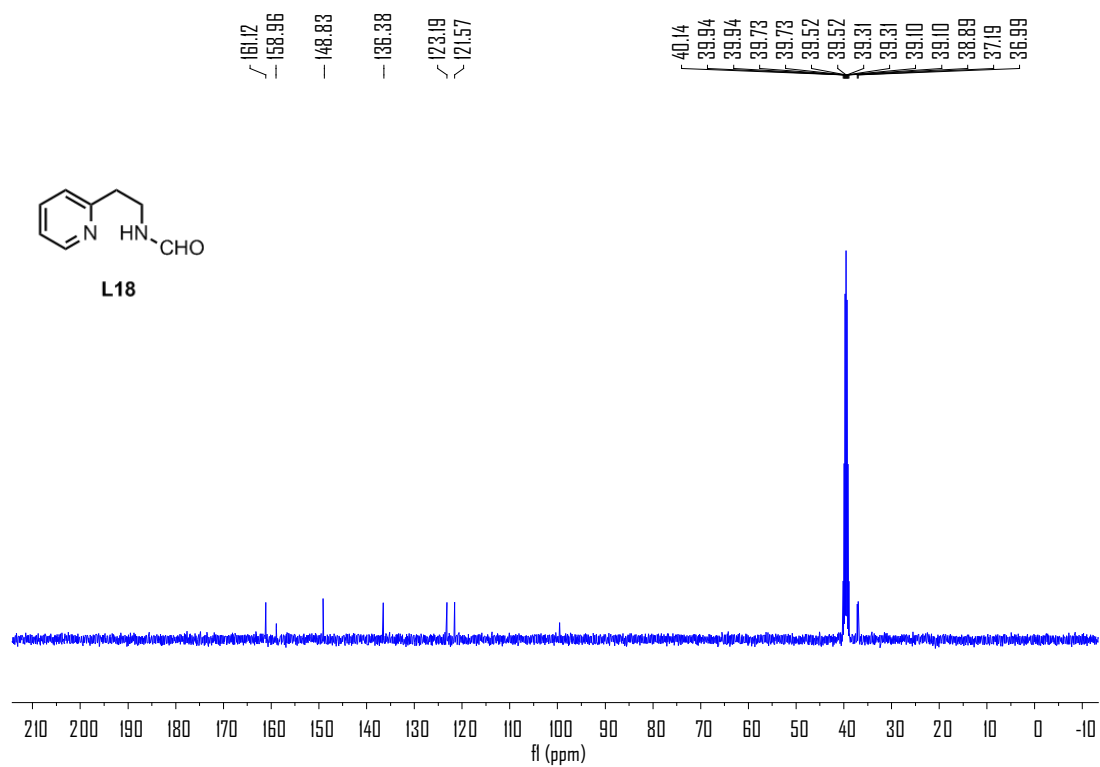
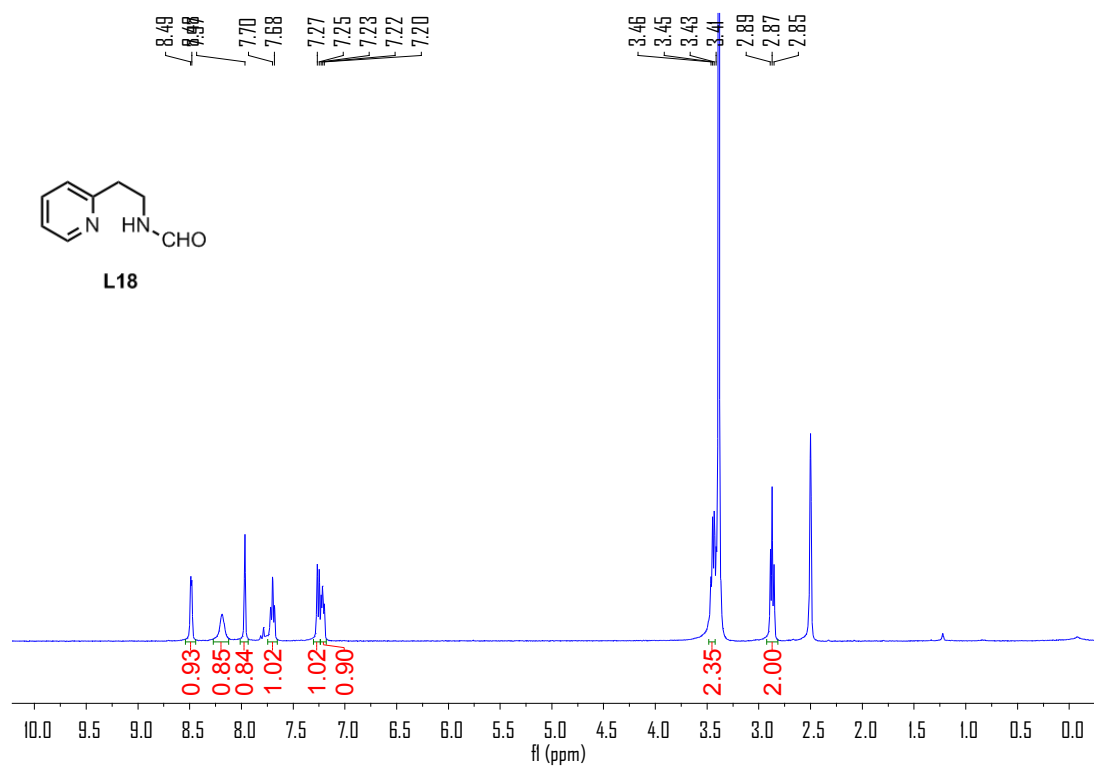


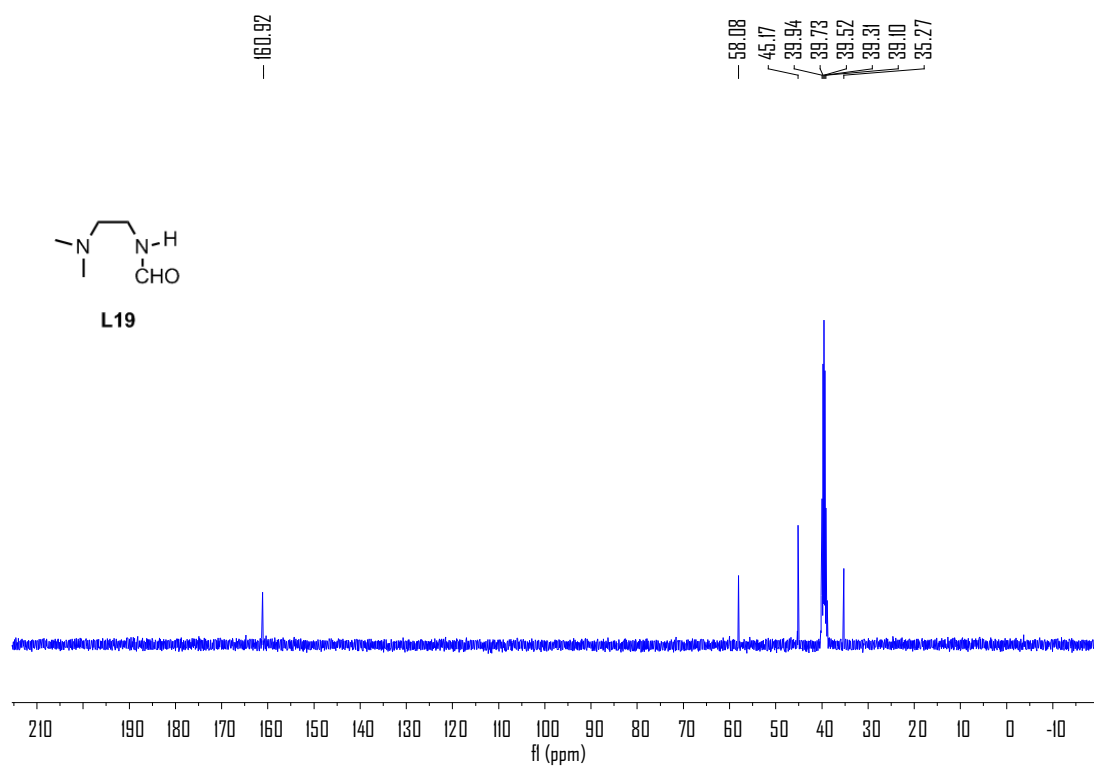
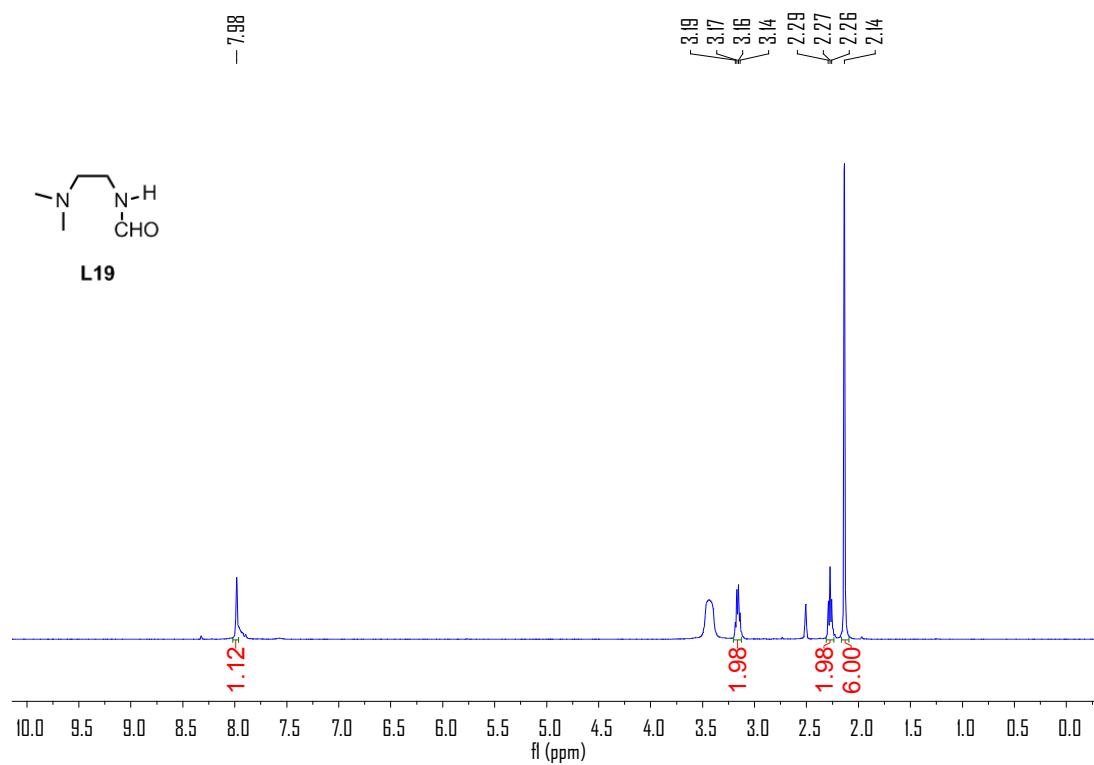


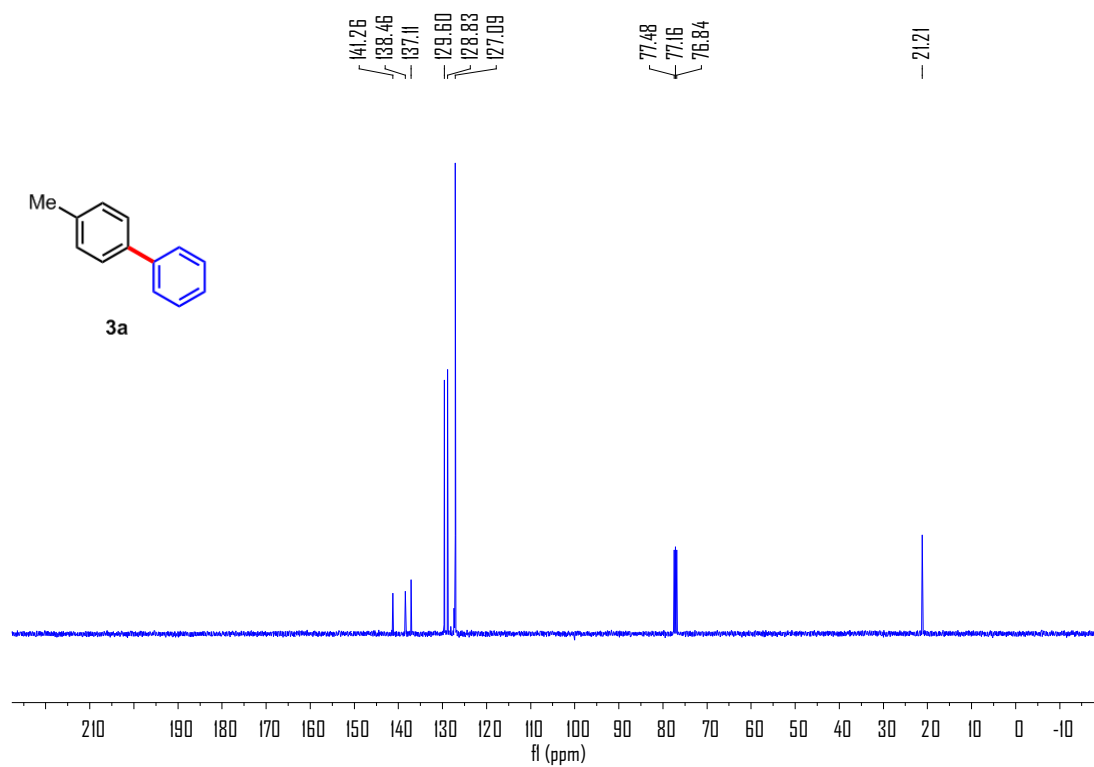
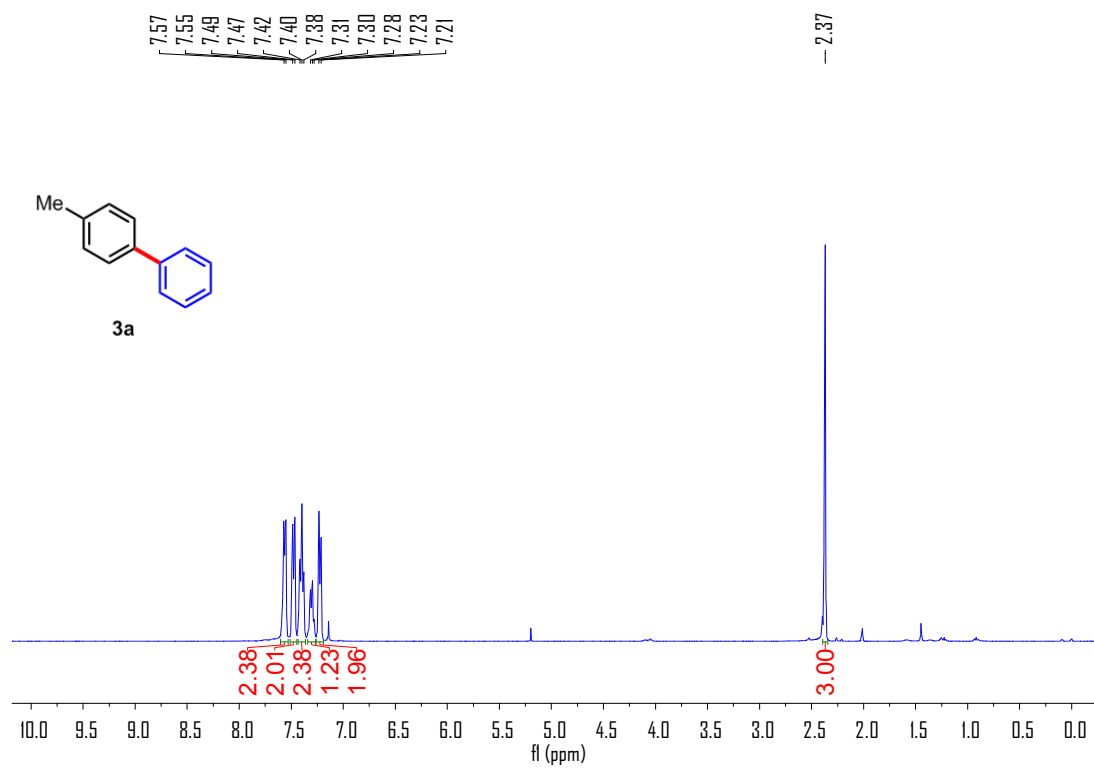


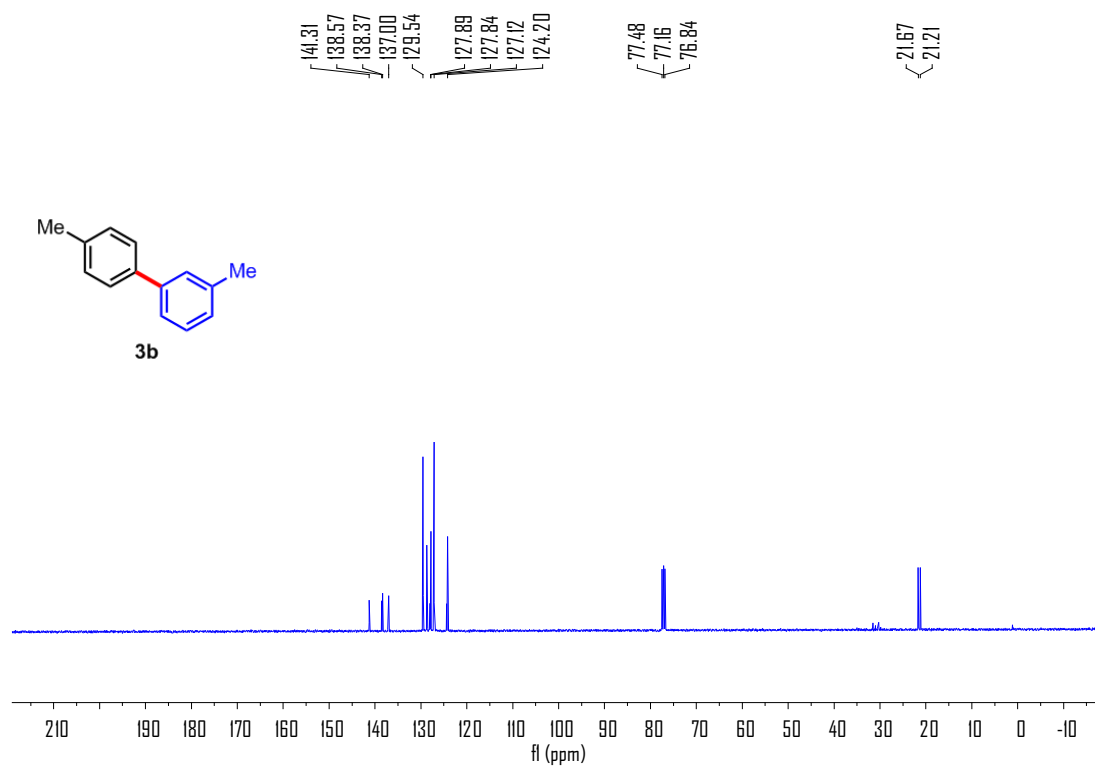
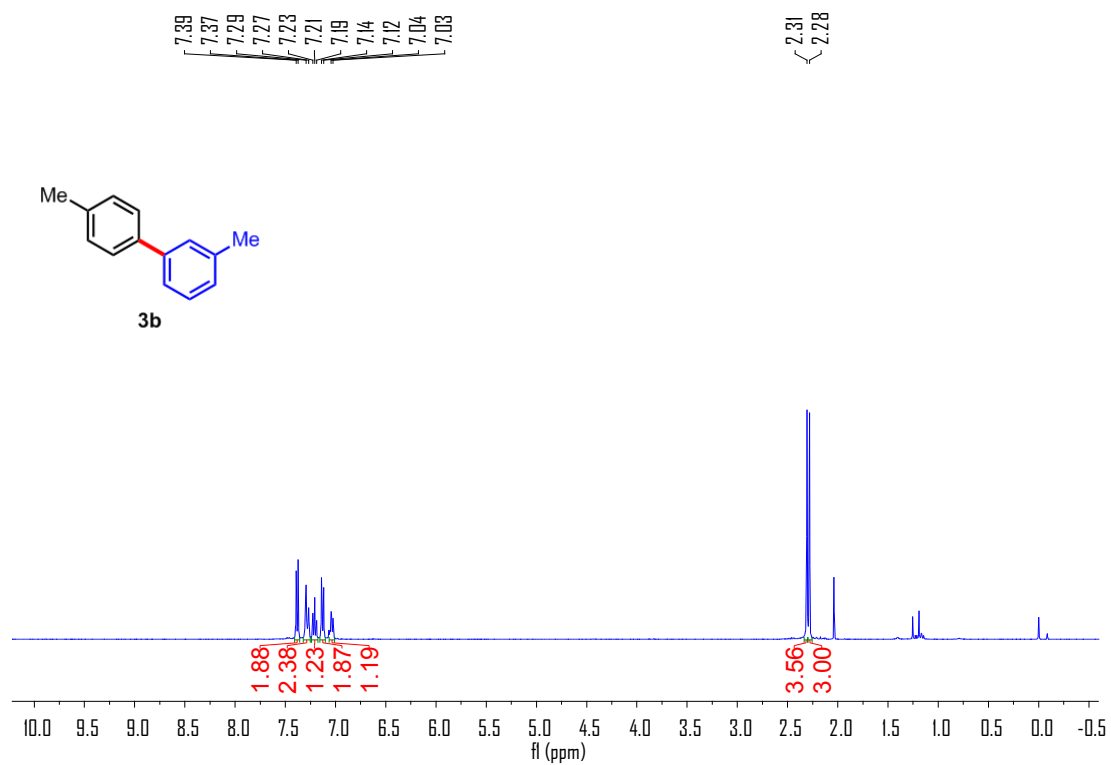


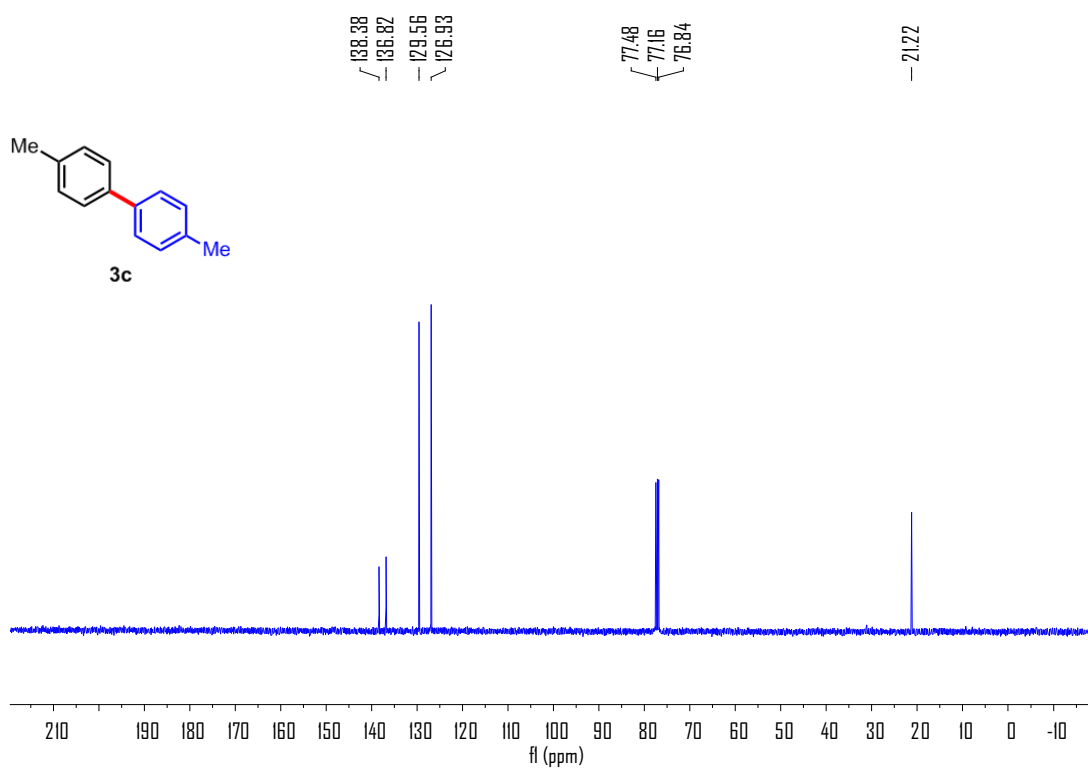
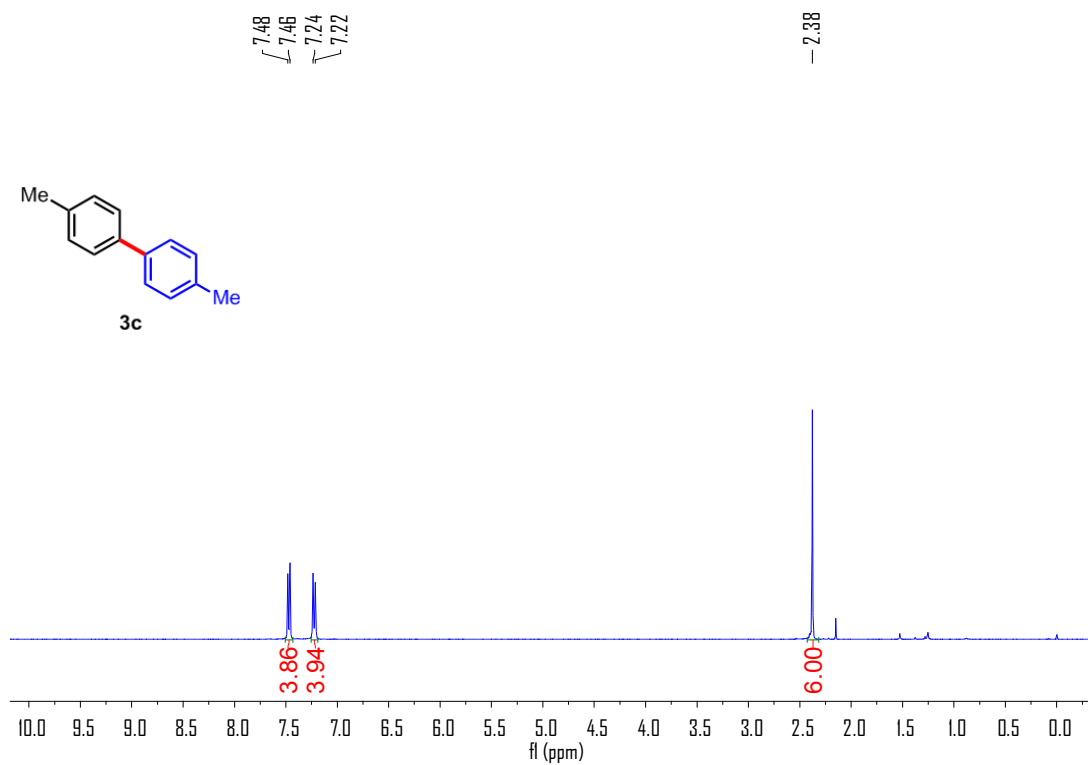


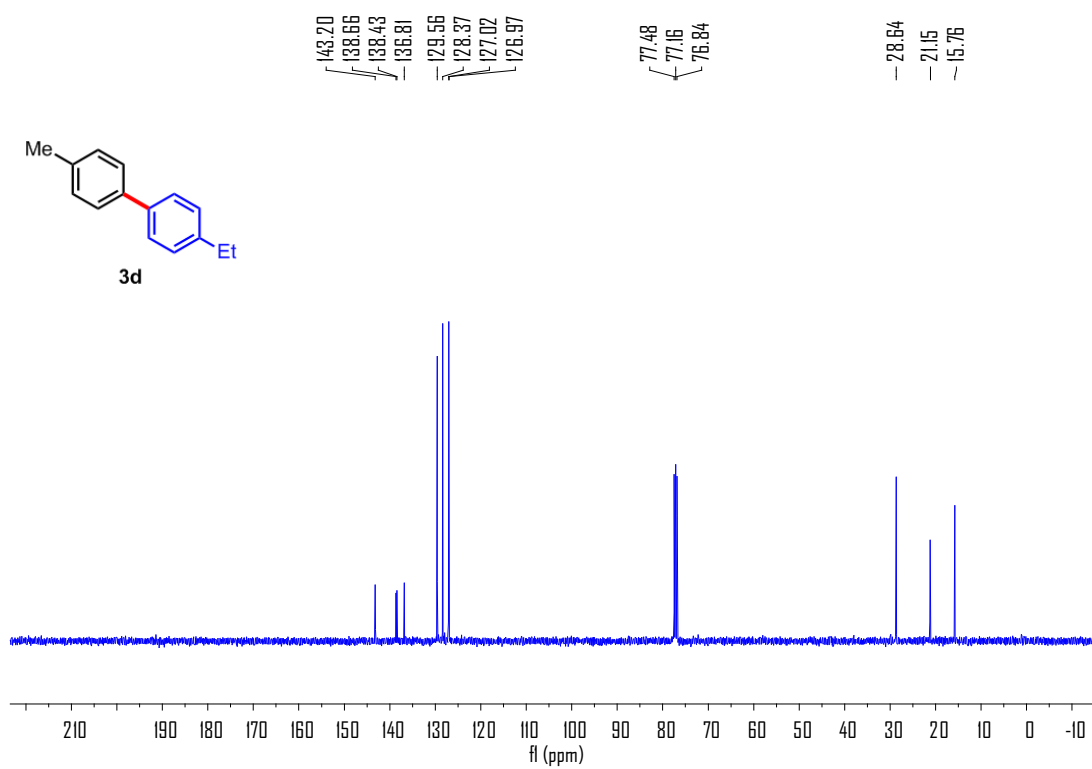
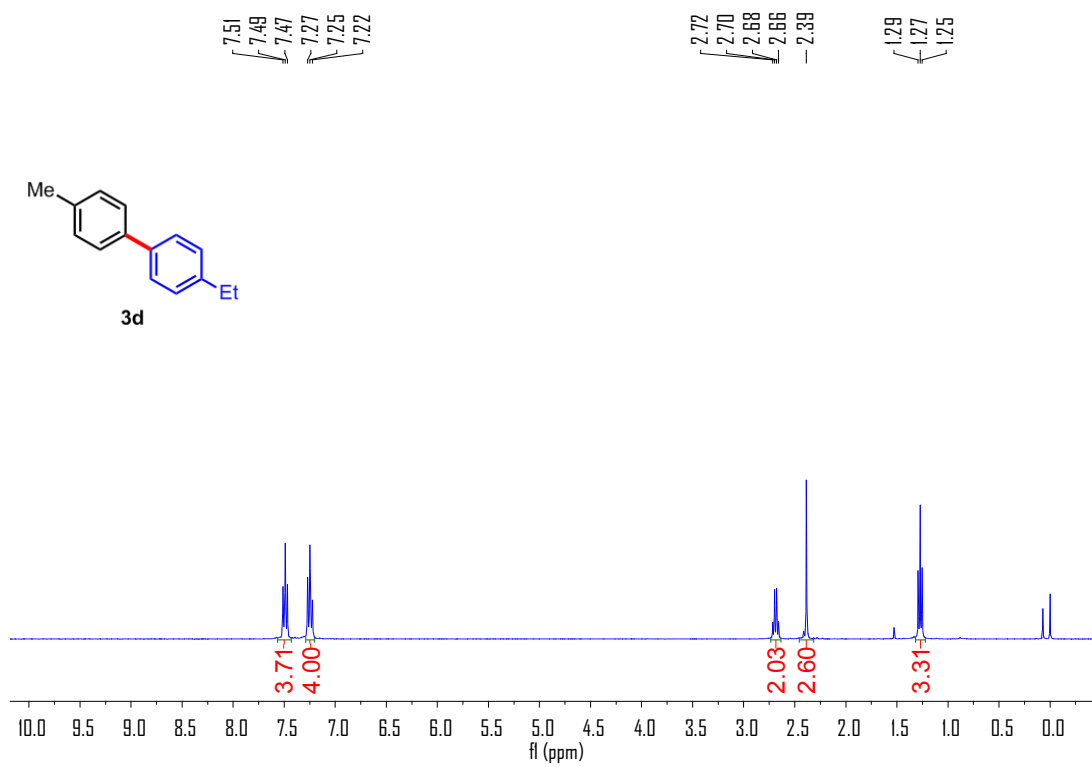


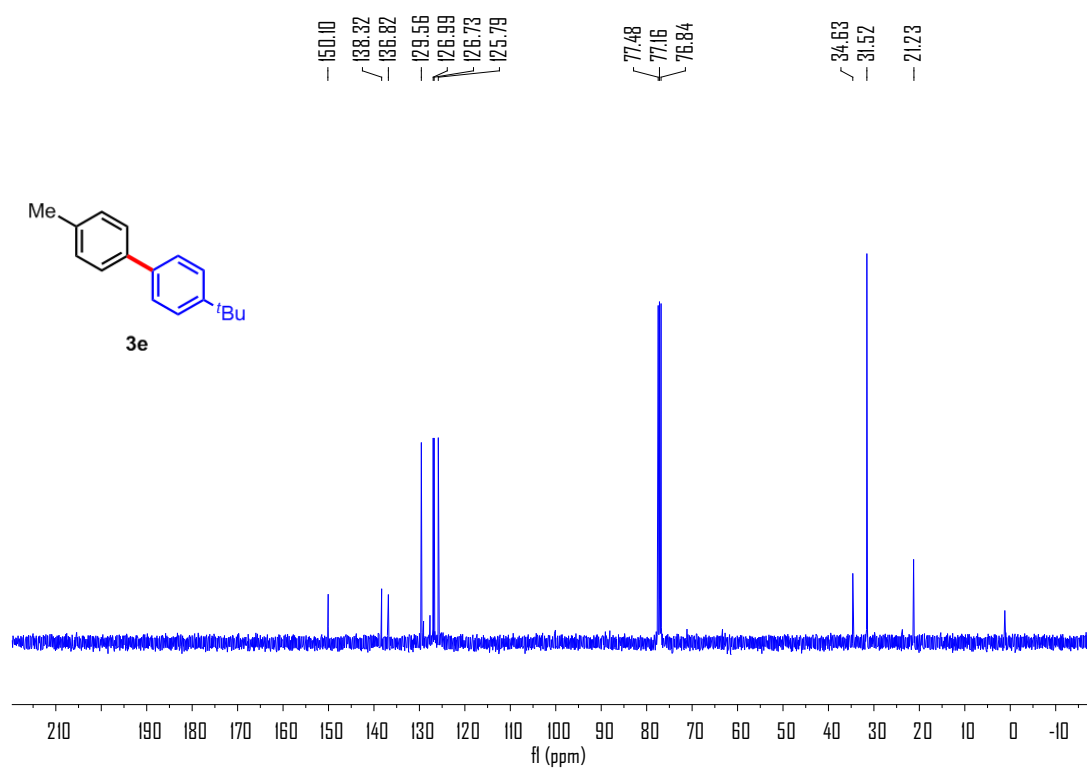
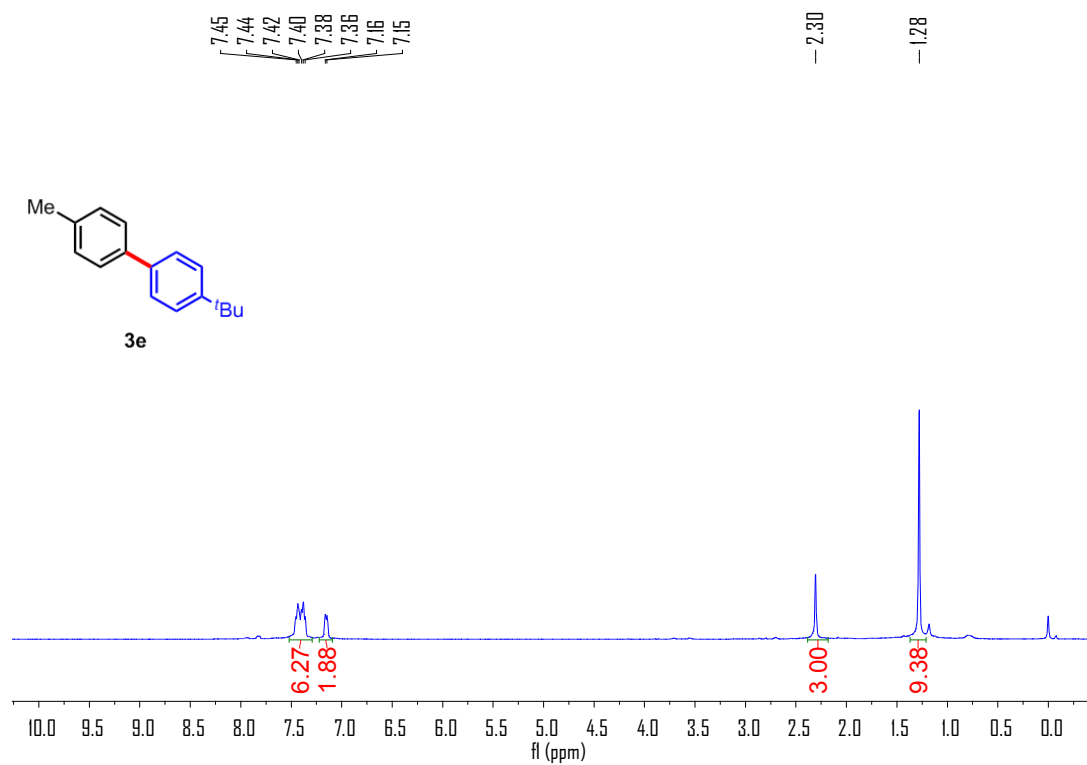


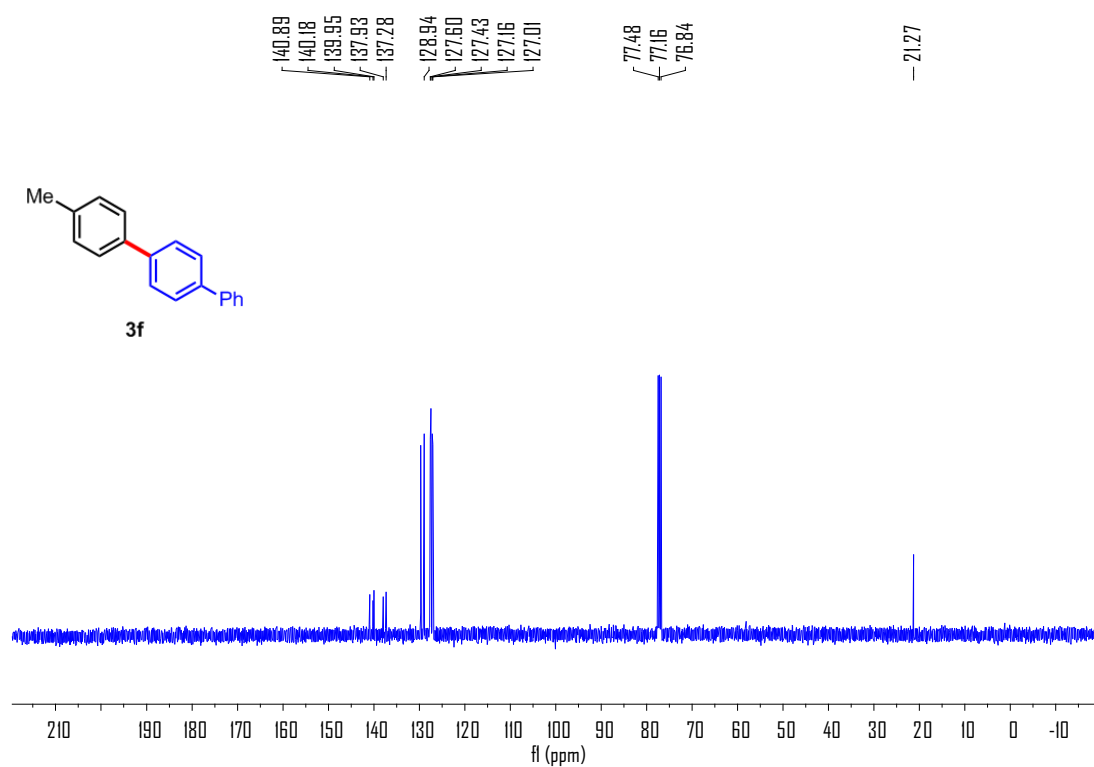
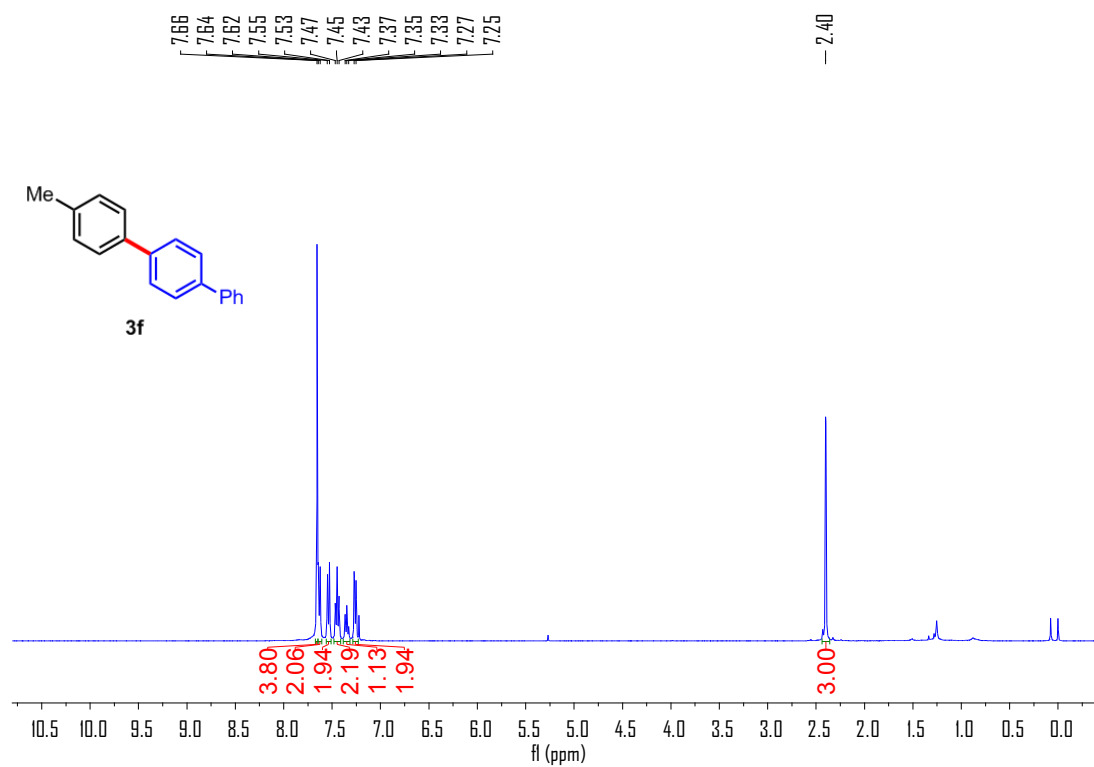


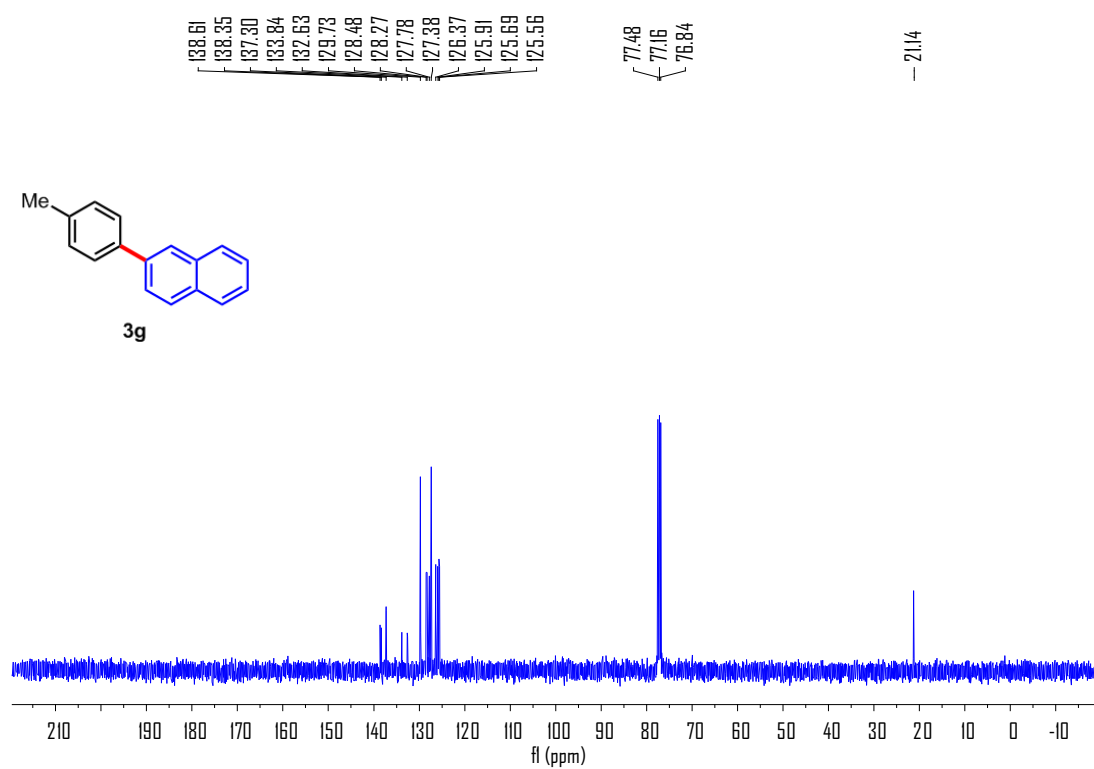
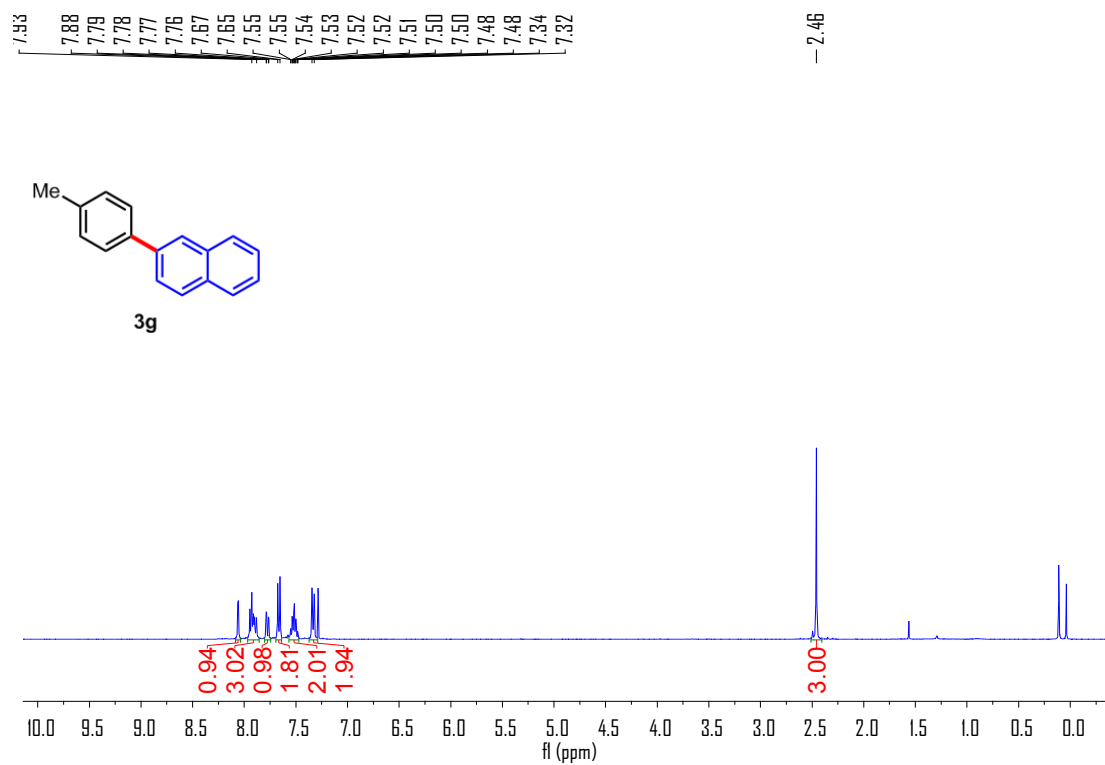


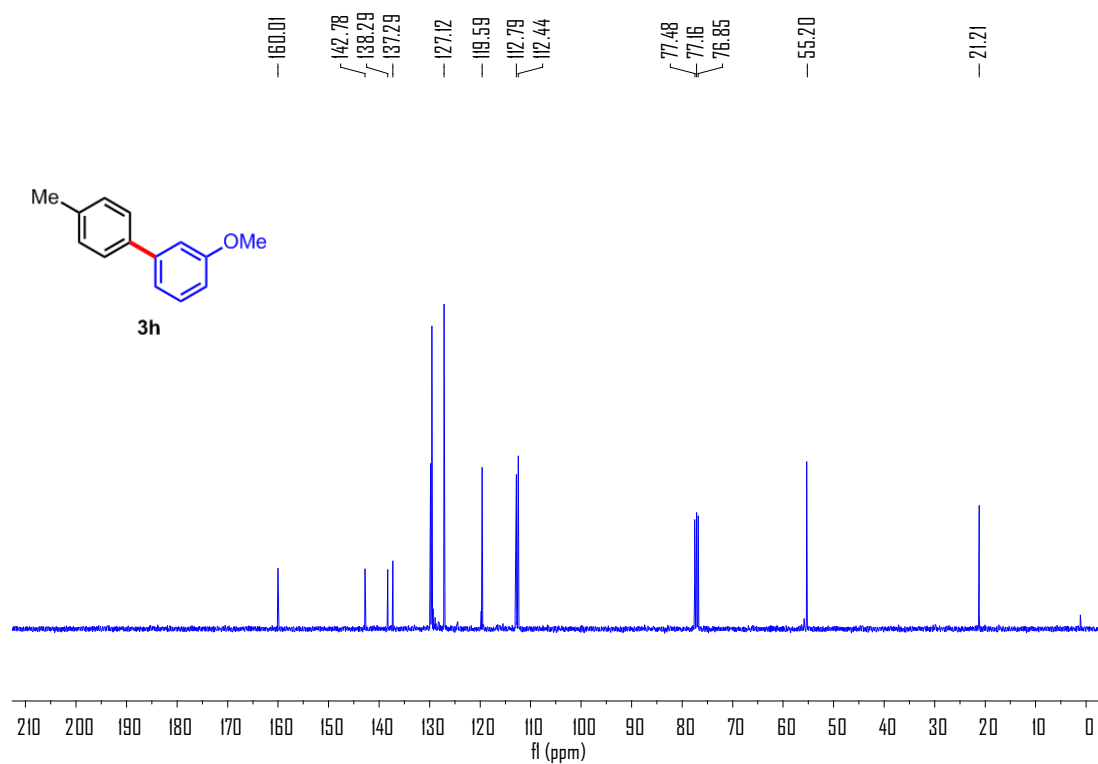
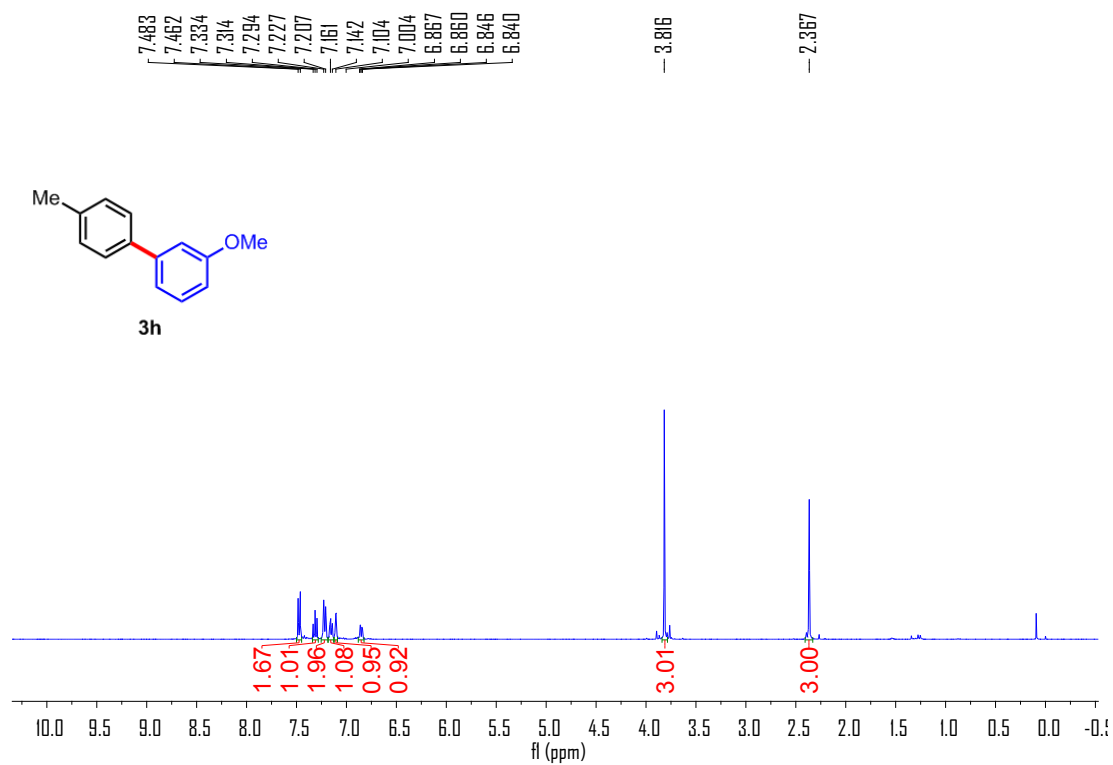


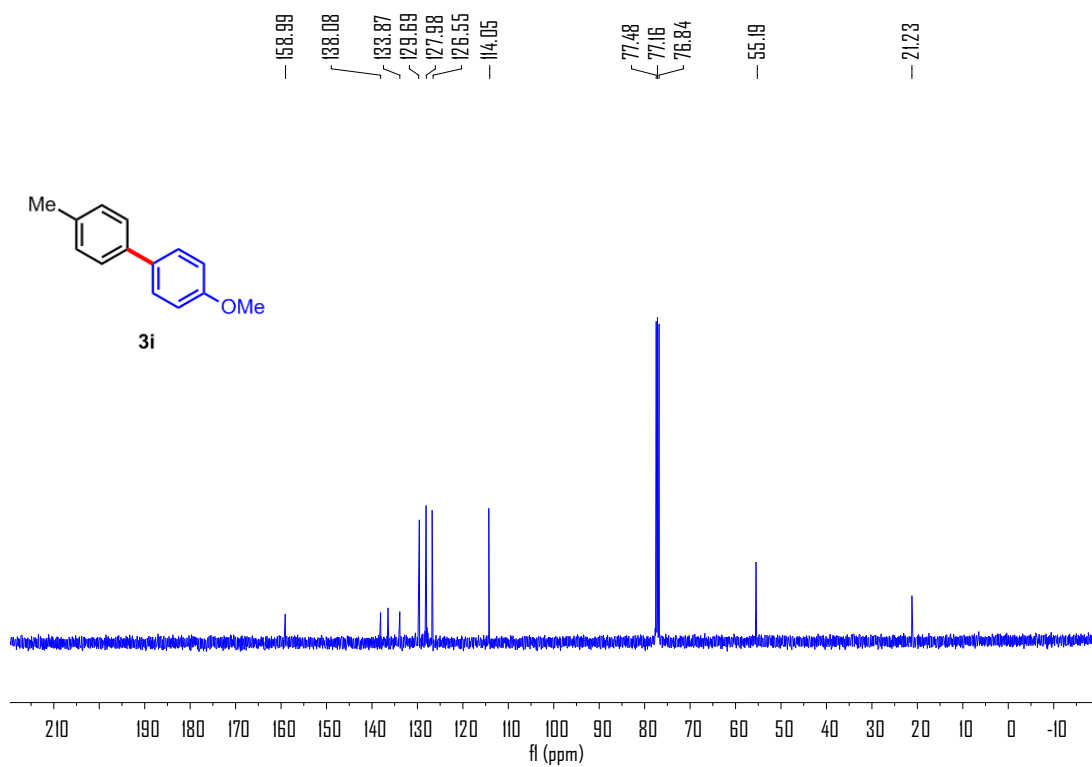
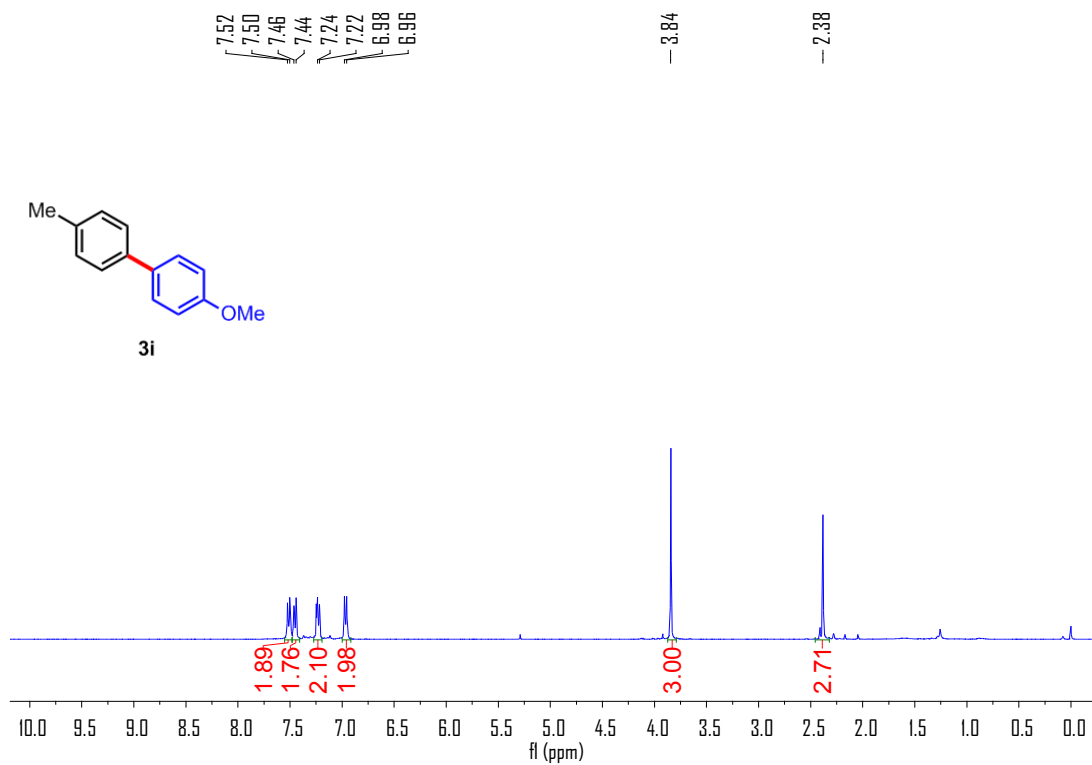


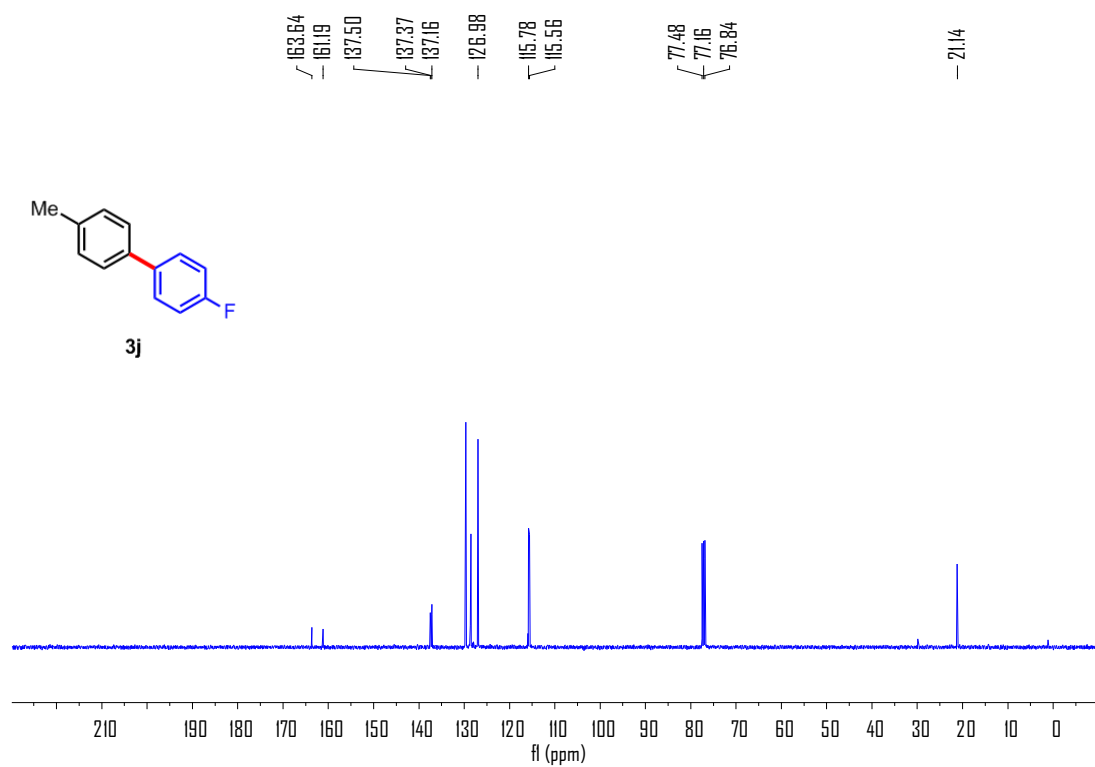
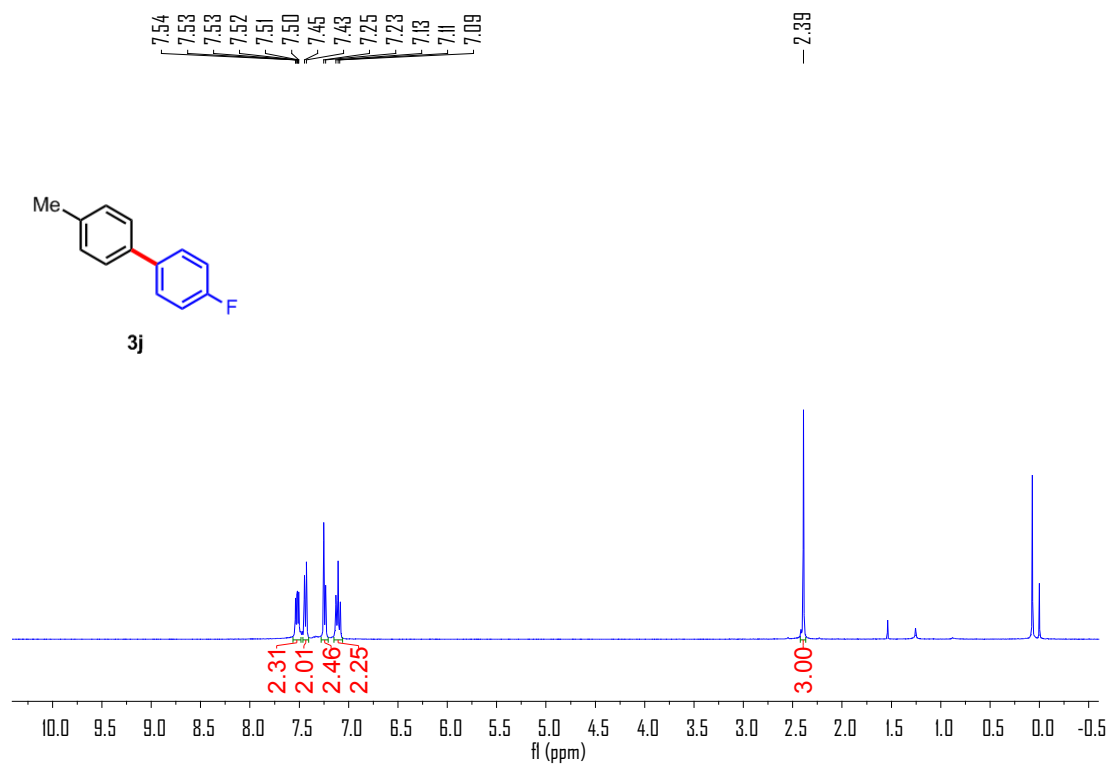


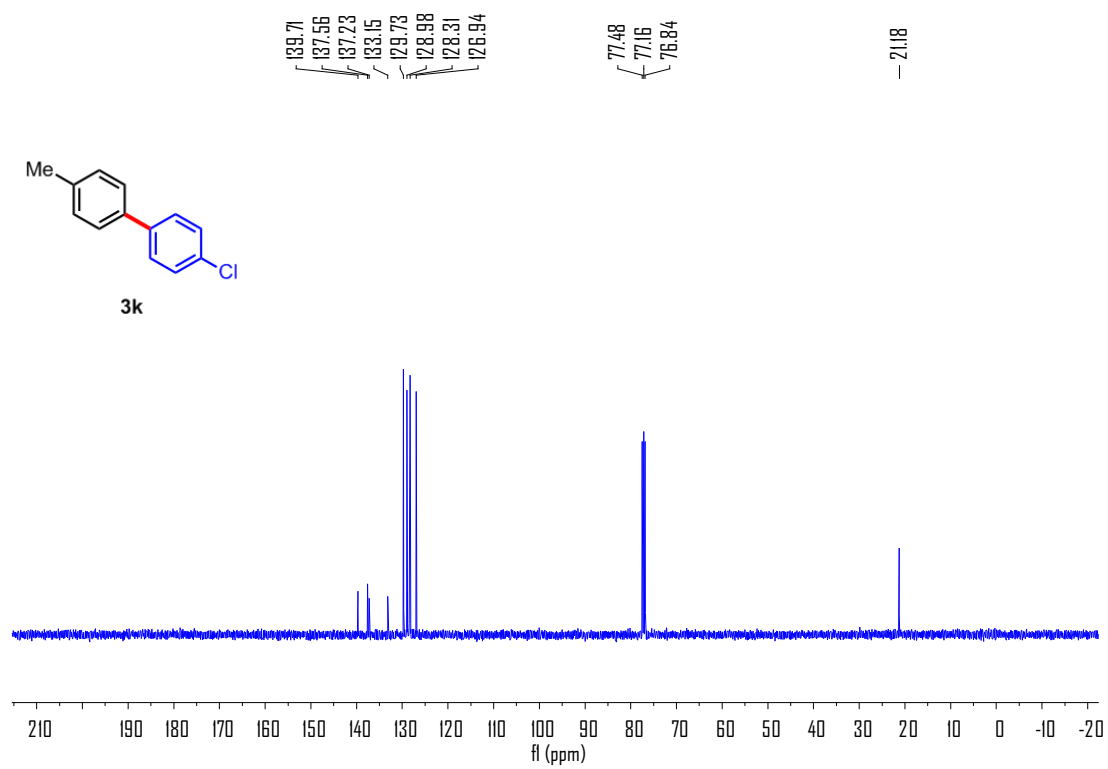
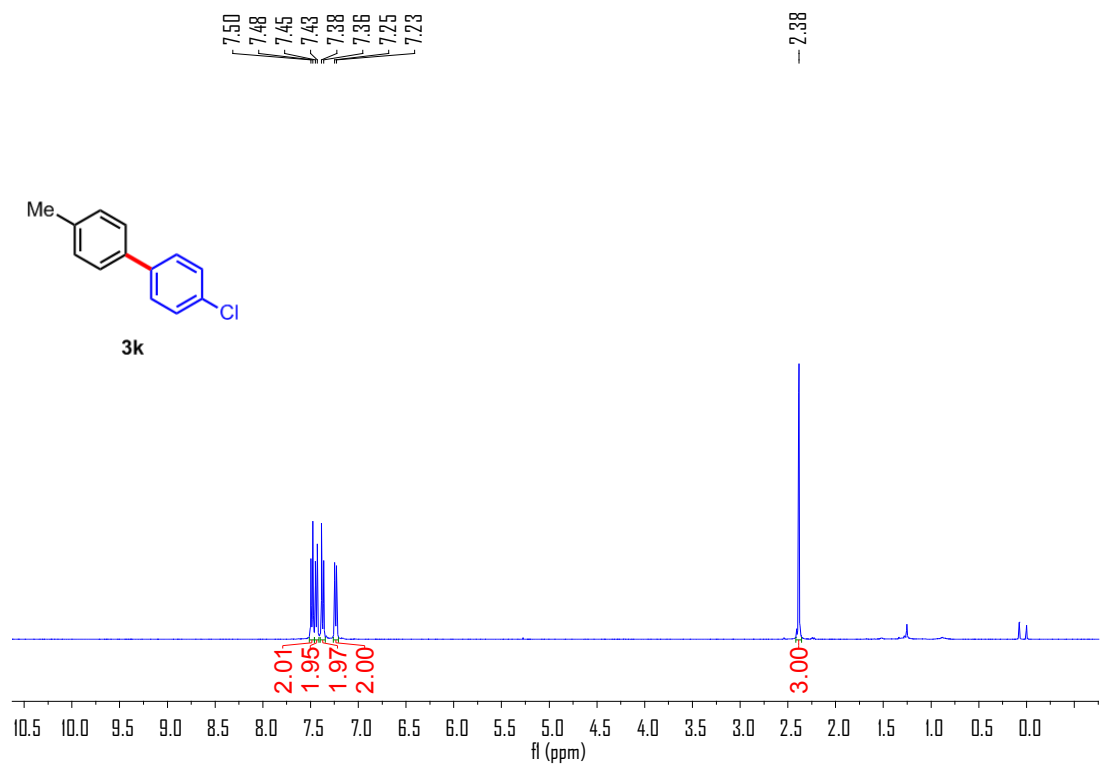


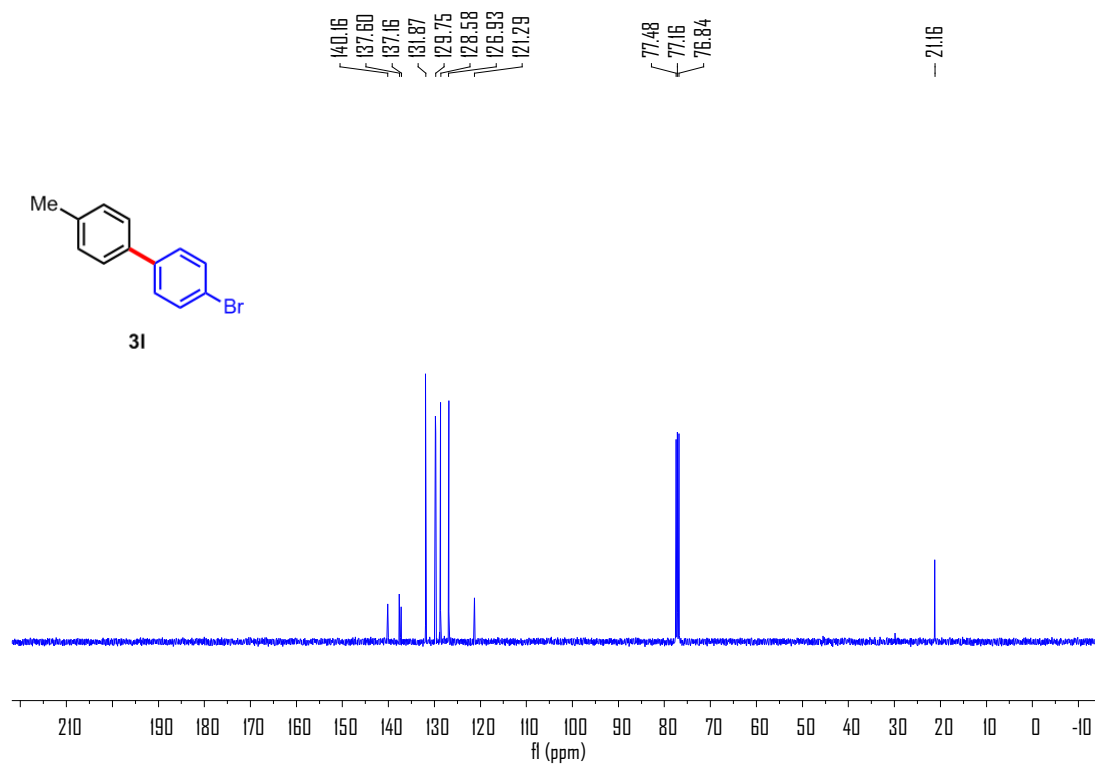
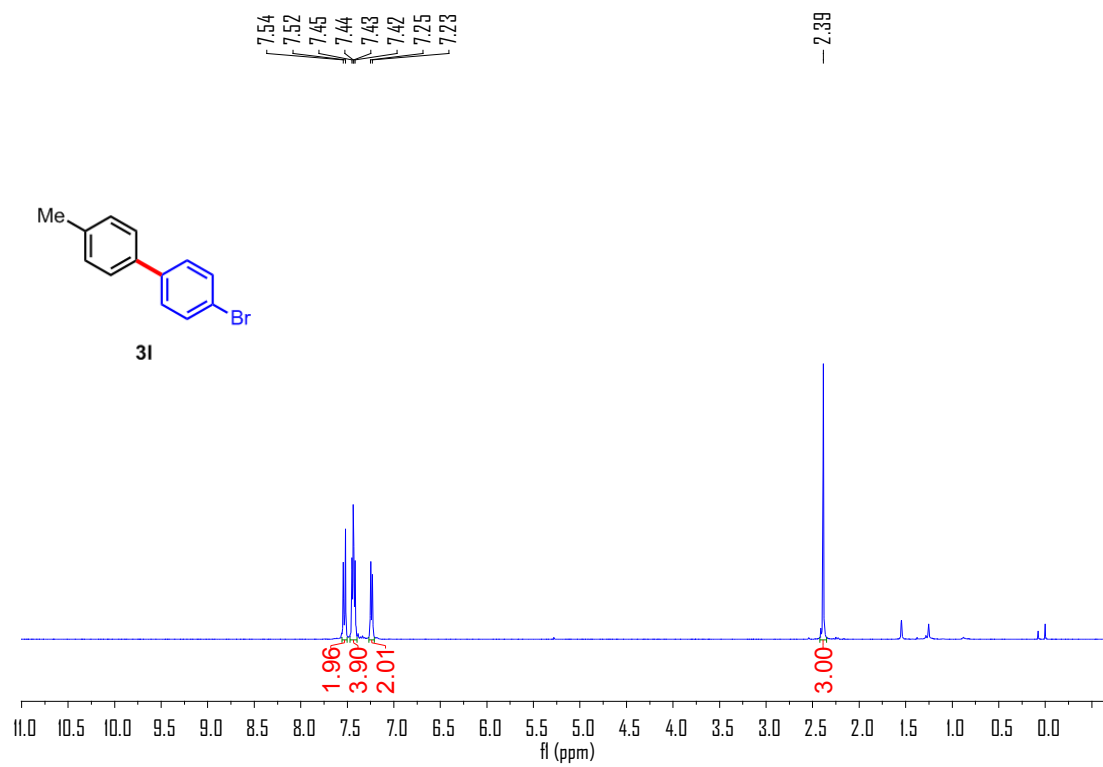


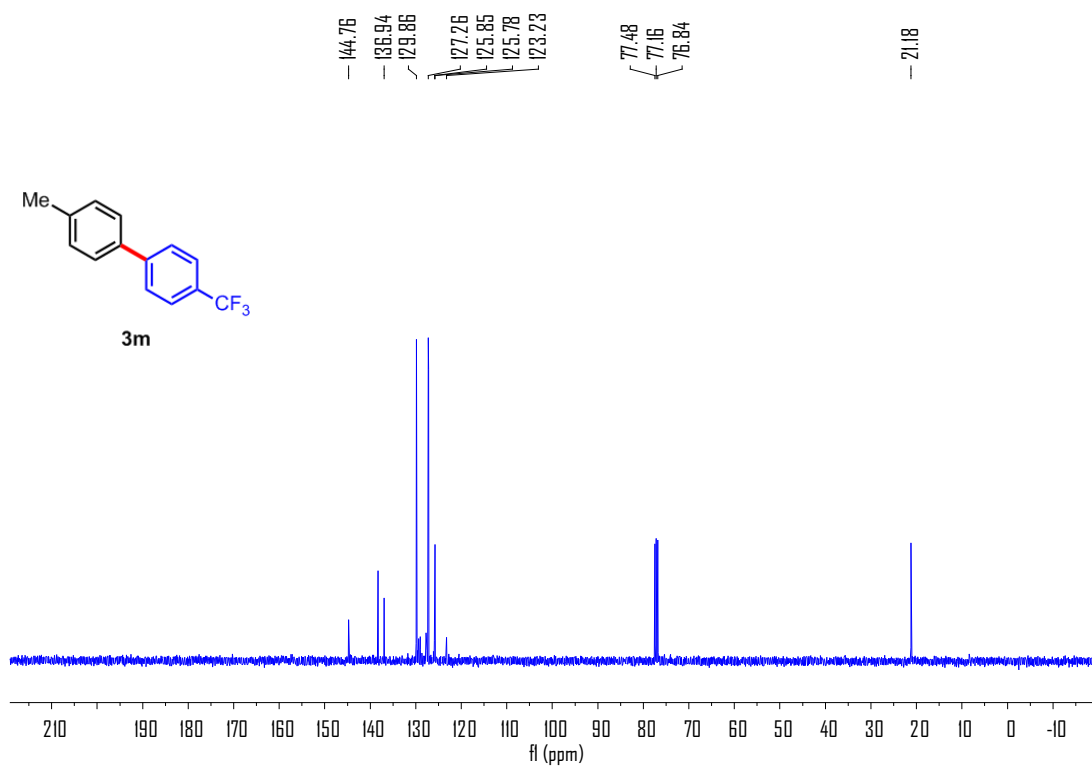
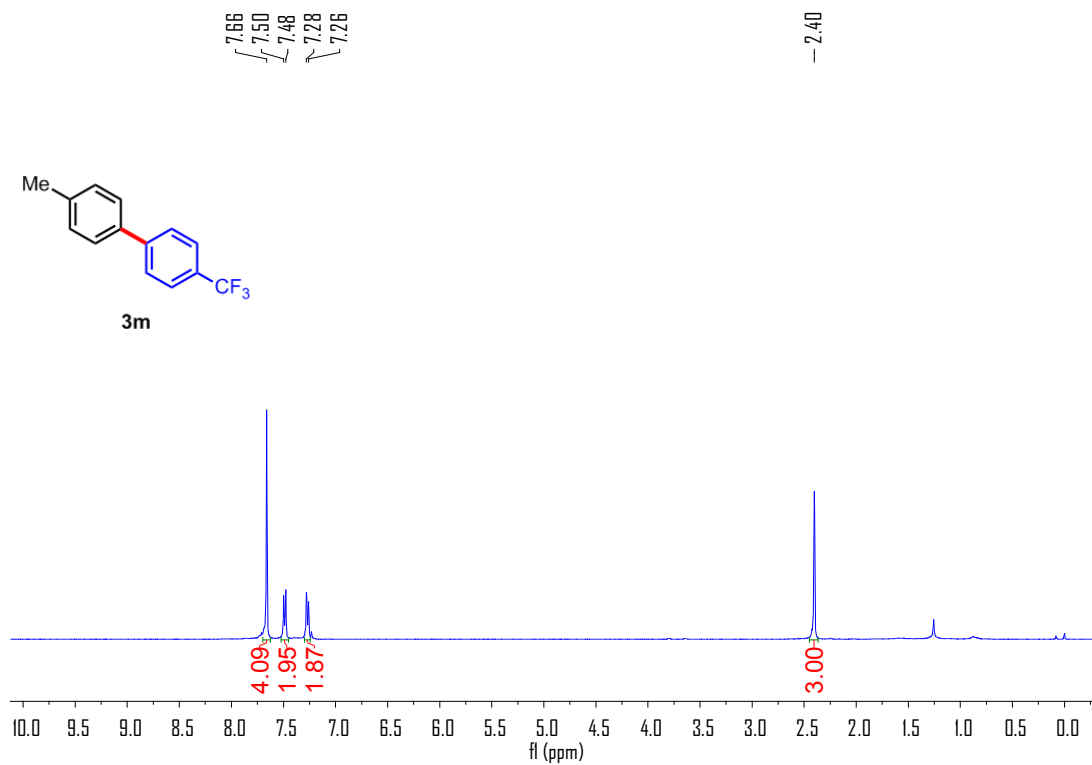


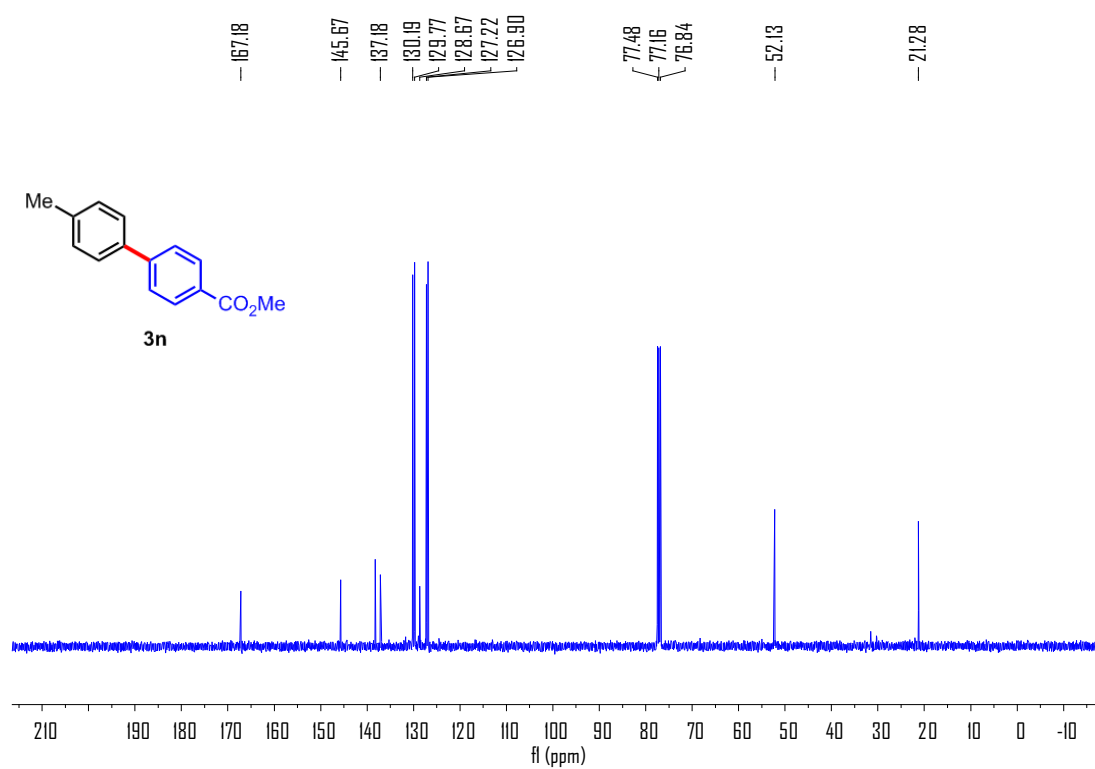
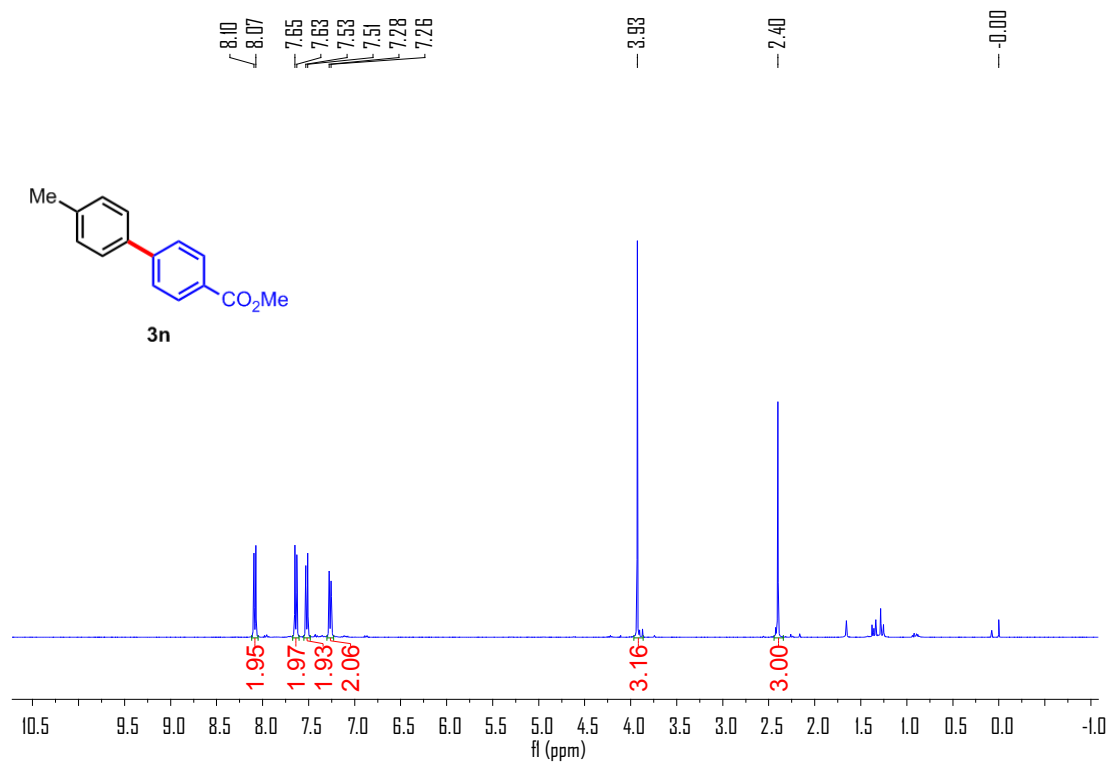


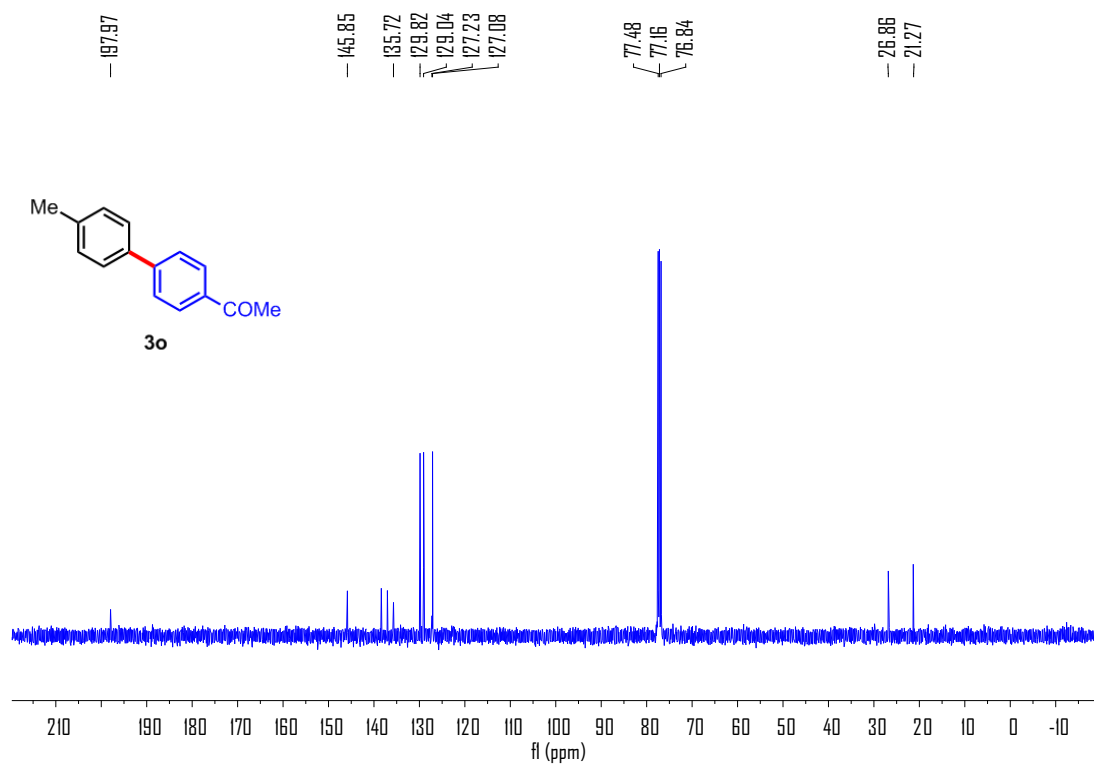
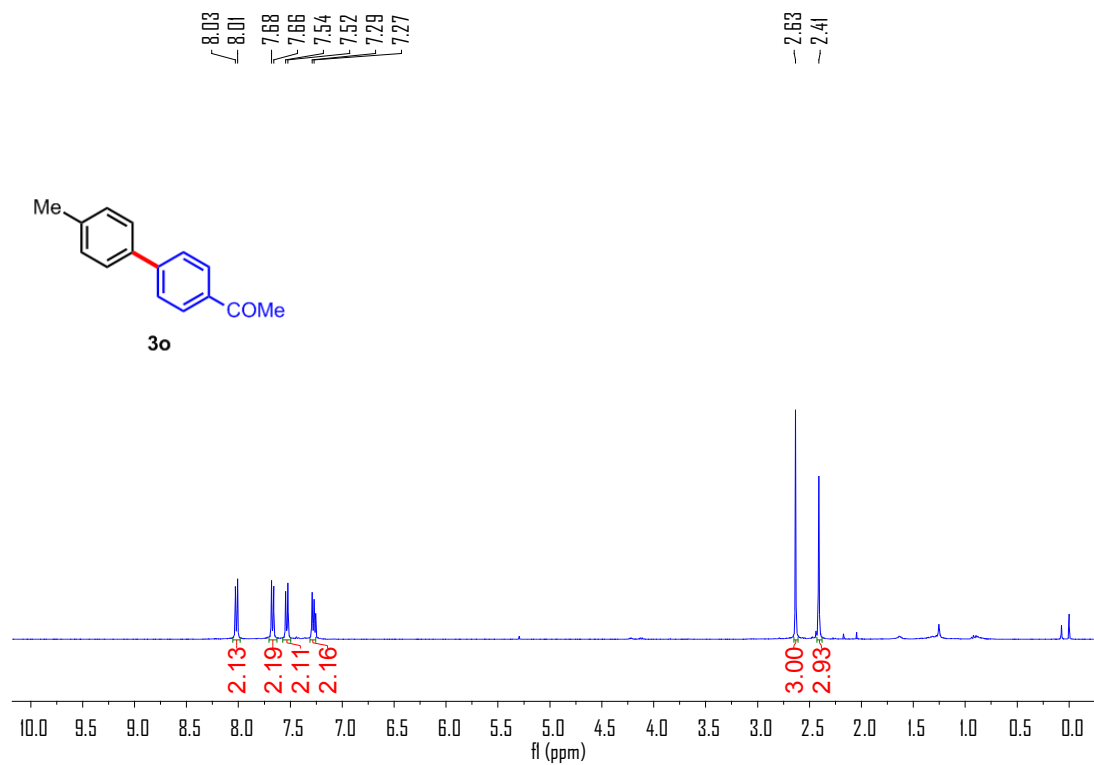


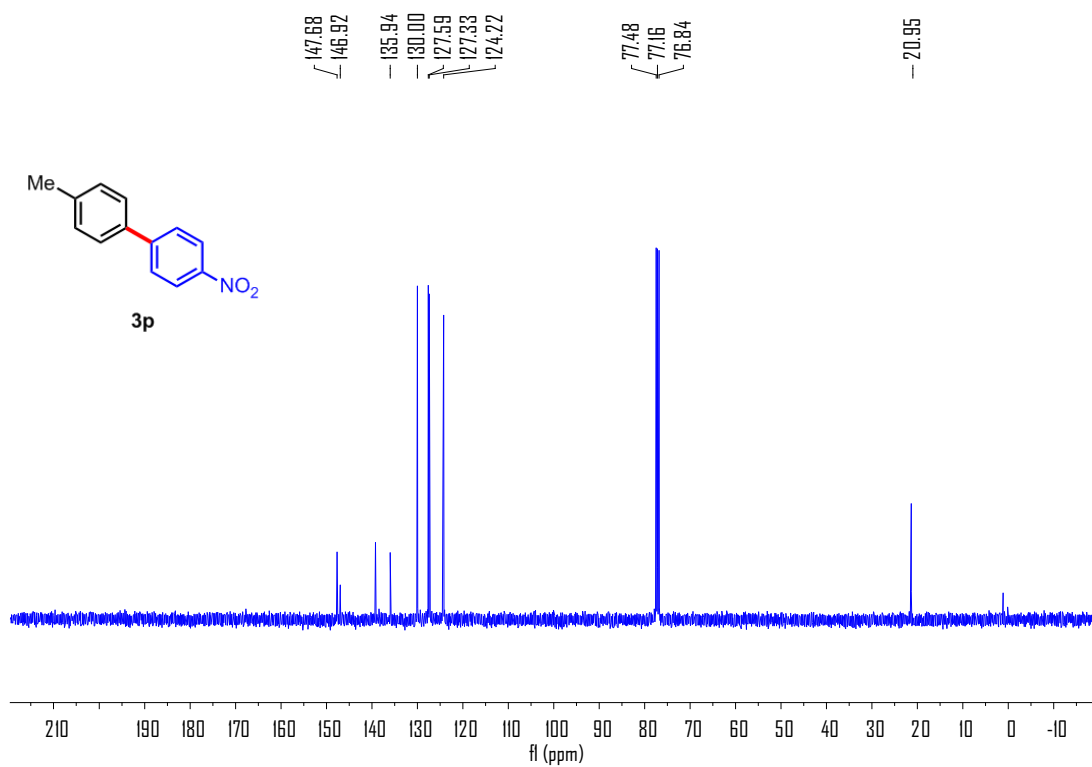
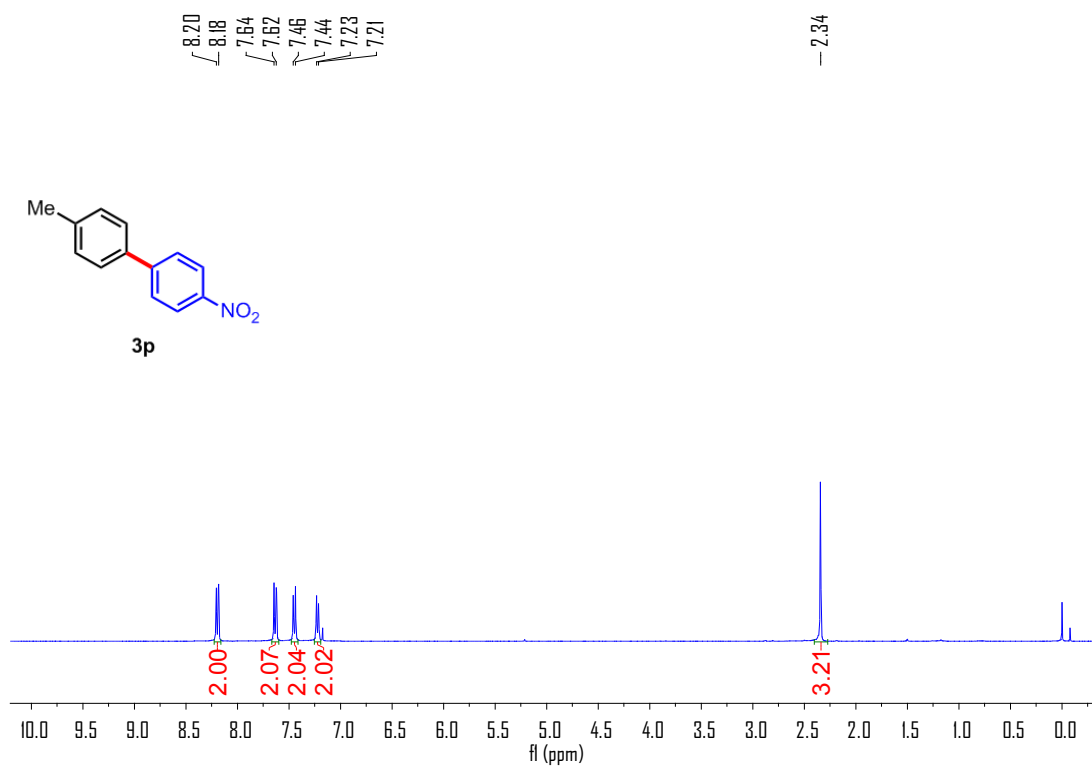


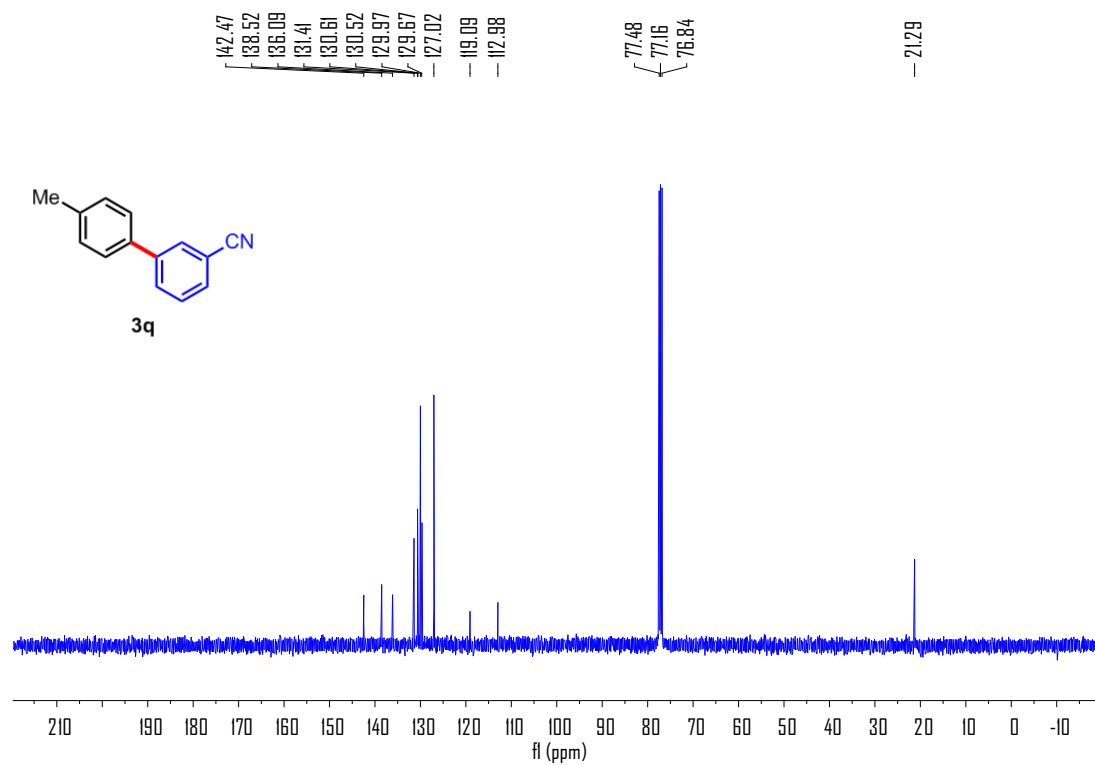
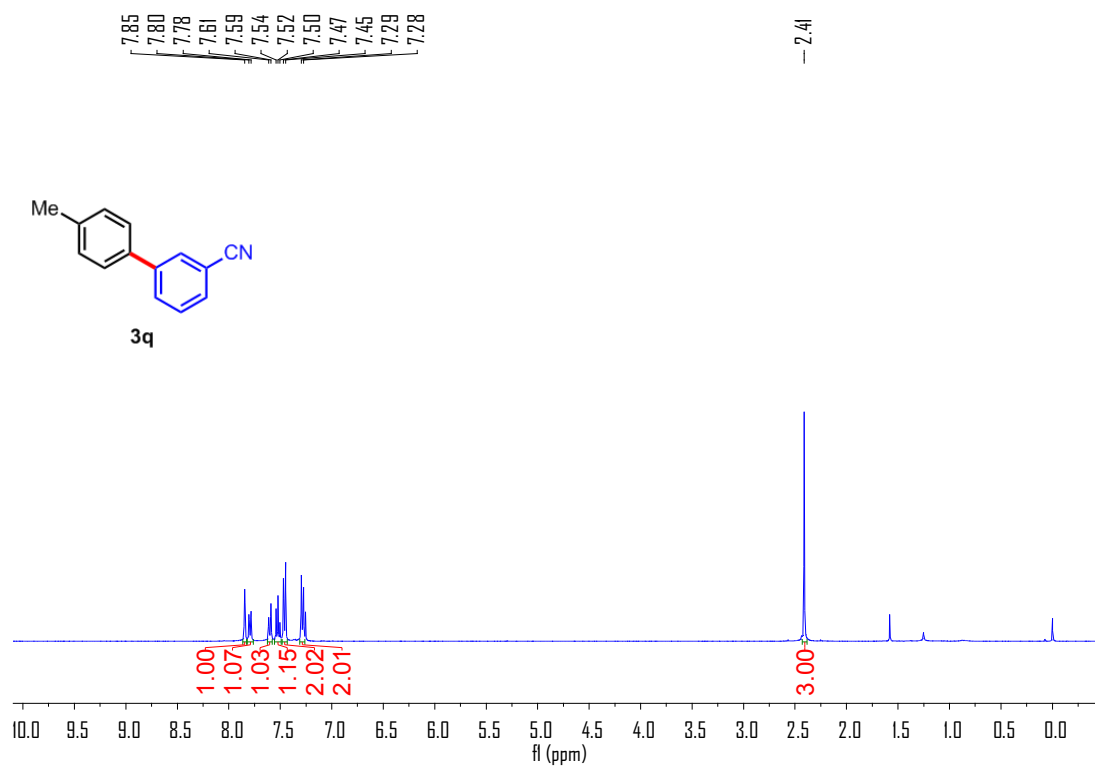


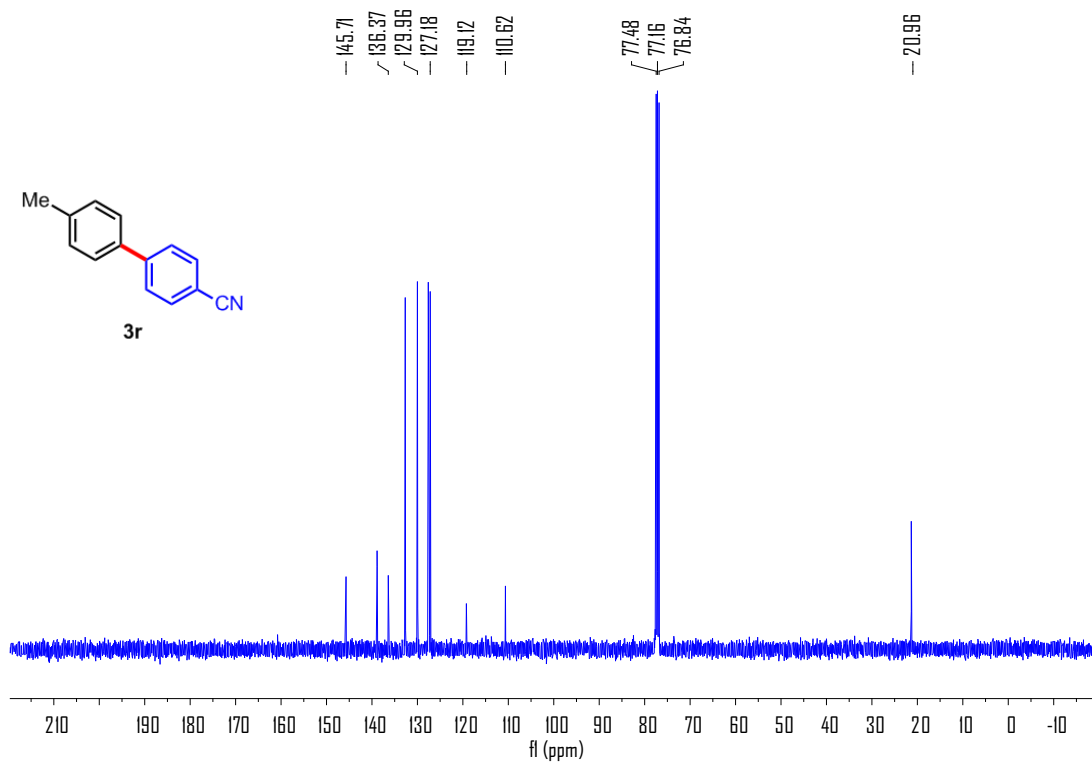
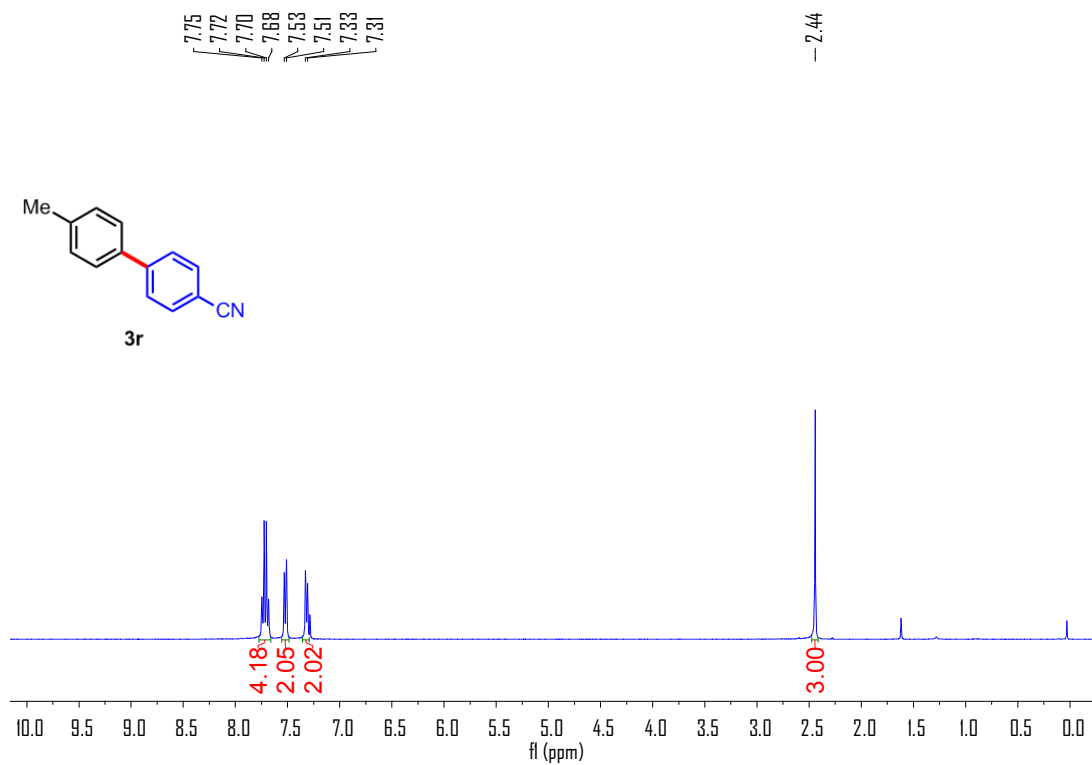


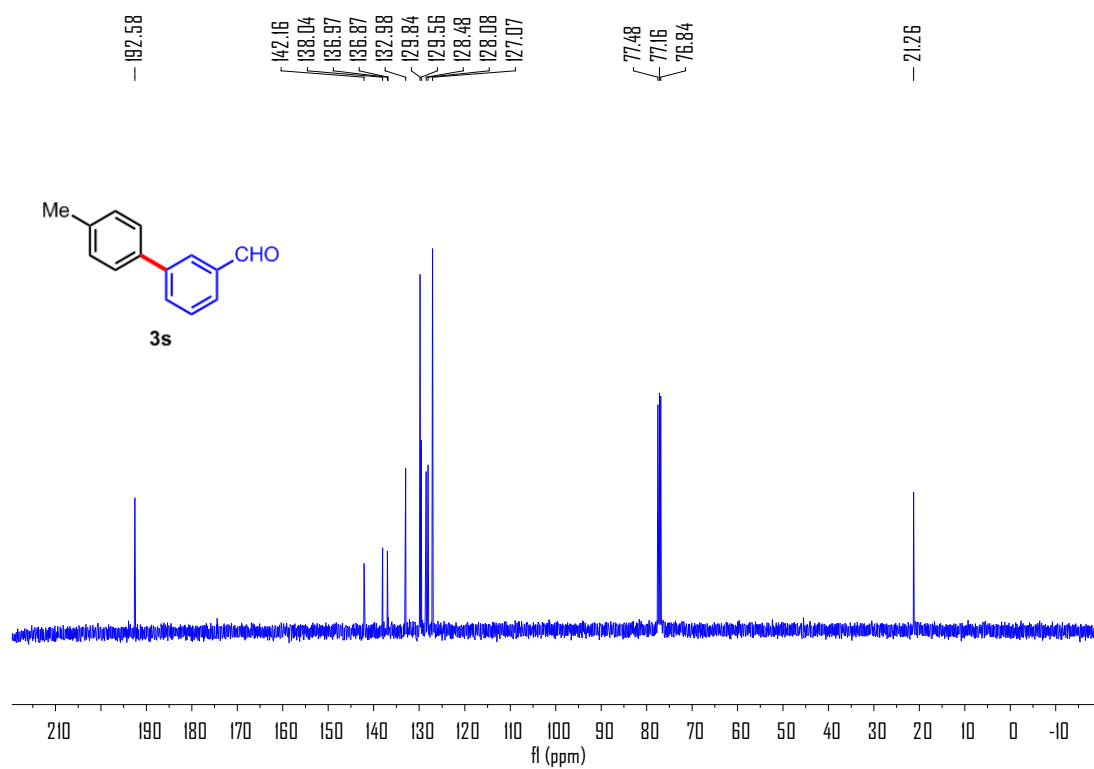
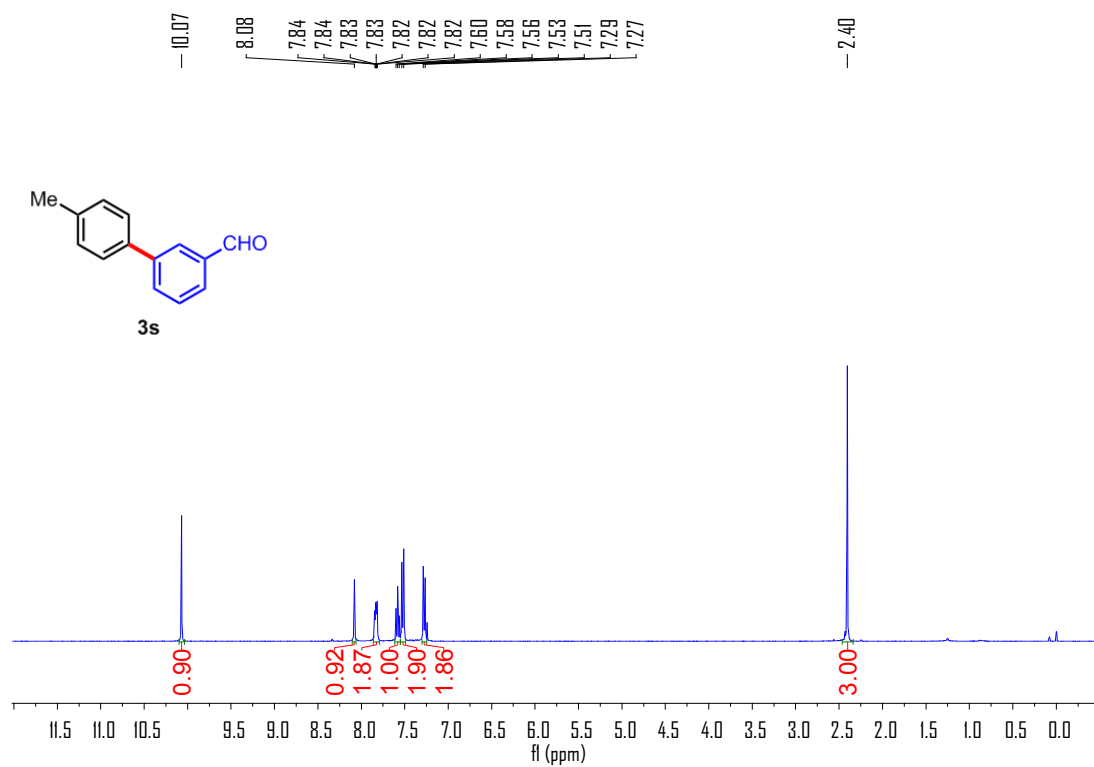


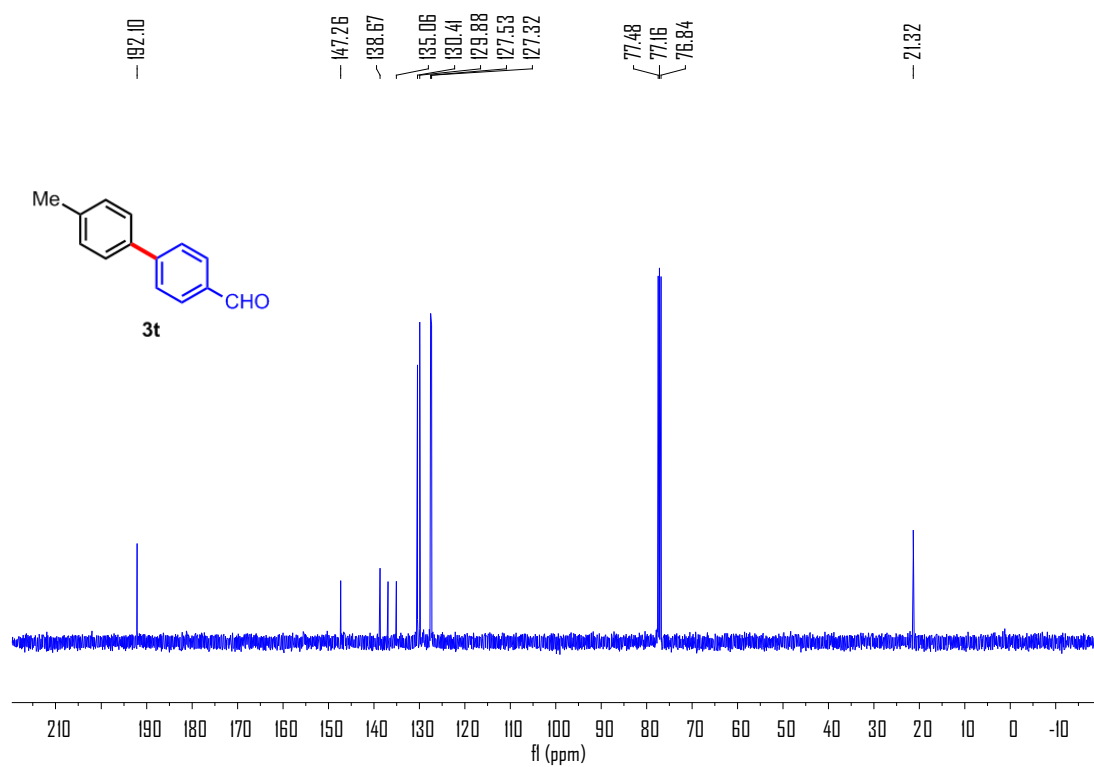
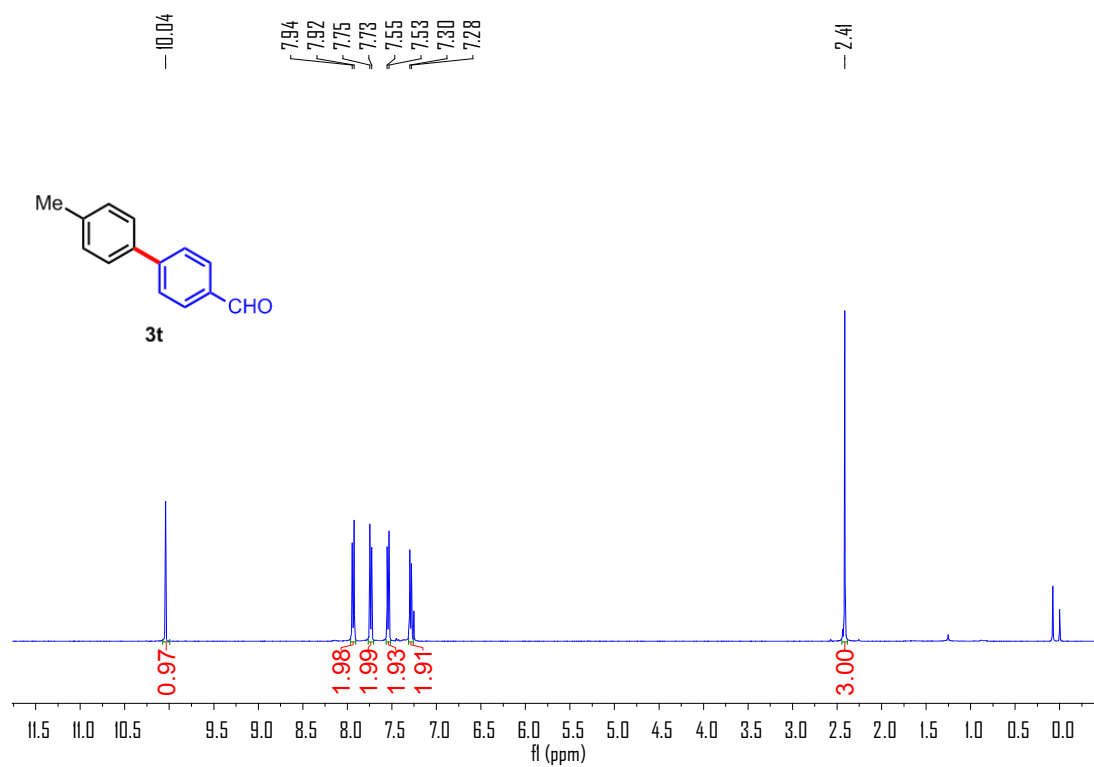


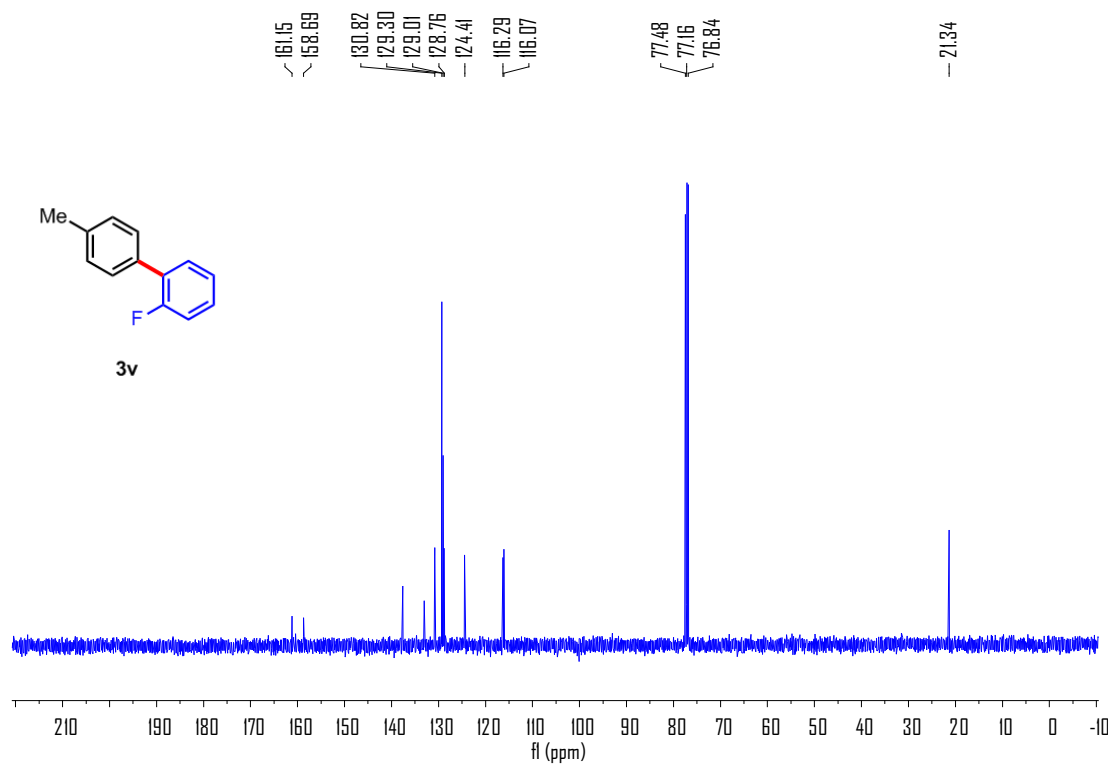
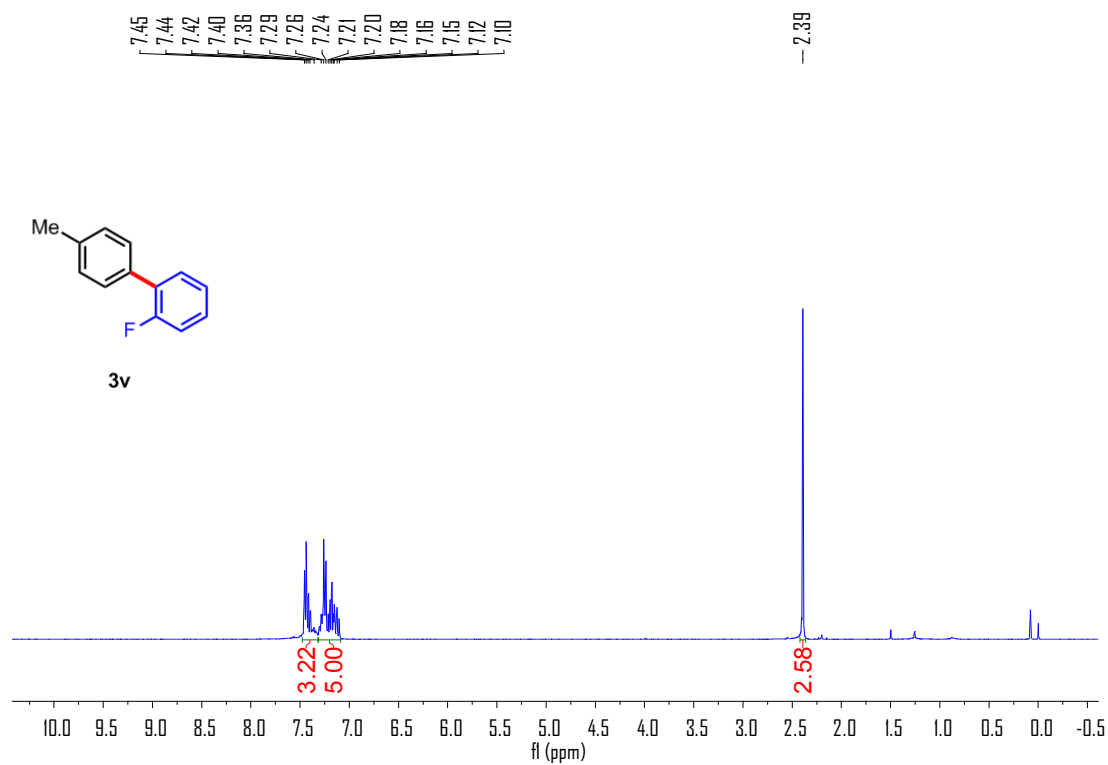


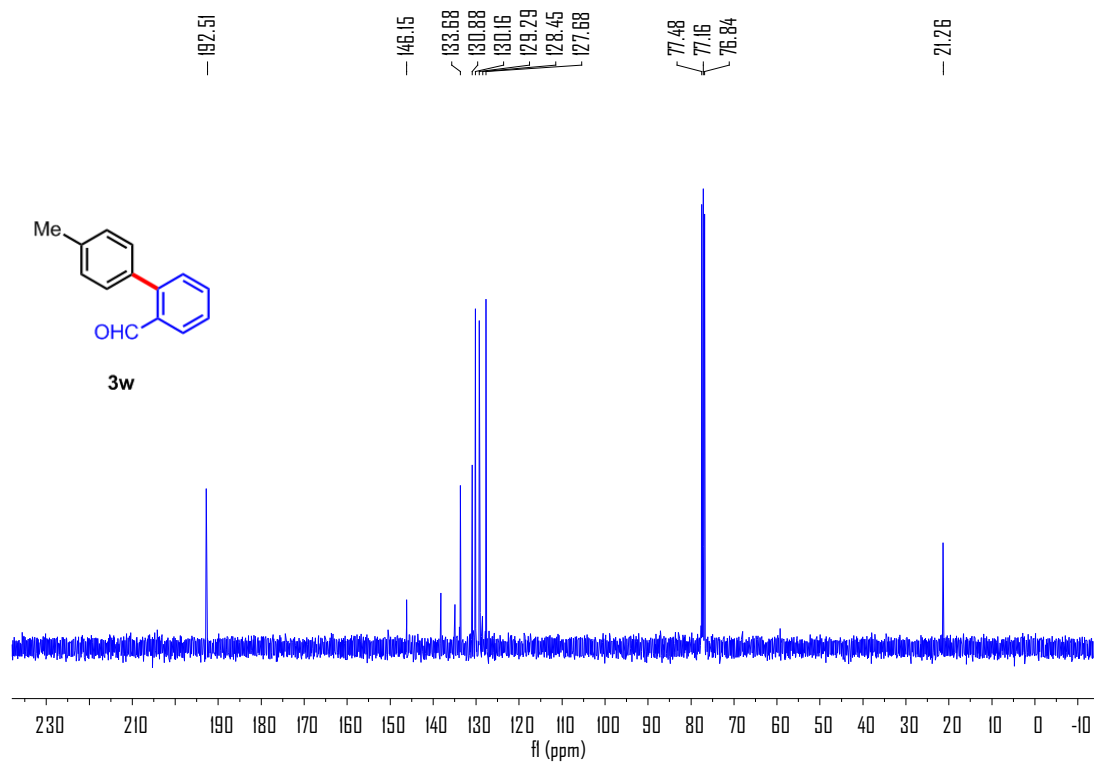
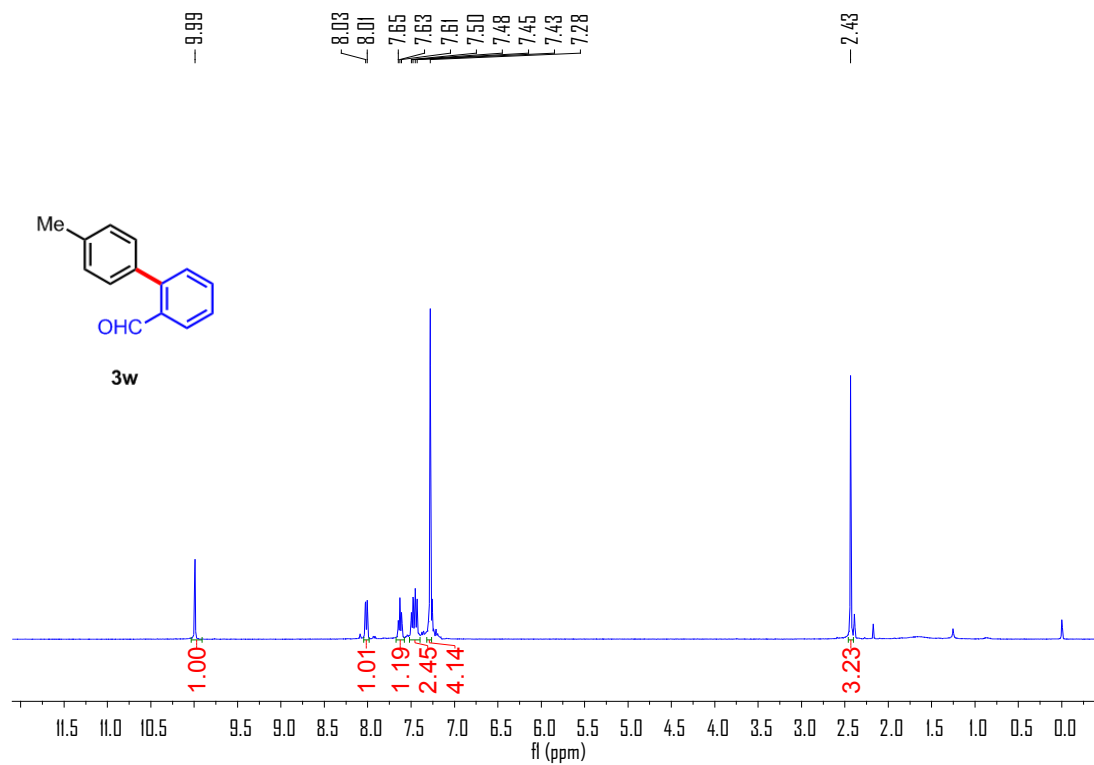


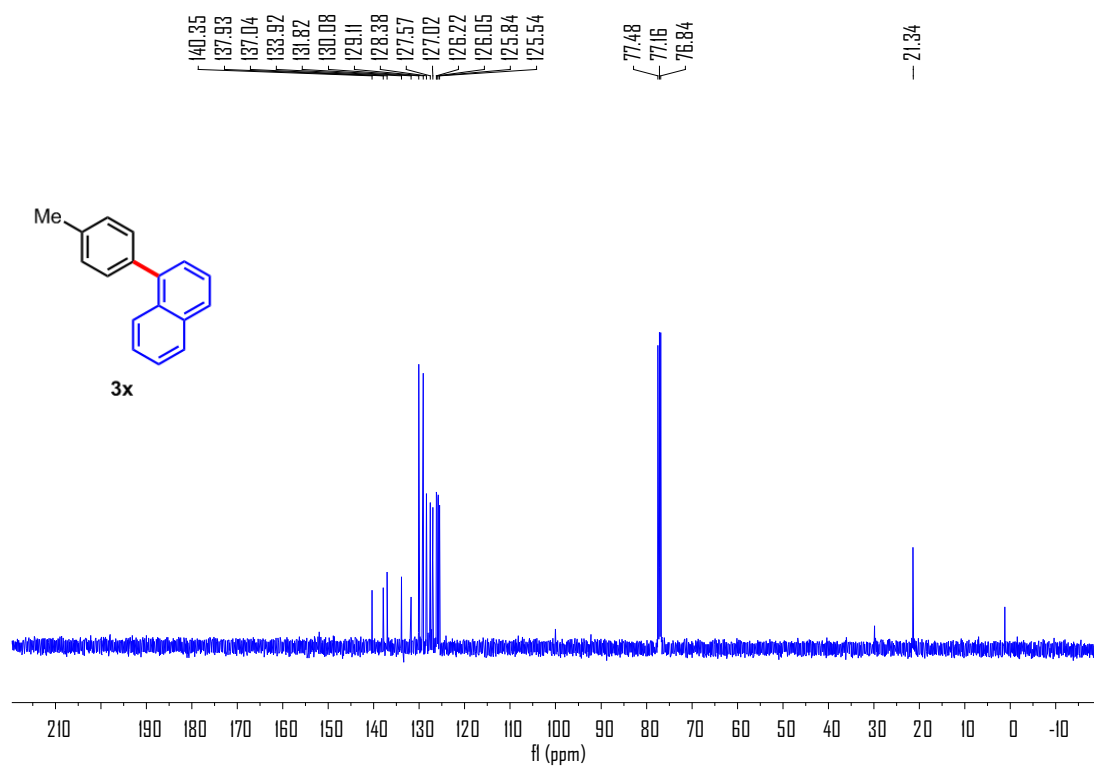
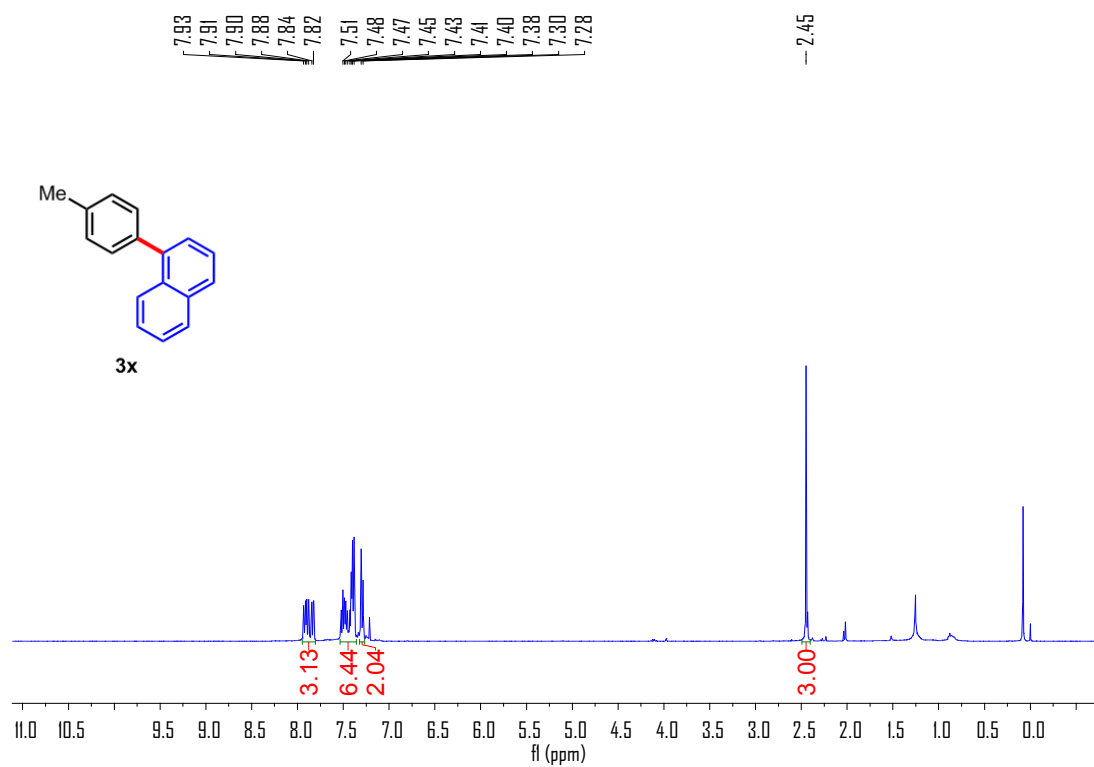


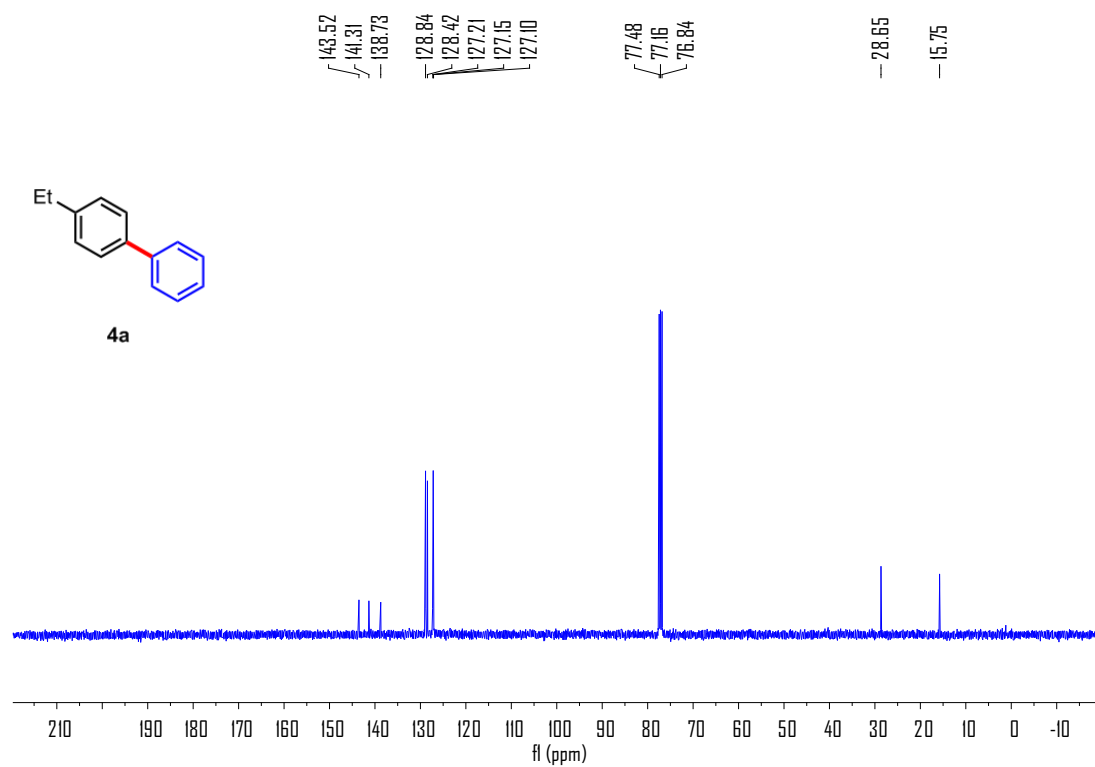
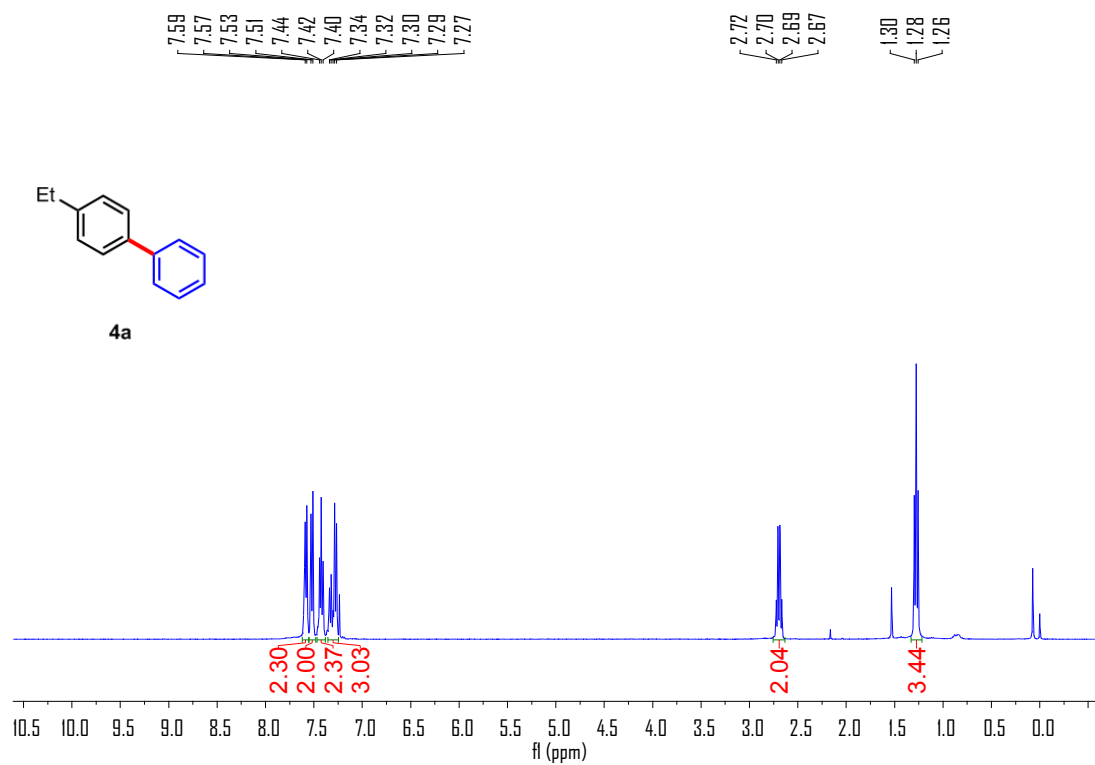


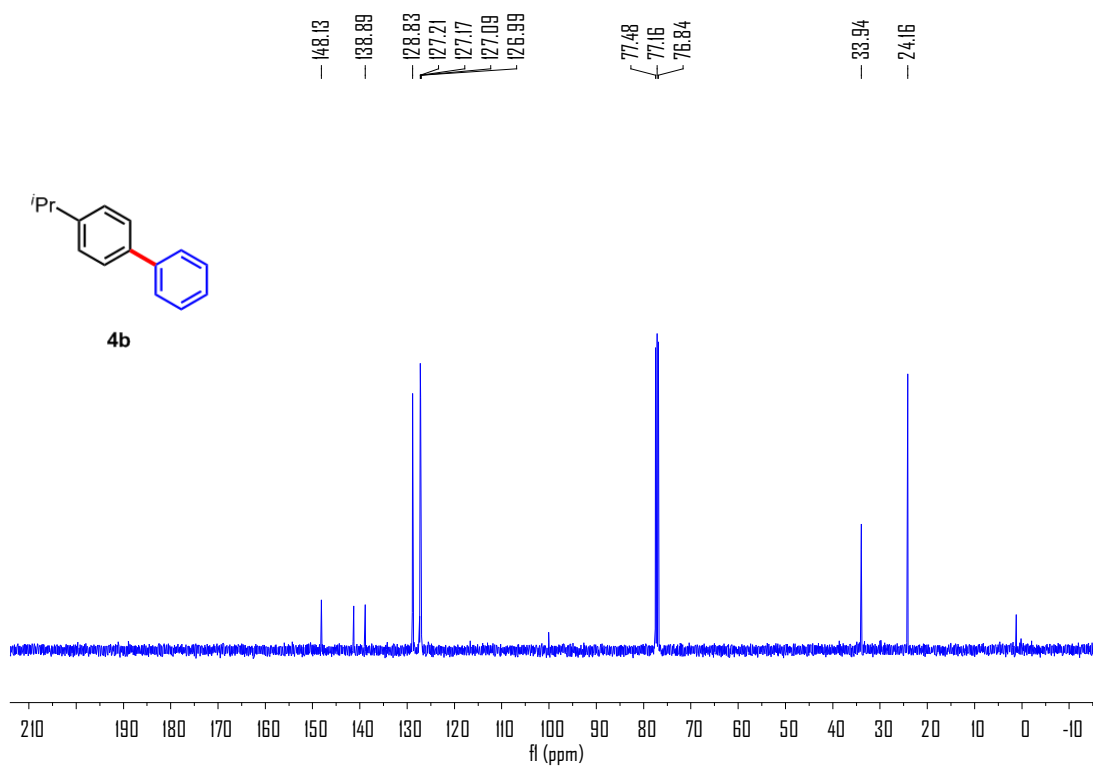
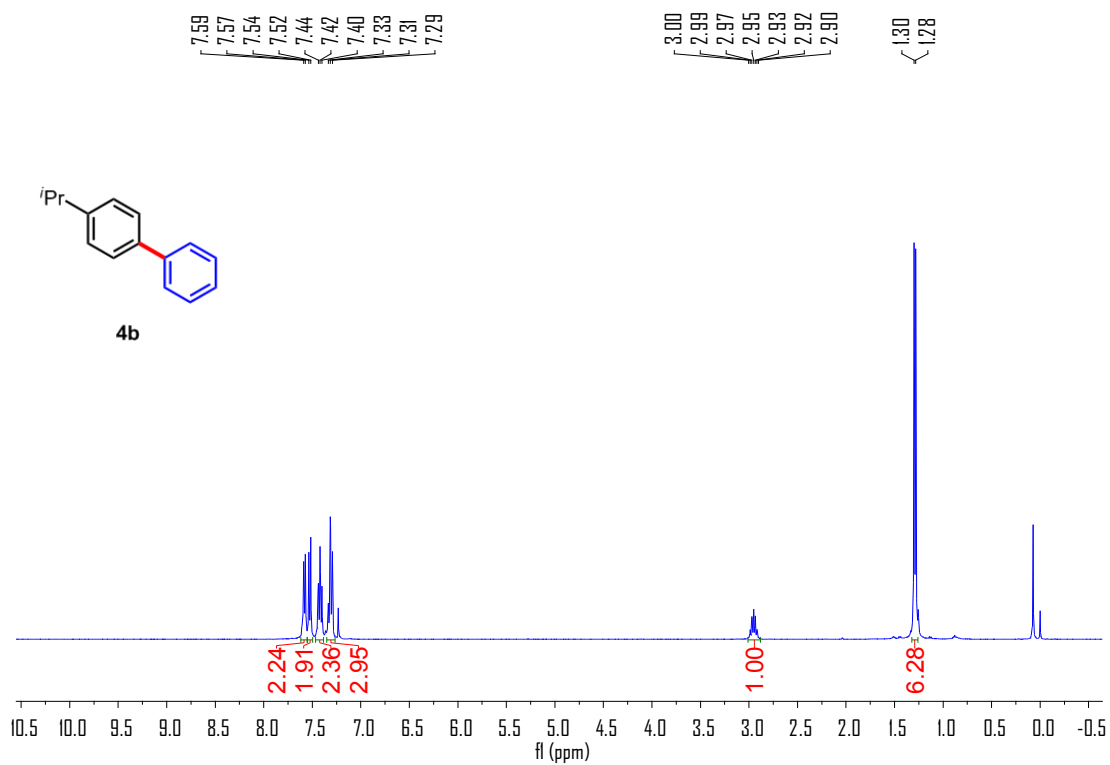


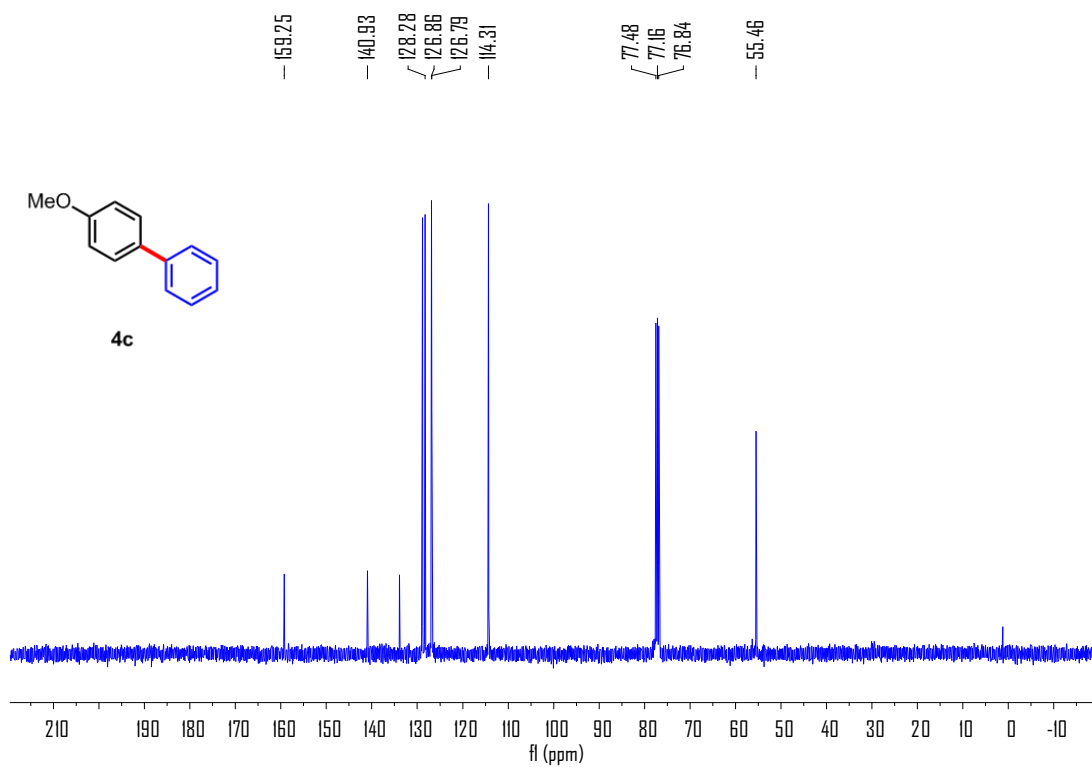
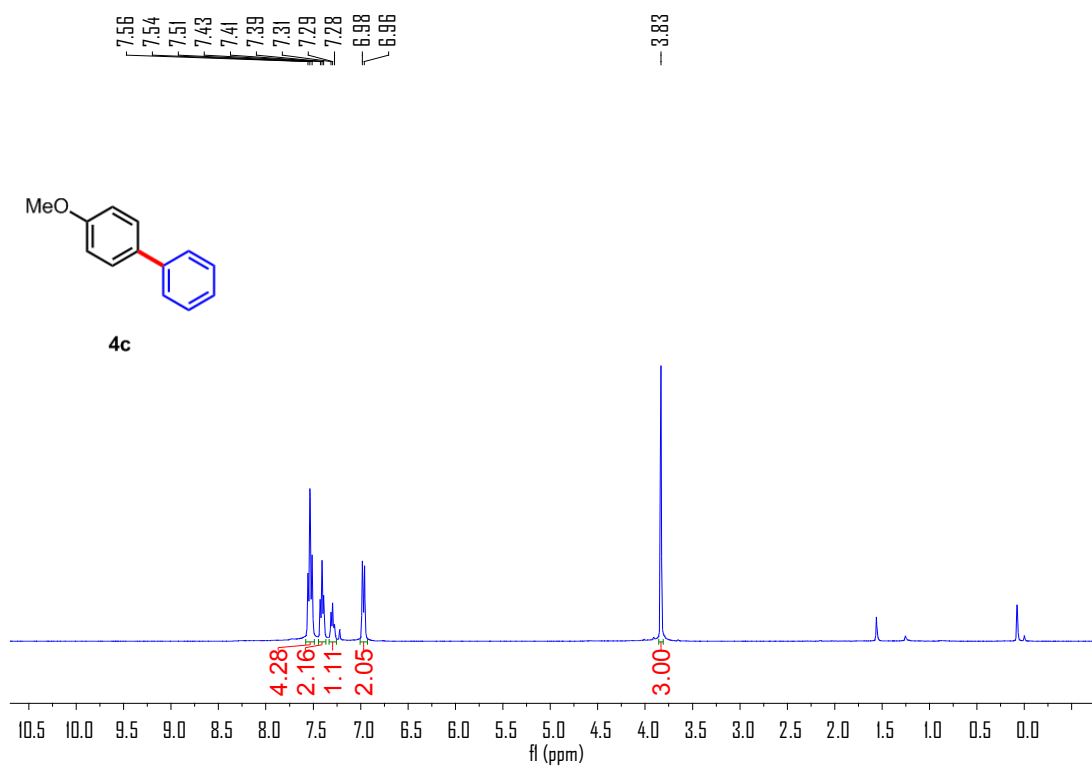


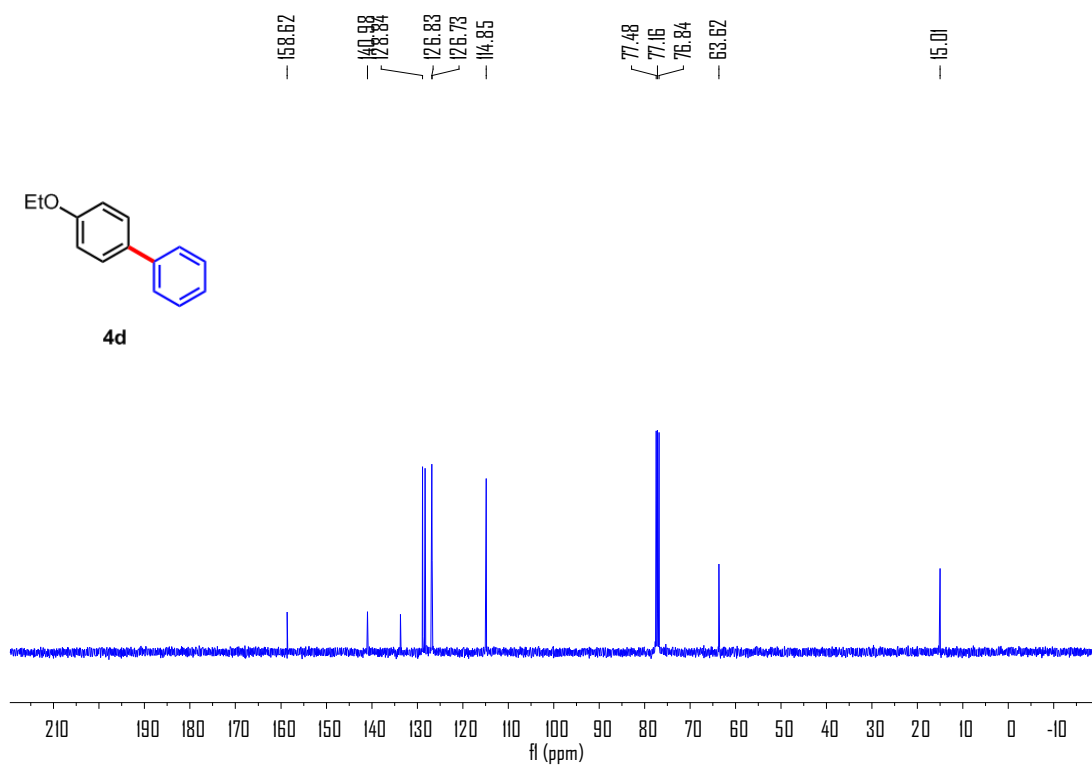
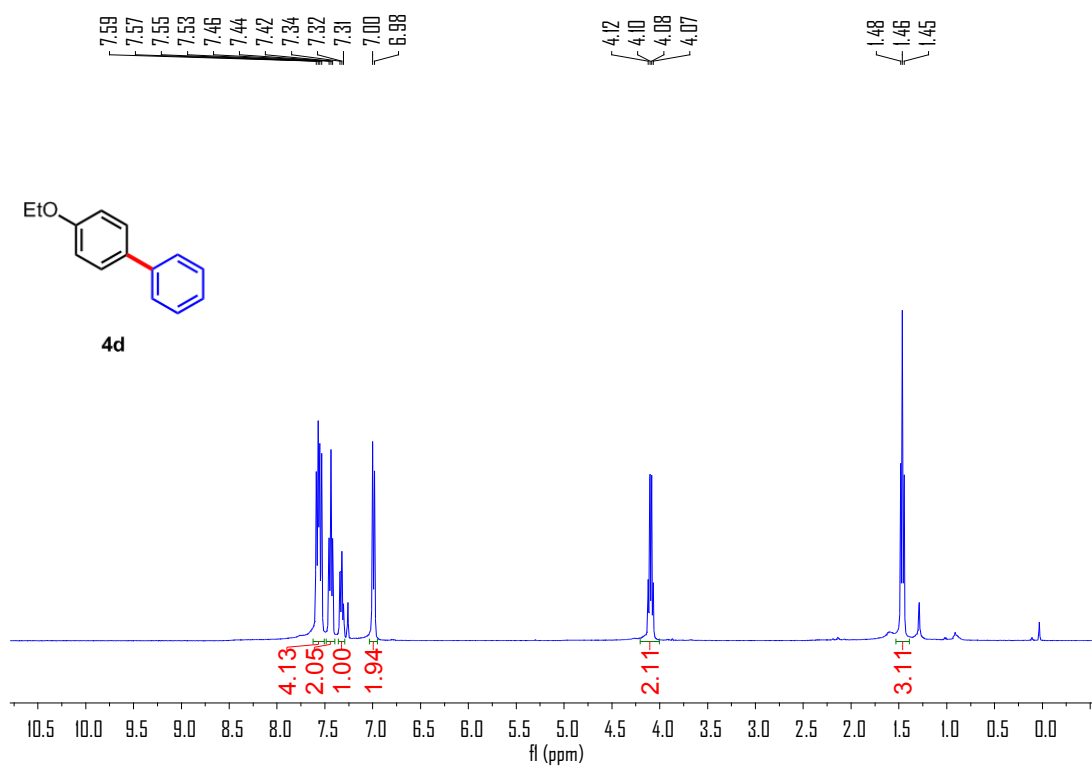


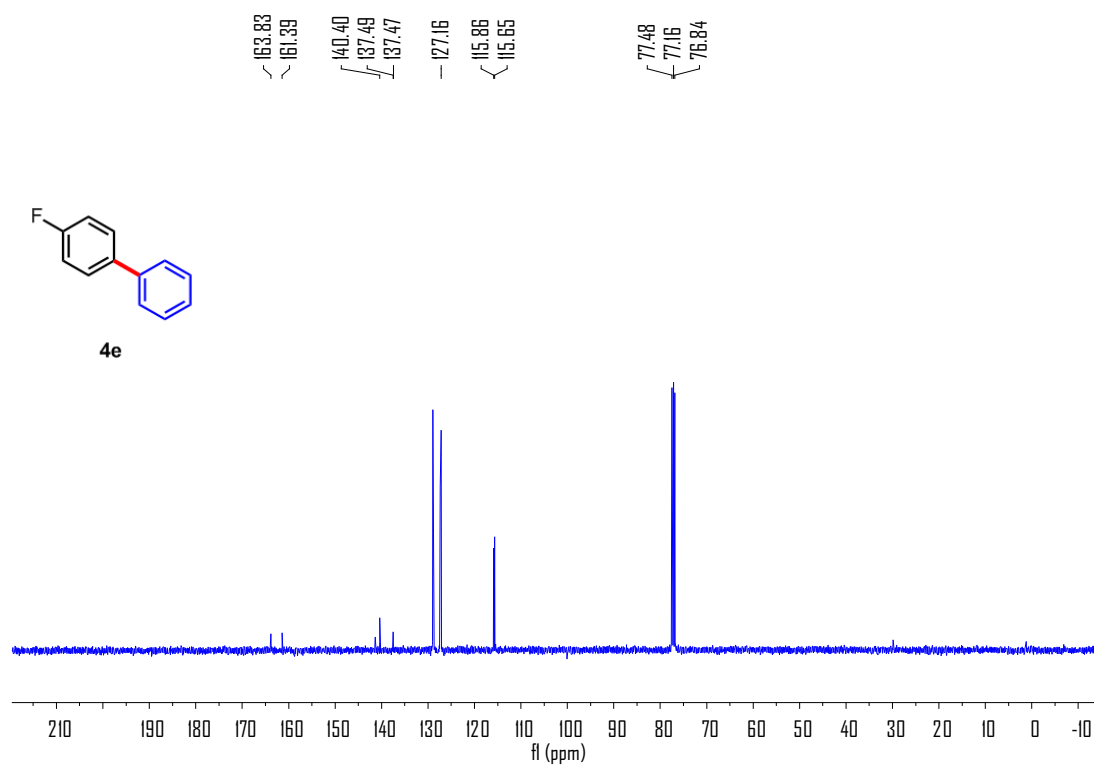
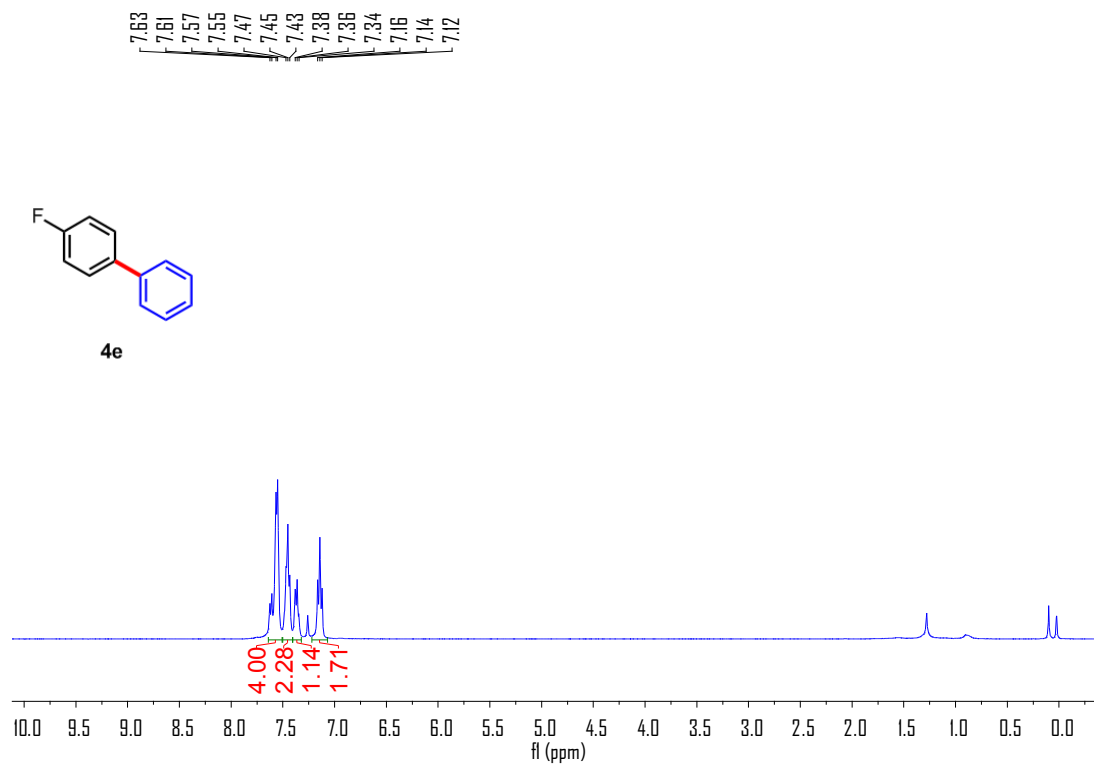


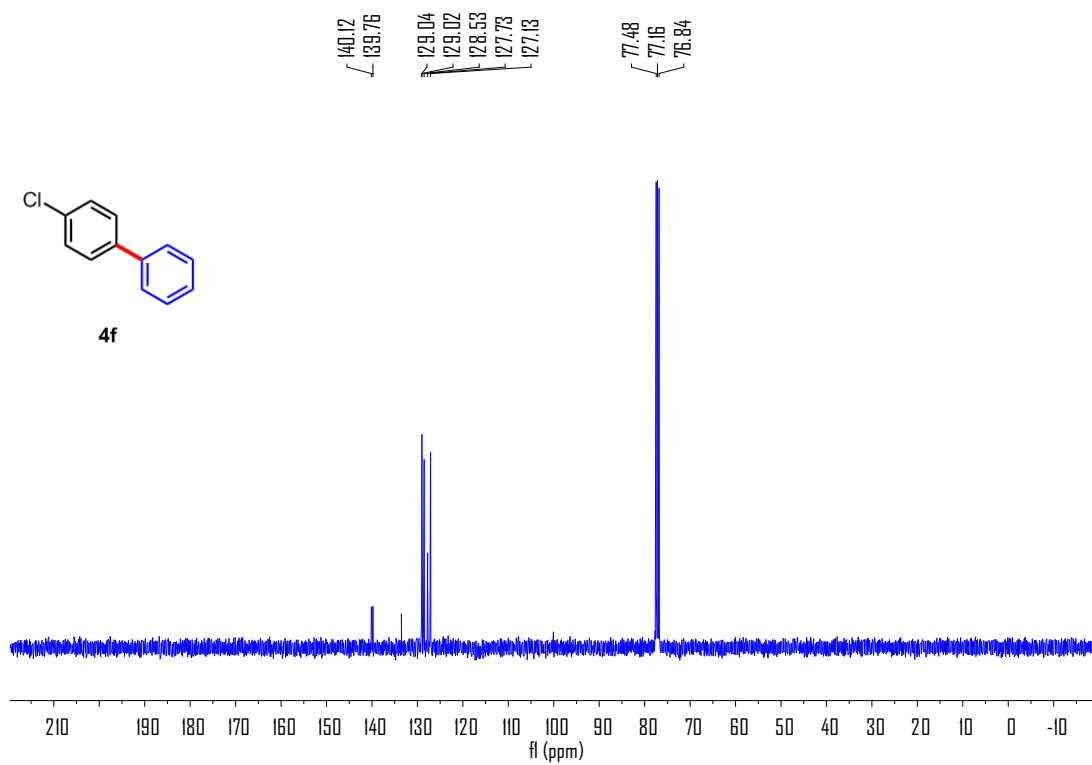
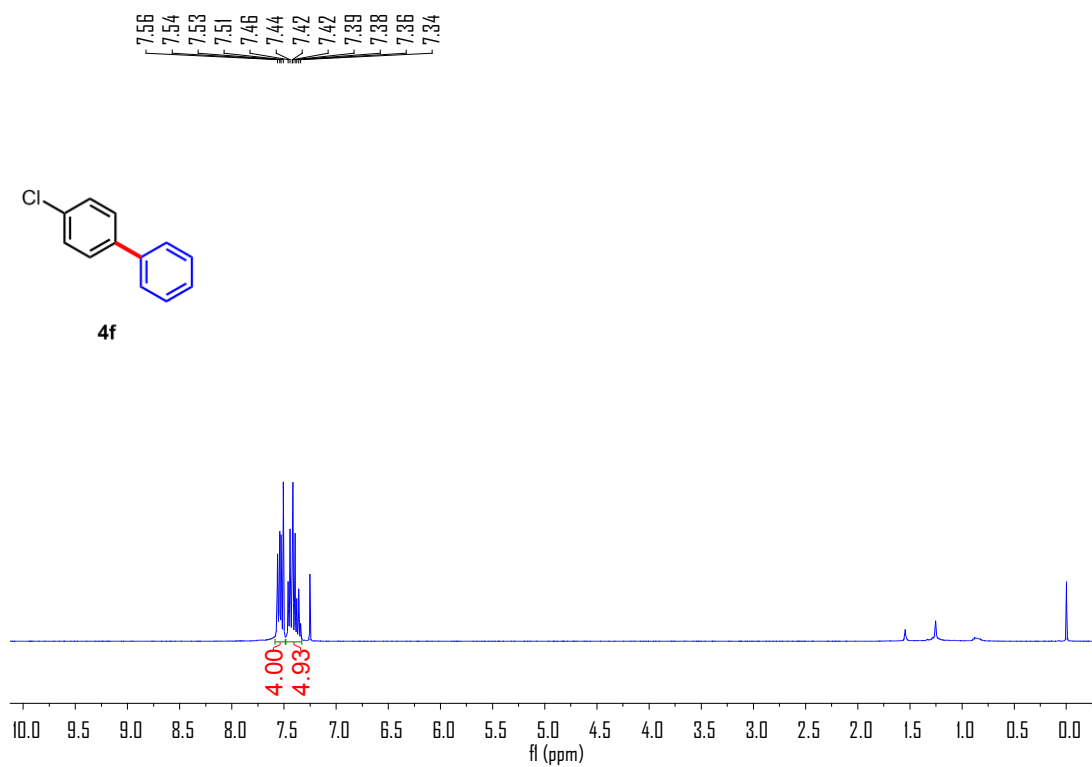


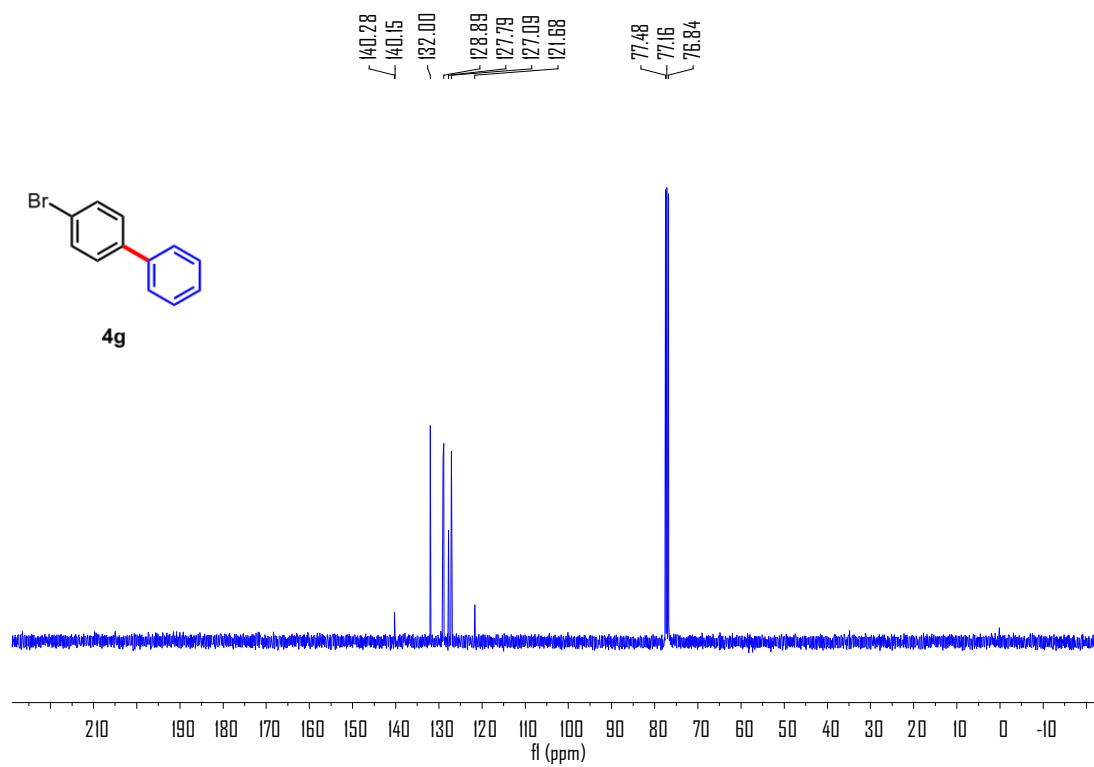
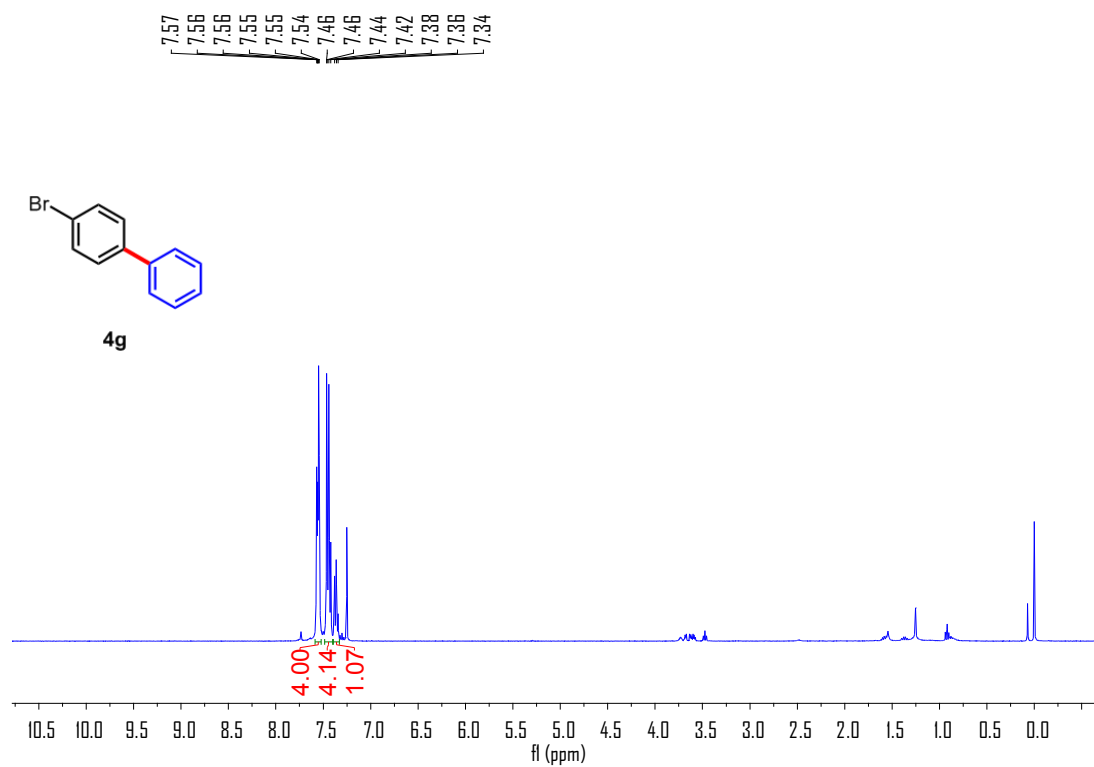


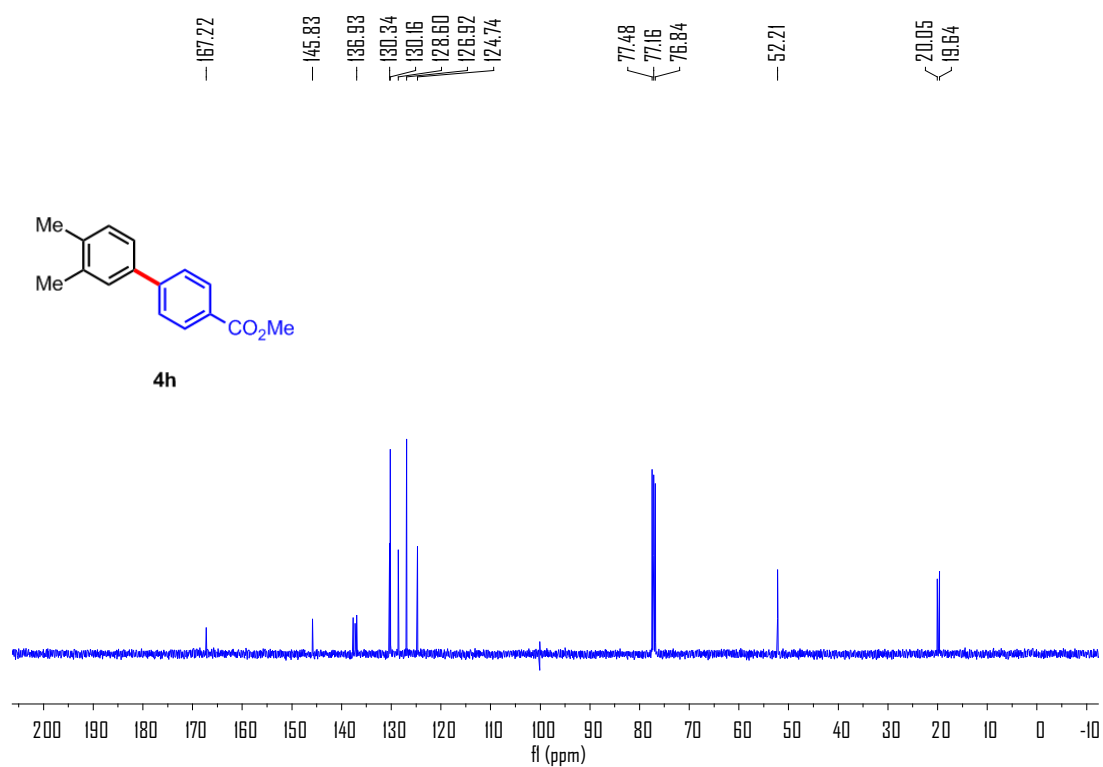
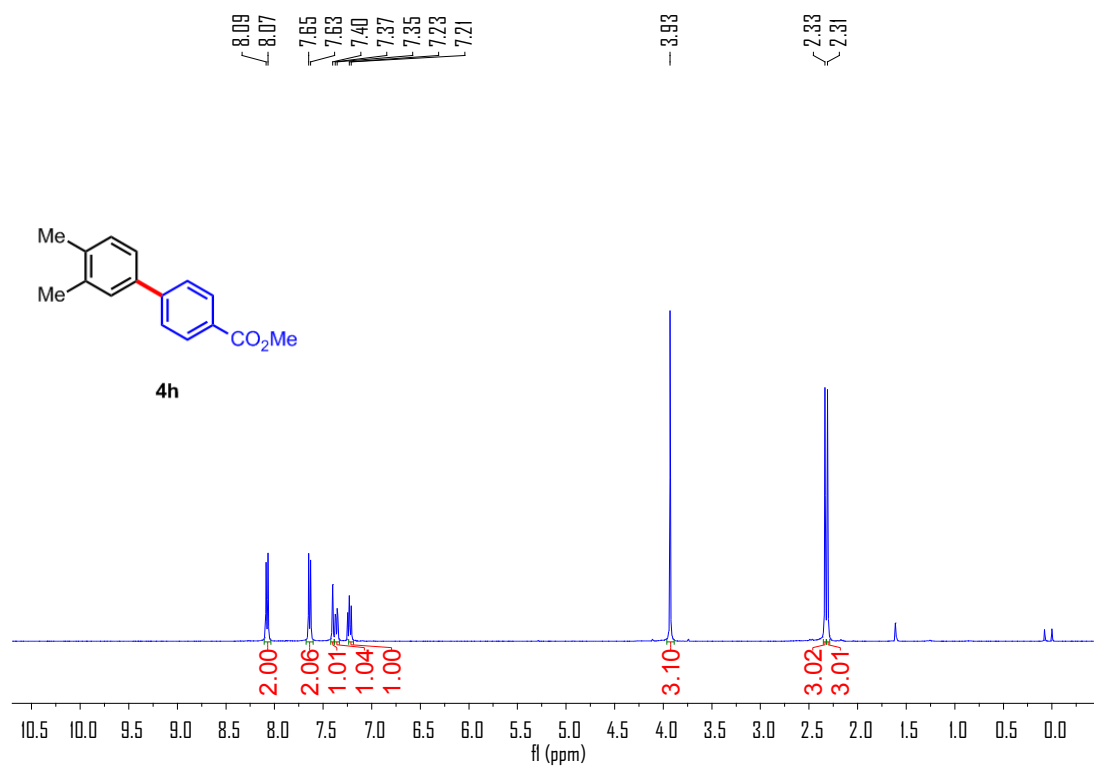


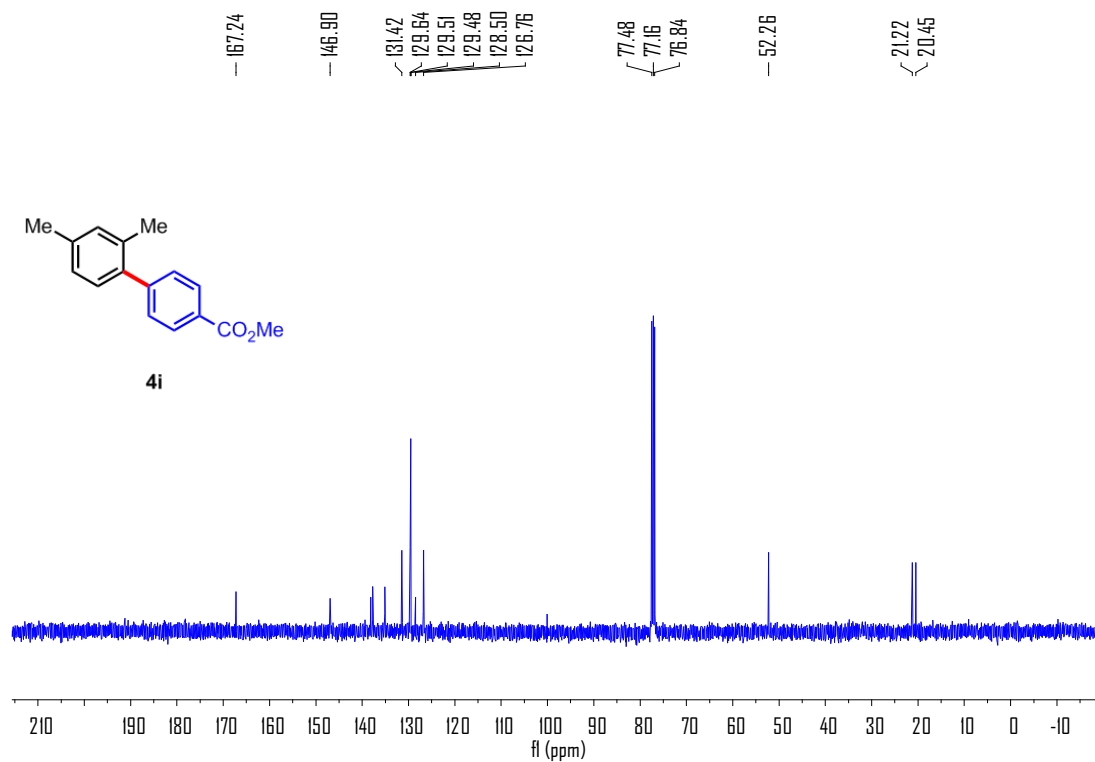
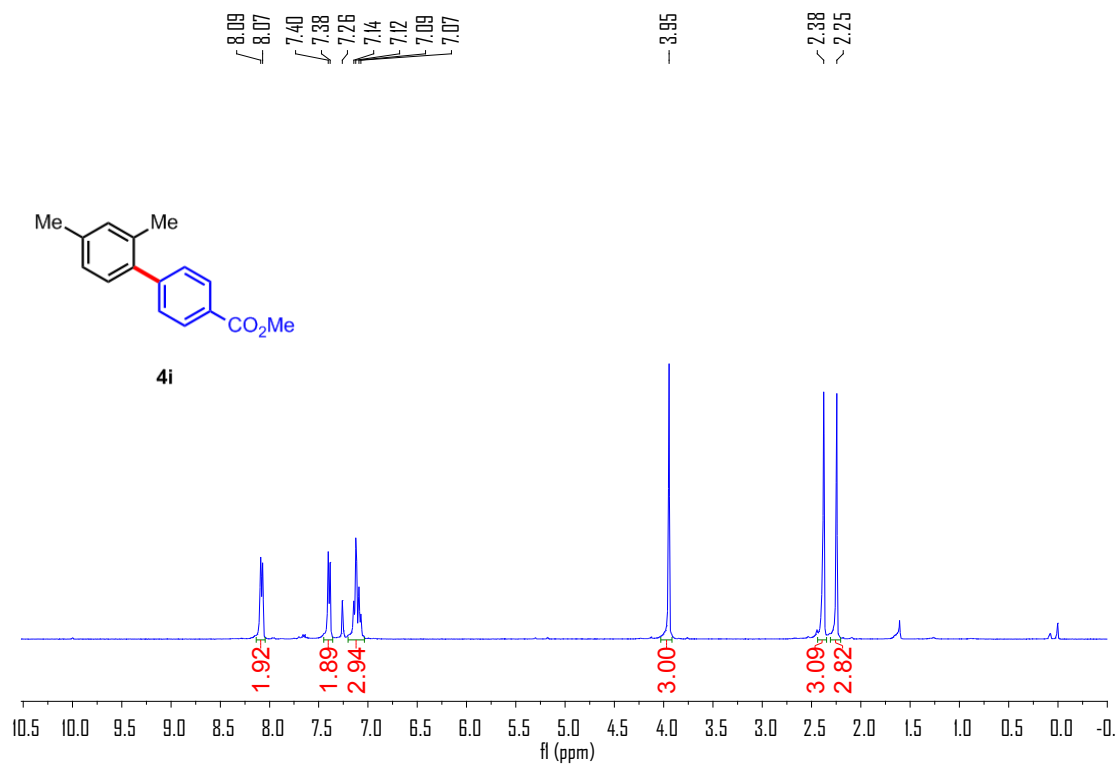


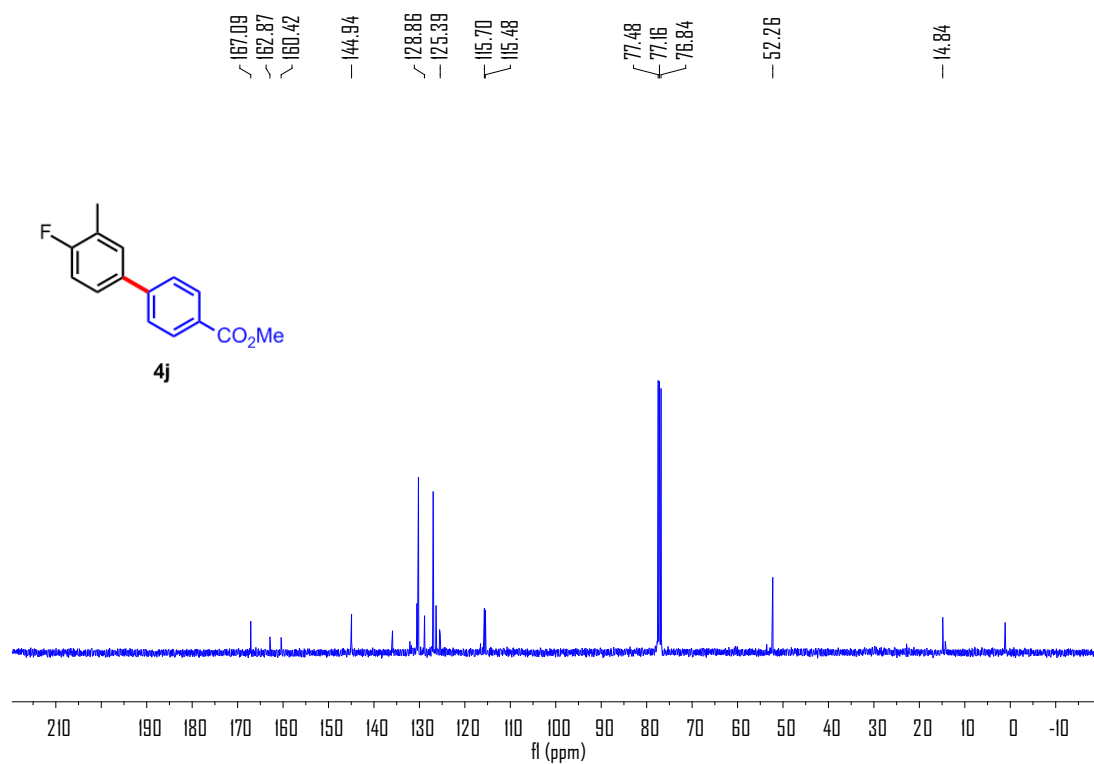
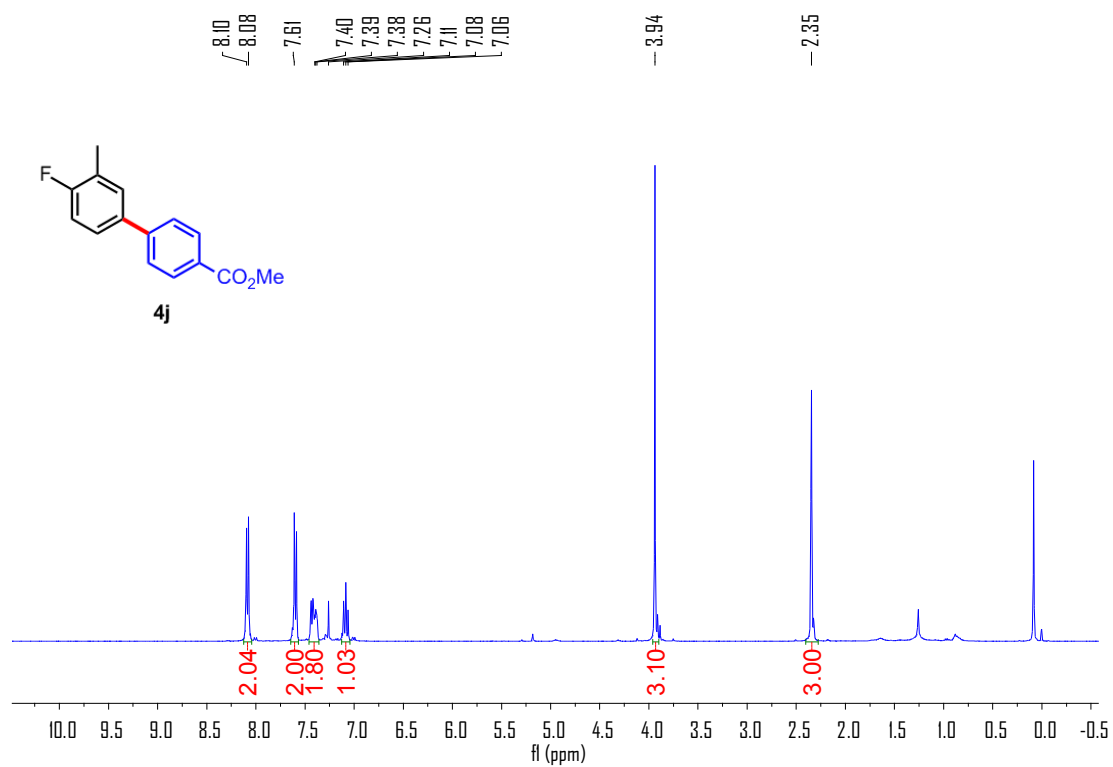


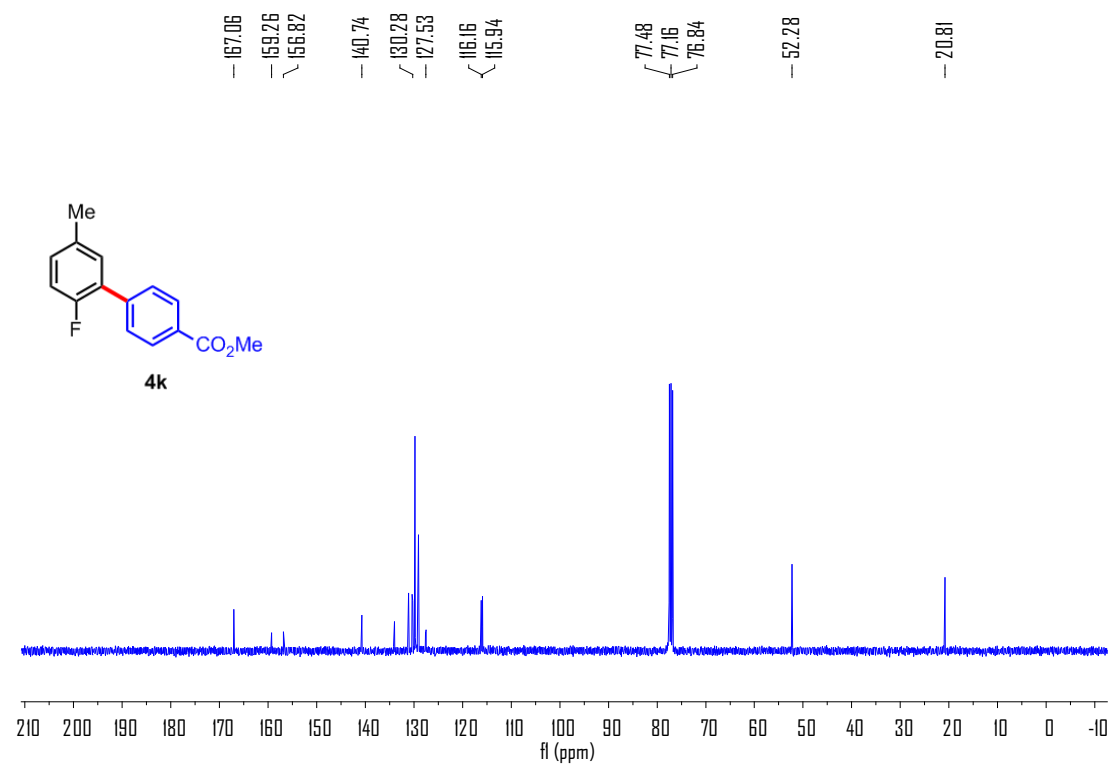
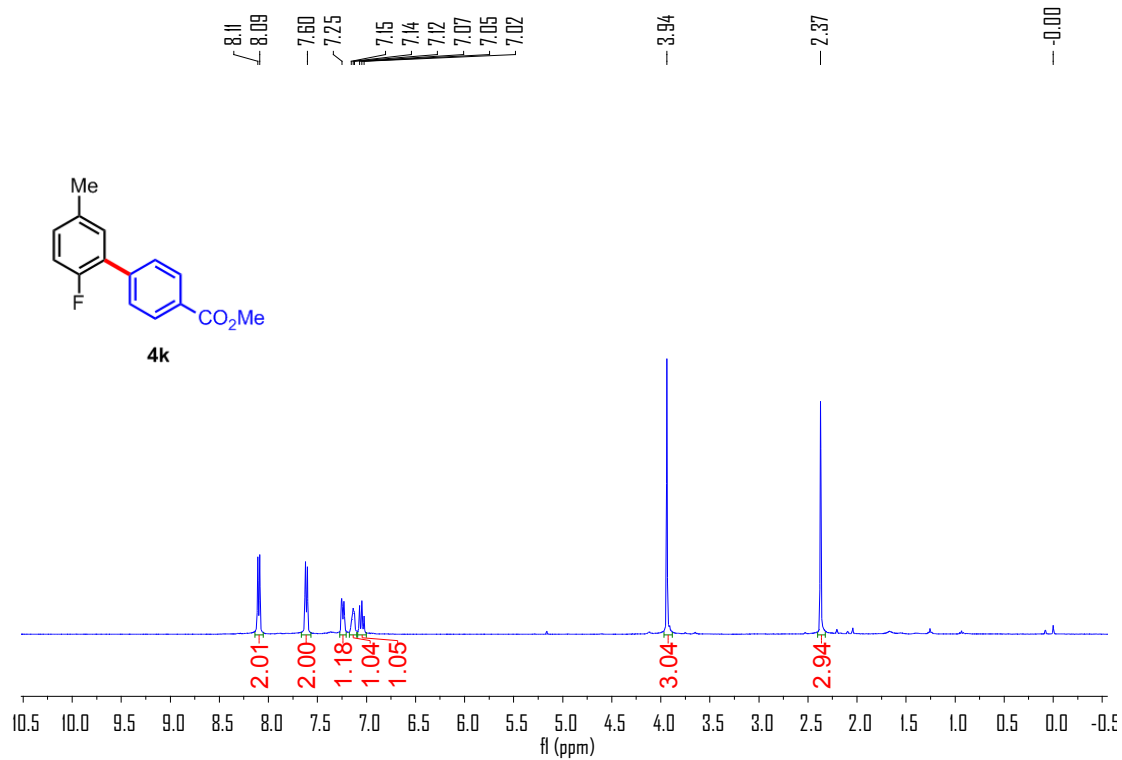


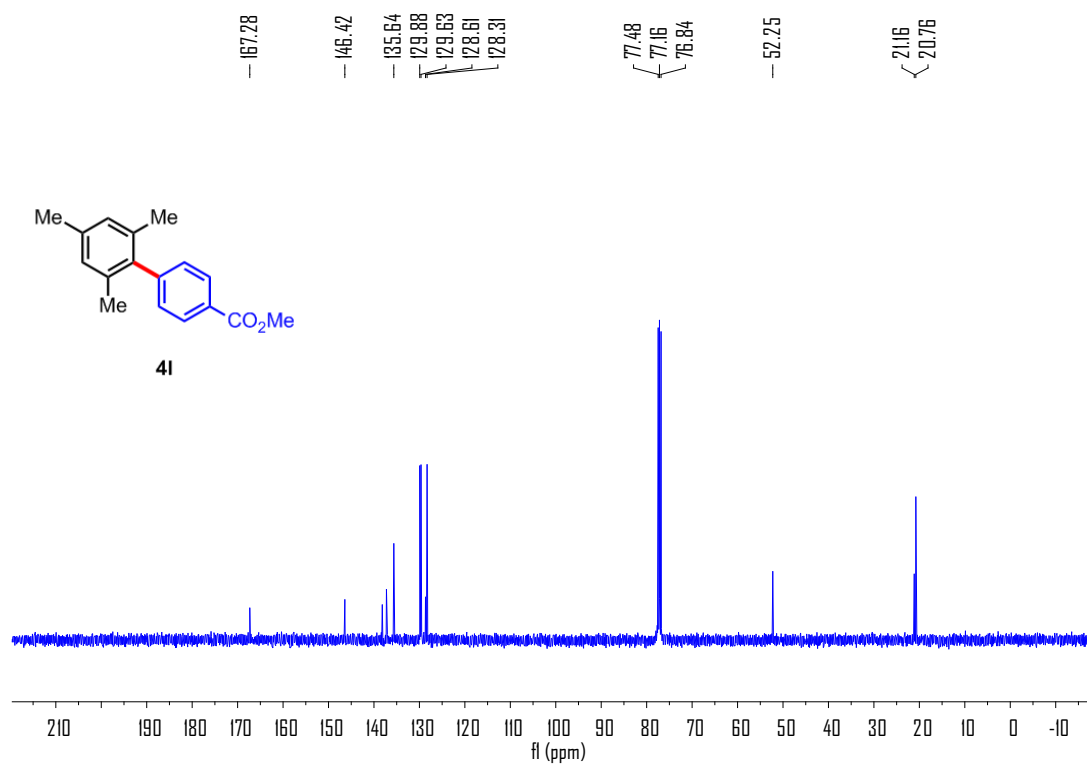
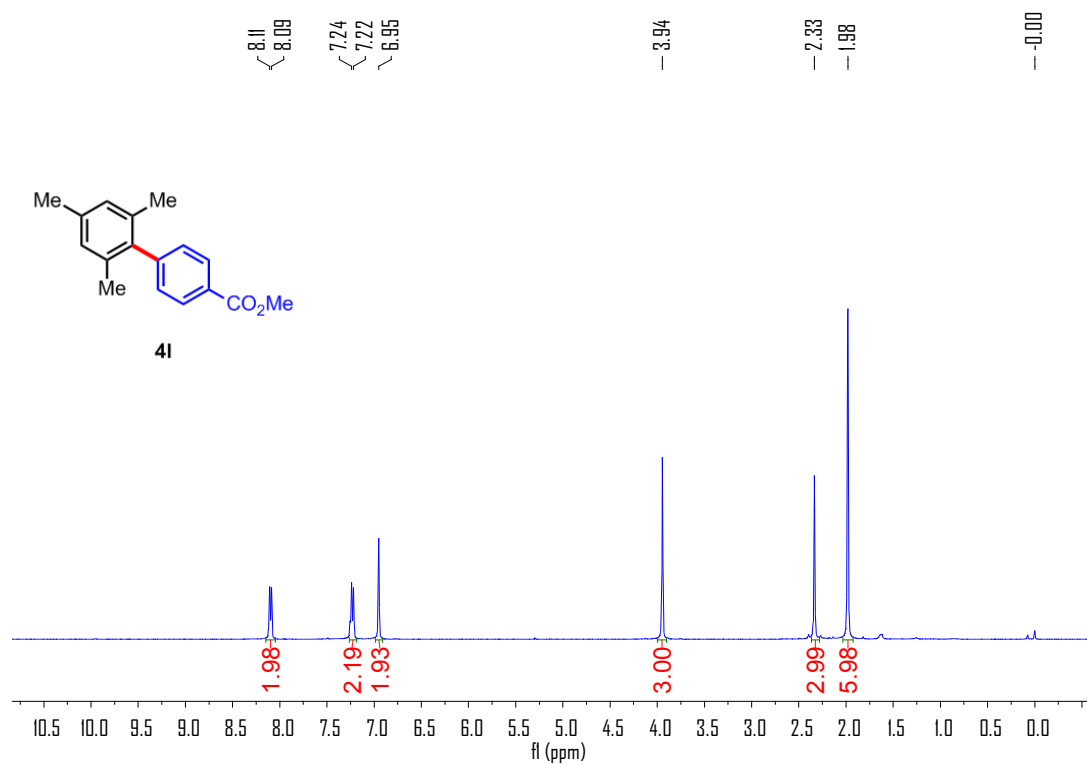












7. GC Charts of Crude Products

