

Supporting Information

Iron-Catalyzed Direct α -Arylation of Ethers with Azoles

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General Considerations	S2
Optimization Details	S3
Iron-Catalyzed Direct α-Arylation of Ethers with Azoles (Table 2-3)	S7
Kinetic Isotope Effect (KIE)	S17
Computational Methods	S18
Computational Discussion	S18
^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR Spectra	S30

General Considerations

Reagents. Commercially available materials were used without further purification. Anhydrous iron(II) fluoride (FeF_2 , 99% purity) was purchased from Strem Chemicals. 1,2-Dichloroethane (spectrophotometric grade, $\geq 99\%$), *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide solution (TBHP, 5.0-6.0 M in decane) and *tert*-butyl peroxybenzoate (technical, $\geq 95.0\%$) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

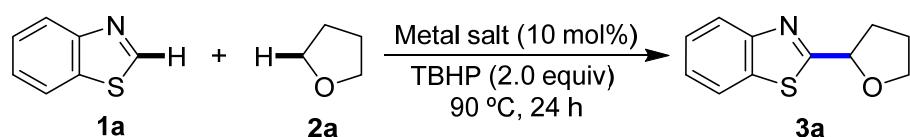
Analytical methods. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra and melting points (where applicable) are included for all compounds. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz at 20 °C. All ^1H NMR spectra are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield of TMS and were measured relative to the signals for CHCl_3 (7.26 ppm), unless otherwise indicated. All ^{13}C NMR spectra were reported in ppm relative to residual CHCl_3 (77 ppm), unless otherwise indicated, and were obtained with ^1H decoupling. Coupling constants, J , are reported in hertz. Melting points were measured using open glass capillaries in a Büchi SMP-20 apparatus. Mass spectra were acquired on a time of flight (TOF) mass spectrometer (SYNAPT G2 HDMS from Waters, Milford, MA, USA) equipped with an electrospray source in positive mode (ESI^+). The chromatographic separation was performed using an ACQUITY UPLC system from Waters (Milford, MA, USA) equipped with an Acquity UPLC BEH C18 1.7 μm , 50 x 2.1 mm column at 30 °C. Mobile phases consisted of 0.1% formic acid in water (A) and 0.1% formic acid in methanol (B). Separation was carried out in 5 min: initial conditions were 5 % B, raised to 100 % B over 2.5 min, held at 100 % B until 4 min, decreased to 5 % B over 0.1 min and held at 5 % B until 5 min for re-equilibration of the system. Flow rate was 0.25 mL/min and injection volume was 5 μL . Infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Alpha P. Flash chromatography was performed with EM Science silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). The yields reported in tables 2-3 correspond to isolated yields and represent an average of at least two independent runs. The procedures described in this section are representative. Thus, the yields may differ slightly from those given in the tables of the manuscript.

Optimization Details

General Procedure: Cross-Dehydrogenative Coupling of **1a with THF**

A reaction tube containing a stirring bar was charged with **1a** (0.5 mmol), metal source (10 mol%), oxidant (if solid) and additive (50 mol%), if applicable. The reaction tube was then evacuated and back-filled with dry argon (this sequence was repeated three times). Then, oxidant (if liquid), THF (1 mL) and solvent (if applicable) were subsequently added under argon atmosphere by syringe and the resulting solution was warmed up to the corresponding temperature and stirred for 24 hours. The mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature, filtered off through a pad of celite and washed with CH₂Cl₂. The resulting crude was evaporated and purified by conventional flash chromatography (hexanes/AcOEt 9/1). The purity of the corresponding product **3a** was verified by ¹H NMR.

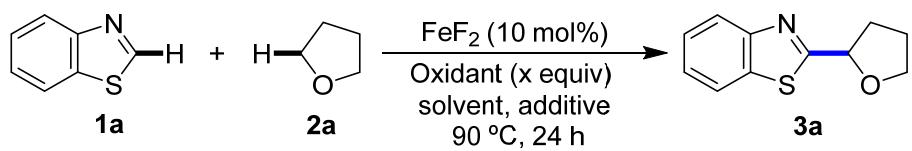
Table S1: Influence of the nature of the catalyst on the CDC of 1a and THF



Entry	Metal	3a (%) ^a
1	none	6
2	FeF ₂	62
3	FeF ₃	61
4	FeCl ₂	traces
5	FeCl ₃	traces
6	Fe(acac) ₃	35
7	Fe ₂ O ₃	traces
8	Fe(OAc) ₂	43
9	Co(acac) ₂	traces
10	Co(acac) ₃	38
11	CoF ₂	47
12	Cu(OTf) ₂	25
13	CuF ₂	29
14	CuCl ₂	traces
15	CuBr ₂	traces
16	CuCl	traces
17	Cu ₂ O	19
18	CuO	26
19 ^b	TBAI	traces

^a Yield of isolated product after column chromatography. ^b 30 mol% of catalyst

Table S2: Optimization experiments of the CDC of 1a with THF

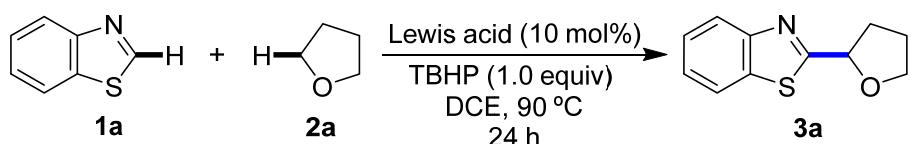


Entry	Oxidant (equiv)	Solvent	Additive	3a (%) ^a
1	TBHP (2.0)	none	none	62 (54) ^b
2	TBHP (1.0)	none	none	62
3	TBHP (0.5)	none	none	51
4	TBHPaq (2.0)	none	none	41
5	CHP (2.0)	none	none	traces
6	H ₂ O ₂ (2.0)	none	none	traces
7	<i>t</i> BuOO <i>t</i> Bu (2.0)	none	none	traces
8	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2.0)	none	none	0
9	DDQ (2.0)	none	none	0
10	BzOOBz (2.0)	none	none	traces
11	BzOO <i>t</i> Bu (2.0)	none	none	51
12	TBHP (1.0)	none	NaI	0
13	TBHP (1.0)	none	KF	0
14	TBHP (1.0)	AcOEt	none	50
15	TBHP (1.0)	DCE	none	82 (62)^b
16 ^c	TBHP (1.0)	DCE	none	60
17 ^d	TBHP (1.0)	DCE	none	46

^a Yield of isolated product after column chromatography. ^b Under air. ^c 80 °C.

^d 5 mol% of catalyst. CHP = Cumene hydroperoxide

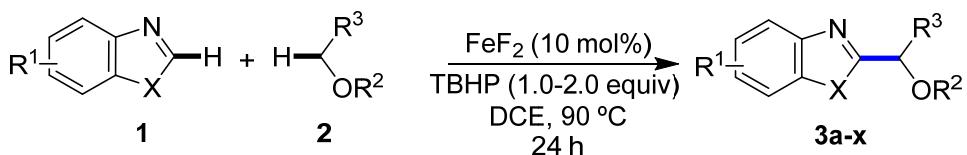
Table S3: Experiments in the presence of Lewis acids



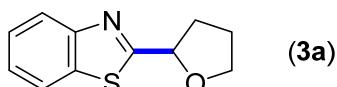
Entry	Lewis acid	3a (%) ^a
1	none	14
2	FeF ₂	82
3	Sc(OTf) ₃	28
4	Bi(OTf) ₃	21
5	GaCl ₃	traces
6	AlCl ₃	traces

^a Yield of isolated product after column chromatography.

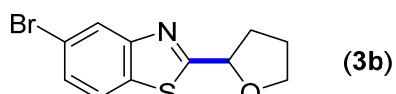
Iron-Catalyzed Direct α -Arylation of Ethers with Azoles (Table 2-3)



General Procedure: A reaction tube containing a stirring bar was charged with azole **1** (if solid) (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and FeF_2 (0.05 mmol, 10 mol%). The reaction tube was then evacuated and back-filled with dry argon (this sequence was repeated up to three times). The azole **1** (if liquid) (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ether **2** (0.5 mL), 1,2-dichloroethane (0.5 mL) and TBHP (1.0 equiv, 100 μL , 5.0-6.0 M in decane) were then added under argon atmosphere. The reaction tube was next warmed up to 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ and stirred for 24 hours. The mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature, filtered off through a pad of celite and washed with CH_2Cl_2 . The resulting mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the corresponding product was purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/AcOEt 9/1). The yields reported in the manuscript refer to isolated yields and represent an average of at least two independent runs.



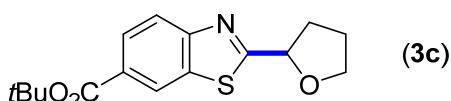
2-(Tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzothiazole (3a**) (Table 2).** Following the general procedure, using benzothiazole (**1a**) (0.50 mmol, 54 μL) and THF (0.5 mL) provided 81 mg (80% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3a** as a colorless oil. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.¹ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.91 (dd, $J = 41.2, 8.1 \text{ Hz}$, 2H), 7.39 (dt, $J = 40.6, 7.5 \text{ Hz}$, 2H), 5.34 (t, $J = 7.8 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 4.14 (q, $J = 7.1 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 3.99 (q, $J = 7.4 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 2.50 (dt, $J = 14.9, 7.4 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 2.25 (dt, $J = 12.8, 6.3 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 2.02 (p, $J = 7.0 \text{ Hz}$, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 176.3, 153.5, 134.6, 125.8, 124.7, 122.6, 121.7, 78.6, 69.3, 33.3, 25.6 ppm.



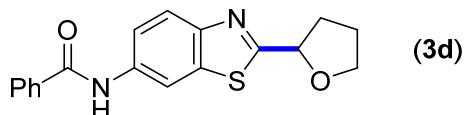
5-Bromo-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzothiazole (3b**) (Table 2).** Following the general procedure, using 5-bromobenzothiazole (**1b**) (0.50 mmol, 107 mg) and THF (0.5 mL) provided 77 mg (54% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3b** as a white solid.

¹ T. He, L. Yu, L. Zhang, L. Wang, M. Wang, *Org. Lett.* **2011**, *13*, 5016-5019.

Mp 57-58 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.32 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.51 (tt, $J = 11.4, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.25 (dq, $J = 12.6, 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.13-1.93 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 178.5, 154.6, 133.5, 127.9, 125.6, 122.8, 119.5, 78.6, 69.5, 33.3, 25.7 ppm. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 1512, 1428, 1074, 917, 860. MS (ESI $^+$) m/z (%) 283 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for ($\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{NOSBr}$): 283.9745, *found* 283.9746.



Tert-butyl 2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzothiazole-6-carboxylate (3c) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using *tert*-butyl benzothiazole-6-carboxylate² (**1c**) (0.50 mmol, 117 mg), TBHP (2.0 equiv, 200 μL) and THF (1 mL) provided 91 mg (60% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3c** as a colorless oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.34 (t, $J = 8.0$, 1H), 4.16 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.01 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dt, $J = 15.0, 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.27 (dq, $J = 12.8, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.04 (dd, $J = 9.0, 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.62 (s, 9H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 179.9, 165.3, 156.3, 134.5, 128.5, 127.1, 123.7, 122.2, 81.4, 78.8, 69.5, 33.3, 28.2, 25.7 ppm. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 1698, 1290, 899. MS (ESI $^+$) m/z (%) 306 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3\text{S}$): 306.1164, *found* 306.1165.



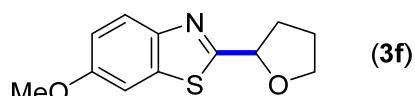
N-[2-(Tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzothiazol-6-yl]benzamide (3d) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using 2-(benzothiazol-6-yl)benzamide³ (**1d**) (0.50 mmol, 127 mg), TBHP (2.0 equiv, 200 μL) and THF (1 mL) provided 127 mg (78% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3d** as a white solid. Mp 160-162 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.30 (br s, 1H), 7.87 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H), 7.66-7.35 (m, 4H), 5.40-5.15 (m, 1H), 4.13 (p, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.98 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.51-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.26-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.02 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 175.6, 166.2, 150.2, 135.4, 135.1, 134.5, 131.7, 128.4, 127.0, 122.5, 119.4, 113.2, 78.5, 69.2, 33.2, 25.5 ppm. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 3274, 1642, 1570, 1520, 1490, 1329, 933. MS (ESI $^+$) m/z (%) 325 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for ($\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$): 325.1011, *found* 325.1009.

² Y. Tani, K. Kobayashi, K. Nomura, *PCT Int. Appl.* **2013**, WO 2013088898 A1.

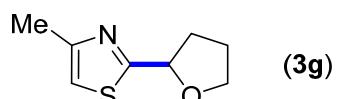
³ M. Chakrabarty, A. Mukherji, S. Karmakar, R. Mukherjee, K. Nagai, A. Geronikaki, P. Eleni, *ARKIVOC* **2010**, *11*, 265-290.



6-Fluoro-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzothiazole (3e) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using 6-fluorobenzothiazole (**1e**) (0.50 mmol, 76.5 mg), TBHP (2.0 equiv, 200 μ L) and THF (1 mL) provided 58 mg (51% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3e** as a white solid. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁴ Mp 53-54 °C, (Lit. 74-76 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (dd, J = 8.9, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (td, J = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (dt, J = 14.9, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (dq, J = 13.0, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.02 (p, J = 8.0, 7.6 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 176.0 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 160.1 (d, J = 246.4 Hz), 150.1, 135.6 (d, J = 11.1 Hz), 123.5 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 114.4 (d, J = 24.2 Hz), 107.8 (d, J = 26.2 Hz), 78.5, 69.4, 33.2, 25.6 ppm.



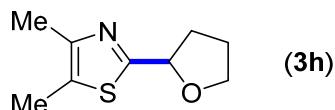
6-Methoxy-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzothiazole (3f) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using 6-methoxybenzothiazole (**1f**) (0.50 mmol, 82.5 mg), TBHP (2.0 equiv, 200 μ L) and THF (1 mL) provided 73 mg (62% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3f** as a white solid. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁴ Mp 80-82 °C, (Lit. 81-83 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.48 (dt, J = 14.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (dt, J = 12.7, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (p, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 176.0 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 160.1 (d, J = 246.4 Hz), 150.1, 135.6 (d, J = 11.1 Hz), 123.5 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 114.4 (d, J = 24.2 Hz), 107.8 (d, J = 26.2 Hz), 78.5, 69.4, 33.2, 25.6 ppm.



4-Methyl-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)thiazole (3g) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using 4-methylthiazole (**1g**) (0.50 mmol, 46 μ L), TBHP (2.0 equiv, 200 μ L) and THF (1 mL) provided 44 mg (53% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3g** as a colorless oil. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the

⁴ Xie, Z.; Cai, Y.; Hu, H.; Lin, C.; Jiang, J.; Chen, Z.; Wang, L.; Pan, Y. *Org. Lett.* **2013**, *15*, 4600-4603.

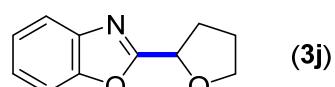
literature.⁴ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.78 (s, 1H), 5.20 (dd, J = 7.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.96 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.3, 152.5, 112.9, 69.1, 33.4, 25.6, 16.9 ppm.



4,5-Dimethyl-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)thiazole (3h) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using 4,5-dimethylthiazole (**1h**) (0.50 mmol, 53 μ L) and THF (0.5 mL) provided 48 mg (52% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3h** as a colorless oil. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁴ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.14 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.16-3.97 (m, 1H), 3.89-3.91 (m, 1H), 2.42-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.30 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 6H), 2.12-1.94 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.9, 147.5, 125.8, 78.2, 69.0, 33.3, 25.6, 14.5, 11.2 ppm.



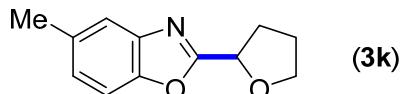
Ethyl 2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)-1H-benzimidazole-1-carboxylate (3i) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using ethyl 1*H*-benzimidazole-1-carboxylate⁵ (**1i**) (0.50 mmol, 95 mg) and THF (0.5 mL) provided 66 mg (50% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3i** as a white solid. Mp 74-75 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 2H), 5.72 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.26-4.07 (m, 1H), 3.99 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.57-2.21 (m, 2H), 2.10-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.51 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.5, 150.1, 141.8, 132.9, 124.8, 124.4, 120.2, 114.8, 75.1, 69.1, 64.2, 31.1, 25.0, 14.1 ppm. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 1741, 1472, 1300, 1074. MS (ESI⁺) *m/z* (%) 261 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for (C₁₄H₁₇N₂O₃): 261.1239, *found* 261.1235.



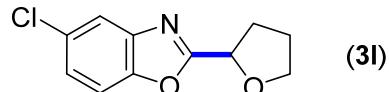
2-(Tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzoxazole (3j) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using benzoxazole (**1j**) (0.50 mmol, 60 mg), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 μ L) and THF (1 mL) provided 64 mg (72% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3j** as a colorless oil which was found to be thermally unstable. In this case, the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the

⁵ A. P. Venkova, S. Statkova-Abeghe, *Synth. Commun.* **1998**, 28, 1857-1864.

benzoic acid side-product. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁶ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 2H), 5.20 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.20-2.02 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.2, 150.8, 140.8, 125.1, 124.3, 120.1, 110.7, 73.9, 69.3, 30.7, 25.7 ppm.

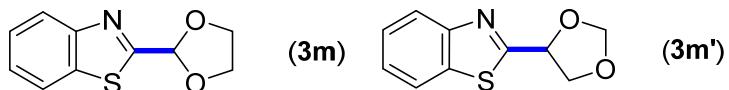


5-Methyl-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzoxazole (3k) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using 5-methylbenzoxazole (**1k**) (0.50 mmol, 66 mg), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 μL) and THF (1 mL) provided 65 mg (65% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3k** as a colorless oil which was found to be thermally unstable. In this case, the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the benzoic acid side-product. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁶ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.37 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.18-2.01 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.2, 149.0, 140.9, 134.1, 126.2, 119.9, 110.0, 73.9, 69.2, 30.7, 25.7, 21.4 ppm.

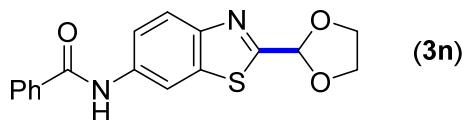


5-Chloro-2-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)benzoxazole (3l) (Table 2). Following the general procedure, using 5-chlorobenzoxazole (**1l**) (0.50 mmol, 77 mg), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 μL) and THF (1 mL) provided 63 mg (57% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3k** as a colorless oil which was found to be thermally unstable. In this case, the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the benzoic acid side-product. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.40-2.33 (m, 2H), 2.26-1.95 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.7, 149.4, 141.9, 129.8, 125.5, 120.1, 111.5, 73.8, 69.4, 30.8, 25.8 ppm. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 1655, 1449, 1375, 799. MS (ESI⁺) *m/z* (%) 224 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for (C₁₁H₁₁NO₂Cl): 224.0478, *found* 224.0473.

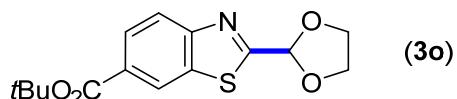
⁶ T. Okitsu, K. Nagase, N. Nishio, A. Wada, *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 708-711.



2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)benzothiazole (3m) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using benzothiazole (**1a**) (0.50 mmol, 54 μ L) and 1,3-dioxolane (0.5 mL) provided 75 mg (73% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3m** as a colorless oil along with 10 mg (9% yield) of the isomer 2-(1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)benzothiazole (**3m'**) (82% overall yield, 9:1, **3m**:**3m'**). The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁴ **3m:** ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.04 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 4.30-3.87 (m, 5H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.0, 153.0, 134.7, 126.0, 125.5, 123.5, 121.7, 100.3, 65.5 ppm. **3m':** ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.99 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.52-5.36 (m, 1H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.38 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, J = 8.6, 4.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.5, 153.2, 134.6, 126.2, 125.2, 122.9, 121.8, 96.3, 75.1, 71.0 ppm.

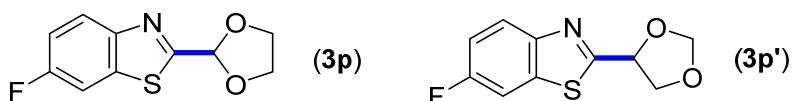


N-(2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)benzothiazol-6-yl)benzamide (3n) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, 2-(benzothiazol-6-yl)benzamide³ (**1d**) (0.50 mmol, 127 mg) and 1,3-dioxolane (0.5 mL) provided 109 mg (67% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3n** as a white solid. Mp 199-200 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 10.58 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.05 (t, J = 10.4 Hz, 3H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dt, J = 14.5, 7.1 Hz, 3H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 4.20-4.09 (m, 4H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 167.9, 165.8, 148.8, 137.2, 134.9, 134.7, 131.7, 128.4, 127.7, 123.1, 120.1, 120.0, 112.9, 112.8, 99.6, 65.4 ppm. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 3285, 1645, 1568, 1518, 1358, 1083. MS (ESI $^+$) m/z (%) 327 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for ($\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$): 327.0803, *found* 327.0807.



Tert-butyl 2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)benzothiazole-6-carboxylate (3o) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using *tert*-butyl benzothiazole-6-carboxylate² (**1c**) (0.50 mmol, 117 mg) and 1,3-dioxolane (0.5 mL) provided 98 mg (64% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3o** as a white solid. Mp 93-95 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.58 (s, 1H), 8.22-7.98 (m, 2H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 4.31-4.07 (m, 4H), 1.64 (s, 9H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.4, 165.0, 155.7, 134.6, 129.3, 127.2, 123.8, 123.2, 100.2, 81.4,

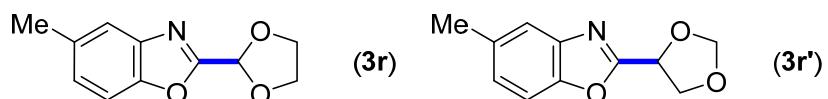
65.7, 28.1 ppm. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 1698, 1368, 1264, 1135, 899. MS (ESI^+) m/z (%) 308 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$): 308.0957, *found* 308.0949.



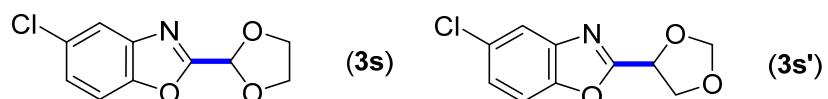
6-Fluoro-2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)benzothiazole (3p) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using 6-fluorobenzothiazole (**1e**) (0.50 mmol, 76.5 mg), TBHP (2.0 equiv, 200 μ L) and 1,3-dioxolane (1 mL) provided 65 mg (62% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3p** as a white solid oil along with 13 mg (12% yield) of the isomer 6-fluoro-2-(1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)benzothiazole (**3p'**) (74% overall yield, 9:1, **3p:3p'**). The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁴ Mp 93-94 °C, (Lit. 89-90 °C). **3p:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, *J* = 8.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 4.23-3.99 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 160.5 (d, *J* = 247.4 Hz), 149.7, 135.9 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 124.6 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 114.9 (d, *J* = 25.2 Hz), 107.9 (d, *J* = 27.3 Hz), 100.2, 65.6 ppm. **3p':** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.13 (m, 1H), 5.46 (dd, *J* = 6.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 4.38 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 4.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.3 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 160.4 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 149.7, 135.6 d, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 123.8 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 114.1 (d, *J* = 25.2 Hz), 107.9 (d, *J* = 26.3 Hz), 96.3, 74.9, 71.0 ppm.



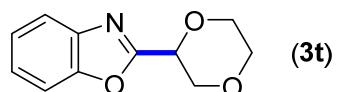
2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)benzoxazole (3q) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using benzoxazole (**1j**) (0.50 mmol, 60 mg), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 μ L) and 1,3-dioxolane (1 mL) provided 68 mg (72% yield) of the corresponding coupling product as an inseparable mixture (85:15, **3q**:**3q'**). In this case, the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the benzoic acid side-product. The signals corresponding to the major isomer are provided. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.75 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 4.14 (s, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.8, 150.6, 140.3, 125.8, 124.6, 120.7, 111.0, 97.1, 65.7 ppm. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 1453, 1113, 935, 841. MS (ESI $^+$) m/z (%) 192 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for ($\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NO}_3$): 192.0582, *found* 192.0657.



2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)-5-methylbenzoxazole (3r) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using 5-methylbenzoxazole (**1k**) (0.50 mmol, 66 mg), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 μ L) and 1,3-dioxolane (1 mL) provided 65 mg (63% yield) of the corresponding coupling product as an inseparable mixture (85:15, **3r:3r'**). In this case, the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the benzoic acid side-product. The signals corresponding to the major isomer are provided. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.9, 148.9, 140.4, 134.5, 127.0, 120.5, 110.3, 97.1, 65.6, 21.4 ppm. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 1481, 1258, 1101, 851. MS (ESI $^+$) m/z (%) 206 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for ($\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_3$): 206.0739, *found* 206.0813.

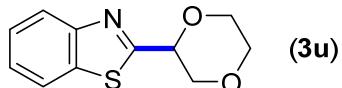


5-Chloro-2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)benzoxazole (3s) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using 5-chlorobenzoxazole (**1l**) (0.50 mmol, 77 mg), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 µL) and 1,3-dioxolane (1 mL) provided 69 mg (62% yield) of the corresponding coupling product as an inseparable mixture (6:4, **3s**:**3s'**). In this case, the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the benzoic acid side-product. The signals corresponding to the major isomer are provided. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.75-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 8.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 4.13 (s, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.2, 149.2, 141.4, 130.2, 126.2, 120.6, 111.8, 96.9, 65.7 ppm. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 1450, 1159, 960, 915. MS (ESI $^+$) m/z (%) 226 (M+H). HRMS calcd. for ($\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NO}_3\text{Cl}$): 226.0271, found 226.0271.

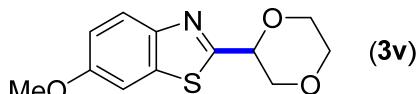


2-(1,4-Dioxan-2-yl)benzoxazole (3t) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using benzoxazole (**1j**) (0.50 mmol, 60 mg), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 µL) and dioxane (1 mL) provided 78 mg (77% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3t** as a white solid. In this case, the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the benzoic acid side-product. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature. Mp 60–62 °C.

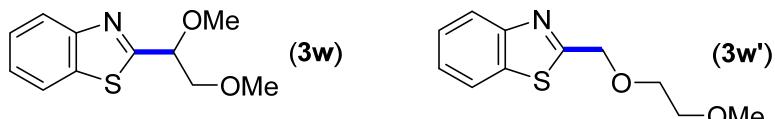
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 2H), 4.95 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07-3.85 (m, 3H), 3.85-3.71 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.6, 150.5, 140.5, 125.4, 124.6, 120.3, 110.8, 71.0, 68.4, 66.5, 66.3 ppm.



2-(1,4-Dioxan-2-yl)benzothiazole (3u) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using benzothiazole (**1a**) (0.50 mmol, 54 µL), TBHP (2.0 equiv, 200 µL) and dioxane (1 mL) provided 65 mg (59% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3u** as a white solid. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁴ Mp 71-72 °C, (Lit. 66-68 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (td, *J* = 11.0, 9.9, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.88-3.61 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8, 152.8, 134.3, 125.9, 124.9, 122.9, 121.6, 75.2, 70.3, 66.8, 66.2 ppm.

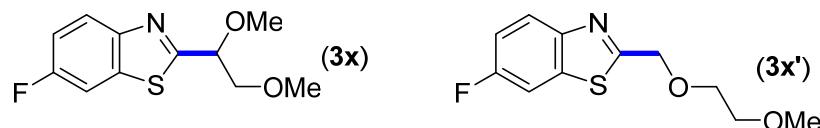


2-(1,4-Dioxan-2-yl)-6-methoxybenzothiazole (3v) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using 6-methoxybenzothiazole (**1f**) (0.50 mmol, 82 mg), TBHP (2.0 equiv, 200 μ L) and dioxane (1 mL) provided 63 mg (51% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3v** as a white solid. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.⁴ Mp 105-107 °C, (Lit. 96-98 °C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.88 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dd, J = 9.8, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.42-4.19 (m, 1H), 4.09-3.60 (m, 5H), 3.87 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.1, 157.6, 147.3, 135.8, 123.4, 115.5, 104.0, 75.2, 70.4, 66.9, 66.3, 55.7 ppm.

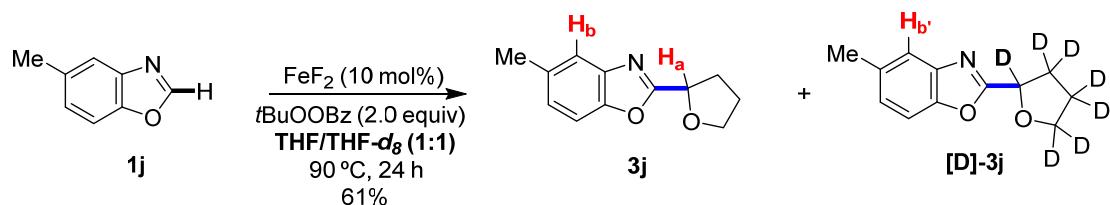


2-(1,2-Dimethoxyethyl)benzothiazole (3w) (Table 3). Following the general procedure, using benzothiazole (**1a**) (0.50 mmol, 54 µL), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 µL) and 1,2-dimethoxyethane (1 mL) provided 51 mg (46% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3w** as a colorless oil along with 26 mg (23% yield) of 2-[(2-methoxyethoxy)methyl]benzothiazole **3w'** (69% overall yield, 7:3 **3w**:**3w'**). In this case,

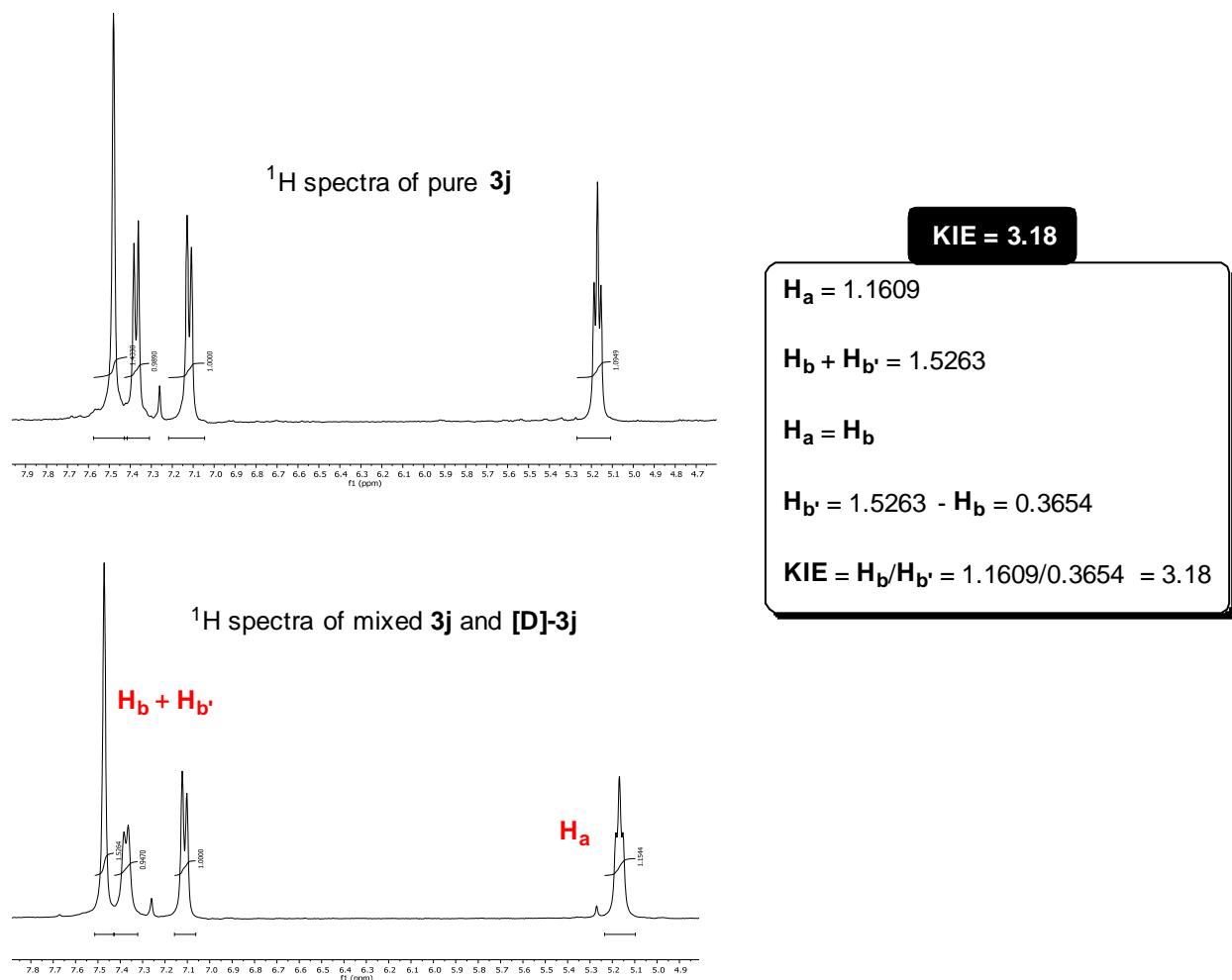
the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the benzoic acid side-product. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.¹ **3w:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (qd, *J* = 10.4, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.4, 152.8, 134.9, 125.9, 125.1, 122.9, 121.7, 81.0, 75.1, 59.3, 58.4 ppm. **3w':** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 3.78 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.68-3.52 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.0, 152.5, 134.6, 125.7, 124.7, 122.5, 121.4, 71.4, 70.3, 70.3, 58.7 ppm.



2-(1,2-Dimethoxyethyl)-6-fluorobenzothiazole (3x**) (Table 3).** Following the general procedure, using 6-fluorobenzothiazole (**1e**) (0.50 mmol, 77 mg), *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 μL) and 1,2-dimethoxyethane (1 mL) provided 66 mg (54% yield) of the corresponding coupling product **3x** as a colorless oil along with 13 mg (11% yield) of 2-6-fluoro-[2-(methoxyethoxy)methyl]benzothiazole **3x'** (65% overall yield, 8:2 **3m:3m'**). In this case, the reaction crude was washed with NaOH 1M before purification by column chromatography to remove the benzoic acid side-product. **3x:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (td, *J* = 9.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (qd, *J* = 10.5, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.2 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 160.3 (d, *J* = 246.4 Hz), 149.5, 136.1 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 123.9 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 114.6 (d, *J* = 25.2 Hz), 107.9 (d, *J* = 27.3 Hz), 75.0, 59.4, 58.45 ppm. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 1566, 1454, 1127, 813. MS (ESI⁺) *m/z* (%) 242 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for (C₁₁H₁₃NO₂SF): 242.0651, *found* 242.0649. **3w':** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, *J* = 9.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (s, 3H), 3.85-3.72 (m, 2H), 3.69-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.1 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 160.3 (d, *J* = 246.4 Hz) 149.4, 136.0 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 123.8 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 114.7 (d, *J* = 24.2 Hz) 108.0 (d, *J* = 26.3 Hz), 71.8, 70.7, 70.6, 59.1 ppm. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 1566, 1453, 1046, 816. MS (ESI⁺) *m/z* (%) 242 (M+H). HRMS *calcd.* for (C₁₁H₁₃NO₂SF): 242.0651, *found* 242.0651.



Kinetic Isotope Effect (KIE) experiment with benzoxazole **1j:** A reaction tube containing a stirring bar was charged with 5-methylbenzoxazole **1j** (0.5 mmol, 66 mg) and FeF_2 (0.05 mmol, 4.76 mg). The reaction tube was then evacuated and back-filled with dry argon (this sequence was repeated up to three times). Then **THF** (0.5 mL), **THF-*d*₈** (0.5 mL) and *tert*-butyl perbenzoate (2.0 equiv, 190 μL) were then added under argon atmosphere. The reaction tube was next warmed up to 90 °C and stirred for 24 hours. The mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature, washed with NaOH 1M and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The resulting mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the corresponding product (**3j** and **[D]-3j**) was purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/AcOEt 9/1). The KIE value was calculated by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectra:



Computational Methods

All reported structures were optimized at DFT level by using the M06⁷ hybrid functional as implemented in Gaussian 09.⁸ Optimizations were carried out by using the standard 6-311++G(d,p) basis set for C, H, O, and N, and the SDD basis set for Fe.⁹ Implicit solvent (Tetrahydrofuran) was included in all the optimizations by means of a CPCM solvent model system.¹⁰ Reported energy values correspond to Gibbs Free (G) energies. The critical stationary points were characterized by frequency calculations in order to verify that they have the right number of imaginary frequencies, and the intrinsic reaction coordinates (IRC)¹¹ were followed to verify the energy profiles connecting those transition structures to the correct associated local minima.

Computational Discussion

Computational data confirm that the homolytic cleavage of the peroxide substrate *t*BuOOH to form the hydroxide and *t*-butoxide radical species is a highly endergonic process, with an uphill Gibbs Free energy of 5.1 kcal/mol (Figure S1.1). Thus, in the absence of iron catalyst, this step is probably rate-determining, severely limiting the feasibility of the background reaction. However, FeF₂ helps stabilizing the arising radical species by formation of a very stable Fe(III) complex, which lies ca. 80 kcal/mol lower in energy than the starting reactants. Two possible product combinations are outlined in Figures S1.2 and S1.3, showing the preferential formation of FeF₂(OH) complex and *tert*-butoxy radical by more than 6 kcal/mol *vs* the alternative formation of FeF₂(OtBu) and hydroxyl radical. Finally, doublet and quartet spin states were considered for F₂Fe(OH) and F₂Fe(O*t*Bu), the latter (quartet) being lower in energy by more than 5 kcal/mol in

⁷ Y. Zhao, D. G. Truhlar, *Theor. Chem. Acc.* **2008**, *120*, 215-241.

⁸ Gaussian 09, Revision D.01; M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, T. Keith, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, O. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski, and D. J. Fox, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, **2013**.

⁹ P. Fuentealba, H. Preuss, H. Stoll, L. v. Szentpály, *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1982**, *89*, 418-22.

¹⁰ a) E. Cancès, B. Mennucci, J. Tomasi, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1997**, *107*, 3032-3047; b) M. Cossi, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, J. Tomasi, *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1998**, *286*, 253-260; c) J. Tomasi, B. Mennucci, E. Cancès, *J. Mol. Struct. (Theochem)* **1999**, *464*, 211-226.

¹¹ C. Gonzalez, H. B. Schlegel, *J. Phys. Chem.* **1990**, *94*, 5523-5527.

both species, regardless the computational conditions used. Thus, only energy values for high spin Fe(III) are shown in the figures and Table S4.

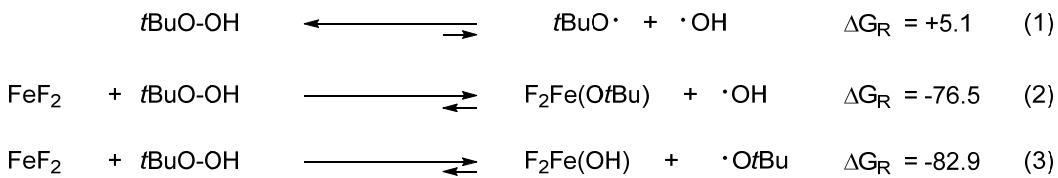


Figure S1. Gibbs Free energies for the homolytic cleavage of TBHP in the absence or presence of FeF_2 catalyst.

Next, the deprotonation of the O-C-H in the THF molecule **2a** is predicted to be an easy process, with an activation energy of only 12.5 kcal/mol (**TS1**, Figure S2.1). As mentioned before, we have found a significant experimental kinetic isotope effect between **2a** and **2a-d**, indicating that this step should be the rate-determining step in our reaction. In this regard, its low activation energy can be accepted if we consider also the low concentration of the *tert*-butoxide radical in the reaction media. This radical will be probably involved in an equilibrium between its free form and a Fe(III)-O*t*Bu complex, by combination with the Fe(II) catalyst. This equilibrium would compromise the availability of the free radical, decreasing the deprotonation rate in Figure S2.1. In agreement with the experimental findings, the deuterium cleavage in **2a-d** presents an activation energy of 13.6 kcal/mol (Figure S2.2), corresponding to a computed KIE of 5.3. The subsequent SET event that affords a highly electrophilic oxonium cation **5** (Figure S2.3) and a hydroxide anion is also a favorable process, lying ca. 5 kcal/mol lower in energy than the sum of the starting Fe(III) complex and radical species.

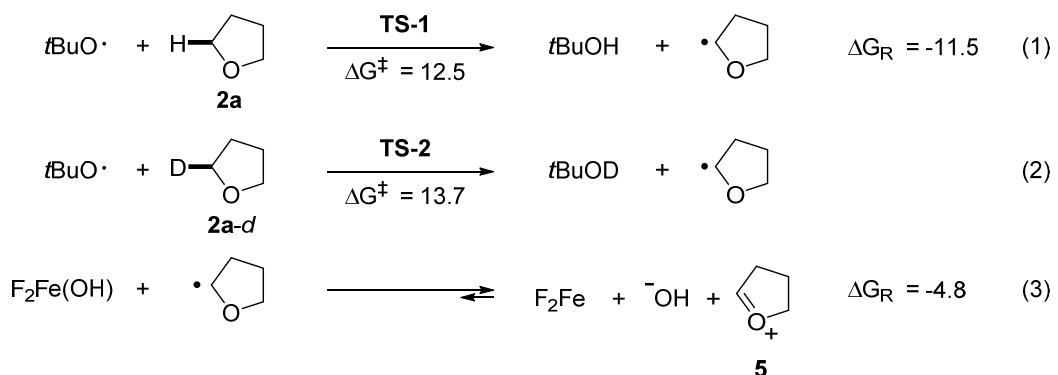


Figure S2. Computed formation of the electrophilic oxonium species **5**.

Finally, we also confirmed that the hydroxide anion formed in the previous step is basic enough to easily deprotonate the azole **1a** through **TS3** (Figure S3.1) with a low

activation energy of only 10.1 kcal/mol in a slightly exergonic process (-0.6 kcal/mol). The low energy barrier of **TS-3** confirms the radical-mediated deprotonation event in Figure S2.1 (**TS-1**) as the rate-determining step. Obviously, the final C-C bond formation should be a barrierless step in an extremely favorable process, where the product **3a** lies 82 kcal/mol lower in energy than the sum of the anionic/cationic species (Figure S3.2).

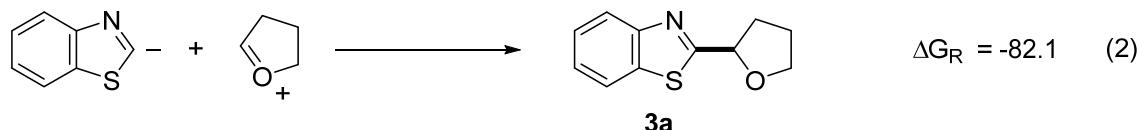
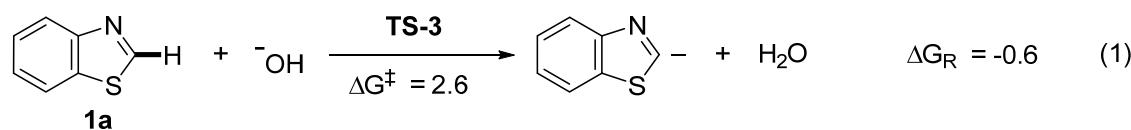


Figure S3. Final steps in the formation of product **3a**.

Table S3. Energies of all stationary points shown in the study

	M06/6- 311++G** Electronic energy	Correctio n to G	M06/6- 311++G** Gibbs Free	relativ e G	Frequency
All Stationary points					
THF	-232.351720	0.085652	-232.266068		
THF-<i>d</i>	-232.351720	0.081945	-232.269774		
tBuOOH	-308.699834	0.107074	-308.592760		
tBuOO (rad)	-308.058556	0.094603	-307.963913		
tBuOO- (anion)	-308.188813	0.095351	-308.095300		
FeF₂	-323.570284	-	-323.594122		
		0.023838			
1a	-722.529832	0.070589	-722.459243		
1a-rad	-721.846442	0.057355	-721.789087		
1a-anion	-722.001791	0.055967	-721.945824		
H₂O	-76.425040	0.003861	-76.421179		
HO (rad)	-75.725808	-	-75.734143		
		0.008335			
HO- (anion)	-75.899517	-	-75.906850		
		0.007333			
tBuO (rad)	-232.905755	0.091324	-232.814431		
tBuO- (anion)	-233.059196	0.092137	-232.967059		
tBuOH	-233.583257	0.105659	-233.477598		
FeF₂(OtBu)	-556.662891	0.088311	-556.574580		
FeF₂(OH)	-399.516823	0.012334	-399.504489		
THF rad	-231.695062	0.073852	-231.621210		
THF-cation	-231.541397	0.077445	-231.463952		
TS1	-465.256306	0.195739	-465.060567		
TS2	-465.256306	0.193903	-465.062402		
TS3	-798.432676	0.070805	-798.361870		
3a	-953.700125	0.159535	-953.540591		

equation S1.1

<i>t</i> BuOOH		-308.592760		
<i>t</i> BuO (rad)+ HO (rad)		-308.584574	5.1	
<i>equation S1.2</i>				
FeF ₂ + <i>t</i> BuOOH		-632.186882		
FeF ₂ (OtBu) + HO (rad)		-632.308723	-76.5	
<i>equation S1.3</i>				
FeF ₂ + <i>t</i> BuOOH		-632.186882		
FeF ₂ (OH) + <i>t</i> BuO (rad)		-632.318920	-82.9	
<i>equation S2.1</i>				
THF + <i>t</i> BuO (rad)		-465.080499		
THF (rad) + <i>t</i> BuOH		-465.098808	-11.5	
TS1		-465.060567	12.5	-1341.2
<i>equation S2.2</i>				
THF- <i>d</i> + <i>t</i> BuO (rad)		-464.747372		
TS2		-465.062402	13.7	-1027.9
<i>equation S2.3</i>				
FeF ₂ (OH) + THF (rad)		-555.050494		
FeF ₂ + -OH +THF(cation)		-555.058074	-4.8	
<i>equation S3.1</i>				
1a + -OH		-798.366093		
1a (anion) + H ₂ O		-798.367003	-0.6	
TS3		-798.361870	2.6	-1663.7
<i>equation S3.2</i>				
1a(anion) +		-953.409776		
THF(cation)				
3a		-953.540591	-82.1	

Atomic Coordinates for the compounds described in the Manuscript and Supporting Information

THF

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	1.079952	-0.524977	0.213713
2	8	0	-0.063795	-1.199305	-0.277408
3	6	0	-1.170128	-0.388172	0.086601
4	6	0	-0.680623	1.068114	0.035336
5	6	0	0.839252	0.932467	-0.138998
6	1	0	1.153835	-0.655583	1.307270
7	1	0	1.965619	-0.966095	-0.249390
8	1	0	-1.988468	-0.604953	-0.604265
9	1	0	-1.499736	-0.650972	1.103841
10	1	0	-1.132845	1.622000	-0.790775
11	1	0	1.127900	1.111692	-1.179510
12	1	0	1.407593	1.619695	0.492286
13	1	0	-0.934260	1.594060	0.959901

tBuOOH

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	-0.383687	-0.000715	0.033610
2	6	0	-1.552845	-0.117458	-0.924581
3	1	0	-1.505930	-1.055636	-1.486165
4	1	0	-1.558716	0.717387	-1.631953
5	1	0	-2.490383	-0.098733	-0.360763
6	6	0	-0.321369	-1.195055	0.966395
7	1	0	-0.232523	-2.125244	0.394707
8	1	0	-1.236754	-1.247058	1.564616
9	1	0	0.523884	-1.120282	1.656662
10	6	0	-0.427201	1.308983	0.795700
11	1	0	-0.455574	2.155151	0.101619
12	1	0	0.445707	1.415353	1.444834
13	1	0	-1.325084	1.345090	1.421458
14	8	0	0.744474	-0.011277	-0.875571
15	8	0	1.961621	0.115249	-0.146782
16	1	0	2.297222	-0.792343	-0.152943

tBuOO (rad)

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	0.363625	0.000217	0.046305
2	6	0	1.489320	-0.001067	-0.960073
3	1	0	1.447078	0.888308	-1.596003
4	1	0	1.446899	-0.892052	-1.593723
5	1	0	2.447296	-0.000534	-0.431901
6	6	0	0.335528	1.259857	0.879345
7	1	0	0.302279	2.148355	0.241278
8	1	0	1.243266	1.307434	1.488685
9	1	0	-0.528671	1.267897	1.548426
10	6	0	0.336373	-1.257167	0.883011
11	1	0	0.304889	-2.147381	0.247232
12	1	0	-0.528681	-1.264501	1.551012
13	1	0	1.243376	-1.302017	1.493606
14	8	0	-0.849534	-0.001731	-0.831508
15	8	0	-1.966317	-0.000338	-0.173509

***t*BuOO (anion)**

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	0.321373	-0.000004	0.009263
2	6	0	1.541238	-0.000016	-0.899260
3	1	0	1.543231	0.888613	-1.540751
4	1	0	1.543097	-0.888558	-1.540872
5	1	0	2.463757	-0.000128	-0.307395
6	6	0	0.325839	1.250788	0.879904
7	1	0	0.339590	2.149097	0.250966
8	1	0	1.208675	1.270735	1.530631
9	1	0	-0.572663	1.278470	1.501079
10	6	0	0.325791	-1.250776	0.879936
11	1	0	0.339911	-2.149111	0.251044
12	1	0	-0.572929	-1.278553	1.500799
13	1	0	1.208399	-1.270563	1.530977
14	8	0	-0.777520	-0.000026	-0.882717
15	8	0	-2.045794	0.000032	-0.166725

FeF₂

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	26	0	0.000000	0.449256	0.000000
2	9	0	1.459668	-0.649047	0.000000
3	9	0	-1.459668	-0.648802	0.000000

1a

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	-0.081444	-0.566322	0.000012
2	6	0	0.092532	0.829909	0.000018
3	6	0	1.383388	1.363752	-0.000077
4	6	0	2.462849	0.502417	-0.000119
5	6	0	2.275324	-0.885760	-0.000112
6	6	0	1.006107	-1.435428	-0.000072
7	6	0	-2.099109	0.787662	0.000419
8	1	0	1.514260	2.441378	-0.000089
9	1	0	3.471038	0.904296	-0.000177
10	1	0	3.139786	-1.542158	-0.000170

11	1	0	0.865349	-2.511124	-0.000111
12	1	0	-3.128866	1.130539	0.000254
13	7	0	-1.076767	1.567409	0.000081
14	16	0	-1.785130	-0.935761	-0.000043

1a (rad)

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	1	0	-3.039816	-1.636024	0.000025
2	1	0	-0.729434	-2.521600	0.000023
3	16	0	1.879820	-0.850946	-0.000007
4	1	0	-3.462453	0.793730	0.000027
5	1	0	-1.564756	2.406377	-0.000055
6	6	0	0.139915	-0.543059	0.000017
7	6	0	-0.910262	-1.452015	0.000028
8	6	0	-1.393394	1.334873	-0.000050
9	6	0	2.091215	0.881524	-0.000091
10	7	0	1.078158	1.612247	0.000132
11	6	0	-0.091386	0.843964	-0.000033
12	6	0	-2.440024	0.430211	-0.000010
13	6	0	-2.200691	-0.947678	0.000000

tBuO (rad)

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	8	0	0.000086	0.288812	1.419434
2	6	0	-0.000010	-0.030575	0.086001
3	6	0	-1.264507	-0.789078	-0.301690
4	1	0	-2.154218	-0.214211	-0.028470
5	1	0	-1.298572	-1.753137	0.215573
6	1	0	-1.284184	-0.978685	-1.379929
7	6	0	0.000456	1.364183	-0.593189
8	1	0	-0.892065	1.929681	-0.315613
9	1	0	0.000549	1.198129	-1.675524
10	1	0	0.893235	1.929163	-0.315397
11	6	0	1.263986	-0.789910	-0.301677
12	1	0	1.297485	-1.753916	0.215721
13	1	0	2.154076	-0.215557	-0.028612
14	1	0	1.283457	-0.979676	-1.379892

tBuO (anion)

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	8	0	0.000480	-0.001999	1.494289
2	6	0	0.000044	-0.000146	0.134472
3	6	0	-0.155052	1.427741	-0.429070
4	1	0	0.668848	2.056840	-0.067383
5	1	0	-1.095450	1.865068	-0.068621
6	1	0	-0.158109	1.462923	-1.528920
7	6	0	1.313288	-0.578816	-0.431585
8	1	0	2.162387	0.016622	-0.070847
9	1	0	1.344756	-0.592837	-1.531475
10	1	0	1.446744	-1.607182	-0.070676
11	6	0	-1.158739	-0.847165	-0.431191
12	1	0	-2.115703	-0.447658	-0.070624
13	1	0	-1.068201	-1.880159	-0.070428
14	1	0	-1.186358	-0.867315	-1.531090

tBuOH

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	8	0	0.067611	-0.000076	1.447645
2	6	0	-0.006714	-0.000106	0.014965
3	6	0	-1.486280	-0.010937	-0.309227
4	1	0	-1.976508	0.873435	0.110757
5	1	0	-1.963231	-0.903528	0.108792
6	1	0	-1.640755	-0.011075	-1.392821
7	6	0	0.655418	1.255650	-0.528217
8	1	0	0.175396	2.149016	-0.115528
9	1	0	0.581109	1.294881	-1.620384
10	1	0	1.719120	1.280430	-0.262530
11	6	0	0.674393	-1.245145	-0.529239
12	1	0	0.208082	-2.146369	-0.117868
13	1	0	1.738363	-1.254209	-0.263458
14	1	0	0.601029	-1.284198	-1.621490
15	1	0	0.995609	0.005448	1.703682

FeF₂(OtBu)

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z

1	26	0	1.422858	0.090316	-0.000770
2	9	0	2.461639	-1.397008	0.000461
3	9	0	0.942805	1.830507	0.000719
4	8	0	-0.317106	-0.743476	-0.004248
5	6	0	-1.564395	-0.127573	0.000346
6	6	0	-1.784232	0.692187	-1.260741
7	1	0	-1.629494	0.074954	-2.150764
8	1	0	-1.082389	1.531052	-1.281494
9	1	0	-2.804356	1.087708	-1.281252
10	6	0	-2.509549	-1.361473	-0.006927
11	1	0	-2.350904	-1.961451	-0.905005
12	1	0	-3.533000	-0.972159	-0.002971
13	1	0	-2.348714	-1.974067	0.882175
14	6	0	-1.781960	0.676377	1.271914
15	1	0	-1.079099	1.514276	1.302809
16	1	0	-1.627176	0.047650	2.153843
17	1	0	-2.801520	1.073017	1.298494

FeF₂(OH)

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	26	0	-0.000626	-0.147754	-0.058011
2	9	0	-1.642355	-0.608327	0.074360
3	9	0	1.639387	-0.614625	0.073851
4	8	0	0.003693	1.606962	-0.079542
5	1	0	0.013447	1.992474	0.810721

THF (cation)

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	0.542947	-1.107808	0.030556
2	8	0	-0.807525	-0.946621	-0.118237
3	6	0	-1.112924	0.420233	0.182516
4	6	0	0.128139	1.187410	-0.228369
5	6	0	1.242017	0.202810	0.147179
6	1	0	0.935981	-2.030725	-0.377143
7	1	0	-2.020998	0.689095	-0.359949
8	1	0	-1.300785	0.513281	1.261719
9	1	0	0.120423	1.357334	-1.310399
10	1	0	0.209921	2.154499	0.272080
11	1	0	2.119408	0.278778	-0.504408
12	1	0	1.595175	0.394841	1.172702

THF (rad)

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	1.100759	-0.450634	-0.049347
2	8	0	0.117167	-1.219400	-0.064790
3	6	0	-1.151600	-0.439171	0.114278
4	6	0	-0.729477	0.992906	-0.141029
5	6	0	0.781571	0.962870	0.103205
6	1	0	2.087306	-0.905944	-0.125723
7	1	0	-1.858537	-0.869519	-0.590676
8	1	0	-1.455355	-0.655374	1.139286
9	1	0	-0.938776	1.282010	-1.172589
10	1	0	-1.244814	1.684936	0.523496
11	1	0	1.392329	1.590761	-0.550499
12	1	0	1.072995	1.232503	1.132390

TS1

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	-1.249785	-0.556674	0.773506
2	8	0	-1.649002	0.778229	0.886433
3	6	0	-2.378117	1.111637	-0.305699
4	6	0	-3.178058	-0.153596	-0.626381
5	6	0	-2.209308	-1.277227	-0.190374
6	1	0	-1.123707	-0.984114	1.772206
7	1	0	-2.984679	1.992459	-0.083328
8	1	0	-1.671336	1.355721	-1.111256
9	1	0	-4.092118	-0.178065	-0.024868
10	1	0	-3.461696	-0.216800	-1.680012
11	1	0	-2.726960	-2.112173	0.290357
12	1	0	-1.650503	-1.678192	-1.041546
13	1	0	-0.150739	-0.622106	0.240150
14	6	0	2.002372	0.008206	-0.081698
15	6	0	3.163180	-0.335045	-1.042527
16	1	0	4.053790	0.245338	-0.778855
17	1	0	3.405790	-1.399552	-0.982304
18	1	0	2.883884	-0.101387	-2.073498
19	6	0	2.384538	-0.373211	1.360175
20	1	0	3.279011	0.164496	1.692902
21	1	0	1.571391	-0.128732	2.051872
22	1	0	2.578913	-1.447880	1.425251
23	6	0	1.652238	1.504337	-0.182599
24	1	0	1.399574	1.760322	-1.216371

25	1	0	0.789938	1.737088	0.449551
26	1	0	2.490447	2.134688	0.134535
27	8	0	0.934832	-0.789688	-0.547834

TS2

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	-1.248056	-0.655699	0.725122
2	8	0	-1.567934	0.673136	0.946326
3	6	0	-2.245731	1.137269	-0.223219
4	6	0	-3.117822	-0.032571	-0.632584
5	6	0	-2.234897	-1.235540	-0.280372
6	1	0	-1.115653	-1.175050	1.678634
7	1	0	-2.785752	2.047819	0.041117
8	1	0	-1.500268	1.374384	-0.998259
9	1	0	-4.034209	-0.038295	-0.033934
10	1	0	-3.398660	0.001314	-1.686950
11	1	0	-2.803567	-2.069249	0.139358
12	1	0	-1.701812	-1.612264	-1.160268
13	1	0	-0.158746	-0.718769	0.177956
14	6	0	1.954600	0.004747	-0.087364
15	6	0	3.183030	-0.304335	-0.943667
16	1	0	4.028257	0.308893	-0.611334
17	1	0	3.458364	-1.359685	-0.853842
18	1	0	2.982253	-0.081281	-1.996099
19	6	0	2.239667	-0.338898	1.369668
20	1	0	3.084559	0.245790	1.750142
21	1	0	1.368400	-0.117841	1.996954
22	1	0	2.479060	-1.402744	1.470288
23	6	0	1.574506	1.473964	-0.229326
24	1	0	1.367445	1.710460	-1.278879
25	1	0	0.679242	1.696712	0.361741
26	1	0	2.385312	2.123746	0.119371
27	8	0	0.947184	-0.826581	-0.609519

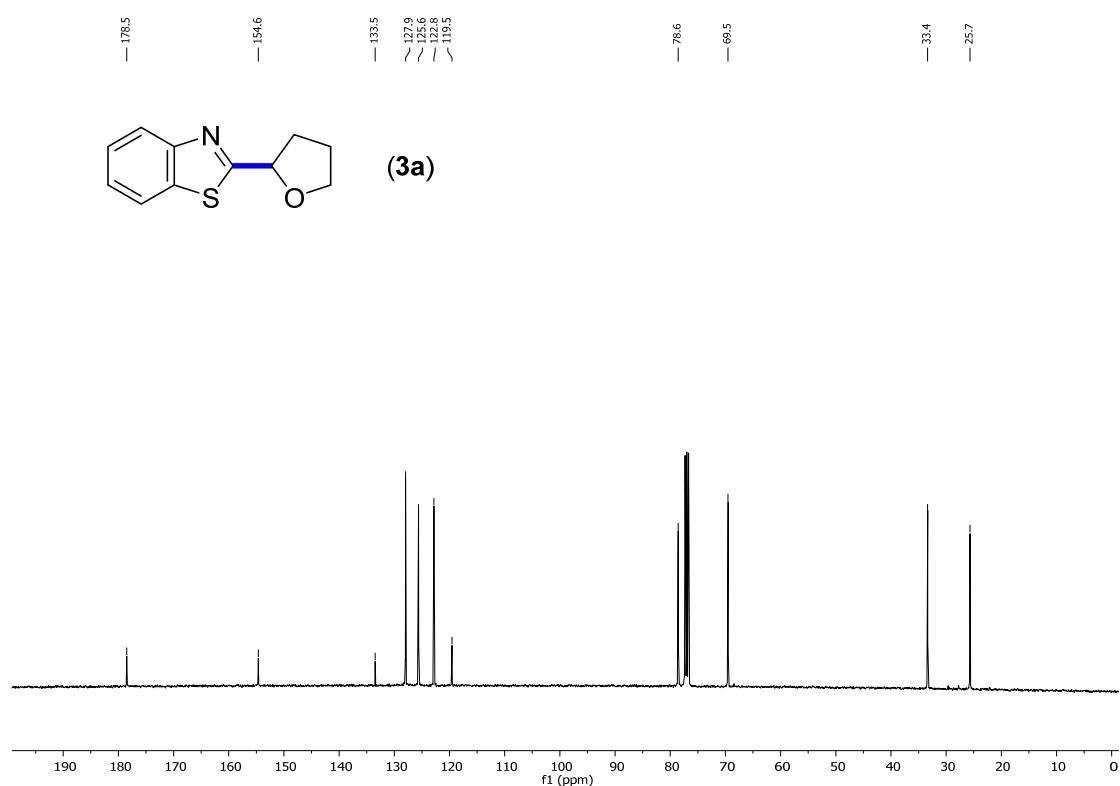
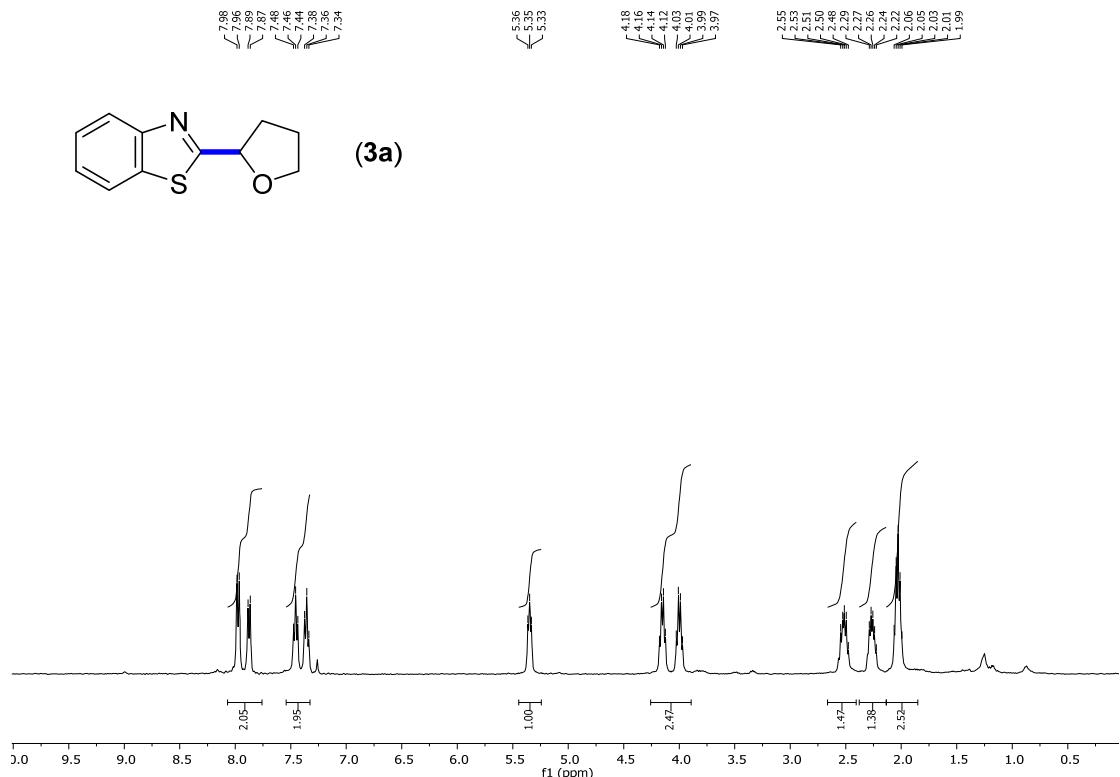
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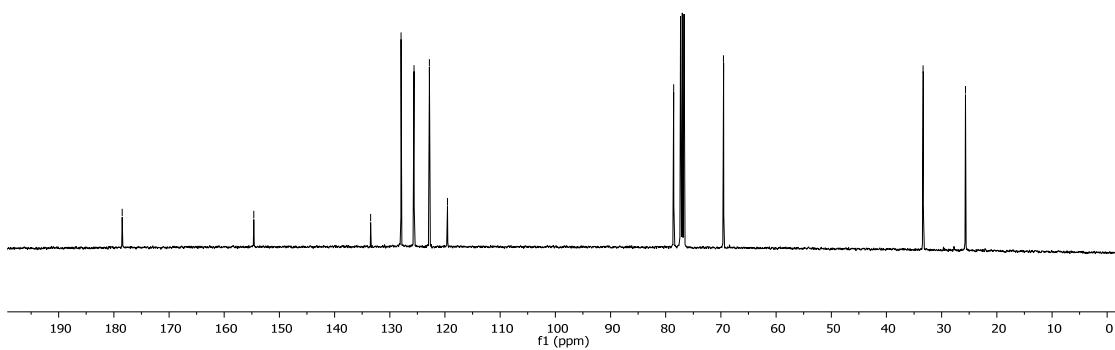
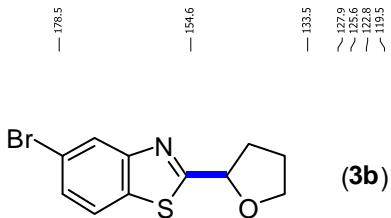
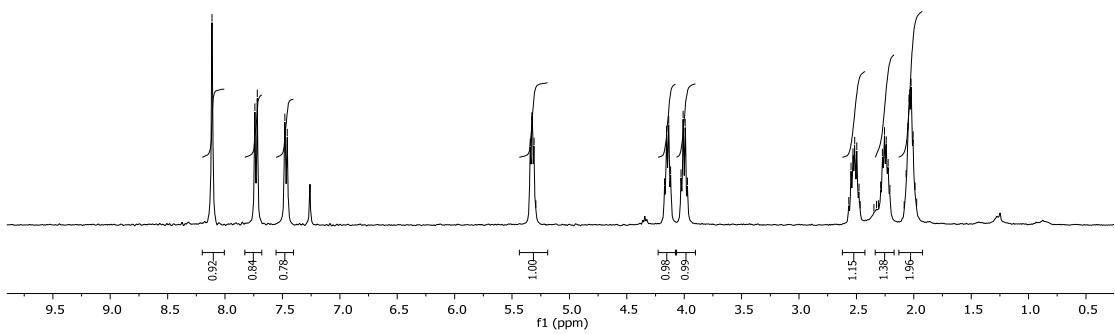
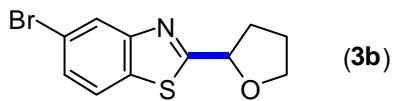
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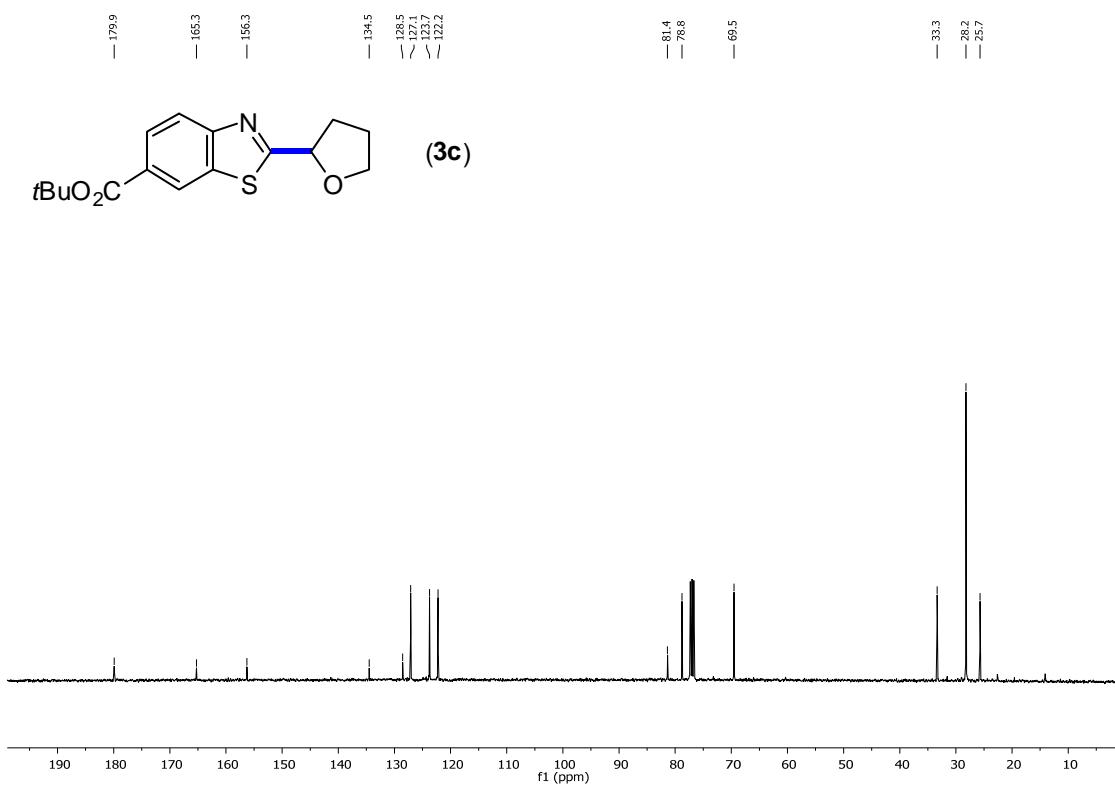
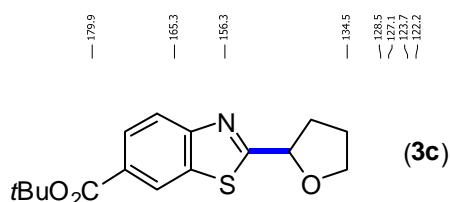
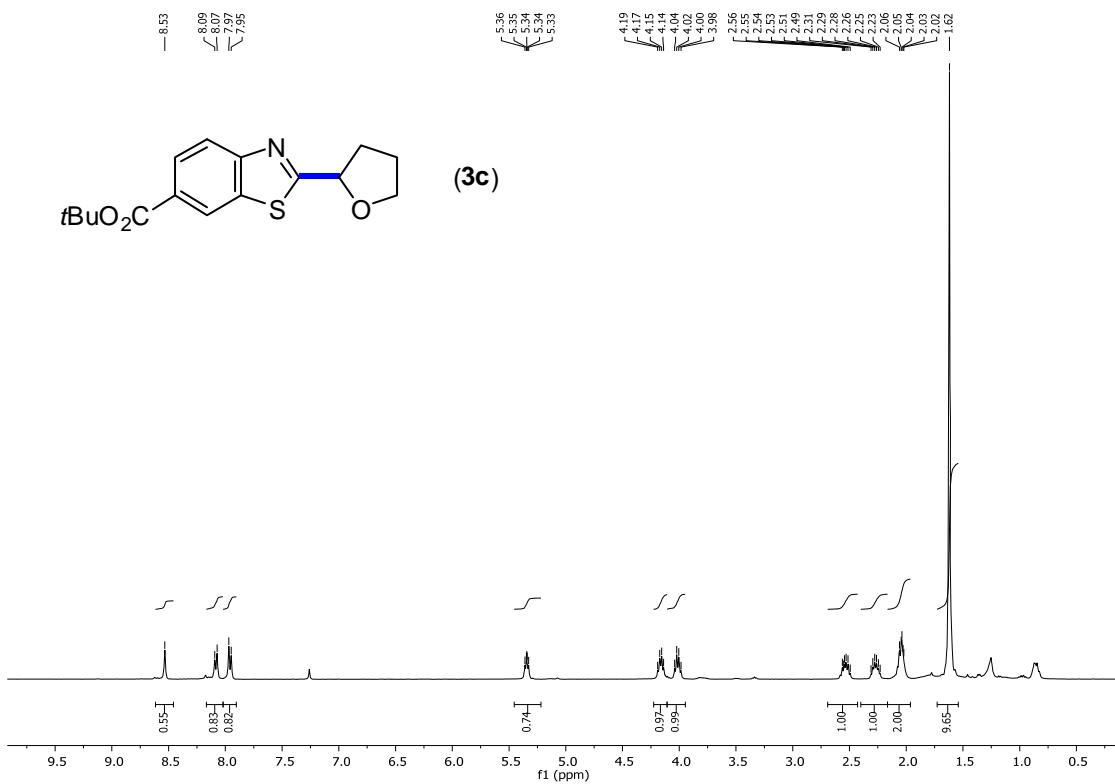
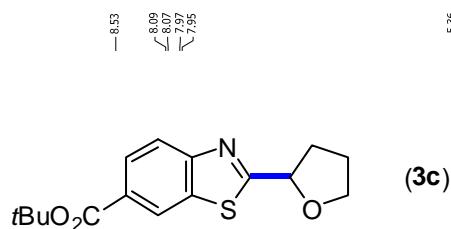
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			X	Y	Z
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2	1	0	2.010582	2.312628	0.010151
3	1	0	-3.031978	-0.358889	-0.007508
4	16	0	-0.950919	1.403143	-0.005244
5	1	0	3.729957	-1.624035	0.007109

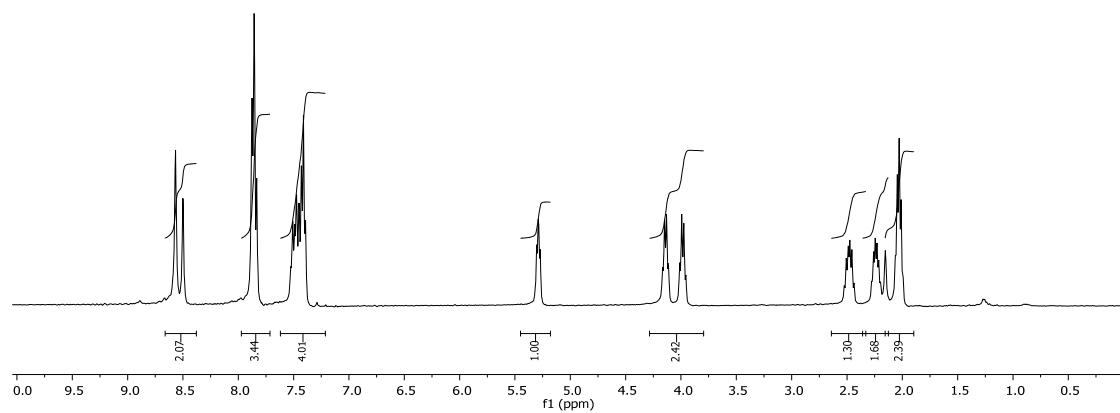
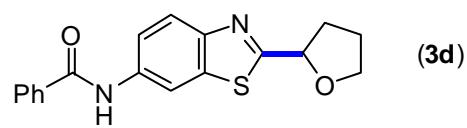
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7	1	0	1.460627	-2.643377	-0.006202
8	6	0	0.623245	0.656691	-0.000937
9	6	0	1.891119	1.233401	0.006524
10	6	0	1.589268	-1.564552	-0.002710
11	6	0	-1.725513	-0.229028	-0.012892
12	7	0	-0.850433	-1.186796	-0.011871
13	6	0	0.459913	-0.743044	-0.005404
14	6	0	2.848112	-0.990195	0.004743
15	6	0	2.998957	0.400882	0.009405
16	1	0	-4.537789	-1.412595	0.060385

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra

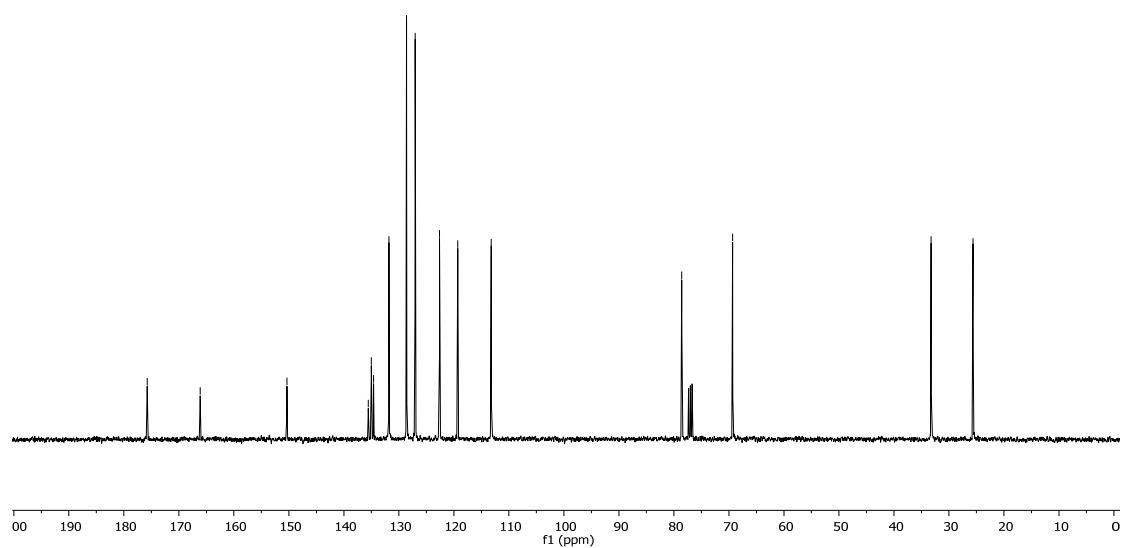
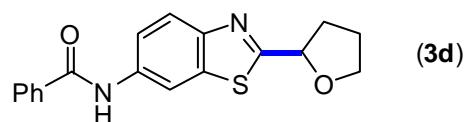


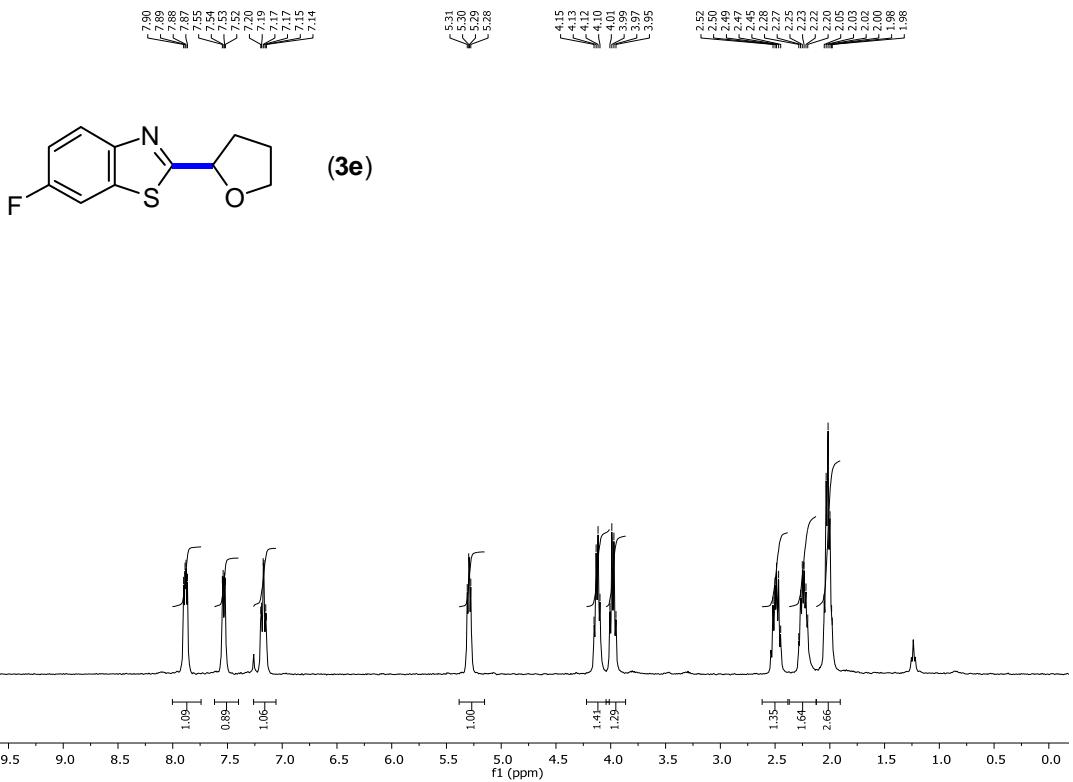




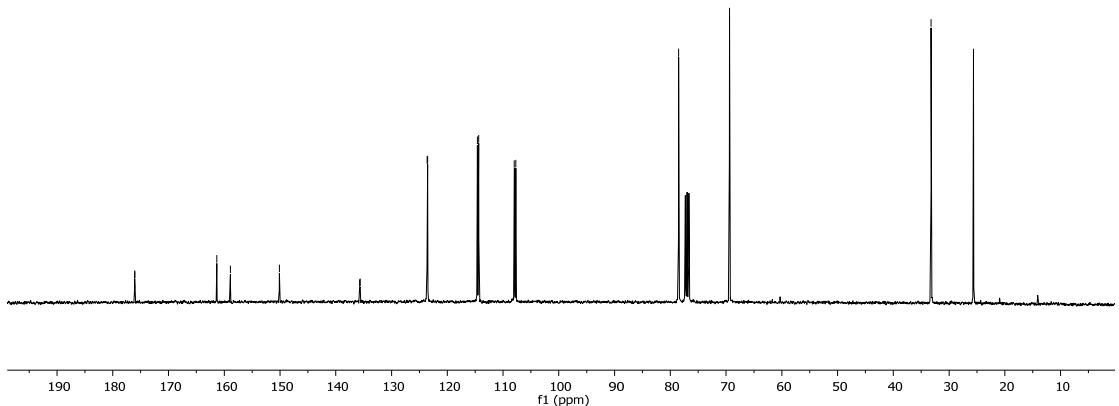
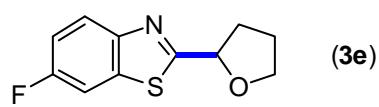


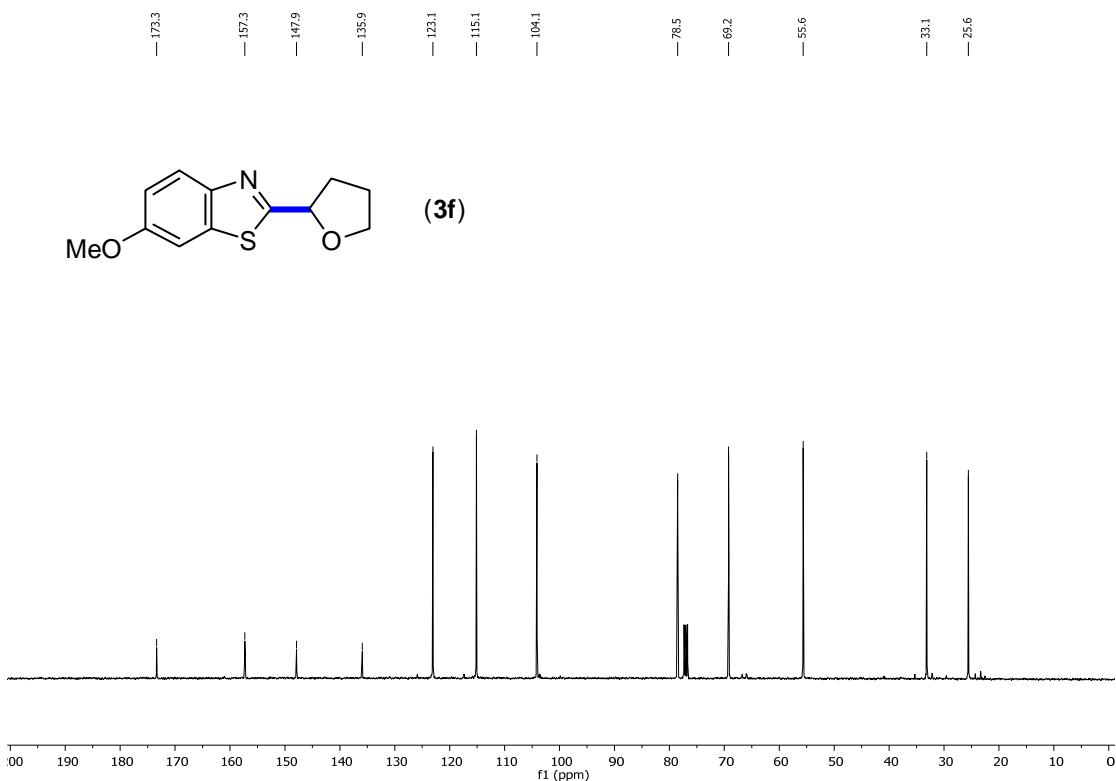
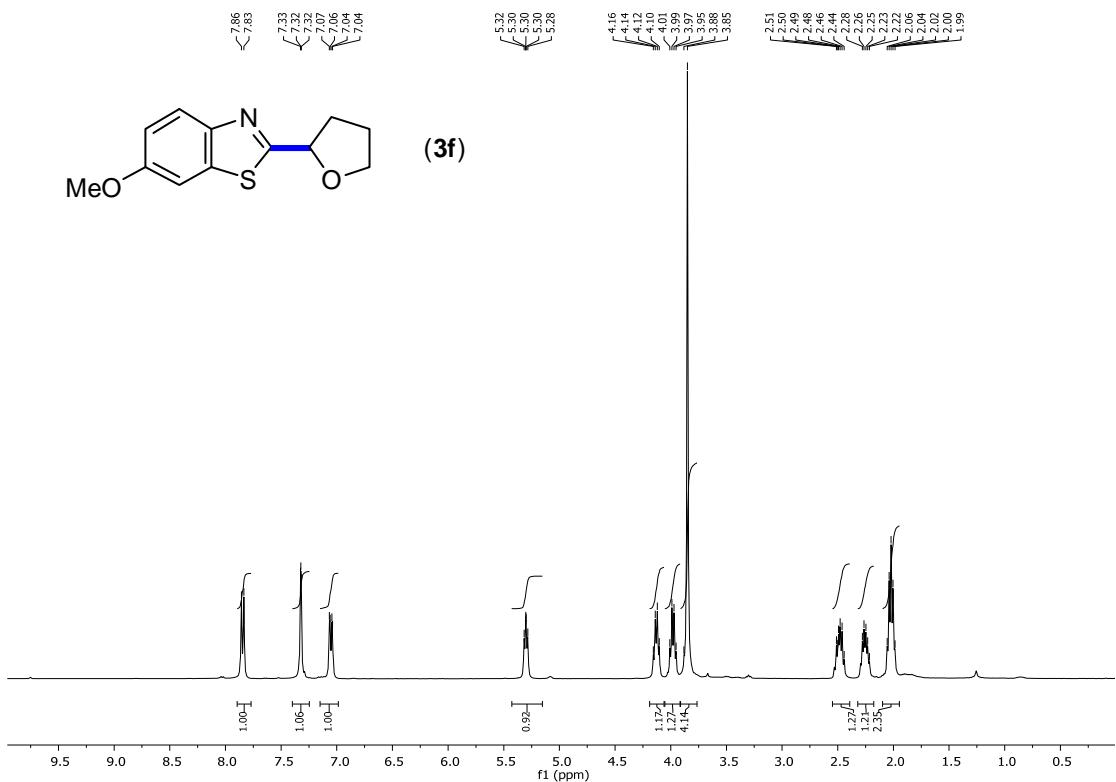
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 — 166.1
 — 150.4
 — 135.6
 — 133.0
 — 134.6
 — 131.8
 — 128.6
 — 127.0
 ~ 122.6
 — 119.3
 — 113.2
 — 78.6
 — 69.3
 — 33.2
 — 25.6

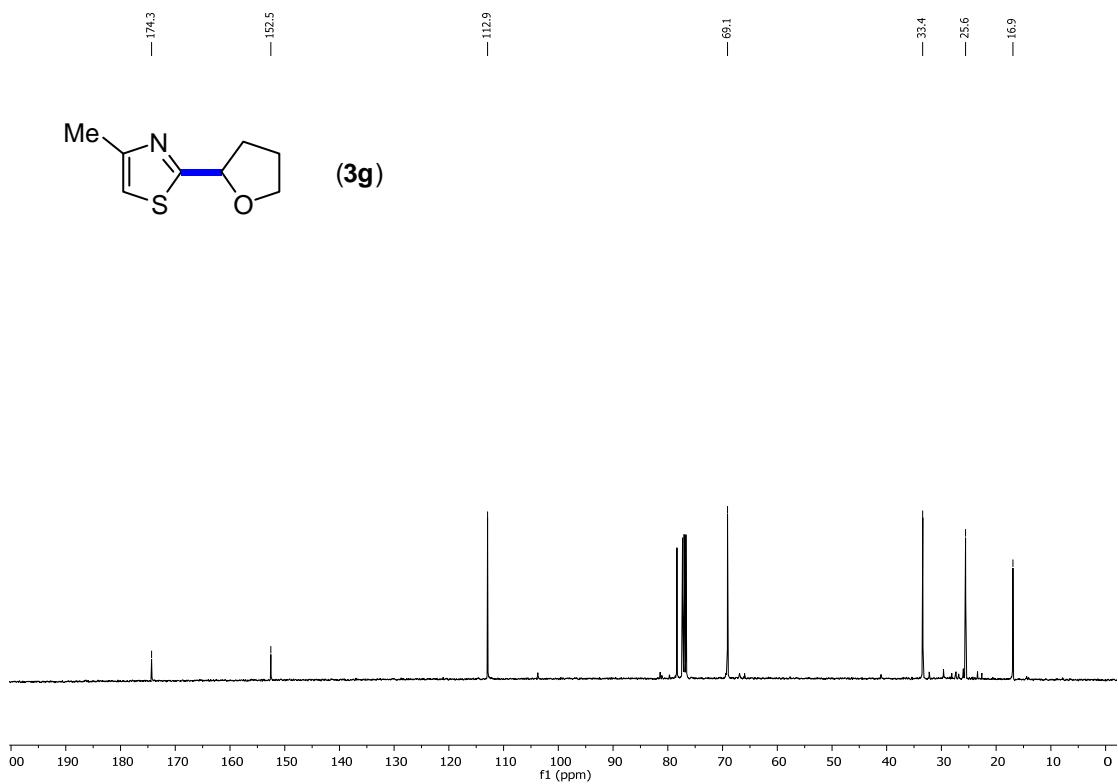
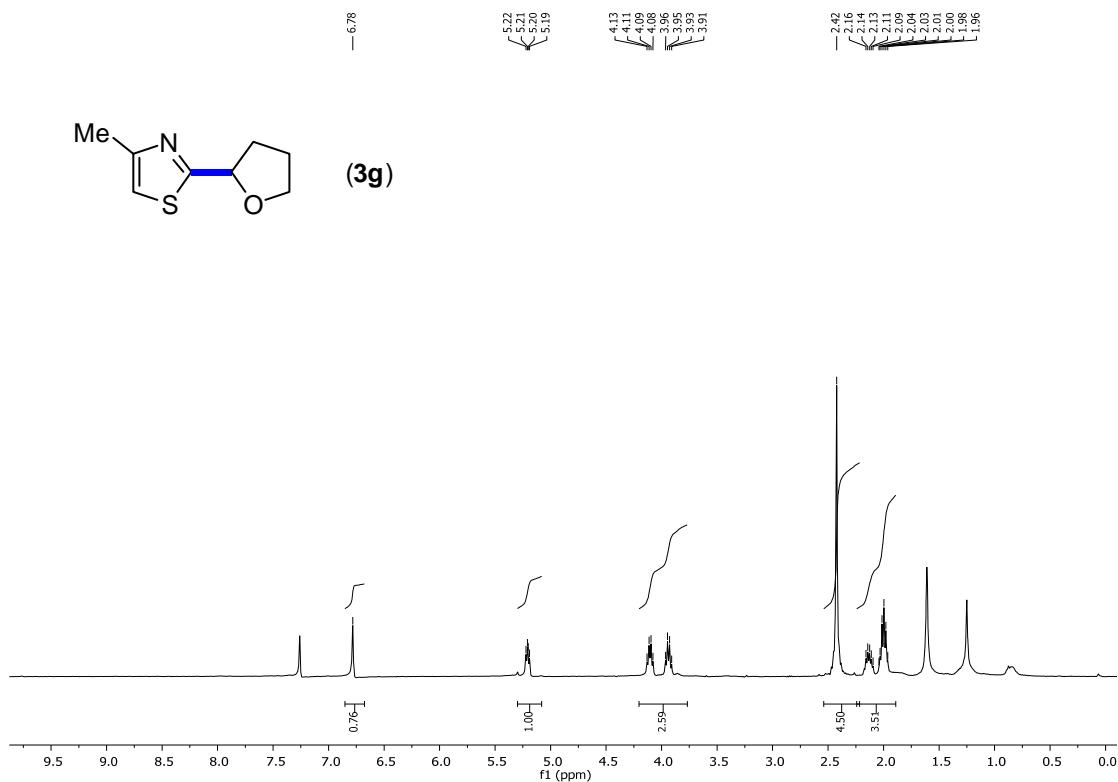


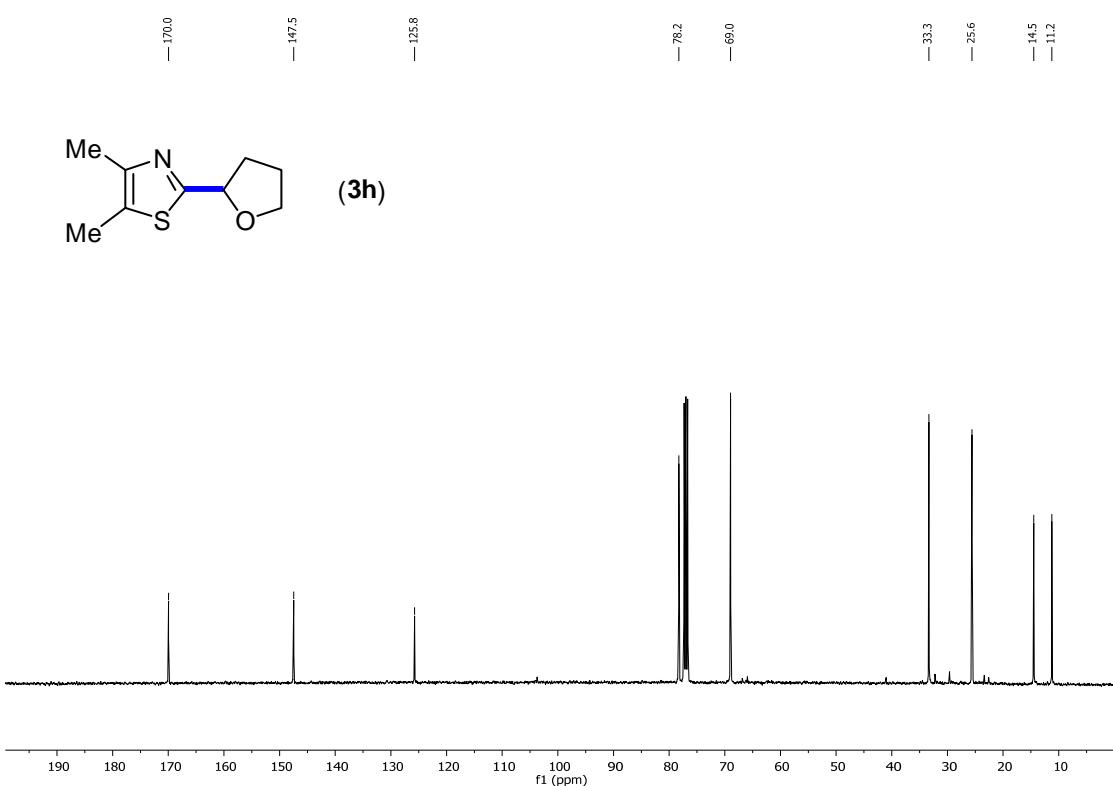
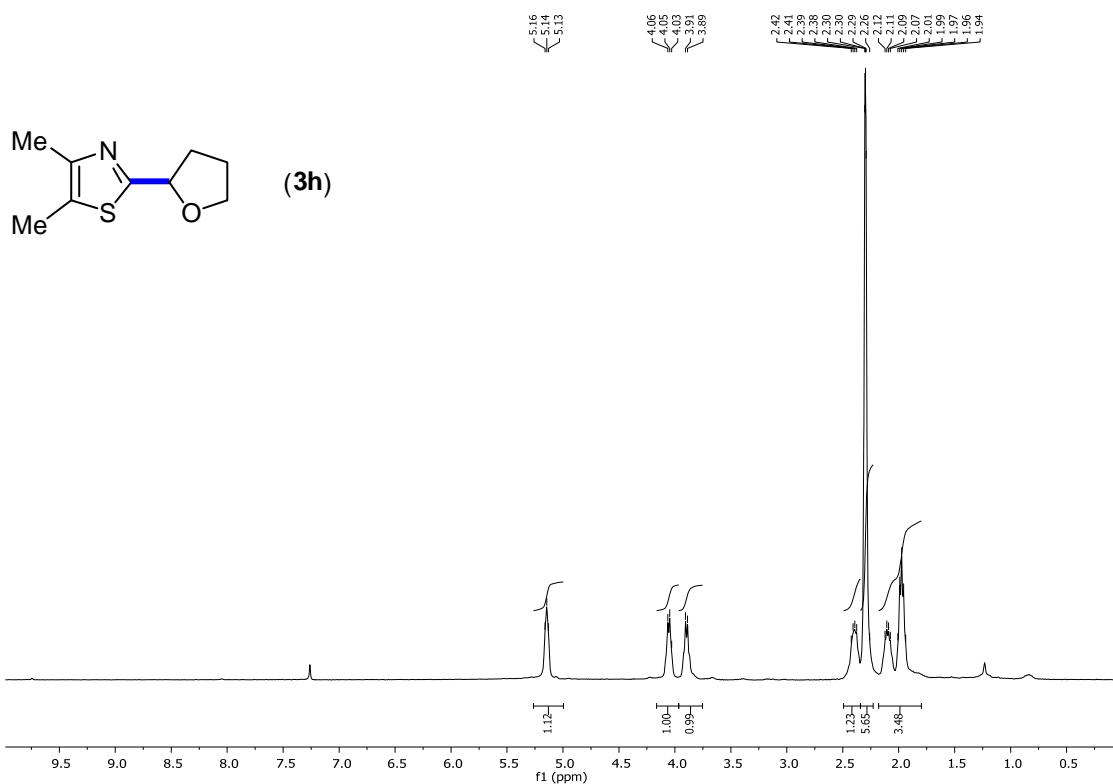


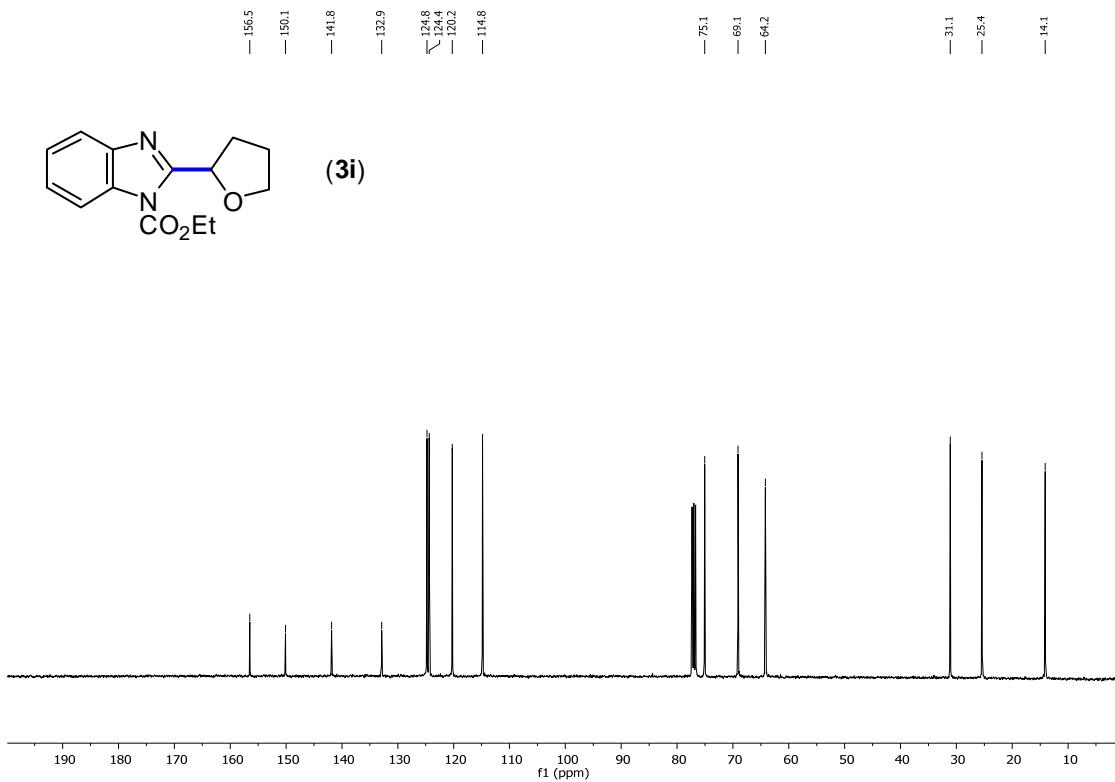
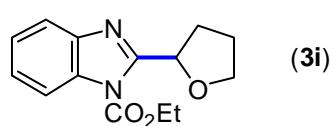
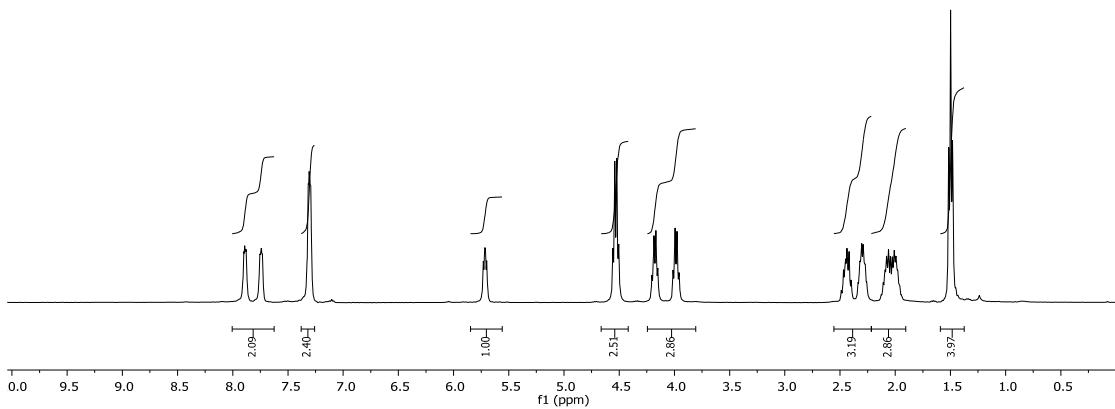
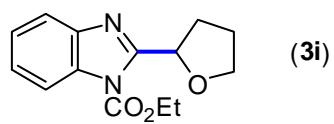
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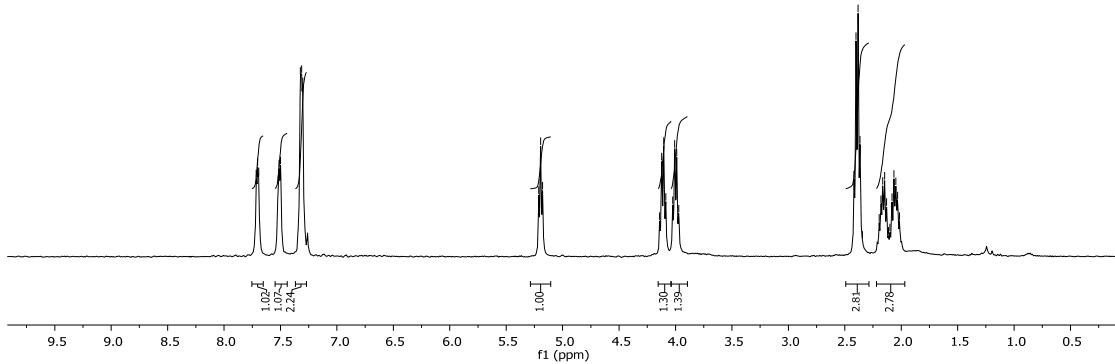
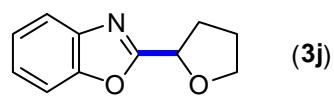
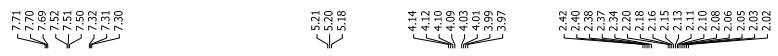




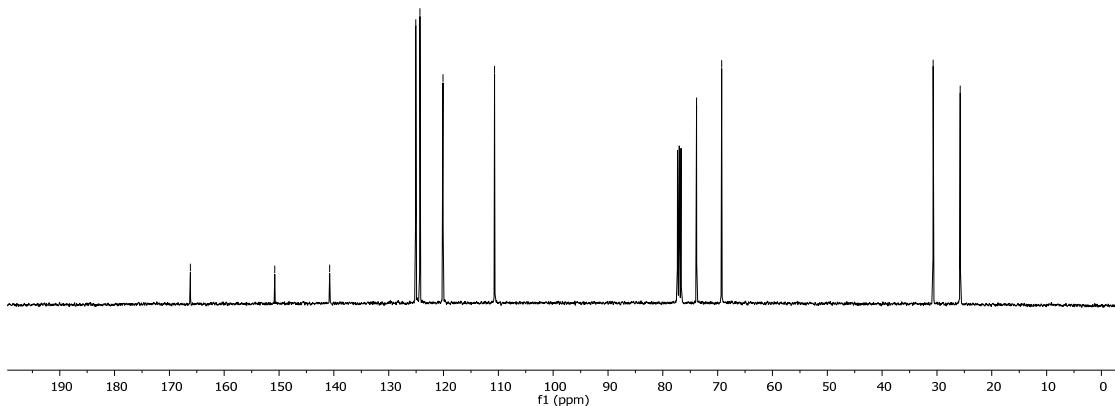
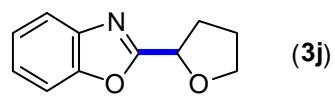


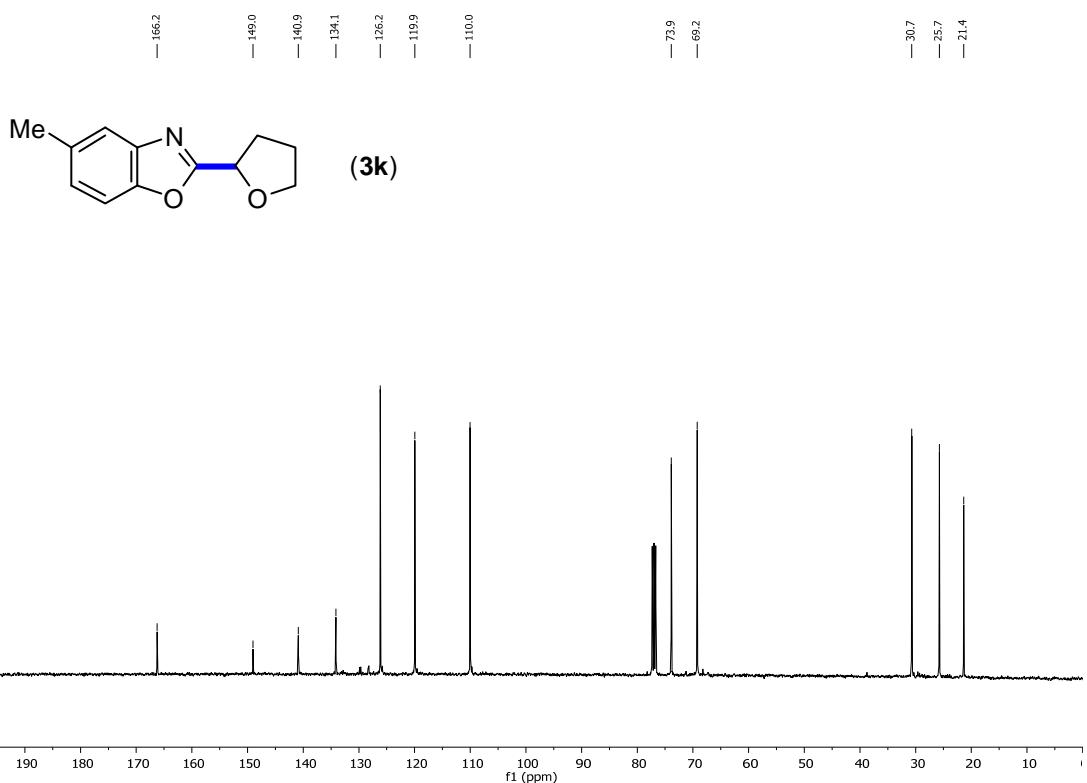
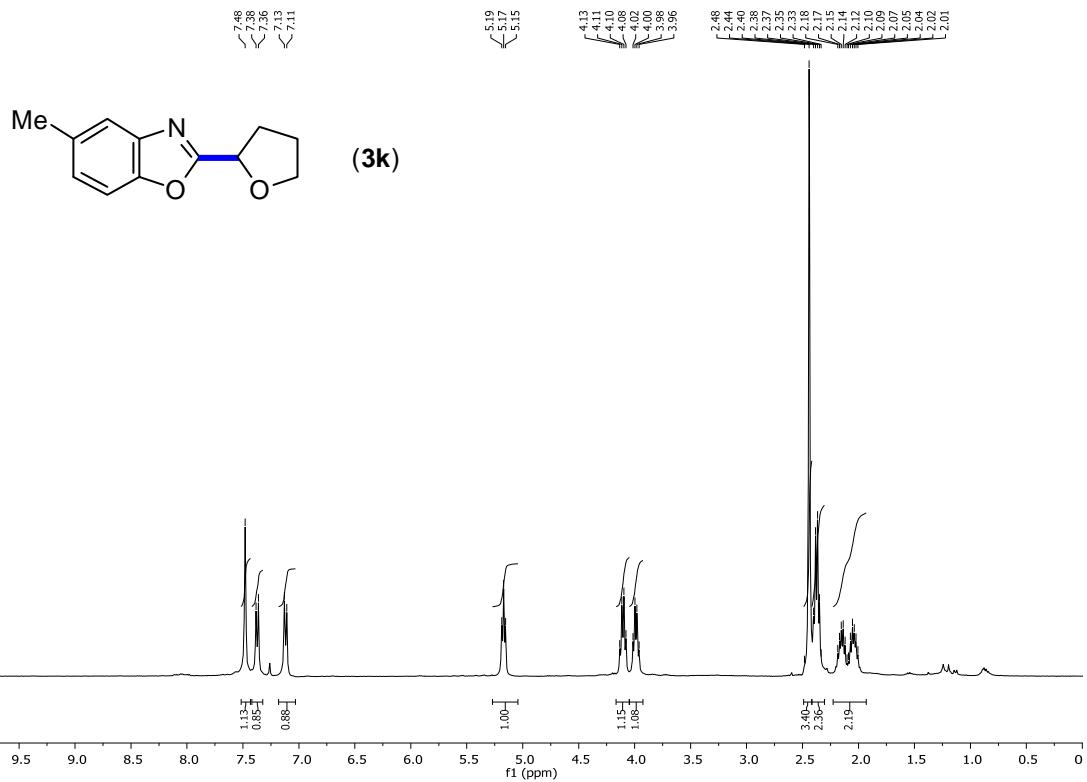


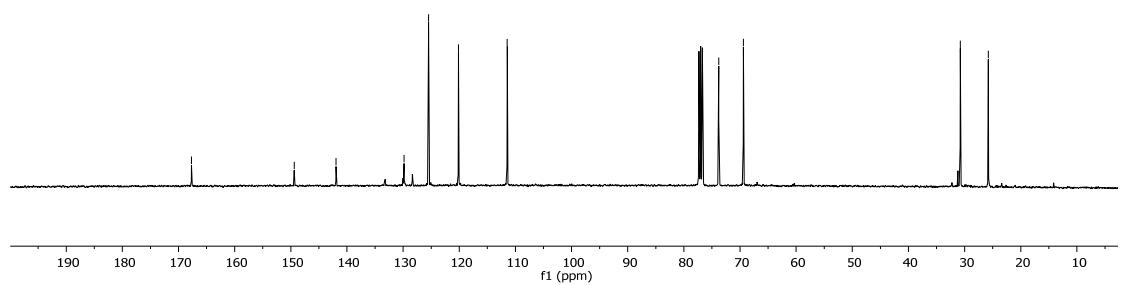
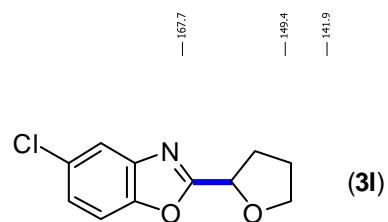
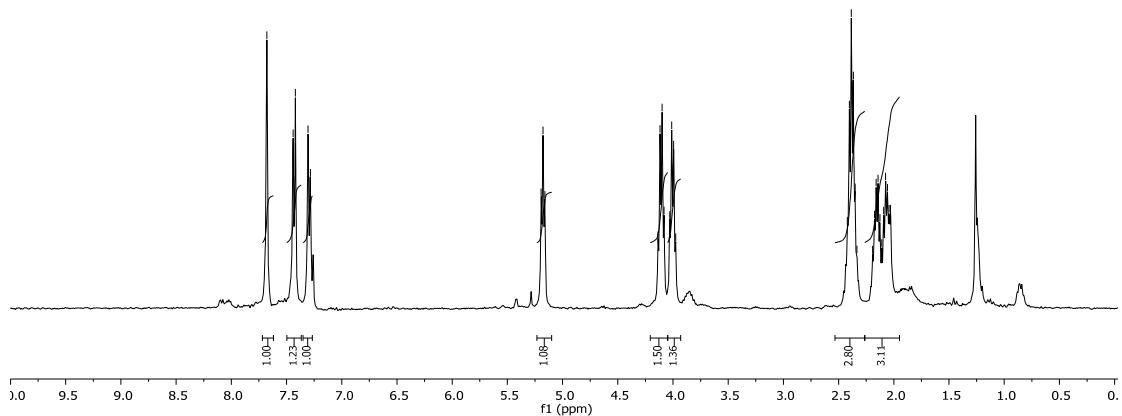
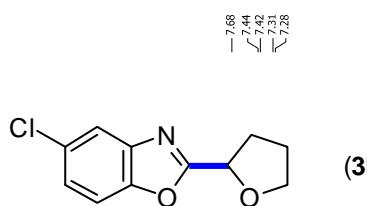


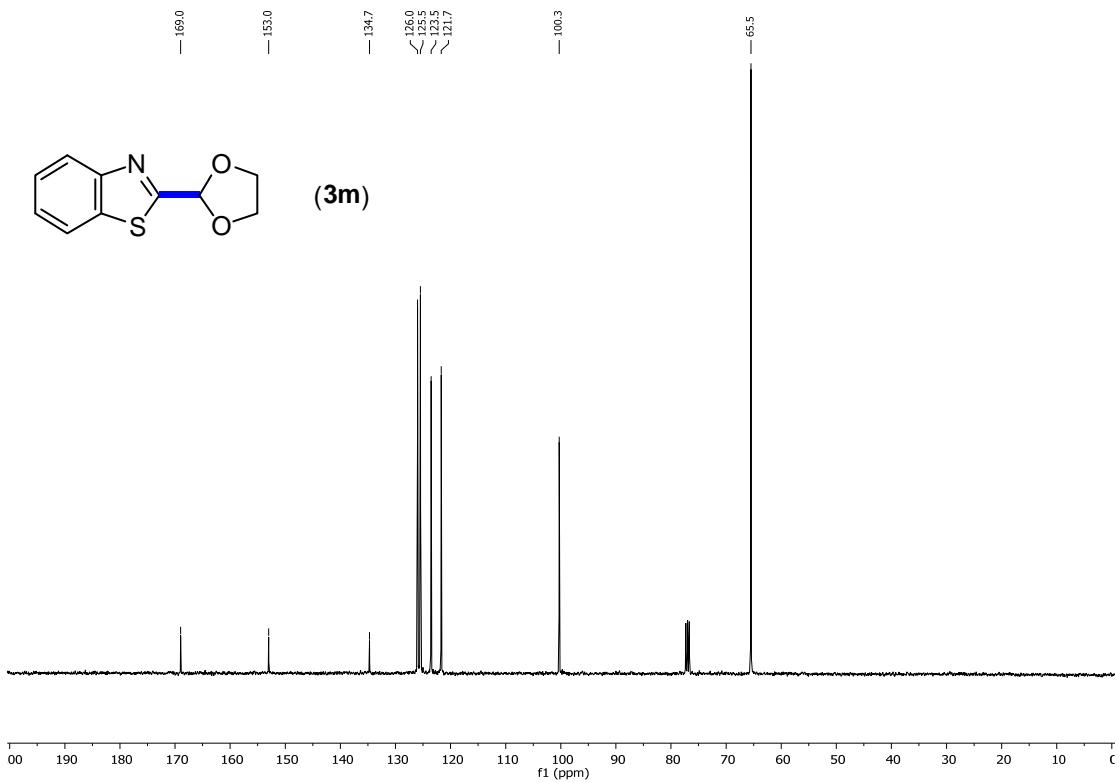
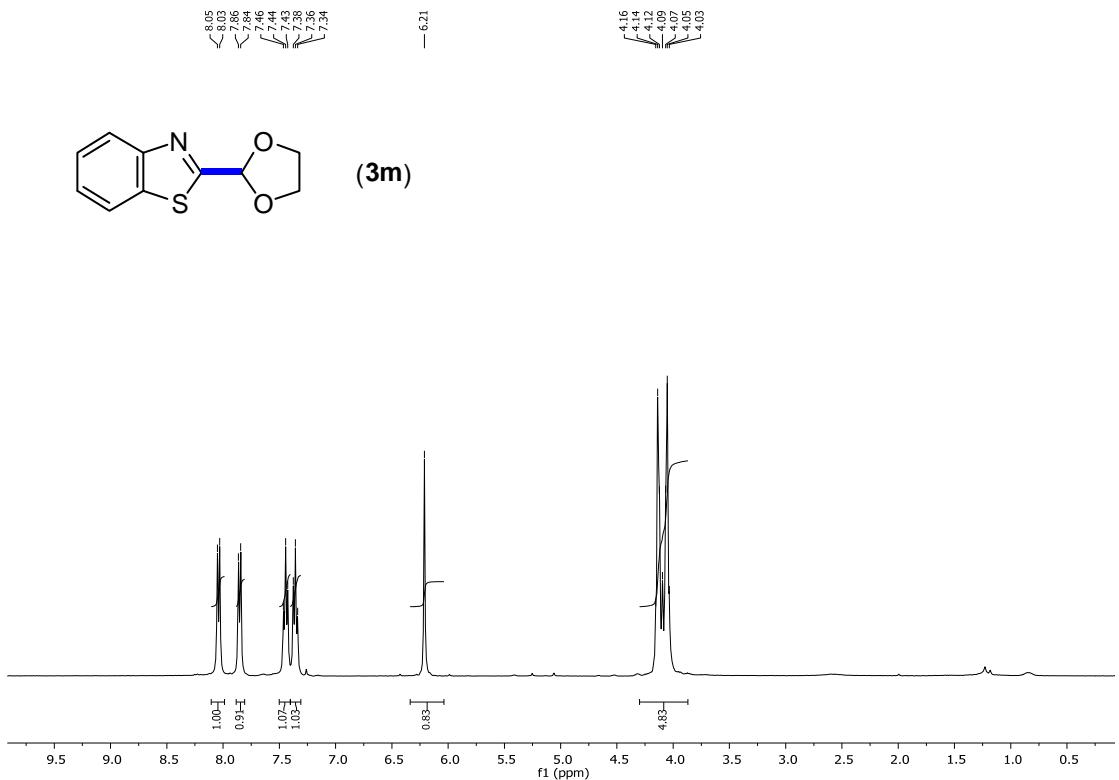


— 166.2
— 150.8
— 140.8
— 125.1
— 124.3
— 120.1
— 110.7
— 73.9
— 69.3
— 30.7
— 25.8





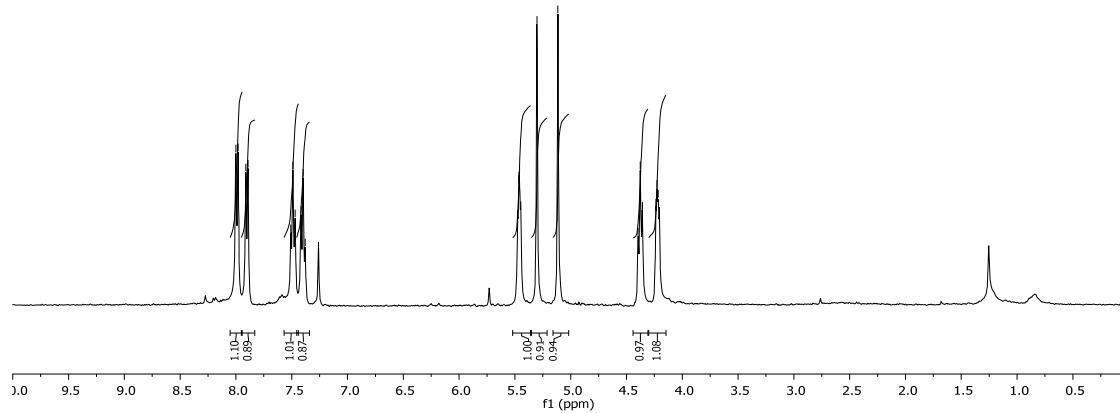
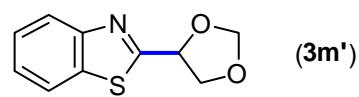




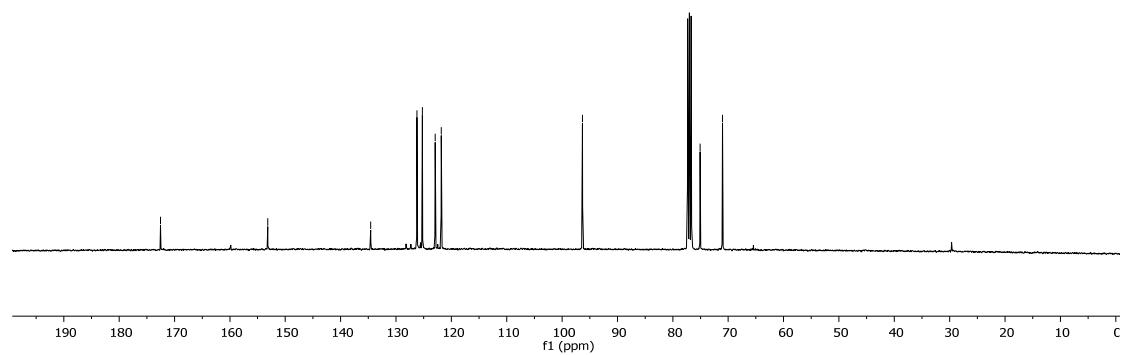
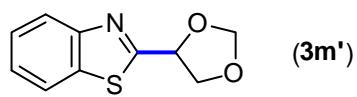
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7.49
7.47
7.42
7.40
7.38

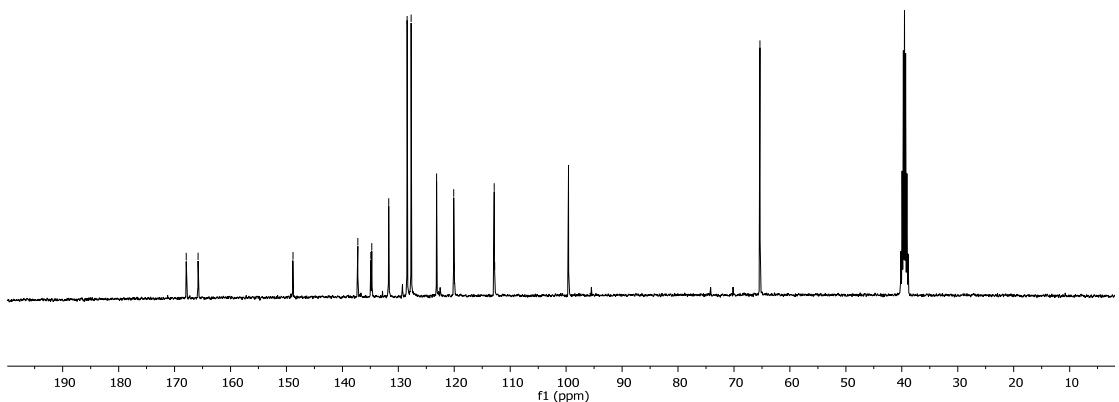
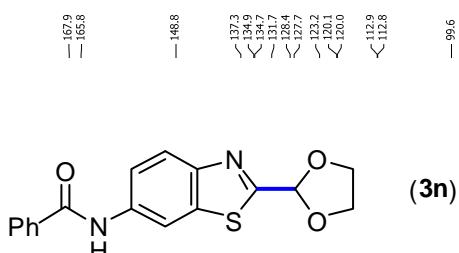
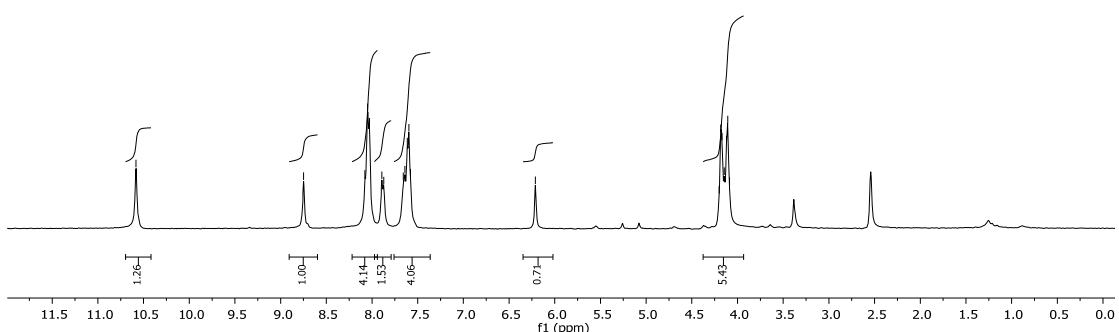
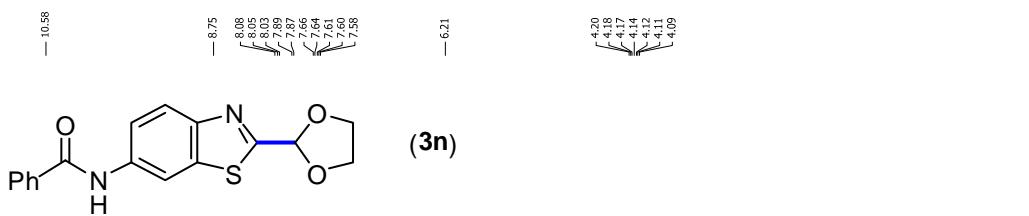
5.48
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5.46
5.45
5.30
5.11

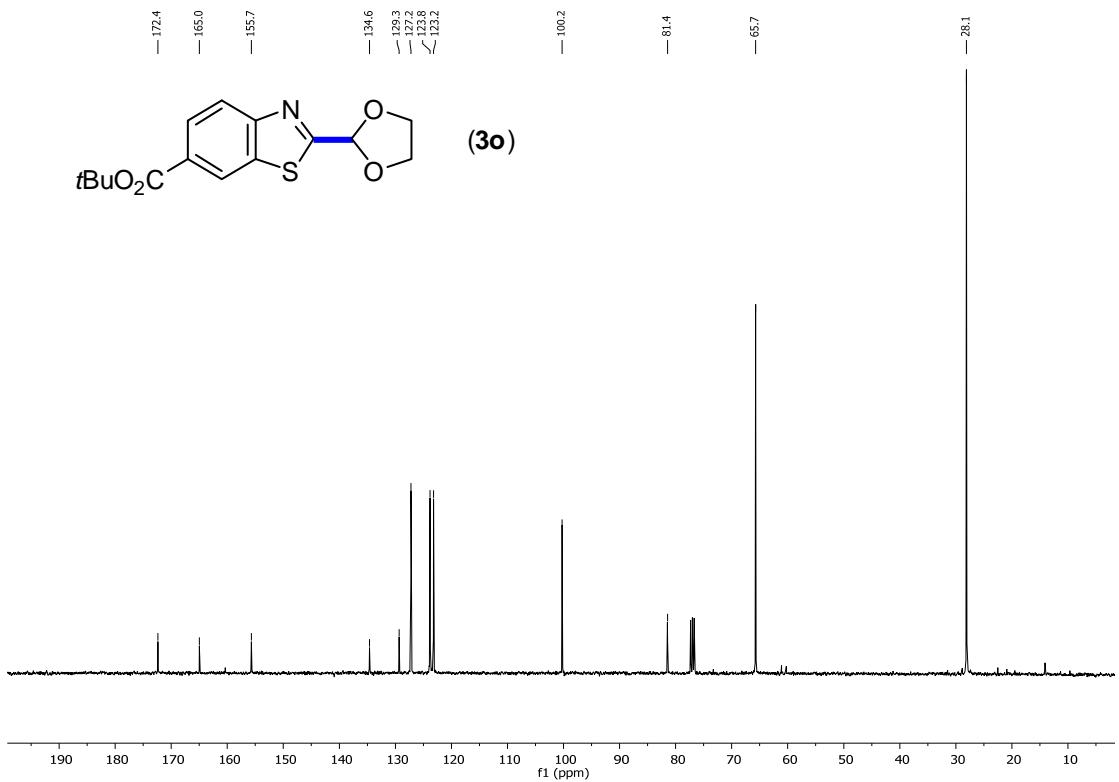
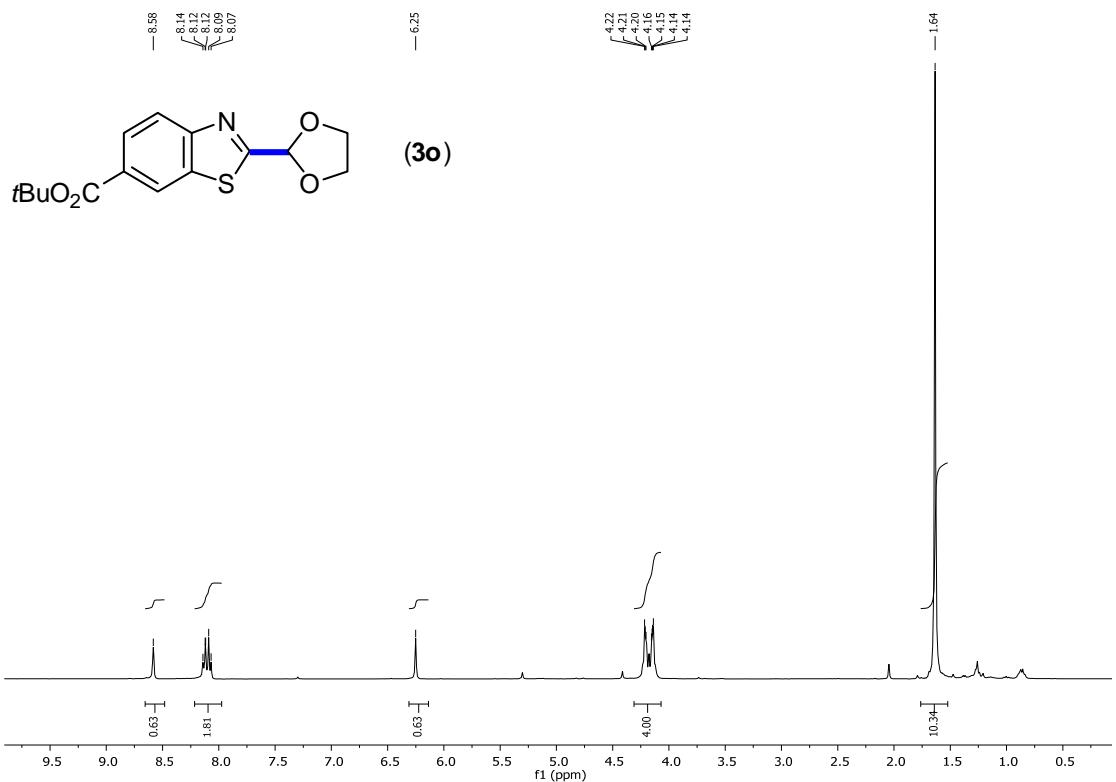
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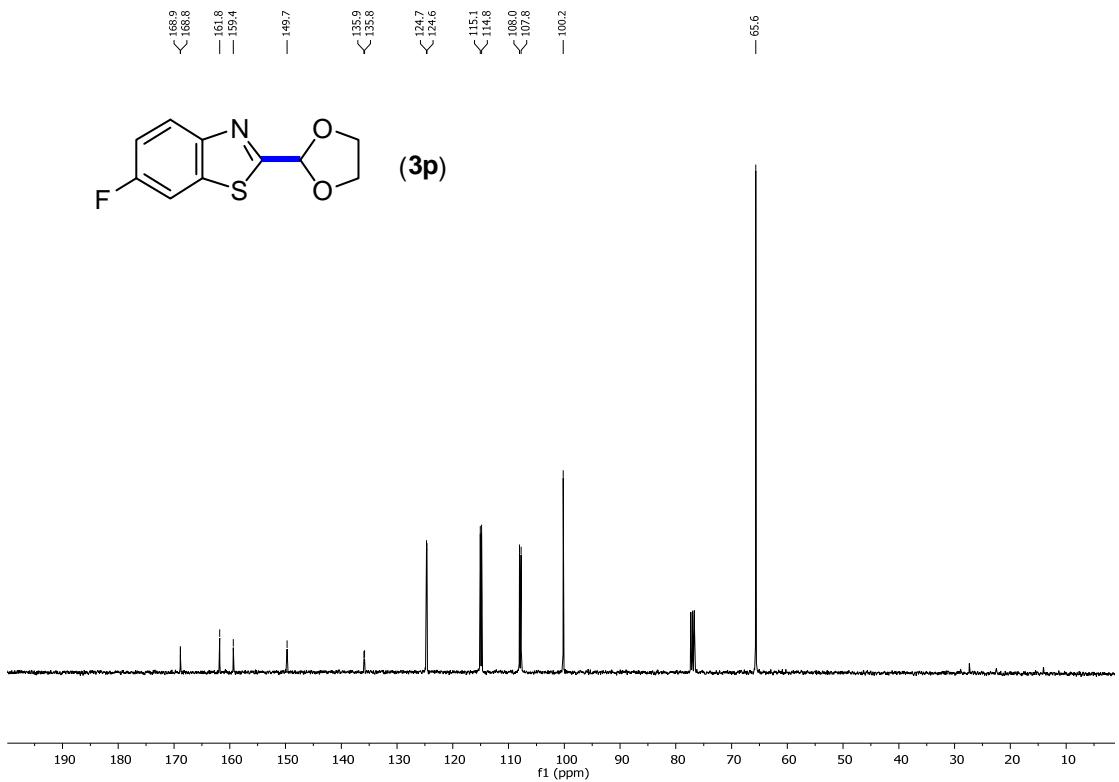
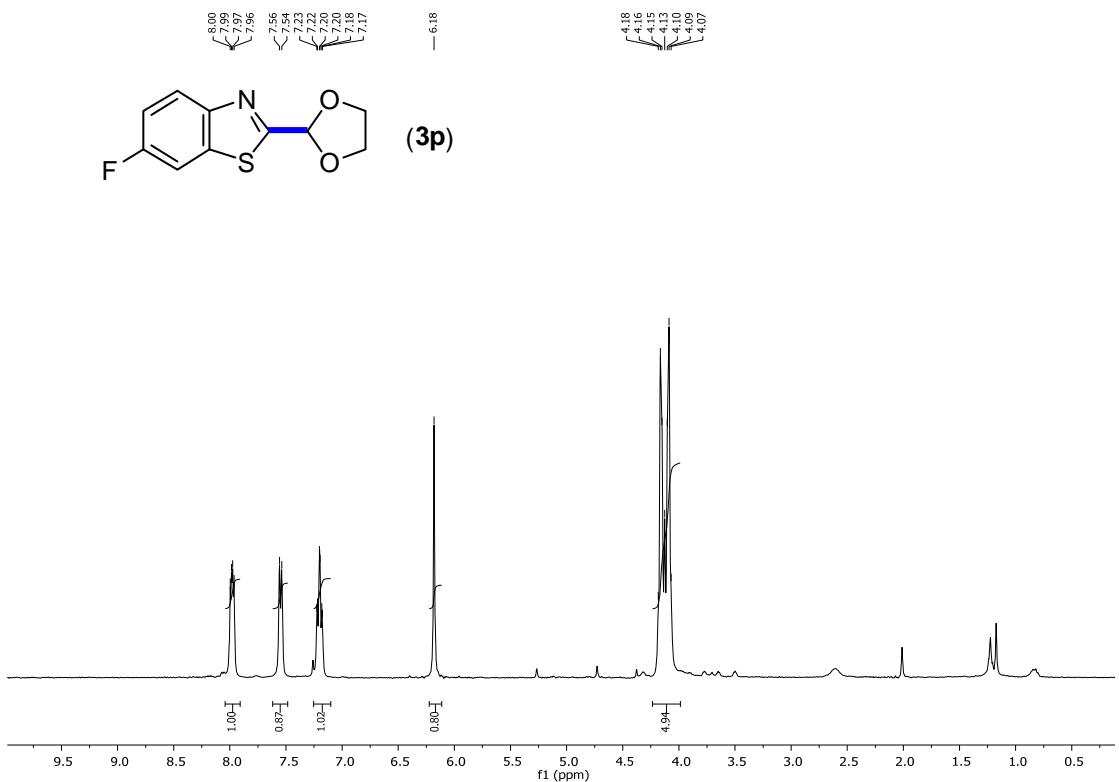


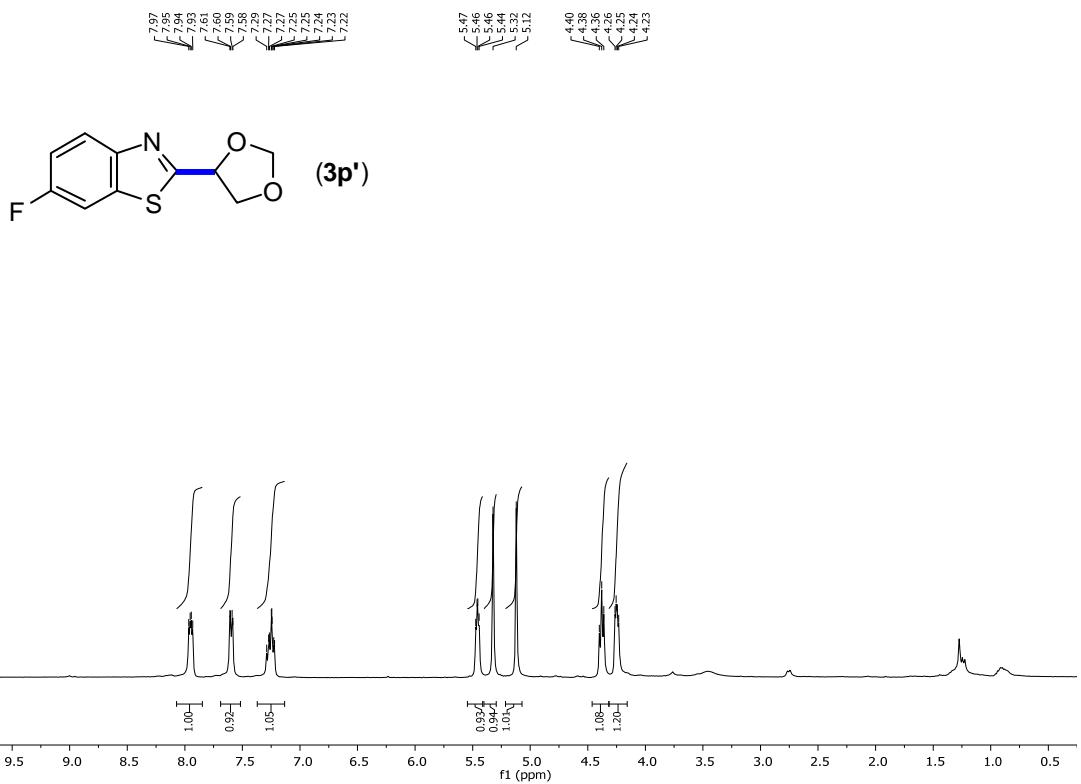
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— 75.1
— 71.0



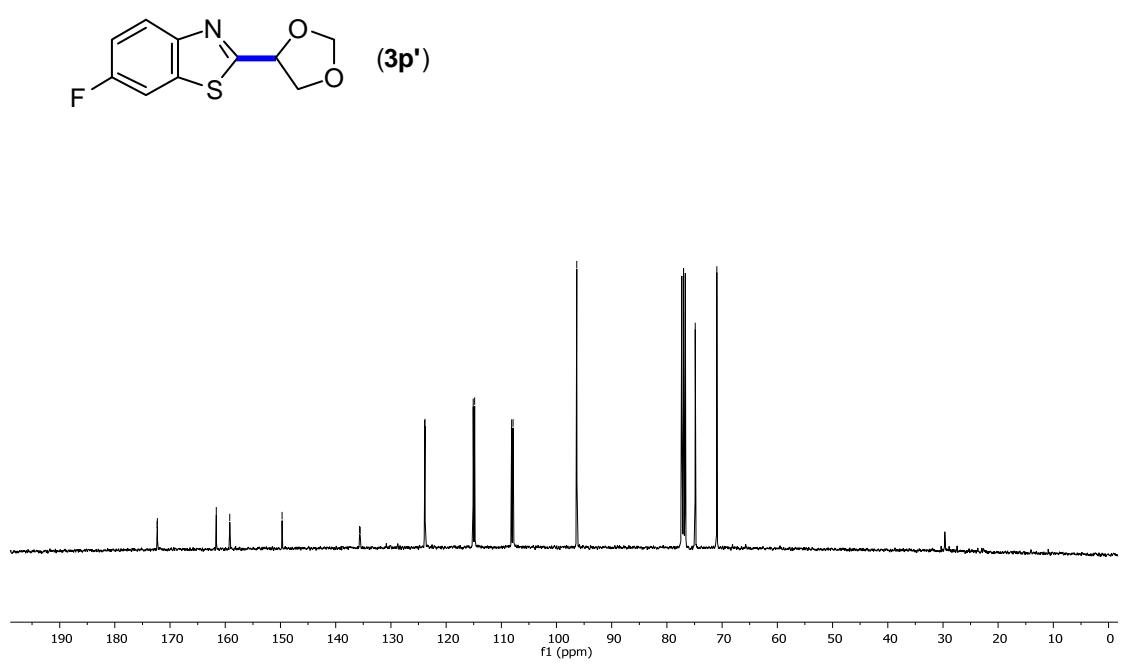


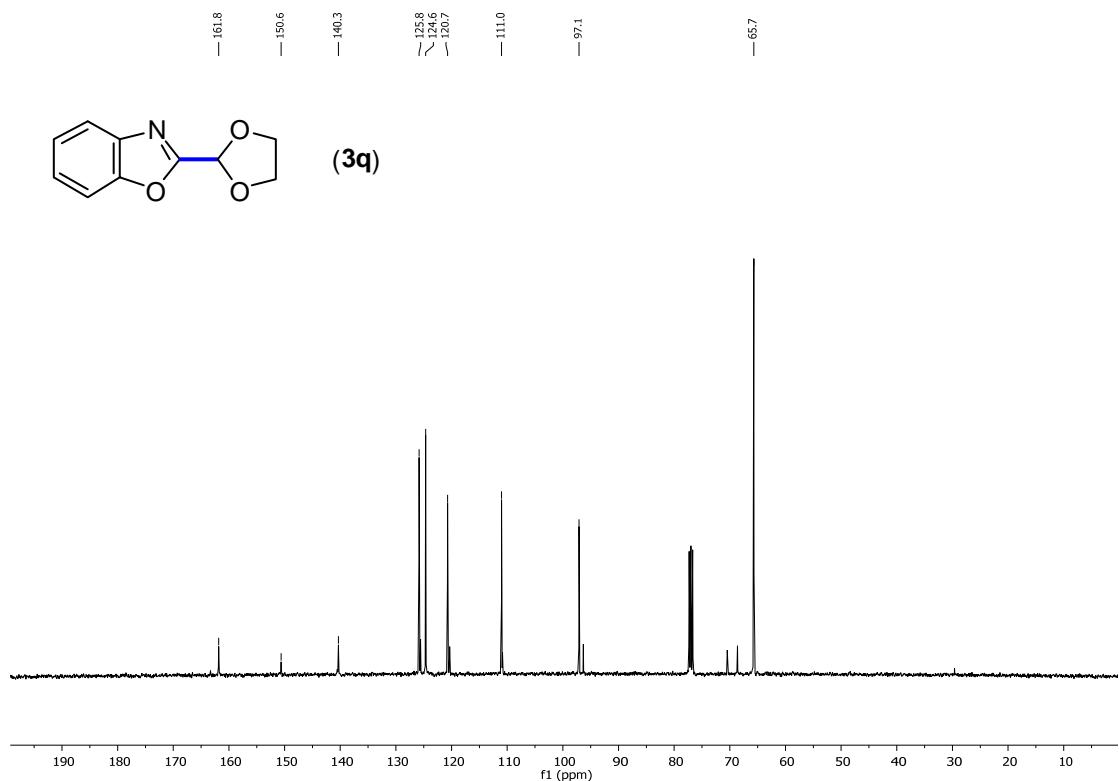
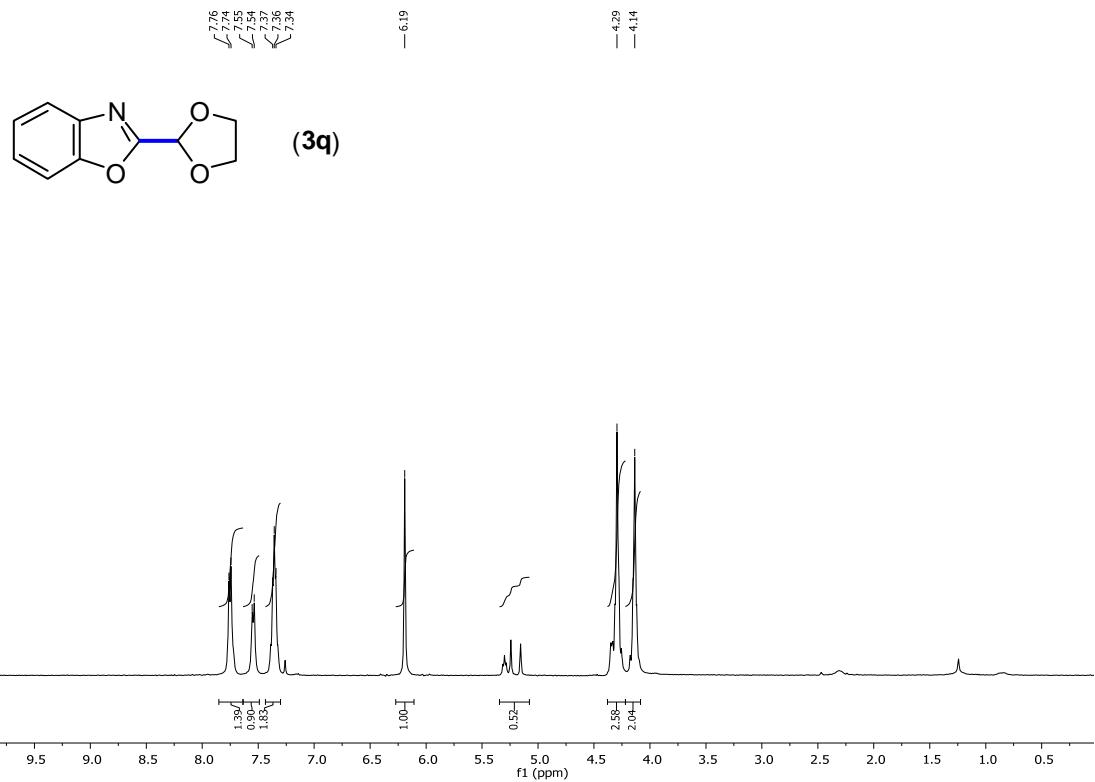


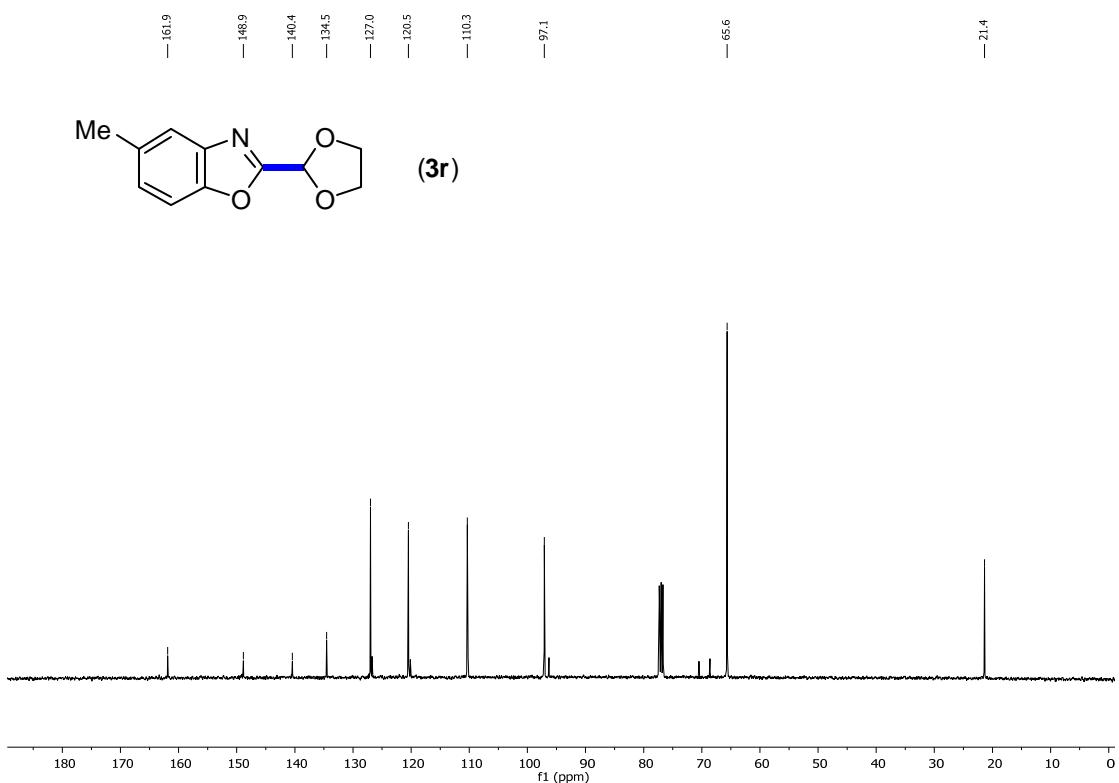
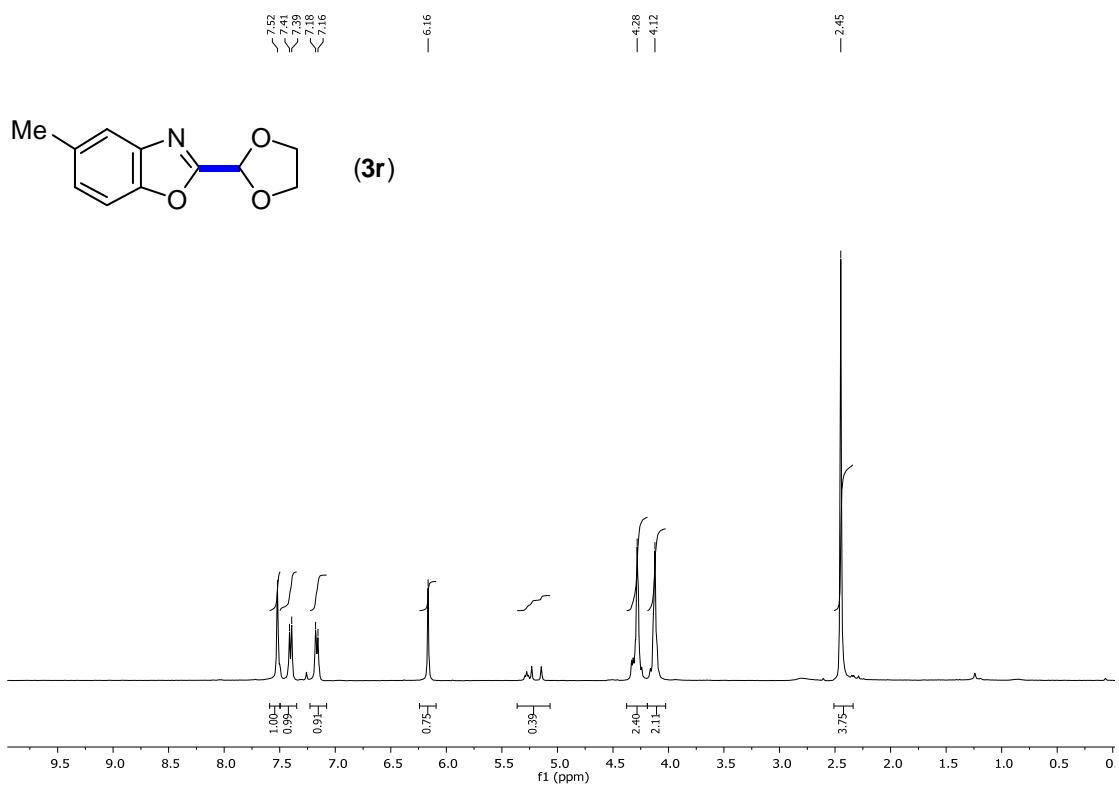


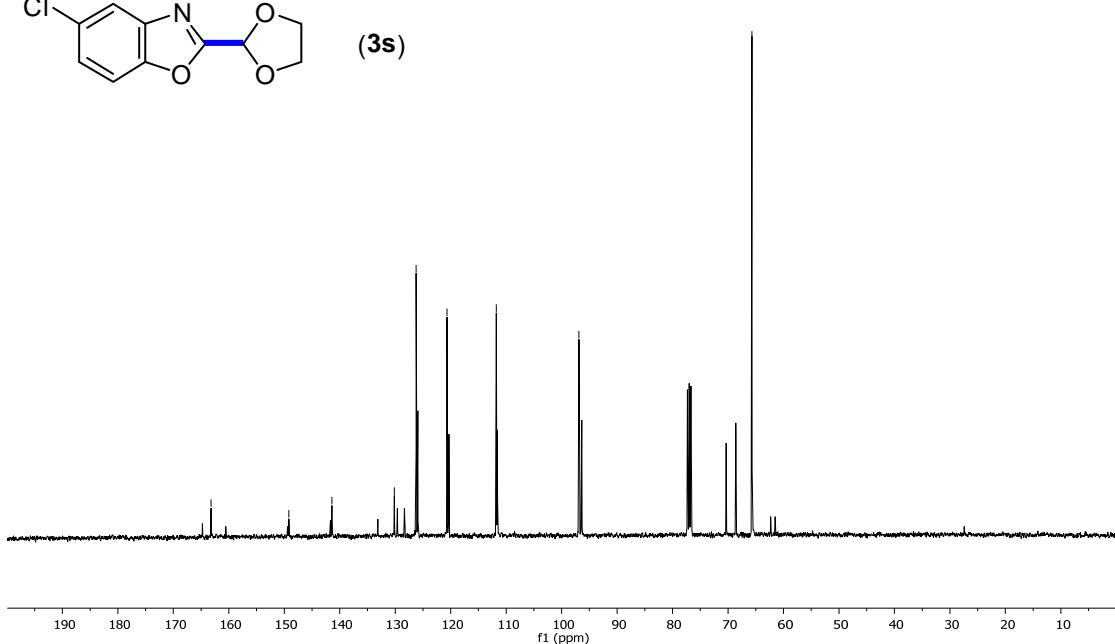
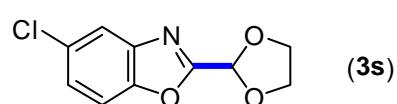
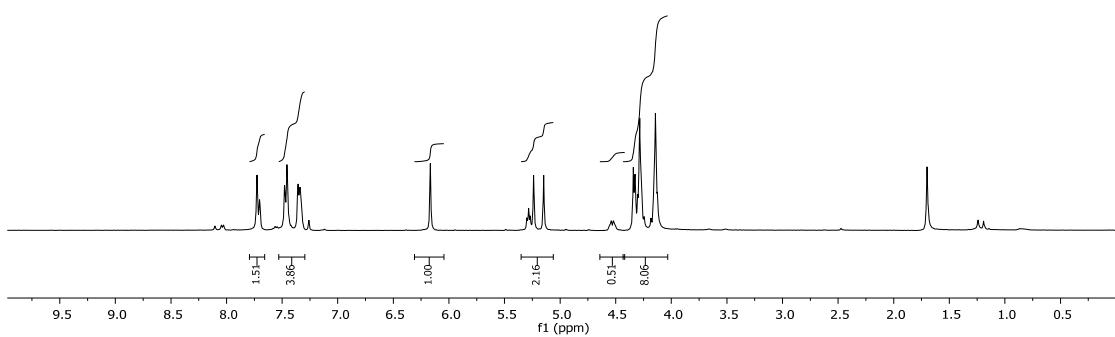
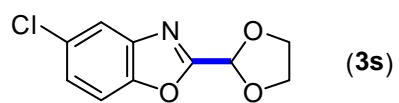


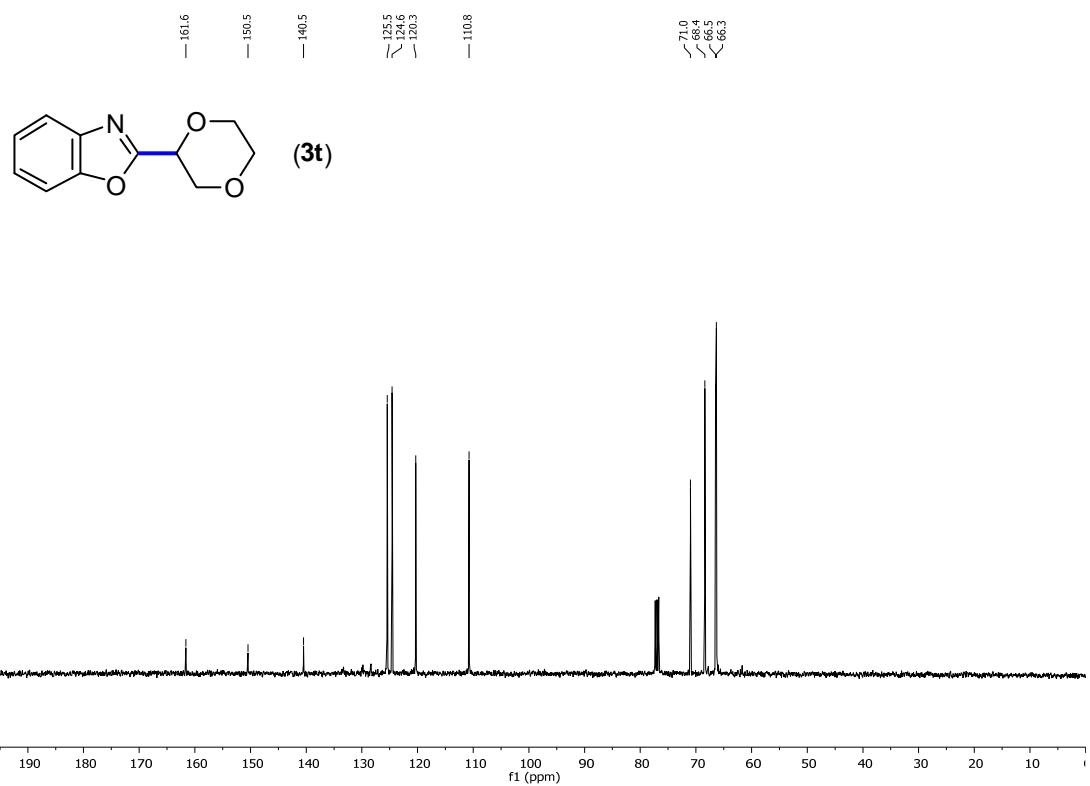
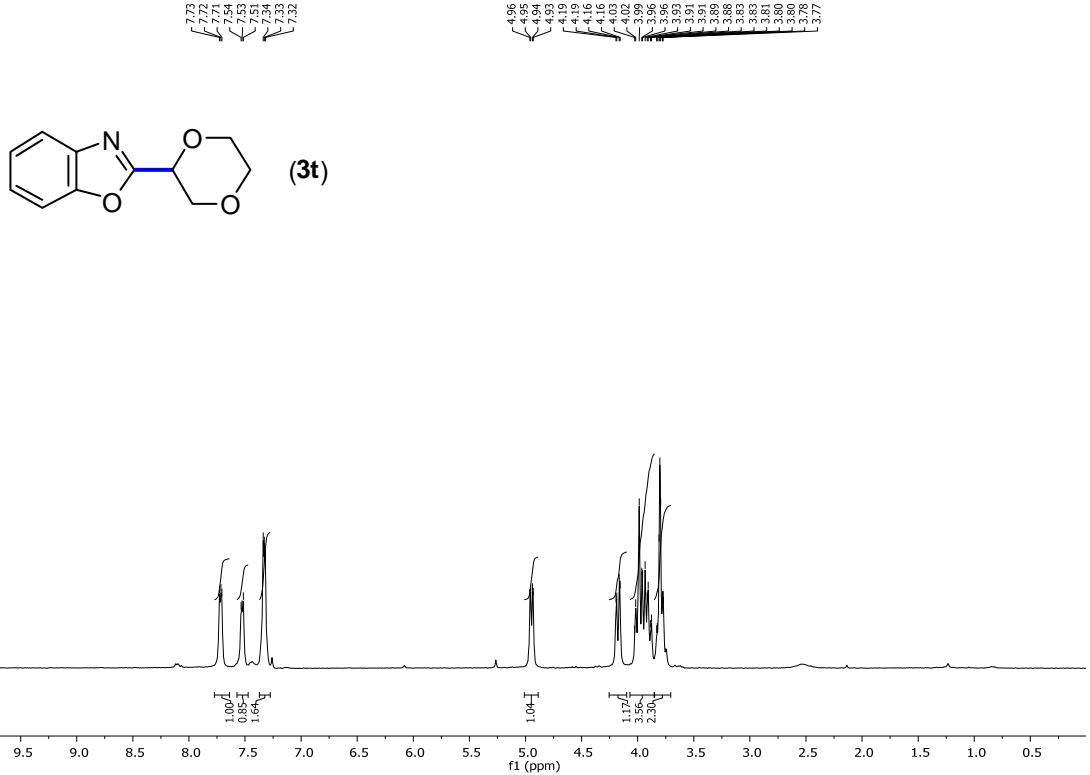
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 $\leftarrow^{123.8}$
 $\nwarrow^{115.1}$
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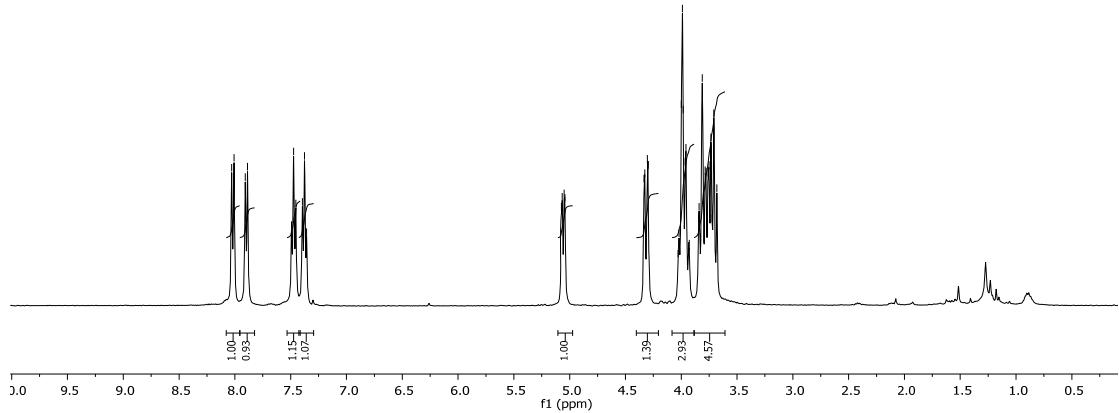
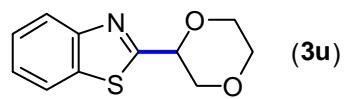
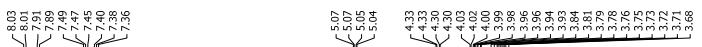












— 166.8
— 152.8
— 134.4
— 125.9
— 124.9
— 122.9
— 121.6

