

# Supporting Information

## Eco-friendly Decarboxylative Cyclization in Water: Practical Access to Anti-malarial 4-Quinolones

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## 1. General Information

**Reagents and Solvents:** All the reagents and solvents were commercially available and were used without further purification unless otherwise stated. DMSO refers to dimethyl sulfoxide, DCM refers to dichloromethane and EA refers to ethyl acetate.

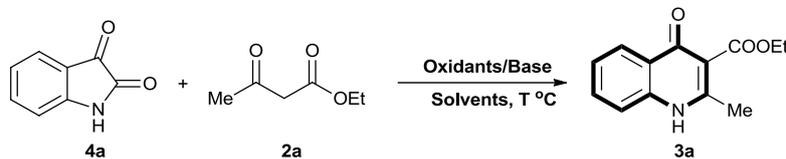
**Chromatography:** Flash column chromatography was carried out using commercially available 200-300 mesh under pressure unless otherwise indicated. Gradient flash chromatography was conducted eluting with PE/EA, they are listed as volume/volume ratios.

**Data collection:**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were collected on BRUKER AV-600 (600 MHz) spectrometer using DMSO- $d_6$  as solvent. Chemical shifts of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR were recorded in parts per million (ppm,  $\delta$ ) relative to tetramethylsilane ( $\delta = 0.00$  ppm) with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (DMSO- $d_6$ :  $\delta = 2.50$  ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm ( $\delta$ ), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), and integration. Chemical shifts of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR were reported in ppm with the solvent as the internal standard (DMSO- $d_6$ :  $\delta = 40.5$  ppm). High Resolution Mass measurement was performed on Agilent QTOF 6520 mass spectrometer with electron spray ionization (ESI) as the ion source. Melting point (mp) was measured on a microscopic melting point apparatus.

## 2. Optimization of Reaction Conditions

The reaction conditions were screened as shown in **Table S1**.

**Table S1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions.<sup>a</sup>**

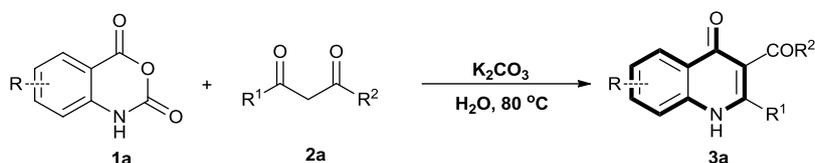


Entry	Oxidant	Base	T (°C)	solvent	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	TBHP	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	25	DMSO	53
2	TBPB	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	25	DMSO	0
3	DTBP	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	25	DMSO	0
4	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	DMSO	85
5	TBHP	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	DMSO	83
6	TBHP	NaOH	25	DMSO	80
7	TBHP	KO <sup>t</sup> Bu	25	DMSO	78
8	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	DMF	65
9	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	DCE	44
10	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	MeOH	0
11	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	MeCN	49
12	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	Toluene	51
13	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	Dioxane	39
14	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	THF	17
15	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	TFE	0
16	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	H <sub>2</sub> O	0
17 <sup>c</sup>	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	DMSO	77
18 <sup>d</sup>	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	DMSO	81
19 <sup>e</sup>	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	DMSO	75
20 <sup>f</sup>	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	25	DMSO	83
21	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	50	DMSO	82
22	TBHP	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	100	DMSO	80

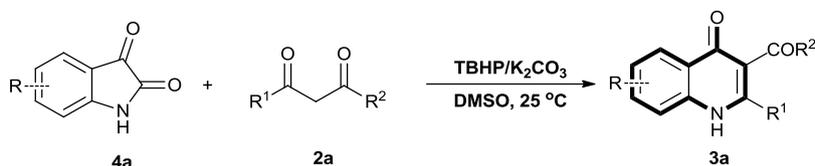
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **4a** (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv); **2a** (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv); oxidant (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv); base (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), solvent (2 mL), 12 hours under air atmosphere. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield; <sup>c</sup> 1.5 equiv base were used; <sup>d</sup> 2.5 equiv base were used; <sup>e</sup> 1.5 equiv oxidant were used; <sup>f</sup> 2.5 equiv oxidant were used.

### 3. General Procedure for The Decarboxylative Cyclization

#### a) General Procedure:



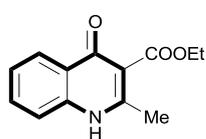
Conditions A: A sealed tube was charged with isatoic anhydrides (0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv),  $K_2CO_3$  (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 2 mL  $H_2O$ . The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred at 80 °C for 12 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The organic phase was combined and washed with water and brine respectively. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product.



Conditions B: A sealed tube was charged with isatins (0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv),  $K_2CO_3$  (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), TBHP (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 2 mL DMSO. The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred at 25 °C for 12 hours. Next, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The organic phase was combined and washed with water and brine respectively. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product.

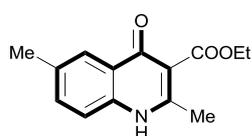
#### b) Characterization of the Products

##### ethyl 2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3a)



White solid, mp 230-231 °C;  $^1H$  NMR (600 MHz,  $DMSO-d_6$ )  $\delta$  11.85 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.24 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (150 MHz,  $DMSO-d_6$ )  $\delta$  173.8, 167.2, 149.3, 139.6, 132.7, 125.5, 125.0, 124.2, 118.4, 115.2, 60.7, 18.6, 14.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[C_{13}H_{13}NO_3+H]^+$  232.0975, found 232.1048.

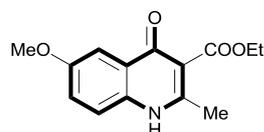
##### ethyl 2,6-dimethyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3b)



White solid, m.p. 249-250 °C;  $^1H$  NMR (600 MHz,  $DMSO-d_6$ )  $\delta$  11.78 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.49 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.23 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (150 MHz,  $DMSO-d_6$ )  $\delta$  173.7, 167.4, 148.8, 137.7, 134.0, 133.5, 125.0, 124.7, 118.4, 115.0, 60.7, 21.2, 18.6, 14.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[C_{14}H_{15}NO_3+H]^+$  246.1132, found

246.1239.

**ethyl 6-methoxy-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3c)**



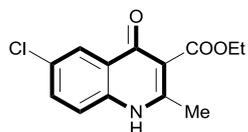
Light yellow solid, m.p. 277-278 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 11.84 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 173.2, 167.4, 156.3, 148.2, 134.1, 126.2, 122.8, 120.2, 114.2, 105.1, 60.7, 55.8, 18.5, 14.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 262.1081, found 262.1187.

**ethyl 6-fluoro-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3d)**



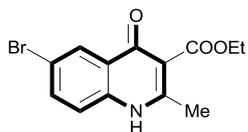
Light yellow solid, m.p. 269-271 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 12.02 (s, 1H), 7.70 (dd, J = 9.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dt, J = 8.2, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 171.9, 171.9, 166.0, 158.7, 157.1, 148.5, 135.3, 125.2, 125.2, 120.4, 120.3, 120.2, 120.2, 113.5, 108.7, 108.5, 59.7, 17.5, 13.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FNO<sub>3</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 250.0881, found 250.0980.

**ethyl 6-chloro-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3e)**



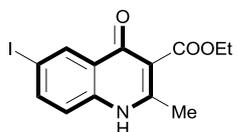
Light yellow solid, m.p. 277-278 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 12.04 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 172.6, 166.9, 149.9, 138.2, 132.8, 128.8, 126.1, 124.4, 120.9, 115.4, 60.9, 18.7, 14.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>ClNO<sub>3</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 266.0586, found 266.0692.

**ethyl 3-methyl-6-(trifluoromethoxy)cinnoline-4-carboxylate (3f)**



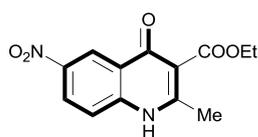
White solid, m.p. 281-282 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 12.03 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.89 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.50 (dd, J = 8.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 172.5, 166.9, 149.9, 138.5, 135.4, 127.6, 126.5, 121.1, 116.8, 115.5, 60.9, 18.7, 14.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 310.0081, found 310.0231.

**ethyl 6-iodo-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3g)**



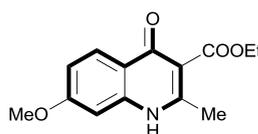
Light yellow solid, m.p. 274-275 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 11.99 (s, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (dd, J = 13.9, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 171.9, 166.4, 149.4, 140.2, 138.4, 133.4, 126.3, 120.4, 115.1, 88.2, 60.4, 18.2, 14.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>I NO<sub>3</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 357.9942, found 358.0086.

**ethyl 2-methyl-6-nitro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3h)**



Light yellow solid, m.p. 299-301 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 11.84 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 172.2, 165.3, 165.3, 149.9, 142.4, 142.3, 125.9, 123.1, 121.0, 119.3, 115.5, 60.1, 17.6, 13.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 277.0826, found 277.0923.

**ethyl 7-methoxy-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3i)**



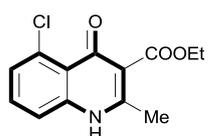
Light yellow solid, m.p. 243-244 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 11.68 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 172.3, 166.2, 161.5, 147.8, 140.3, 126.3, 118.1, 114.0, 112.8, 98.5, 59.6, 54.8, 17.4, 13.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 262.1081, found 262.1220.

**ethyl 7-bromo-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3j)**



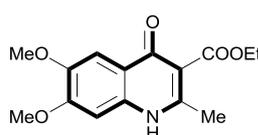
Light yellow solid, m.p. 310-311 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 11.90 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 171.6, 165.1, 148.1, 138.8, 126.1, 125.4, 124.2, 122.1, 118.9, 114.0, 59.1, 16.9, 12.8 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 310.0081, found 310.0213.

**ethyl 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3k)**



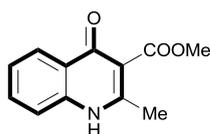
Light yellow solid, m.p. 218-219 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 11.84 (s, 1H), 7.63 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.27 (td, J = 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 173.2, 167.1, 148.1, 142.2, 132.5, 132.4, 126.7, 121.0, 118.0, 117.3, 60.8, 18.1, 14.6, 166.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>ClNO<sub>3</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 266.0586, found 266.0692.

**ethyl 6,7-dimethoxy-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3l)**



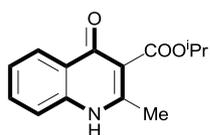
Yield 93%; Light yellow solid, m.p. 268-269 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 11.69 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 172.3, 167.0, 153.0, 147.0, 146.8, 134.7, 118.4, 113.9, 104.4, 99.0, 60.1, 55.6, 55.5, 17.9, 14.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 291.1107, found 291.1112.

**methyl 2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3m)**



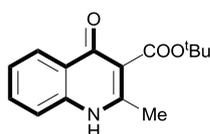
White solid, m.p. 53-55 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  11.90 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  173.9, 167.8, 149.8, 139.6, 132.7, 125.5, 125.0, 124.2, 118.4, 114.9, 52.1, 18.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_3+\text{H}]^+$  218.0819, found 218.0947.

**isopropyl 2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3n)**



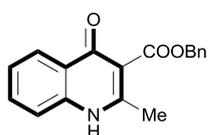
White solid, m.p. 230-231 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  11.85 (s, 1H), 8.09 – 8.04 (m, 1H), 7.67 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 5.19 – 5.01 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  173.8, 166.7, 148.8, 139.6, 132.6, 125.5, 125.0, 124.1, 118.4, 115.6, 68.2, 22.1, 18.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_3+\text{H}]^+$  246.1132, found 246.1239.

**tert-butyl 2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3o)**



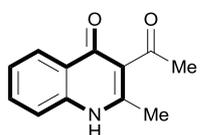
White solid, m.p. 249-250 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  11.77 (s, 1H), 8.05 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 4.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.51 (s, 9H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  178.5, 171.3, 152.9, 144.4, 137.3, 137.3, 130.2, 130.2, 129.8, 128.7, 123.1, 121.8, 85.7, 33.1, 23.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3+\text{H}]^+$  260.1288, found 260.1380.

**benzyl 2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3p)**



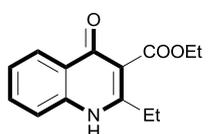
Light yellow solid, m.p. 223-224 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  11.91 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  178.7, 171.9, 154.8, 144.3, 141.5, 137.5, 137.5, 133.6, 133.1, 133.1, 130.3, 129.9, 129.0, 123.2, 119.4, 71.1, 23.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_3+\text{H}]^+$  294.1132, found 294.1253.

**3-acetyl-2-methylquinolin-4(1H)-oneethyl (3q)**



Light yellow solid, m.p. 255-256 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  11.91 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  199.8, 173.6, 149.8, 137.1, 130.6, 123.8, 123.4, 122.3, 118.5, 116.3, 30.3, 17.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2+\text{H}]^+$  202.0870, found 202.0960.

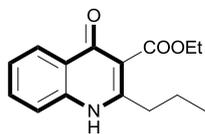
**ethyl 2-ethyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3r)**



Light yellow solid, m.p. 212-213 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  11.80 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz,

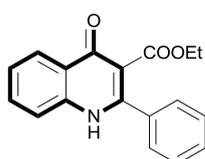
2H), 2.65 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.32 – 1.22 (m, 6H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  178.9, 178.9, 172.0, 172.0, 158.6, 158.6, 144.6, 137.4, 130.2, 130.2, 129.7, 128.9, 123.3, 119.6, 65.6, 30.7, 19.3, 19.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_3+\text{H}]^+$  246.1132, found 245.1239.

**ethyl 2-(n-butyl)-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3s)**



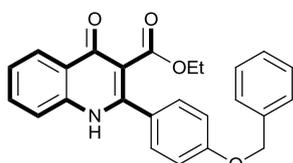
Light yellow solid, m.p. 215-216 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  11.78 (s, 1H), 8.07 (dd, J = 8.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.69 – 2.56 (m, 2H), 1.71 (dd, J = 15.3, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  174.1, 167.3, 152.4, 139.8, 132.7, 125.4, 125.0, 124.1, 118.6, 115.4, 60.8, 34.2, 22.8, 14.6, 14.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3+\text{H}]^+$  260.1045, found 260.1413.

**ethyl 4-oxo-2-phenyl-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3t)**



Light yellow solid, m.p. 268-269 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  12.07 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (s, 5H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  174.1, 166.7, 149.9, 140.0, 134.2, 132.9, 130.7, 129.10, 128.7, 125.4, 125.1, 124.5, 119.3, 116.0, 60.6, 14.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_3+\text{H}]^+$  294.1132, found 294.1253.

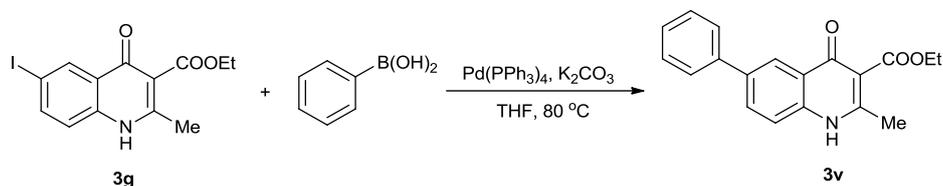
**ethyl 2-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (3u)**



White solid, m.p. 288-289 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  12.14 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (td, J = 8.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 4H), 7.10 (td, J = 7.5, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 3.91 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (s, 1H), 0.83 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  174.1, 166.2, 156.2, 148.0, 139.8, 137.2, 132.8, 132.0, 130.5, 129.4, 128.7, 128.2, 127.6, 125.5, 125.2, 124.3, 123.6, 120.9, 118.9, 116.4, 115.8, 113.5, 70.2, 60.2, 14.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $[\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4+\text{H}]^+$  400.1471, found 400.1463.

## 4. Further Functionalization of Generated quinolones

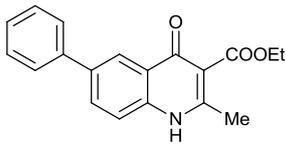
### 4.1 Cross Coupling of 3la with phenylboronic acid



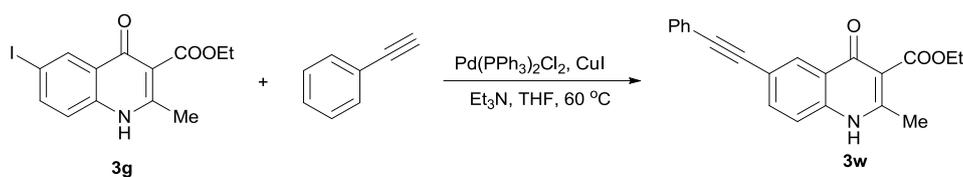
#### Scheme S1. Cross Coupling of **3g** with phenylboronic acid

To expand the application of the method, the generated iodo vinylsulfone product **3g** was functionalized as shown in Scheme S1. A sealed tube was charged with **3g** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.002 mmol, 1 mol %), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv), phenylboronic acid (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was then vigorously stirred at 80 °C (oil temperature) for 4 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and filtered through a plug of celite. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **3v** in 76% yield.

#### ethyl 2-methyl-4-oxo-6-phenyl-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate

 Yield 76%; White solid, m.p. 294-285 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 12.04 (s, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, J = 19.4, 5.9 Hz, 3H), 7.44 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 3H), 4.26 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.28 (dd, J = 9.4, 4.6 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 172.6, 166.4, 149.2, 139.0, 134.5, 131.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.2, 124.4, 122.1, 118.8, 117.4, 115.3, 89.4, 88.8, 60.4, 18.2, 14.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 308.1208, found 308.1213.

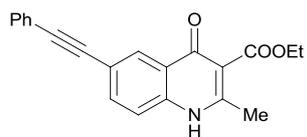
### 4.2 Cross Coupling of 3la with phenylacetylene



#### Scheme S4. Cross Coupling of **3g** with phenylacetylene

A sealed tube was charged with **3g** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.002 mmol, 1 mol %), CuI (0.004 mmol, 2 mol %), phenylacetylene (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (2 mL). The reaction mixture was then vigorously stirred at 60 °C (oil temperature) for 4 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and filtered through a plug of celite. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **3w** in 80% yield.

***ethyl 2-methyl-4-oxo-6-(phenylethynyl)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate***



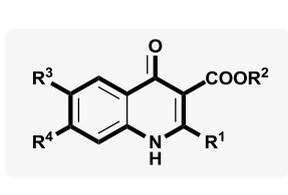
Yield 80%; White solid, 327-328 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 11.97 (s, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-<sub>d</sub>6) δ 173.3, 166.7, 148.8, 139.2, 138.5, 135.5, 130.8, 129.1, 127.6, 126.6, 124.8, 122.3, 118.8, 114.9, 60.3, 18.2, 14.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> 332.1208, found 332.1205.

## 5. Anti-malarial Study

Parasites were routinely cultured by the methods of Trager and Jensen<sup>[1]</sup> with minor modifications. *P. falciparum* 3D7 were maintained at 2% haematocrit. Parasites were synchronized by 5% D-Sorbitol at ring stage for each assay. The IC<sub>50</sub> of the selected products was estimated using the methods as described by Forkuo<sup>[2]</sup> with minor modifications. Stock solutions of drugs were diluted with Malaria Culture Medium. Each well was seeded with 100 µL of parasite culture in array of different drug concentration ratio. RBCs and iRBCs with no treatment were plated in the last array as comparison. After the 72-h incubation, *P. falciparum* 3D7 were above 90% in the stage of trophozoite. The supernatant of the plates was abandoned with 110 µL and thoroughly mixed with 10 µL malaria 10\*lysis buffer with 200-fold dilution of 10000\*SYBR Green I.

The results of the evaluation were summarized in Table S2.

**Table S2 Anti-malarial study.**

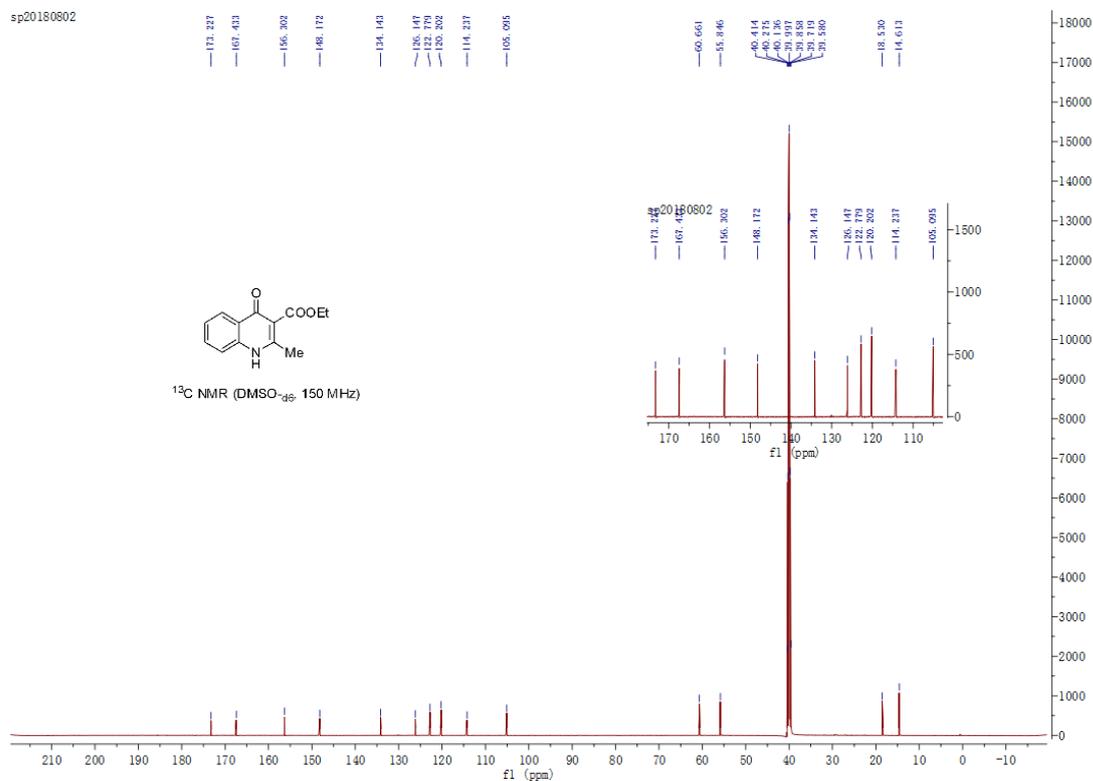
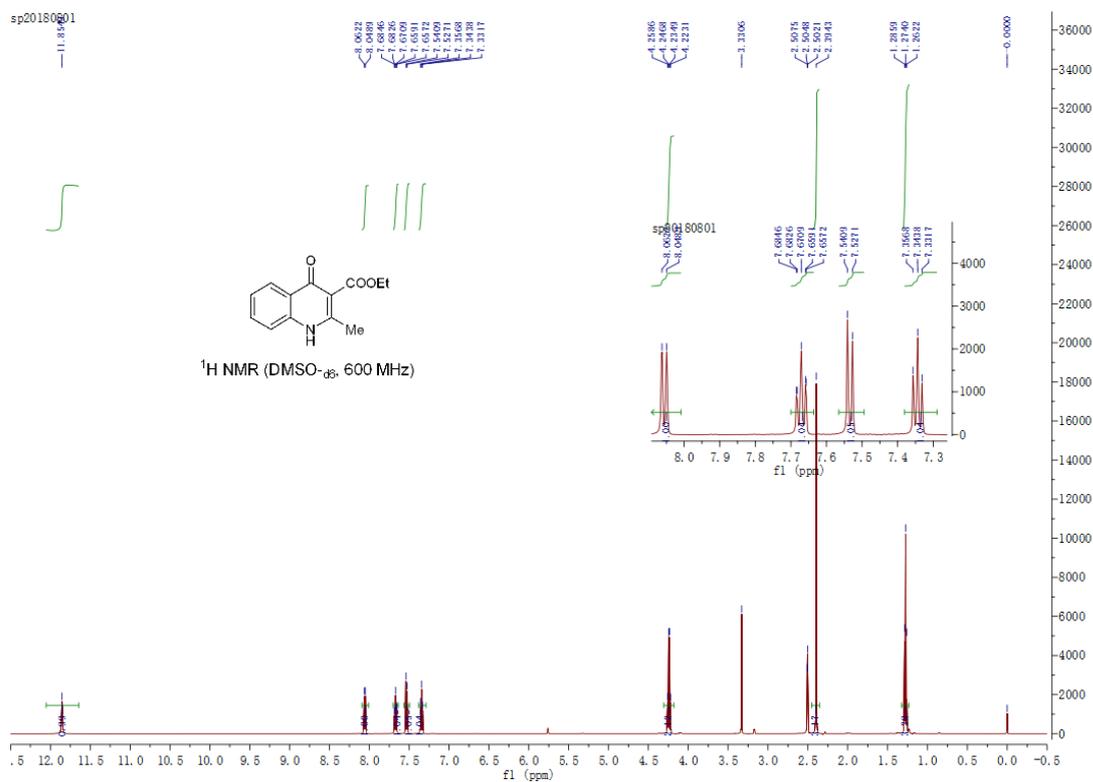


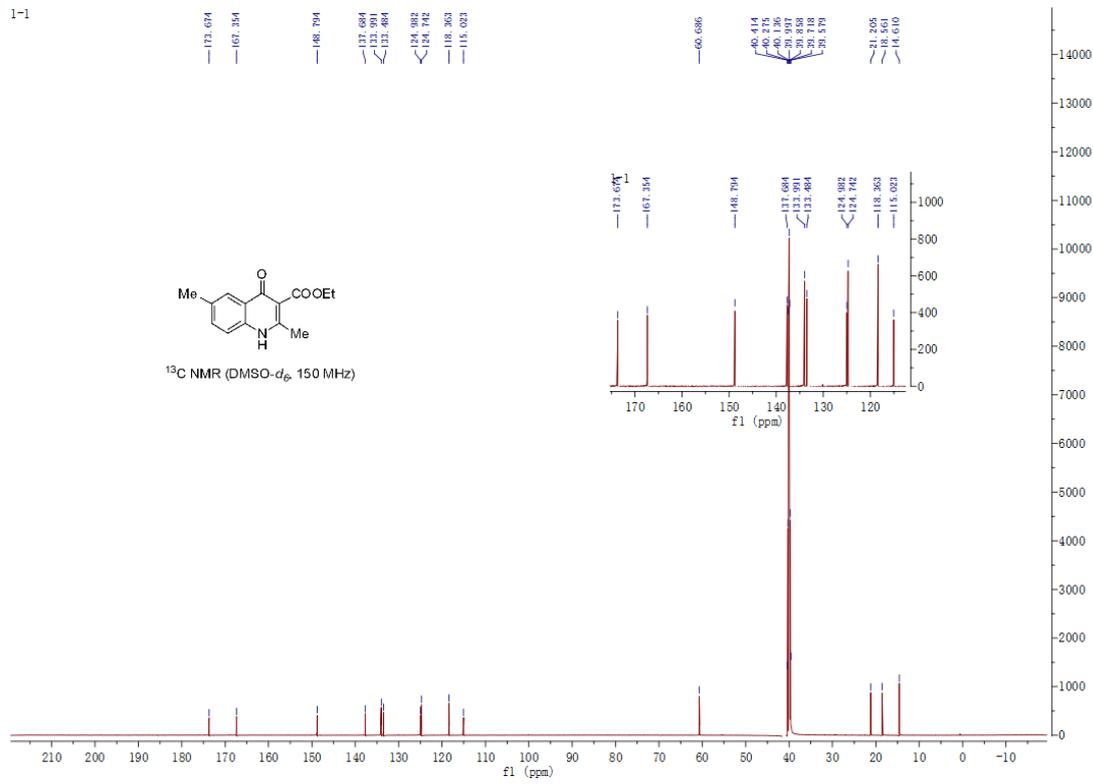
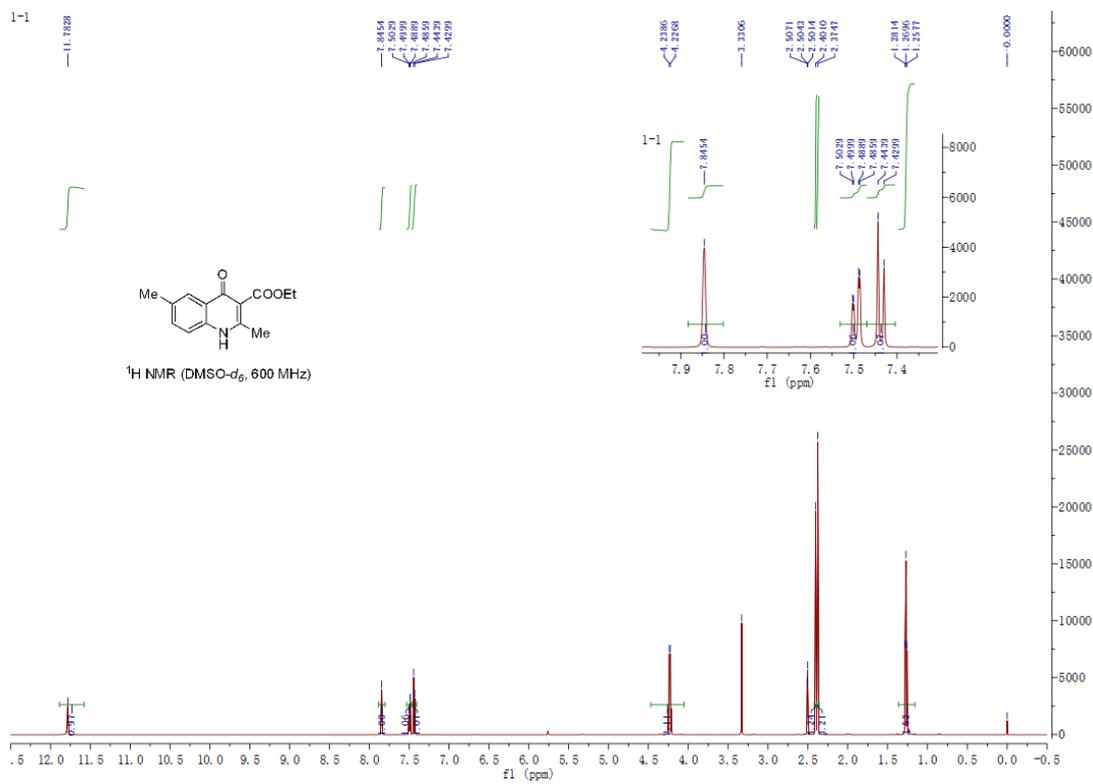
	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	R <sup>4</sup>	IC <sub>50</sub>
<b>3d</b>	Me	Et	F	H	1.2 µm
<b>3l</b>	Me	Et	OMe	OMe	> 400 µm
<b>3o</b>	Me	<sup>t</sup> Bu	H	H	131.9 nm
<b>3u</b>	2-(4-benzyloxyphenyl)Et		H	H	33 nm
<b>3v</b>	Me	Et	Ph	H	17 µm
<b>3w</b>	Me	Et	phenylethynyl	H	> 400 µm

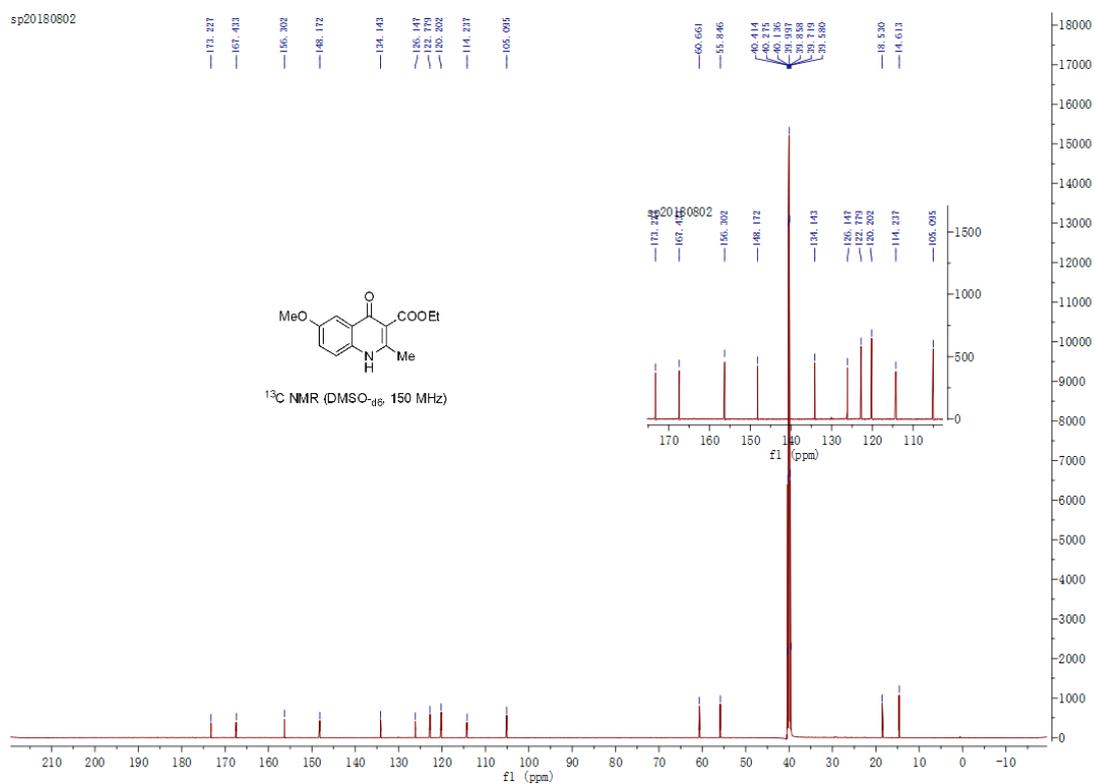
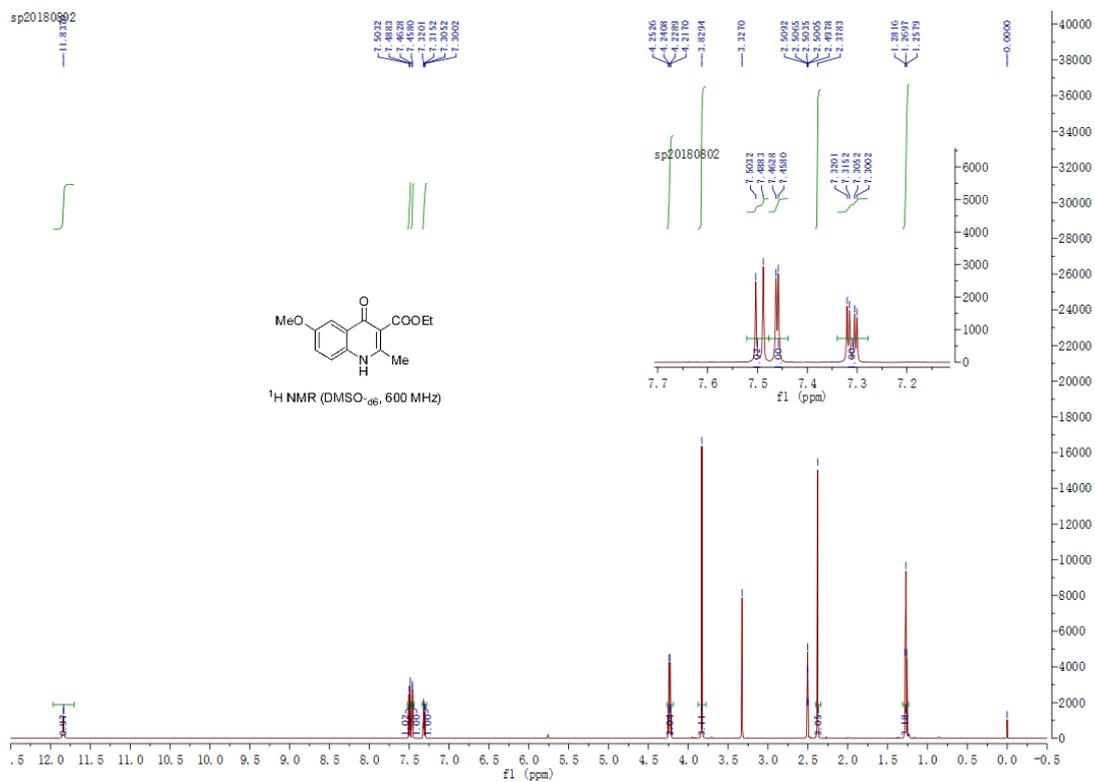
## 6. References

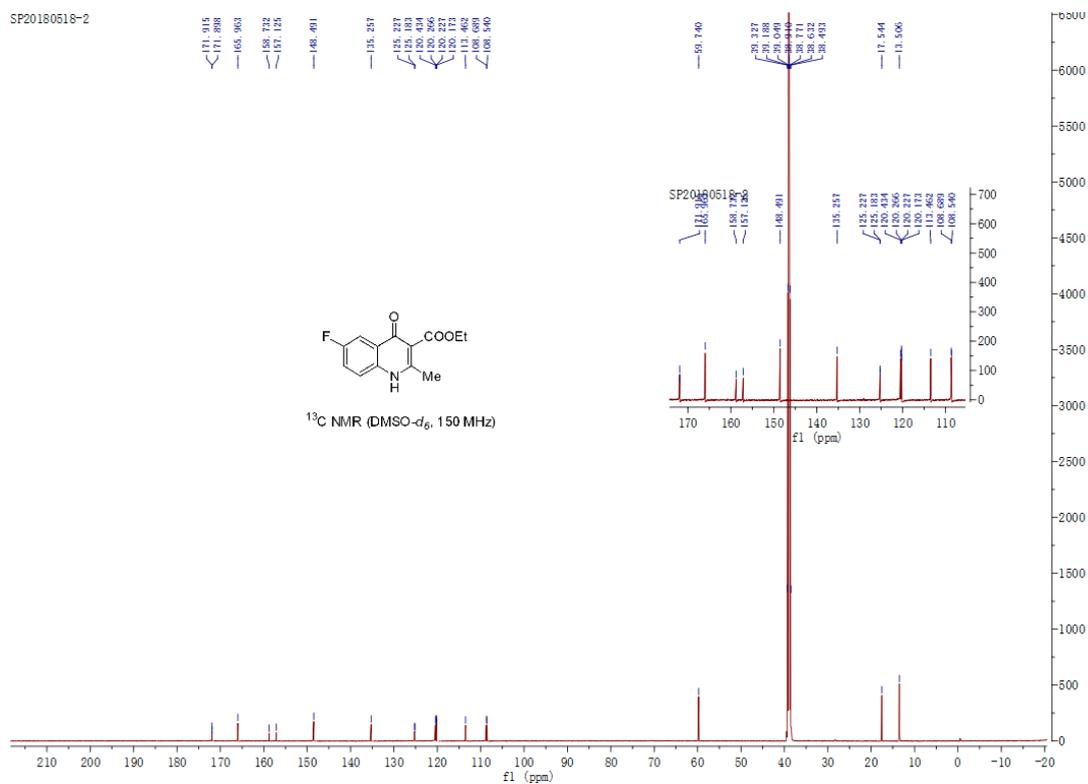
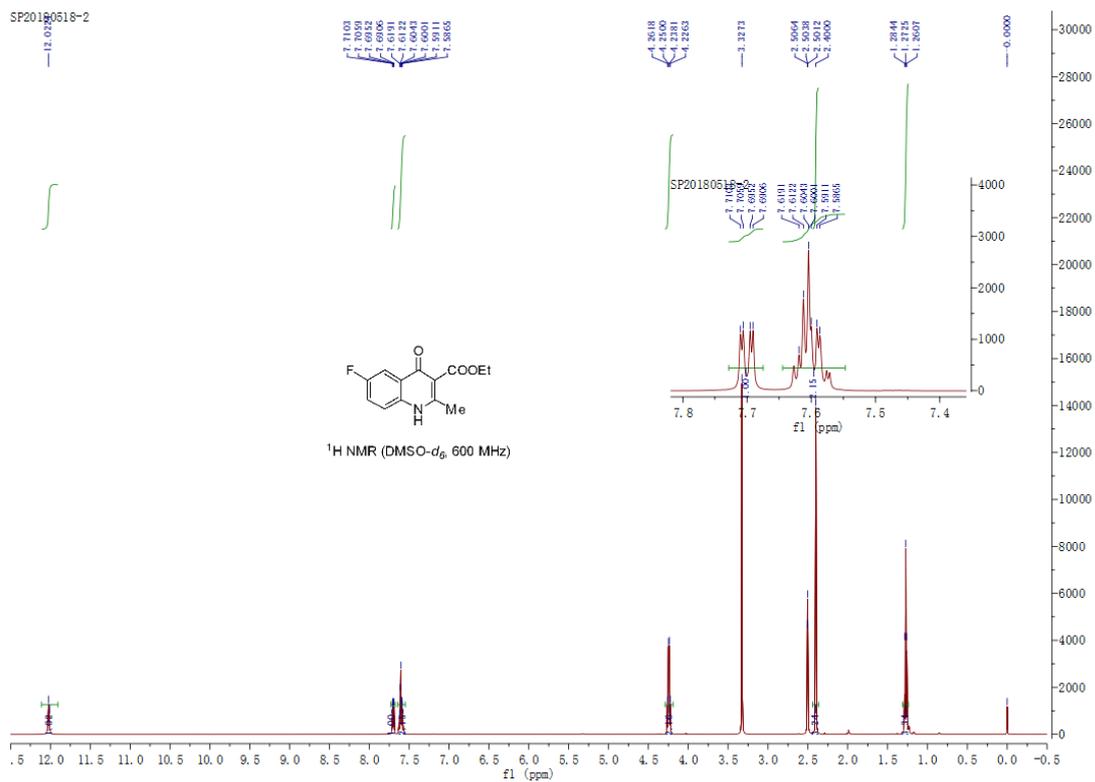
- 1) W. Trager, J. B. Jensen. *Science*, 1976, **193**, 673.
- 2) A. D. Forkuo, C. Ansah, K. M. Boadu, K. M. Boadu, J. N. Boampong, E. O. Ameyaw, B. A. Gyan, A. T. Arku, M. F. Ofori, *Malaria Journal*, 2016, **15**, 89.

## 7. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Spectra of Title Compounds

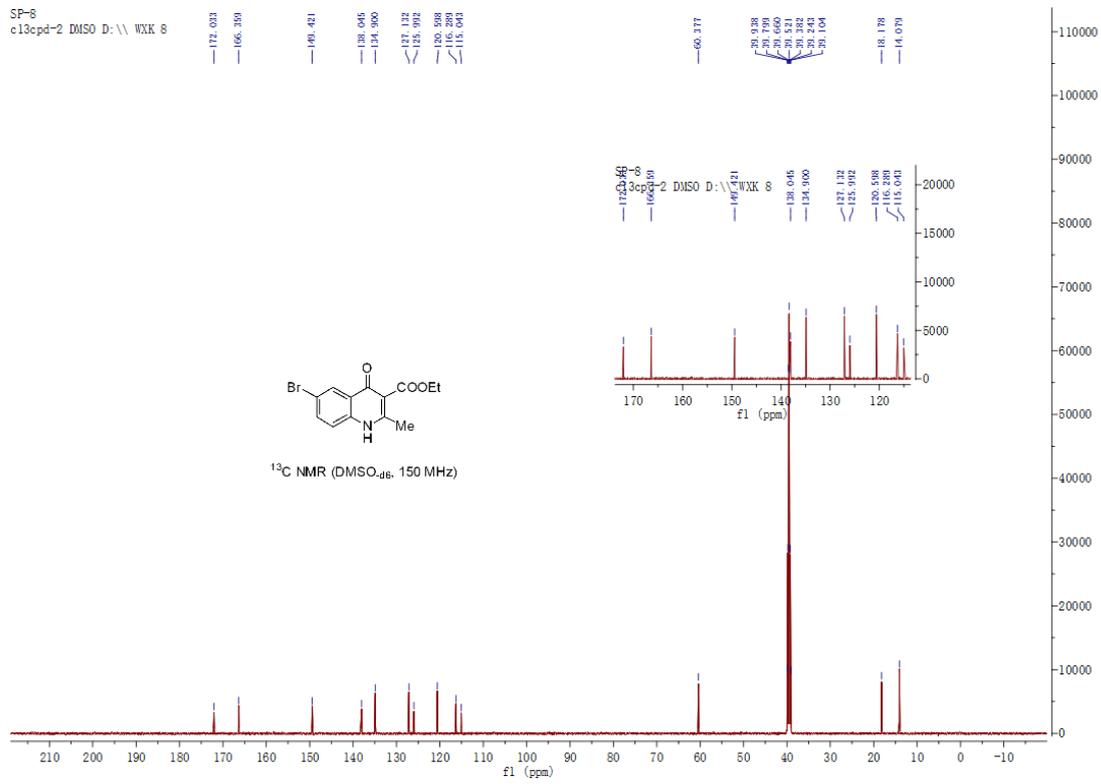
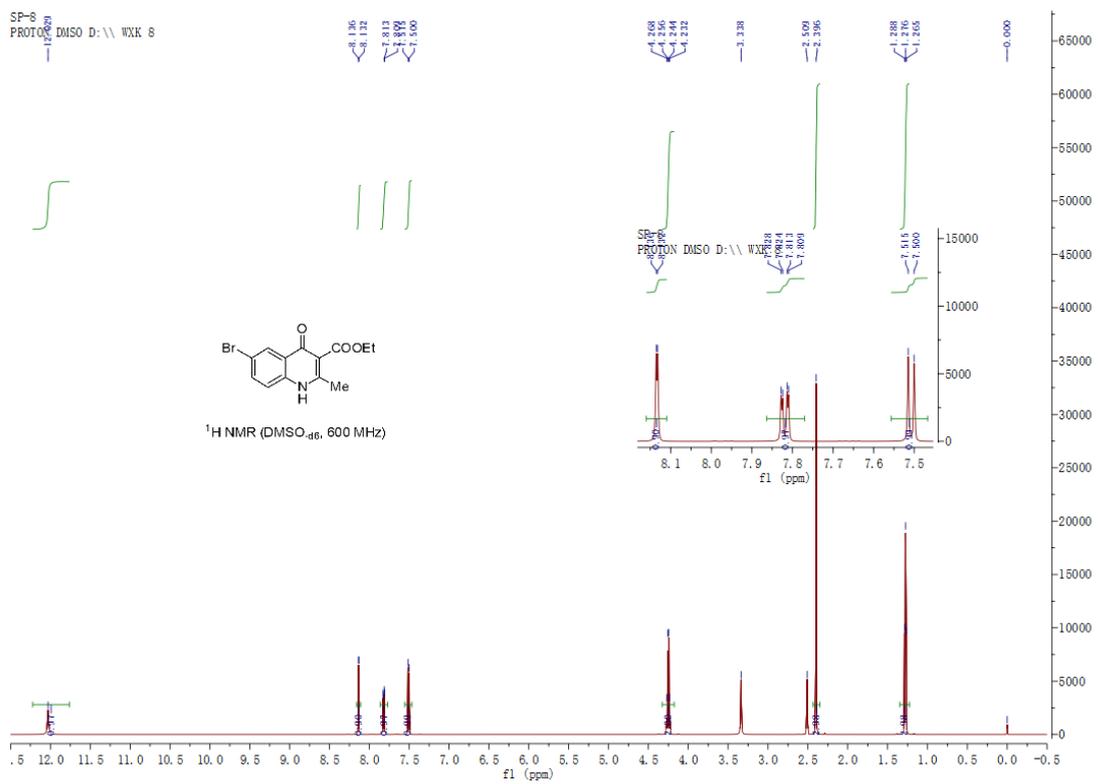


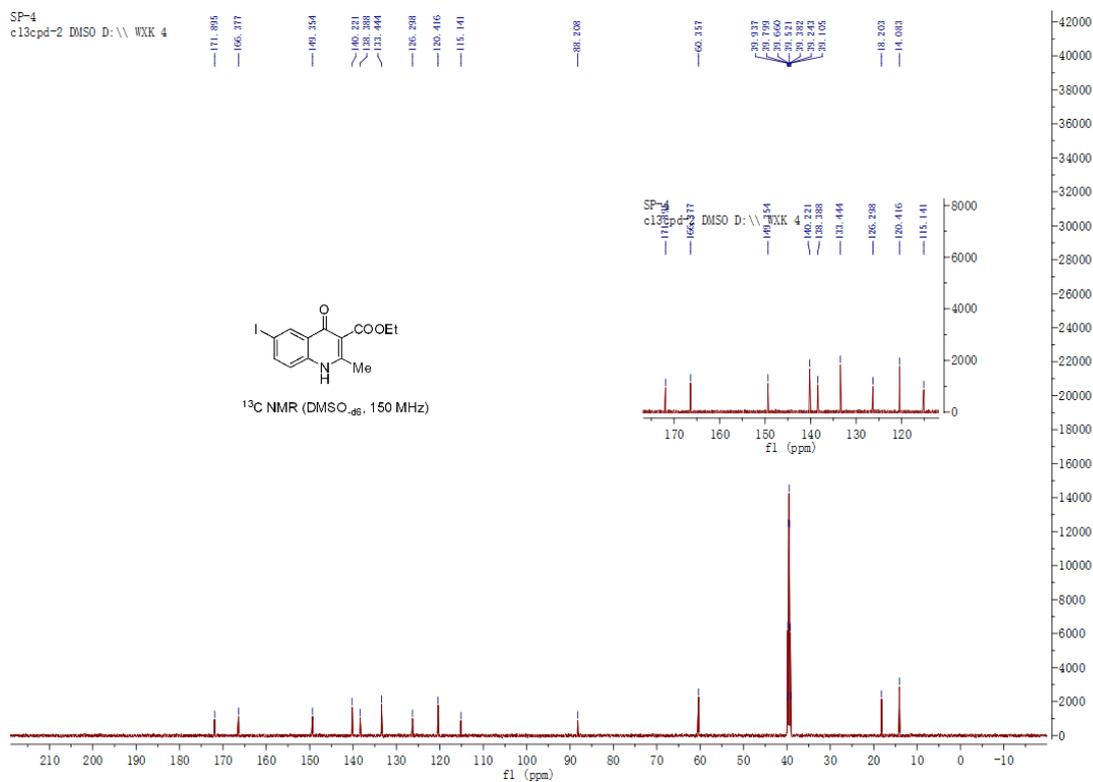
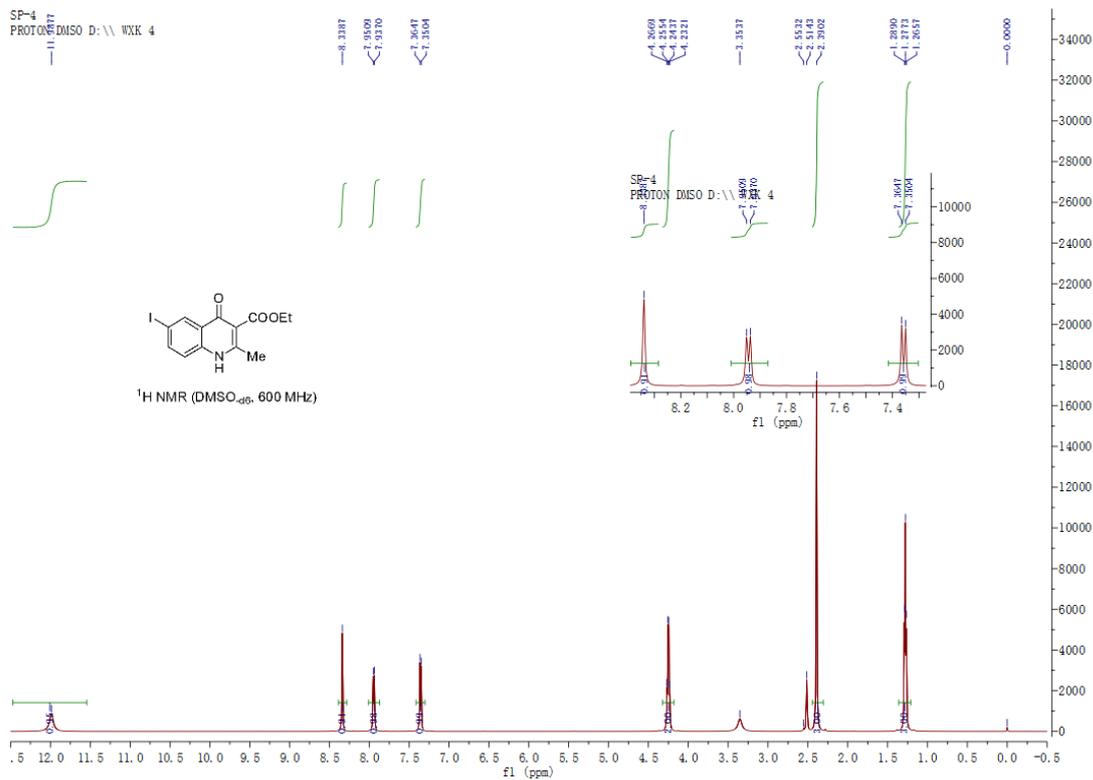


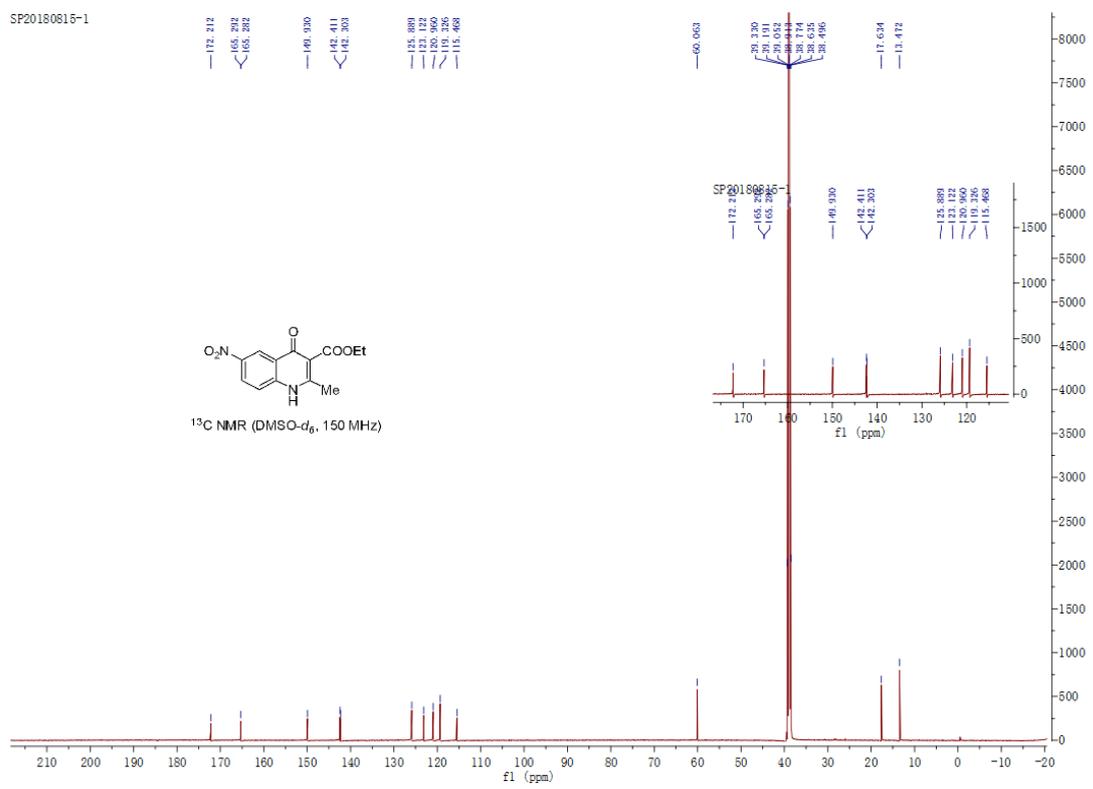
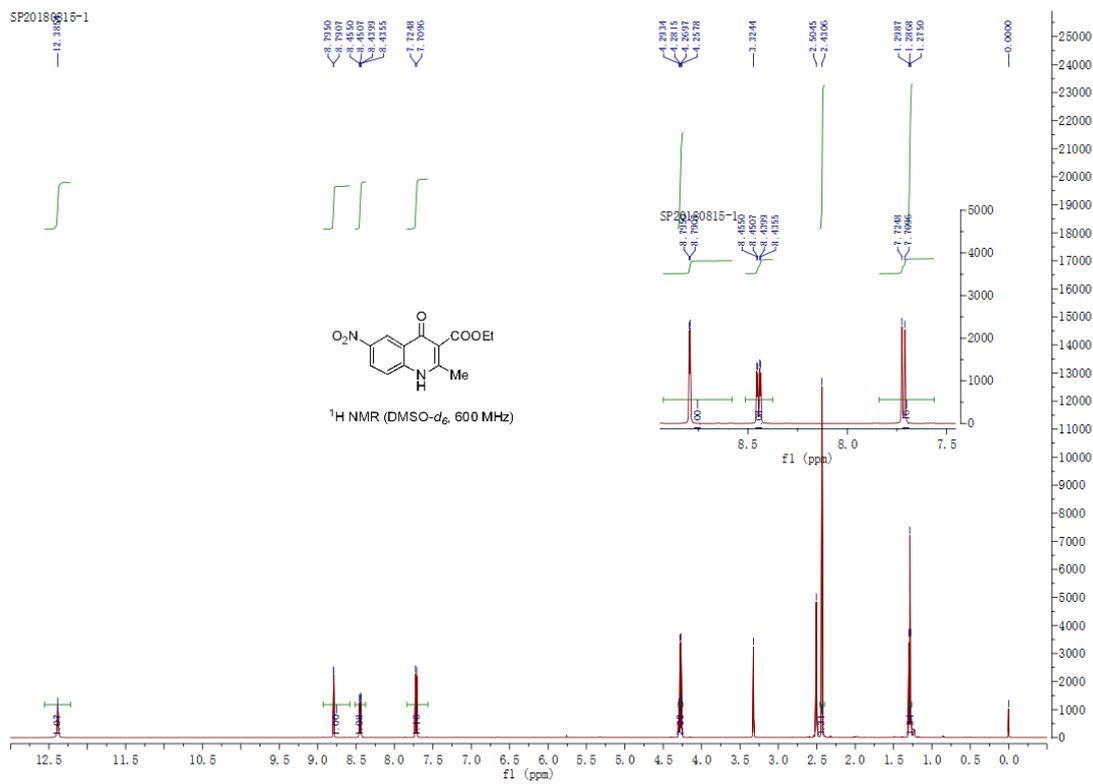


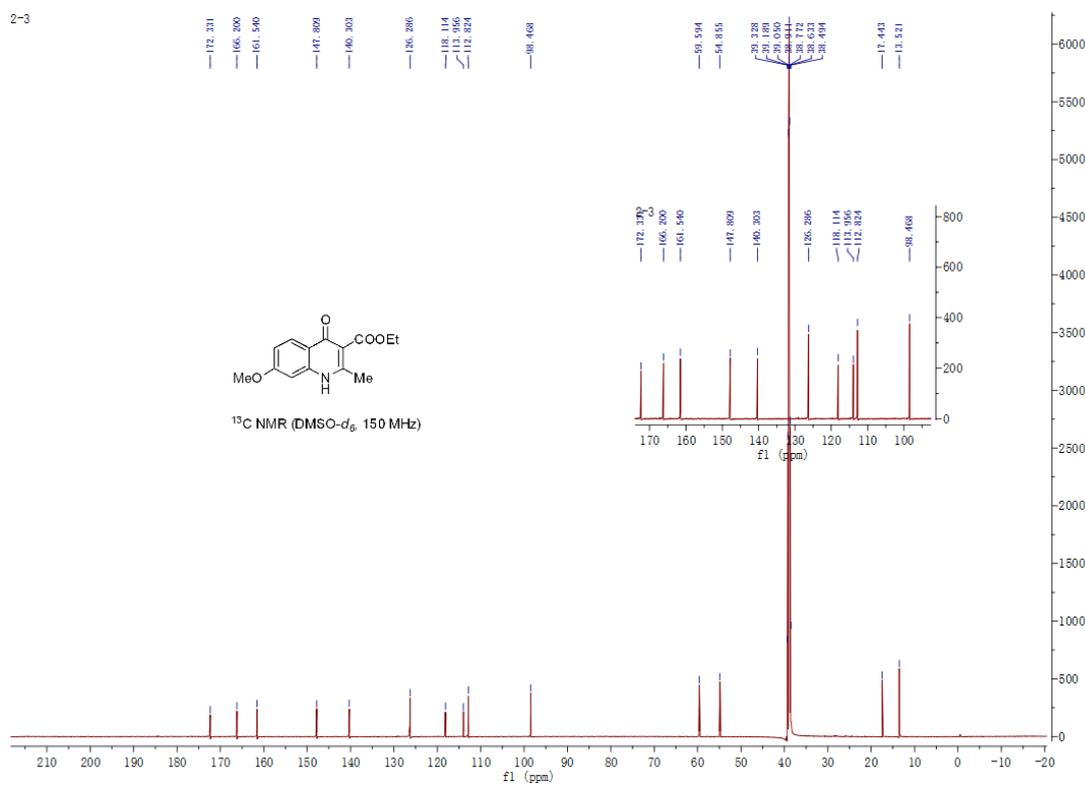
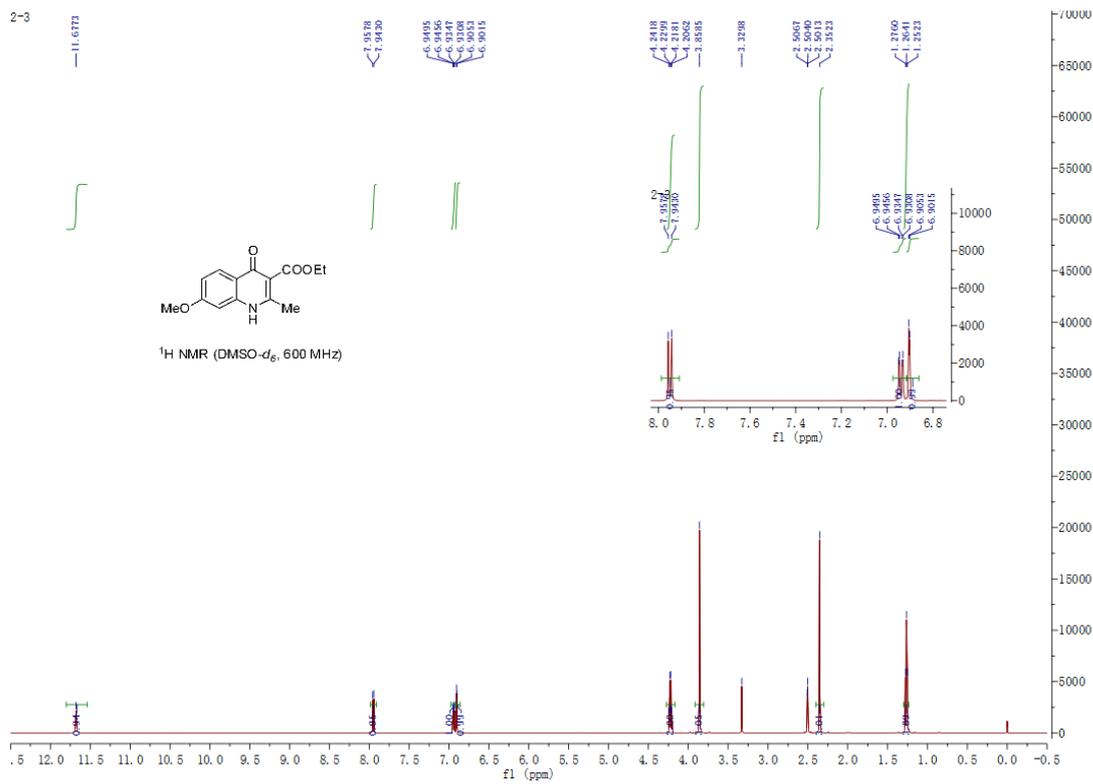




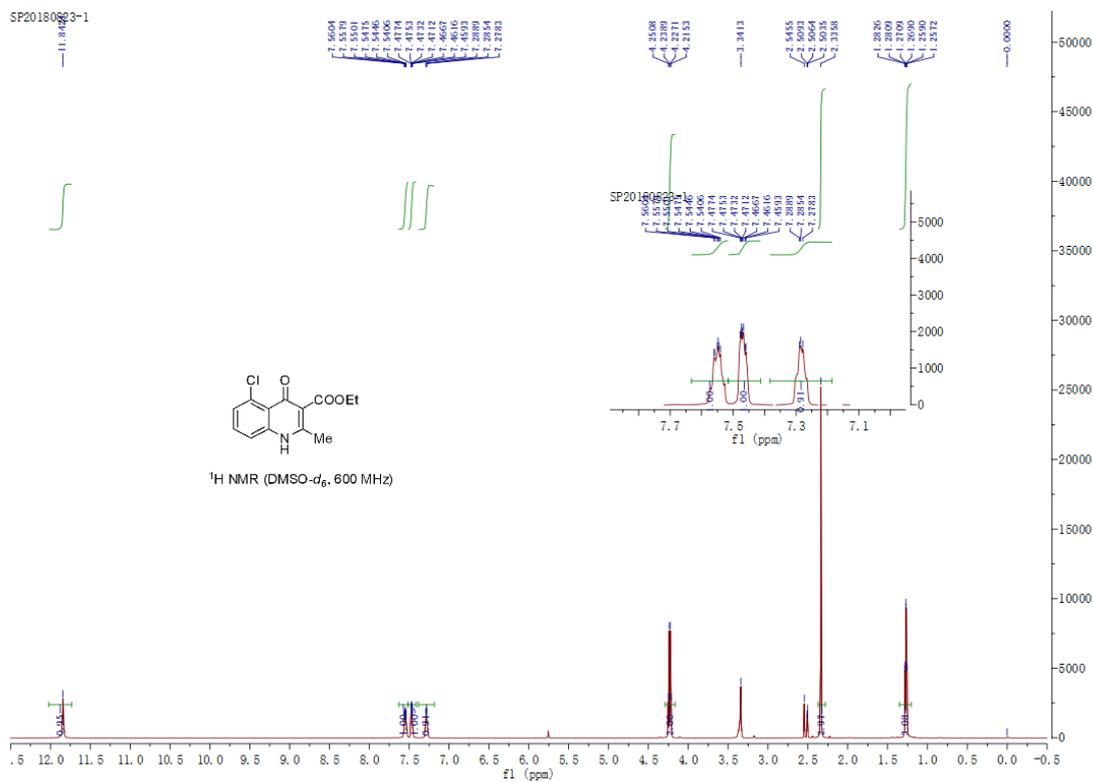




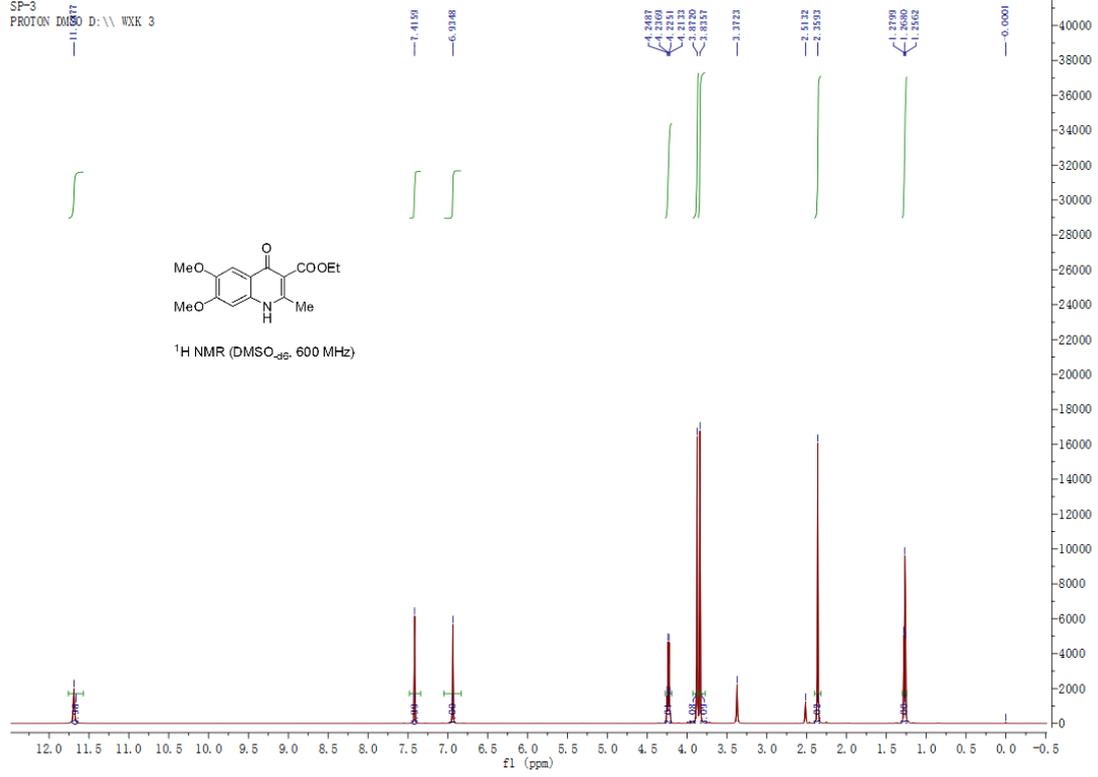




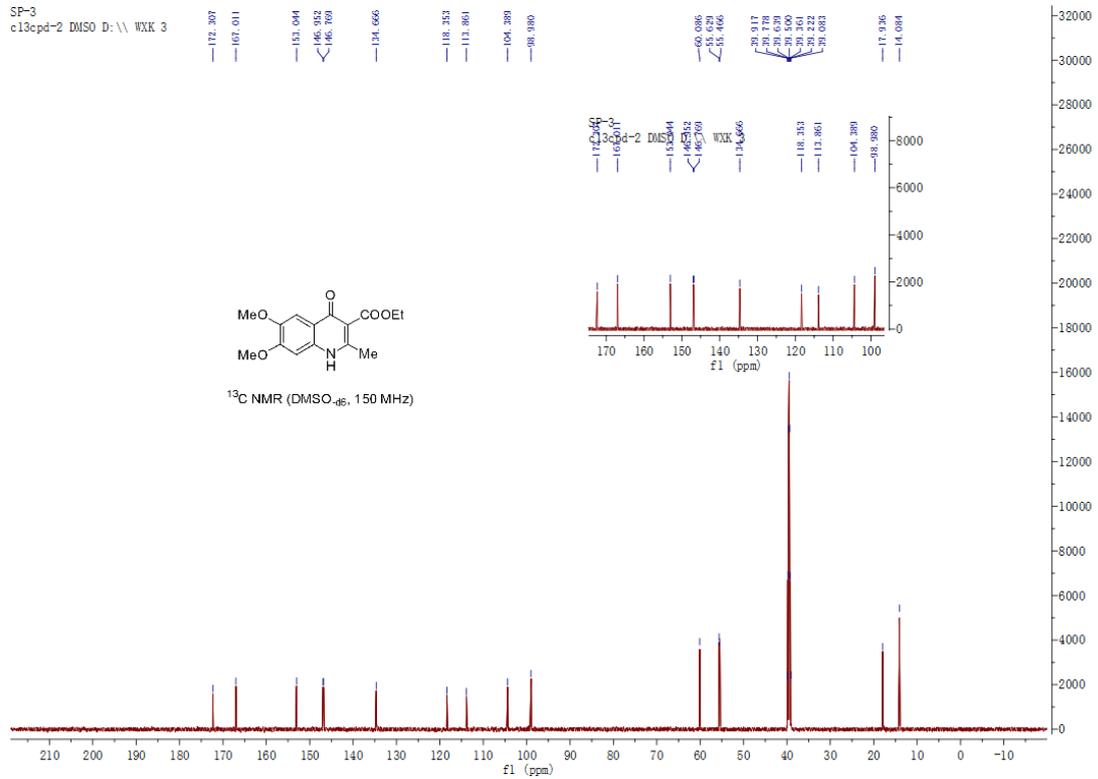




SP-3  
PROTON DMSO D:\ WVK 3



SP-3  
c13cpd-2 DMSO D:\ WVK 3

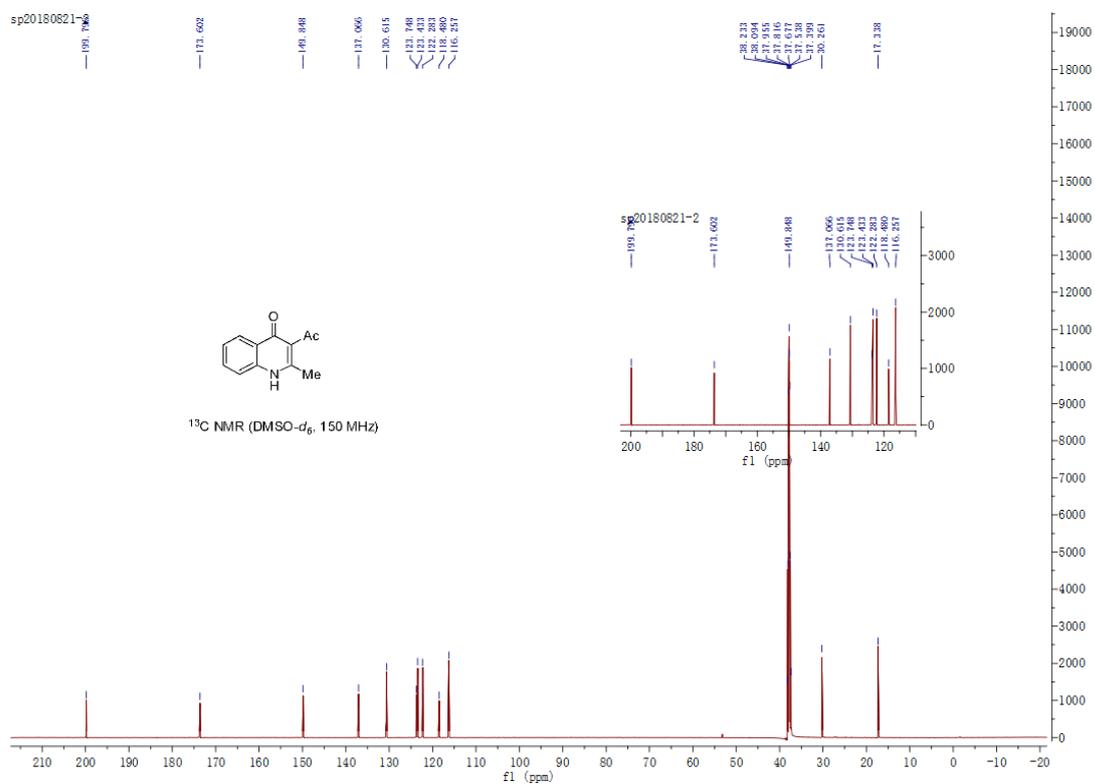
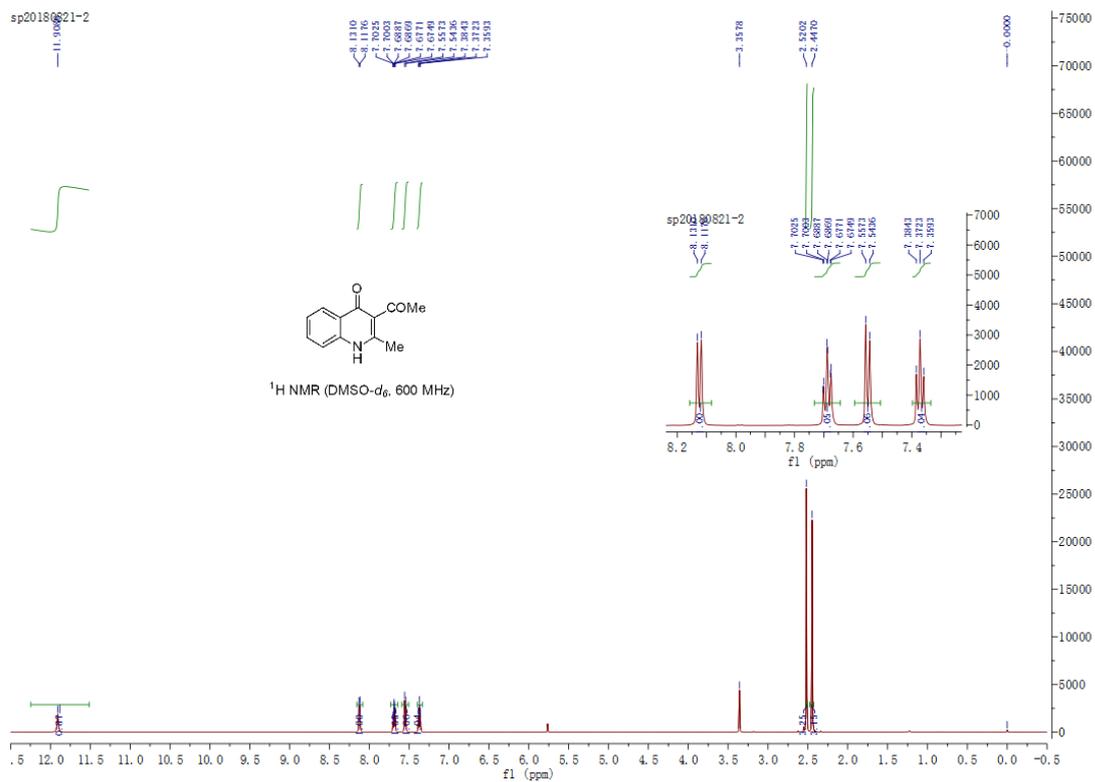




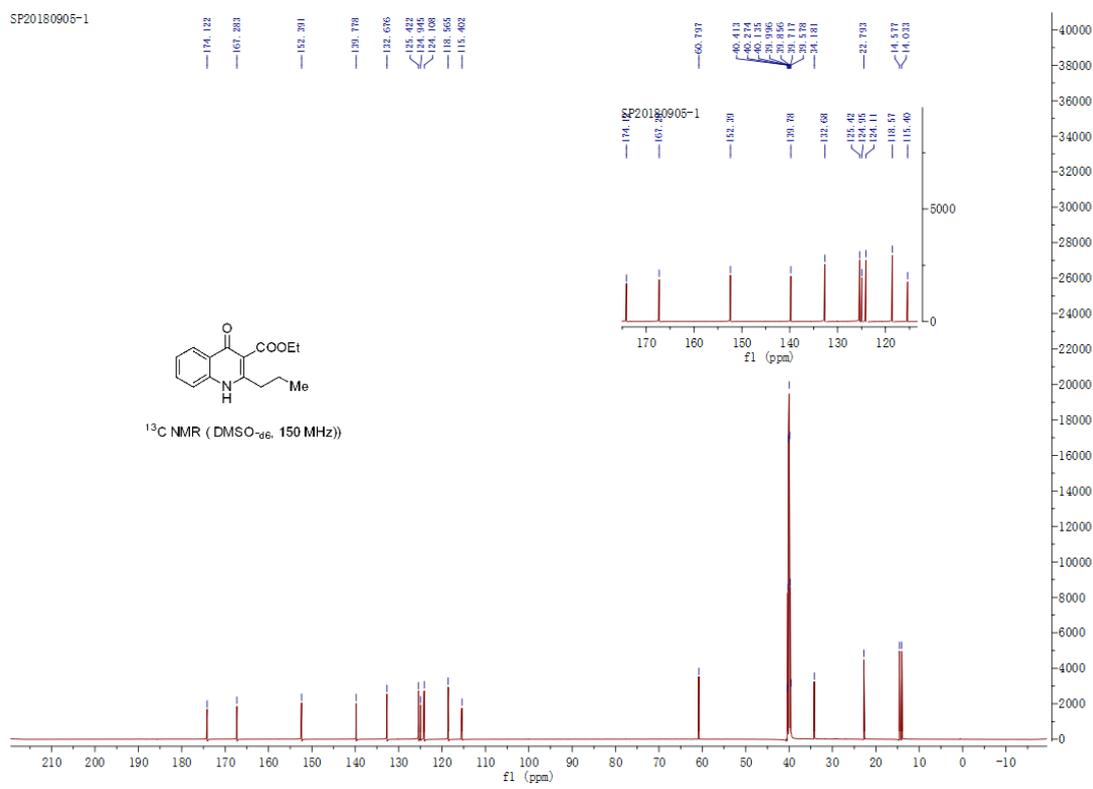
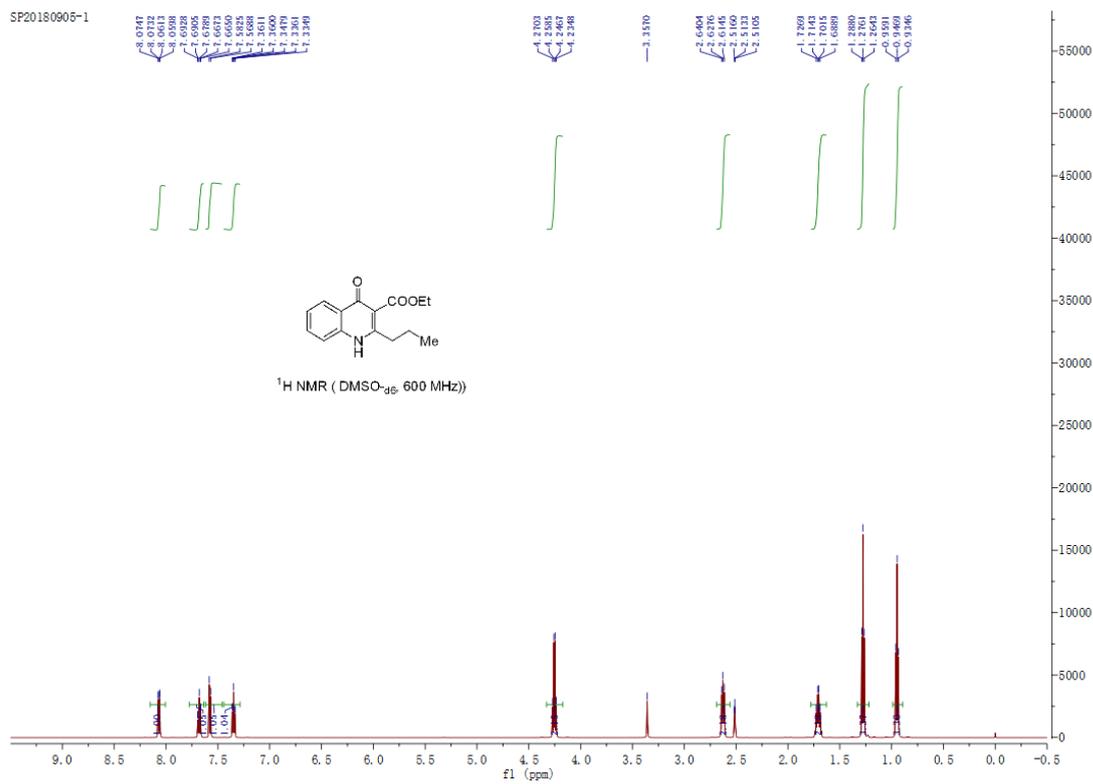


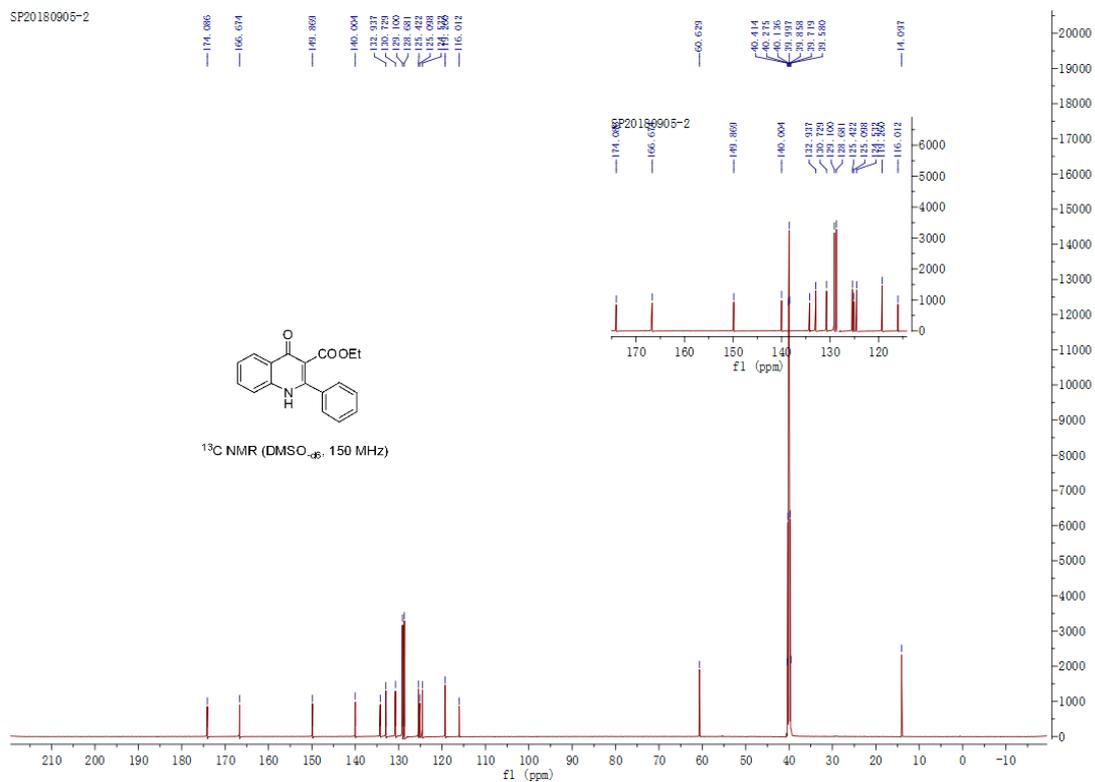
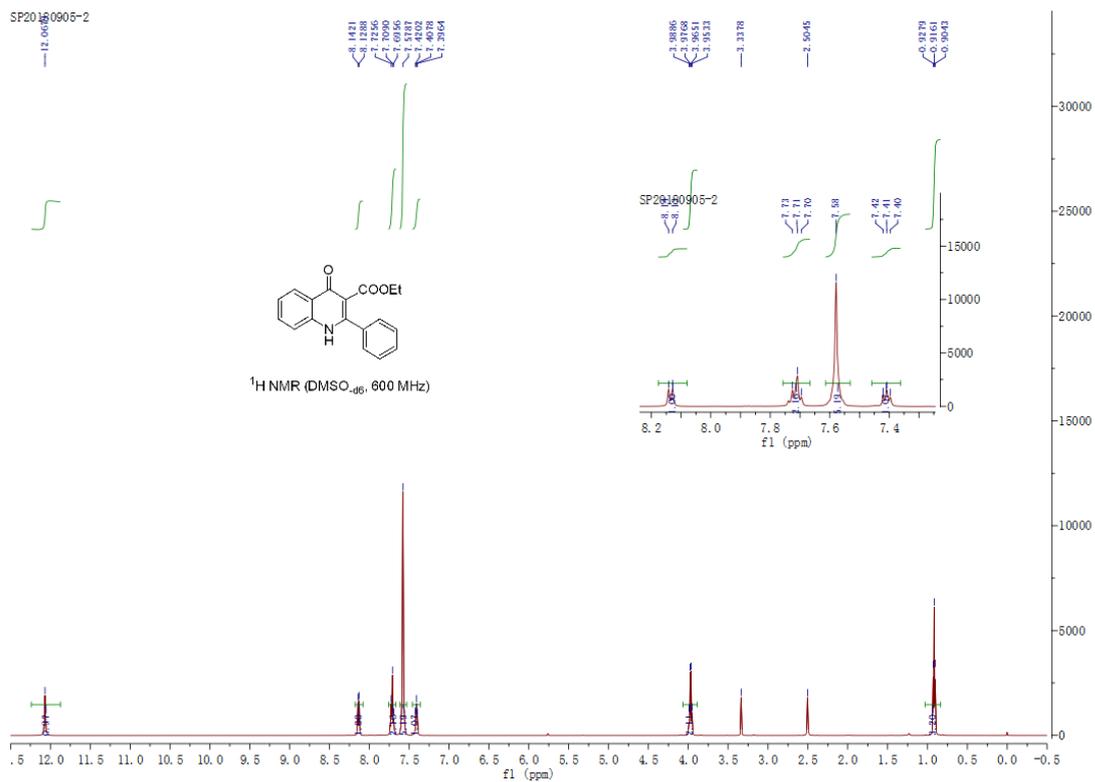


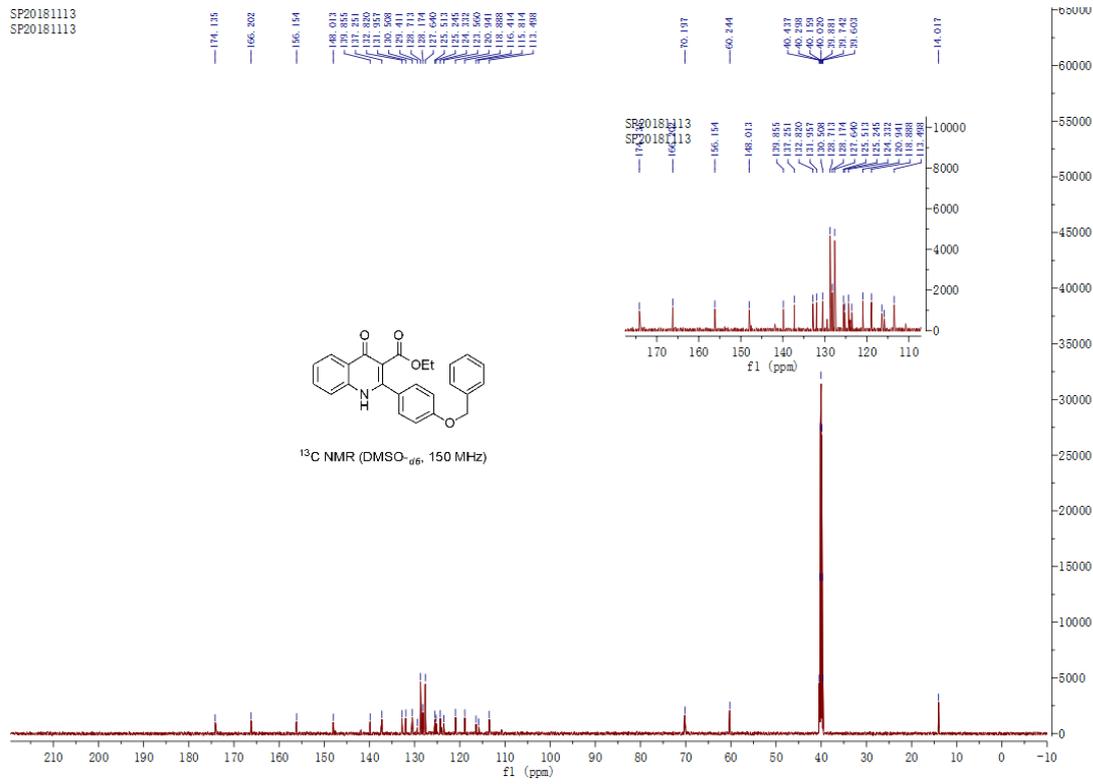
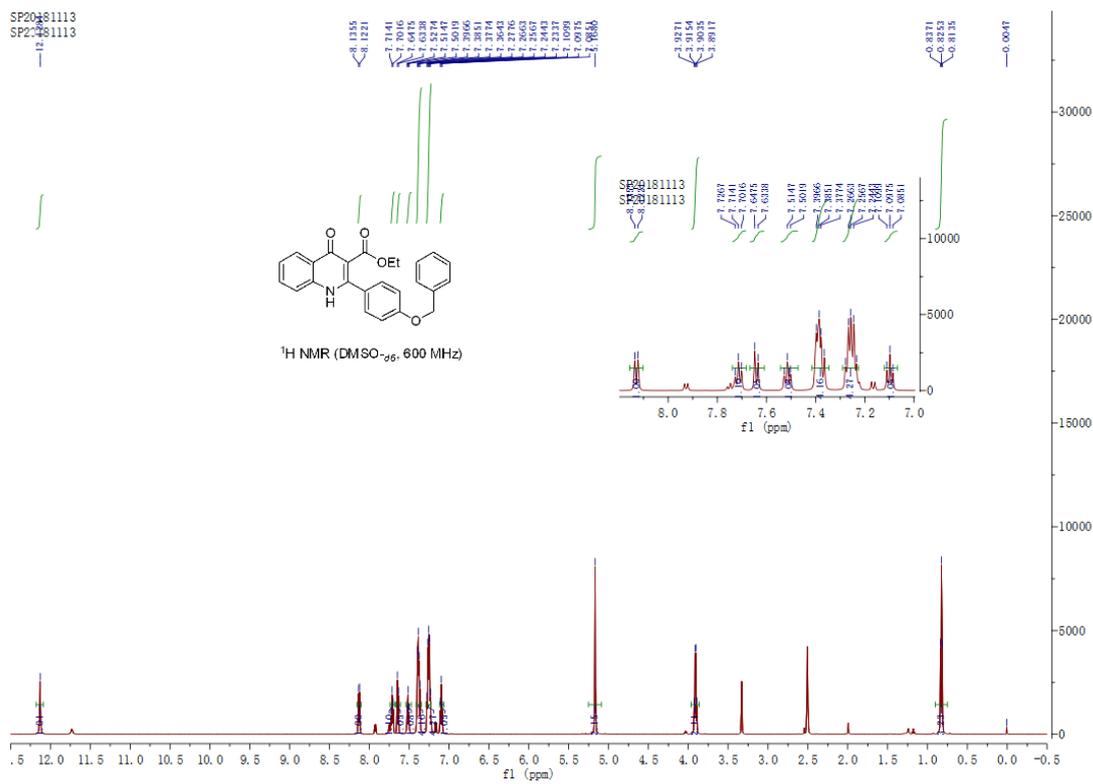




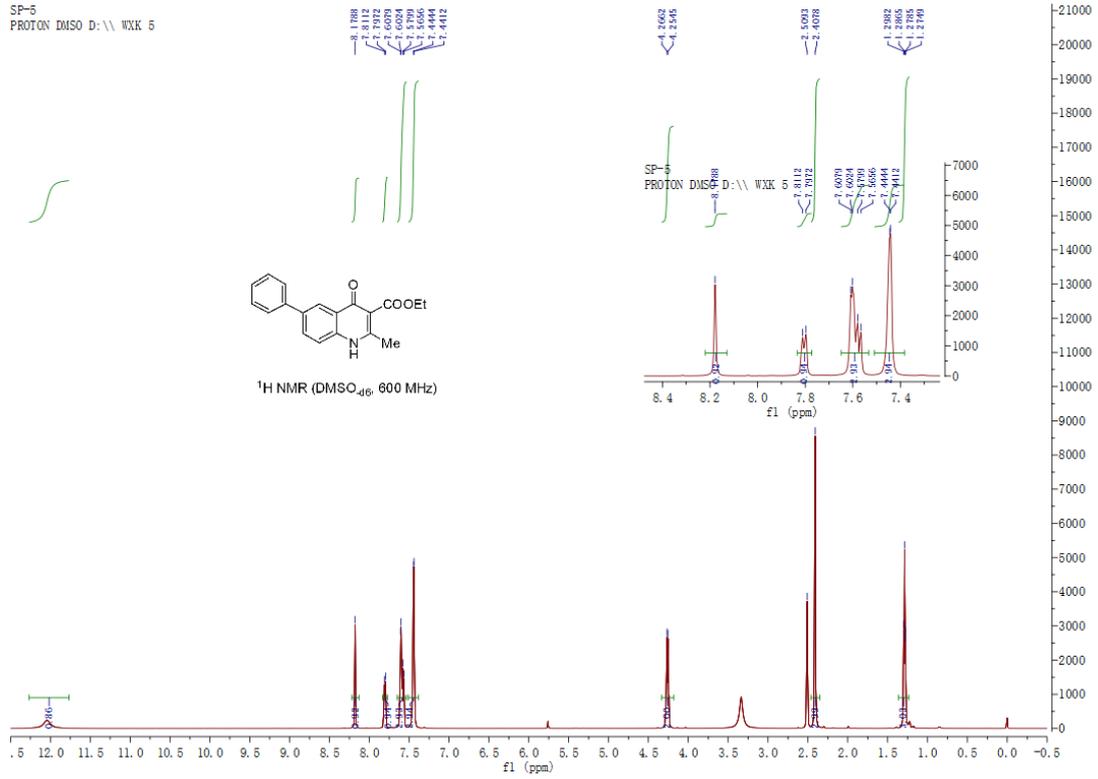








SP-5  
PROTON DMSO D:\ WVK 5



SP-5  
c13cpd-2 DMSO D:\ WVK 5

