

Supported Palladium Nanoparticles Catalyzed α -Alkylation of Ketones using Alcohols as Alkylating Agents

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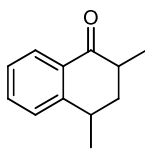
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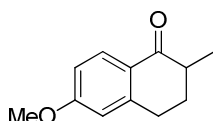
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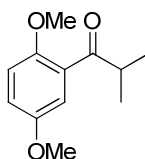
General procedure for alkylation of ketones with methanol



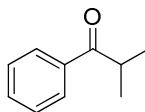
2,4-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (3b): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-methyltetralone (0.62 mmol), for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3b** (d.r = 51:49) as colourless liquid (81 mg) in 75% of yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.25-1.27 (m, 6H), 1.40-1.42 (m, 6H), 1.59-1.66 (m, 1H), 1.98-2.01 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.59-2.63 (m, 1H), 2.83-2.85 (m, 1H), 3.11-3.18 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 2H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 15.3, 15.6, 20.2, 21.6, 31.6, 33.0, 37.2, 37.8, 40.9, 42.8, 126.3, 126.4, 127.3, 127.4, 128.2, 131.2, 132.2, 133.2, 133.3, 148.2, 148.8, 200.8, 200.9; GC-MS m/z = 174.



7-Methoxy-2-methyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (3c): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 7-methoxytetralone (0.57 mmol), for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3c** as colourless liquid (66 mg) in 61 % of yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.28 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.86-1.90 (m, 1H), 2.17-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.55-2.60 (m, 1H), 2.93-2.98 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 7.03-7.07 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 15.4, 27.9, 31.6, 42.4, 55.4, 109.5, 121.3, 129.8, 133.2, 136.7, 158.3, 200.6; GC-MS m/z = 190.



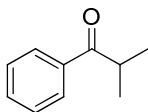
1-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropan-1-one (3d): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 2,5-dimethoxyacetophenone (0.55 mmol), for 72 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3d** as liquid (78 mg) in 68% yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.14 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 3.46-3.55 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 1H), 6.87-6.91 (m, 1H), 6.96-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 18.4, 39.9, 55.7, 56.1, 112.9, 114.3, 118.5, 129.4, 152.0, 153.5, 207.5; GC-MS m/z = 208.



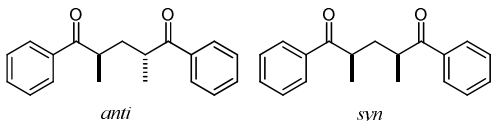
2-Methyl-1-phenylpropan-1-one (3e): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from acetophenone (0.68 mmol), for 36 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3e** as liquid (61 mg) in 50% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.21-1.24 (m, 6H), 3.55-3.57 (m, 1H),

7.46-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.95-7.96 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 19.1, 35.7, 128.3, 128.5, 132.7, 136.2, 204.5; GC-MS m/z = 148.

2,4-Dimethyl-1,5-diphenylpentane-1,5-dione (3e'): Obtained in the reaction of 3e as another product 3e' (liquid, 28 mg) in 30% yield. Same as compound 3g'

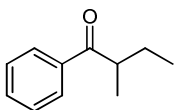


2-Methyl-1-phenylpropan-1-one (3g): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from propiophenone (0.37 mmol), for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3g** as liquid (30 mg) in 55% yield; NMR same as described for **3e**.

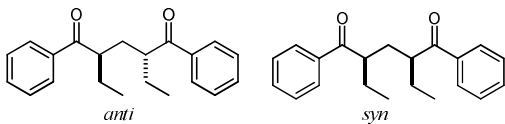


2,4-Dimethyl-1,5-diphenylpentane-1,5-dione (3g')⁵:

Obtained in the reaction of 3g as another product 3g' (liquid, 20 mg) in 40% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.16 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.21 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 1.48-1.50 (m, 1H), 2.00-2.02 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.43-2.45 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.52 (m, 2H), 3.60-3.63 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.33 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.44-7.47 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.51 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.57-7.59 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 8.04 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 17.5, 18.6, 36.9, 37.2, 38.0, 38.5, 128.1, 128.4, 128.5, 128.7, 132.8, 133.0, 136.2, 136.4, 203.7, 204.2.



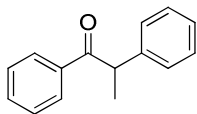
2-Methyl-1-phenylbutan-1-one (3f)⁶: Prepared as described for **3a** starting from butyrophenone (0.67 mmol), for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3f** as liquid (70 mg) in 65% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.90-0.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.18-1.19 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.46-1.51 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.85 (m, 1H), 3.38-3.41 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.54 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 11.6, 16.6, 26.5, 42.0, 128.1, 128.4, 128.5, 132.6, 136.7, 204.3.



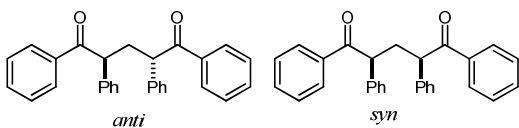
2,4-Diethyl-1,5-diphenylpentane-1,5-dione (3f'):

Obtained in the reaction of 3f as another product 3f' (liquid, 21 mg) in 20% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.79-0.81 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.85-0.88 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.15-1.18 (m, 1H), 1.51-1.54 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.66 (m, 1H), 1.71-1.77 (m, 2H), 2.05-2.08 (m, 1H), 2.30-2.32 (m, 1H), 3.30-3.32 (m, 1H), 3.44-3.46 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.43 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.50 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.58 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 11.5, 11.7, 25.2, 27.0, 33.1, 33.3, 45.0, 45.3, 128.0, 128.3, 128.4, 128.7, 132.8,

133.0, 137.2, 137.5, 203.7, 204.6; ESI-MS m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{25}O_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 309.1855, found 309.1838.

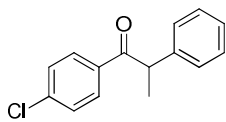


1,2-Diphenylpropan-1-one (3h): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 2-phenylacetophenone (0.51 mmol), for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3h** as liquid (66 mg) in 62% yield; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 1.54 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 4.68-4.72 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.46 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.49 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 19.4, 47.8, 126.8, 127.7, 128.4, 128.7, 128.9, 132.7, 136.4, 141.4, 200.2.

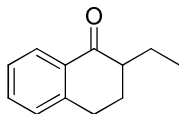


1,2,4,5-Tetraphenylpentane-1,5-dione (3h'):

Obtained in the reaction of **3h** as another product **3h'** (liquid, 32 mg) in 30% yield. 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 2.41-2.44 (m, 1H), 2.70-2.72 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.98-3.00 (m, 1H), 4.51-4.53 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.56-4.58 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.18 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.25 (m, 5H), 7.28-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.34 (m, 6H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.40-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 37.7, 38.0, 50.9, 51.1, 127.2, 127.3, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 132.8, 132.9, 136.5, 136.6, 138.9, 139.1, 199.5, 199.6; ESI-MS m/z calcd for $C_{29}H_{25}O_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 405.1855, found 405.1837.

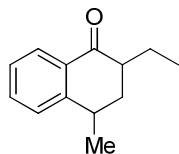


1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-phenylpropan-1-one (3i): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-chloro-2-phenylacetophenone (0.43 mmol), for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3i** as liquid (63 mg) in 60% yield; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 1.56 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 4.68-4.75 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.43 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 19.4, 47.8, 126.8, 127.7, 128.4, 128.7, 128.9, 132.7, 136.5, 141.4, 200.3.

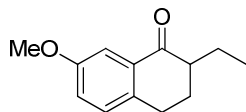


2-Ethyl-2,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (6a): Tetralone (0.34 mmol, 1 equiv.), $KOtBu$ (1.02 mmol, 3 equiv.) and $Pd@PS$ (229 mg, 3 mol%, 0.03 equiv.) were charged in a 30 mL reaction tube and ethanol (2.5 mL), toluene (0.5 mL) was added to it. The reaction tube was closed with the teflon screw cap and heated at 110 $^{\circ}C$ for 48 h under air (traces) present in the vial. The completion of the reaction was monitored by TLC, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room

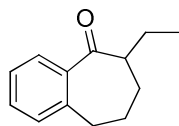
temperature and diluted with water 2 mL and extracted with EtOAc. The crude was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) affording the desired product **6a** as liquid (48 mg) in 82 % of yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.99-1.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.55-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.87-2.00 (m, 2H), 2.22-2.25 (m, 1H), 2.39-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.98-3.01 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.30 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.46 (m, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 11.4, 22.4, 27.7, 28.3, 48.9, 126.5, 127.4, 128.6, 132.6, 133.0, 143.9, 200.2; GC-MS m/z = 174.



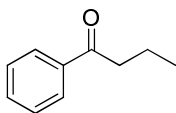
2-Ethyl-4-methyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (6b): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-methyltetralone (0.62 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane/ethylacetate = 98/2) afforded **6b** (d.r = 51:49) as colourless liquid (85 mg) in 72% yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.99-1.04 (m, 6H), 1.41-1.47 (m, 6H), 1.53-1.67 (m, 3H), 1.93-2.14 (m, 4H), 2.16-2.23 (m, 1H), 2.43-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.61-2.65 (m, 1H), 3.07-3.19 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.53 (m, 2H), 8.01-8.07 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 11.1, 11.4, 20.2, 21.4, 22.5, 22.7, 31.1, 33.1, 34.6, 37.5, 44.3, 49.2, 126.2, 126.3, 126.4, 127.3, 127.9, 131.6, 132.7, 133.1, 133.2, 148.0, 148.5, 200.1, 200.2; GC-MS m/z = 188.



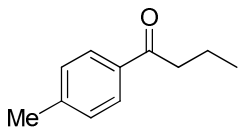
2-Ethyl-7-methoxy-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (6c): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 7-methoxytetralone (0.56 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane: ethylacetate = 95:5) afforded **6c** as liquid (69 mg) in 60% yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.24-1.26 (m, 5H), 1.82-1.88 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.20 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.93-2.99 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.79-6.83 (dd, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 15.5, 29.1, 29.6, 31.4, 42.2, 55.3, 112.5, 113.0, 126.1, 129.8, 146.4, 163.3, 199.4.



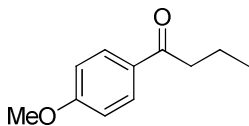
6-Ethyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-benzo[7]annulen-5-one (6d): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from benzoseburone (0.62 mmol) for 36 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane: ethylacetate = 98:2) afforded **6d** as liquid (83 mg) in 71% yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.88-0.92 (m, 3H), 1.50-1.75 (m, 3H), 1.86-2.18 (m, 3H), 2.77-2.79 (m, 1H), 2.93-2.98 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.23 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.38 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 11.8, 24.1, 25.3, 30.0, 33.6, 51.5, 126.3, 127.9, 129.7, 131.0, 140.4, 141.7, 207.8; GC-MS m/z = 188.



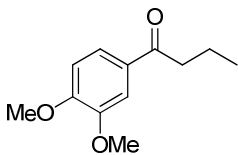
1-Phenylbutan-1-one (6e): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from acetophenone (0.82 mmol), after workup for 48 h, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6e** as liquid (89 mg) in 73% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.99-1.02 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.76-1.79 (m, 2H), 2.93-2.96 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.47 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.56 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 17.7, 40.4, 128.0, 128.5, 132.8, 137.1, 200.3; GC-MS m/z = 148.



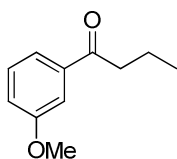
1-(p-Tolyl)butan-1-one (6f): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-methylacetophenone (0.74 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6f** as liquid (79 mg) in 66% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.99-1.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.74-1.78 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.91-2.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 17.8, 21.5, 40.4, 128.1, 129.2, 134.6, 143.5, 200.1; GC-MS m/z = 162.



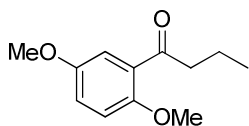
1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)butan-1-one (6g): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-methoxyacetophenone (0.66 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6g** as liquid (83 mg) in 70% yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.97-1.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.78-1.79 (m, 2H), 2.86-2.91 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 6.91-6.94 (dd, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.93-7.95 (dd, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 17.9, 40.1, 55.3, 113.5, 130.2, 163.2, 198.9.



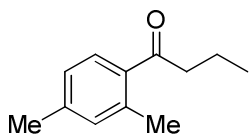
1-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)butan-1-one (6h): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 3,4-dimethoxyacetophenone (0.55 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6h** as liquid (77 mg) in 68% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.97-0.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.73-1.76 (m, 2H), 2.87-2.90 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 6H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 18.0, 39.9, 55.9, 109.9, 110.1, 122.6, 130.3, 148.9, 153.0, 199.0; GC-MS m/z = 208.



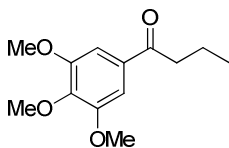
1-(3-methoxyphenyl)butan-1-one (6i): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 3-methoxy acetophenone (0.66 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6i** as liquid (89 mg) in 77% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.99-1.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.74-1.78 (m, 2H), 2.92-2.94 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 7.08-7.10 (dd, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.37 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 17.8, 40.6, 55.4, 112.3, 119.2, 120.6, 129.4, 138.5, 159.8, 200.2.



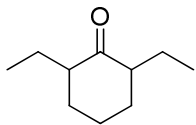
1-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)butan-1-one (6j): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 2,5-dimethoxyacetophenone (0.55 mmol) for 72 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6j** as liquid (96 mg) in 82% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.94-0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.67-1.71 (m, 1H), 2.92-2.95 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.97-6.99 (m, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 17.7, 45.6, 55.7, 56.0, 113.0, 113.8, 119.4, 128.9, 152.8, 153.4, 202.6.



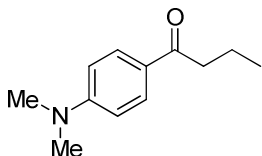
1-(2,4-Dimethylphenyl)butan-1-one (6k): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 2,4-dimethylacetophenone (0.33 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **3k** as liquid (44 mg) in 76% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.97-0.99 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.69-1.74 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.84-2.87 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (bs, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 18.0, 21.3, 21.4, 43.2, 126.2, 128.8, 132.8, 135.3, 138.3, 141.5, 204.1; GC-MS m/z = 176.



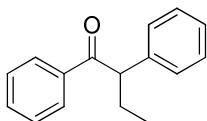
1-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)butan-1-one (6l): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 3,4,5-trimethoxy acetophenone (0.23 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6l** as liquid (26 mg) in 50% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.99-1.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.74-1.78 (m, 2H), 2.89-2.92 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 6H), 7.92 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 17.8, 40.2, 56.2, 60.8, 105.5, 132.4, 142.3, 153.0, 199.1; GC-MS m/z = 238.



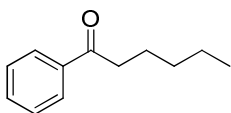
2,6-Diethylcyclohexanone (6m): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from cyclohexanone (1 mmol) for 48 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6m** as colourless liquid (60 mg) in 39% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.82-0.85 (m, 6H), 1.14-1.17 (m, 2H), 1.22-1.24 (m, 3H), 1.69-1.77 (m, 4H), 2.11-2.15 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 11.7, 22.0, 25.5, 35.0, 52.7, 213.9; GC-MS m/z = 154.



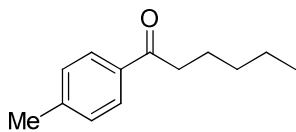
1-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)butan-1-one (6n): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 1-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)butan-1-one (0.30 mmol), for 48h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6n** as liquid (44 mg) in 76% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.98-1.00 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.73-1.76 (m, 2H), 2.83-2.85 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (s, 6H), 6.64 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.9, 18.3, 39.8, 39.9, 110.5, 125.1, 130.1, 153.2, 198.6; ESI-MS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 192.1388, found 192.1366.



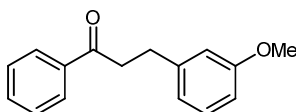
1,2-Diphenylbutan-1-one (6o): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 1,2-diphenylbutan-1-one (0.51 mmol), after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **6o** as liquid (87 mg) in 78% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.91-0.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.85-1.90 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.24 (m, 1H), 4.44-4.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.40 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.49 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 12.2, 27.1, 55.4, 126.9, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 128.8, 132.7, 137.0, 139.6, 200.0.



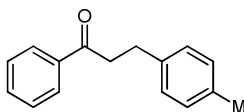
1-Phenylhexan-1-one (9a): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from acetophenone (0.42 mmol), for 24 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **9a** as colourless liquid (58 mg) in 79% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.90-0.92 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.35-1.38 (m, 4H), 1.72-1.75 (m, 2H), 2.94-2.97 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.55 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.8, 22.4, 24.0, 31.5, 38.5, 128.0, 128.4, 132.7, 137.1, 200.5; GC-MS m/z = 176.



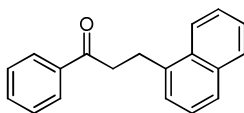
1-(*p*-Tolyl)hexan-1-one (9b): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-methylacetophenone (0.37 mmol), for 24 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane) afforded **9b** as colourless liquid (60 mg) in 86% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.90-0.92 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.36-1.37 (m, 4H), 1.72-1.74 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.92-2.94 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 13.9, 21.5, 22.5, 24.1, 31.5, 38.4, 128.1, 129.1, 134.6, 143.5, 200.2; GC-MS m/z = 190.



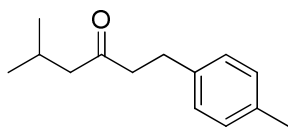
3-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (9c): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from acetophenone (0.42 mmol), 3-methoxybenzylalcohol (1.25 mmol), toluene (2 mL) for 24 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane/ethylacetate = 98/2) afforded **9c** as liquid (78 mg) in 78% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 3.04-3.07 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.29-3.32 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.24 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.57 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 30.1, 40.3, 55.1, 111.4, 114.2, 120.7, 128.0, 128.5, 129.4, 133.0, 136.8, 142.9, 159.7, 199.1; GC-MS m/z = 240.



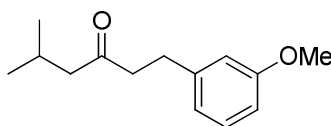
1-Phenyl-3-(*p*-tolyl)propan-1-one (9d): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from acetophenone (0.42 mmol), 4-methylbenzylalcohol (1.25 mmol), toluene (2 mL) for 24 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane/ethylacetate = 98/2) afforded **9d** as colour less liquid (71 mg) in 75% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 2.33 (s, 3H), 3.03-3.06 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.28-3.30 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.47 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.57 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 20.9, 29.7, 40.5, 128.0, 128.2, 128.5, 129.1, 132.9, 135.5, 136.8, 138.1, 199.3; GC-MS m/z = 224.



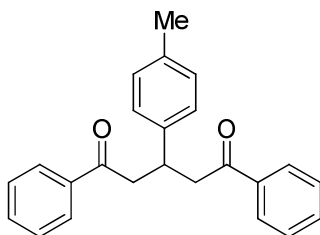
3-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (9e): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from acetophenone (0.42 mmol), 1-naphthalenemethanol (1.25 mmol), toluene (2 mL) for 24 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane/ethylacetate = 98/2) afforded **9e** as colour less liquid (89 mg) in 82% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 3.43-3.47 (m, 2H), 3.55-3.57 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.75-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 27.1, 39.7, 123.4, 125.5, 125.6, 126.0, 126.1, 126.9, 128.0, 128.5, 128.8, 131.6, 133.0, 133.9, 136.8, 137.3, 199.2; GC-MS m/z = 260.



5-Methyl-1-(p-tolyl)hexan-3-one (9f): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-methylpentan-2-one (1 mmol), 4-methylbenzylalcohol (3 mmol), toluene (3 mL), for 36 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane/ethylacetate = 98/2) afforded **9f** as colour less liquid (90 mg) in 44% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.92 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 2.16 (m, 1H), 2.29 (d, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.70-2.72 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.87-2.89 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 4H), ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 20.9, 22.6, 24.5, 29.3, 44.9, 52.0, 128.1, 129.1, 135.5, 138.0, 210.0.

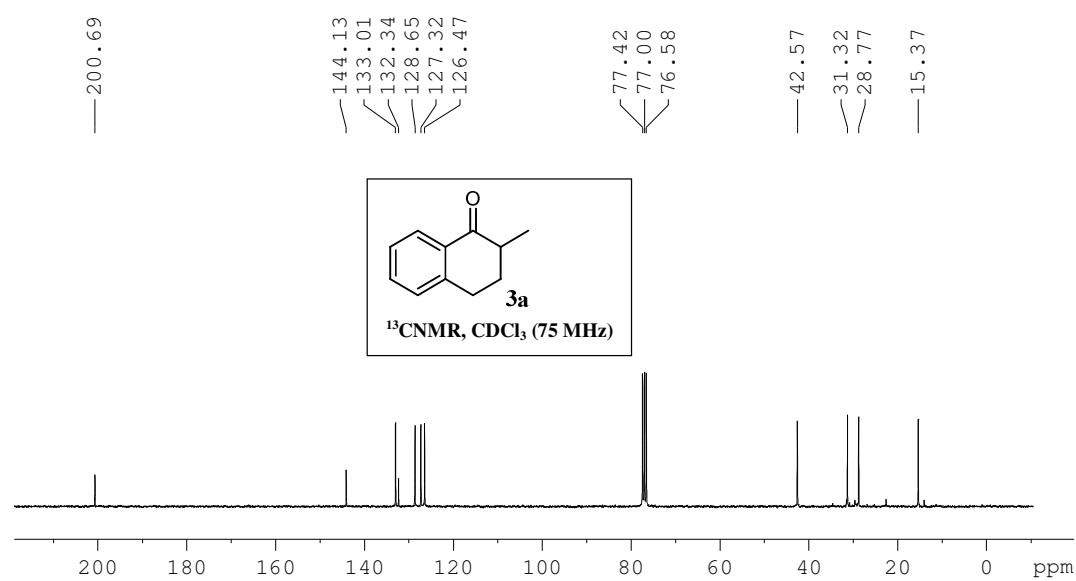
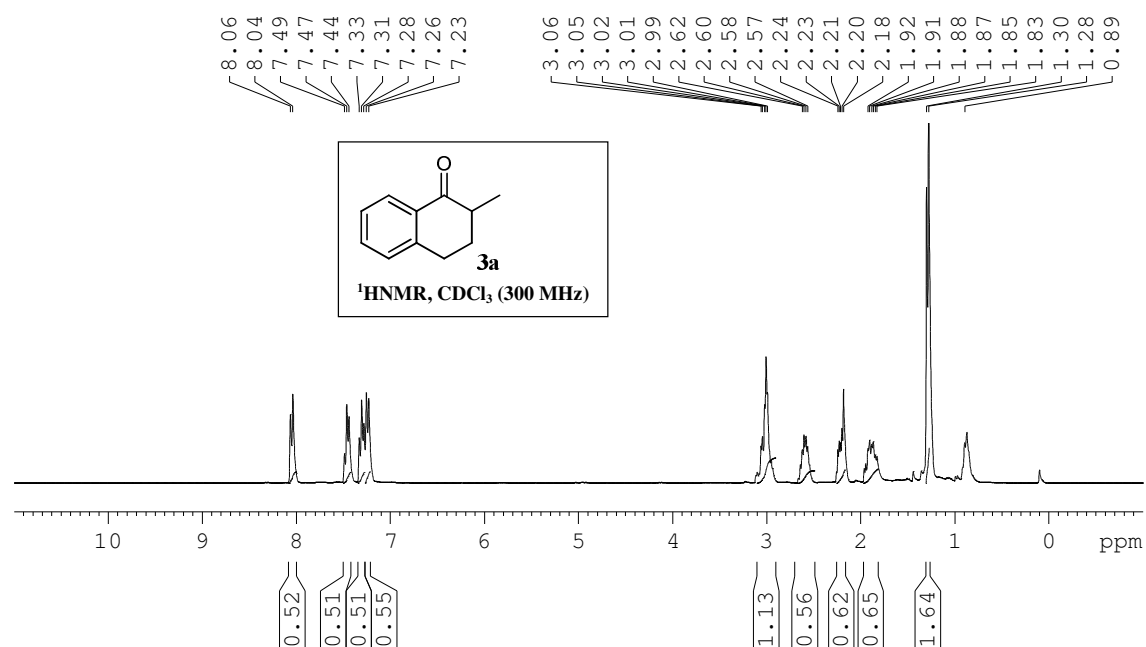


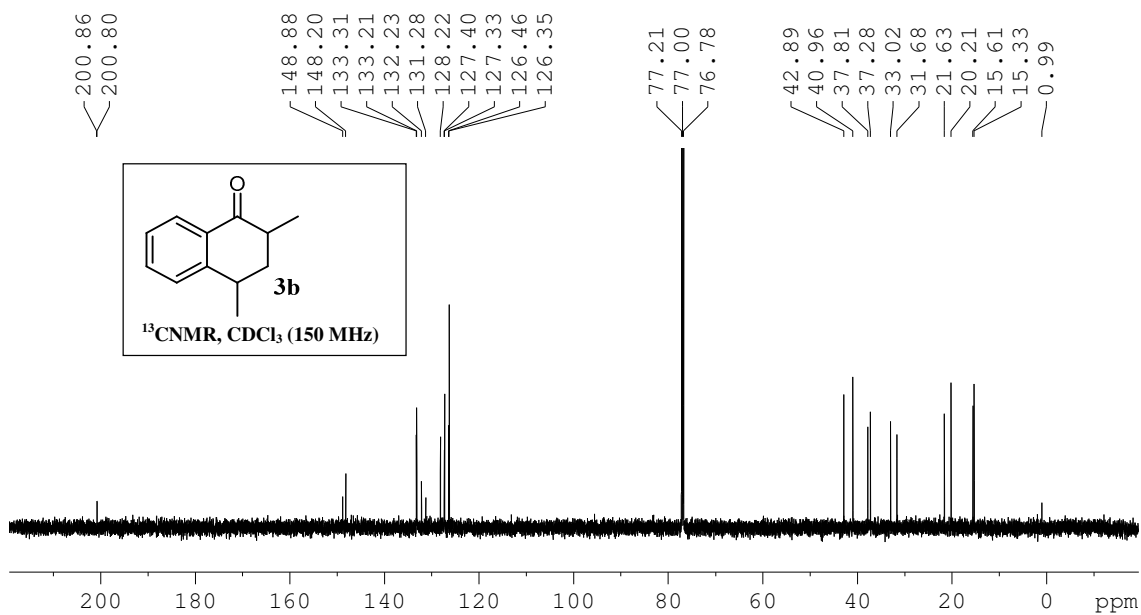
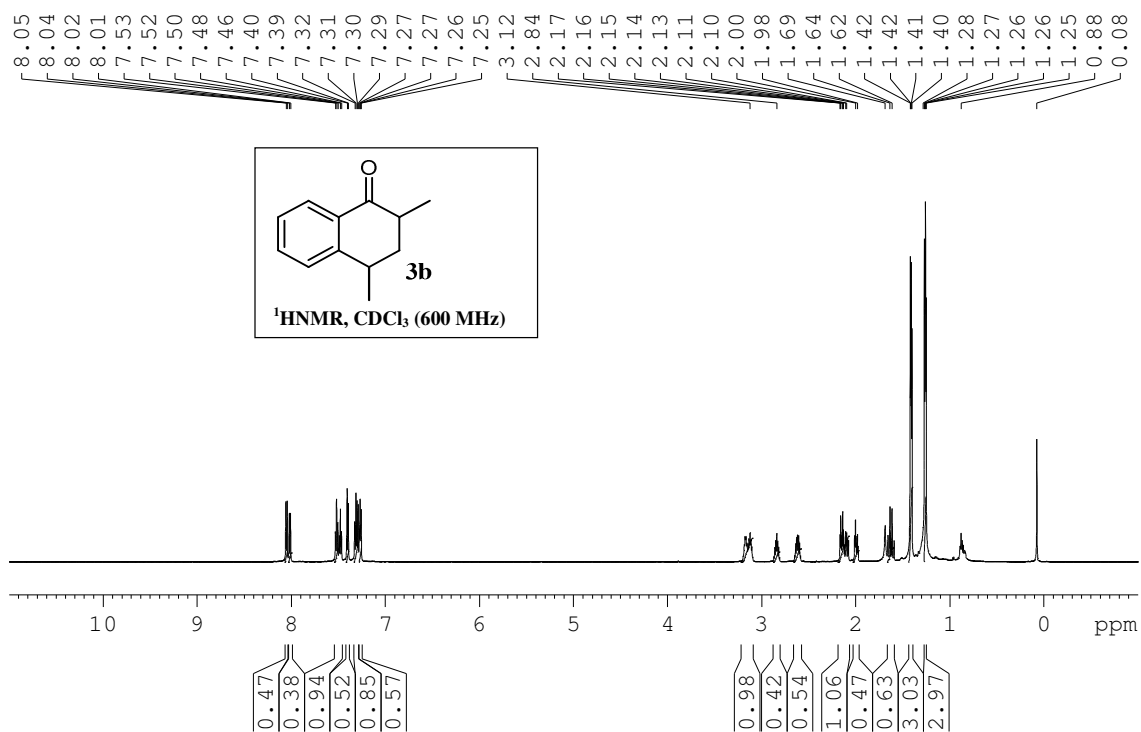
1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-5-methylhexan-3-one (9g): Prepared as described for **3a** starting from 4-methylpentan-2-one (1 mmol), 3-methoxybenzylalcohol (3 mmol), toluene (3 mL), for 36 h, after workup, column chromatography (hexane/ethylacetate = 98/2) afforded **9g** as colour less liquid (98 mg) in 46% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 0.89 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 2.12 (m, 1H), 2.26 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.68-2.71 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.85-2.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 6.72-6.73 (m, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 22.6, 24.5, 29.7, 44.6, 52.0, 55.1, 111.3, 114.0, 120.6, 129.4, 142.8, 159.6, 209.8.

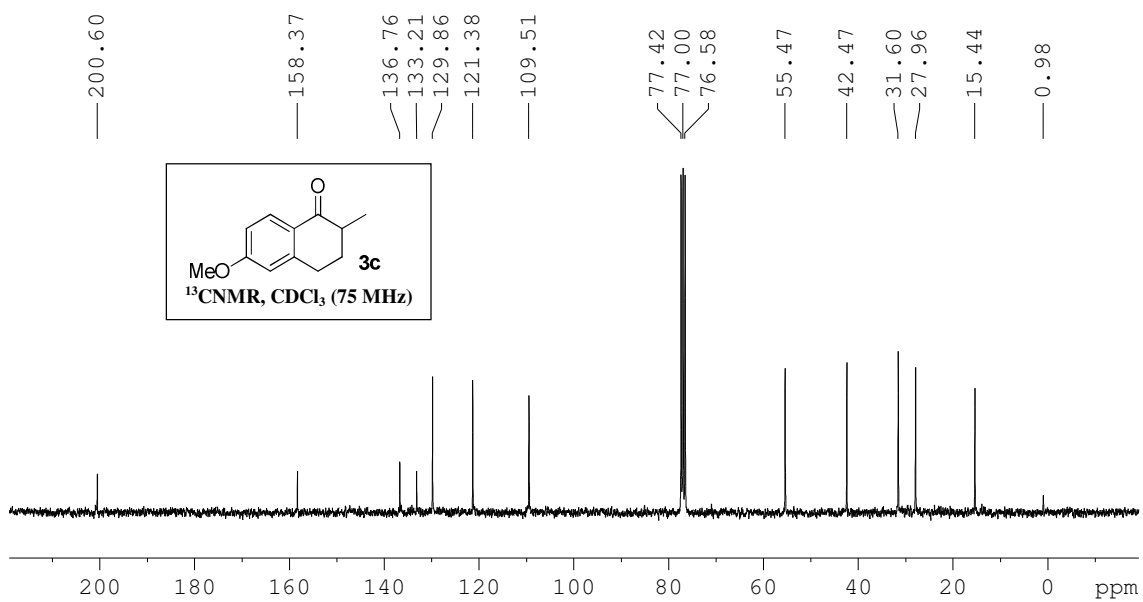
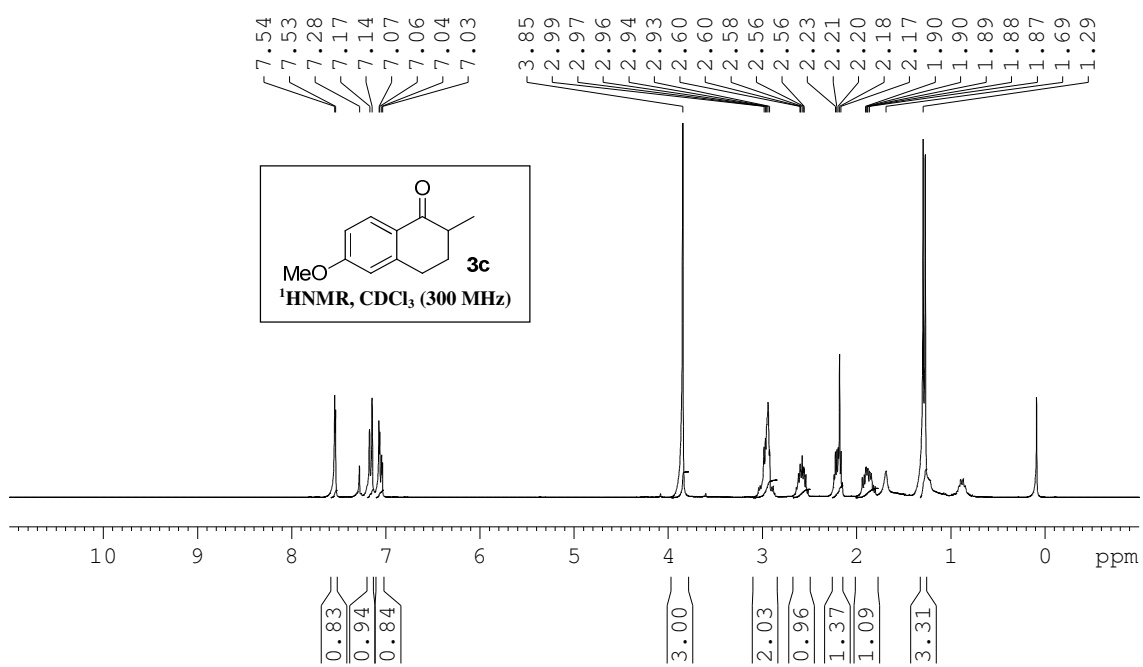


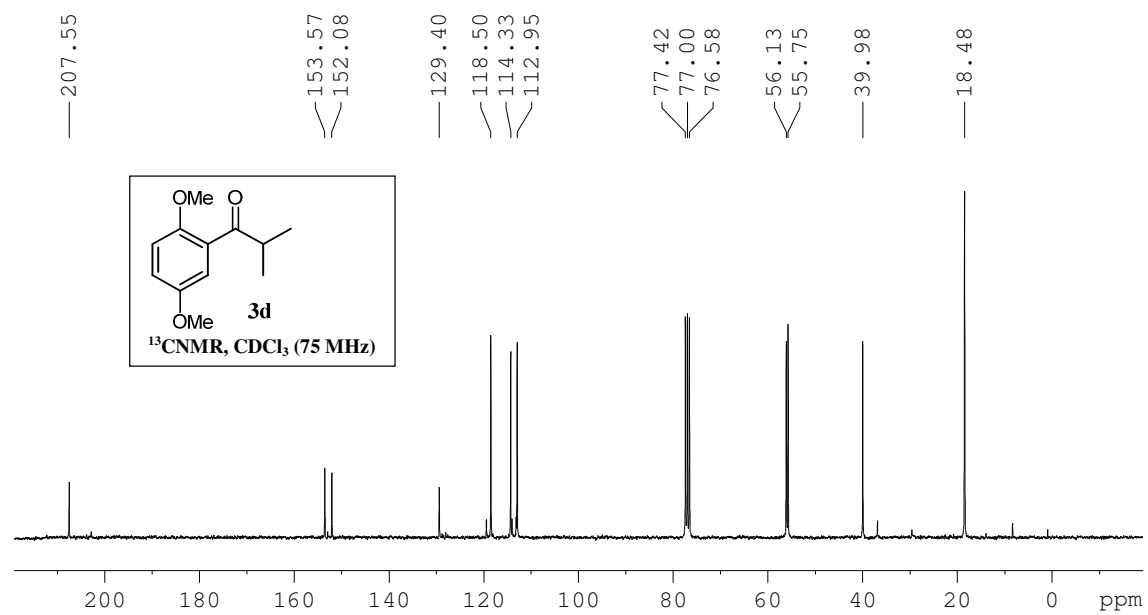
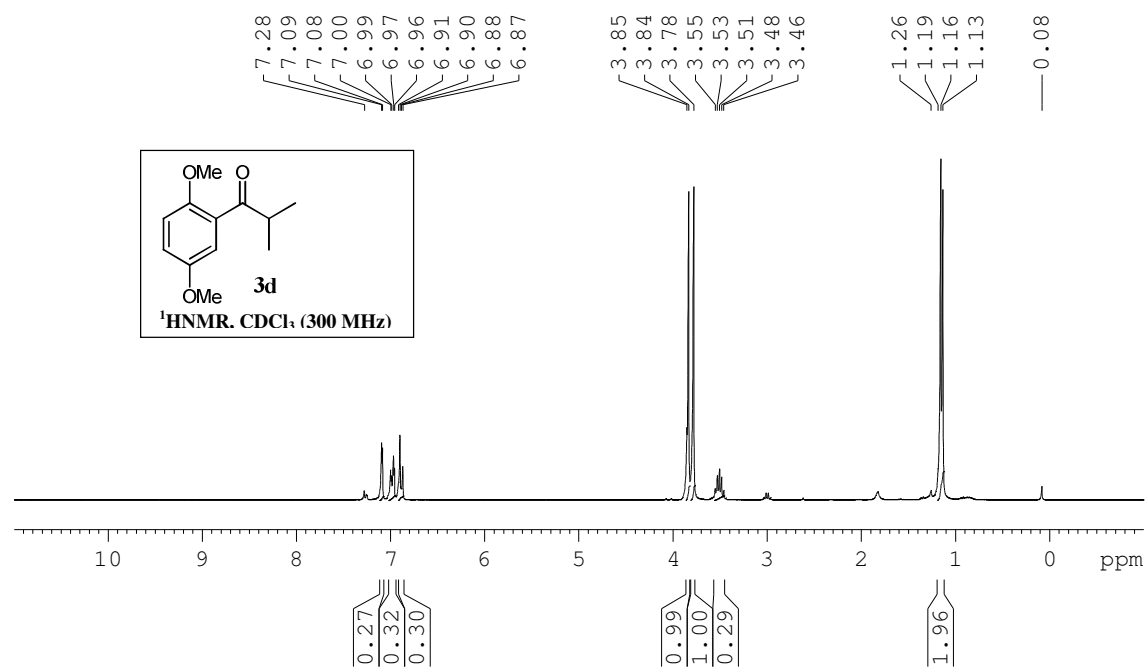
1,5-diphenyl-3-(p-tolyl)pentane-1,5-dione (9da): Compound was obtained as semi solid in the reaction of acetophenone (0.42 mmol, 1 equiv.), 4-methylbenzyl alcohol (1.28 mmol, 3 equiv.), KOtBu (3 equiv.) and Pd@PS (3 mol%) in toluene (2 mL) at 110 °C for 24 h. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 2.29 (s, 3H), 3.32-3.36 (dd, J = 7.1 Hz, J = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 3.46-3.50 (dd, J = 7.0 Hz, J = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 4.03-4.05 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.36 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.53-7.56 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 20.9, 36.8, 45.0, 127.2, 128.1, 128.5, 129.2, 132.9, 136.1, 136.9, 140.7, 198.6.

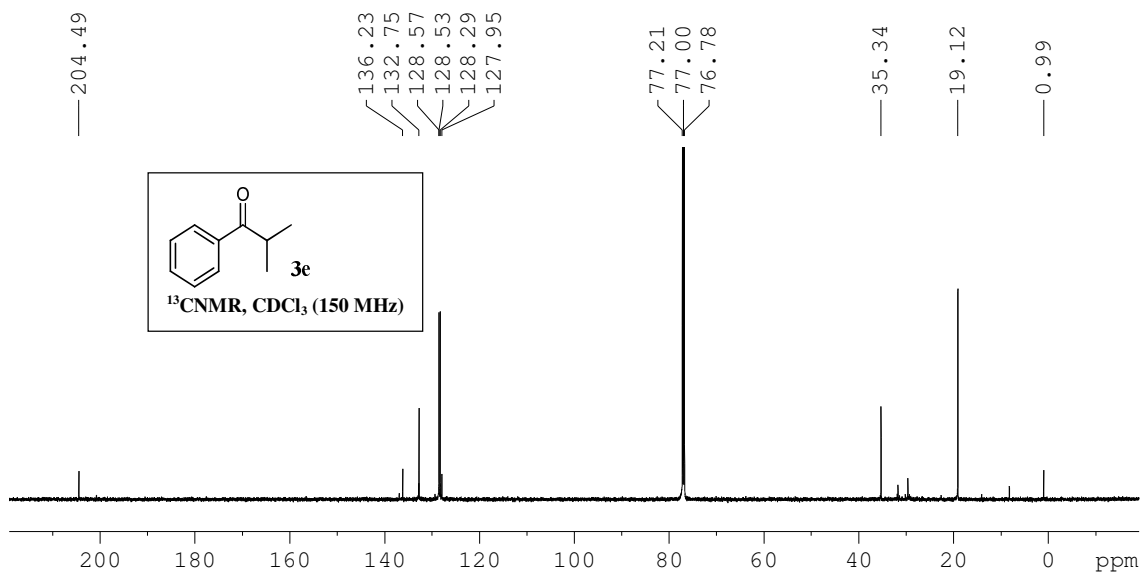
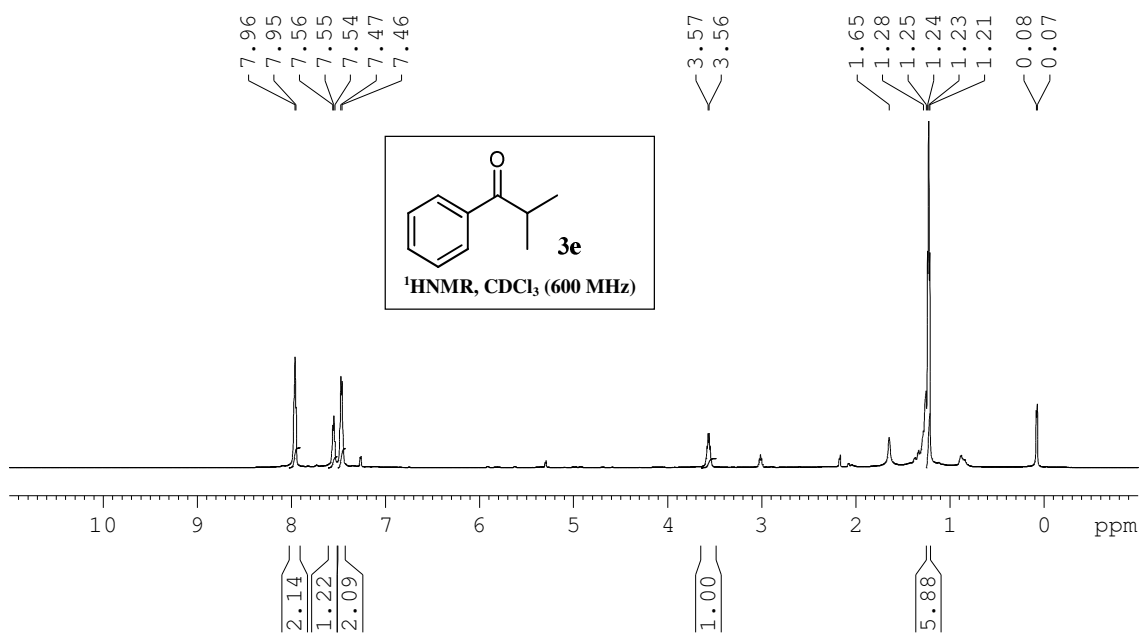
¹H, ¹³C NMR and GC-MS spectra for synthesised compounds

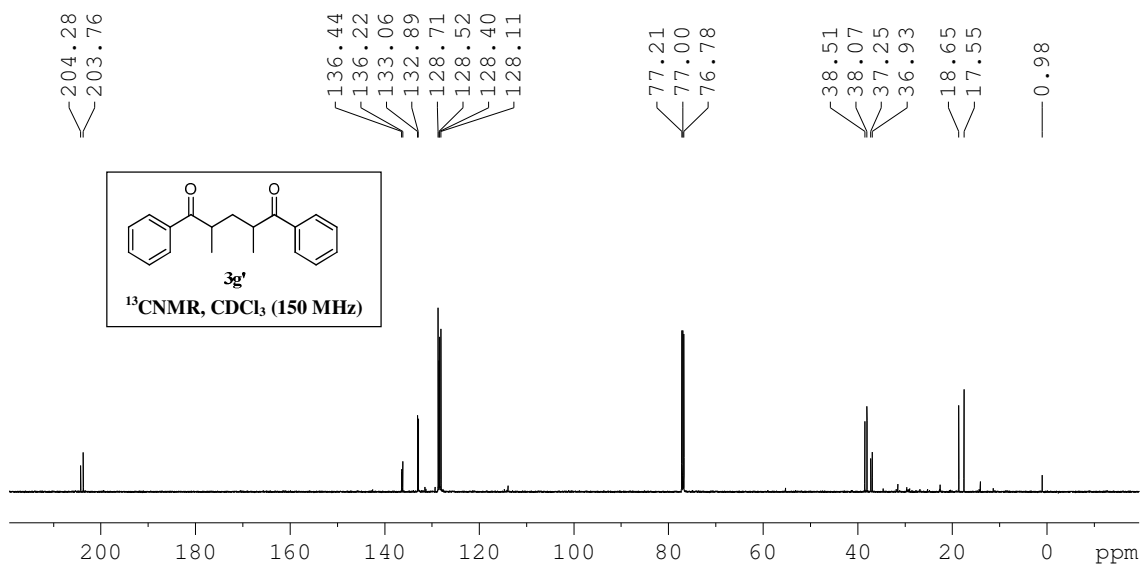
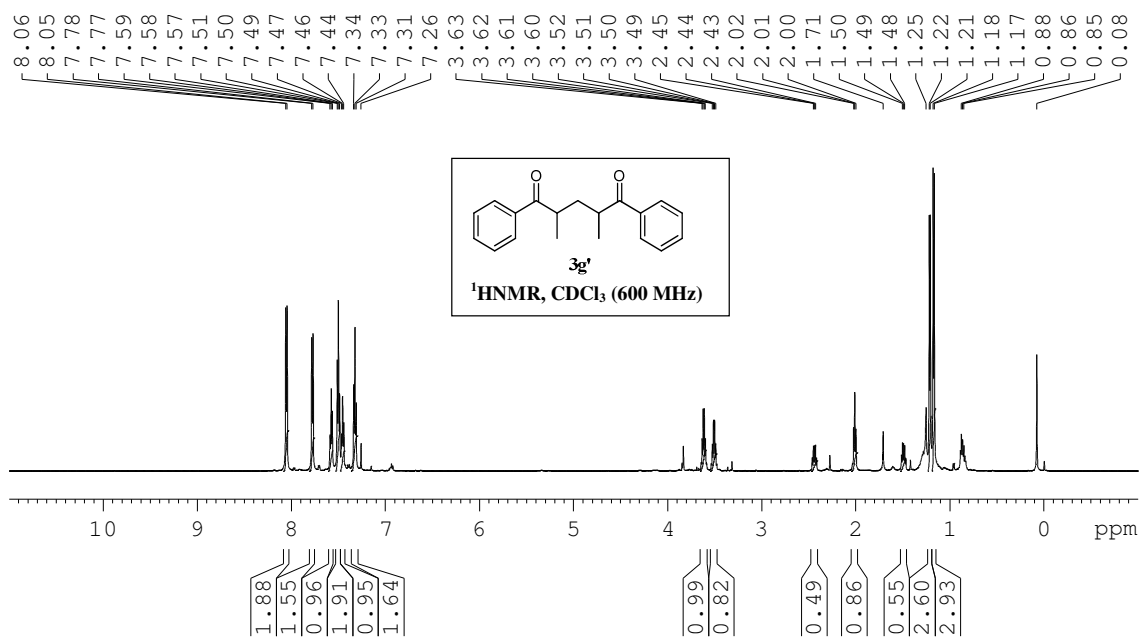


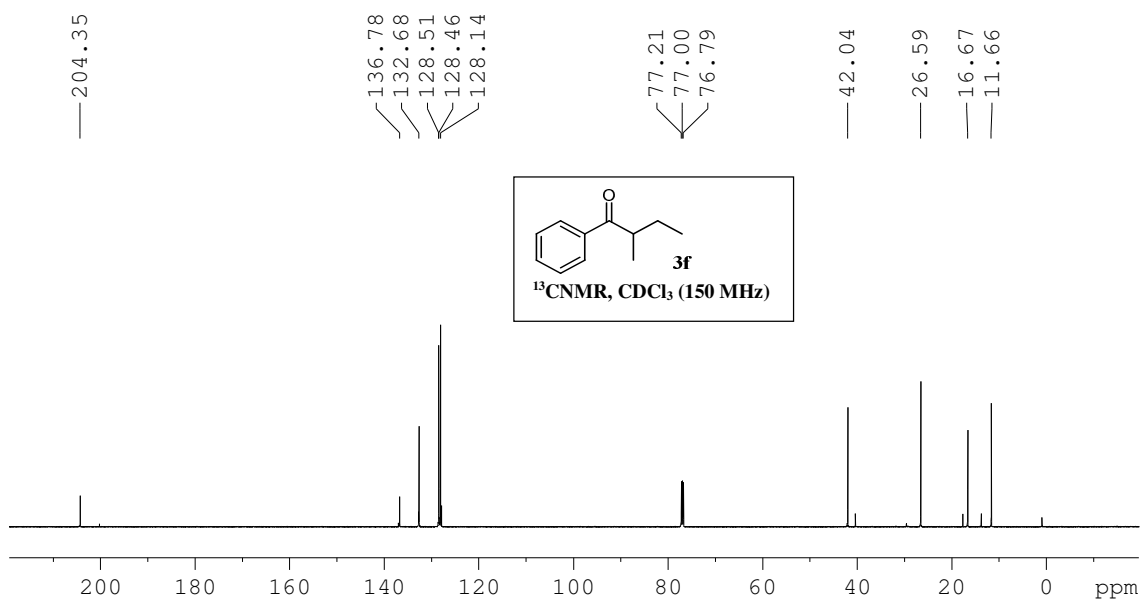
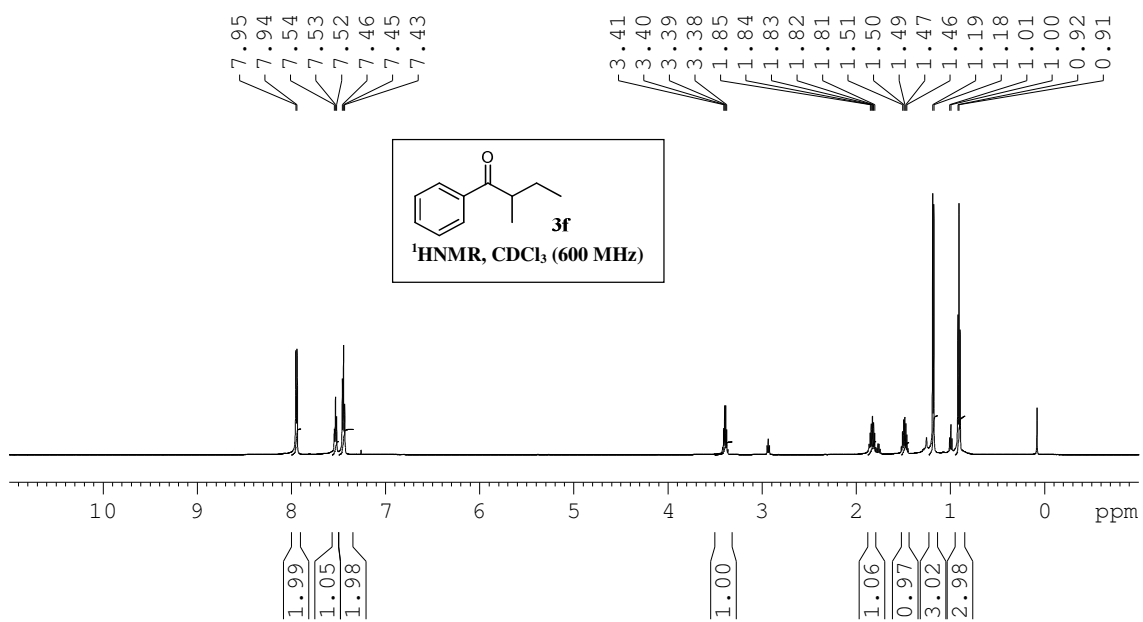


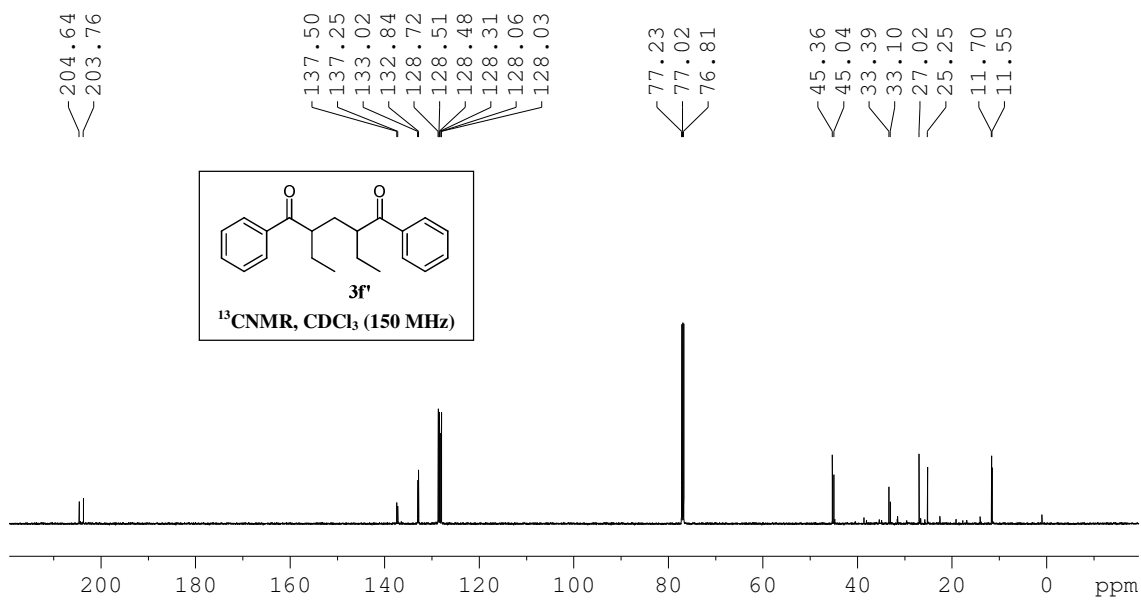
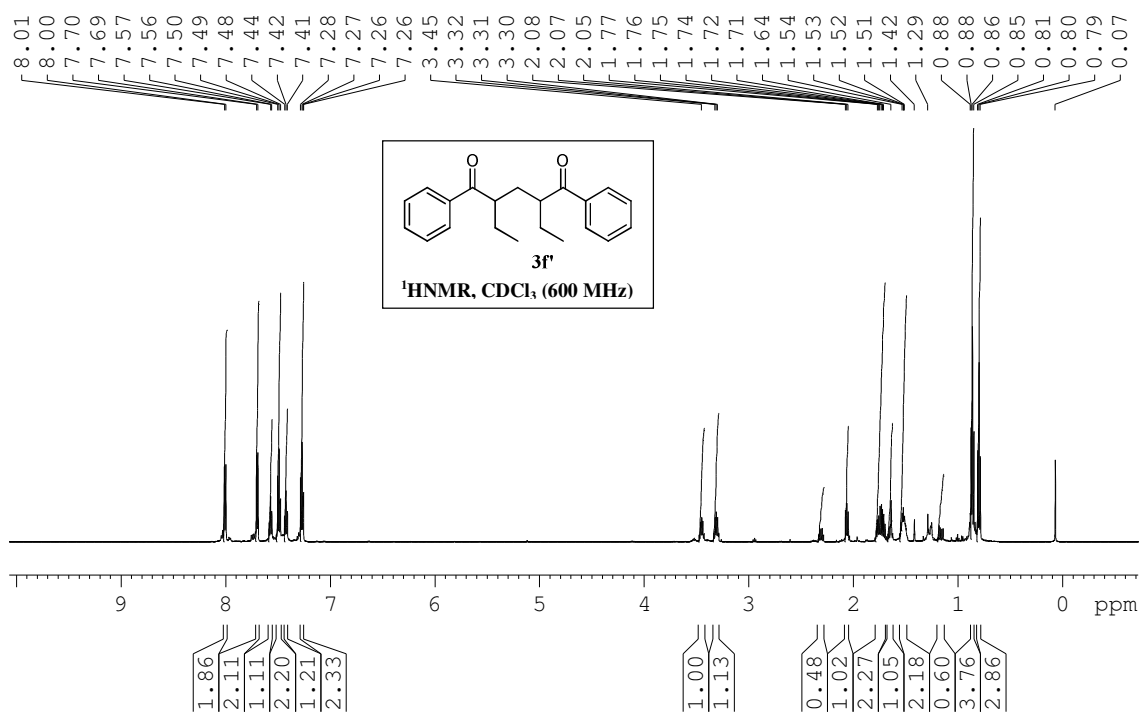


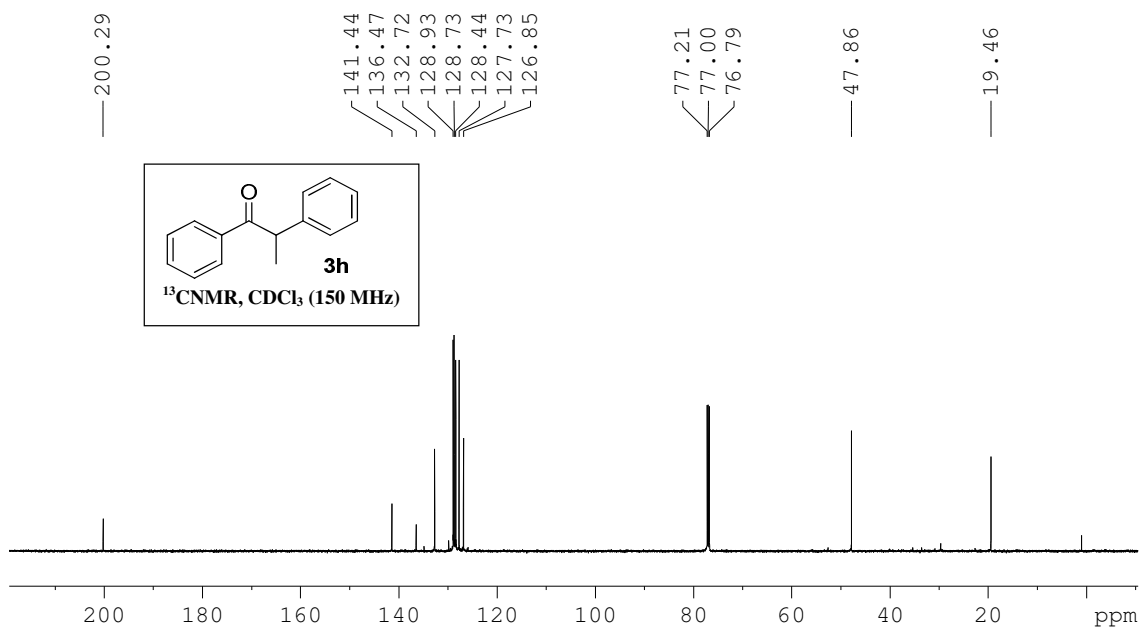
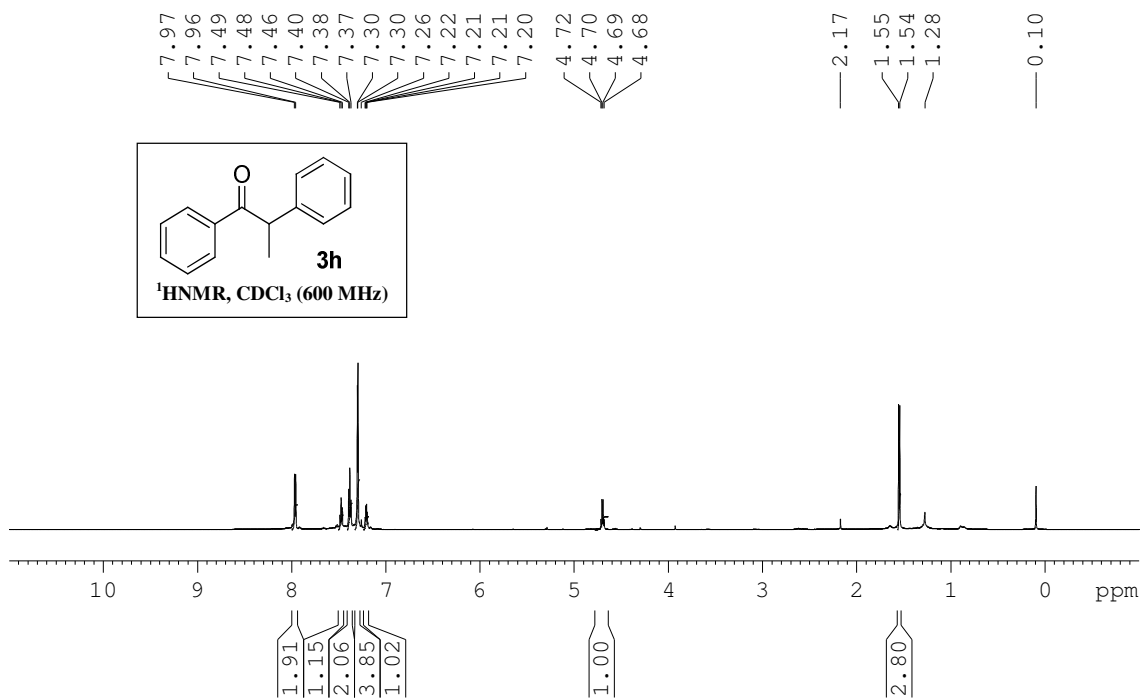


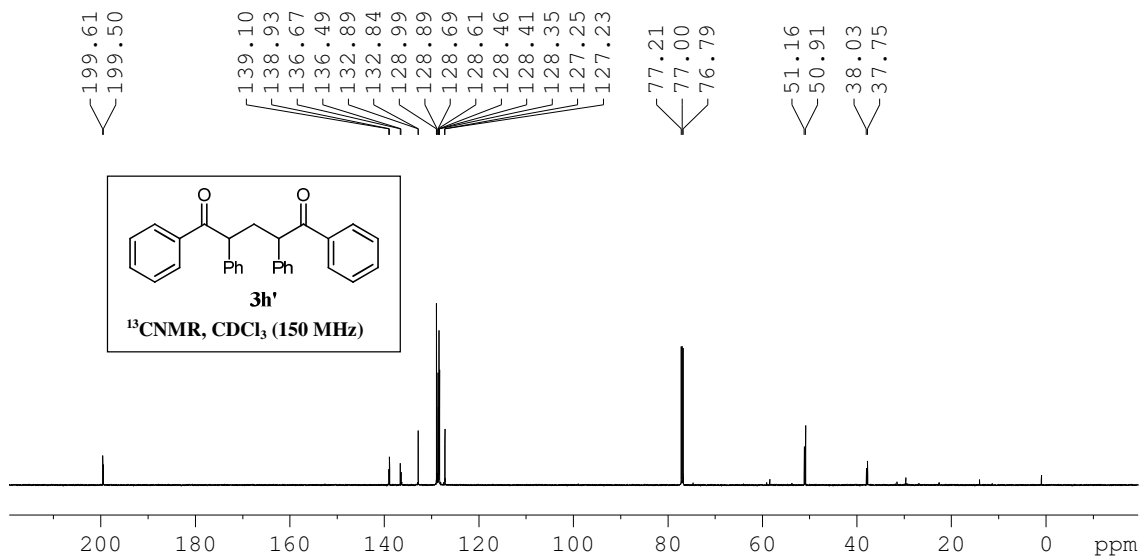
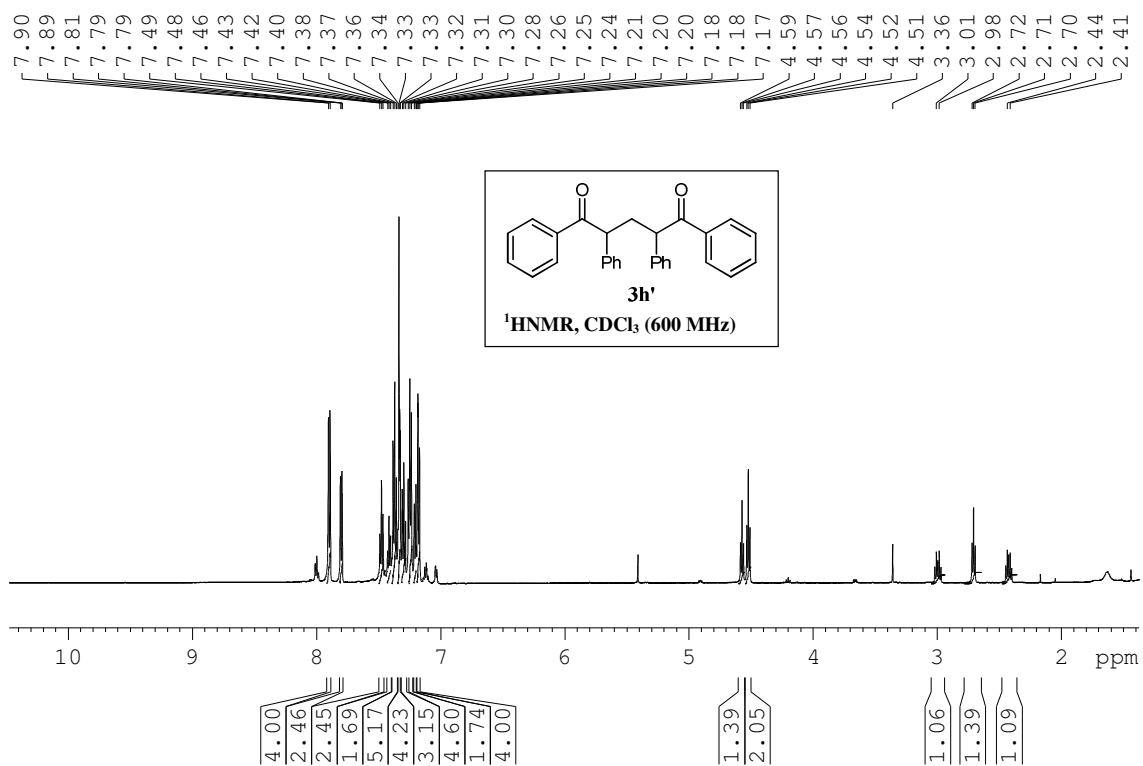


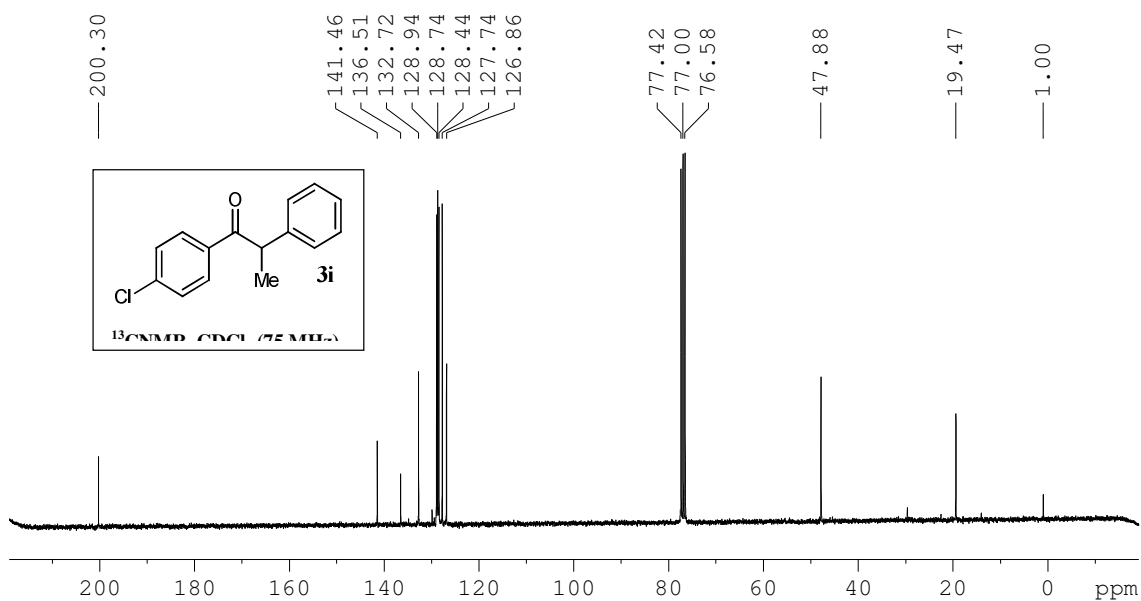
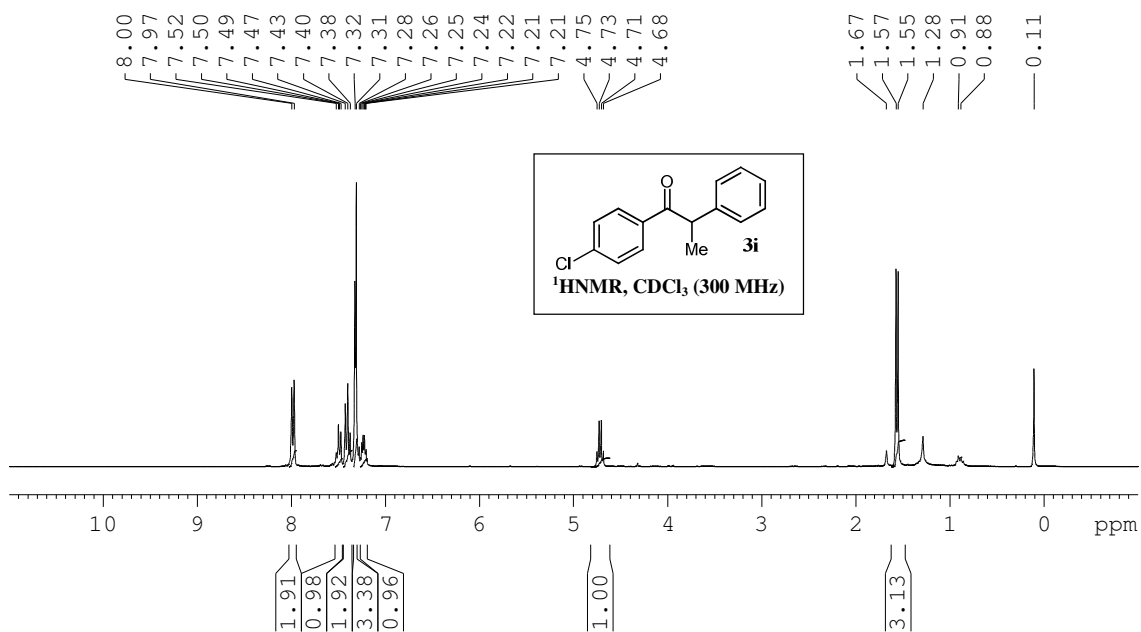


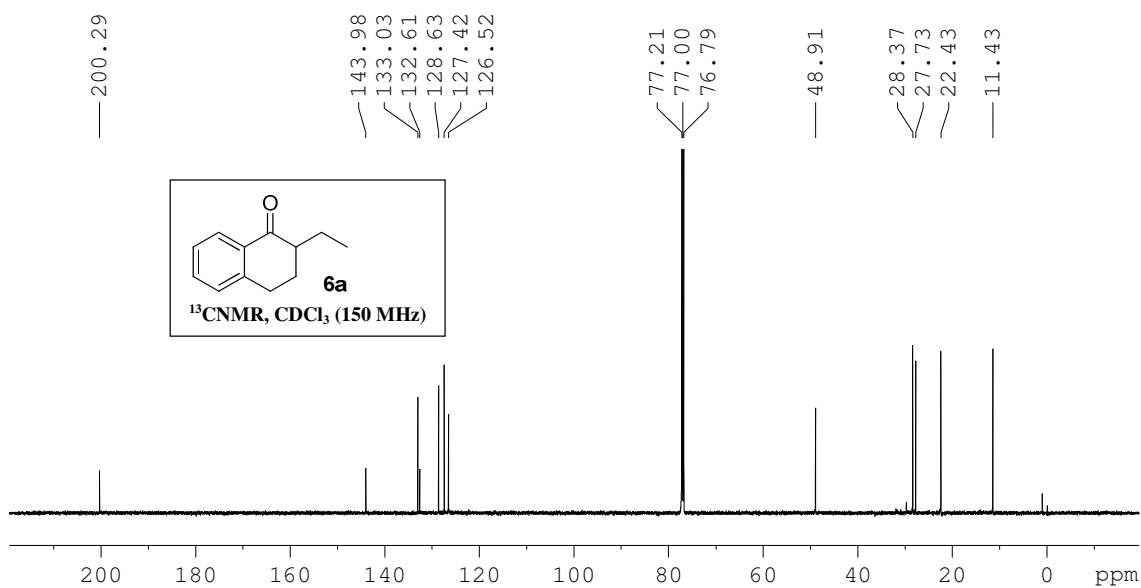
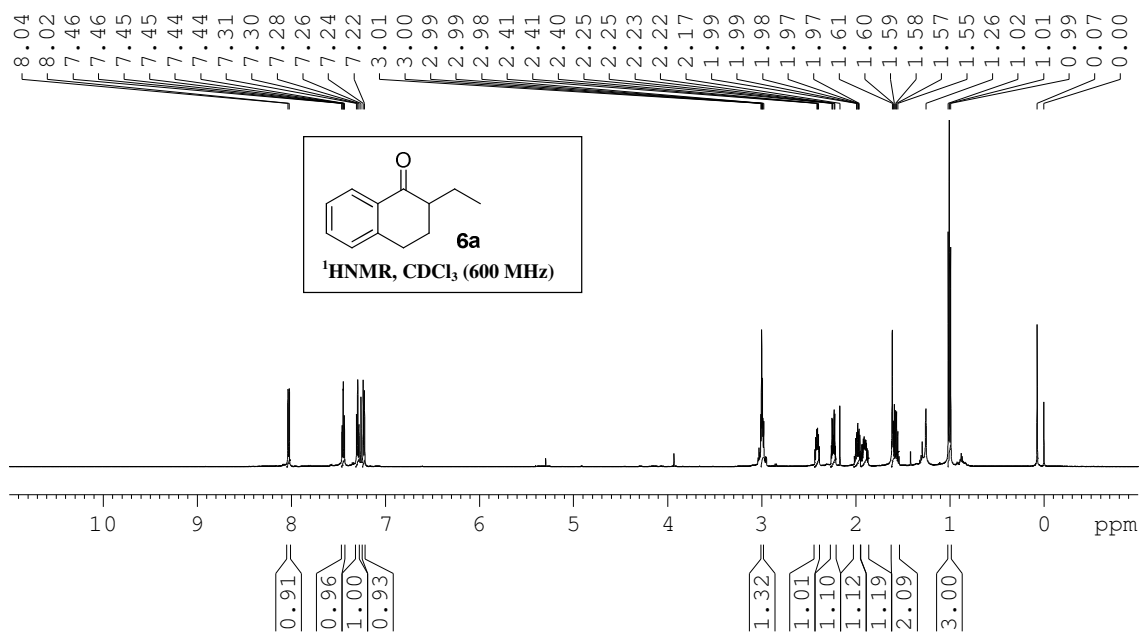


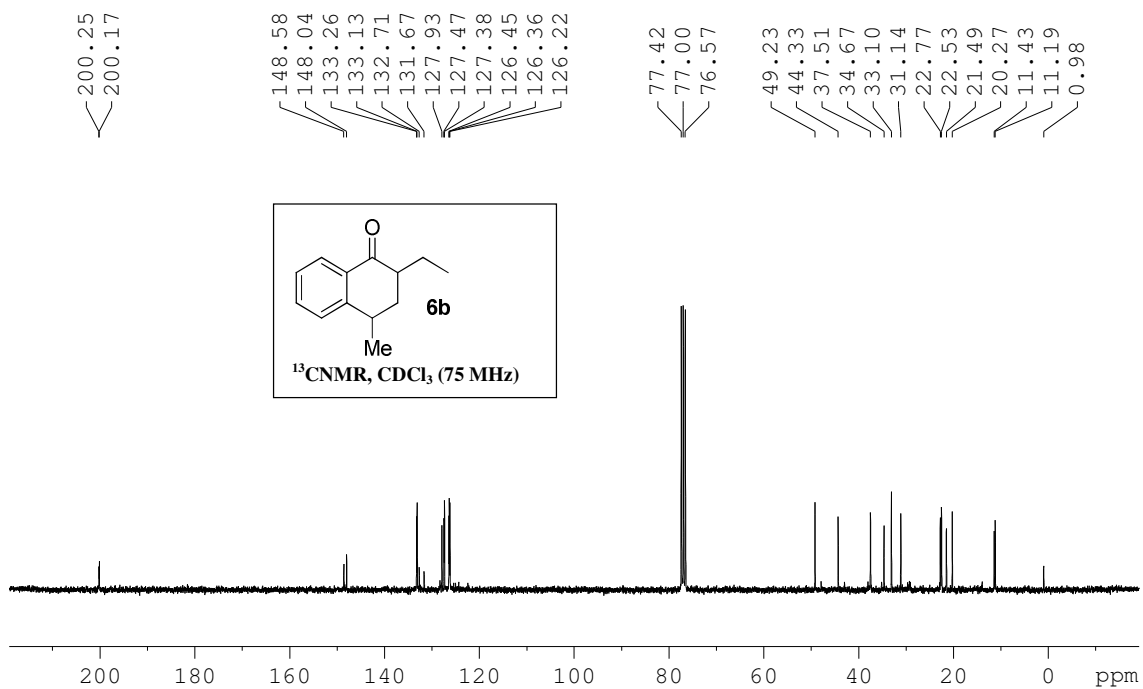
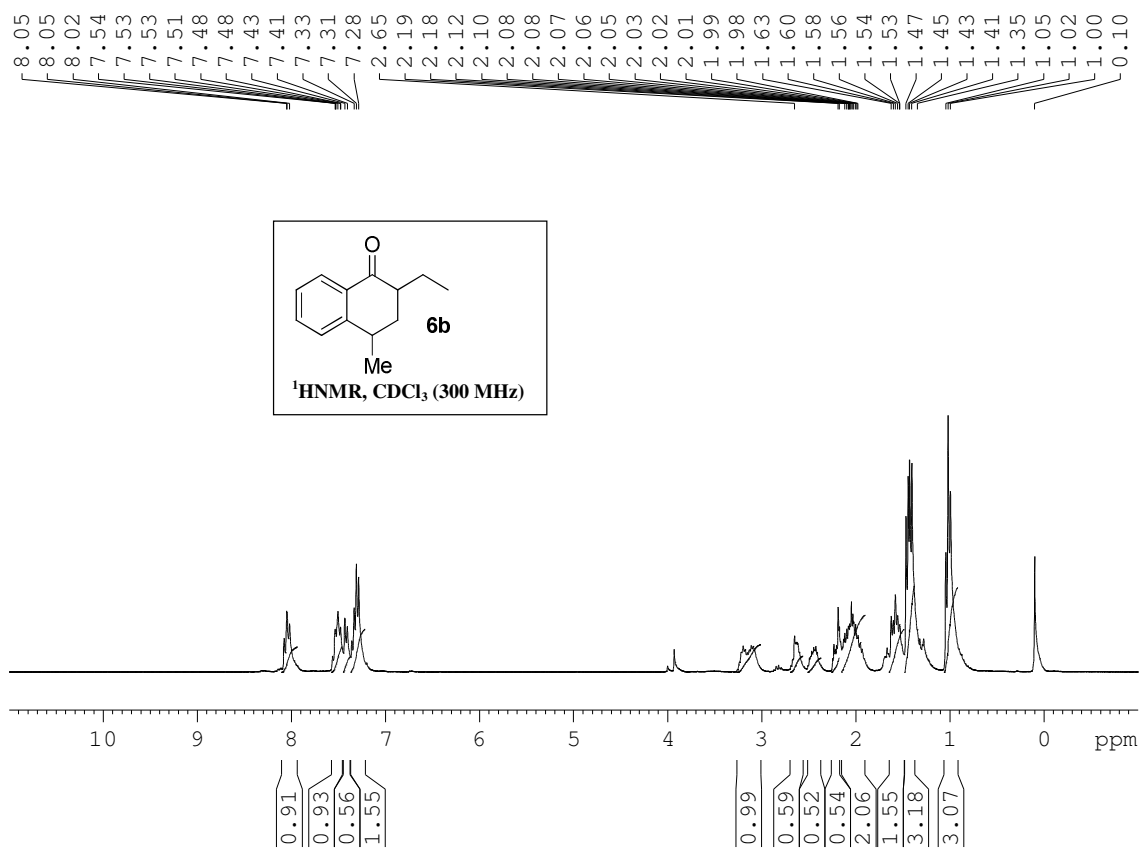


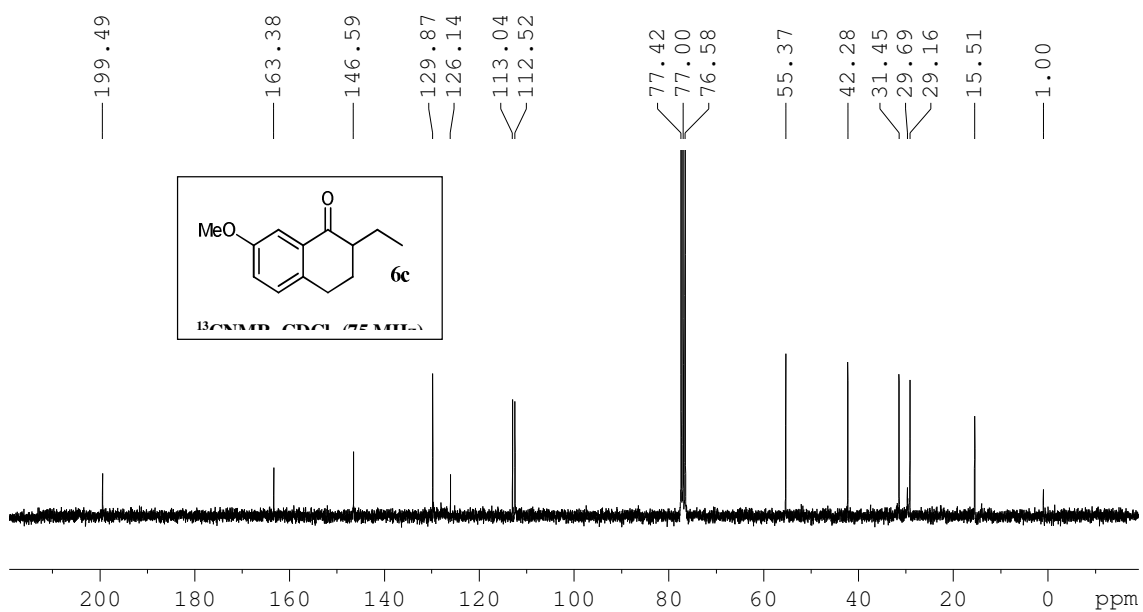
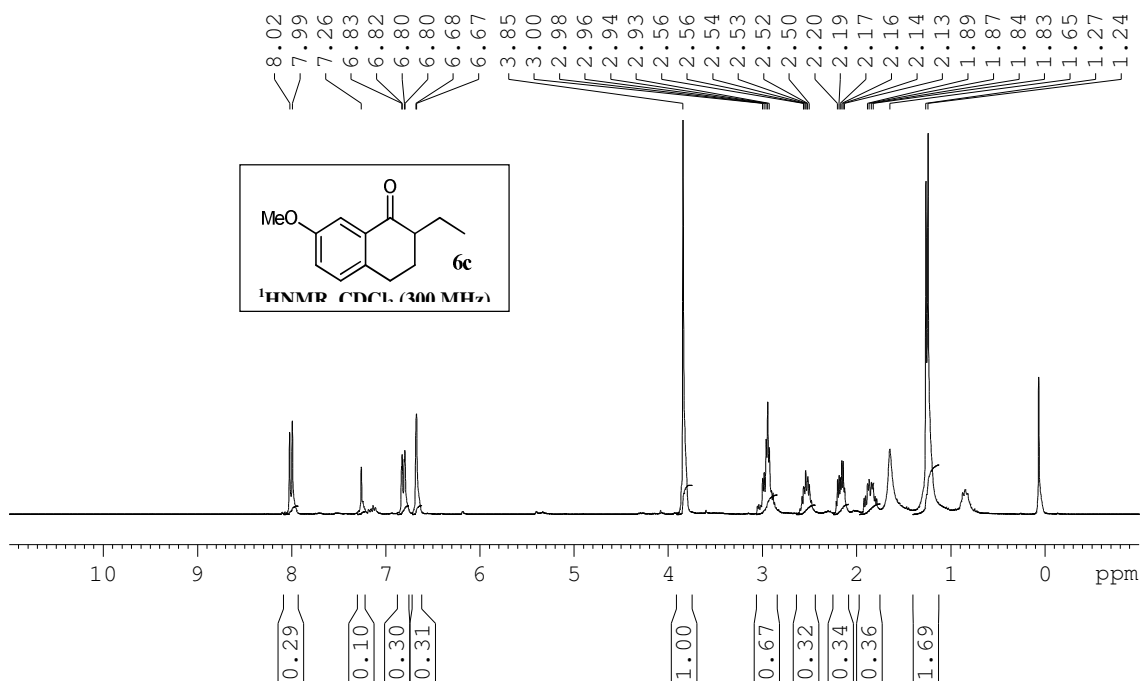


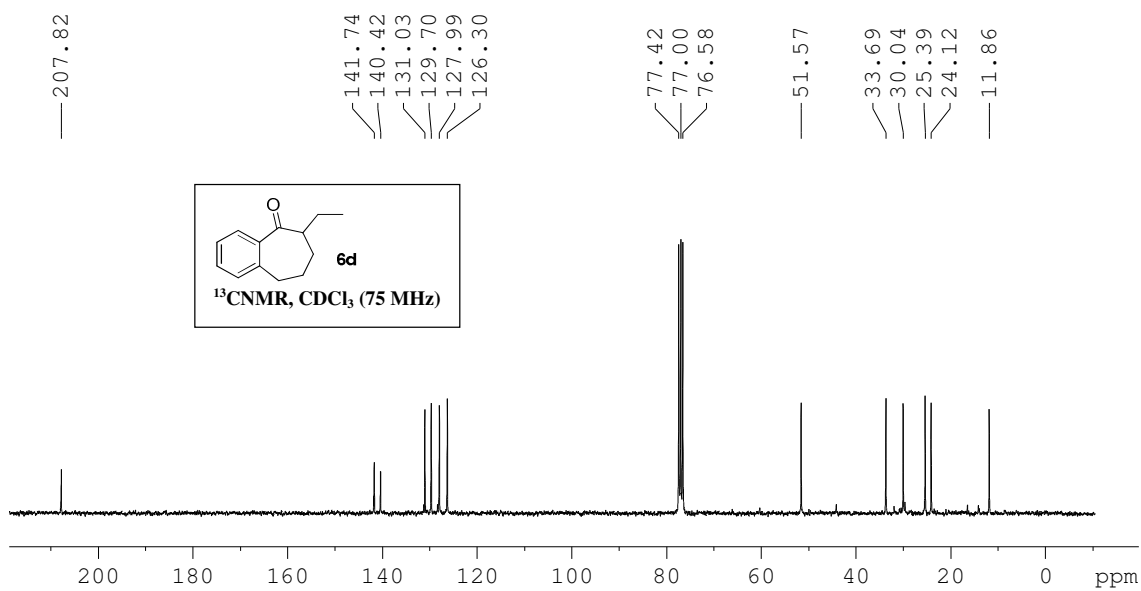
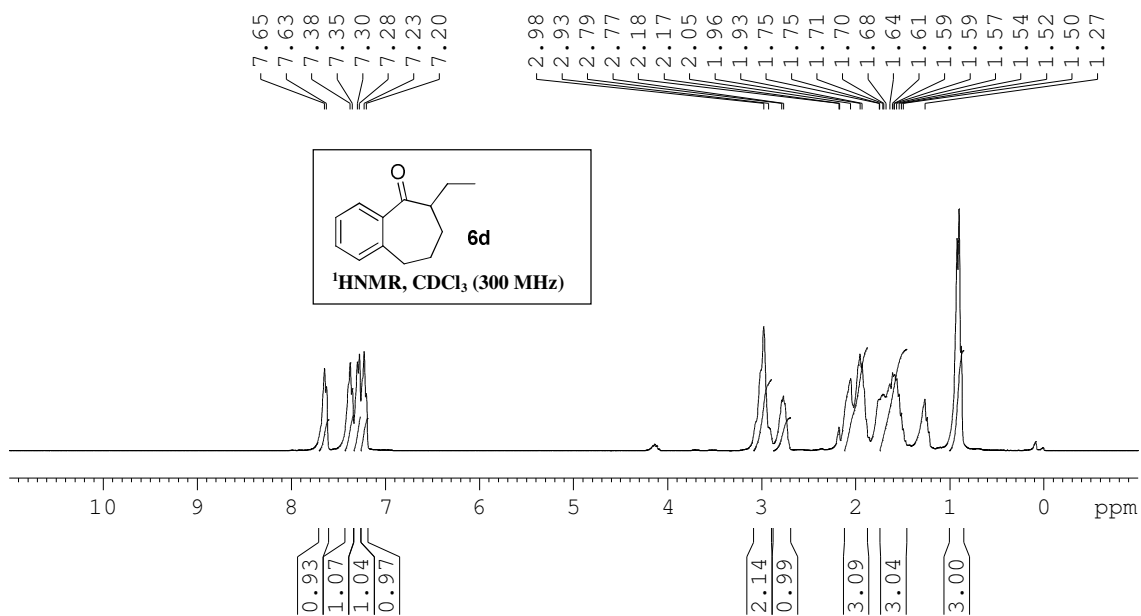


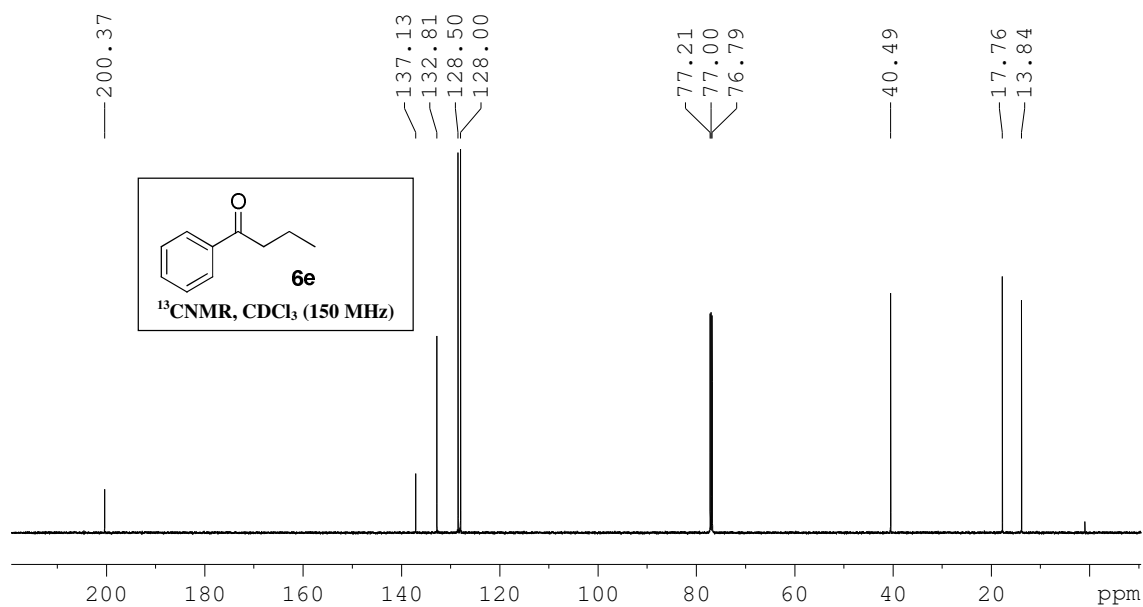
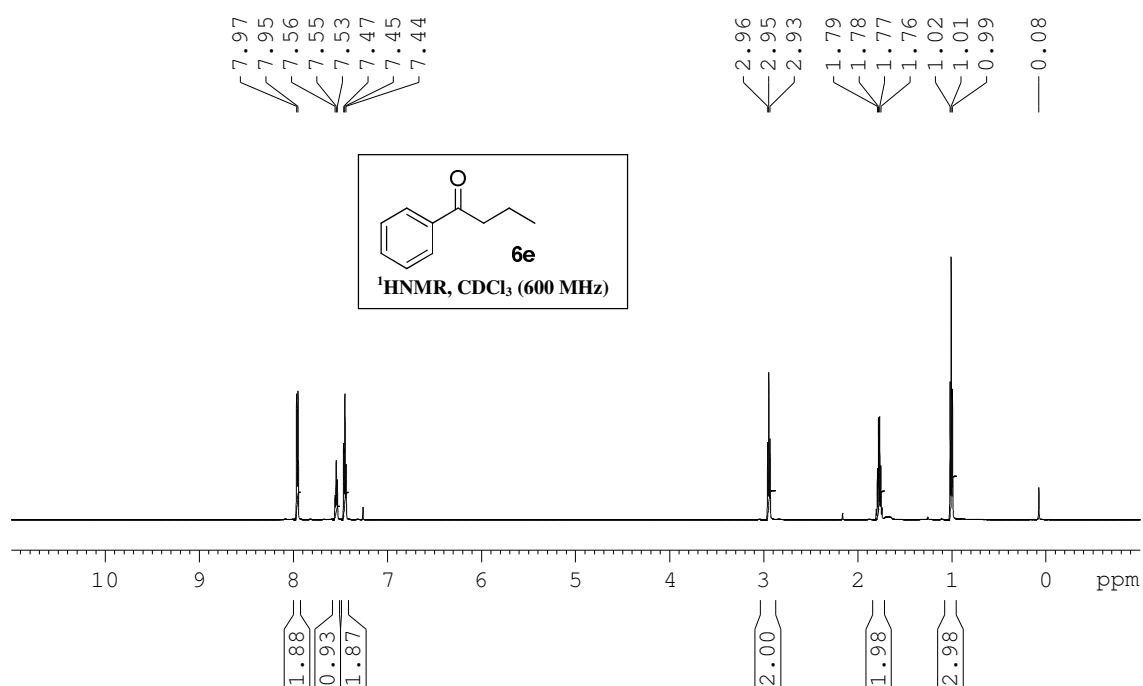


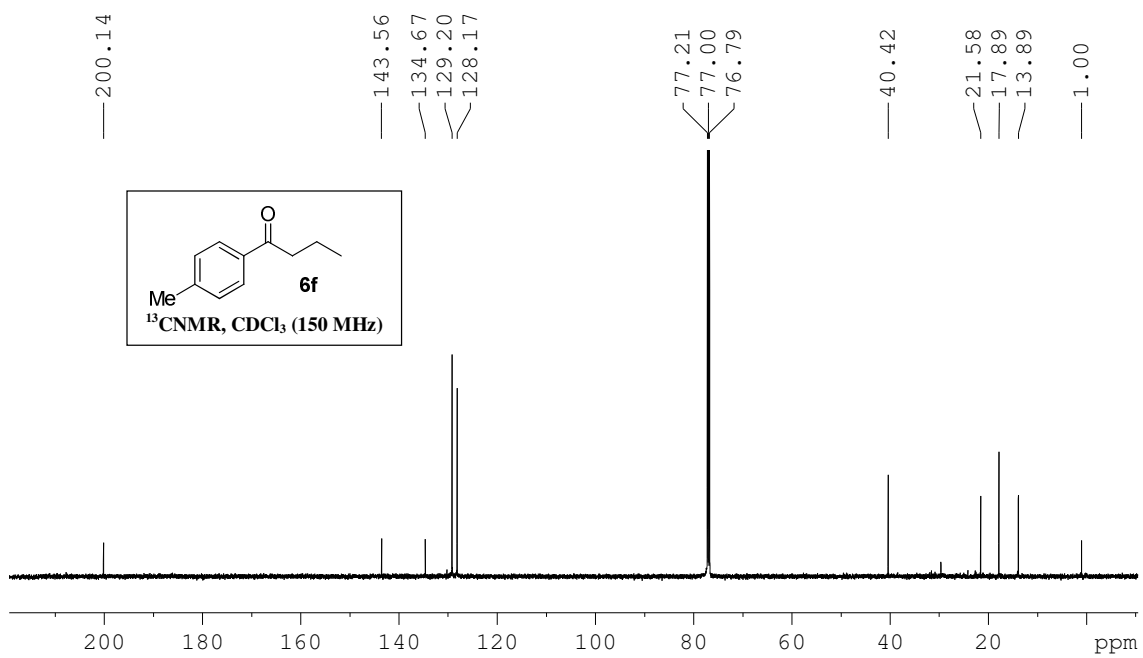
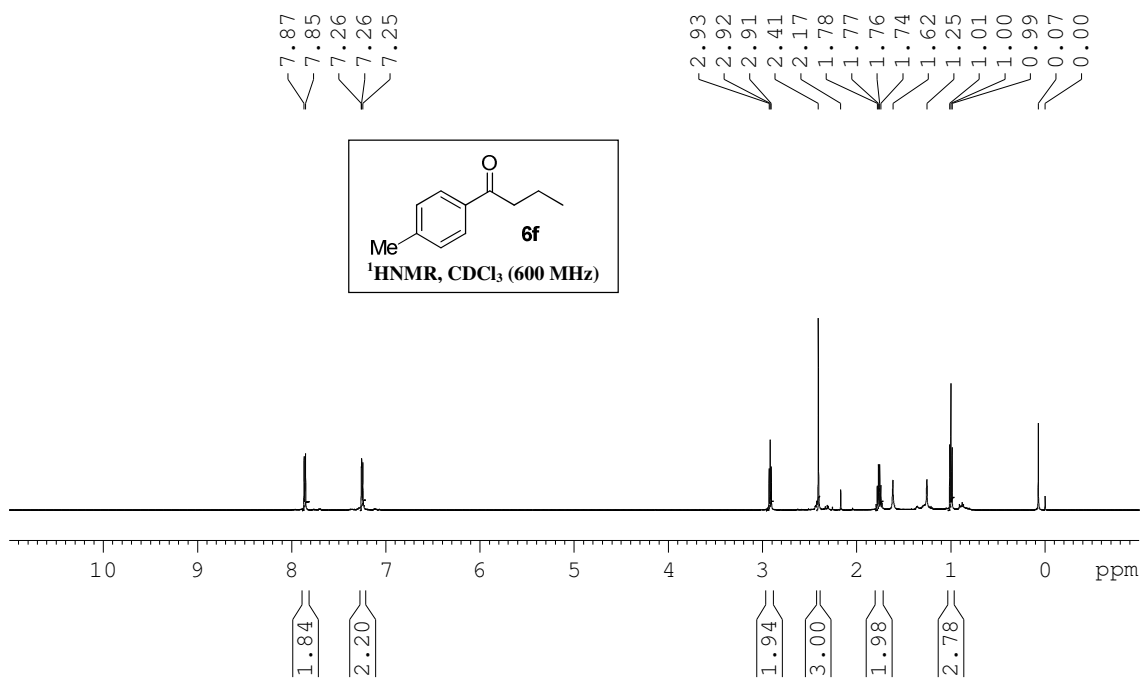


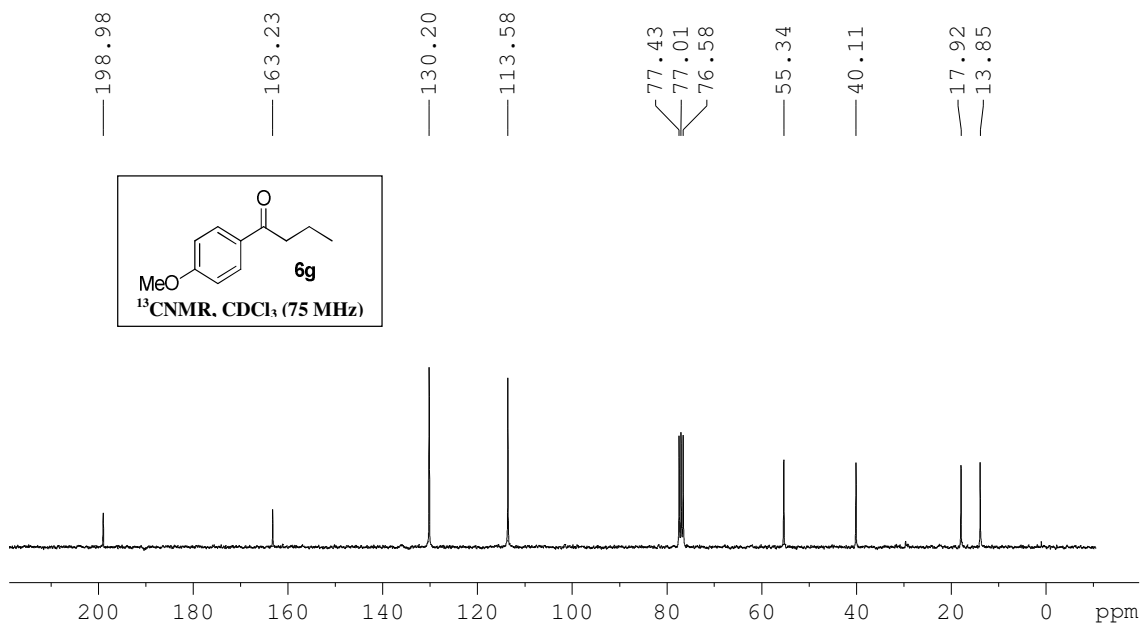
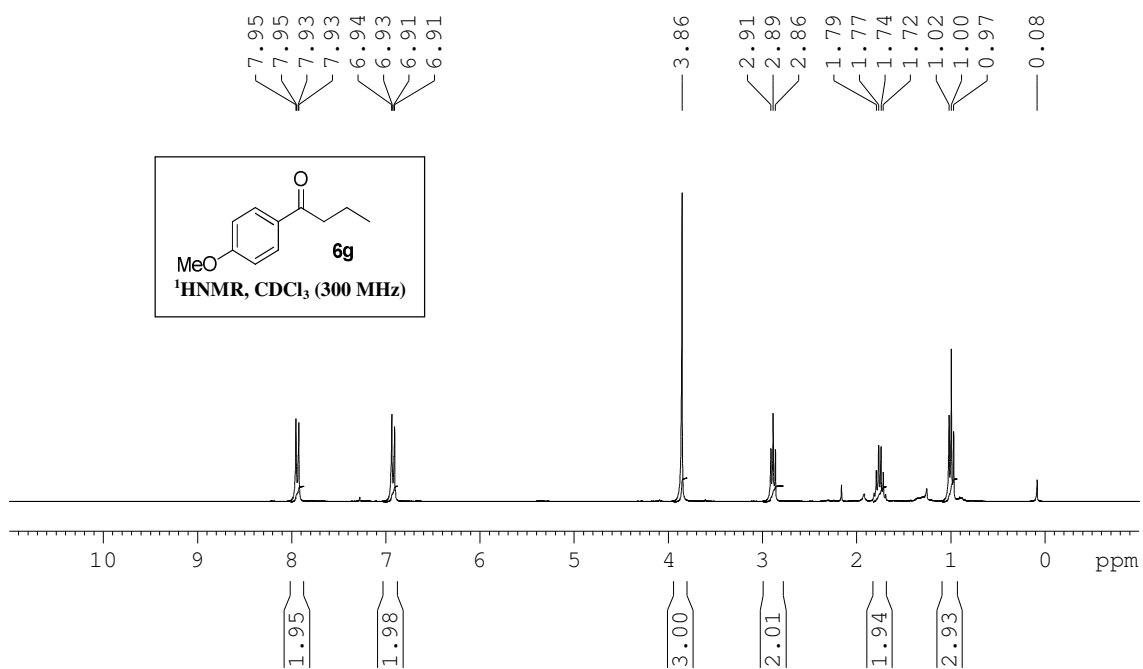


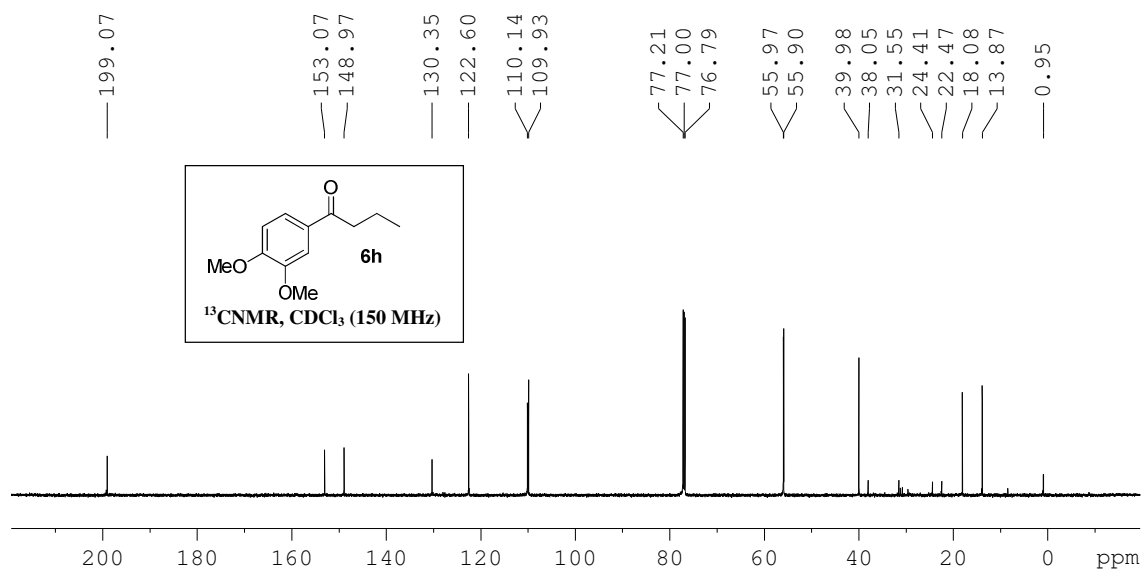
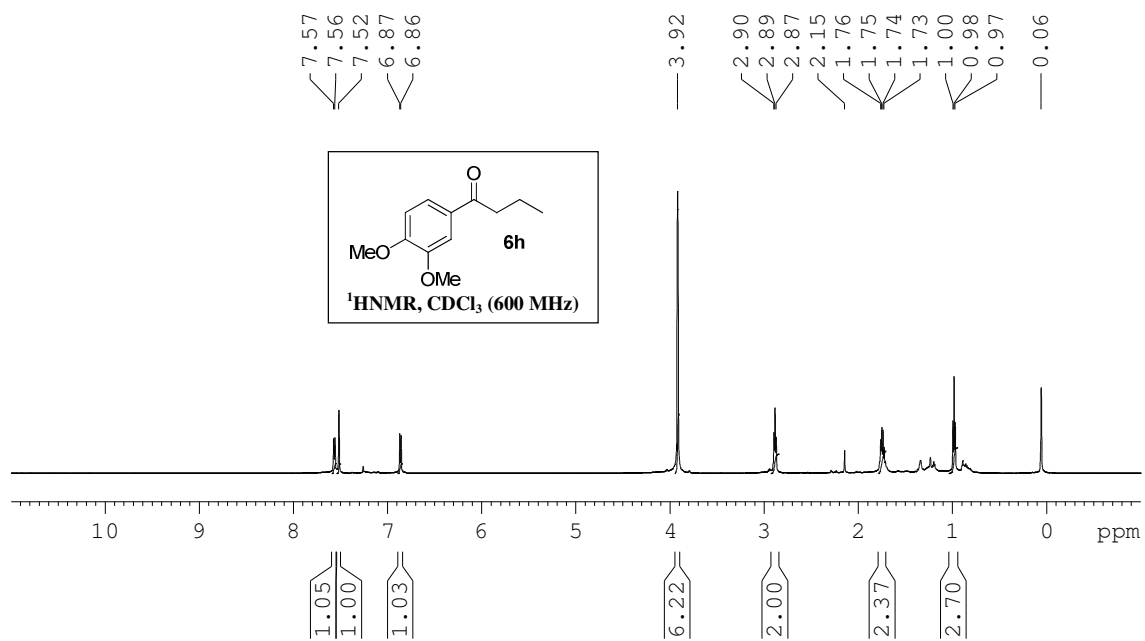


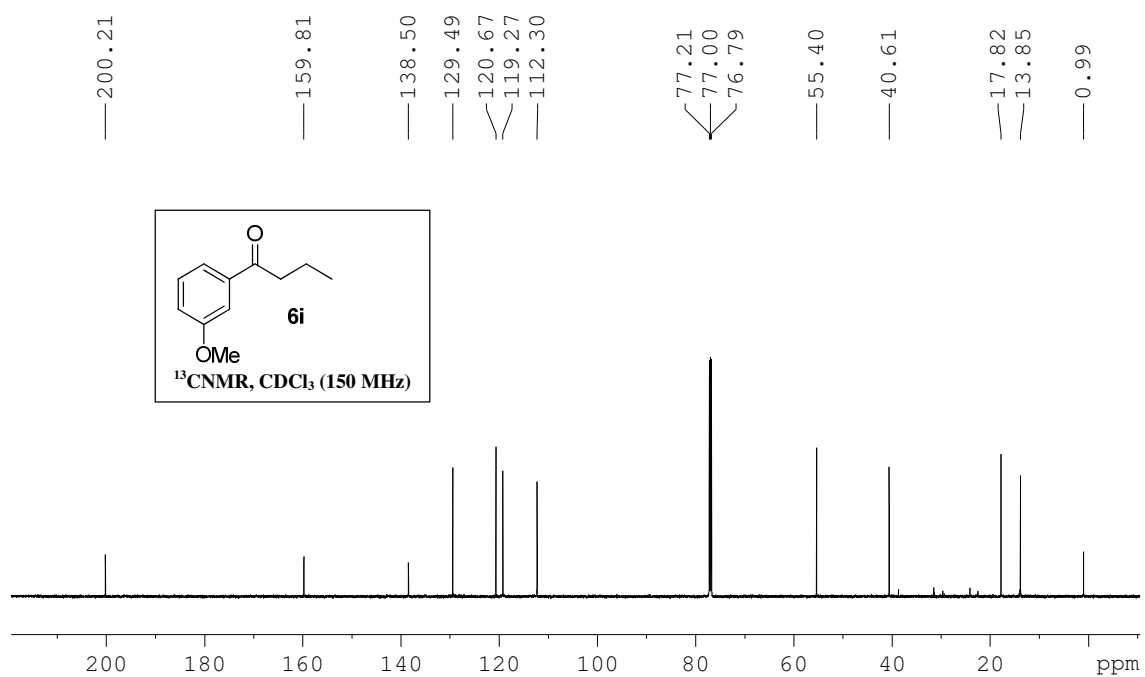
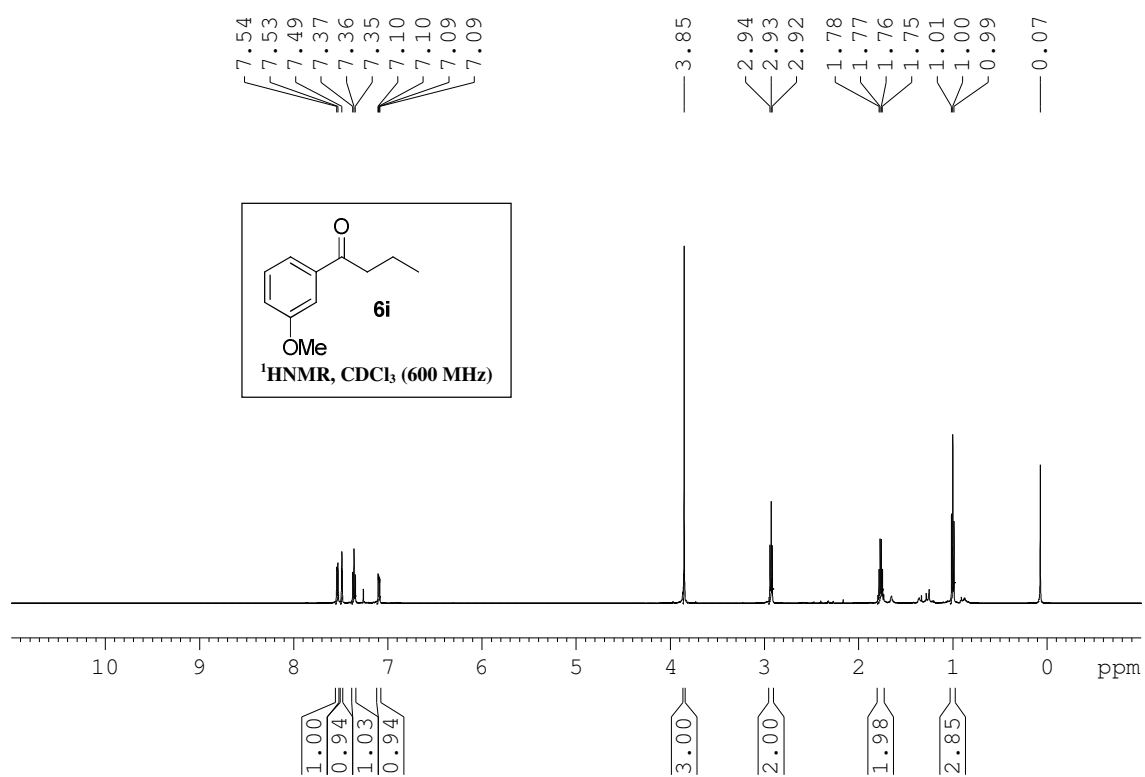


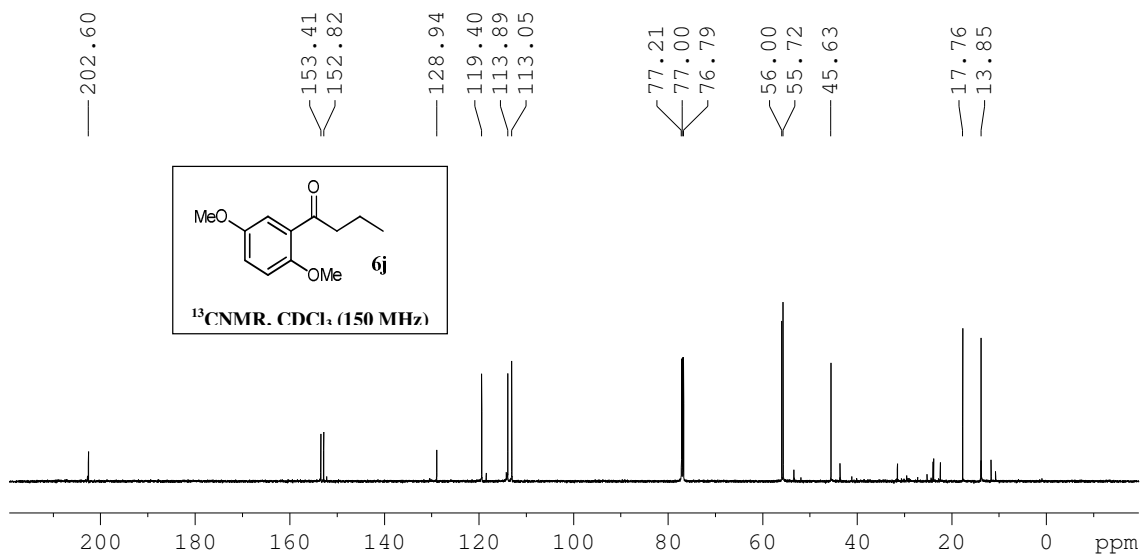
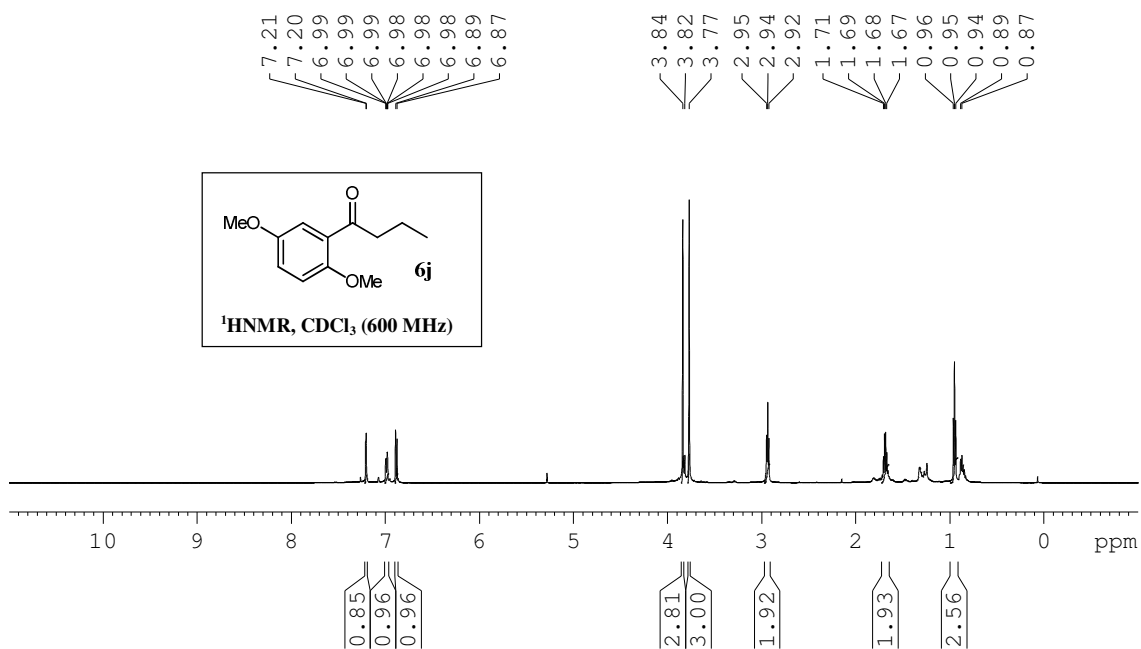


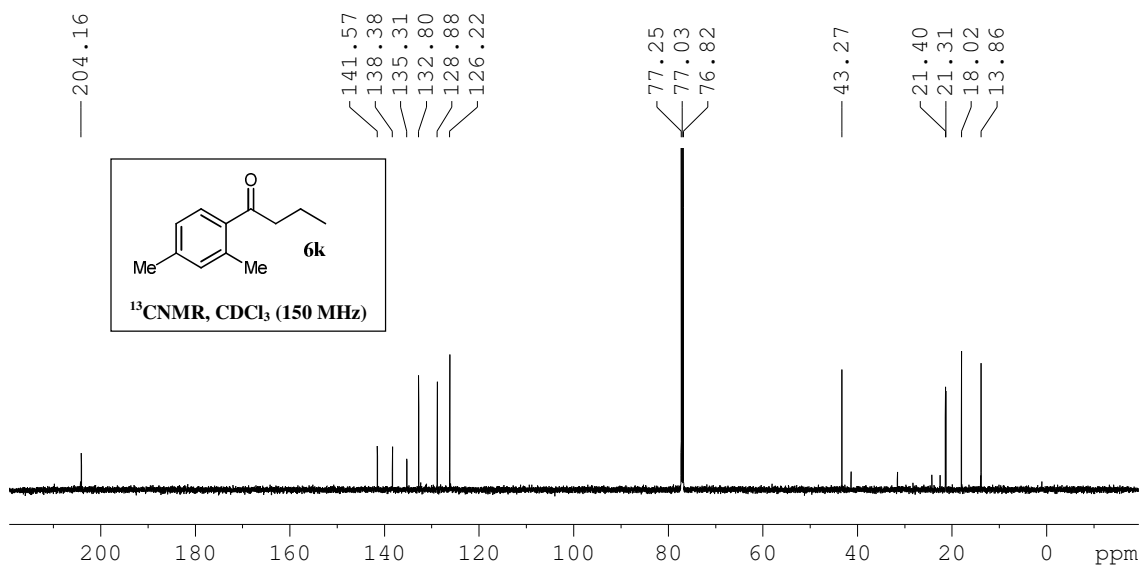
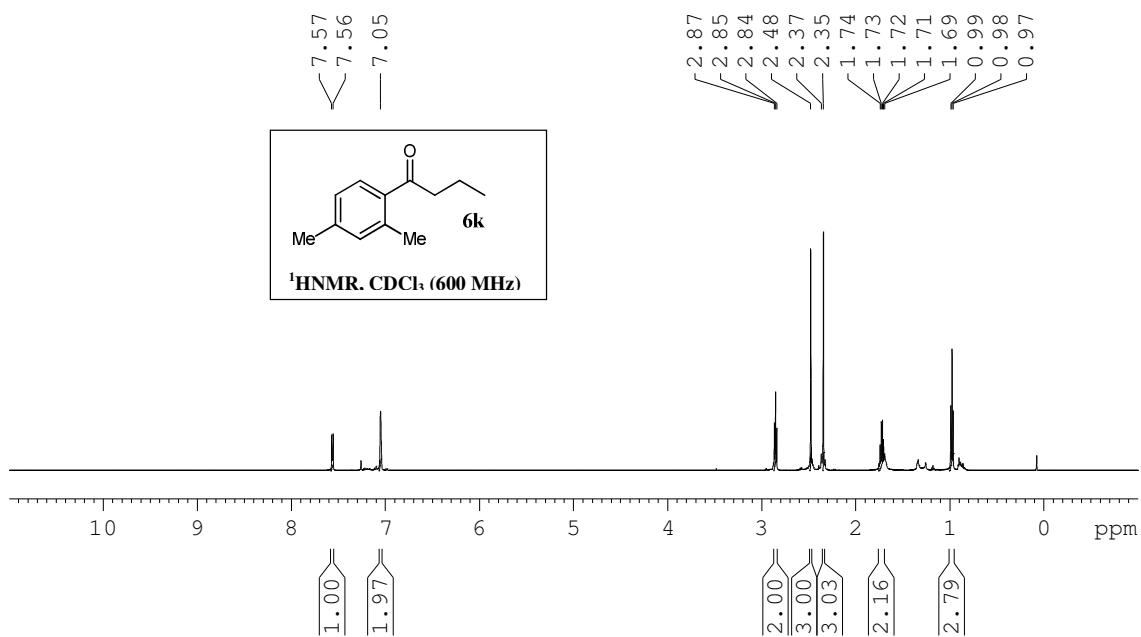


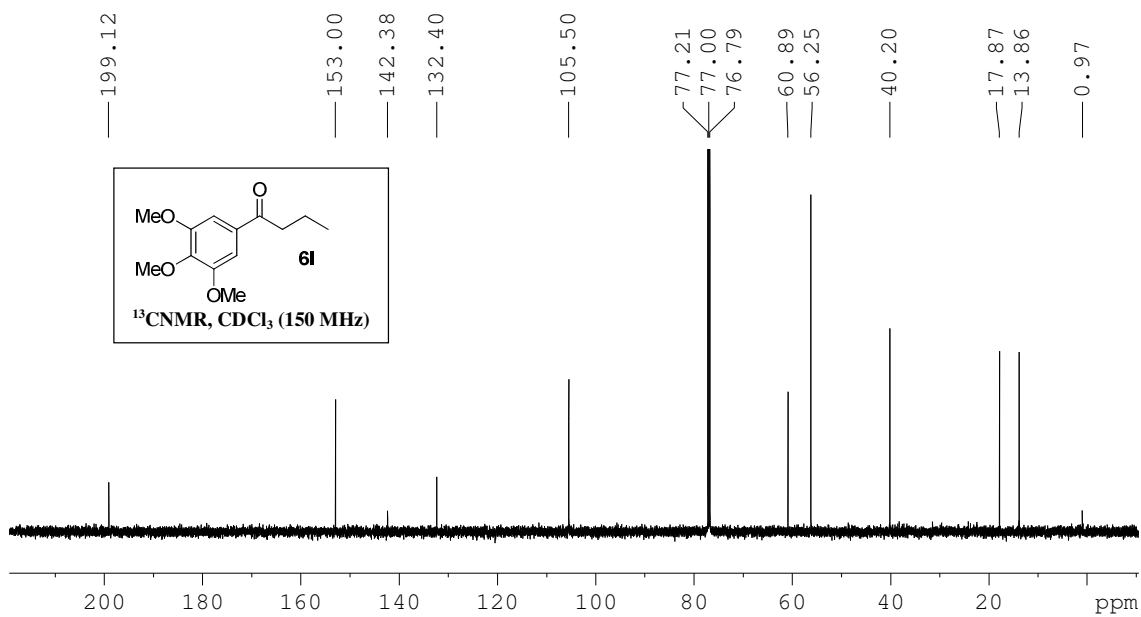
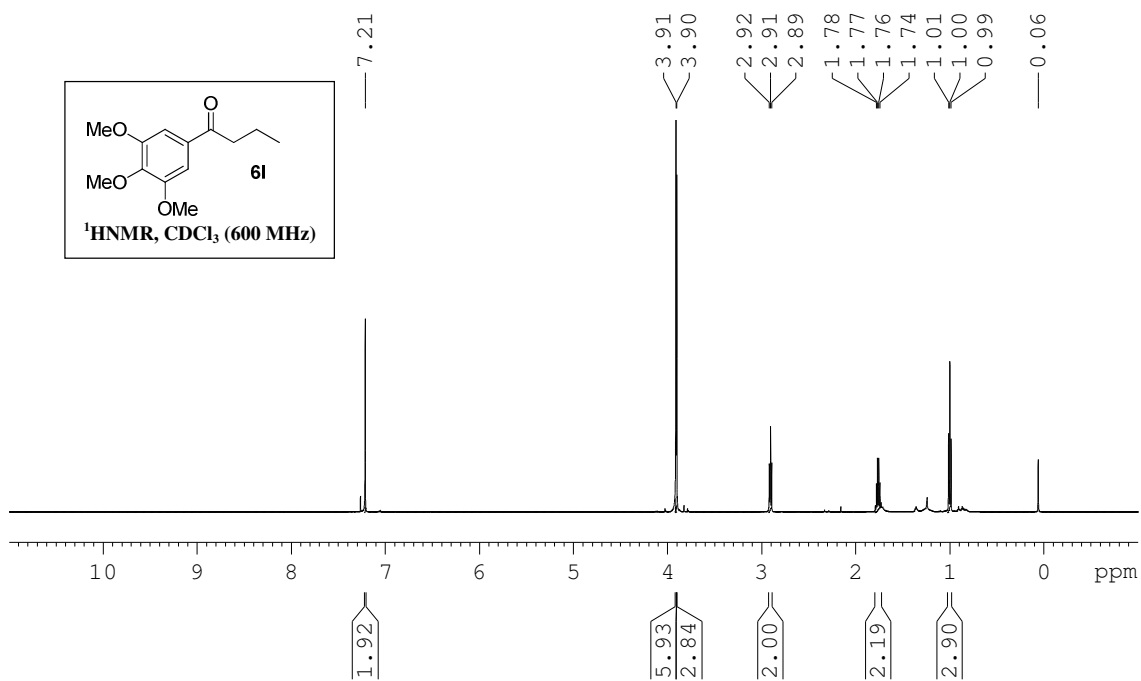


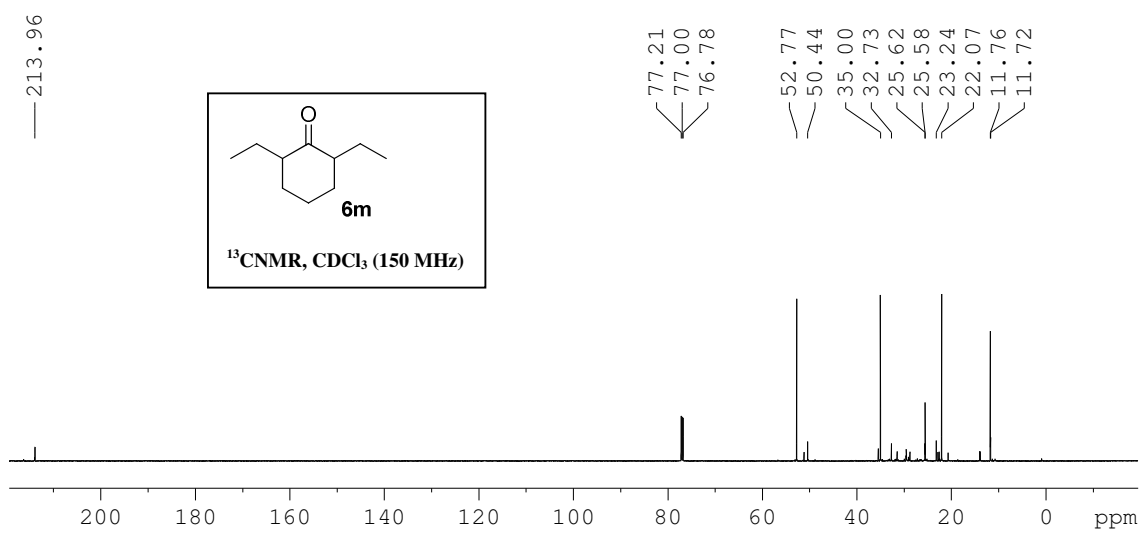
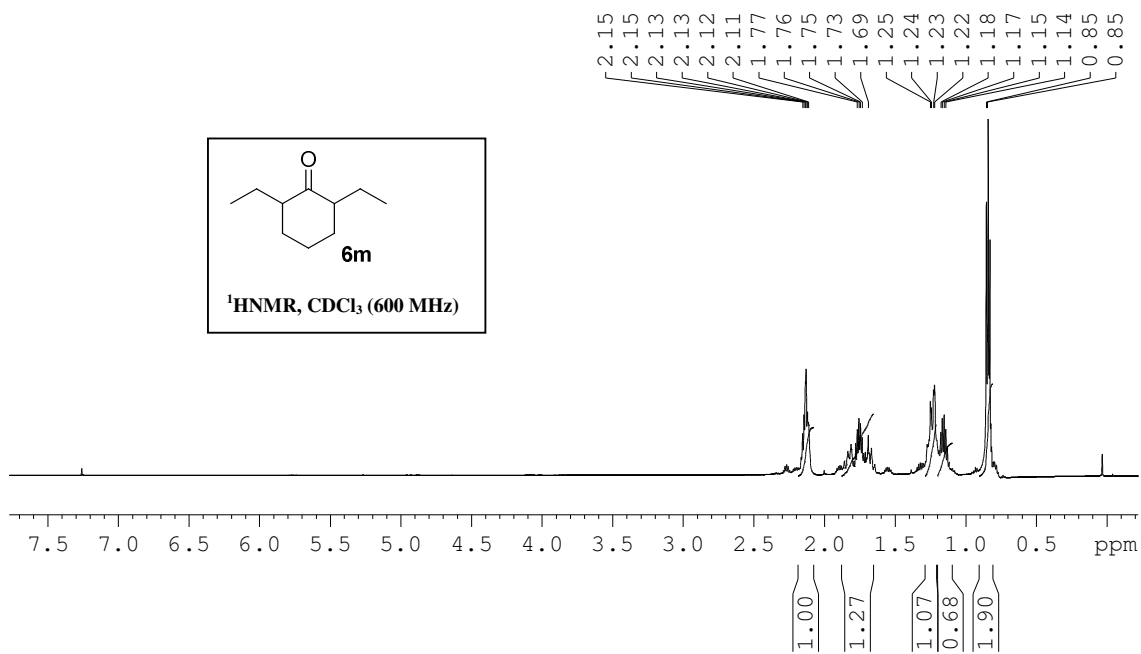


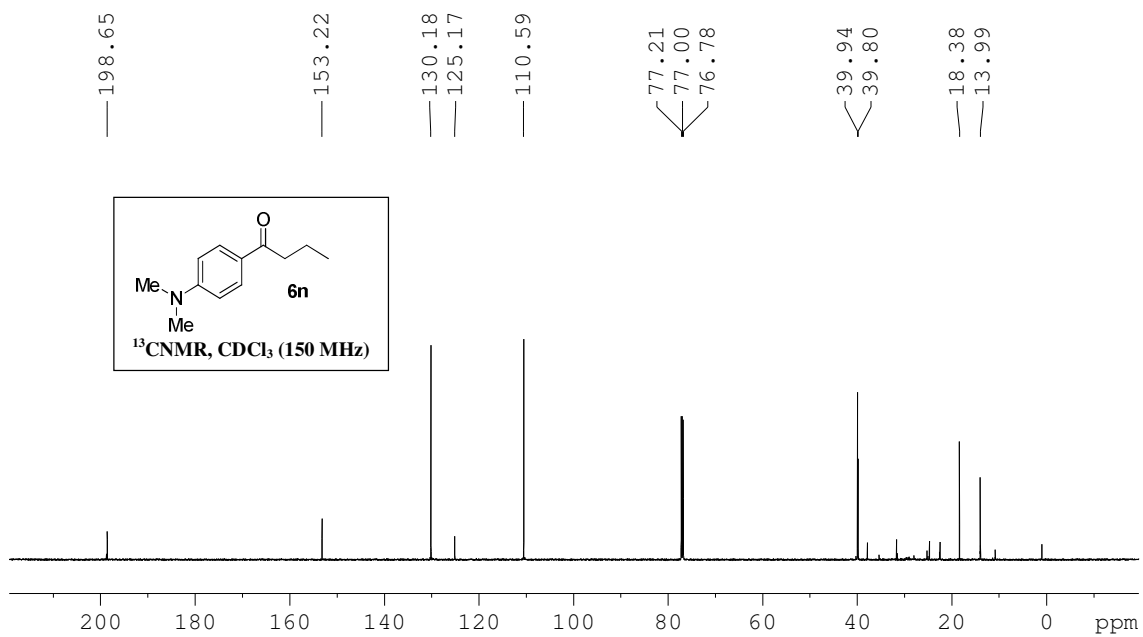
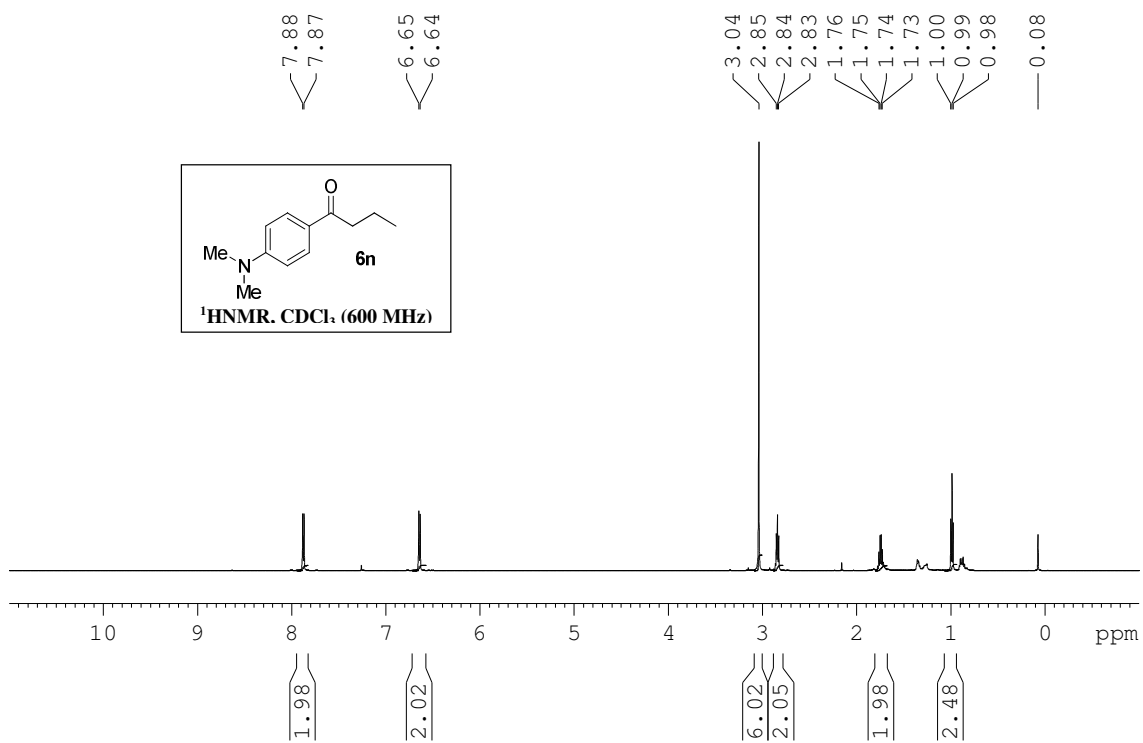


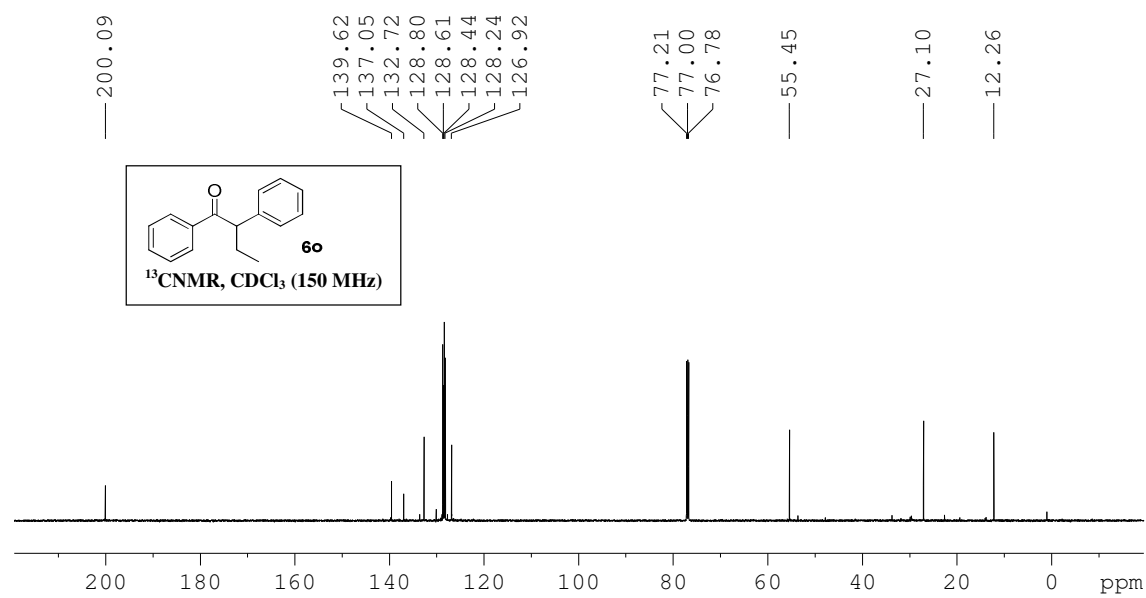
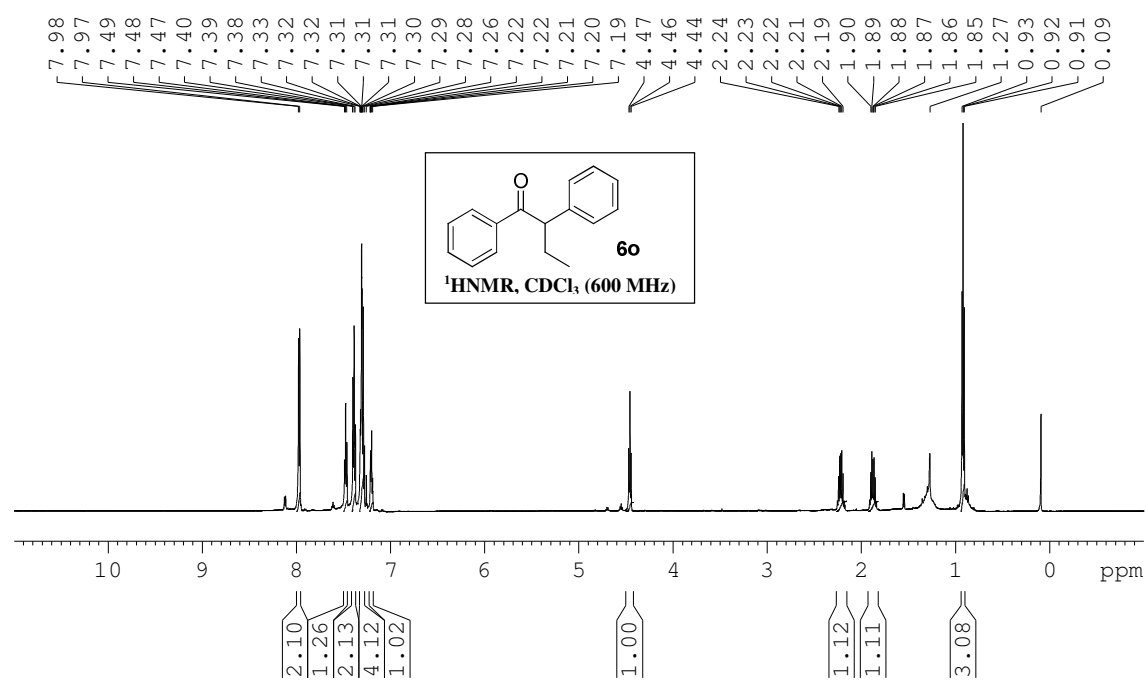


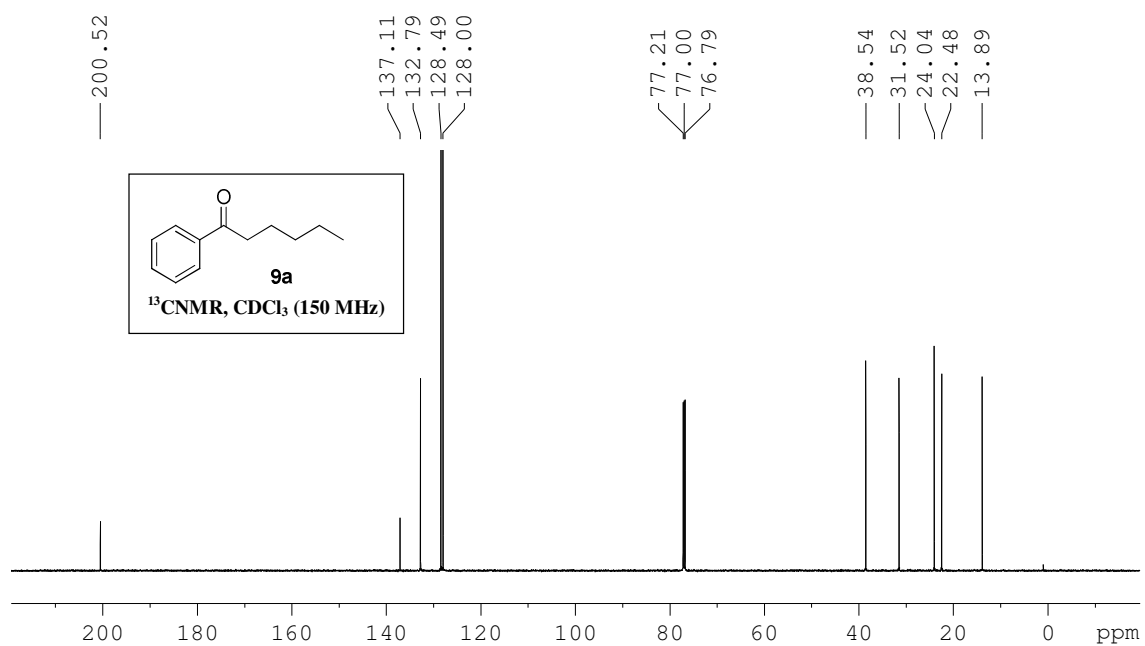
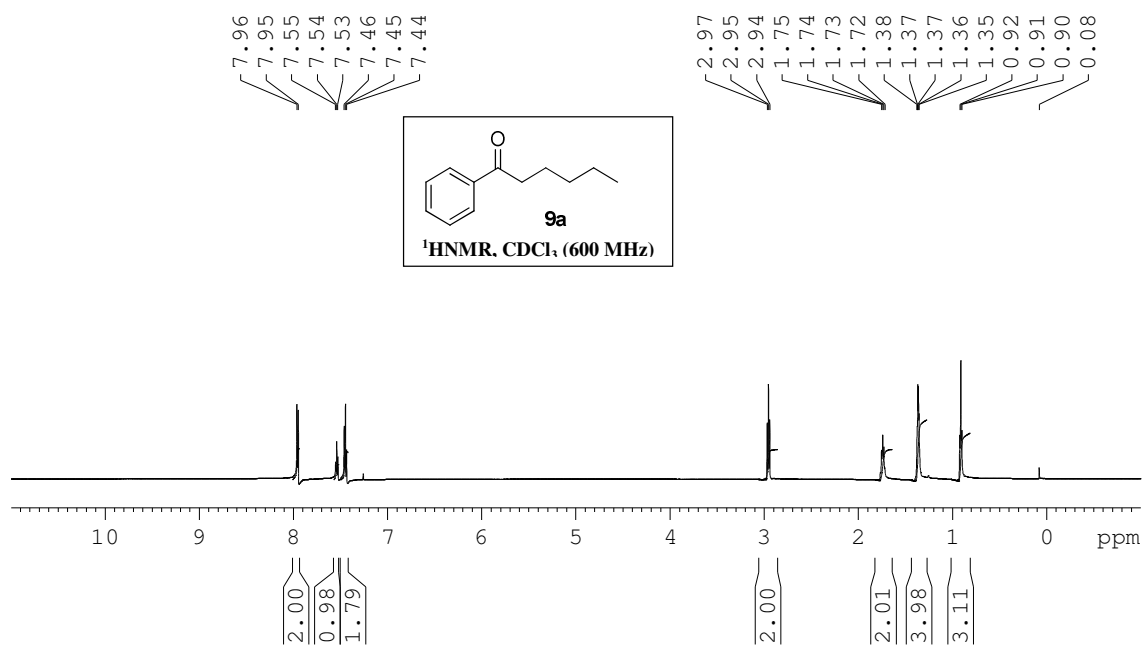


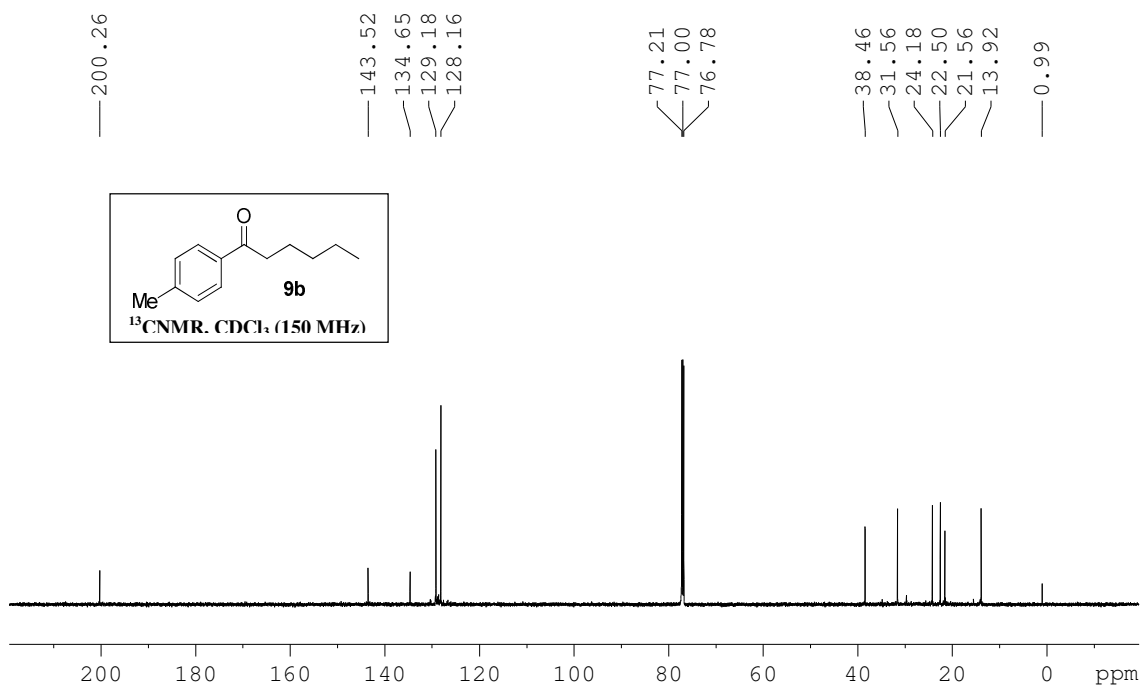
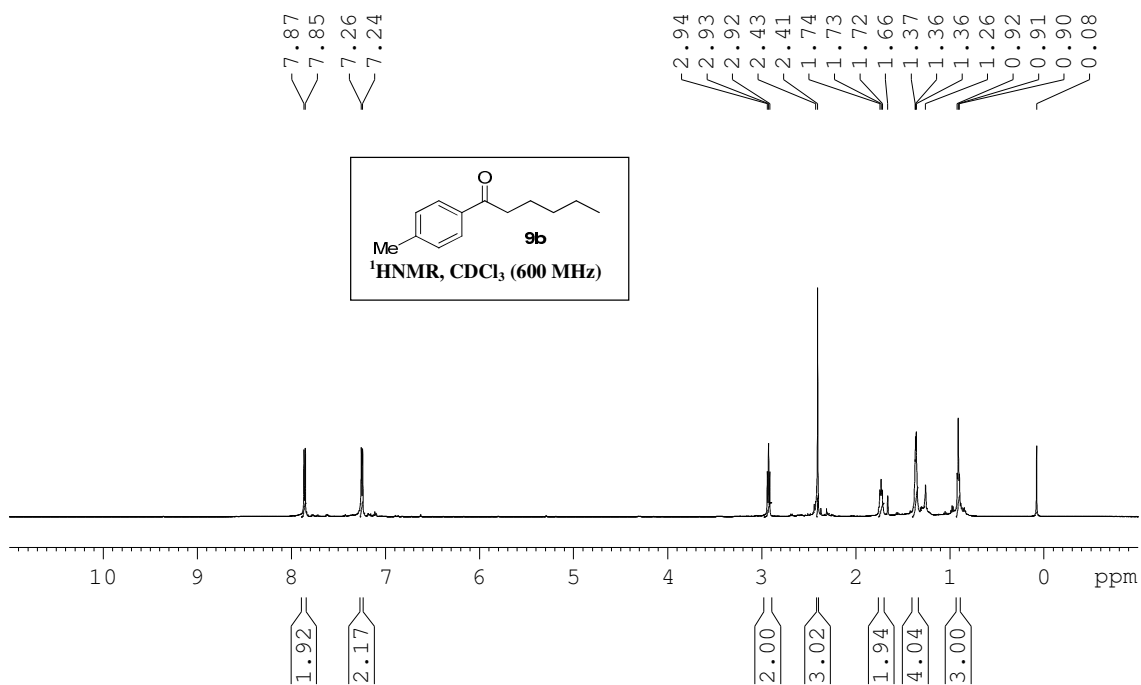


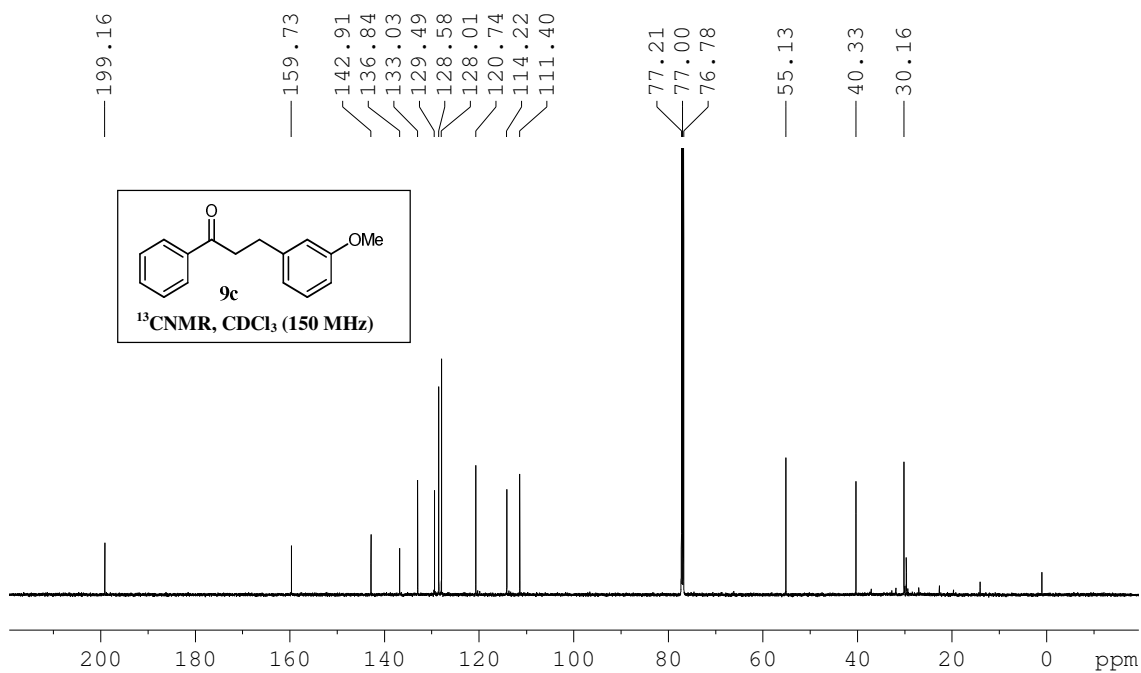
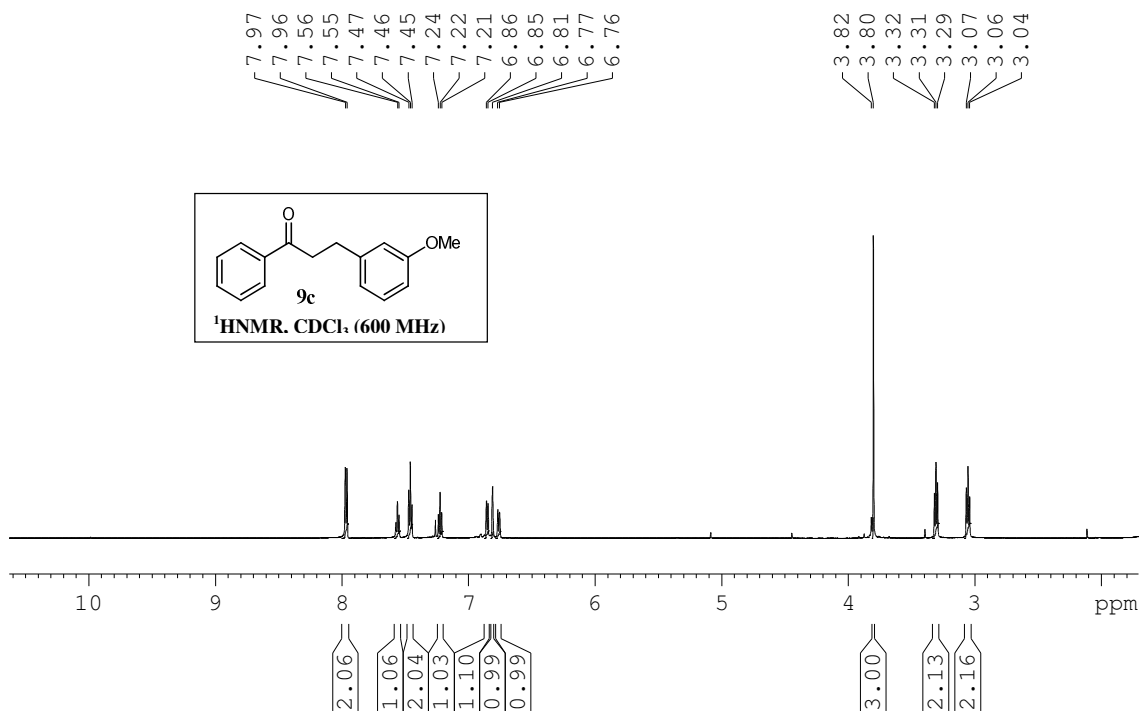


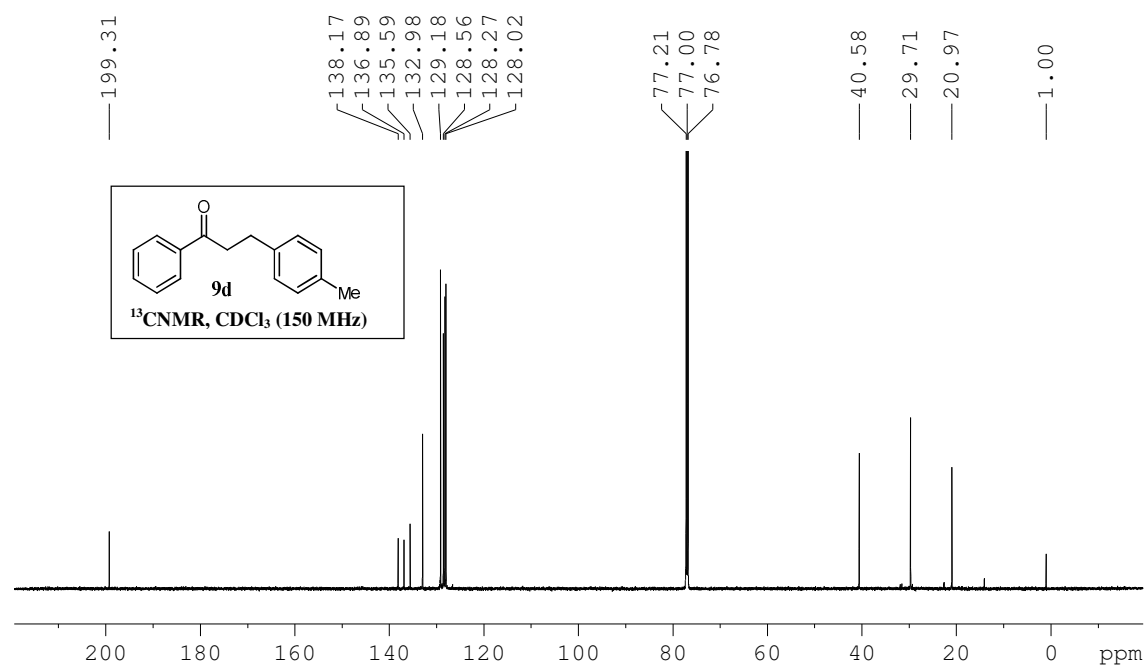
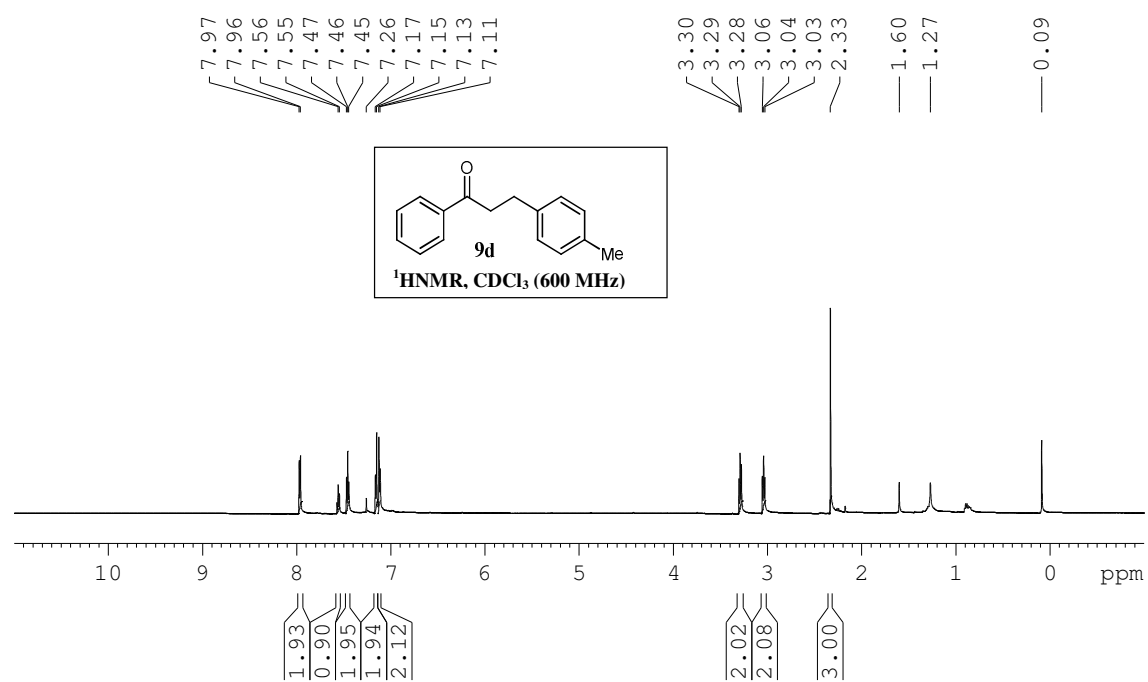


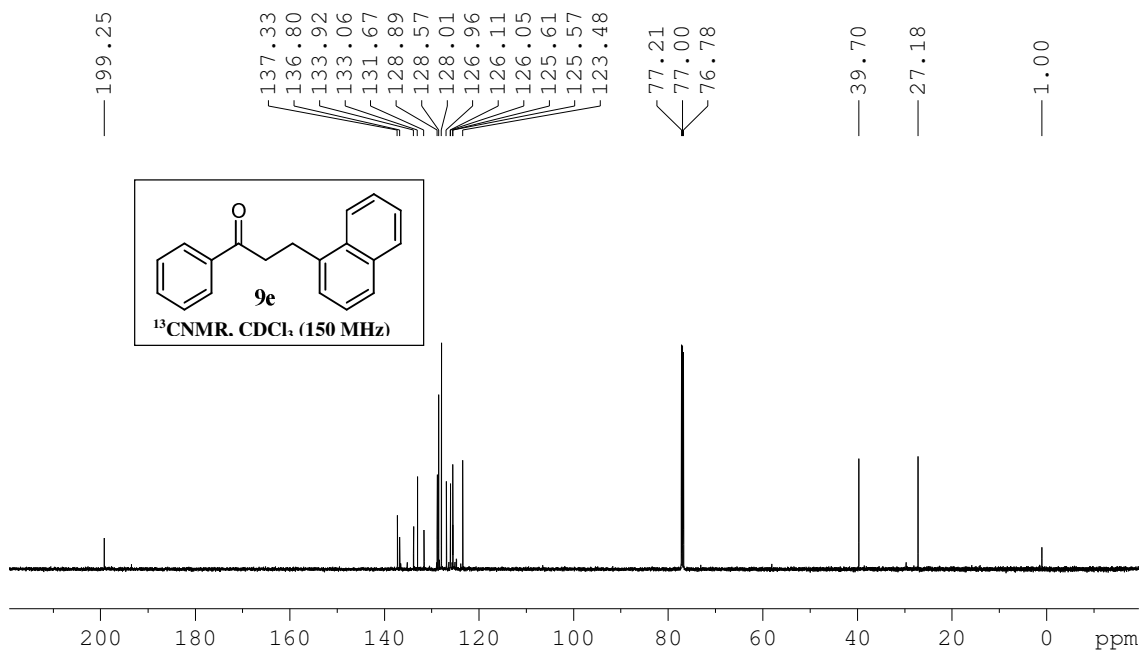
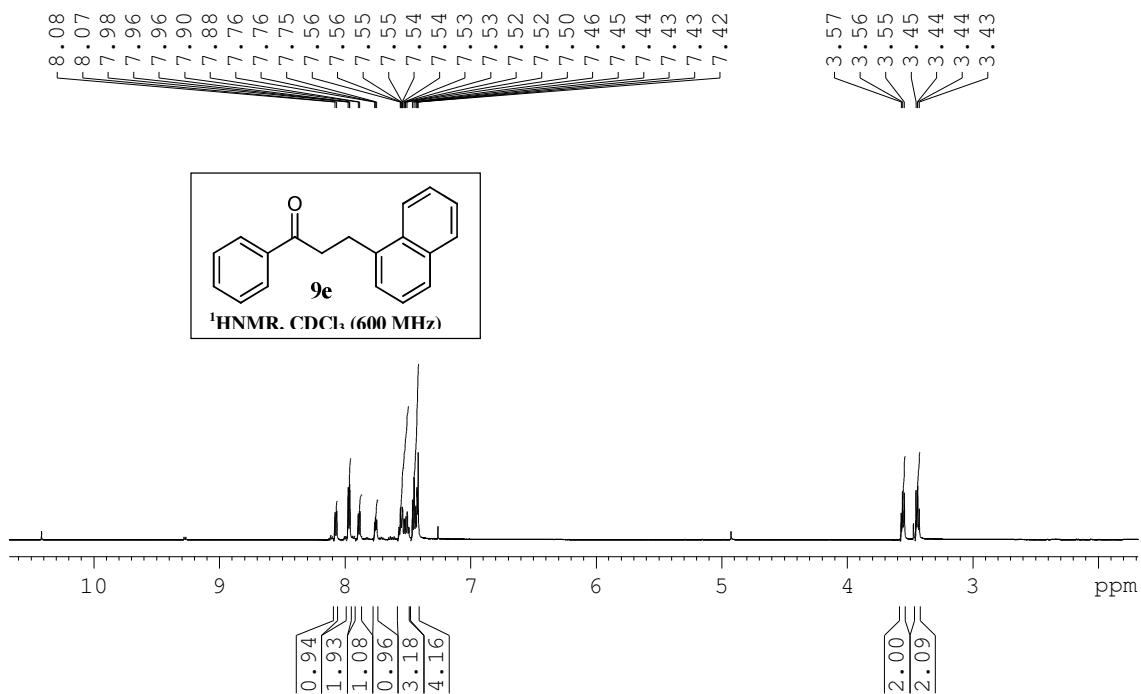


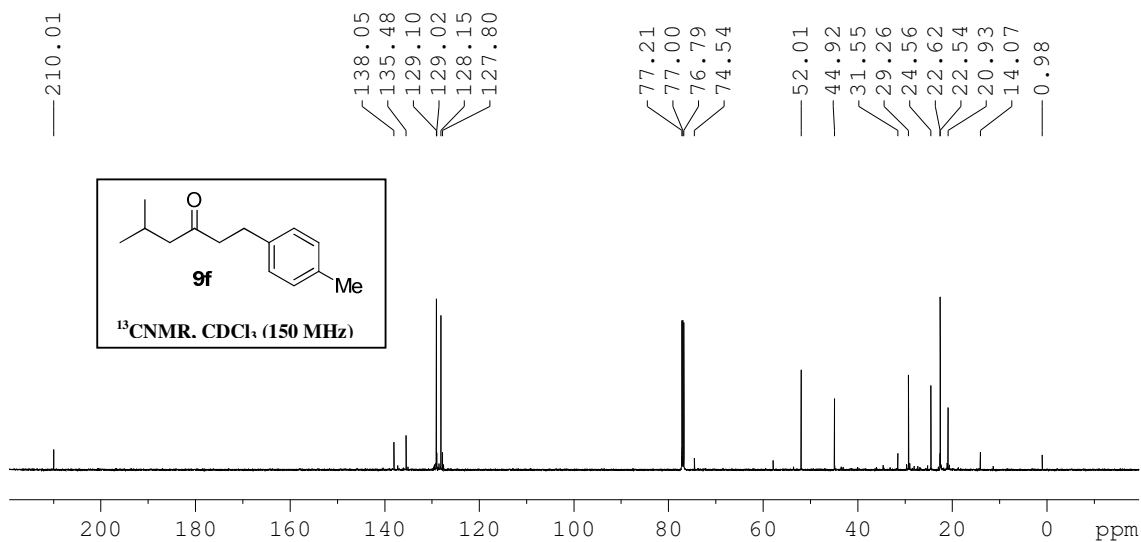
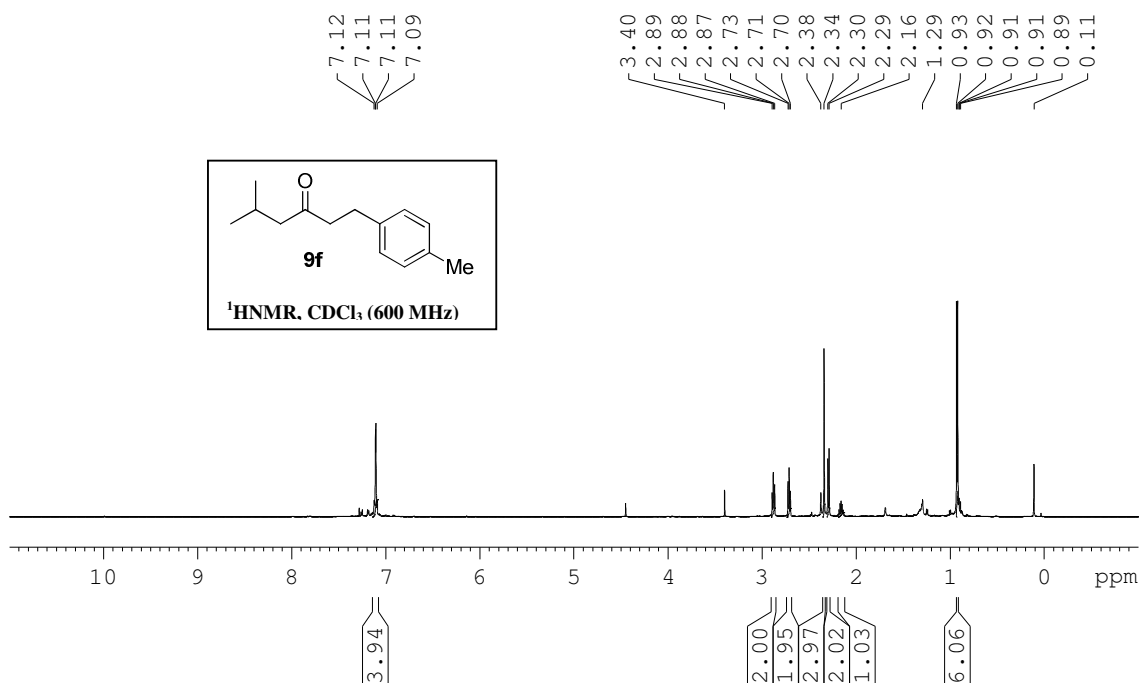


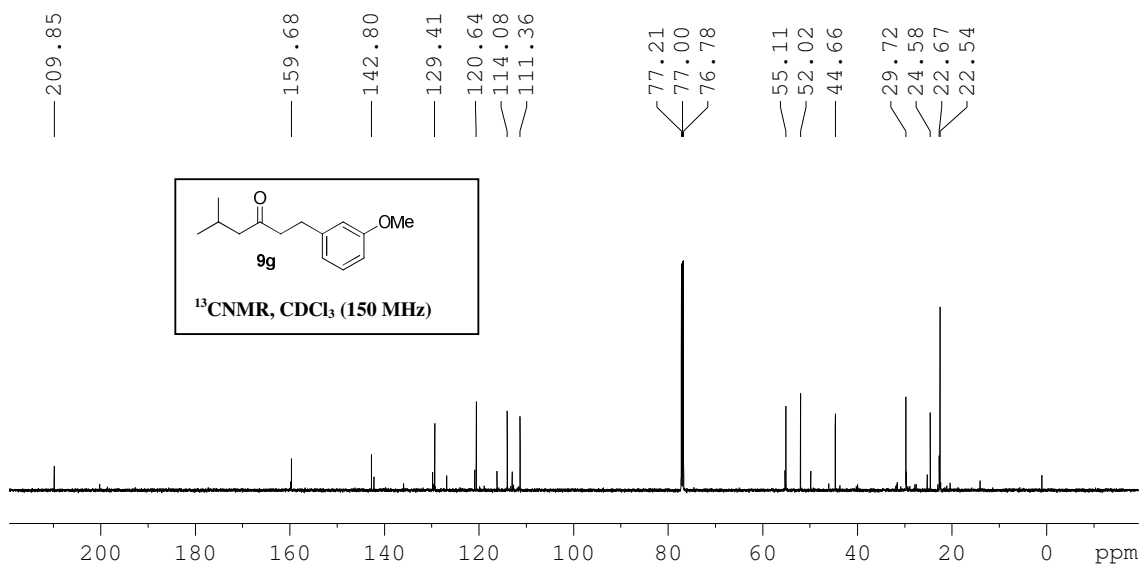
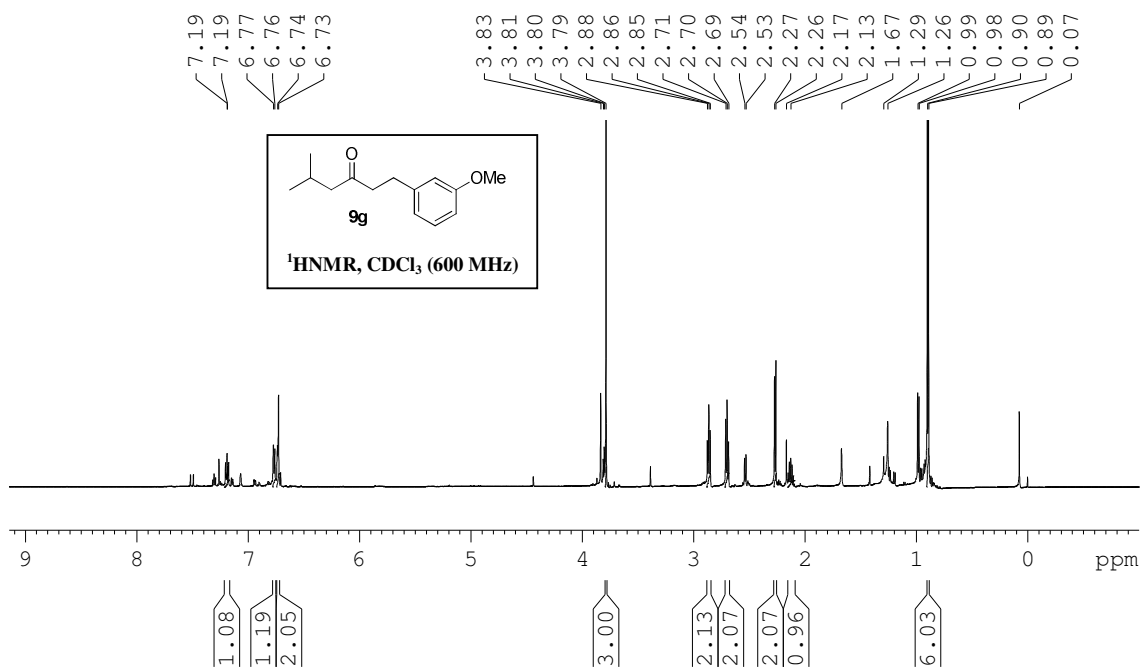


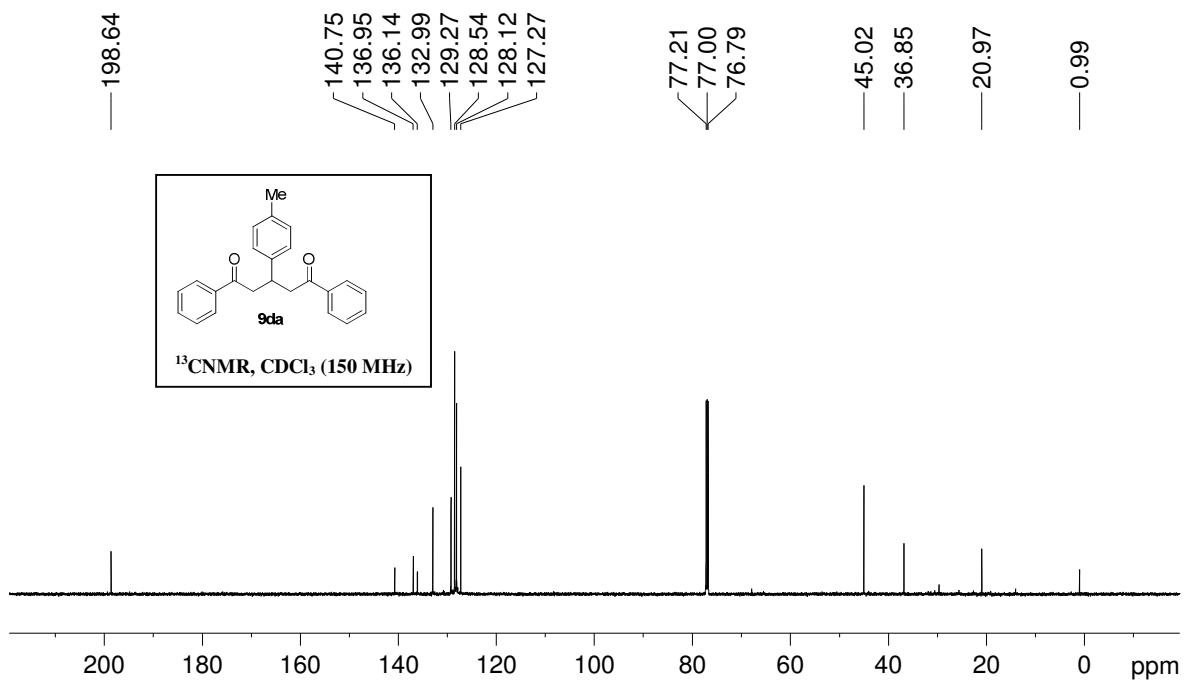
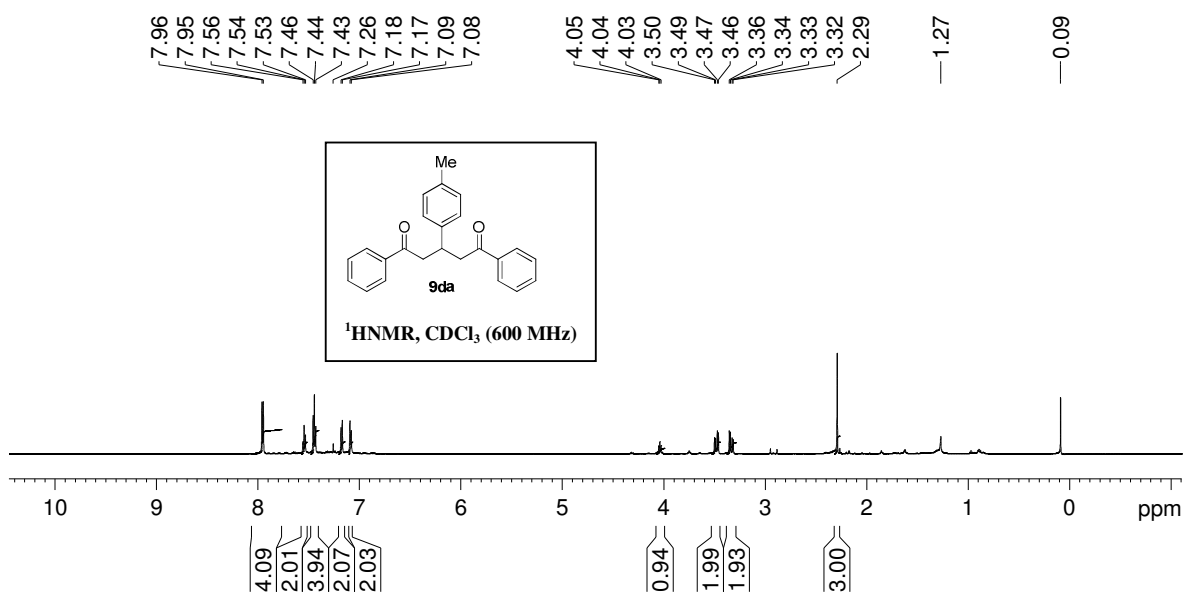


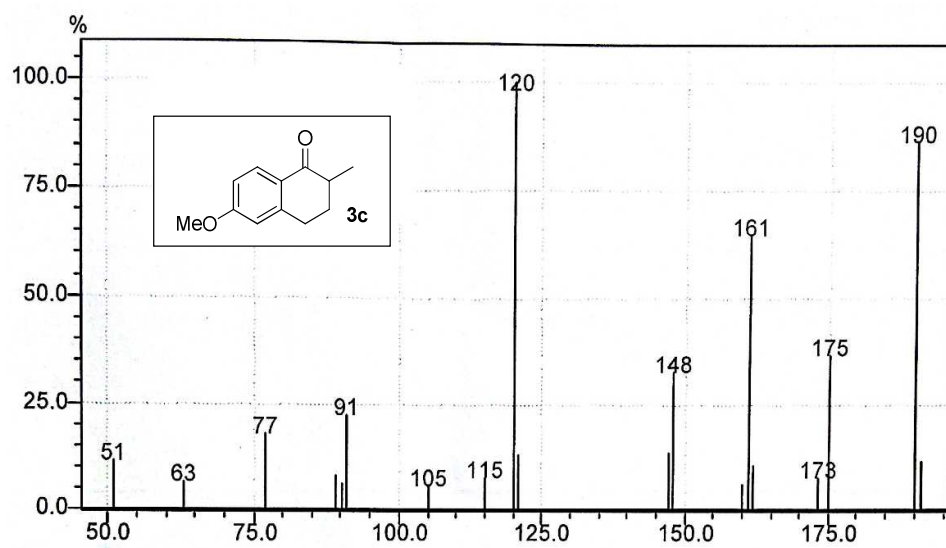
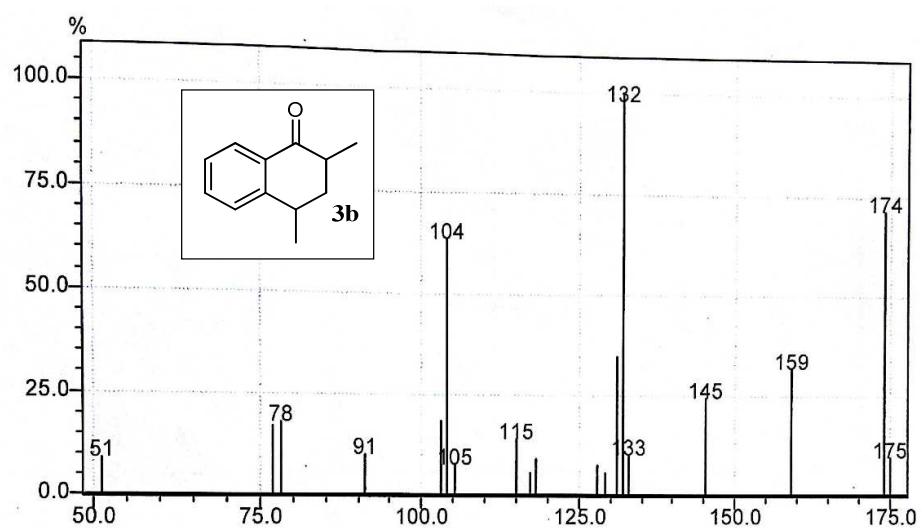
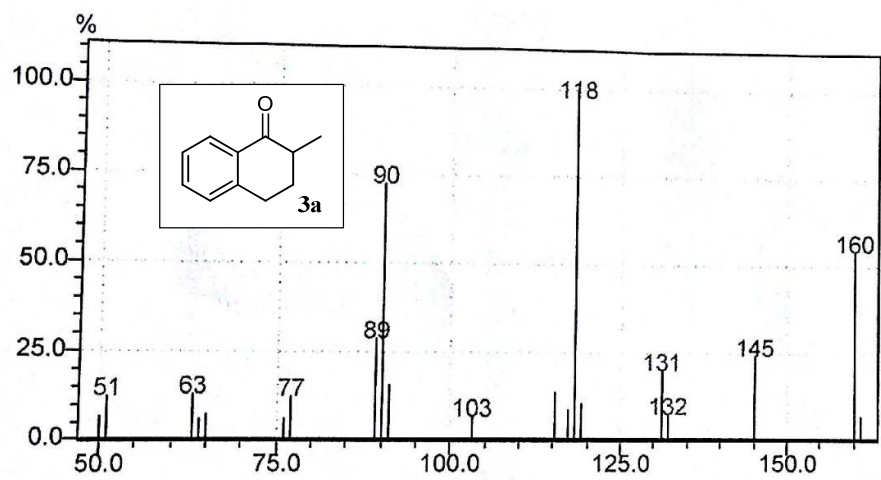


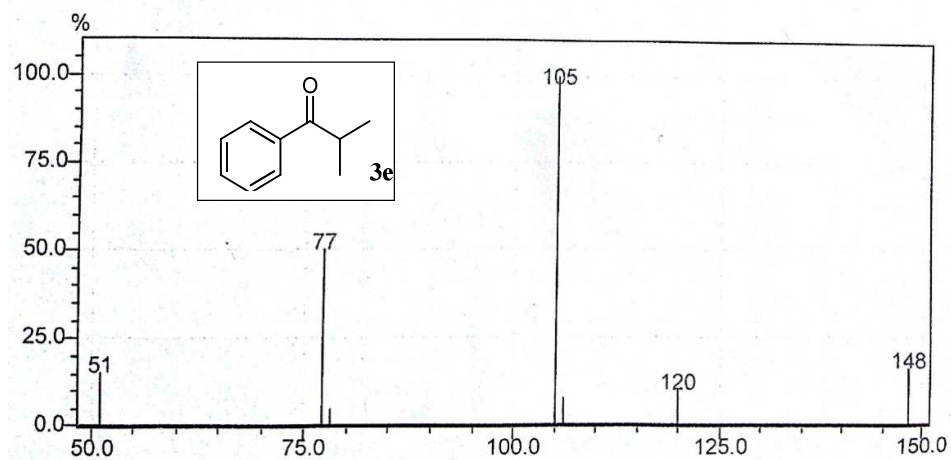
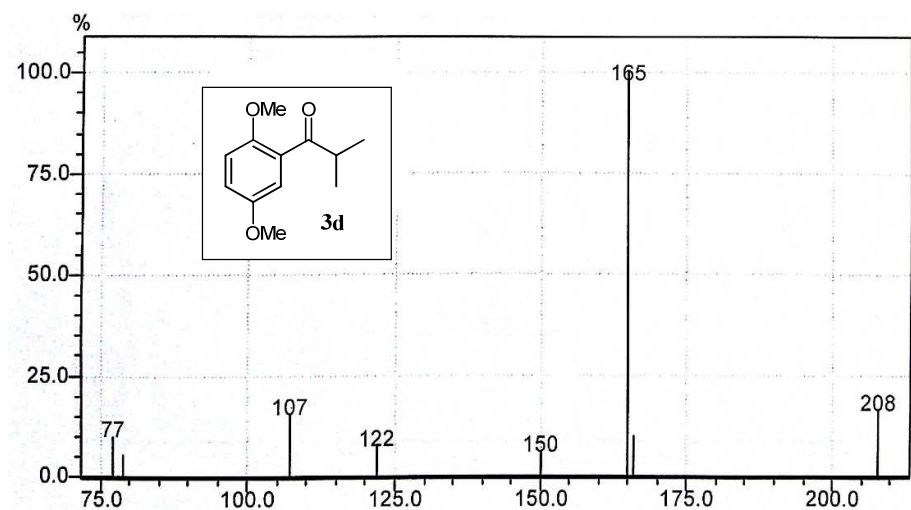


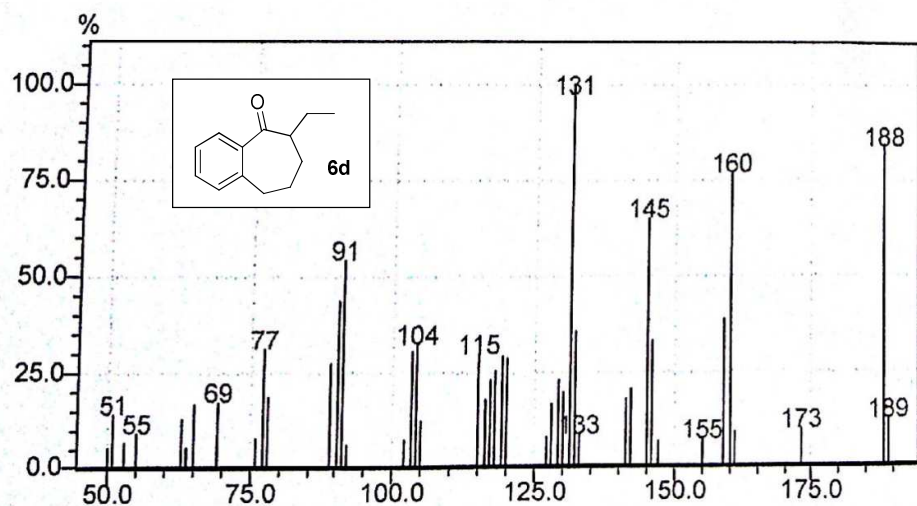
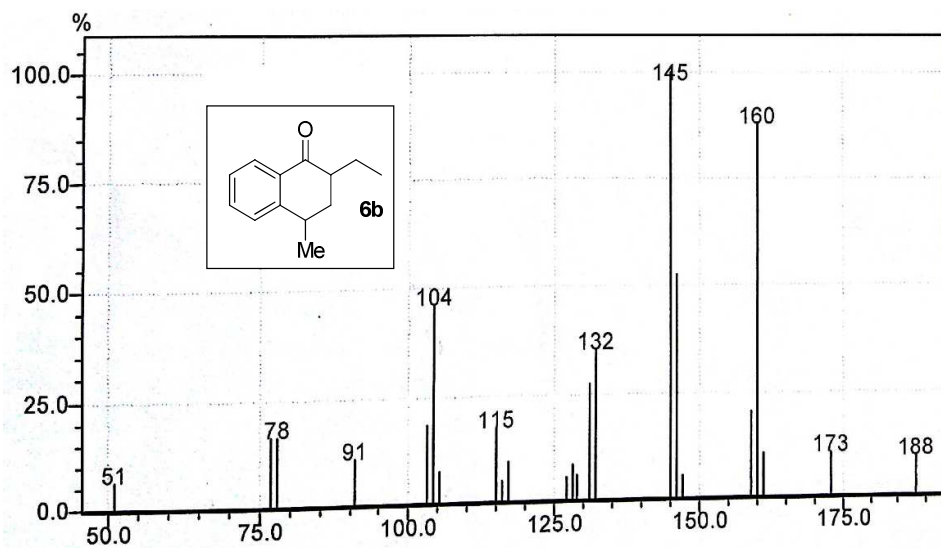
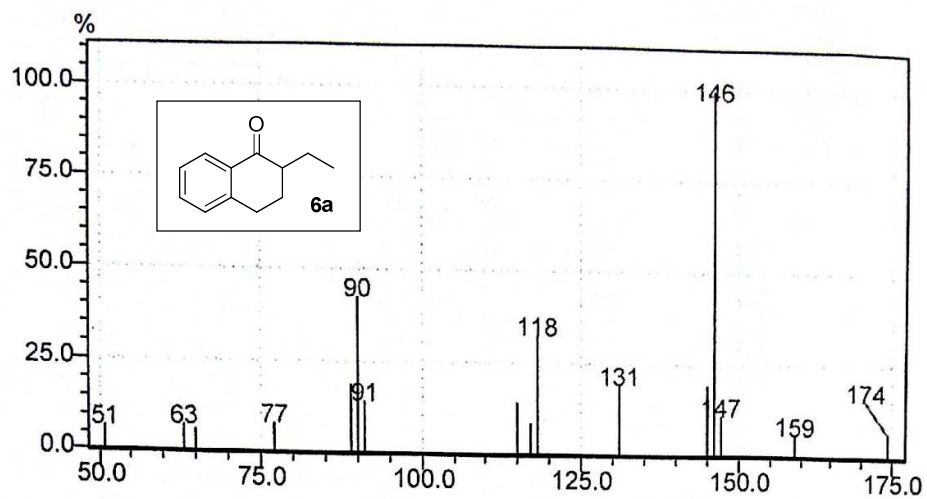


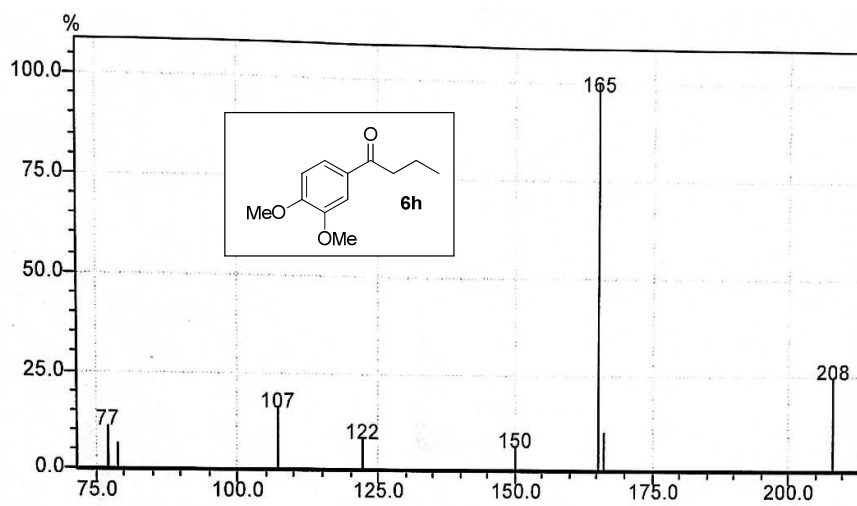
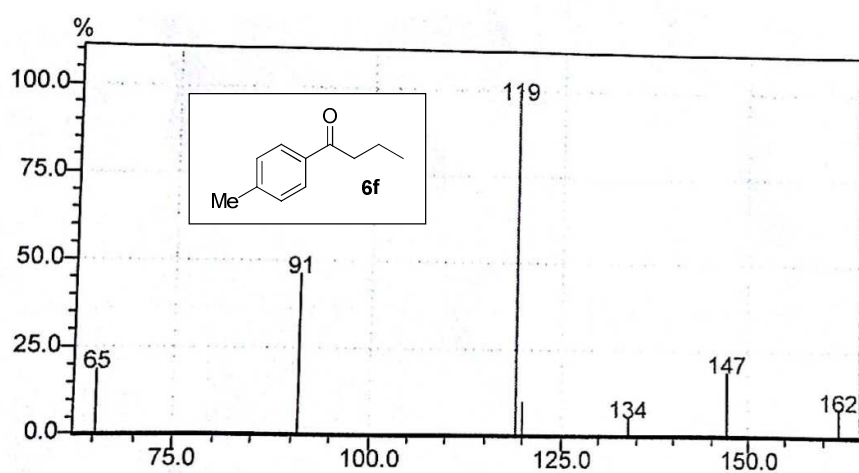
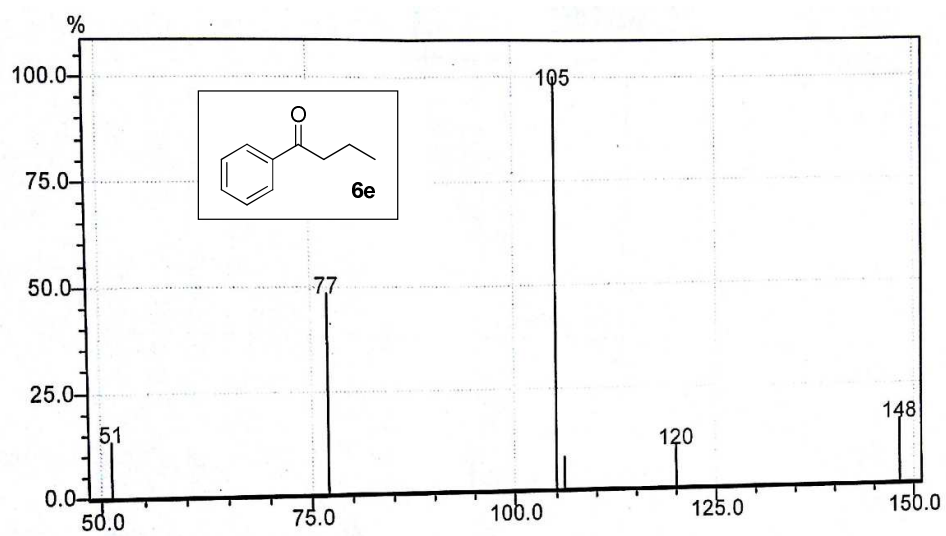


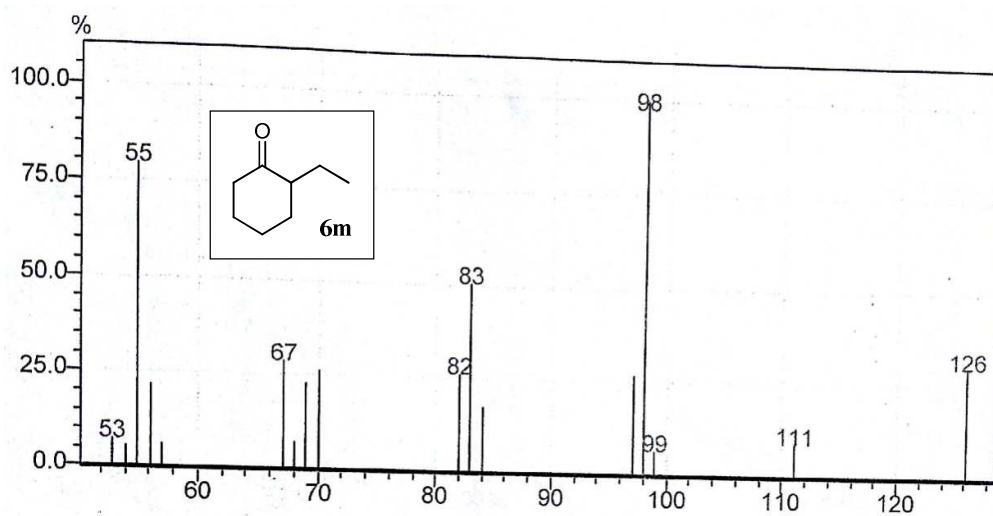
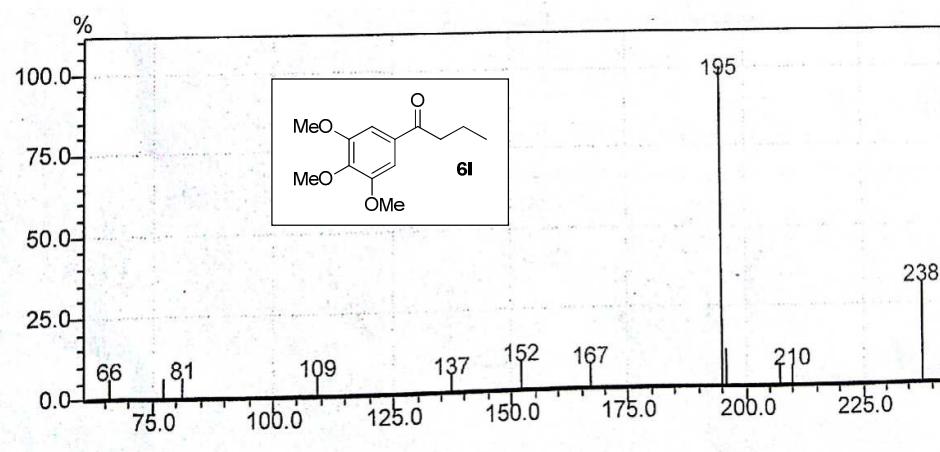
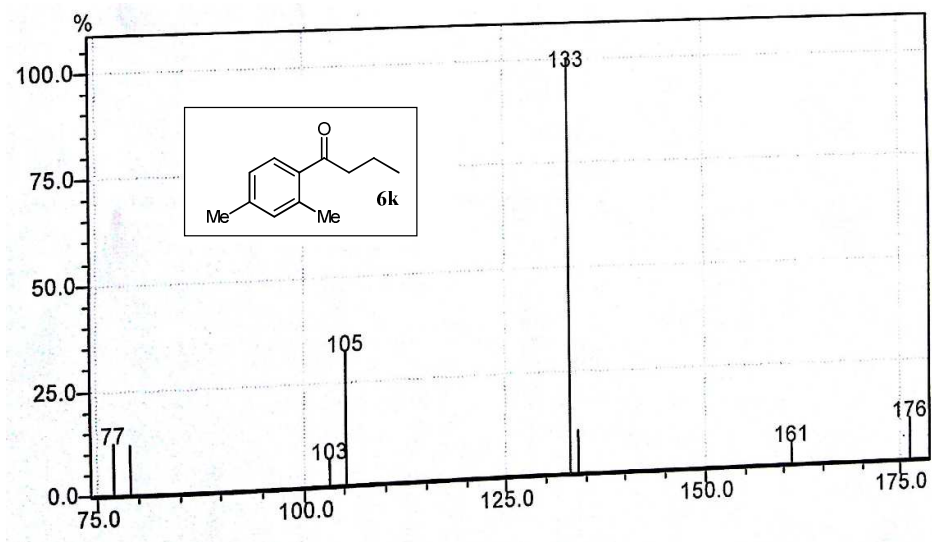


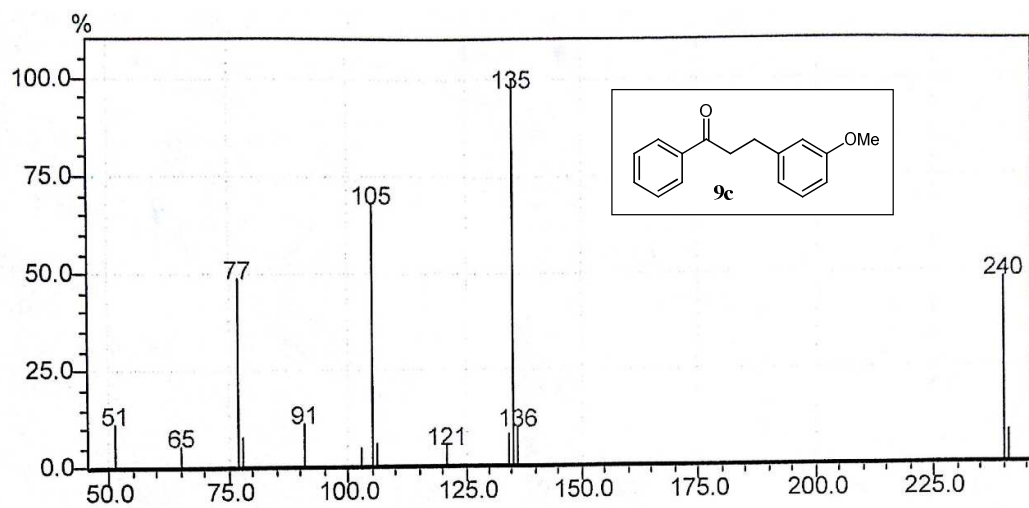
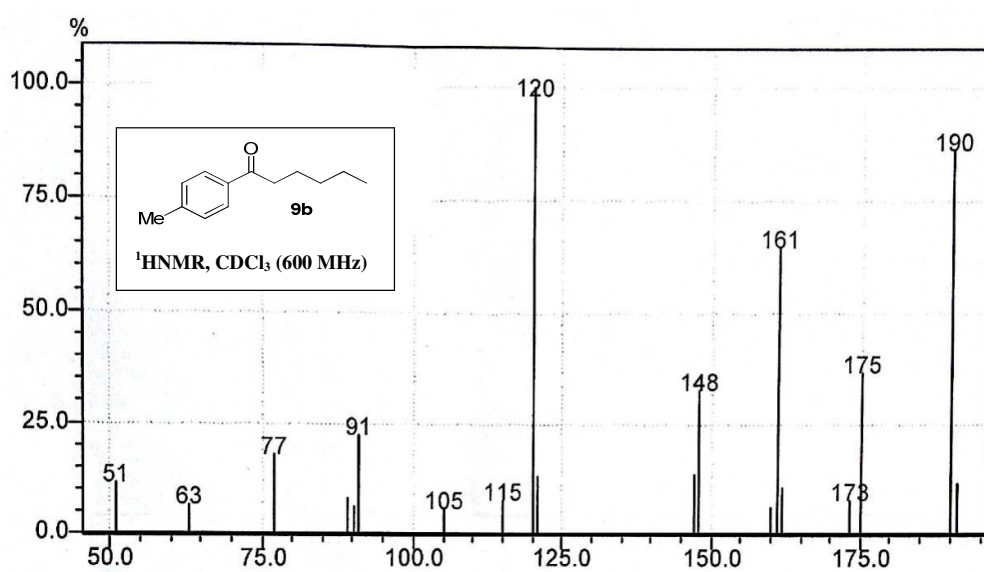
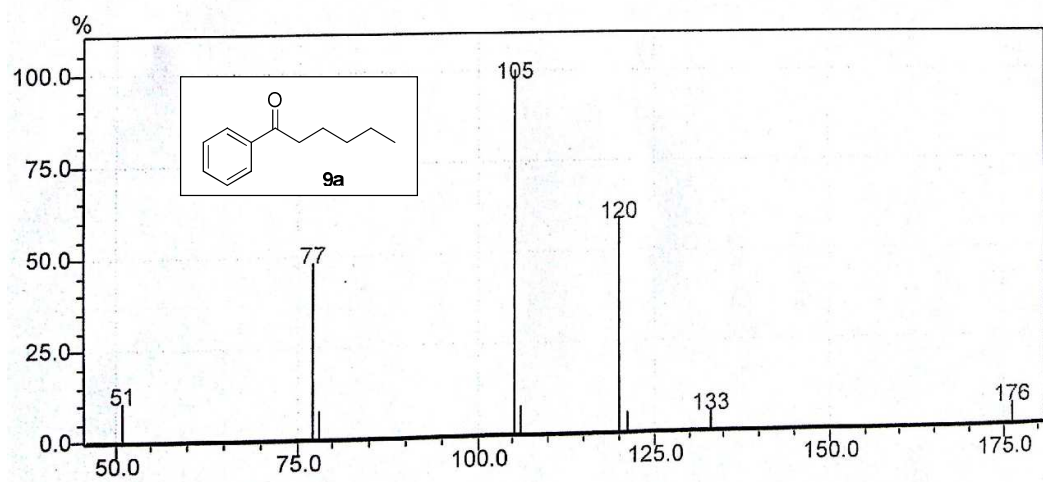


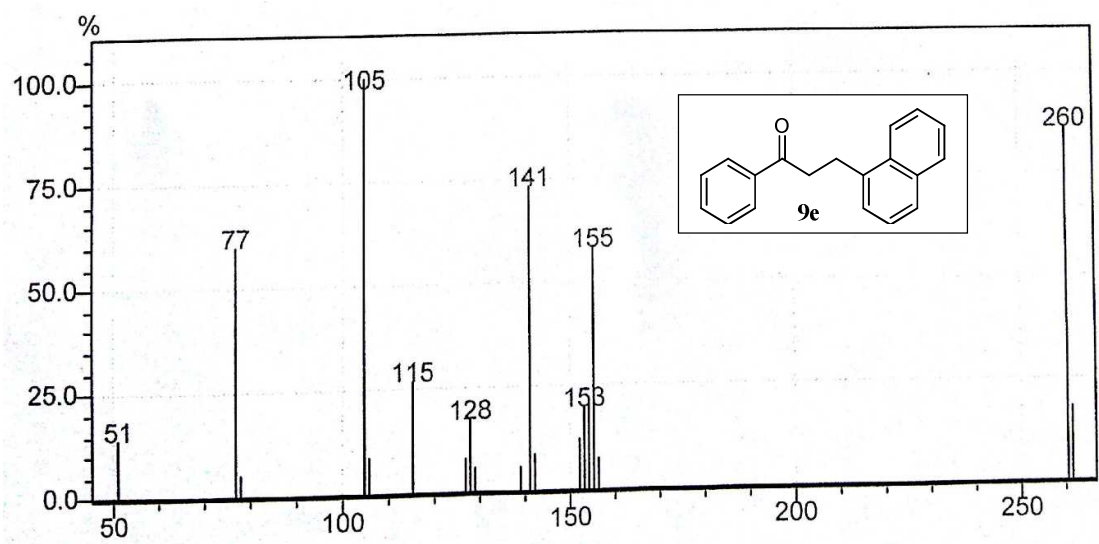
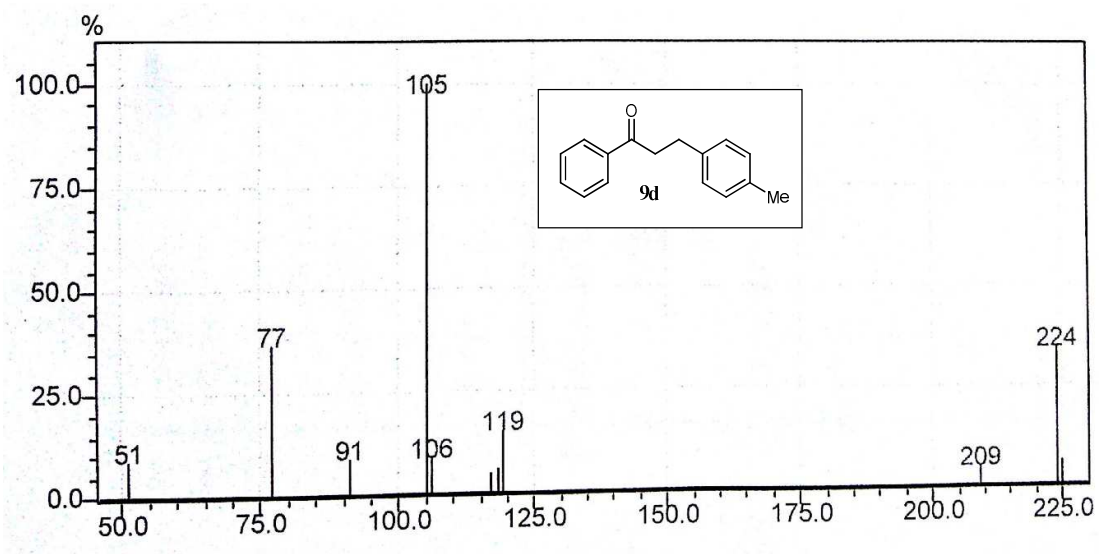


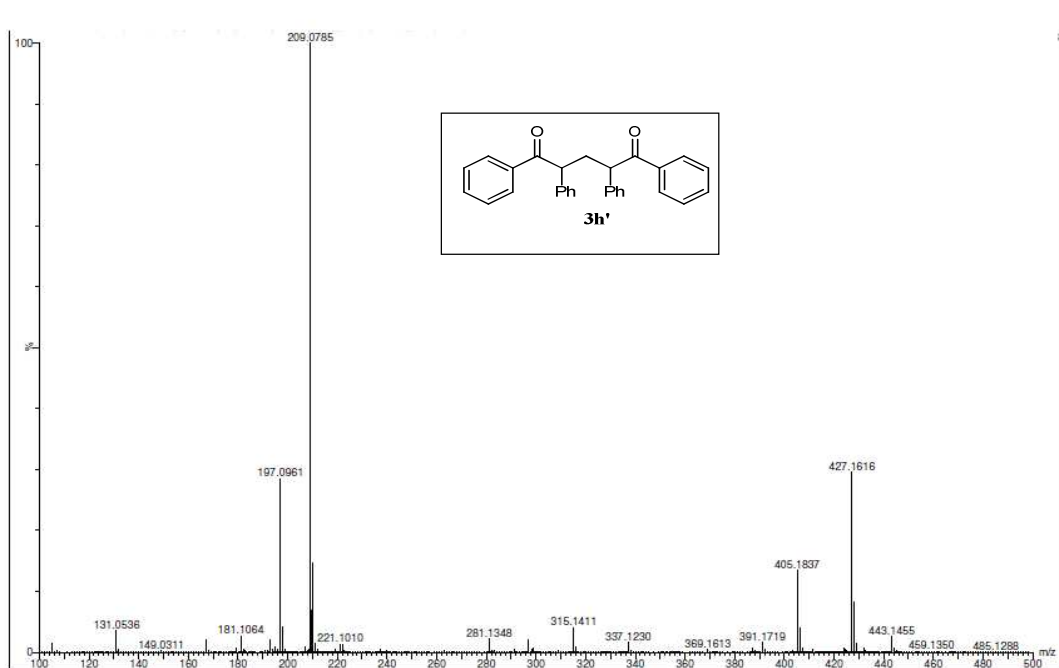
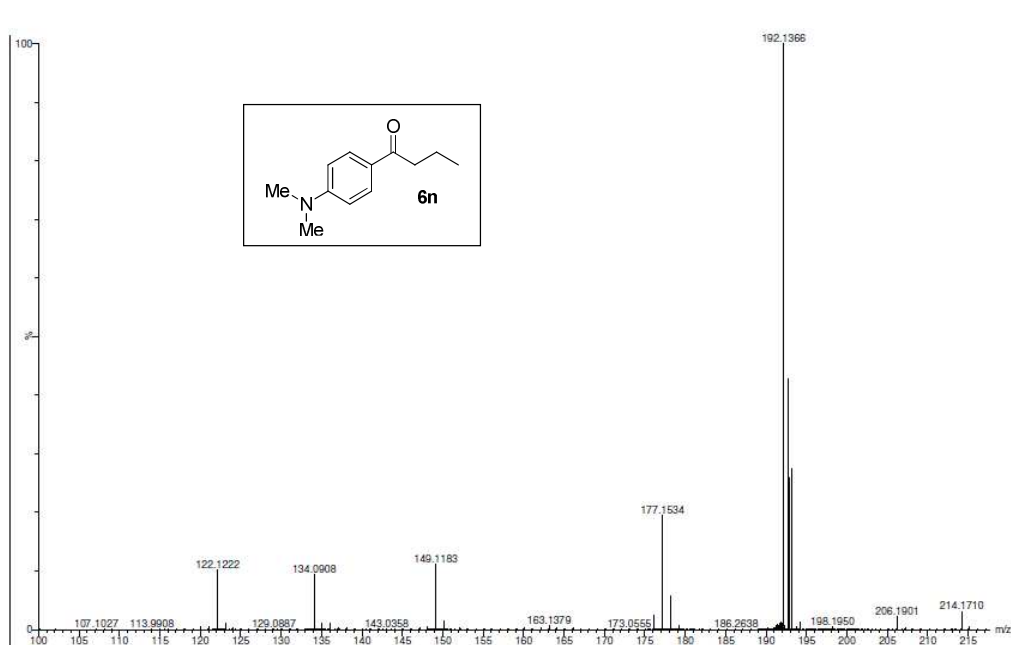


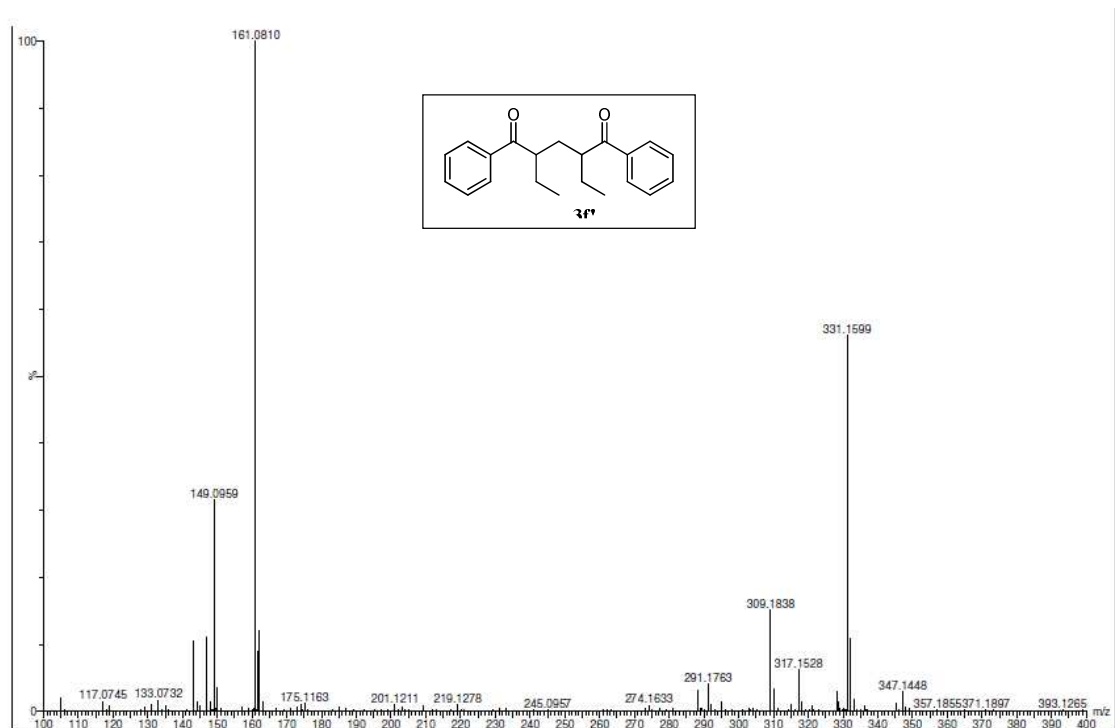












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