

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### **Synthesis of spiro-4*H*-pyrazole-oxindoles and fused 1*H*-pyrazoles via divergent, thermally induced tandem cyclization/migration of alkyne-tethered diazo compounds**

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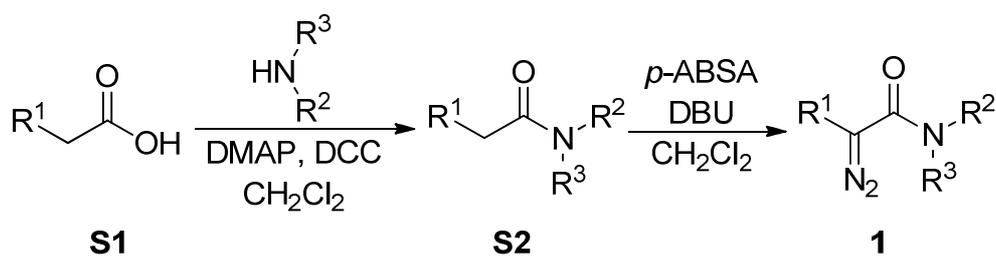
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## General Information

DMF (*N,N*-dimethylformamide) and other solvents were dried by standard methods over CaH<sub>2</sub>. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (300-400 mesh). Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed using glass plates pre-coated with 200-300 mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub>/DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> on a 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the solvent signals as reference, and coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hertz. The peak information is described as: s = singlet, br = broad, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, comp = composite. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a commercial apparatus (CI+ Source).

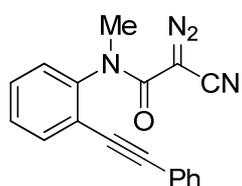
## General Procedure for the Preparation of Diazoamides **1a-1h**, **1j** and **3a-3j**.



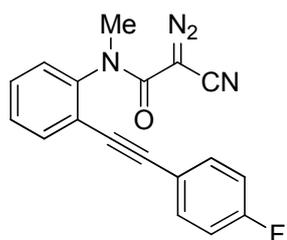
**Synthesis of **S2**:** To a solution of secondary amine (2.0 mmol), **S1** (2.2 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP, 24.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10.0 mL), dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC, 494.8 mg, 2.4 mmol) was added within 5 min at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight and the reaction temperature was slowly warmed to room temperature. After filtering through Celite and the filtrate was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10.0 mL) and brine (10.0 mL) in sequence, and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Then the solvent was evaporated under vacuum after filtration, the obtained product **S2** was directly used for the next step without further purification.

**Synthesis of **1**:** The above obtained **S2** and *p*-ABSA (4-acetamidobenzenesulfonyl azide, 576.6 mg, 2.4 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (10.0 mL), and DBU

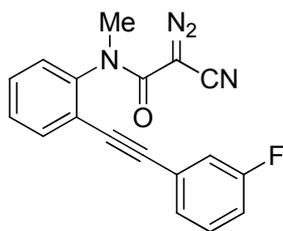
(1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene, 456.7 mg, 3.0 mmol) in DCM (5.0 mL) was added slowly at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h. Upon completion (monitored by TLC), the solvent was evaporated under vacuum after filtering through Celite, and the resulting residues was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1) to give the pure diazoamides **1** (40% – 80% yields based on secondary amine).



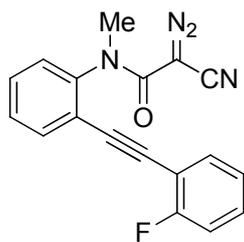
**2-Cyano-2-diazo-N-methyl-N-(2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (1a)**. 366.4 mg, 61% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.66 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.50 (comp, 2H), 7.48 – 7.41 (comp, 2H), 7.38 – 7.32 (comp, 4H), 3.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 159.9, 142.5, 133.3, 131.8, 130.0, 129.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.6, 123.5, 122.4, 107.4, 95.5, 84.6, 38.4. HRMS (TOF MS Cl<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 301.1089, found 301.1084.



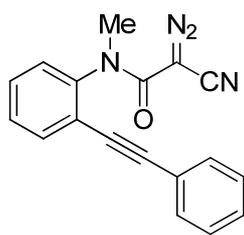
**2-Cyano-2-diazo-N-(2-((4-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-N-methylacetamide (1b)**. 439.2 mg, 69% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.64 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.08 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 3.38 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 162.8 (d, *J* = 250.8 Hz), 159.8, 142.3, 133.6 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 133.0, 130.0, 129.6, 128.8, 123.1, 118.3 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 115.8 (d, *J* = 22.2 Hz), 107.2, 94.2, 84.3 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 38.2. HRMS (TOF MS Cl<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 319.0995, found 319.0986.



**2-Cyano-2-diazo-*N*-(2-((3-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-*N*-methylacetamide (1c).** 496.6 mg, 78% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.56 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.45 (comp, 2H), 7.38 – 7.27 (comp, 3H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.13 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 162.4 (d,  $J = 247.2$  Hz), 159.9, 142.6, 133.4, 130.4, 130.2 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 129.8, 129.0, 127.7 (d,  $J = 3.1$  Hz), 124.1 (d,  $J = 9.5$  Hz), 122.9, 118.4 (d,  $J = 23.0$  Hz), 116.4 (d,  $J = 21.2$  Hz), 107.3, 94.0 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz), 85.4, 38.3. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{CI}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{FN}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 319.0995, found 319.0998.

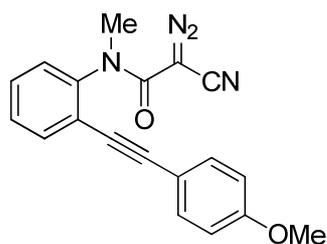


**2-Cyano-2-diazo-*N*-(2-((2-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-*N*-methylacetamide (1d).** 362.9 mg, 57% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.70 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.43 (comp, 3H), 7.38 – 7.31 (comp, 2H), 7.17 – 7.08 (comp, 2H), 3.42 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 162.8 (d,  $J = 252.6$  Hz), 159.6, 142.6, 133.6, 131.0, 130.9, 130.4, 129.9, 129.1, 124.3 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz), 123.2, 115.8 (d,  $J = 20.7$  Hz), 111.2 (d,  $J = 15.6$  Hz), 107.5, 89.6 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz), 88.7, 46.4. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{CI}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{FN}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 319.0995, found 319.0998.

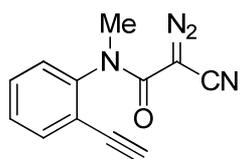


***N*-(2-((4-Chlorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-2-cyano-2-diazo-*N*-**

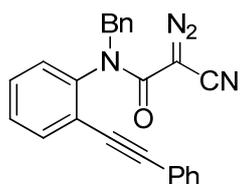
**methylacetamide (1e).** 488.8 mg, 73% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.65 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.40 (comp, 4H), 7.38 – 7.28 (comp, 3H), 3.39 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 159.9, 142.5, 135.1, 133.2, 132.9, 130.2, 129.7, 129.0, 128.9, 123.0, 120.8, 107.3, 94.2, 85.5, 38.3. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{CI}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClN}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 335.06700, found 335.0698.



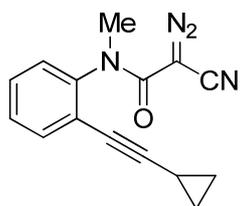
**2-Cyano-2-diazo-*N*-(2-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-*N*-methylacetamide (1f).** 284.1 mg, 43% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.63 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.36 (comp, 4H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 6.92 – 6.85 (comp, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 160.3, 160.0, 142.3, 133.4, 133.0, 129.8, 129.6, 129.0, 123.9, 114.5, 114.3, 107.5, 95.8, 83.6, 55.5, 38.4. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{CI}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 331.1195, found 331.1198.



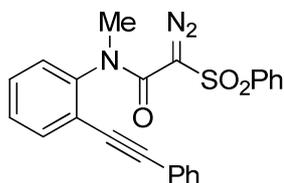
**2-Cyano-2-diazo-*N*-(2-ethynylphenyl)-*N*-methylacetamide (1g).** 242.1 mg, 54% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.61 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.46 – 7.42 (comp, 2H), 7.31 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 3.35 (s, 4H), 1.02 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 159.4, 142.9, 134.1, 130.5, 129.7, 128.9, 122.2, 107.1, 83.2, 78.8, 38.1. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{CI}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{N}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 225.0776, found 225.0778.



***N*-Benzyl-2-cyano-2-diazo-*N*-(2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (1h).** 308.7 mg, 41% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.64 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.46 (comp, 2H), 7.45 – 7.35 (comp, 4H), 7.31 – 7.22 (comp, 6H), 7.02 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 5.02 (dd,  $J=307.8, 14.3$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 160.0, 140.6, 136.0, 133.3, 131.8, 130.1, 129.8, 129.5, 129.5, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 124.0, 122.4, 107.3, 95.6, 85.0, 54.2. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 377.1402, found 377.1398.

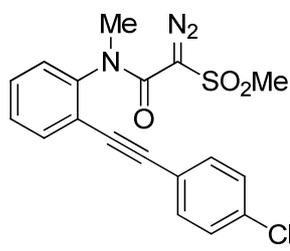


**2-Cyano-*N*-(2-(cyclopropylethynyl)phenyl)-2-diazo-*N*-methylacetamide (1j).** 354.1 mg, 67% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.45 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 1.46 – 1.34 (m, 1H), 0.94 – 0.82 (m, 2H), 0.81 – 0.68 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 159.5, 142.3, 133.1, 129.4, 128.9, 128.5, 123.8, 107.2, 100.0, 70.9, 37.9, 9.1, 8.8, 0.2. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 265.1089, found 265.1084.

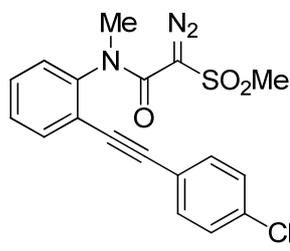


**2-Diazo-*N*-methyl-*N*-(2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)-2-(phenylsulfonyl)acetamide (3a).** 407.2 mg, 49% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 8.08 – 7.98 (comp, 2H), 7.62 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.37 (comp, 6H), 7.35 – 7.27 (comp, 4H), 3.31 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 158.6, 143.0, 142.2, 133.6, 133.6, 131.9, 130.2, 129.6, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5,

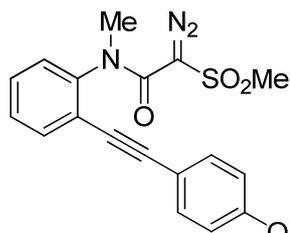
128.3, 123.2, 122.2, 96.2, 84.1, 37.5. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 416.1063, found 416.1069.



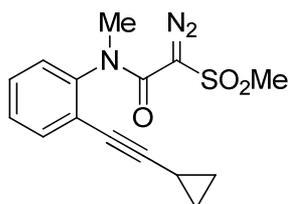
**(methylsulfonyl)acetamide (3b)**. 395.6 mg, 51% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.74 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.61 – 7.54 (comp, 4H), 7.53 – 7.46 (comp, 3H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 158.5, 142.7, 134.1, 133.3, 133.1, 130.9, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 121.4, 120.5, 93.7, 85.4, 73.3( $\text{C}(\text{N}_2)$ ), 44.7, 37.15. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 388.0523, found 388.0525.



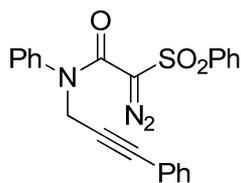
**2-Diazo-N-methyl-2-(methylsulfonyl)-N-(2-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (3c)**. 539.4 mg, 64% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.99 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.67 – 7.59 (comp, 4H), 7.49 – 7.41 (comp, 2H), 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.33 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 159.4, 143.1, 133.8, 132.2, 130.9, 130.2, 129.6, 128.6, 126.0, 125.5 (q,  $J = 3.7$  Hz), 123.8 (q,  $J = 179.2, 93.2$  Hz), 122.4, 94.4, 86.2, 45.4, 37.7. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 422.0786, found 422.0781.



**2-Diazo-N-(2-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-N-methyl-2-(methylsulfonyl)acetamide (3d)**. 306.7 mg, 40% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.65 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (comp, 2H), 7.45 – 7.38 (comp, 2H), 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 6.95 – 6.86 (comp, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 160.1, 159.0, 142.2, 133.2, 132.9, 129.6, 129.3, 128.4, 123.1, 114.0, 113.9, 96.0, 82.9, 55.1, 44.9, 37.2. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 384.1018, found 384.1013.

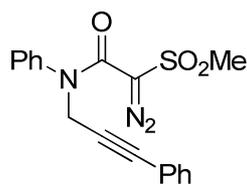


**N-(2-(Cyclopropylethynyl)phenyl)-2-diazo-N-methyl-2-(methylsulfonyl)acetamide (3e)**. 285.6 mg, 45% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.40 – 7.33 (comp, 2H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 1.54 – 1.41 (m, 1H), 0.97 – 0.81 (comp, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 158.7, 142.5, 133.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.2, 123.4, 100.7, 70.4, 44.9, 36.7, 8.7, 0.1. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 318.0912, found 318.0907.

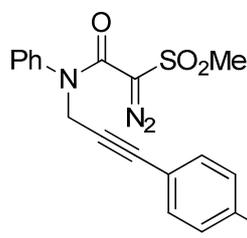


**2-Diazo-2-(methylsulfonyl)-N-phenyl-N-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)acetamide (3f)**. 506.8 mg, 61% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 8.12 – 8.04 (comp, 2H), 7.67 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.59 – 7.54 (comp, 2H), 7.49 – 7.45 (comp,

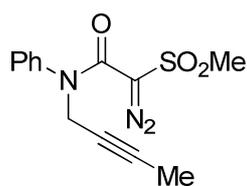
3H), 7.39 – 7.34 (comp, 2H), 7.32 – 7.25 (comp, 5H), 4.68 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 158.0, 142.2, 139.8, 133.9, 131.8, 130.4, 129.7, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.4, 128.3, 122.5, 85.1, 83.5, 40.2. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 416.1069, found 416.1068.



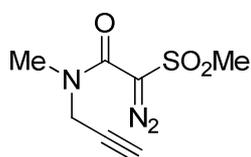
**2-Diazo-2-(methylsulfonyl)-N-phenyl-N-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)acetamide (3g)**. 450.0 mg, 58% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.54 – 7.41 (comp, 5H), 7.40 – 7.34 (comp, 2H), 7.33 – 7.26 (comp, 3H), 4.78 (s, 2H), 3.41 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 158.4, 139.5, 131.7, 130.3, 129.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 122.3, 85.0, 83.4, 45.3, 40.1. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 354.0912, found 354.0902.



**2-Diazo-N-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)-2-(methylsulfonyl)-N-phenylacetamide (3h)**. 306.4 mg, 47% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.50 – 7.42 (comp, 5H), 7.32 – 7.26 (comp, 2H), 6.87 – 6.78 (comp, 2H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 159.8, 158.5, 139.7, 133.2, 130.3, 129.8, 128.6, 114.5, 114.0, 85.0, 82.0, 55.3, 45.4, 40.2. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 384.1018, found 384.1010.

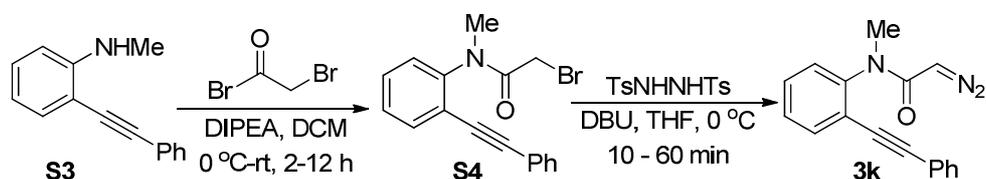


***N*-(but-2-yn-1-yl)-2-diazo-2-(methylsulfonyl)-*N*-phenylacetamide (3i).** 413.3 mg, 71% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.46 – 7.40 (comp, 3H), 7.35 (comp, 2H), 4.51 – 4.47 (m, 2H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 2.26 (t,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 158.4, 139.5, 130.3, 129.7, 128.1, 78.0, 73.2, 45.3, 39.4. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{CI}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 292.0756, found 292.0750.



**2-Diazo-*N*-methyl-2-(methylsulfonyl)-*N*-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)acetamide (3j).** 357.3 mg, 83% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 4.15 (s, 2H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.32 (t,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 159.4, 76.8, 73.6, 45.4, 38.5, 35.2. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{CI}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 216.0443, found 216.0440.

### Procedure for the Preparation of Diazoamide 3k.



**Synthesis of 3k :** To a 50-mL oven-dried flask with a magnetic stirring bar, *N*-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline (**S3**, 788.0 mg, 3.8 mmol) and DIPEA (*N,N*-Diisopropylethylamine, 0.66 mL, 3.8 mmol) were dissolved in dry DCM (20.0 mL), bromoacetyl bromide (0.34 mL, 3.8 mmol) was added slowly at 0 °C, then the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. After the reaction was completed, the reaction was quenched by saturated brine (30.0 mL), and the reaction mixture was

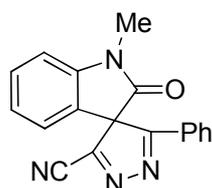
extracted with DCM (20.0 mL × 3). The combined organic phase was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Then the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the obtained product **S4** was directly used for the next step without further purification.

To a 50-mL oven-dried flask with a magnetic stirring bar, the above obtained **S4** and *N,N'*-ditosylhydrazine (3.2 g, 9.5 mmol) were dissolved in THF (20.0 mL), DBU (1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene, 2.7 mL, 18.0 mmol) was added slowly over 5 min at 0 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 60 minutes until no more gas was generated from the reaction mixture. The reaction was quenched by saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (30.0 mL), and the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (20.0 mL × 3). The combined organic phase was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 10:1 to 2:1) to give the 2-Diazo-*N*-methyl-*N*-(2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)acetamide **3k**. 554.5 mg, 53% yield (based on **S3**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.62 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.53 – 7.48 (comp, 2H), 7.39 – 7.32 (comp, 5H), 7.25 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 4.41 (s, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 166.0, 144.1, 133.2, 131.8, 129.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 123.0, 122.5, 95.2, 85.0, 47.4, 36.3. HRMS (TOF MS CI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 276.1137, found 276.1133.

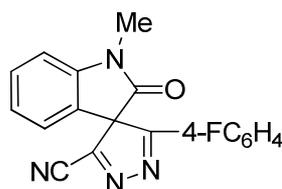
#### **Thermally Induced Reaction for the Preparation of 2 and 4:**

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial with a magnetic stirring bar, diazo compound **1** or **3** (0.2 mmol) was dissolved in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF, 2.0 mL). After the reaction mixture stirred at 80 °C overnight, the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.0 mL × 3). The combined organic phase was washed with saturated brine (10 mL), and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Then the solvent was removed under vacuo to give a white solid. The solid product was further purified by recrystallization (solvents: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate /CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> = 1: 2: 5,) to give the pure products **2** or **4** in high yields (**2i** was purified by column chromatography;

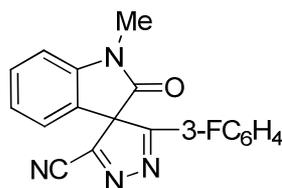
and the yields of **4g** and **4j** were given without recrystallization).



**1-Methyl-2-oxo-5'-phenylspiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrazole]-3'-carbonitrile (2a)**. White solid; m.p. 221.0 – 224.0 °C. 52.9 mg, 88% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.57 – 7.53 (comp, 3H), 7.48 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.31 (comp, 2H), 7.16 – 7.11 (comp, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 173.1, 164.4, 150.3, 144.3, 133.5, 131.9, 129.5, 128.7, 127.3, 125.0, 124.5, 119.2, 110.7, 110.1, 28.1. HRMS (TOF MS Cl<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 301.1089, found 301.1084.

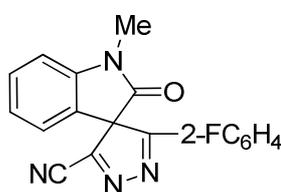


**5'-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrazole]-3'-carbonitrile (2b)**. White solid; m.p. 218.0 – 221.0 °C. 57.3 mg, 90% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.61 – 7.52 (comp, 3H), 7.19 – 7.12 (comp, 2H), 7.07 – 6.99 (comp, 2H), 6.91 – 6.86 (m, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 172.0, 165.9 (d, *J* = 257.2 Hz), 164.3, 150.2, 144.3, 132.1, 131.1 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 125.1, 124.6, 123.8 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 119.1, 117.0 (d, *J* = 22.3 Hz), 110.7, 110.1, 28.2. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) -103.2. HRMS (TOF MS Cl<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 319.0995, found 319.0986.

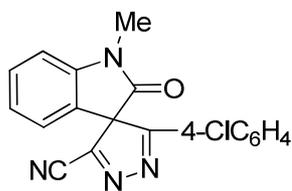


**5'-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrazole]-3'-carbonitrile (2c)**. White solid; m.p. 223.0 – 226.0 °C. 56.7 mg, 89% yield. <sup>1</sup>H

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.28 (comp, 2H), 7.25 – 7.14 (comp, 4H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 172.0 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 164.0, 162.9 (d, *J* = 248.9 Hz), 150.7, 144.3, 132.2, 131.3 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 129.2 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 125.1, 124.5, 124.4 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 120.6 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz), 118.7, 115.4 (d, *J* = 23.7 Hz), 110.8, 109.9, 28.2. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) -110.1. HRMS (TOF MS CI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 319.0995, found 319.0998.

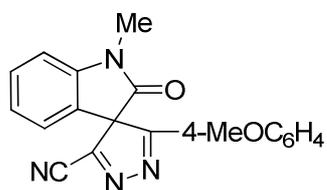


**5'-(2-Fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrazole]-3'-carbonitrile (2d).** White solid; m.p. 185.0 – 189.0 °C. 57.9 mg, 91% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 8.39 – 8.28 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.44 (comp, 2H), 7.31 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.11 – 7.03 (comp, 2H), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 170.1 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 164.0 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 161.2 (d, *J* = 256.0 Hz), 150.8, 145.6, 135.5 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz), 131.6, 131.2 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 125.4 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 124.1 (d, *J* = 68.4 Hz), 117.2 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 116.8 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 115.7 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz), 110.1, 109.9, 53.6, 28.0. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) -111.4. HRMS (TOF MS CI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 319.0995, found 319.0998.

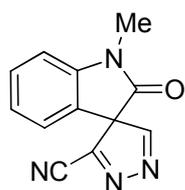


**3'-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrazole]-5'-carbonitrile (2e).** White solid; m.p. 159.0 – 162.0 °C. 58.2 mg, 87% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.66 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.59 – 7.43 (comp, 5H), 7.27 – 7.13 (comp, 2H), 3.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 172.0, 163.5, 150.1, 144.1, 138.8, 132.1, 130.2, 129.9, 125.3, 125.0, 124.8, 118.0, 111.8,

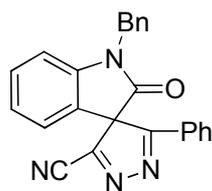
110.2, 77.0, 28.2. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClN}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 335.0700, found 335.0698.



**3'-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrazole]-5'-carbonitrile (2f).** White solid; m.p. 268.0 – 271.0 °C. 56.2 mg, 85% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.56 – 7.47 (comp, 3H), 7.16 – 7.10 (comp, 2H), 6.90 – 6.79 (comp, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 172.6, 164.9, 164.0, 149.1, 144.3, 131.8, 130.9, 124.9, 124.6, 120.1, 120.0, 115.0, 110.5, 110.4, 55.7, 28.1. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 331.1195, found 331.1190.

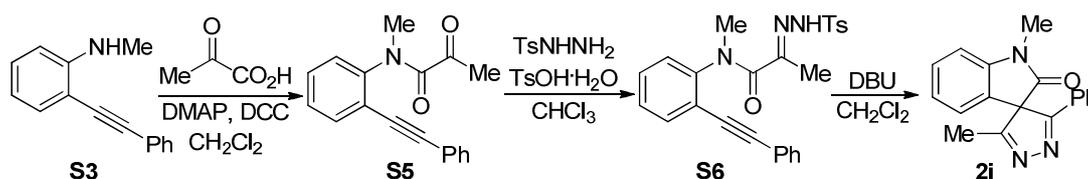


**1-Methyl-2-oxospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrazole]-3'-carbonitrile (2g).** White solid; m.p. 234.0 – 237.0 °C. 42.6 mg, 95% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.92 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 158.7, 147.6, 139.6, 134.1, 124.8, 122.7, 116.0, 115.4, 115.1, 92.7, 38.9, 29.7. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{N}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 225.0776, found 225.0787.



**1-Benzyl-2-oxo-5'-phenylspiro[indoline-3,4'-pyrazole]-3'-carbonitrile (2h).** White solid; m.p. 196.0 – 199.0 °C. 49.6 mg, 66% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.52 – 7.48 (comp, 2H), 7.47 – 7.40 (comp, 2H), 7.40 – 7.34

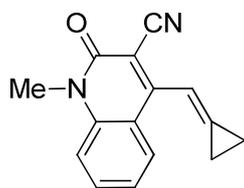
(comp, 5H), 7.26 – 7.20 (comp, 2H), 7.11 – 7.06 (comp, 2H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 5.06 (dd,  $J = 87.9, 15.3$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 173.2, 164.6, 150.3, 143.5, 134.3, 133.5, 131.8, 129.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.0, 127.2, 124.9, 124.6, 119.4, 111.7, 110.3, 45.6. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_4\text{O}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 337.1402, found 337.1390.



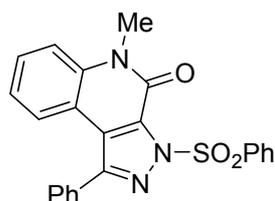
**Synthesis of 2i:** To a solution of *N*-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline (**S3**, 83.0 mg, 0.4 mmol), 2-oxopropanoic acid (43.0 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP, 5.0 mg, 0.04 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (4.0 mL), dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC, 98.0 mg, 0.48 mmol) was added within 5 min at 0 °C under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight and the reaction temperature was slowly warmed to room temperature. After filtering through Celite and the filtrate was washed with saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (10.0 mL) and brine (10.0 mL) in sequence, and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was evaporated under vacuum after filtration, and the obtained product **S5** was directly used for the next step without further purification.

To a solution of above obtained **S5** in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5.0 mL) was added  $\text{TsNHNH}_2$  (111.8 mg, 0.6 mmol) and  $\text{TsOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 5 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the resulting crude product **S6** was dissolved in DCM (30 mL). Then DBU (92.0 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After consumption of the material **S6**, the reaction mixture was washed with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (10.0 mL), saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (10.0 mL), and brines (10.0 mL) in sequence. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and the solvent was removed under reduced

pressure after filtration. The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:5) to afford 1,3'-Dimethyl-5'-phenylspiro [indoline-3,4'-pyrazol]-2-one (**2i**). White solid; m.p. 208.0 – 211.0 °C. 55.5 mg, 48% yield (based on **S3**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.49 – 7.41 (comp, 3H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.27 – 7.25 (comp, 2H), 7.10 – 7.05 (comp, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 172.7, 171.5, 168.1, 144.2, 131.5, 130.5, 129.2, 129.1, 127.5, 124.4, 124.0, 123.2, 109.8, 27.6, 12.6. HRMS (TOF MS CI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 290.1293, found 290.1297.

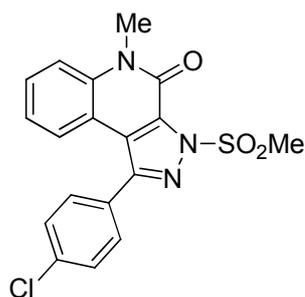


**4-(Cyclopropylidenemethyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydroquinoline-3-carbonitrile (2j)**. White solid; m.p. 184.0 – 187.0 °C. 40.2 mg, 85% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.26 – 3.17 (m, 2H), 2.76 – 2.68 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 158.3, 150.4, 144.7, 140.5, 139.6, 134.1, 128.0, 123.1, 117.1, 115.9, 115.9, 102.1, 40.15, 33.4, 30.0, 28.5. HRMS (TOF MS CI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 237.1028, found 237.1033.

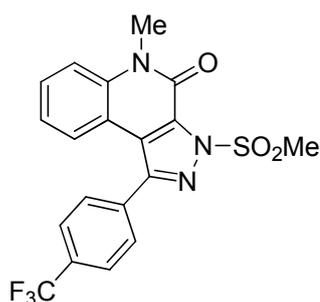


**5-Methyl-1-phenyl-3-(phenylsulfonyl)-3H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]quinolin-4(5H)-one (4a)**. White solid; m.p. 254.0 – 257.0 °C. 74.8 mg, 90% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 8.39 – 8.31 (comp, 2H), 7.77 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.69 – 7.62 (comp, 3H), 7.60 – 7.53 (comp, 5H), 7.50 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz,

1H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 152.7, 150.1, 138.1, 134.5, 132.2, 131.7, 129.9, 129.8, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 129.0, 124.4, 124.3, 122.8, 115.4, 115.3, 30.2. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 416.1063, found 416.1069.

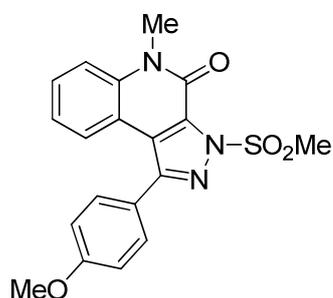


**1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-3-(methylsulfonyl)-3H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]quinolin-4(5H)-one (4b).** White solid; m.p. 293.0 – 296.0 °C. 71.2 mg, 92% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.75 – 7.69 (comp, 5H), 7.65 – 7.60 (comp, 2H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 152.2, 147.2, 137.5, 134.6, 131.4, 130.9, 130.7, 129.5, 129.1, 123.2, 123.0, 116.4, 114.4, 42.5, 29.9. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 388.0523, found 388.0535.

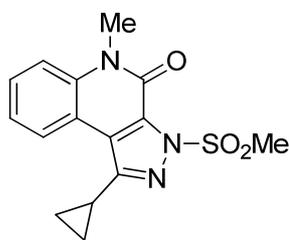


**5-Methyl-3-(methylsulfonyl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-3H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]quinolin-4(5H)-one (4c).** White solid; m.p. 296.0 – 299.0 °C. 76.7 mg, 91% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 8.02 – 7.94 (comp, 4H), 7.74 – 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.61 (comp, 2H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 152.2, 146.9, 137.6, 136.8, 136.1, 131.1, 130.5, 130.1, 129.6, 126.0 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 123.2 (q,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 122.3 (q,  $J = 583.6$  Hz), 116.4, 114.3, 42.5, 30.0.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) -61.1.

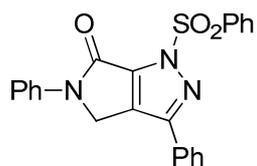
HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 422.0786, found 422.0780.



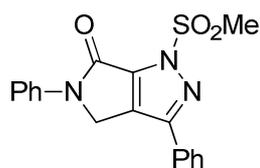
**1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-3-(methylsulfonyl)-3H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]quinolin-4(5H)-one (4d)**. White solid; m.p. 256.0 – 259.0 °C. 68.2 mg, 89% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.77 – 7.67 (comp, 2H), 7.66 – 7.53 (comp, 3H), 7.28 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.09 (comp, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 160.2, 152.3, 148.2, 137.5, 130.8, 130.6, 129.4, 123.8, 123.2, 123.1, 122.9, 116.3, 114.7, 114.4, 55.3, 42.5, 29.9. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 384.1018, found 384.1010.



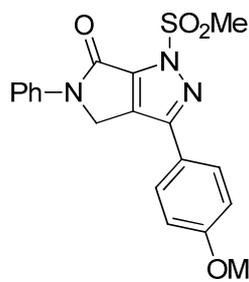
**1-Cyclopropyl-5-methyl-3-(methylsulfonyl)-3H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]quinolin-4(5H)-one (4e)**. White solid; m.p. 248.0 – 251.0 °C. 59.0 mg, 93% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 8.32 – 8.24 (m, 1H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.35 – 2.27 (m, 1H), 1.12 – 0.99 (m, 2H), 0.94 – 0.82 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 154.5, 146.4, 136.6, 133.4, 127.1, 123.6, 122.7, 118.1, 117.2, 115.7, 34.5, 29.1, 8.7, 6.7. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 318.0912, found 318.0910.



**3,5-Diphenyl-1-(phenylsulfonyl)-4,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-6(1H)-one (4f).** White solid; m.p. 235.0 – 238.0 °C. 78.1 mg, 94% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 8.23 – 8.12 (comp, 2H), 7.93 – 7.76 (comp, 5H), 7.75 – 7.66 (comp, 2H), 7.61 – 7.40 (comp, 5H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 154.7, 147.9, 142.7, 139.5, 136.4, 135.6, 132.7, 130.2, 130.1, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 127.9, 126.6, 124.9, 119.9, 45.5. HRMS (TOF MS CI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 416.1069, found 416.1063.

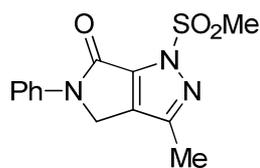


**1-(Methylsulfonyl)-3,5-diphenyl-4,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-6(1H)-one (4g).** White solid; m.p. 256.0 – 259.0 °C. 67.9 mg, >95% yield (without recrystallization). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.92 – 7.84 (comp, 3H), 7.69 – 7.30 (comp, 6H), 7.29 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 155.2, 146.6, 142.4, 139.5, 131.3, 129.9, 129.8, 129.2, 129.0, 126.5, 124.9, 119.9, 45.7, 41.8. HRMS (TOF MS CI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 354.0912, found 354.0907.

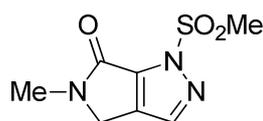


**3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-phenyl-4,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-6(1H)-one (4h).** White solid; m.p. 245.0 – 248.0 °C. 72.1 mg, 94% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.88 – 7.80 (comp, 4H),

7.50 – 7.44 (comp, 2H), 7.23 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.08 (comp, 2H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 160.5, 155.2, 146.7, 142.3, 139.5, 131.0, 129.0, 128.1, 124.8, 122.3, 119.9, 114.6, 55.4, 45.7, 41.8. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 384.1018, found 384.1013.



**3-Methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-phenyl-4,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-6(1H)-one (4i)**. White solid; m.p. 214.0 – 217.0 °C. 51.3 mg, 88% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.81 – 7.78 (comp, 2H), 7.42 – 7.38 (comp, 2H), 7.16 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 161.7, 149.4, 140.4, 133.6, 128.9, 124.0, 121.3, 119.3, 45.0, 39.7, 10.0. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 292.0756, found 292.0755.



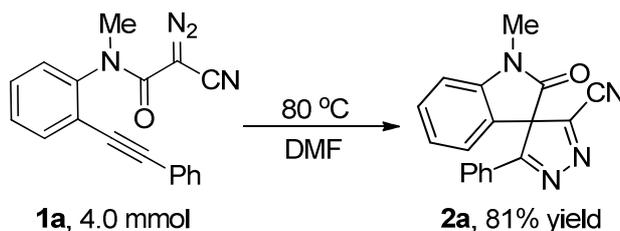
**5-Methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-4,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-6(1H)-one (4j)**. White gum, 41.8 mg, >95% yield (without recrystallization).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.67 (s, 1H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 157.0, 142.1, 136.0, 133.6, 46.2, 42.1, 30.7. HRMS (TOF MS  $\text{Cl}^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 216.0443, found 216.0444.



**5-Methyl-1-phenyl-3*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]quinolin-4(5*H*)-one (4k).**

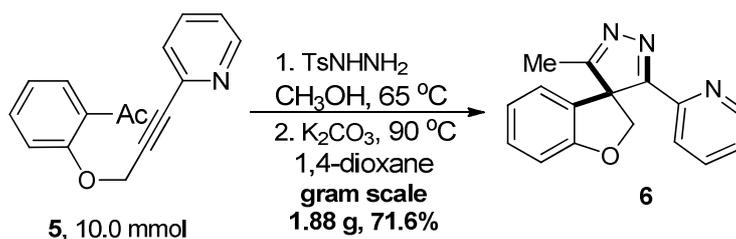
White solid; m.p. 287.0 – 291.0 °C. 45.7 mg, 83% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 14.47 (s, 1H), 7.82 – 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.70 – 7.63 (comp, 2H), 7.63 – 7.50 (comp, 4H), 7.49 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (δ, ppm) 153.6, 147.0, 136.7, 134.0, 131.8, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 127.6, 122.5, 122.4, 117.0, 116.4, 116.2, 29.2. HRMS (TOF MS CI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 276.1137, found 276.1130.

#### Scale Up:



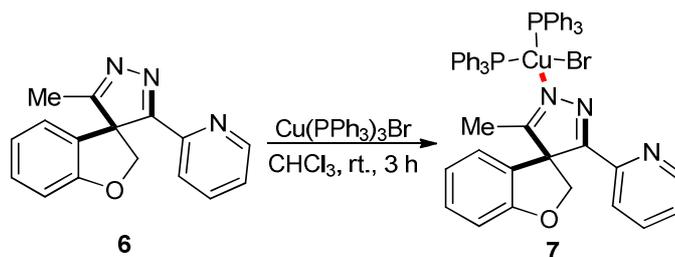
To a 100-mL oven-dried round-bottom flask with a magnetic stirring bar, diazo compound **1a** (4.0 mmol, 1.2 g) was dissolved in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF, 40.0 mL). After stirring overnight at 80 °C, the reaction was quenched with water (100 mL) and the aqueous phase extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50.0 mL × 3). The combined organic phase was washed with saturated brine (100 mL × 2), and the organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Then the solvent was removed in vacuo after filtration to give a white solid. The solid product was further purified by recrystallization (solvents: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate /CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> = 1: 2: 5,) to give 0.972 g pure product **2a** in 81% yield.

### Procedure for the Preparation of Copper Complex 7.



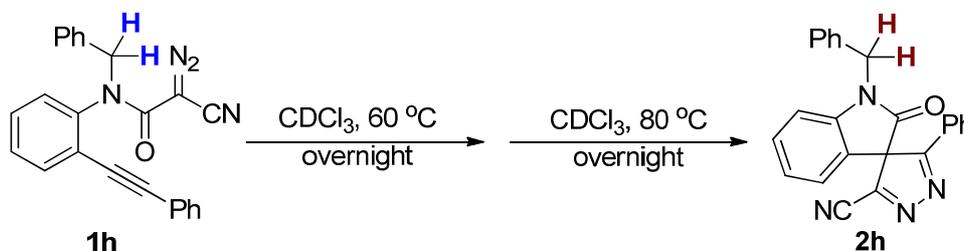
To a 100-mL oven-dried flask containing a magnetic stirring bar, was added **5** (10.0 mmol, 2.51 g), sulfonyl hydrazide (11 mmol, 2.05 g) and methanol (20.0 mL) in sequence, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 60~65 °C for 12 h. Then the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the crude product was directly used for the next step without further purification.

To a 100-mL oven-dried flask containing a magnetic stirring bar, the above obtained product, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (20 mmol, 2.0 equiv, 2.76 g), and 1,4-dioxane (20 mL) were added in sequence under atmosphere of argon, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 10 h. After the reaction was completed (monitored by TLC), the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated brine (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum after filtration. The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (Hexanes:EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) to give pure **6** as a yellow solid (1.88 g, 71.6% yield). mp: 159-160 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 8.45 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.60 – 6.49 (m, 1H), 5.39 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 179.3, 175.1, 161.7, 149.6, 149.2, 136.6, 130.1, 125.0, 124.9, 123.1, 122.7, 121.1, 110.7, 74.2, 73.5, 12.6. HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 264.1137, found 264.1346.



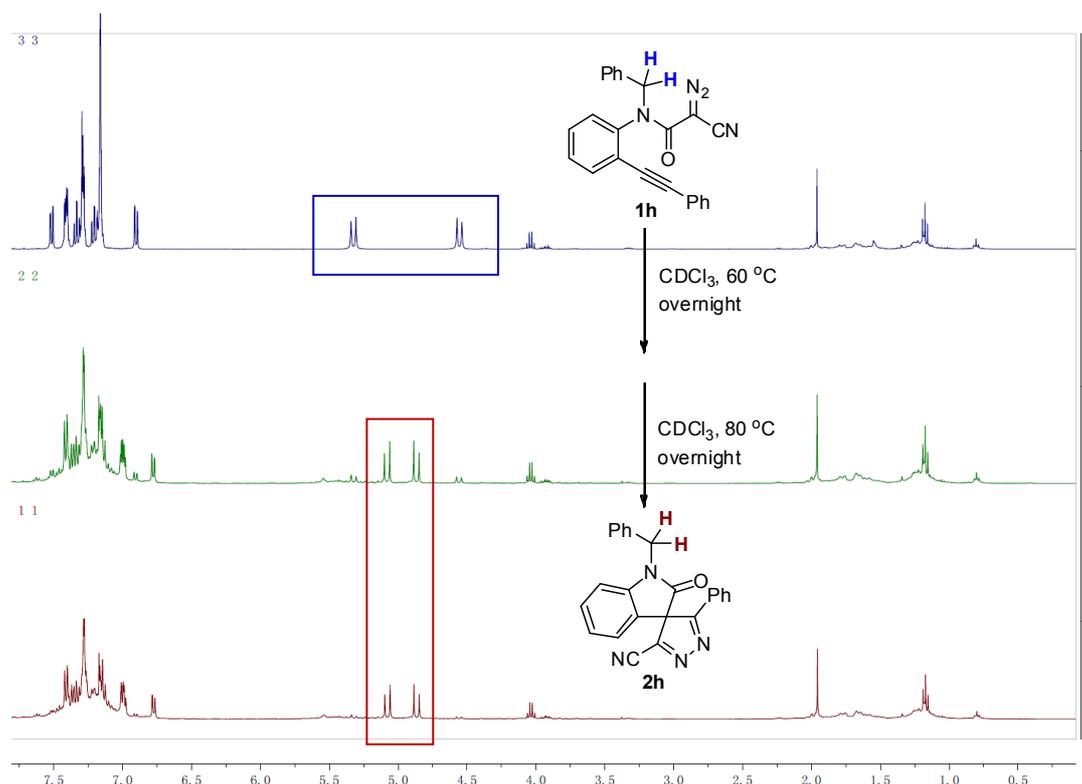
To a 25-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar,  $\text{Cu}(\text{PPh}_3)_3\text{Br}$  (93.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL of chloroform at room temperature. **5** (26.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) was then added to reaction mixture. The colorless solution immediately turned orange. The contents of the flask were allowed to stir at room temperature for 25 min and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The resulting orange solid was dissolved in 4 mL of DCM and layered with 8 mL of ether. The precipitate was collected and recrystallized with DCM, ether and hexane to give **6** as an orange solid (83.8 mg, 90% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 8.44 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.01 (bs, 1H), 7.76 (bs, 1H), 7.35-7.19 (comp, 33H), 7.00 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.75 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.46 (bs, 1H), 4.62 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H).

### Mechanism Studies

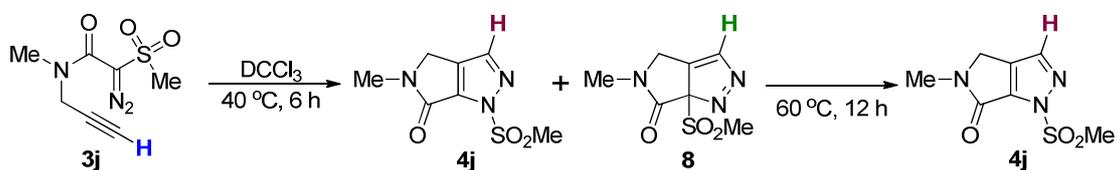


To a dry NMR tube, diazo compound **1h** (0.05 mmol, 18.8 mg) was dissolved in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). After warming to 60 °C in a oil bath for 12 h, the most of the starting material **1h** transferred into the desired pyrazole **2h** and there was no obvious other signal (Fig. S1, the middle spectrum). After another 12 h at 80 °C, all the material transferred to product **2h** (Fig. S1, the bottom spectrum).

**Comments: no proton NMR signal of corresponding 3H-pyrazole intermediate was observed.**



**Fig. S1** Proton NMR observation of reaction with **1h**.

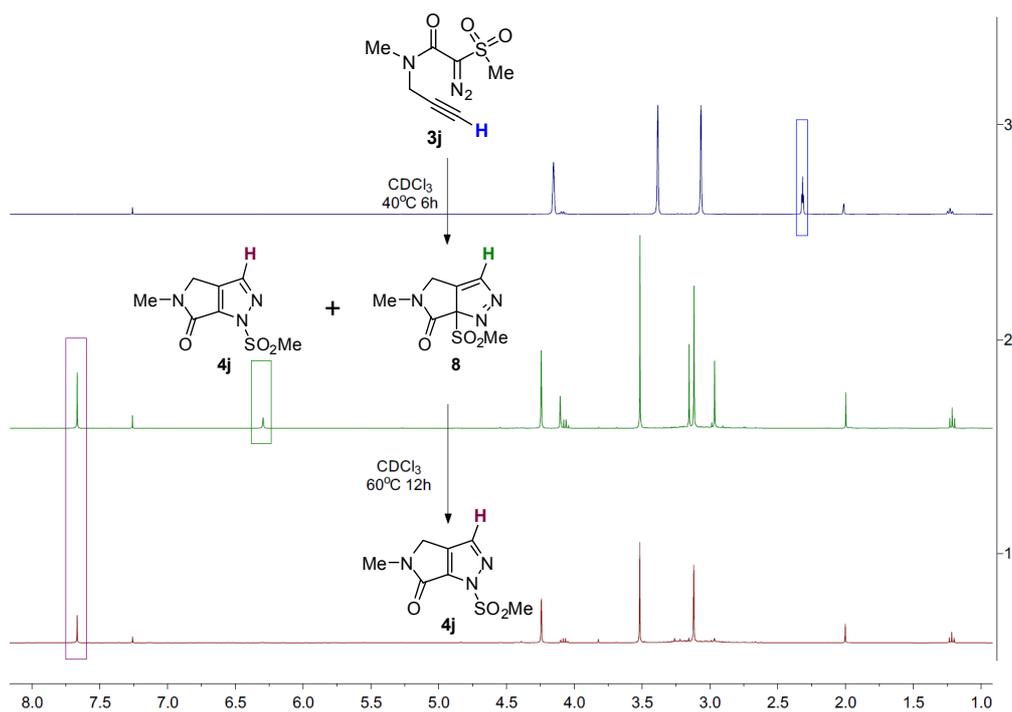


To a dry NMR tube, diazo compound **3j** (0.05 mmol, 10.8 mg) was dissolved in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). After warming to  $40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in a oil bath for 6 h, all the material is consumed, and the desired pyrazole **4j** was formed as the major product combined with other product, which most probably account for the proton signals of *3H*-pyrazole **8** (Fig. S2, the middle spectrum). After another 12 h at  $60\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , compound **8** transferred to product **4j** (Fig. S2, the bottom spectrum).

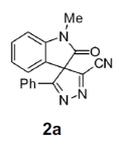
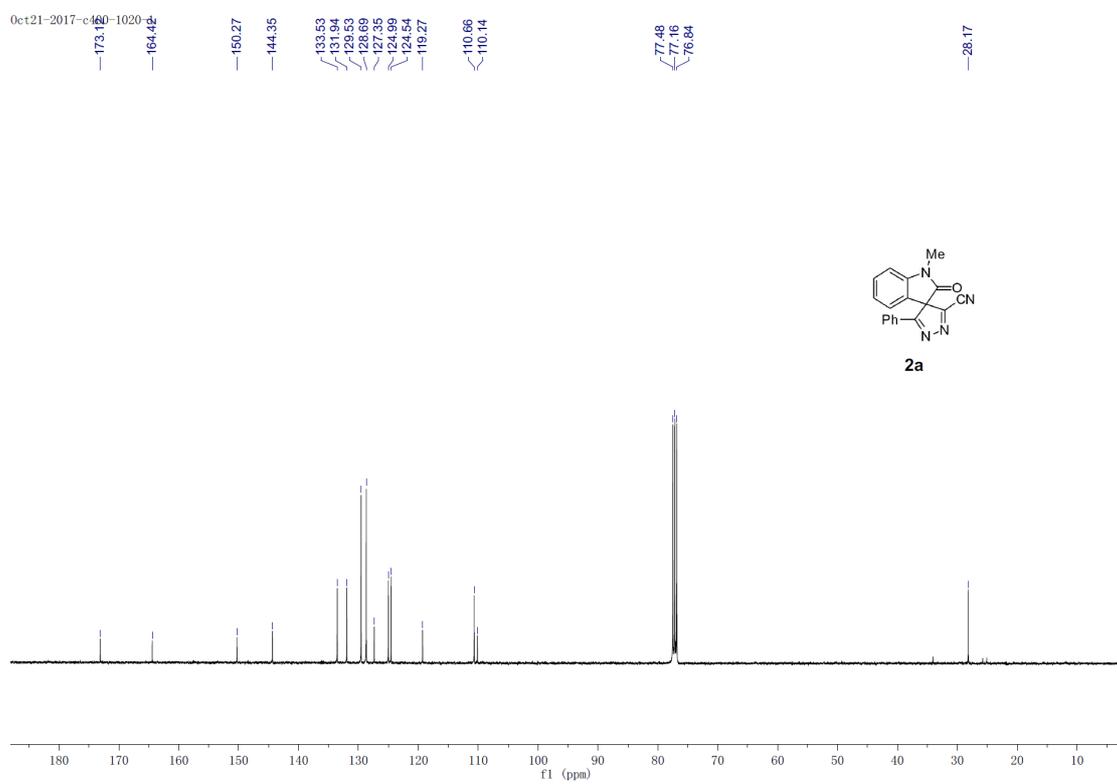
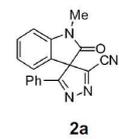
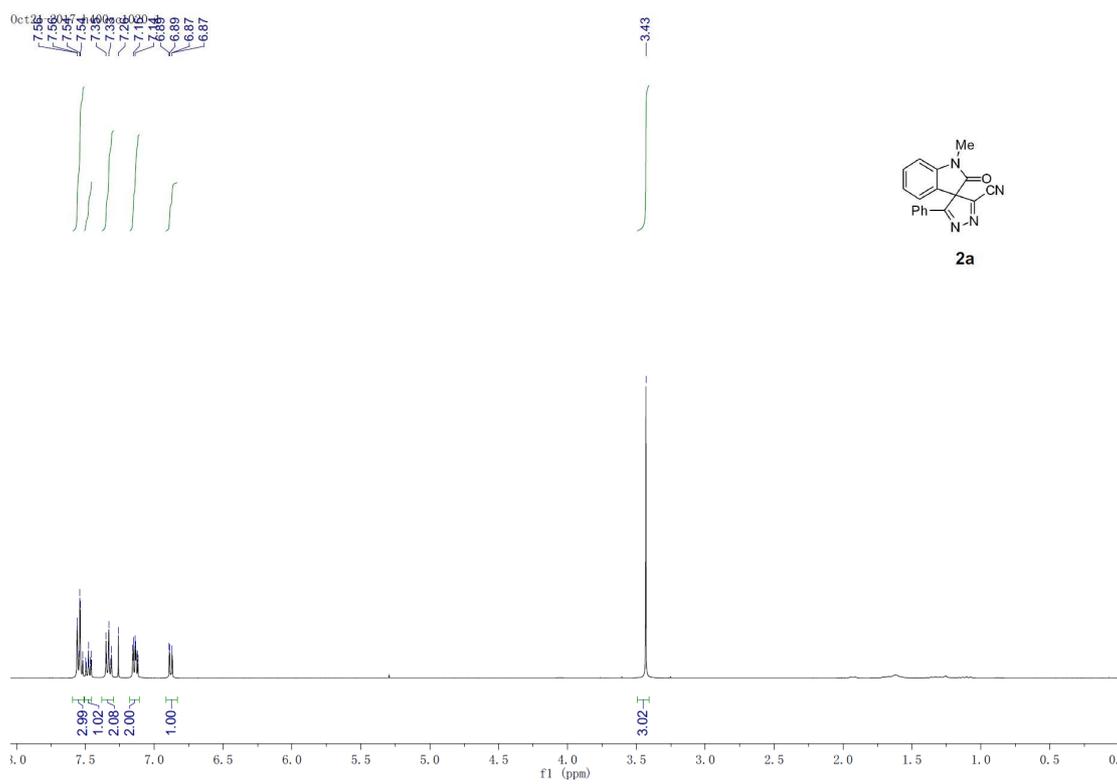
**Comments:** Proton signals, which most probably account for the corresponding *3H*-pyrazole intermediate **8** was observed.

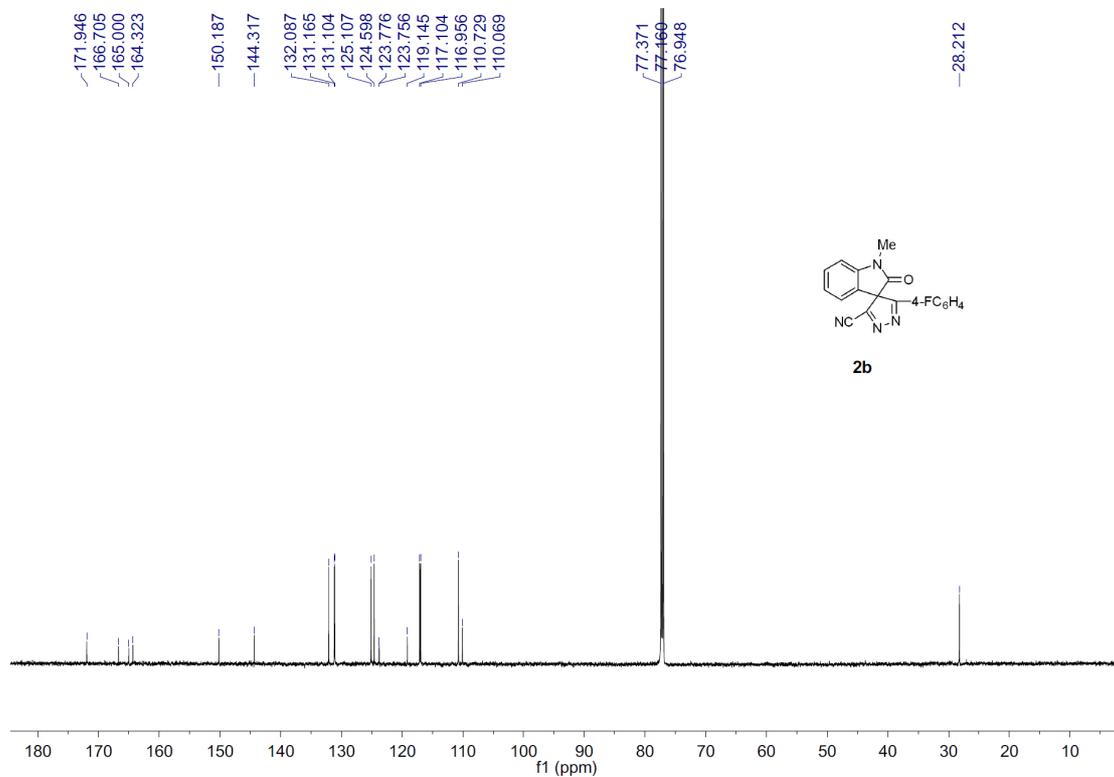
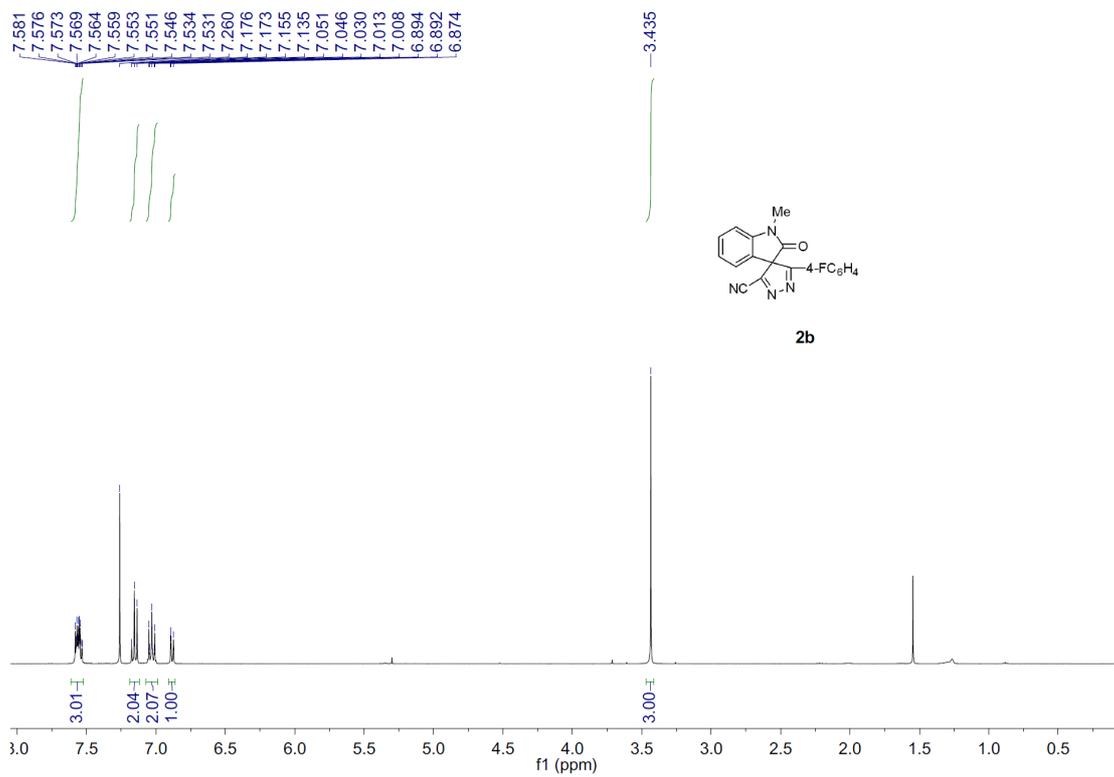


**6(5H)-one (8).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 6.30 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 165.5, 152.6, 119.7, 51.8, 49.5, 42.6, 29.1.



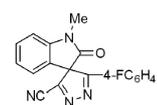
**Fig. S2** Proton NMR observation of 3H-pyrazole intermediate **8**.



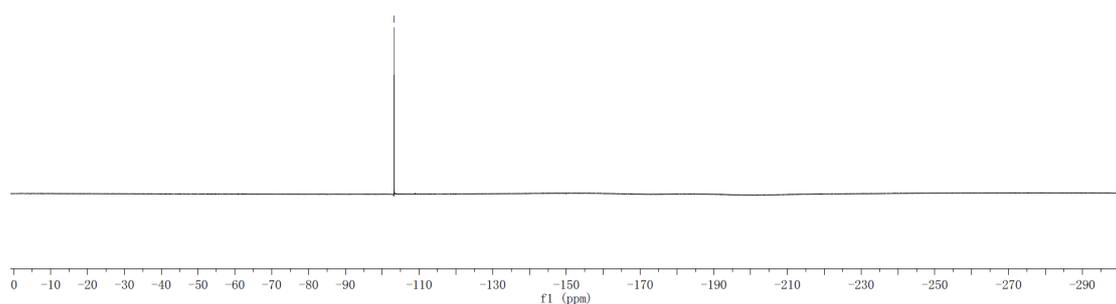


Oct21-2017-f400zc1020-2

-103.20

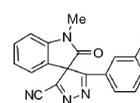


**2b**

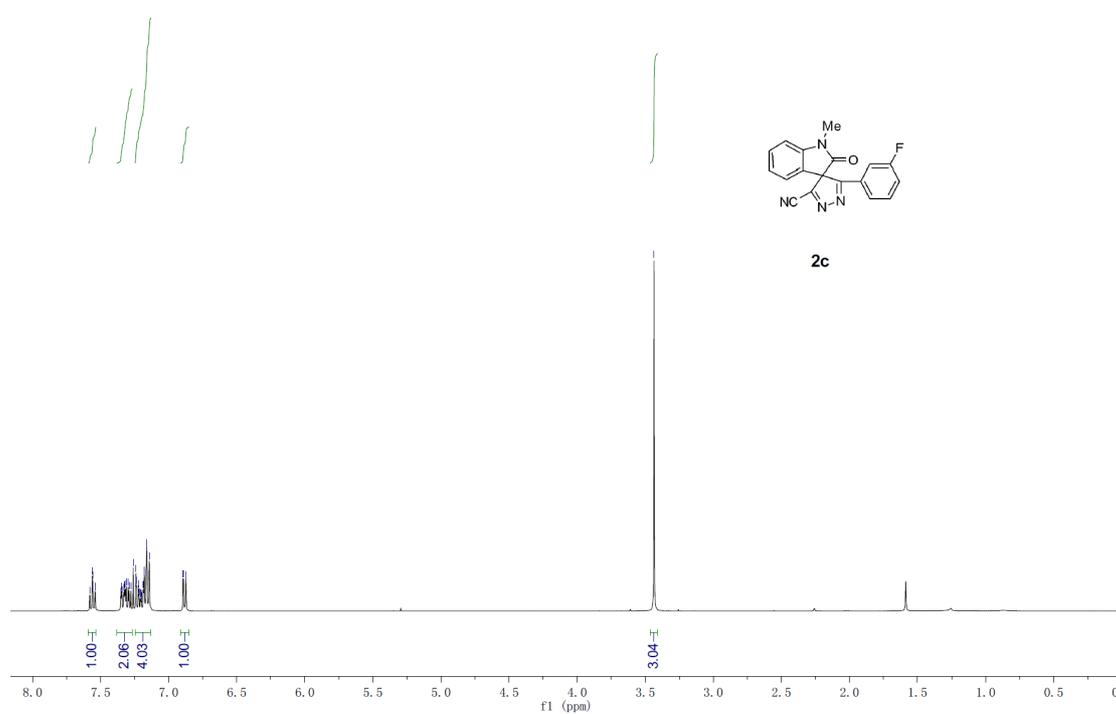


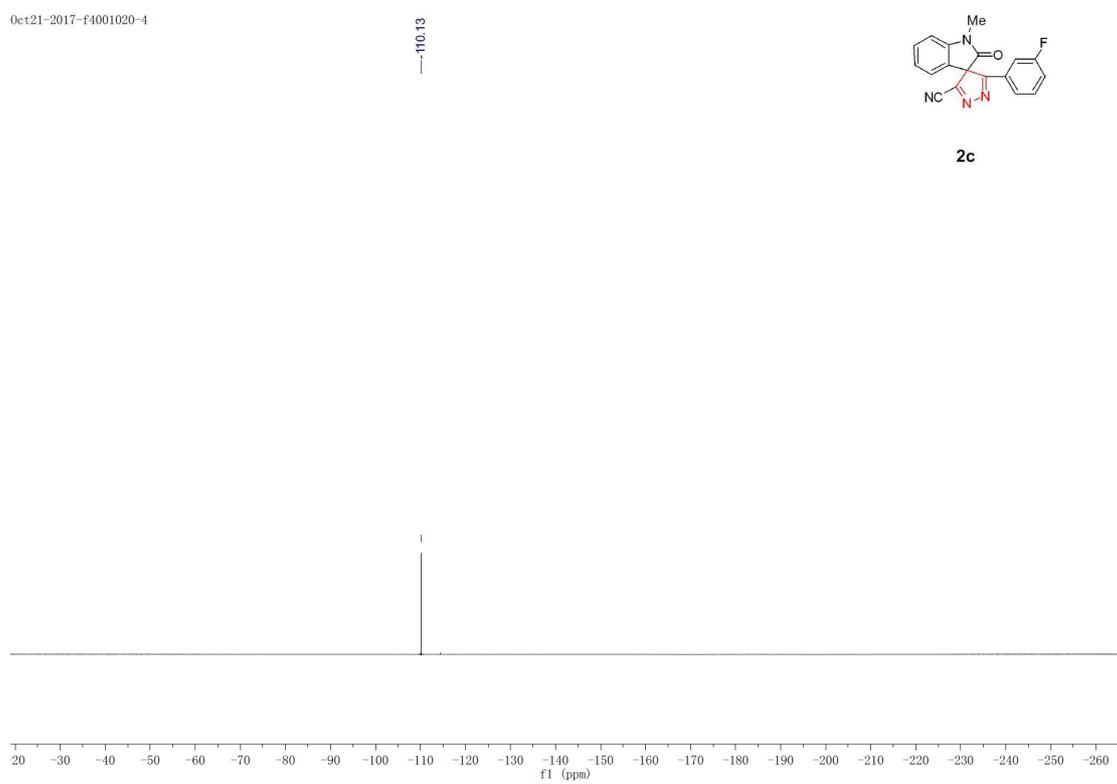
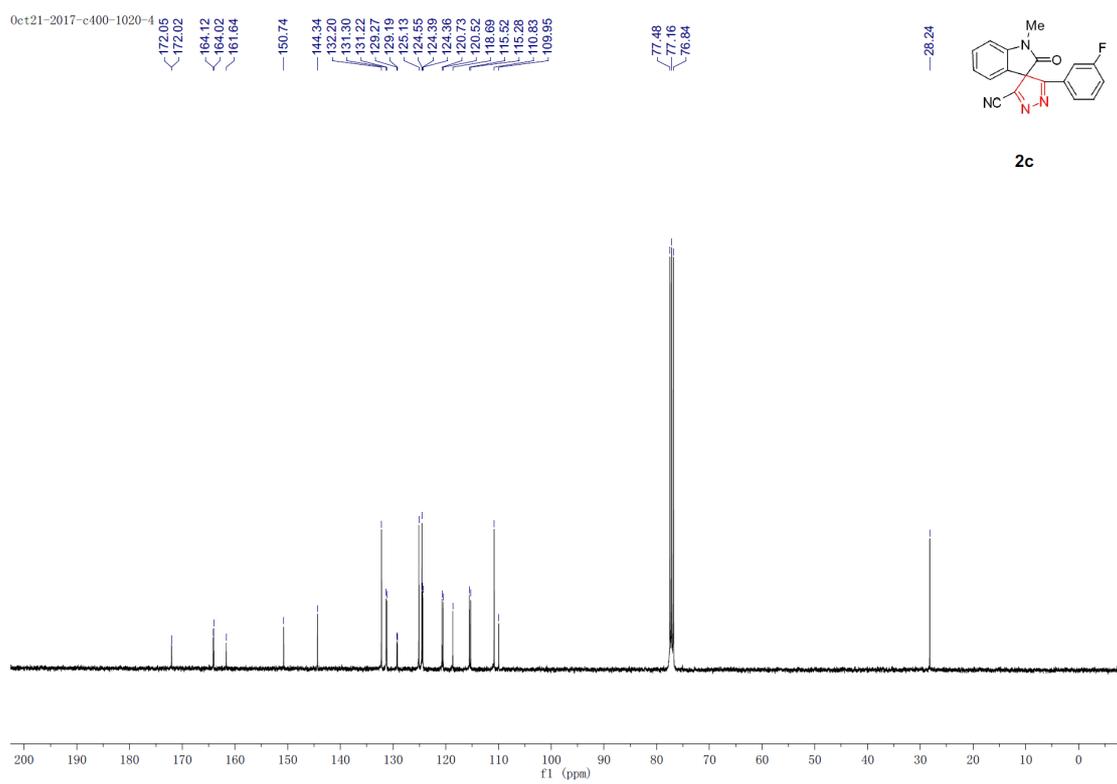
7.55  
7.56  
7.22  
7.22  
7.11  
7.11  
7.11  
7.11  
6.89  
6.87

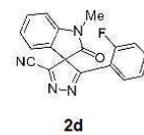
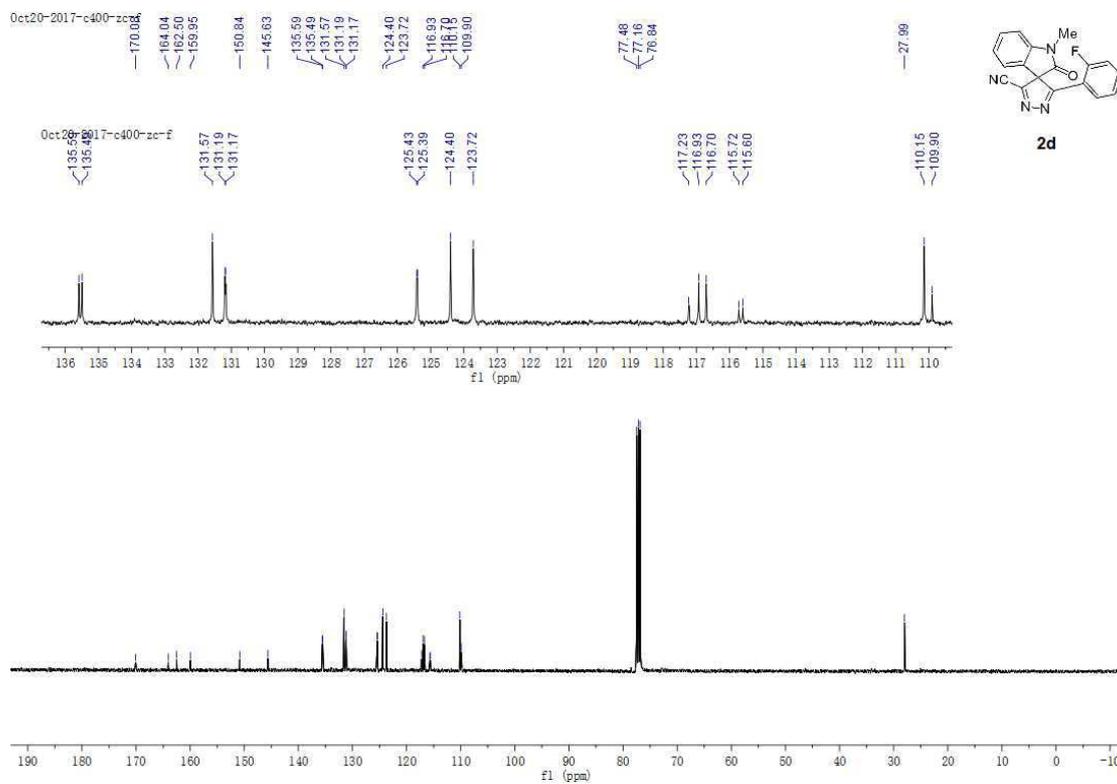
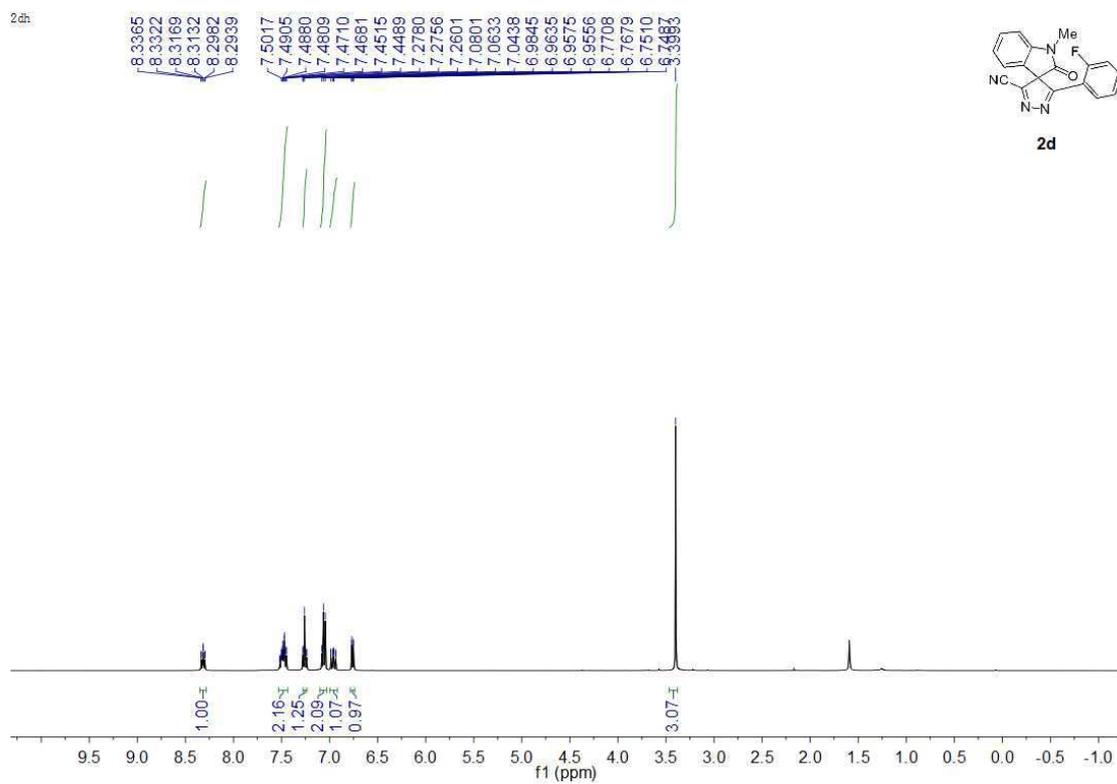
-3.43



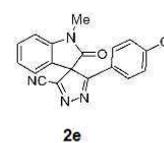
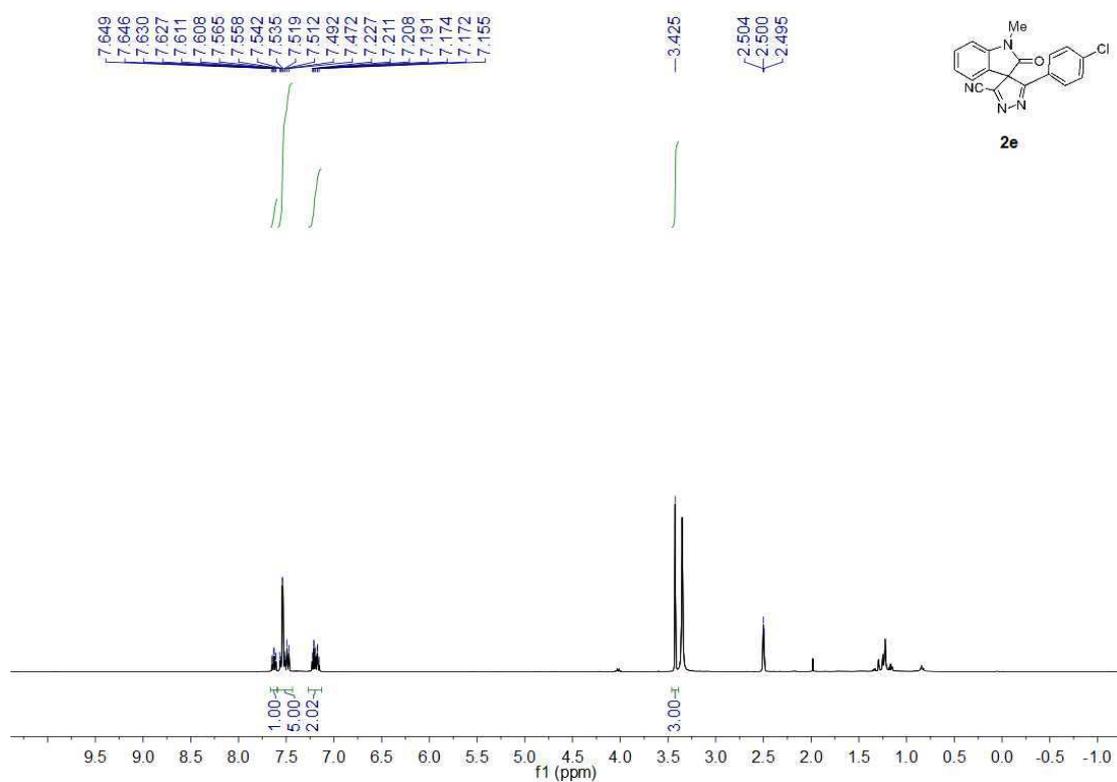
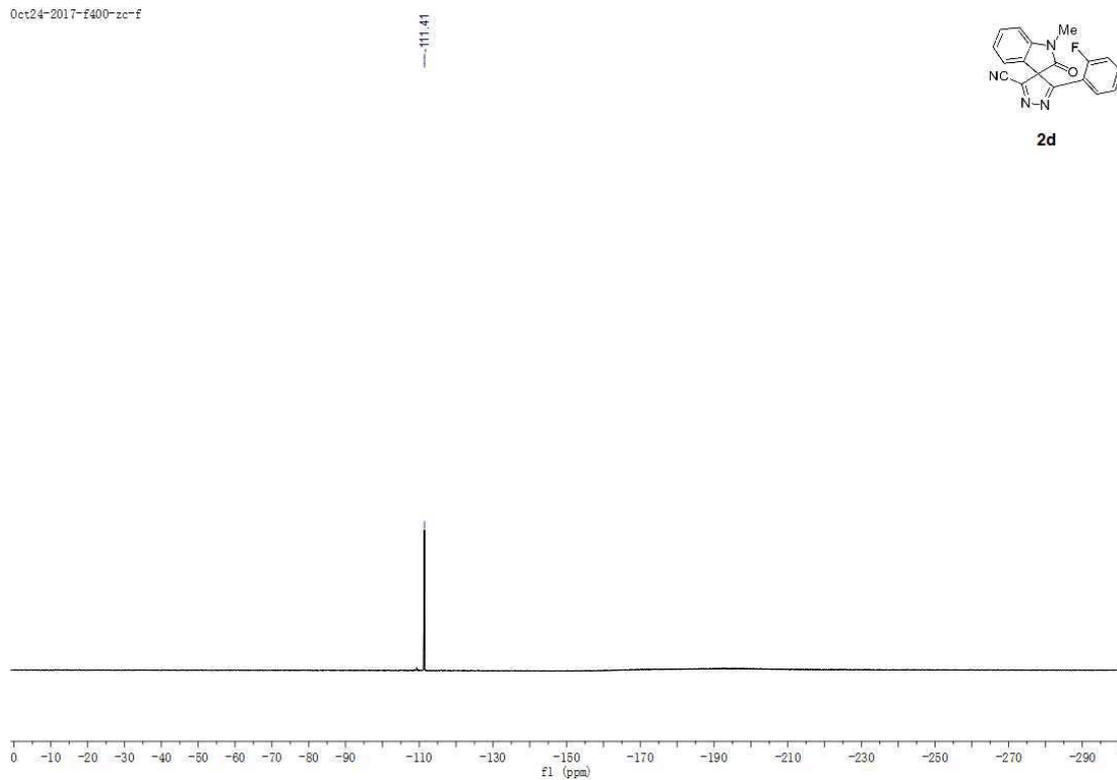
**2c**

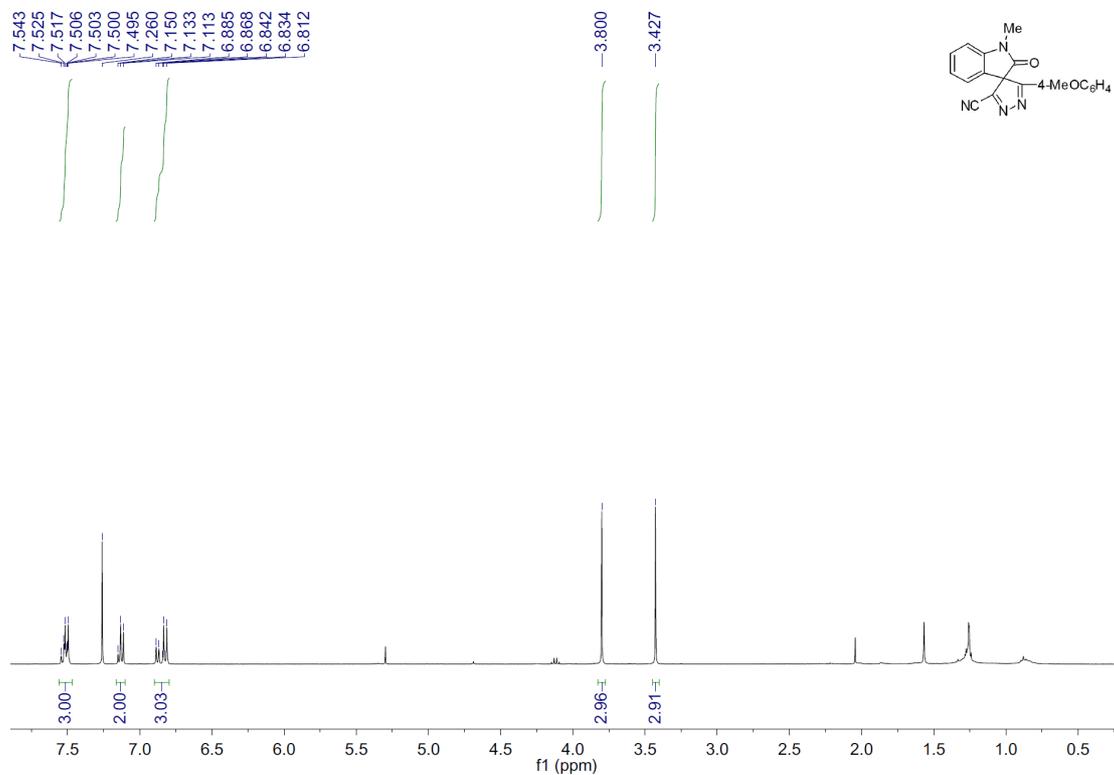
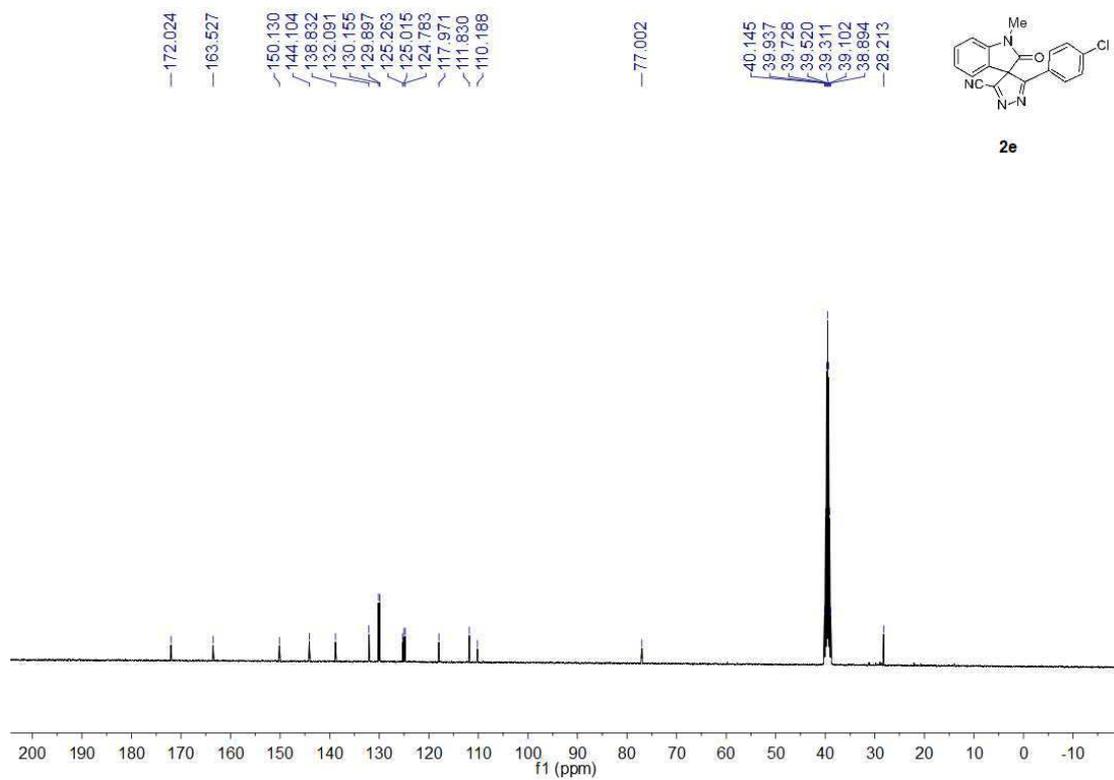


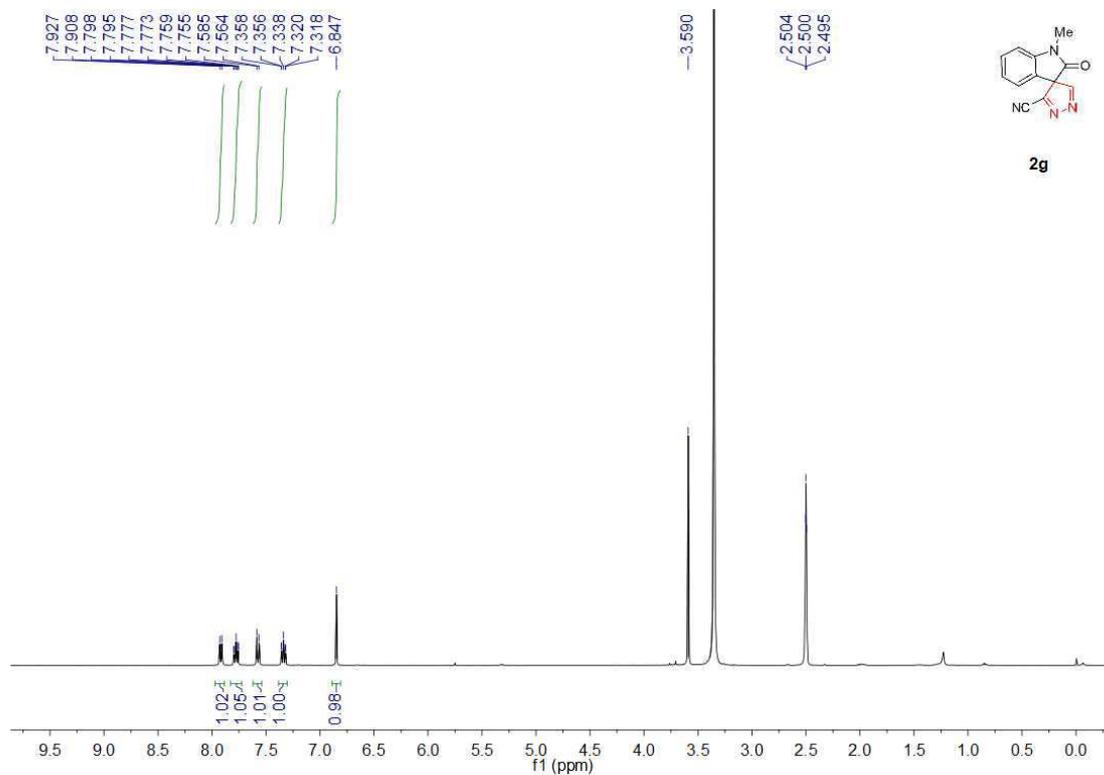
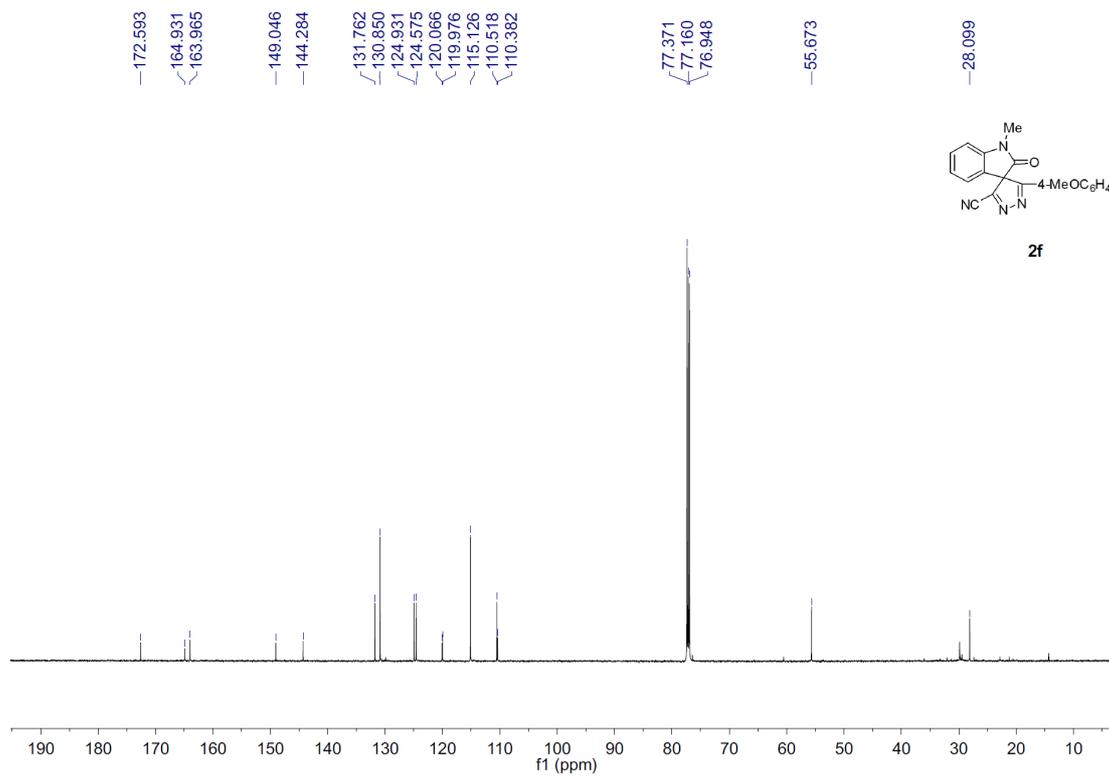


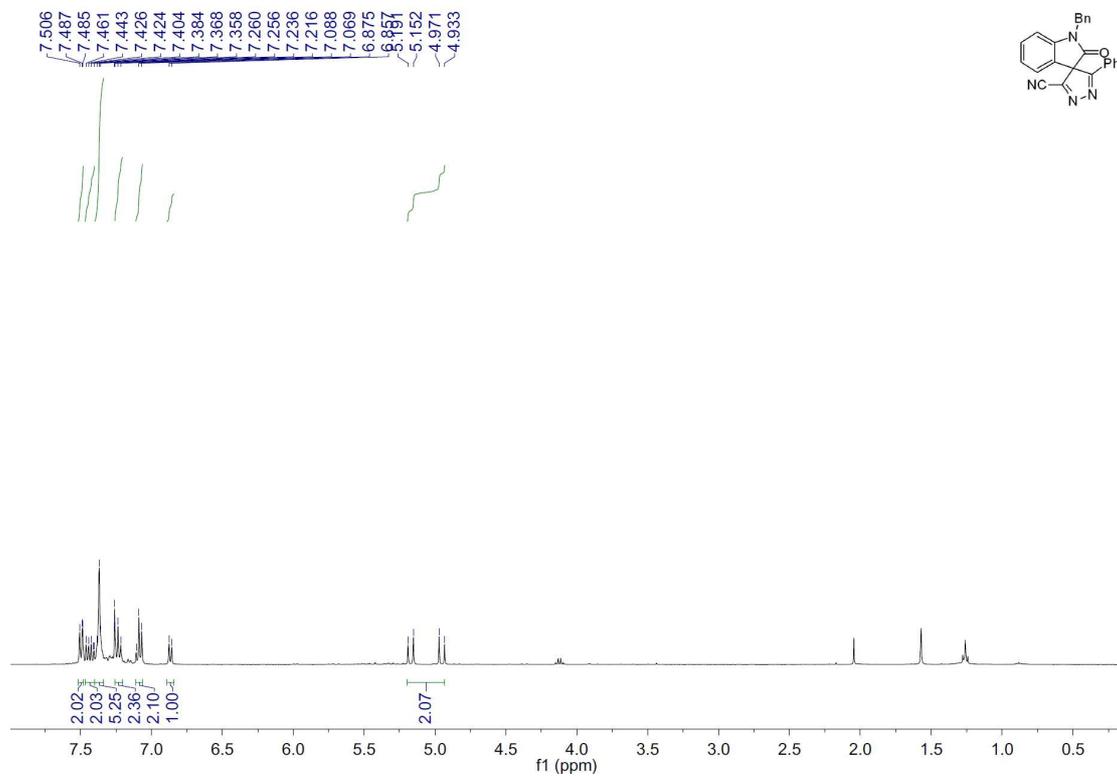
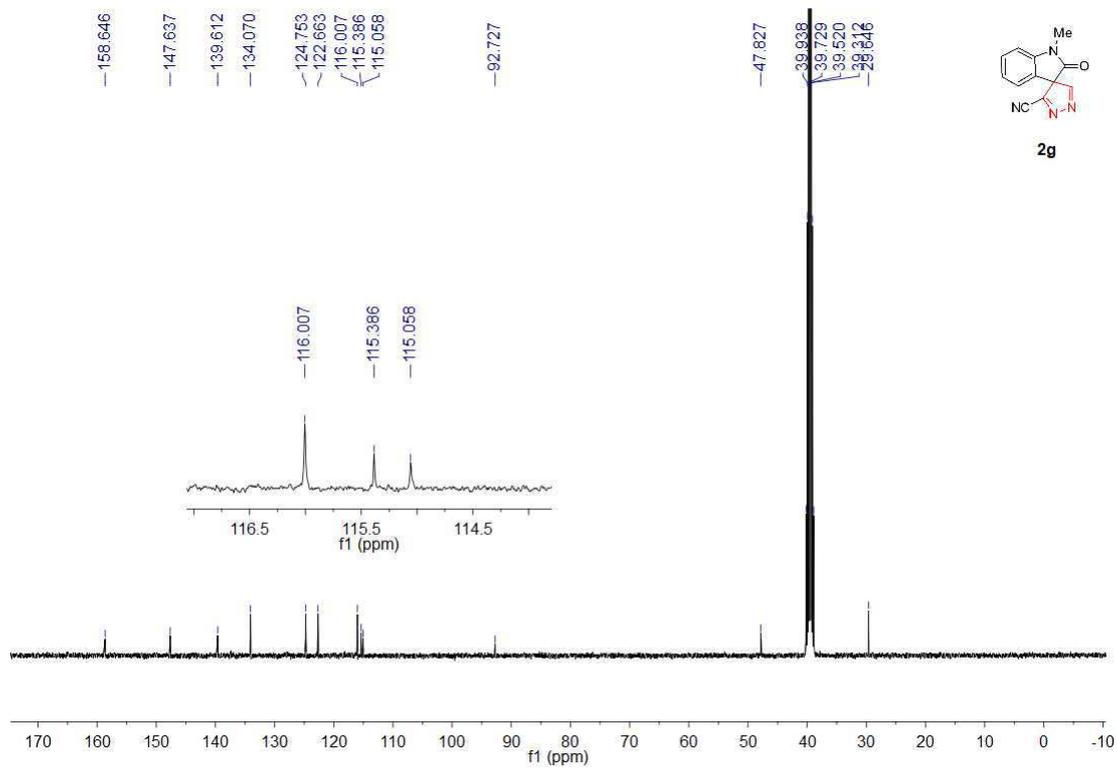


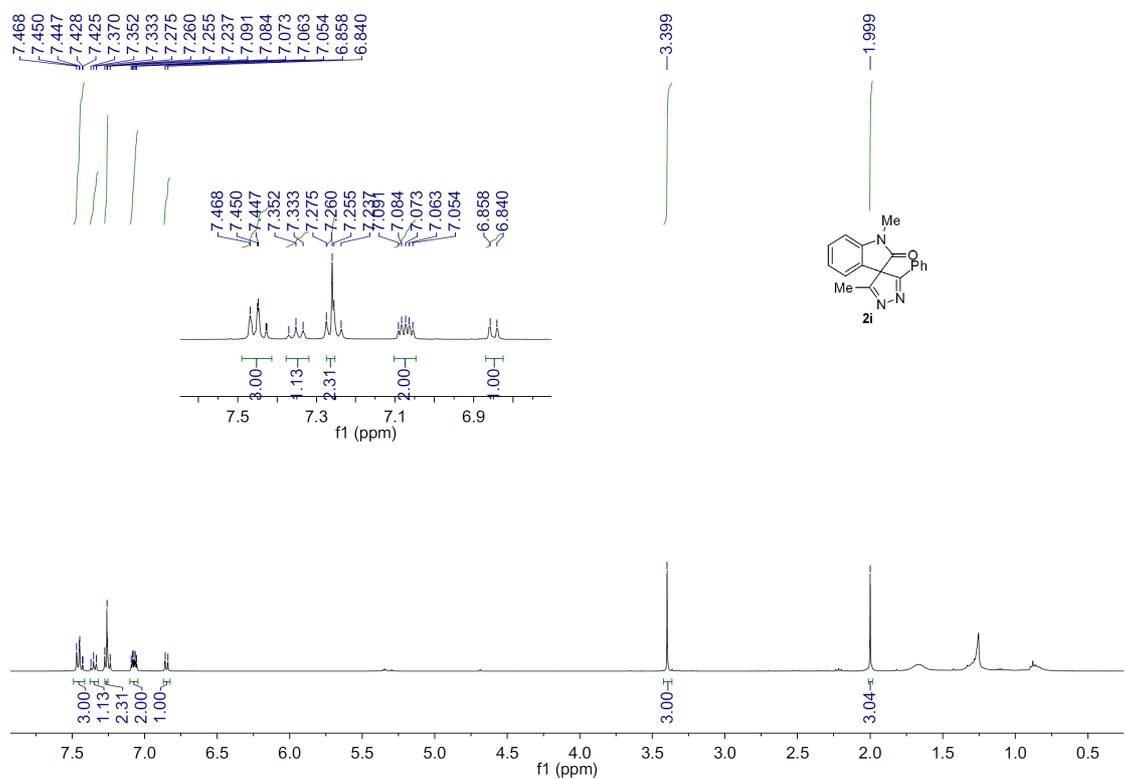
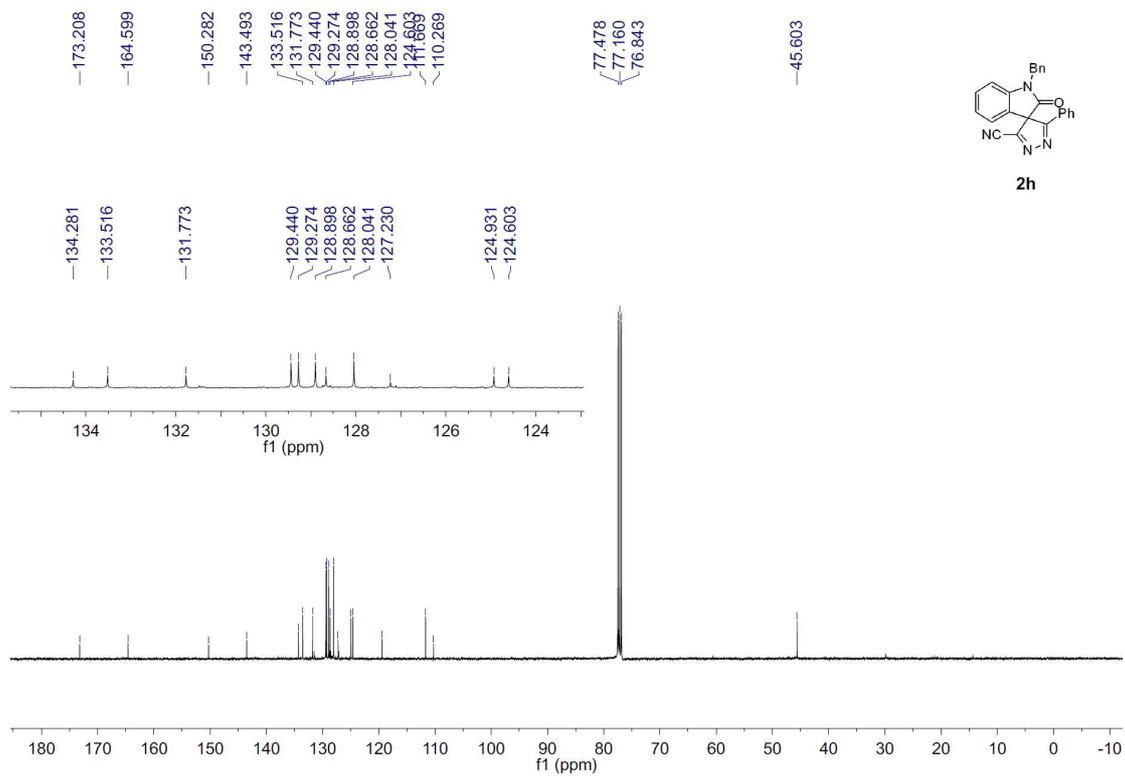
Oct24-2017-f400-zc-f

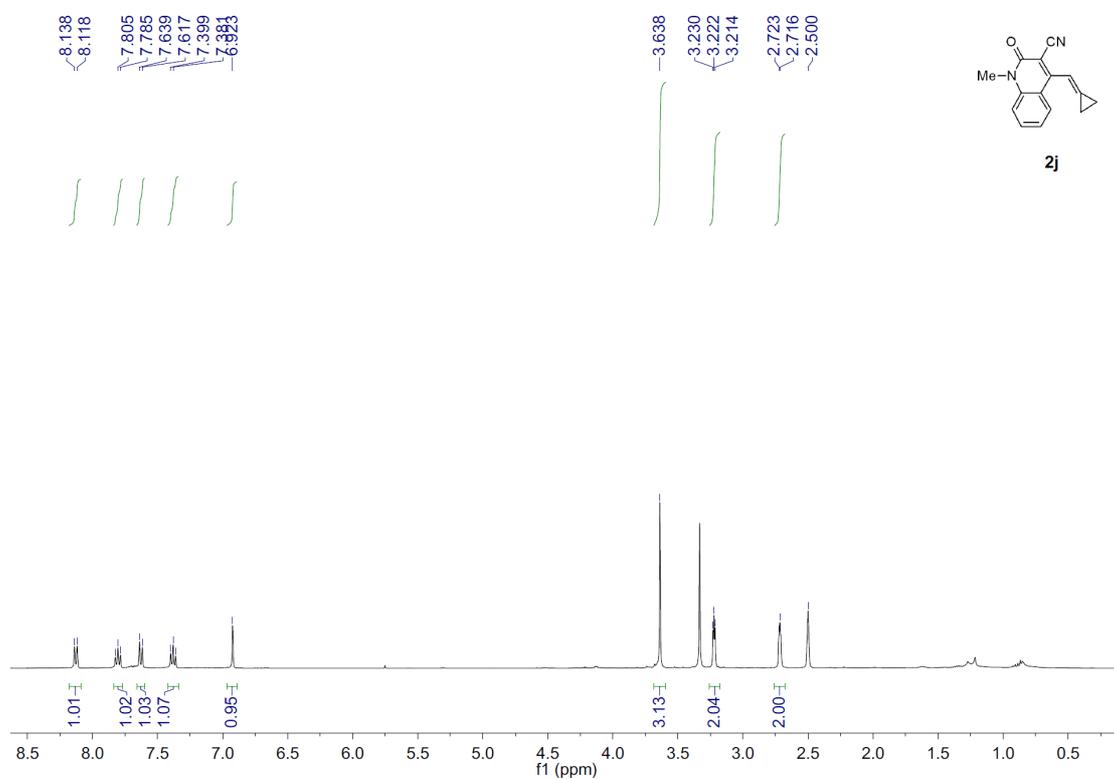
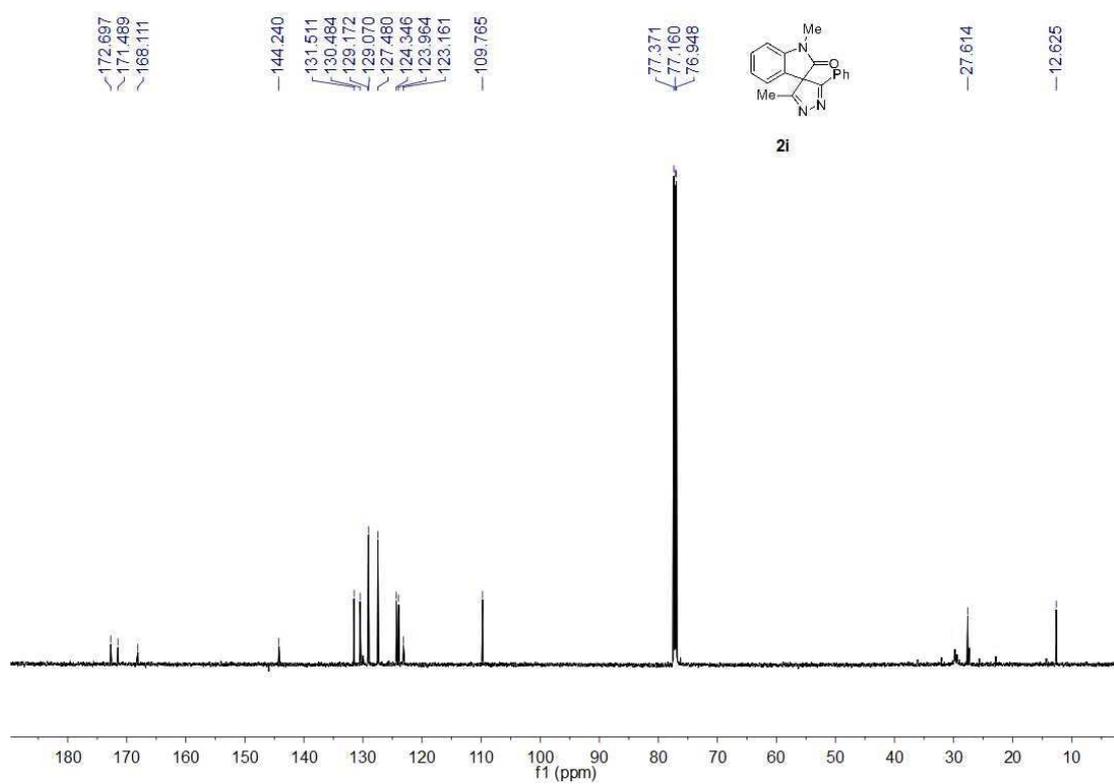


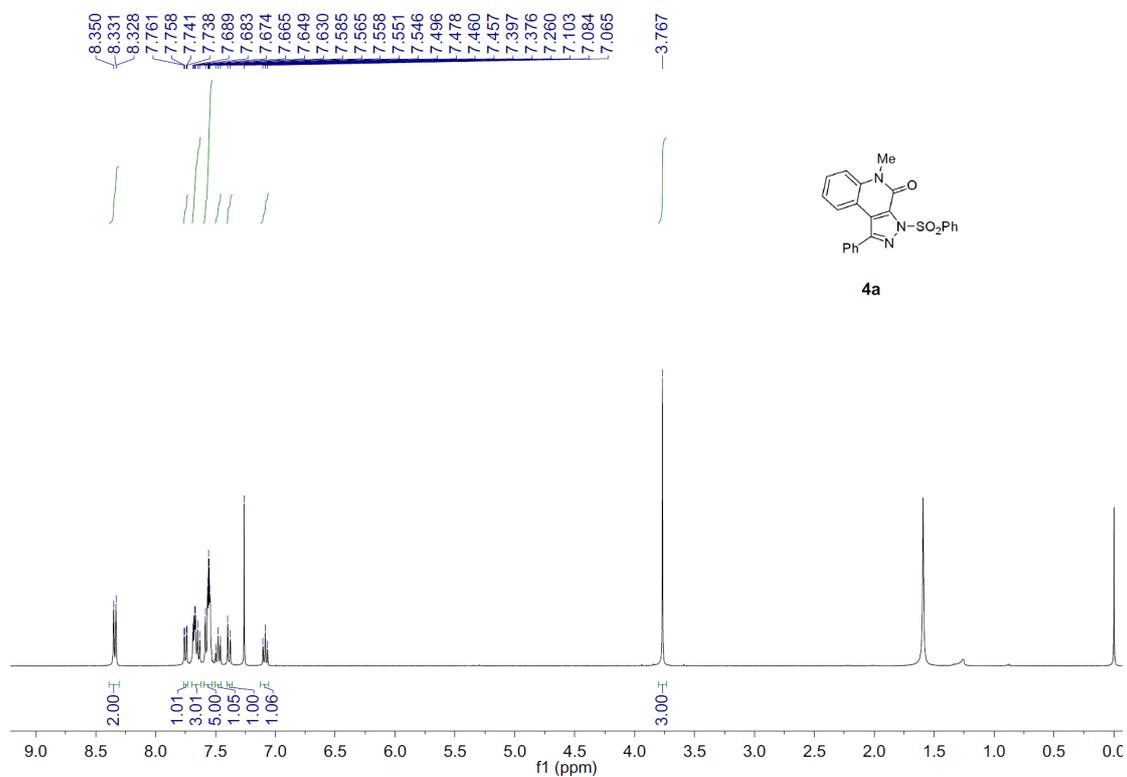
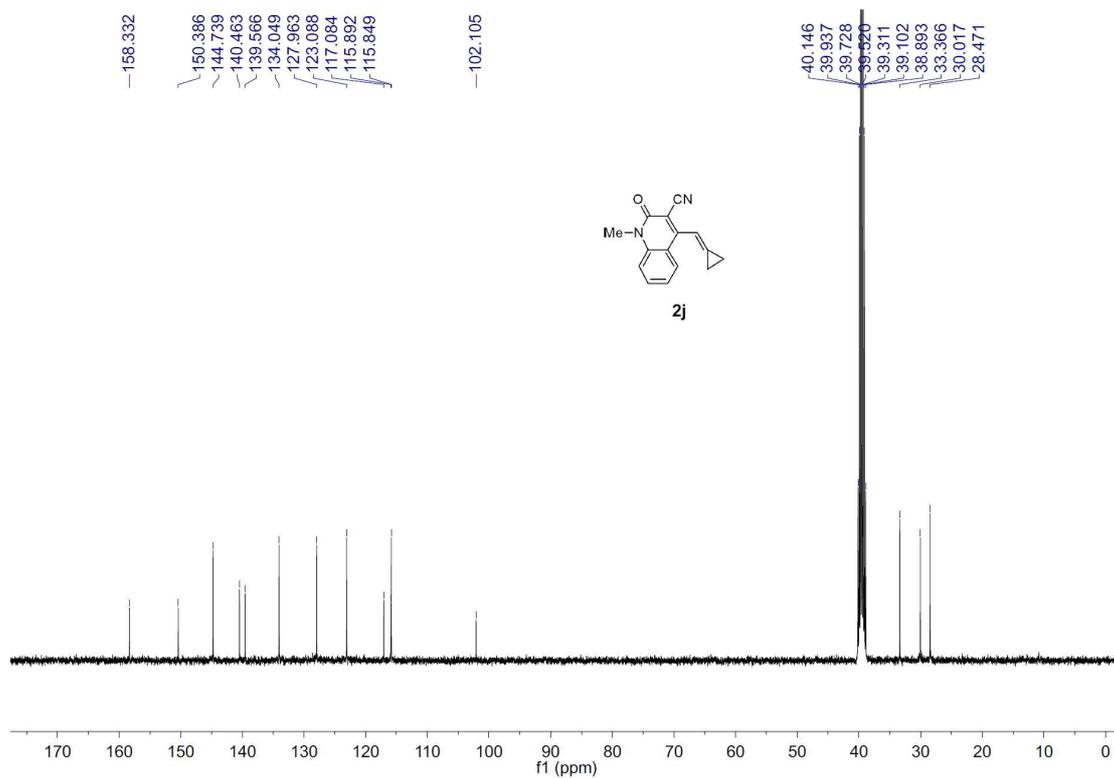


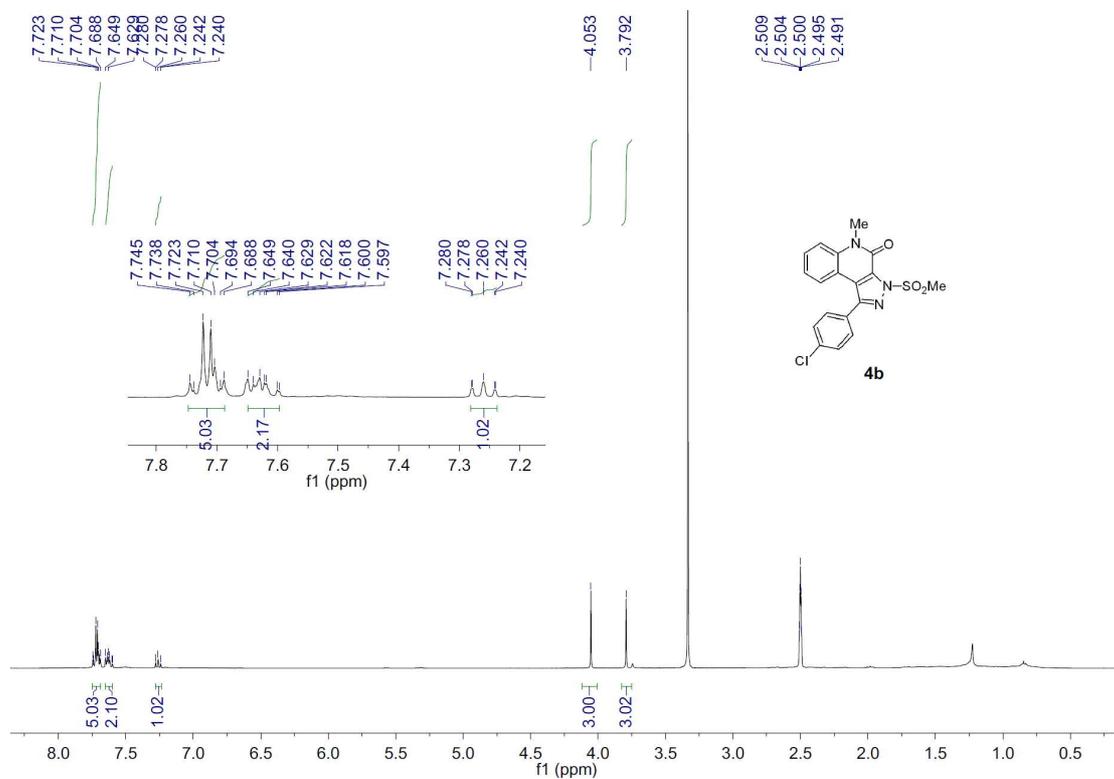
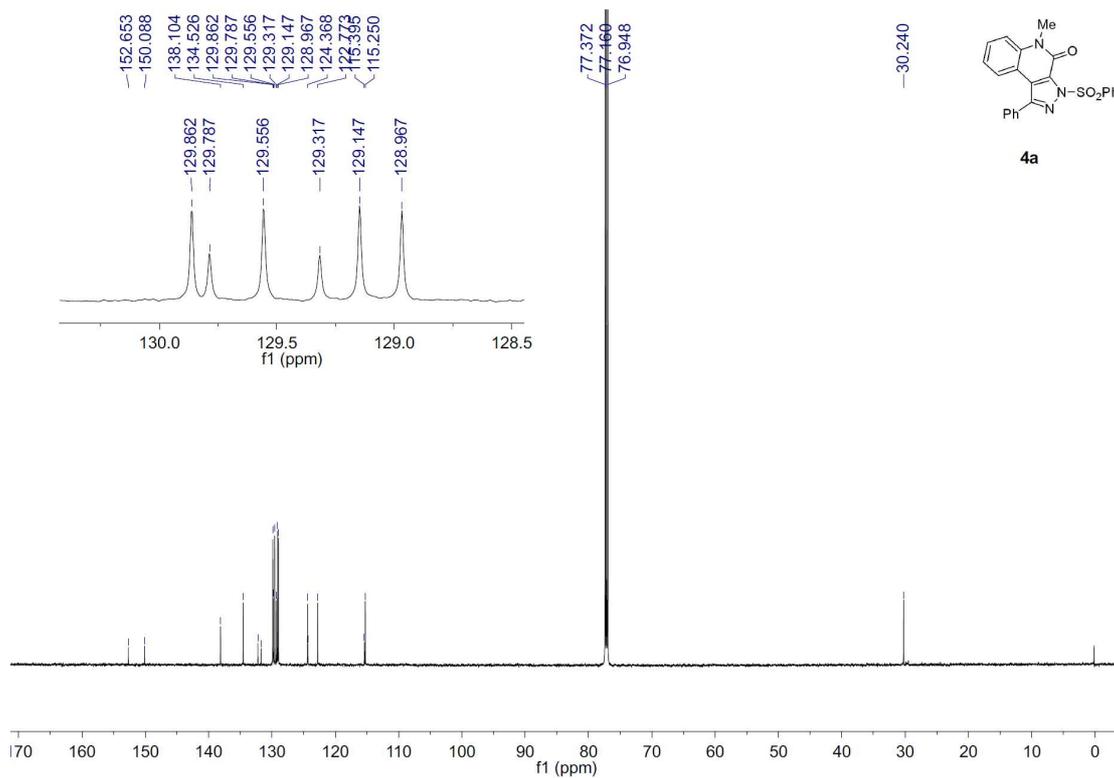


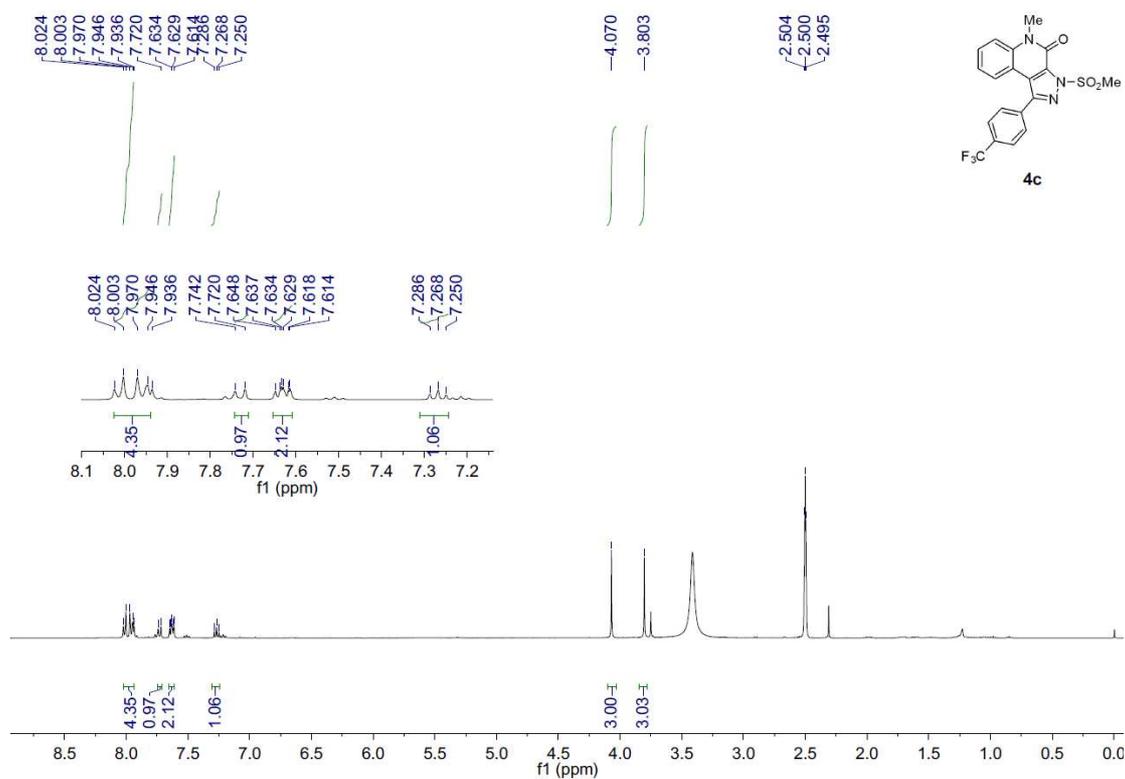
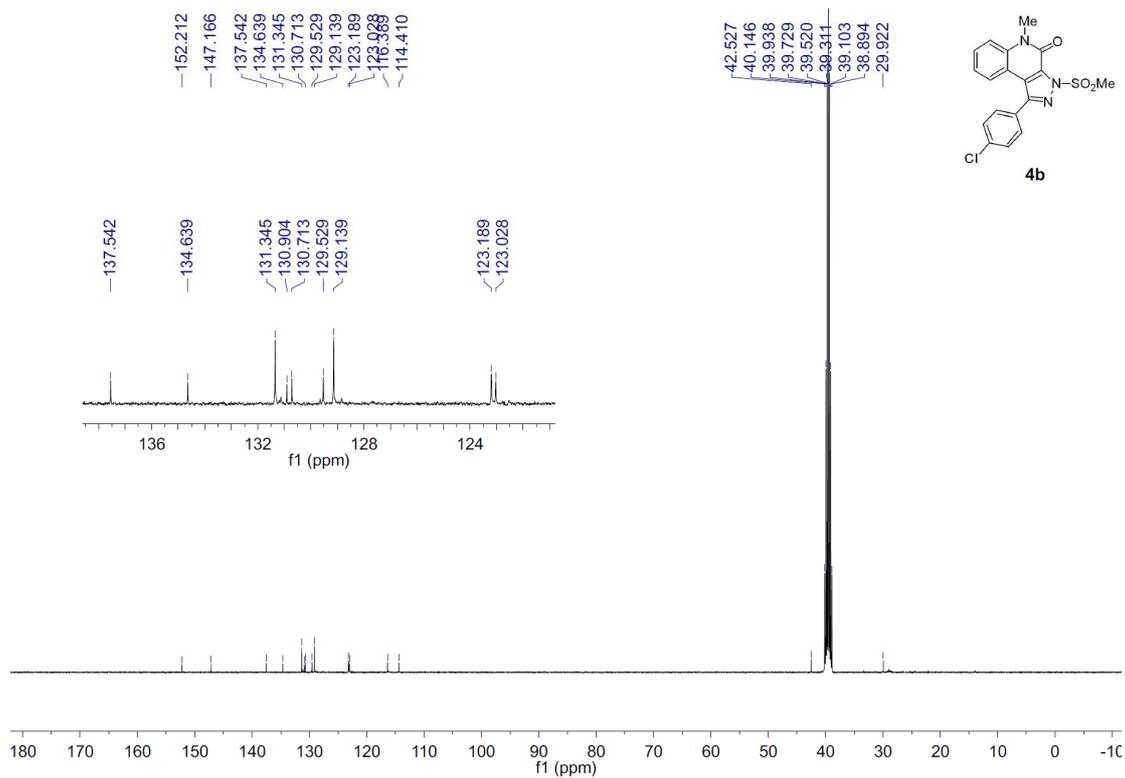


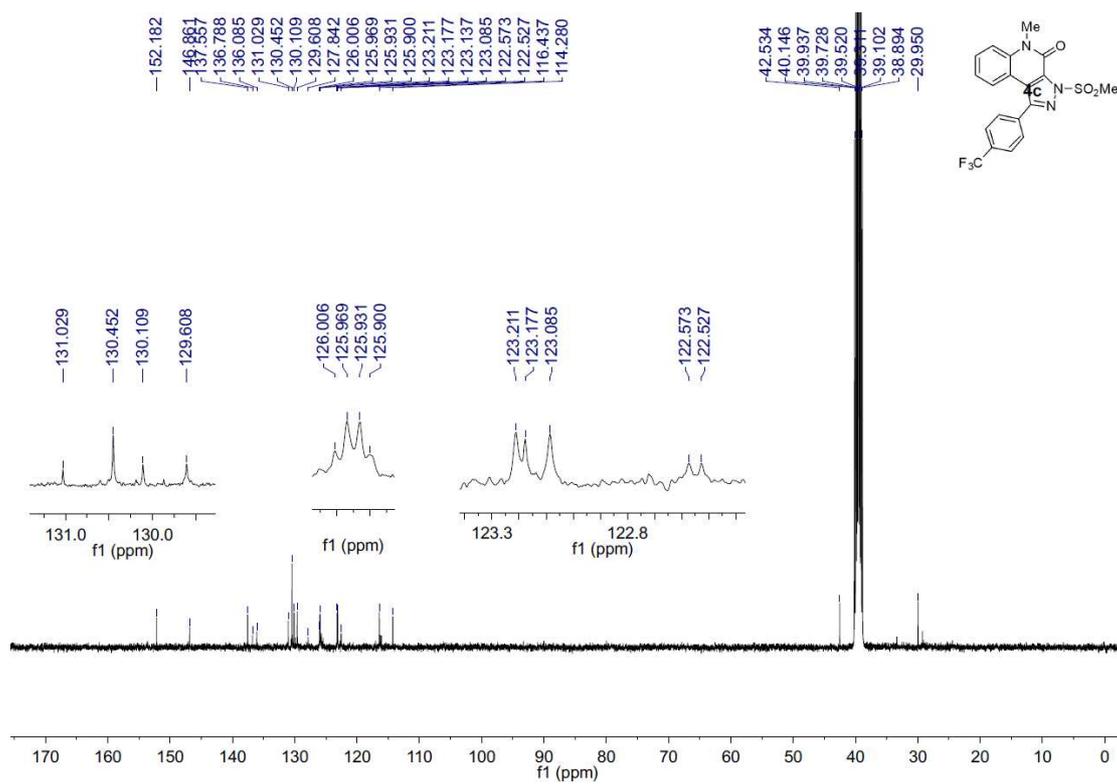




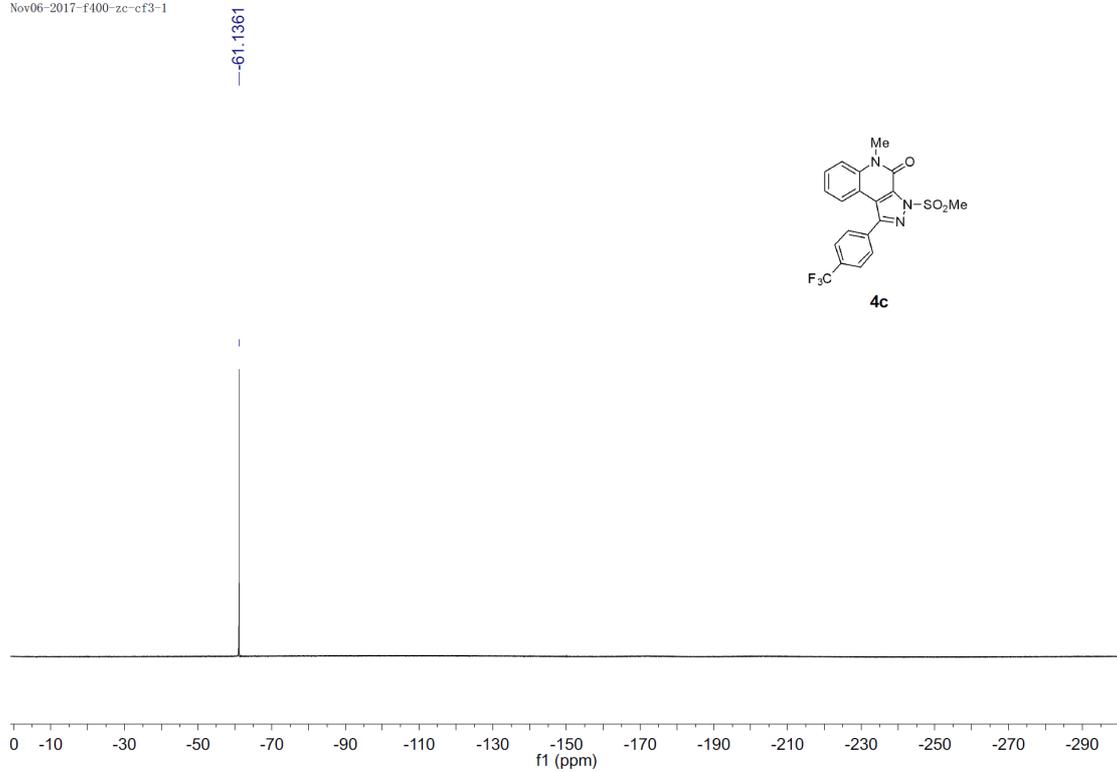


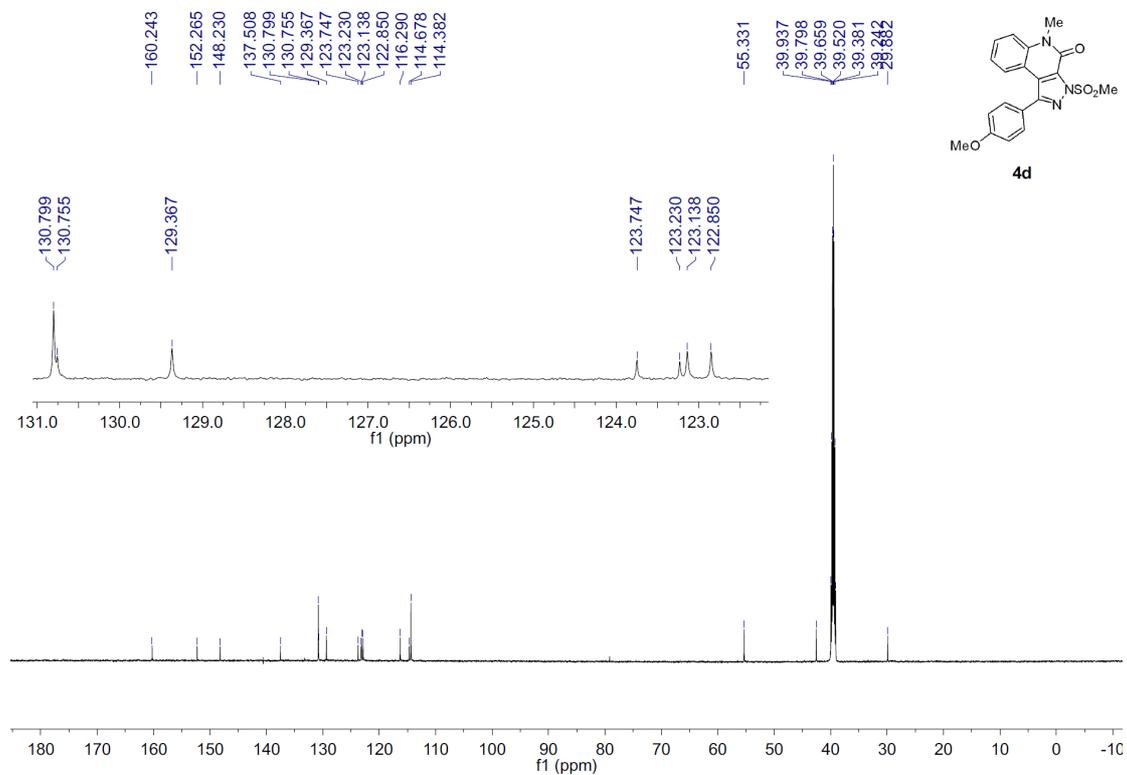
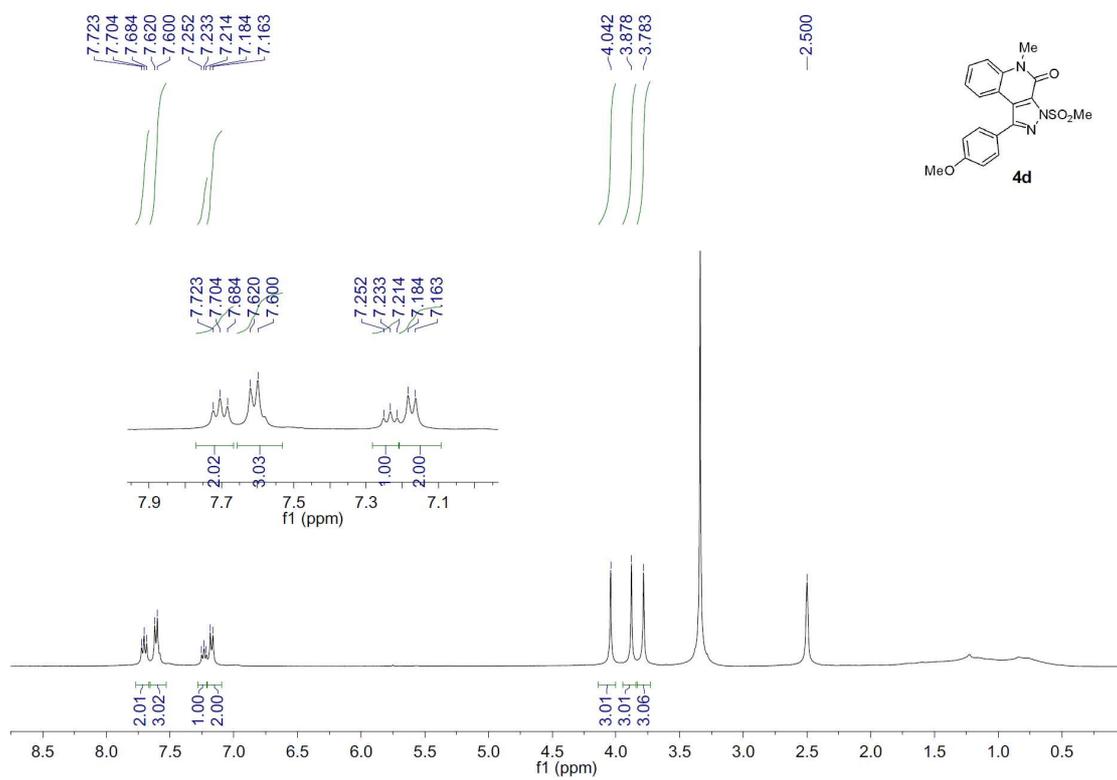


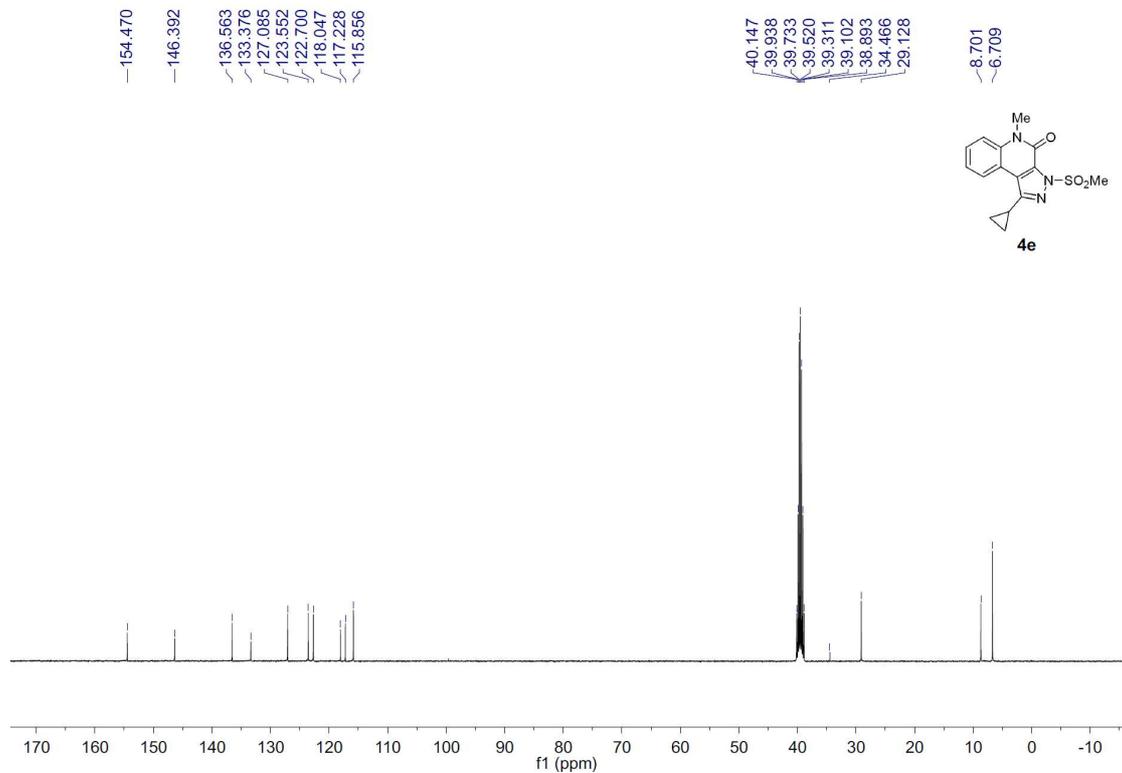
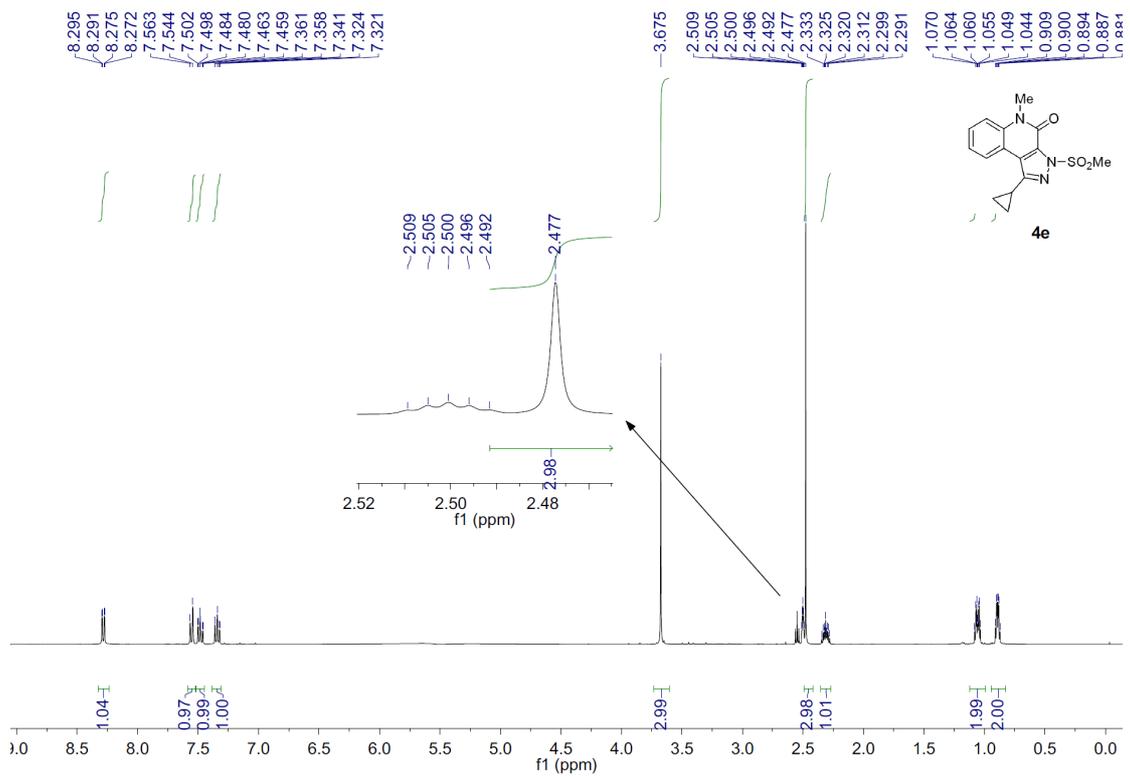


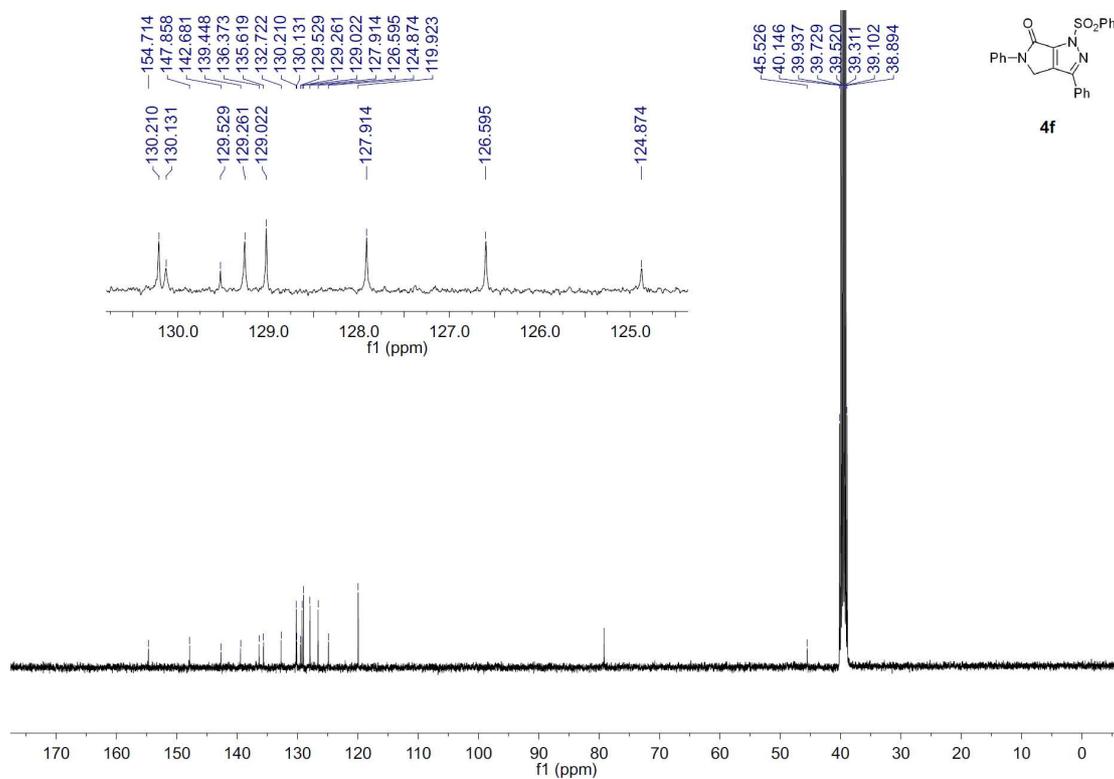
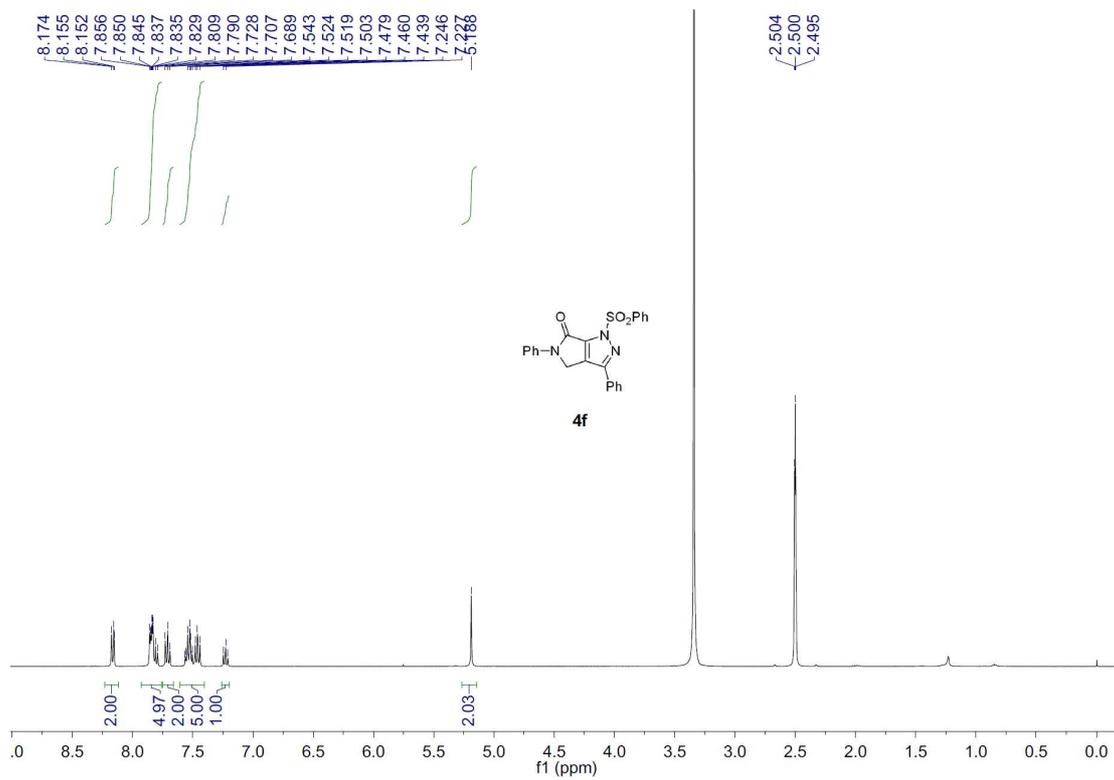


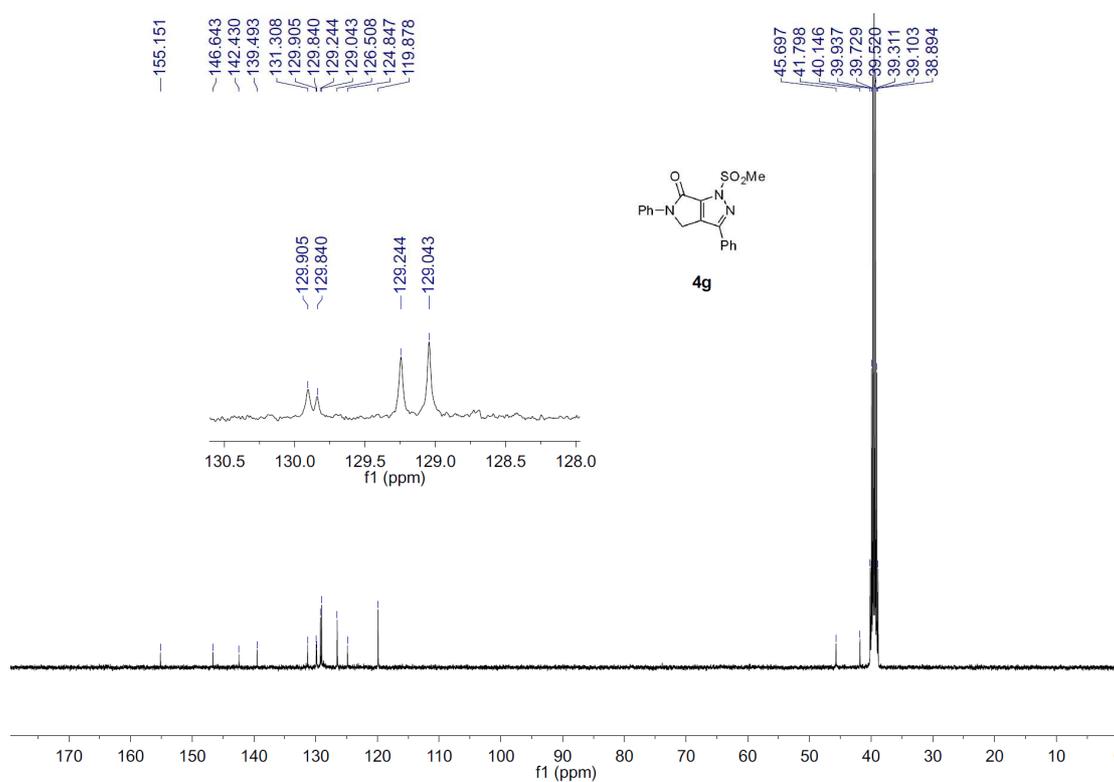
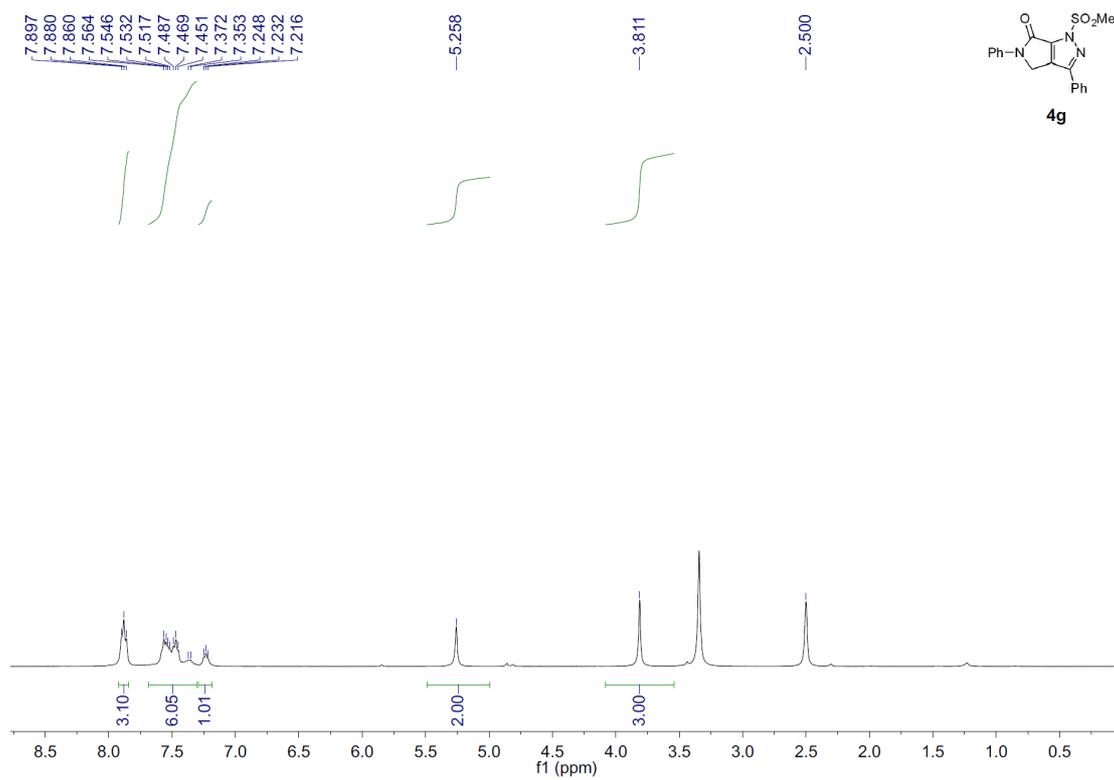
Nov06-2017-f400-zc-ef3-1

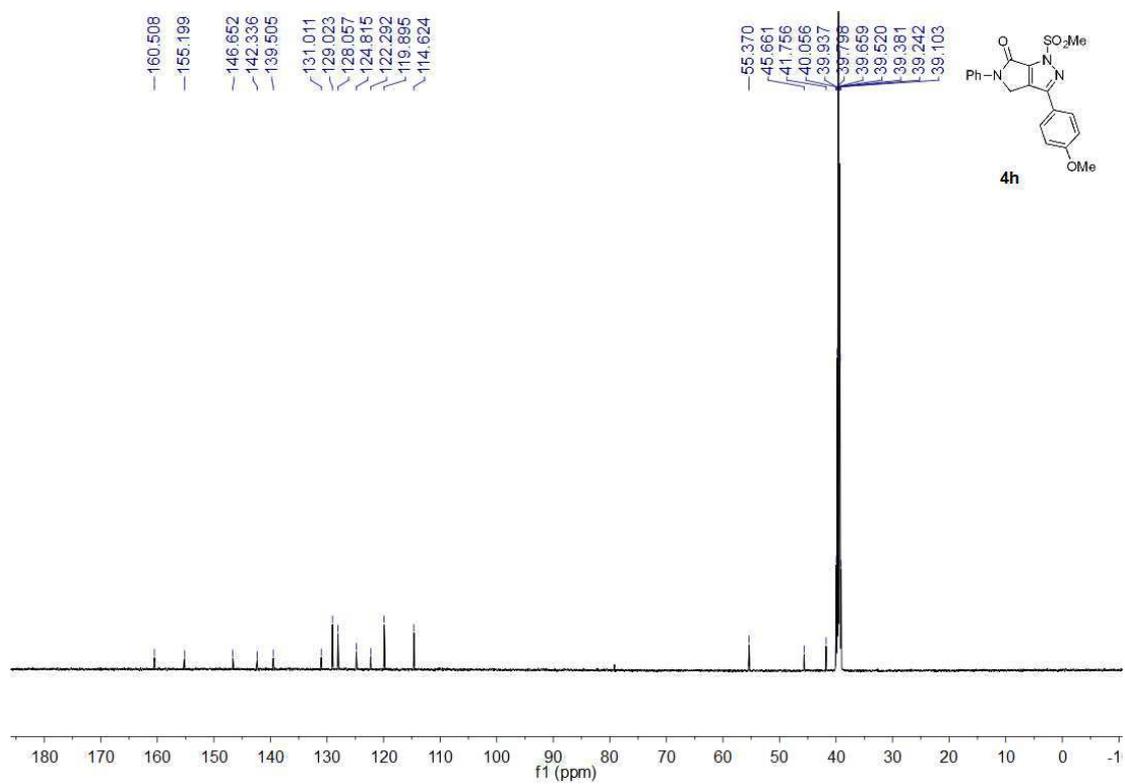
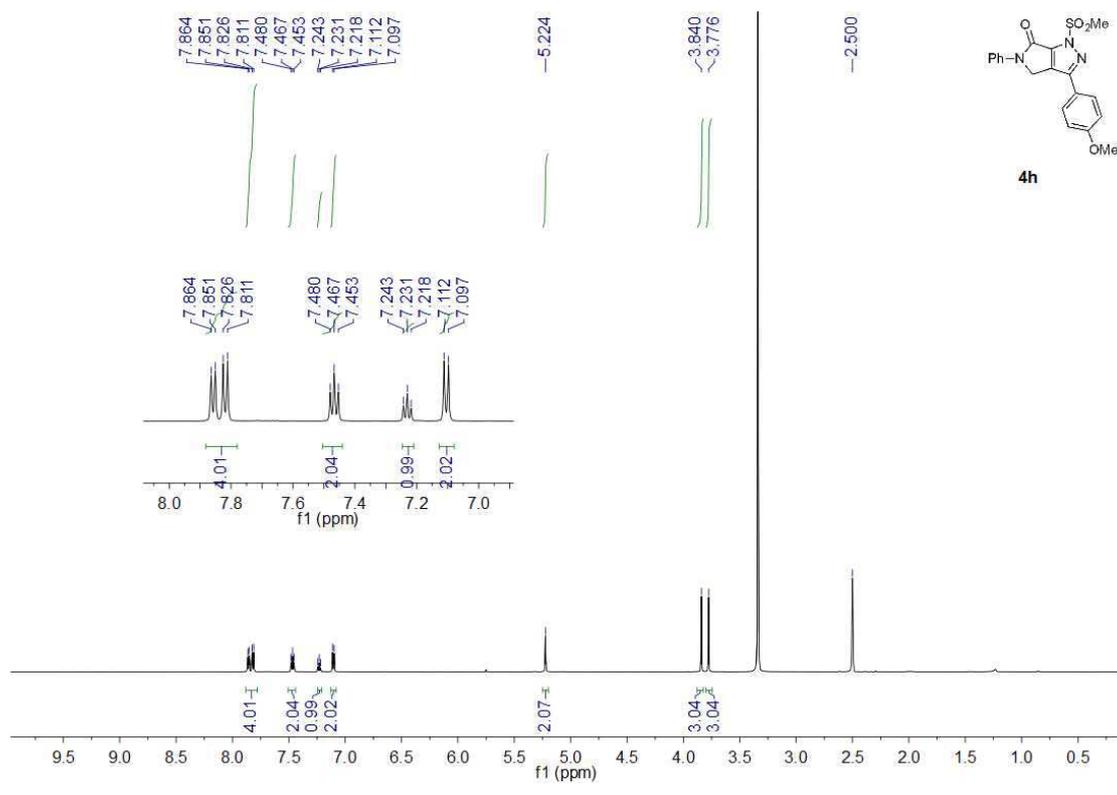


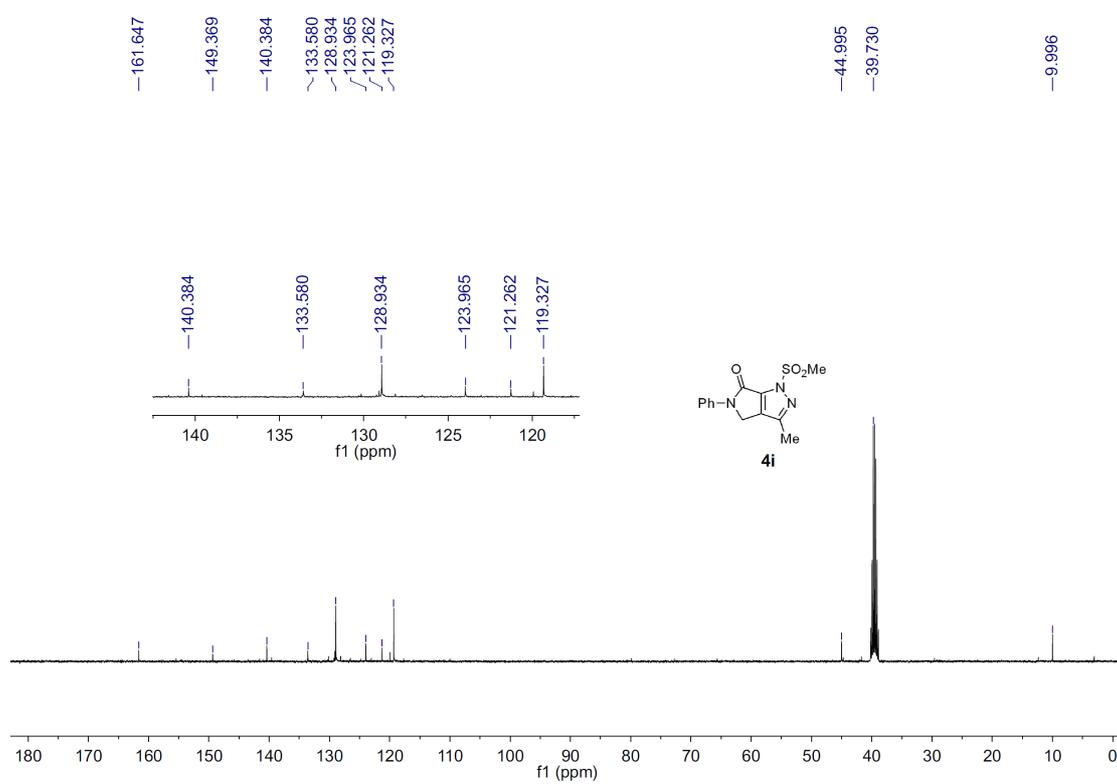
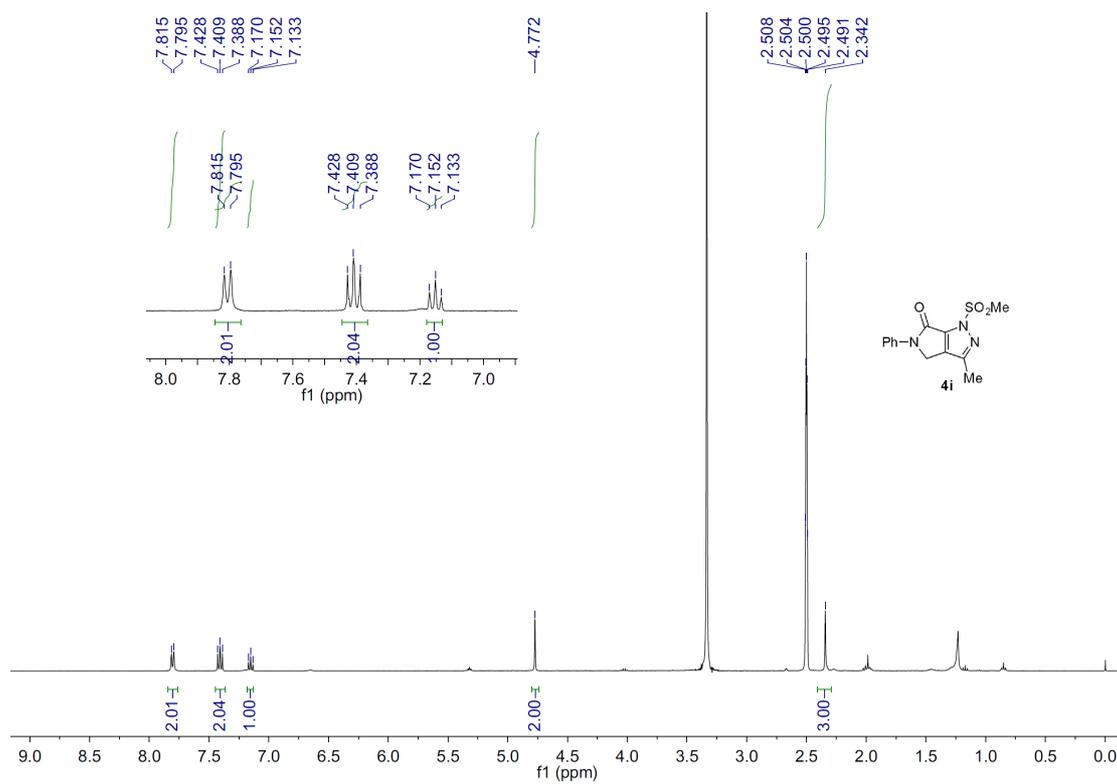


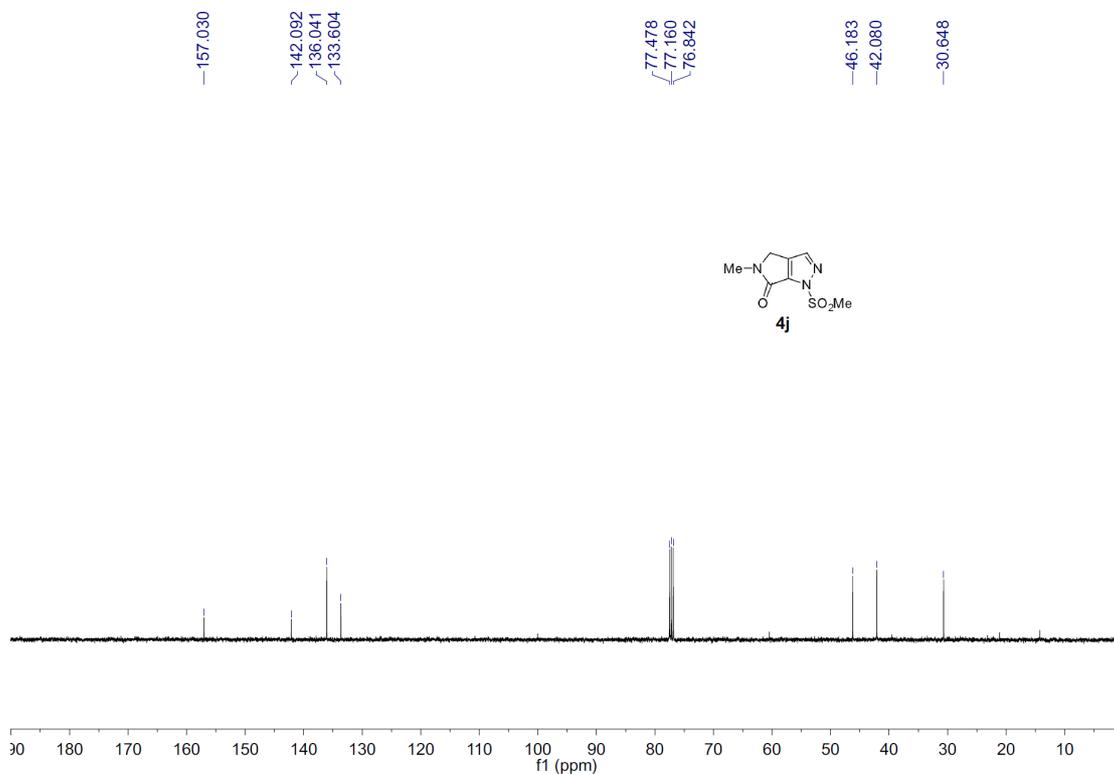
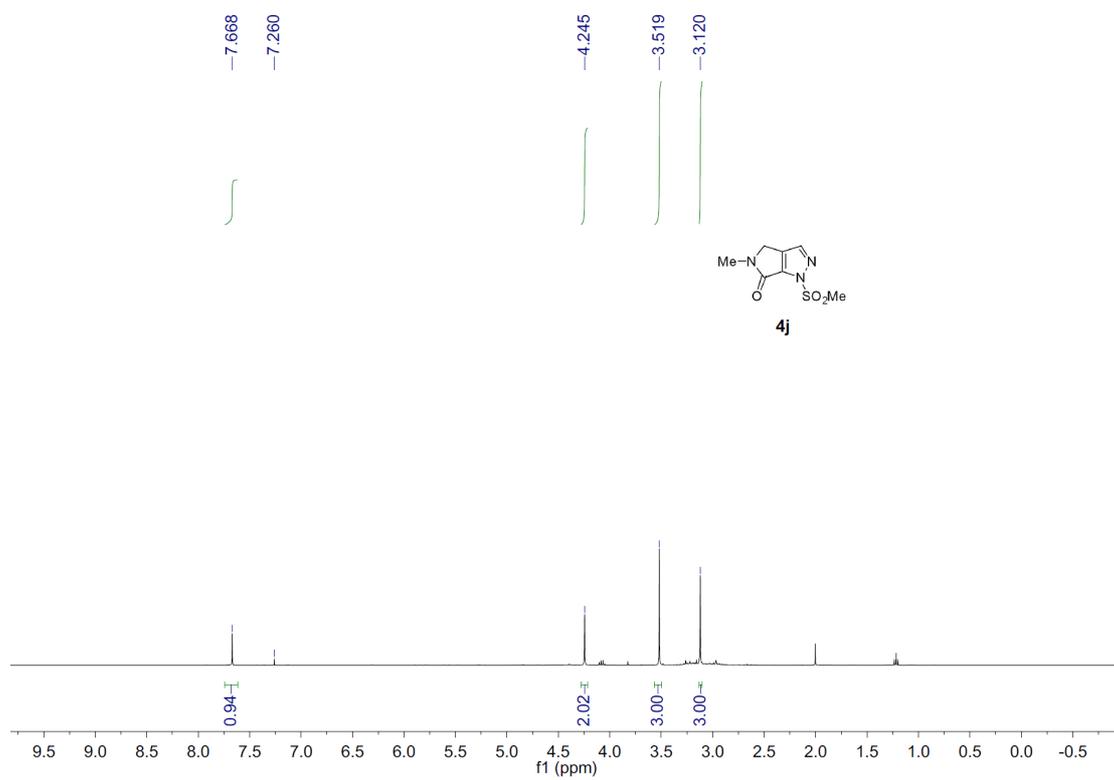


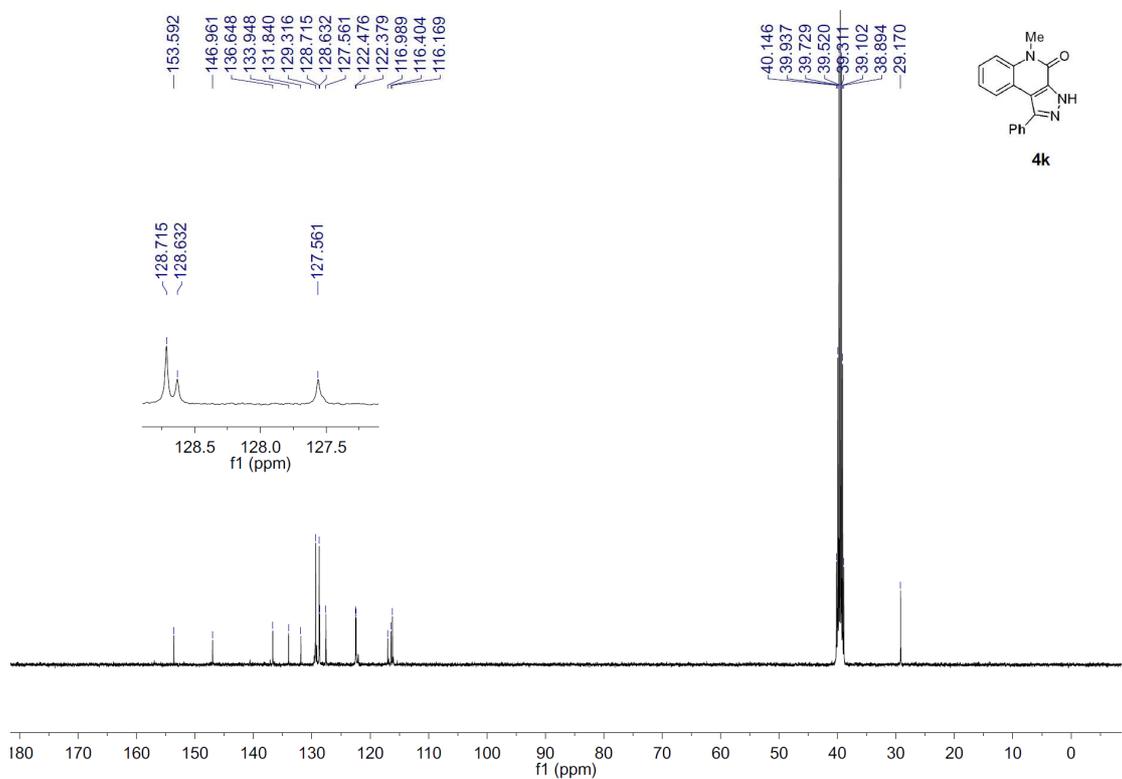
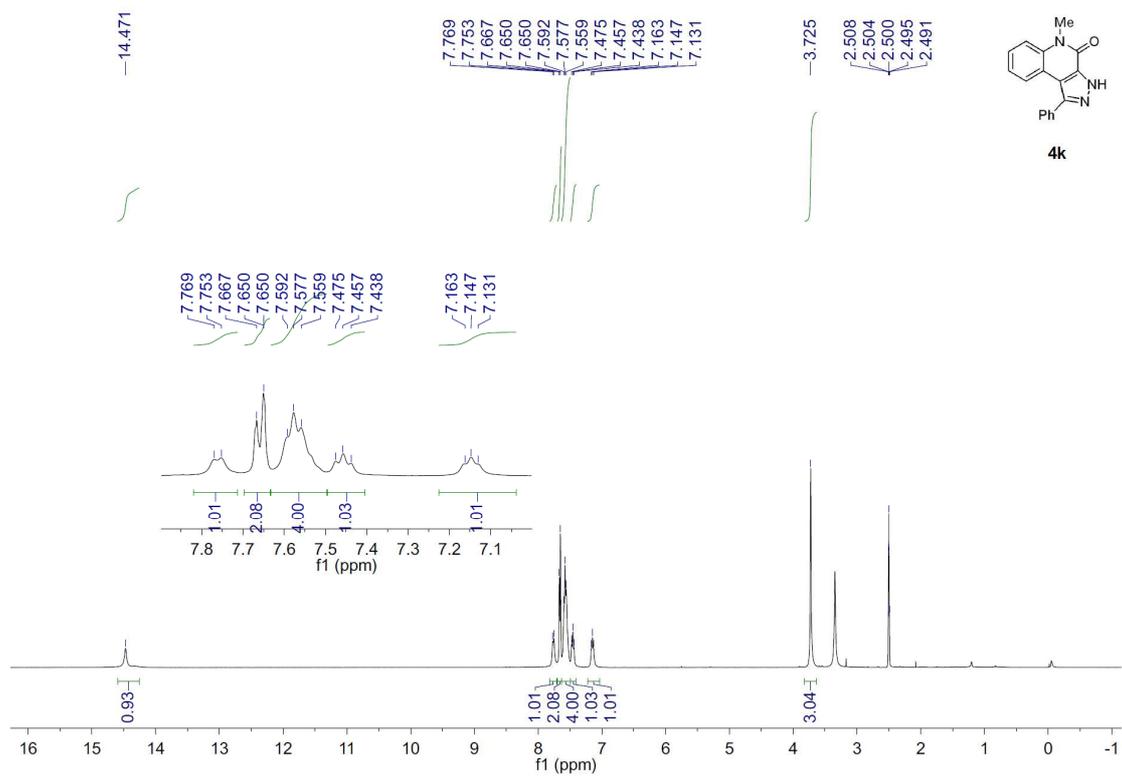


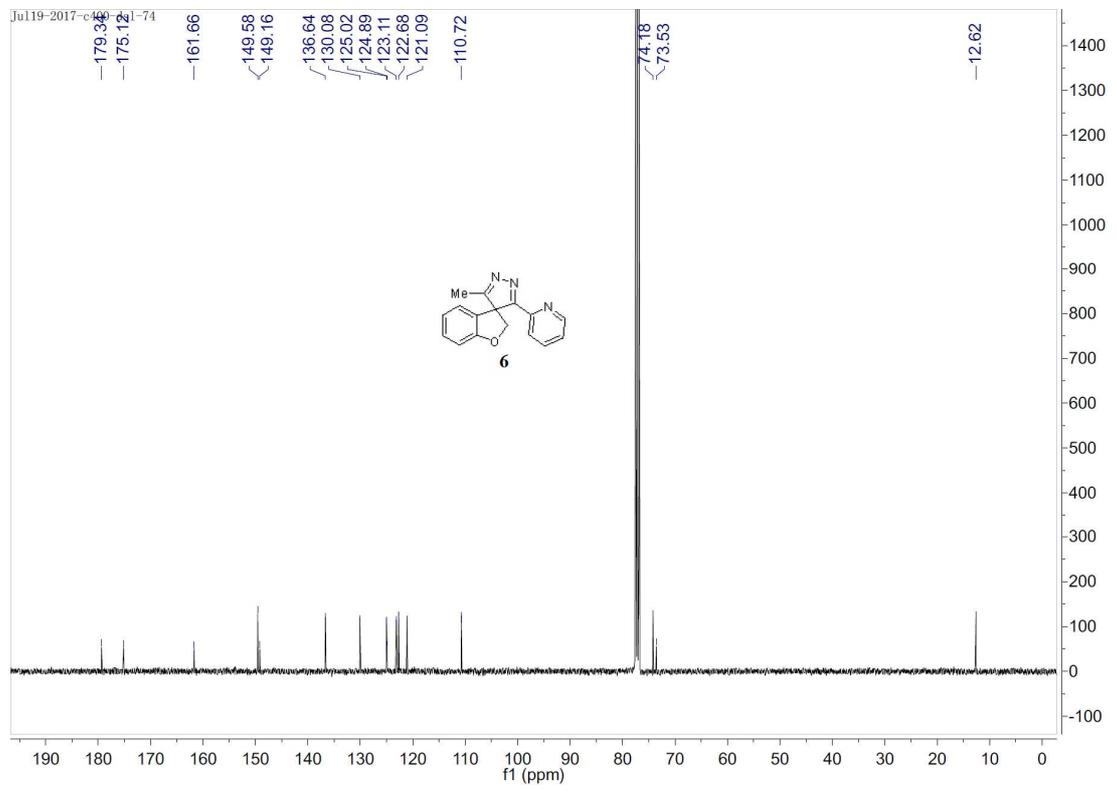
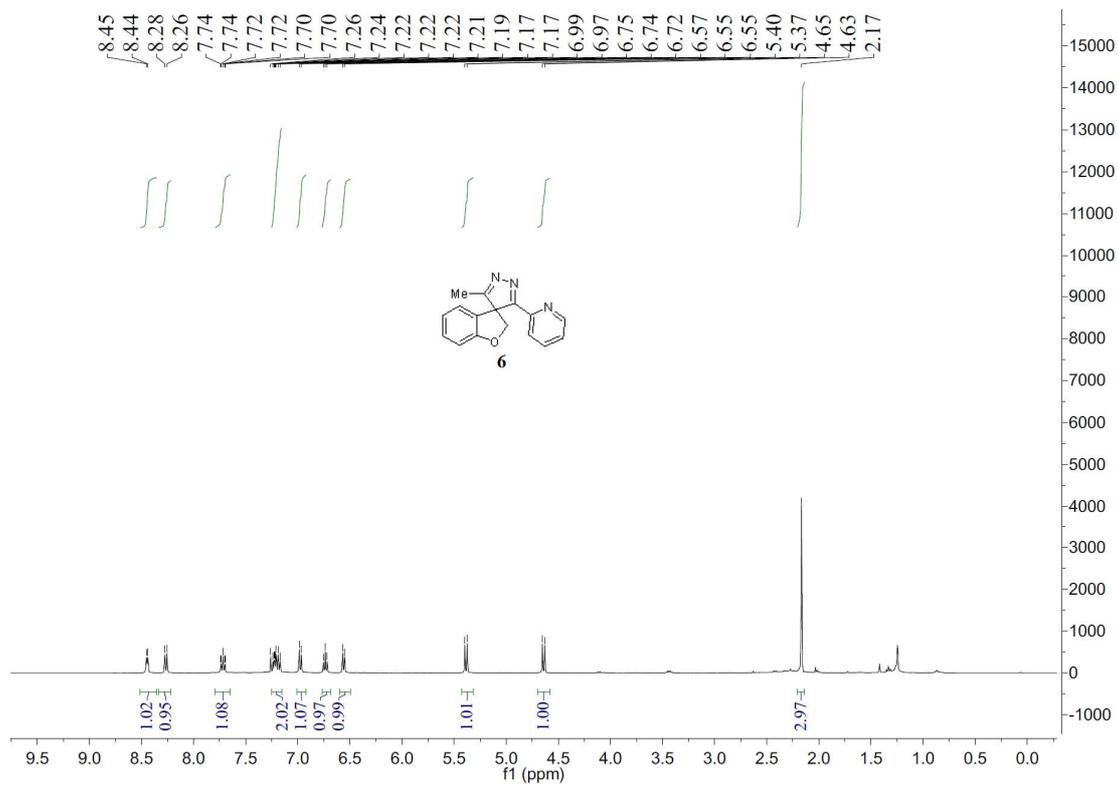


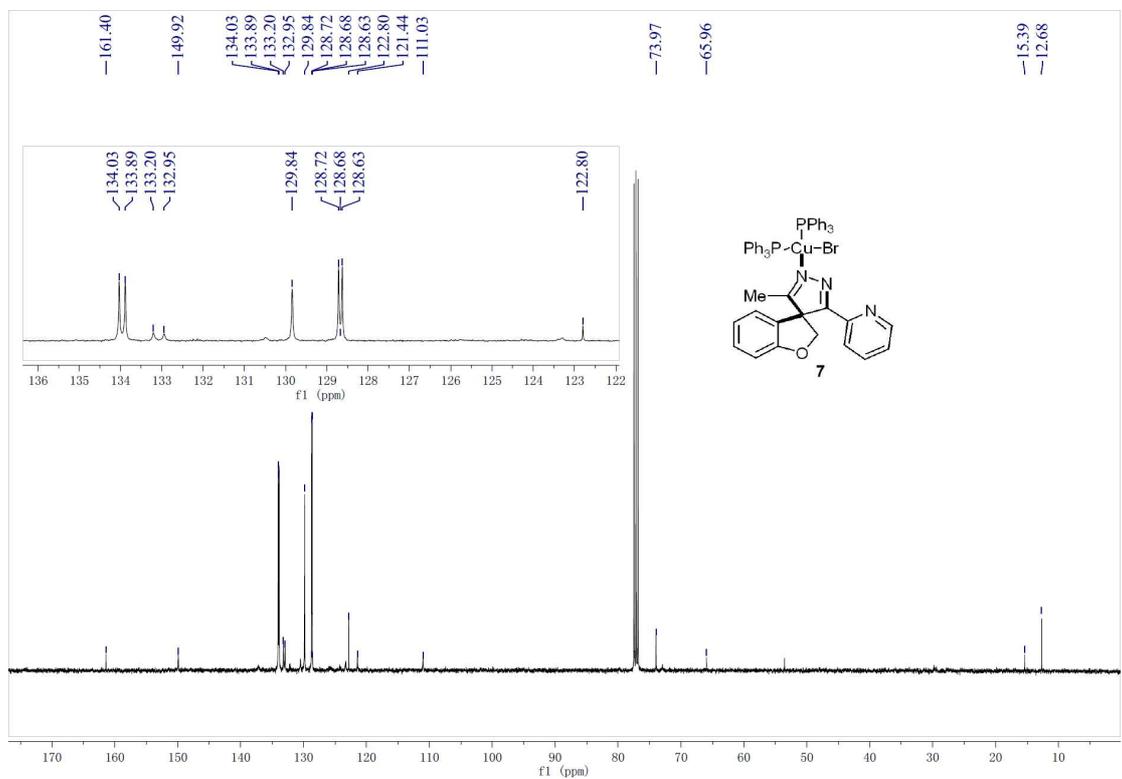
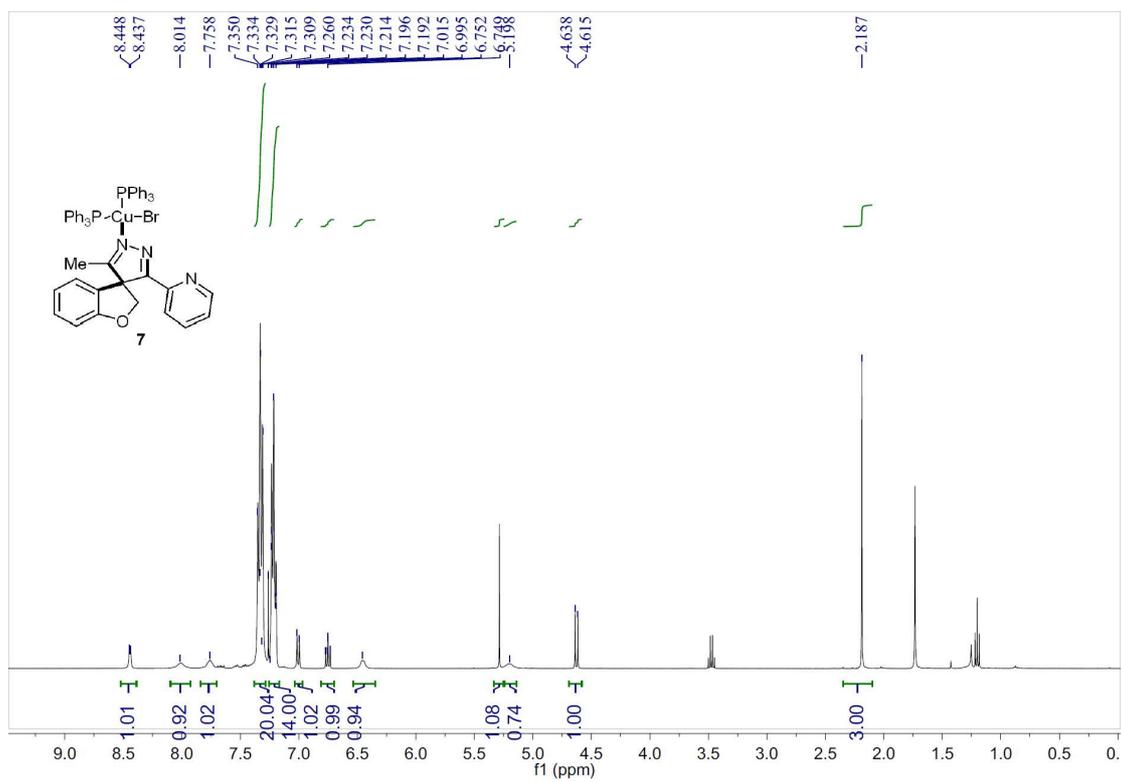




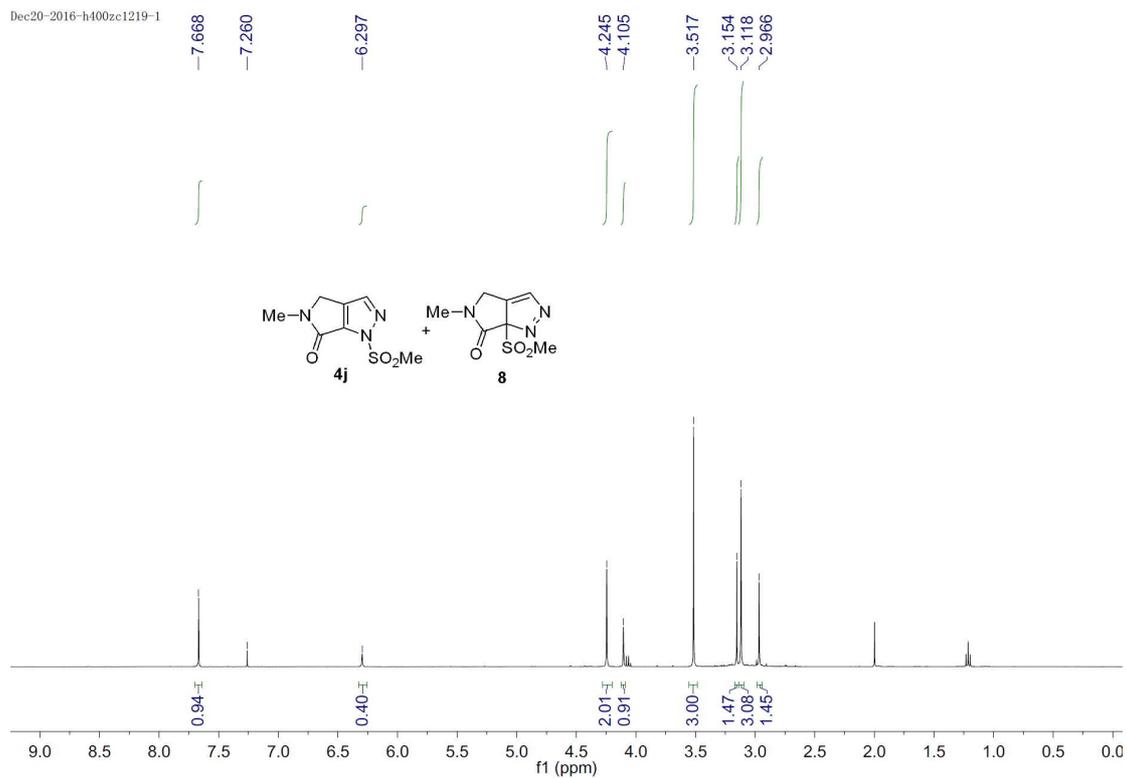




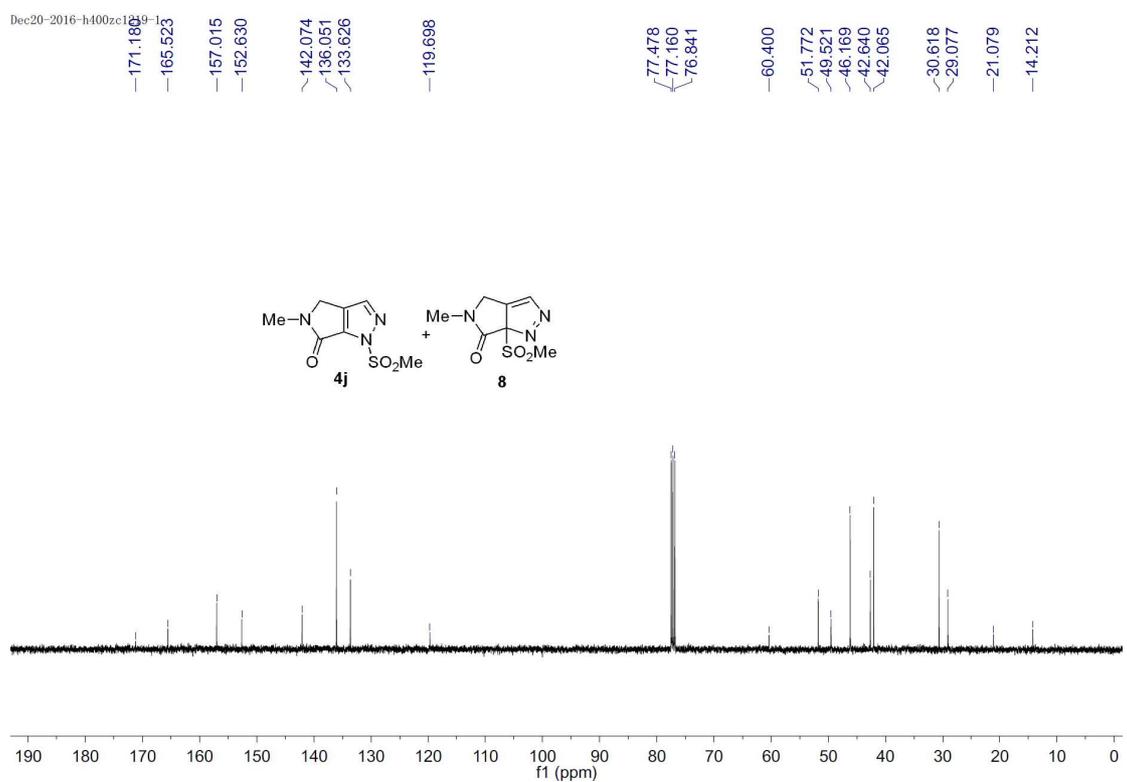




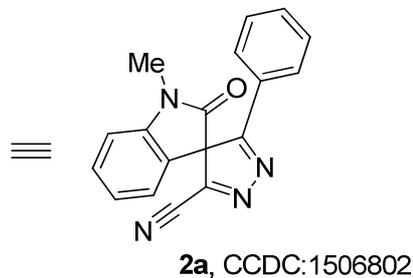
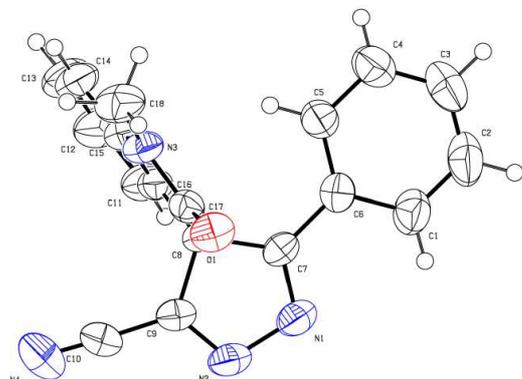
Dec20-2016-h400zc1219-1



Dec20-2016-h400zc1219-1



## X-ray crystal structure of 2a



## Datablock: I

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Bond precision: C-C = 0.0033 Å

Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=19.3723 (14) b=8.7871 (5) c=19.4970 (14)

alpha=90

beta=109.410 (8)

gamma=90

Temperature: 295 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	3130.3 (4)	3130.3 (4)
Space group	C 2/c	C 1 2/c 1
Hall group	-C 2yc	-C 2yc
Moiety formula	C18 H12 N4 O	C18 H12 N4 O
Sum formula	C18 H12 N4 O	C18 H12 N4 O
Mr	300.32	300.32
Dx, g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.275	1.274
Z	8	8
Mu (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.083	0.083
F000	1248.0	1248.0
F000'	1248.46	
h, k, lmax	24, 10, 24	24, 10, 24
Nref	3193	3189
Tmin, Tmax	0.975, 0.984	0.979, 1.000
Tmin'	0.975	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.979 Tmax=1.000

AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.999

Theta(max)= 26.372

R(reflections)= 0.0503 ( 1819)

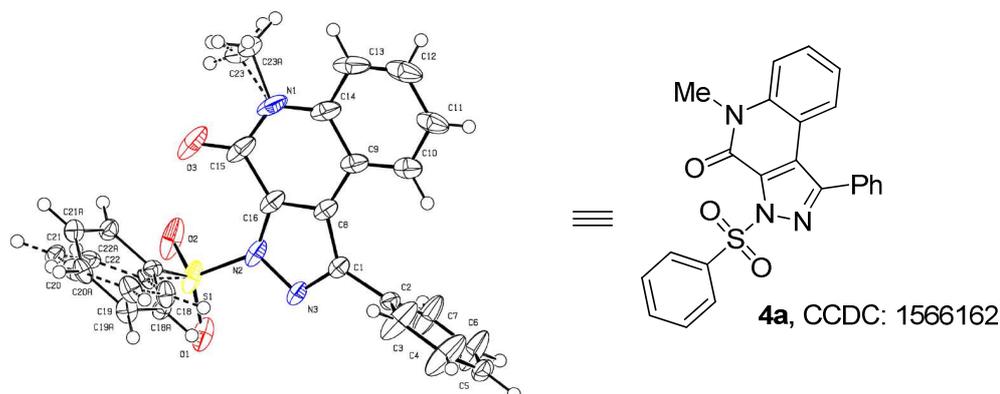
wR2(reflections)= 0.1377 ( 3189)

S = 1.010

Npar= 209

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## X-ray crystal structure of 4a



## Datablock: I

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Bond precision: C-C = 0.0045 Å

Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=5.4320 (2)

b=19.9758 (9)

c=17.4712 (8)

alpha=90

beta=97.033 (2)

gamma=90

Temperature: 120 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	1881.51 (14)	1881.51 (14)
Space group	P 21/n	P 21/n
Hall group	-P 2yn	-P 2yn
Moiety formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S
Sum formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S
Mr	415.46	415.45
Dx, g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.467	1.467
Z	4	4
Mu (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.205	0.205
F000	864.0	864.0
F000'	864.85	
h,k,lmax	7,26,23	7,26,23
Nref	4672	4668
Tmin,Tmax	0.893,0.948	0.893,0.948
Tmin'	0.866	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.893 Tmax=0.948  
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.999

Theta(max)= 28.278

R(reflections)= 0.0674 ( 3599)

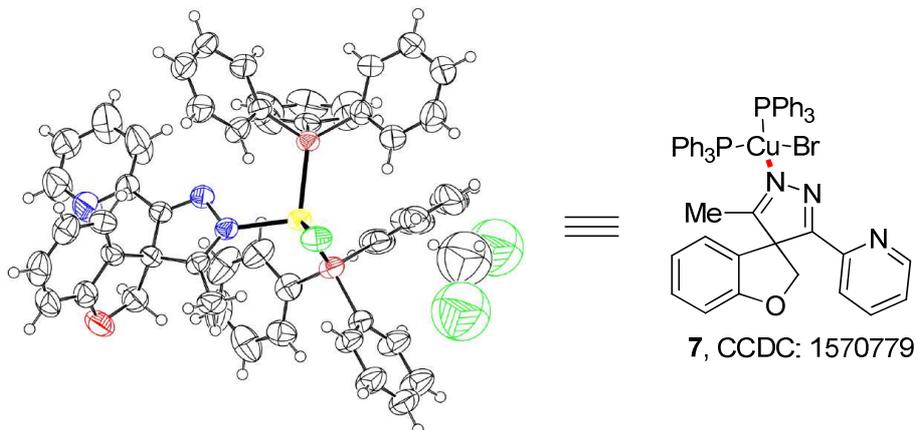
wR2(reflections)= 0.1920 ( 4668)

S = 1.159

Npar= 315

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## X-ray crystal structures of 7



### Datablock: g170824a

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Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0119 Å	Wavelength=0.71073
Cell:	a=10.2838(5)	b=12.8459(10) c=20.2842(18)
	alpha=101.537(7)	beta=91.712(5) gamma=108.106(6)
Temperature:	293 K	
	Calculated	Reported
Volume	2483.3(3)	2483.3(3)
Space group	P -1	P -1
Hall group	-P 1	-P 1
Moiety formula	2(C52 H43 Br Cu N3 O P2), C H2 Cl2	C52 H43 Br Cu N3 O P2, 0.5(C H2 Cl2)
Sum formula	C105 H88 Br2 Cl2 Cu2 N6 O2 P4	C52.50 H46 Br Cl Cu N3 O P2
Mr	1947.49	975.76
Dx, g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.302	1.305
Z	1	2
Mu (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	1.401	1.402
F000	998.0	1002.0
F000'	999.04	
h,k,lmax	12,16,25	12,16,25
Nref	10150	9961
Tmin,Tmax	0.764,0.810	0.707,1.000
Tmin'	0.496	
Correction method=	# Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.707 Tmax=1.000	
AbsCorr =	MULTI-SCAN	
Data completeness=	0.981	Theta(max)= 26.370
R(reflections)=	0.0729( 5126)	wR2(reflections)= 0.2325( 9961)
S =	1.032	Npar= 554

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