

Facile and Practical Synthesis of β -Carbolinium Salts and γ -Carbolinium Salts via Rhodium-Catalyzed Three-Component Reactions

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Supporting Information

Table of Contents

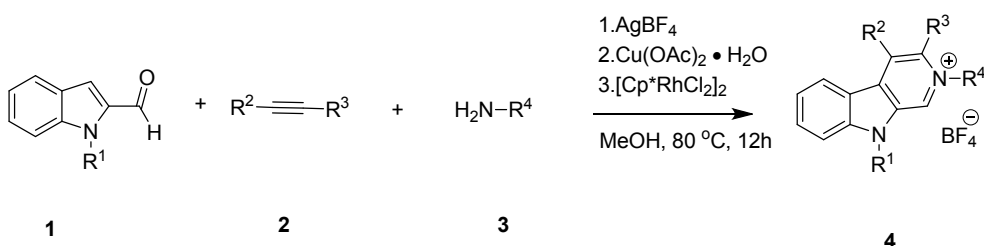
General Information-----	S02
Synthesis of β -carbolinium salt 4 -----	S02
Circle metallization reaction for the synthesis of 6 -----	
S11	
Synthesis of γ -carbolinium salt 8 -----	S13
References-----	S17
NMR Spectra-----	S18

General Information

The ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, ^{31}P NMR and ^{19}F NMR were recorded with Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer instruments in DMSO or CDCl_3 . The chemical shifts (δ) of ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR were measured in ppm, referenced to residual ^1H and ^{13}C signals of nondeuterated DMSO ($\delta = 2.50$ and 39.52) or nondeuterated CDCl_3 ($\delta = 7.26$ and 77.70) as internal standards. The chemical shifts (δ) of ^{31}P NMR were measured in ppm, referenced to the ^{31}P signal of PPh_3 ($\delta = -5.65$) as an external standard. All solvents were obtained from commercial sources and were purified according to standard procedures. Purification of products was accomplished by flash chromatography using silica gel (200~300 mesh). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck silica gel GF254 plates and visualized by UV-light (254 nm). Melting points were obtained on a Yanaco-241 apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a MAGNA-560 spectrometer made by Nicolet Company. HRMS were recorded on VG ZAB-HS mass spectrometer with ESI resource. Indolyl aldehydes **1a**^[1], **1b**^[1], **1c**^[2], **1e**^[3, 1], **7f**^[4] and alkynes **2b**^[5], **2c**^[6] were synthesized according to the literature. Other Indolyl aldehydes and Alkynes were commercially available.

Synthesis of β -carbolinium salts 4

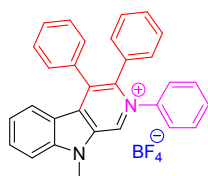
General Procedure A



A sealed tube contained $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (0.8 mol %, 0.00251 mmol), AgBF_4 (0.628 mmol) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.628 mmol) was evacuate and purged with nitrogen gas three times. Then, **1** (0.314 mmol), **2** (0.377 mmol) and **3** (0.628 mmol) in MeOH (5.0 mL) were added to the system via syringe under a nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction was allowed to stir at 80°C for 12 h. When the reaction was completed, the mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) and filtered through a Celite pad and the

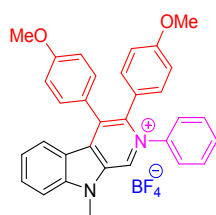
Celite pad was washed several times with CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL). The combined filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by column chromatography on neutral Al₂O₃ using DCM: MeOH (30:1) as eluent to afford the desired pure product **4**.

9-Methyl-2,3,4-triphenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4a**)



Green solid (146 mg, 93%); M.p.: 161-163 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.04 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 6.5 Hz, 8H), 7.37 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 3H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.93, 143.66, 143.11, 135.29, 134.93, 133.81, 132.82, 131.96, 130.44, 130.37, 129.70, 129.49, 129.37, 129.34, 127.84, 127.80, 124.01, 122.38, 119.47, 112.19, 31.05. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO) δ -148.37 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₃₀H₂₃N₂⁺ [M-BF₄]⁺: 411.1856, found 411.1853. IR (neat): ν = 553, 701, 767, 1056 (ν_{B-F})^[7], 1137, 1339, 1381, 1430, 1470, 1495, 1602, 1633, 3055, 3412 cm⁻¹.

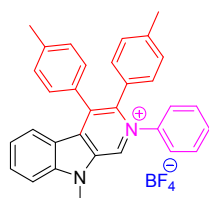
3,4-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4b**)



Green solid (166.5 mg, 95%); M.p.: 144-145 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.93 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92–7.83 (m, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 7.30 (m, *J* = 16.5, 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (m, *J* = 24.1, 8.2 Hz, 3H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 159.32, 159.04, 145.50, 143.51, 143.16, 134.78, 132.94, 132.36, 130.61, 132.94, 130.61, 129.94, 129.62, 129.14, 127.27, 123.77,

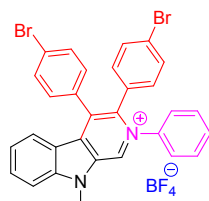
123.73, 121.99, 119.21, 114.38, 112.94, 111.63, 55.21, 55.03, 30.53. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{32}H_{27}N_2O_2^+[M-BF_4]^+$: 471.2067, found 471.2069. IR (neat): ν = 548, 698, 754, 779, 839, 1057 (ν_{B-F}), 1179, 1251, 1292, 1336, 1383, 1432, 1469, 1498, 1608, 1634, 2838, 2936, 3096, 3425 cm^{-1} .

9-Methyl-2-phenyl-3,4-di-p-tolyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4c**)



Green solid (150.3 mg, 91%). M.p.: 158-160 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.95 (s, 1H), 8.02 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.39 (m, 6H), 7.36 – 7.12 (m, 8H), 6.91 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 4.23 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.90, 144.77, 143.31, 138.64, 135.18, 134.02, 132.80, 132.22, 132.00, 131.77, 130.42, 130.24, 129.98, 129.53, 129.10, 128.53, 127.71, 124.09, 122.40, 119.53, 112.09, 30.96, 21.43, 21.20. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{32}H_{27}N_2^+[M-BF_4]^+$: 439.2169, found 439.2166. IR (neat): ν = 530, 697, 751, 818, 1057 (ν_{B-F}), 1163, 1276, 1336, 1383, 1429, 1471, 1497, 1605, 1634, 3060, 3426 cm^{-1} .

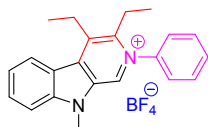
(3,4-bis(4-bromophenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4d**)



Green solid (149.9 mg, 73%). M.p.: 175-177 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.07 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.71 (dd, J = 8.7, 7.3 Hz, 4H), 7.50 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 3H), 7.43 – 7.28 (m, 7H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.94, 143.40, 141.83, 135.31, 133.99, 133.00, 132.56, 132.54, 131.93, 131.69, 131.61, 131.22, 131.02, 130.69,

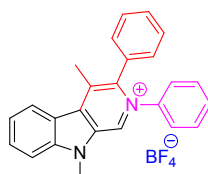
129.64, 127.73, 123.90, 123.21, 123.03, 122.73, 119.26, 112.32, 31.13. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{30}H_{21}Br_2N_2^+[M-BF_4]^+$: 567.0066, found 567.0068. IR (neat): $\nu = 755, 1056$ (ν_{B-F}), 1276, 1336, 1390, 1429, 1469, 1495, 1593, 1632, 2338, 2364, 3096, 3421 cm^{-1} .

3,4-Diethyl-9-methyl-2-phenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4e**)



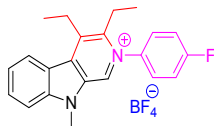
Green solid (101 mg, 80%). M.p.: 181-183 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.63 (s, 1H), 8.52 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.04 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.85 (dd, $J = 6.9, 2.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.81 – 7.75 (m, 3H), 7.58 (dd, $J = 11.1, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.10 (s, 3H), 3.48 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.92 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H), 1.10 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.61, 144.81, 142.97, 135.13, 134.71, 132.37, 131.96, 131.35, 130.30, 129.43, 127.07, 125.61, 122.71, 118.85, 111.91, 30.76, 22.92, 22.80, 14.43, 13.94. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{22}H_{23}N_2^+[M-BF_4]^+$: 315.1856, found 315.1859. IR (neat): $\nu = 698, 771, 1056$ (ν_{B-F}), 1271, 1333, 1382, 1503, 1600, 1633, 2937, 3398 cm^{-1} .

4,9-Dimethyl-2,3-diphenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4f**)



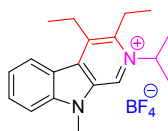
Green solid (109.6 mg, 80%). M.p.: 140-142 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.87 (s, 1H), 8.57 (d, $J = 4.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.07–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.55 (m, 3H), 7.46–7.35 (m, 8H), 4.21 (s, 3H), 2.75 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.20, 143.33, 142.57, 134.52, 132.07, 131.78, 131.79, 131.57, 131.06, 129.96, 129.74, 128.71, 128.37, 127.32, 127.32, 125.34, 122.28, 119.63, 111.55, 30.57, 17.51. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{25}H_{21}N_2^+[M-BF_4]^+$: 349.1699, found 349.1695. IR (neat): $\nu = 549, 703, 772, 1056$ (ν_{B-F}), 1158, 1340, 1378, 1426, 1474, 1493, 1601, 1634, 3055, 3415 cm^{-1} .

3,4-Diethyl-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4g**)



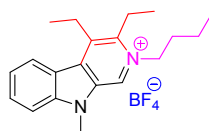
Green solid (149 mg, 92%). M.p.: 147-148 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.55 (s, 2H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.92 (s, 4H), 7.62 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 2.71 (d, $J = 156.1$ Hz, 4H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 162.78 (d, $J = 246$ Hz), 145.99, 145.15, 144.61, 138.72, 134.66, 134.22, 134.14, 131.91, 131.85, 131.62, 131.58, 129.25, 129.11, 129.03, 125.10, 122.31, 122.22, 122.11, 118.36, 116.80, 116.56, 111.32, 30.12, 22.39, 22.24, 13.78, 13.35. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{FN}_2^+$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$: 333.1762, found 333.1763. IR (neat): $\nu = 548, 701, 755, 784, 847, 1058$ ($\nu_{\text{B-F}}$), 1159, 1224, 1336, 1384, 1428, 1470, 1505, 1633, 3061, 3425 cm^{-1} .

3,4-Diethyl-2-isopropyl-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (4h)



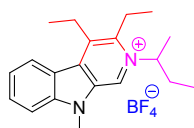
Yellow solid (115.6 mg, 100%). M.p.: 158-160 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.73 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.89–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.35 (m, 1H), 5.47–5.34 (m, 1H), 4.16 (s, 3H), 3.39–3.24 (m, 4H), 1.81 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 6H), 1.34 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 144.78, 143.38, 135.40, 134.76, 131.32, 130.38, 124.66, 124.45, 121.77, 118.30, 111.05, 58.17, 30.57, 23.31, 22.88, 21.21, 20.33, 14.29, 13.40. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2^+$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$: 281.2012, found 281.2016. IR (neat): $\nu = 755, 1056$ ($\nu_{\text{B-F}}$), 1098, 1185, 1332, 1382, 1473, 1504, 1606, 1638, 2935, 2970, 3449 cm^{-1} .

2-Butyl-3,4-diethyl-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (4i)



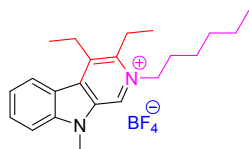
Yellow solid (120 mg, 100%). M.p.: 168-170 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.81 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.35 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.21 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.96 (s, 2H), 1.49 (dd, $J = 14.5, 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.39 – 1.28 (m, 6H), 0.97 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR

(100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.12, 143.89, 135.54, 135.32, 131.81, 130.95, 128.62, 125.21, 122.29, 118.83, 111.58, 58.29, 34.25, 30.63, 22.91, 21.41, 19.70, 14.68, 14.01, 13.95. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{20}H_{27}N_2^+$ [M-BF₄]⁺: 295.2169, found 295.2170. IR (neat): ν = 755, 1059 (ν_{B-F}), 1338, 1385, 1436, 1475, 1506, 1607, 1641, 2872, 2960, 3427 cm⁻¹.
2-(Sec-butyl)-3,4-diethyl-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4j**)



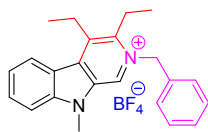
Yellow solid (120 mg, 100%). M.p.: 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.63 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J = 10.9, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (dd, J = 13.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (s, 3H), 3.43 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.32 (dd, J = 14.8, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.34 – 2.16 (m, 2H), 1.79 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.38 (dt, J = 20.4, 7.4 Hz, 6H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.45, 144.39, 136.04, 135.35, 131.99, 131.01, 125.32, 124.66, 122.37, 118.88, 111.68, 63.74, 30.97, 30.23, 23.36, 22.09, 21.64, 14.69, 13.87, 10.73. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{20}H_{27}N_2^+$ [M-BF₄]⁺: 295.2169, found 295.2168. IR (neat): ν = 760, 1056 (ν_{B-F}), 1342, 1387, 1440, 1469, 1503, 1614, 2880, 2954, 3440 cm⁻¹.

3,4-Diethyl-2-hexyl-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4k**)



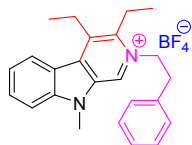
Yellow solid (128.8 mg, 100%). M.p.: 135-137 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.02 (s, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 4.81 – 4.72 (m, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.33 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.20 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.02 – 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.32 (ddd, J = 9.2, 6.8, 3.3 Hz, 10H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.05, 143.77, 135.44, 135.28, 131.73, 130.84, 128.84, 125.11, 122.23, 118.79, 111.56, 58.32, 32.32, 31.23, 30.77, 25.94, 22.89, 22.45, 21.41, 14.70, 14.32, 13.93. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{22}H_{31}N_2^+$ [M-BF₄]⁺: 323.2482, found 323.2481. IR (neat): ν = 758, 1057 (ν_{B-F}), 1193, 1337, 1384, 1477, 1505, 1605, 1639, 2859, 2929, 2958, 3425 cm⁻¹.

2-Benzyl-3,4-diethyl-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4l**)



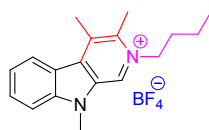
Green solid (130.7 mg, 100%). M.p.: 210-212 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.06 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.98–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (m, J = 14.3, 7.0 Hz, 3H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.15 (s, 2H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.39 (m, 2H), 3.12 (m, J = 14.7, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.12 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.06, 143.99, 135.93, 135.40, 135.12, 131.72, 131.11, 129.53, 129.18, 128.51, 126.55, 125.05, 122.11, 118.53, 111.37, 61.32, 30.37, 22.40, 21.37, 13.87, 13.59. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2^+$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$: 329.2012, found 329.2015. IR (neat): ν = 703, 737, 762, 1059 ($\nu_{\text{B-F}}$), 1165, 1188, 1284, 1337, 1379, 1454, 1478, 1505, 1606, 1641, 2939, 3421 cm^{-1} .

3,4-Diethyl-9-methyl-2-phenethyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4m**)



Yellow solid (135 mg, 100%). M.p.: 190-192°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.86 (s, 1H), 8.40 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.96–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 5H), 4.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.34 (m, 4H), 3.07 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (dt, J = 21.4, 7.4 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 144.91, 143.77, 136.57, 135.03, 134.91, 131.58, 130.72, 129.20, 128.64, 128.34, 127.13, 124.95, 122.00, 118.56, 111.32, 58.60, 37.35, 30.28, 22.52, 20.94, 14.13, 13.55. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2^+$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$: 343.2169, found 343.2170. IR (neat): ν = 699, 740, 1059 ($\nu_{\text{B-F}}$), 1164, 1195, 1269, 1339, 1387, 1478, 1505, 1605, 1643, 2936, 2969, 3423 cm^{-1} .

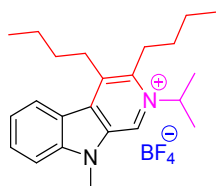
2-Butyl-3,4,9-trimethyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4n**)



Yellow solid (112 mg, 100%). M.p.: 162-164 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.83

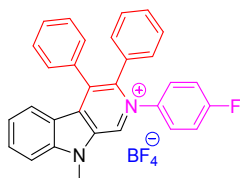
(s, 1H), 8.48 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.94–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.86–4.70 (m, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.83 (s, 3H), 1.90 (dt, $J = 15.3, 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.44 (dt, $J = 14.7, 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 0.97 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.05, 140.13, 134.87, 131.70, 131.19, 130.38, 127.85, 125.50, 121.93, 119.61, 111.38, 59.00, 32.71, 30.62, 19.60, 16.96, 15.71, 13.99. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$: 267.1856, found 267.1854. IR (neat): $\nu = 755, 1052$ ($\nu_{\text{B-F}}$), 1113, 1334, 1396, 1477, 1505, 1607, 1642, 2867, 2940, 3406 cm^{-1} .

3,4-Dibutyl-2-isopropyl-9-methyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4o**)



Yellow solid (122.6 mg, 92%). M.p.: 154–156 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.62 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.01–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.42 (m, 1H), 5.76 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.37 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 3.35 (d, $J = 21.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.78 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 6H), 1.69–1.47 (m, 8H), 1.05–0.94 (m, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 144.98, 142.42, 135.48, 133.82, 131.53, 130.68, 124.64, 124.38, 122.01, 118.59, 111.32, 58.33, 55.05, 31.67, 30.92, 30.51, 29.41, 27.62, 23.38, 22.44, 22.20, 13.86, 13.68. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{BF}_4]^+$: 337.2638, found 337.2637. IR (neat): $\nu = 750, 1059$ ($\nu_{\text{B-F}}$), 1333, 1383, 1471, 1504, 1607, 1639, 2867, 2930, 2959, 3423 cm^{-1} .

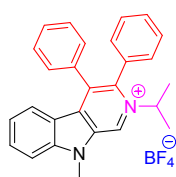
2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-9-methyl-3,4-diphenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4p**)



Green solid (150.7 mg, 93%). M.p.: 147–148 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.02 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.23 (m, 10H), 7.14 (s, 3H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.27 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR

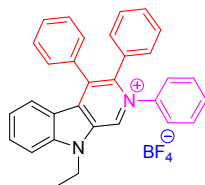
(100 MHz, DMSO) δ 162.07 (d, $J = 246$ Hz), 145.49, 142.79, 139.44, 134.76, 134.29, 133.29, 132.44, 131.60, 131.38, 130.03, 129.76, 129.66, 129.13, 128.92, 128.87, 127.46, 123.54, 121.98, 118.95, 116.02, 115.78, 111.68, 30.50. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{30}H_{22}FN_2^+ [M-BF_4]^+$: 429.1762, found 429.1764. IR (neat): $\nu = 548, 701, 755, 784, 847, 1058$ (ν_{B-F}), 1159, 1224, 1336, 1384, 1428, 1470, 1505, 1633, 3061, 3425 cm^{-1} .

2-Isopropyl-9-methyl-3,4-diphenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate
(4q)



Yellow solid (145.8 mg, 100%). M.p.: 138-140 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.11 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.30 (m, 8H), 7.18 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.82 – 4.69 (m, 1H), 4.36 (s, 3H), 1.75 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 145.67, 142.24, 136.47, 135.23, 134.12, 132.44, 132.10, 131.17, 130.60, 130.20, 129.52, 129.15, 128.97, 125.56, 123.78, 122.07, 119.39, 111.95, 60.91, 31.31, 23.10, 20.80. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{27}H_{25}FN_2^+ [M-BF_4]^+$: 377.2012, found 377.2011. IR (neat): $\nu = 705, 756, 1059$ (ν_{B-F}), 1335, 1381, 1438, 1469, 1502, 1606, 1633, 2975, 3421 cm^{-1} .

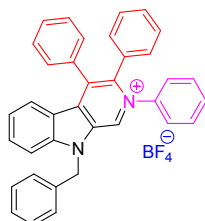
9-Ethyl-2,3,4-triphenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate **(4r)**



Green solid (149.61 mg, 93%). M.p.: 140-142 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.07 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.90–7.82 (m, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 9H), 7.26 (dd, $J = 20.0, 12.5$ Hz, 3H), 7.09 (s, 2H), 6.88 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.49 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ

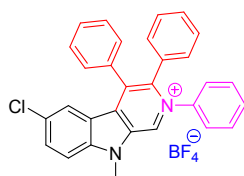
144.48, 143.23, 142.82, 134.47, 133.91, 133.51, 132.48, 131.69, 131.52, 131.49, 129.99, 129.70, 129.24, 129.04, 128.94, 127.42, 123.82, 122.00, 119.24, 111.72, 38.69, 14.25. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{31}H_{25}N_2^+ [M-BF_4]^+$: 425.2012, found 425.2014. IR (neat): $\nu = 701, 764, 1058$ (ν_{B-F}), 1269, 1336, 1387, 1456, 1494, 1631, 2364, 3423 cm^{-1} .

9-Benzyl-2,3,4-triphenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4s**)



Green solid (171.35 mg, 95%). M.p.: 143-145 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.20 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.48–7.30 (m, 15H), 7.24 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.08 (m, 3H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.11 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 144.85, 143.37, 143.23, 136.33, 134.81, 134.42, 133.64, 132.56, 131.92, 131.49, 131.47, 130.03, 129.65, 129.26, 129.08, 129.01, 128.96, 128.90, 128.01, 127.43, 127.33, 127.26, 123.81, 122.25, 119.42, 112.25. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{36}H_{27}N_2^+ [M-BF_4]^+$: 487.2169, found 487.2170. IR (neat): $\nu = 548, 701, 753, 1057$ (ν_{B-F}), 1179, 1336, 1386, 1449, 1494, 1601, 1630, 3059, 3423 cm^{-1} .

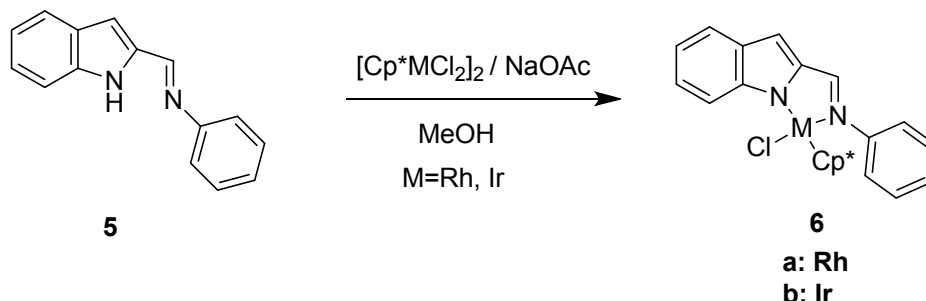
6-Chloro-9-methyl-2,3,4-triphenyl-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indol-2-ium tetrafluoroborate (**4u**)



Green solid (135.50 mg, 81%). M.p.: 147-148 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.22 – 10.02 (m, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 2H), 7.52 – 7.40 (m, 8H), 7.35 (s, 3H), 7.10 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 3H), 6.70 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 144.33, 143.55, 143.37, 135.70, 134.52, 134.12, 132.62, 131.92, 131.75, 131.70, 131.23, 130.99, 130.51, 129.57, 129.48, 129.43, 127.87, 127.72, 126.49, 122.82, 120.35, 114.25, 100.00, 31.40. HRMS (ESI): calcd

for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2^+ [\text{M-BF}_4]^+$: 445.1466, found 445.1467. IR (neat): $\nu = 550, 703, 766, 1057 (\nu_{\text{B-F}}), 1135, 1434, 1472, 1497, 1602, 1633, 3059, 3413 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Circle metallization reaction for the synthesis of 6



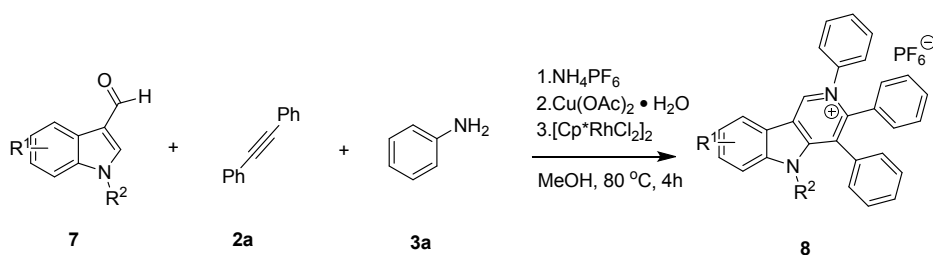
A mixture of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{MCl}_2]_2$ (0.5 equiv), **5** (1.0 equiv), and sodium acetate (2.0 equiv) in methanol (10 mL) was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The solvent was then removed under vacuum, and the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column with a mixture of petrol ether/ethyl acetate as the eluent. The products were recrystallized from CH_2Cl_2 at room temperature to afford **6** as red crystals.

6a (M=Rh): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.13–7.08 (m, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.97 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.52 (s, 15H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.78, 154.77, 147.54, 147.14, 129.30, 129.25, 127.06, 123.76, 123.39, 123.09, 115.81, 115.58, 111.15, 87.91, 9.23.

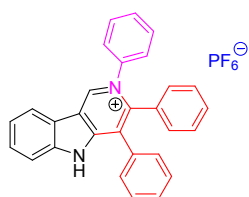
6b (M=Ir): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.18–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.94 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 15H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.85, 151.10, 146.35, 146.05, 131.09, 129.15, 127.28, 124.35, 123.48, 123.22, 118.36, 115.12, 111.01, 86.70, 9.22.

Synthesis of γ -carbolinium salts 8

General Procedure B

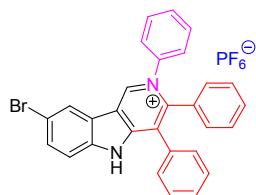


A sealed tube contained $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (0.6 mol %, 0.00206 mmol), NH_4PF_6 (0.688 mmol) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.688 mmol) was evacuate and purged with nitrogen gas three times. Then, **1a** (0.344 mmol), **2a** (0.413 mmol) and **3a** (0.688 mmol) in MeOH (5.0 mL) were added to the system via syringe under a nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction was allowed to stir at 80°C for 4 h. When the reaction was completed, the mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) and filtered through a Celite pad and the Celite pad was washed several times with CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL). The combined filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by column chromatography on neutral Al_2O_3 using DCM/MeOH (30:1) as eluent to afford the desired pure product **8**. 2,3,4-Triphenyl-5H-pyrido[4,3-b]indol-2-ium hexafluorophosphate (**8a**)



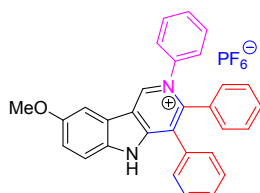
Green solid (177 mg, 95%). M.p.: 216-218 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.79 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 6.98 (m, 17H), 6.59 (d, $J = 53.4$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 154.32, 152.81, 144.36, 143.66, 137.01, 134.06, 133.31, 131.79, 129.63, 129.44, 128.89, 128.80, 128.36, 127.82, 127.69, 124.52, 123.27, 121.96, 121.49, 121.28, 118.69. ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO) δ -143.03 (sep, $J_{\text{F-P}} = 711.18$ Hz; PF_6). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO) δ -70.14 (d, $J_{\text{F-P}} = 711.26$ Hz; PF_6). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2^+ [\text{M-PF}_6]^+$: 397.1699, found 397.1696. IR (neat): $\nu = 557, 698, 760, 790, 841, 1030, 1113, 1230, 1357, 1397, 1436, 1489, 1595, 1635, 3059, 3421 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

8-Bromo-2,3,4-triphenyl-5H-pyrido[4,3-b]indol-2-ium hexafluorophosphate (**8b**)



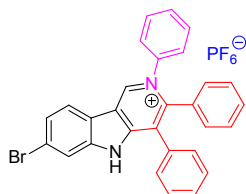
Green solid (156 mg, 73%). M.p.: 174-176 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.75 (s, 1H), 8.62 (s, 1H), 7.70–6.87 (m, 18H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 153.85, 151.37, 143.81, 143.21, 137.17, 133.93, 132.85, 131.38, 130.31, 130.03, 129.09, 128.94, 128.31, 128.16, 127.78, 127.39, 127.23, 125.01, 124.48, 124.04, 120.05, 119.64, 112.62. ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO) δ -143.11 (sep, $J_{\text{F-P}} = 711.34$ Hz; PF_6). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrN}_2^+ [\text{M-PF}_6]^+$: 475.0804, found 475.0805. IR (neat): $\nu = 556, 698, 760, 842, 1224, 1303, 1445, 1488, 1590, 1637, 3060, 3420$ cm^{-1} .

8-Methoxy-2,3,4-triphenyl-5H-pyrido[4,3-b]indol-2-ium hexafluorophosphate (**8c**)



Green solid (126 mg, 64%). M.p.: 182-184 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.73 (s, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.72 – 6.91 (m, 17H), 6.60 (d, $J = 51.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 154.91, 153.97, 147.42, 143.71, 143.47, 137.10, 134.18, 133.36, 131.81, 130.63, 129.52, 129.42, 128.84, 128.71, 128.29, 127.77, 127.66, 124.51, 123.85, 121.37, 119.29, 117.45, 104.04, 55.93. ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO) δ -142.93 (sep, $J_{\text{F-P}} = 711.50$ Hz; PF_6). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+ [\text{M-PF}_6]^+$: 427.1804, found 427.1802. IR (neat): $\nu = 558, 698, 754, 841, 1028, 1153, 1217, 1261, 1298, 1387, 1436, 1491, 1592, 1635, 2957, 3059, 3421$ cm^{-1} .

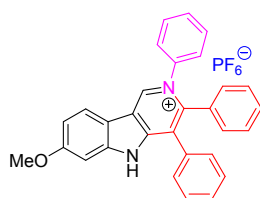
7-Bromo-2,3,4-triphenyl-5H-pyrido[4,3-b]indol-2-ium hexafluorophosphate (**8d**)



Green solid (118 mg, 55%). M.p.: 174-176 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.74 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.48–7.19 (m,

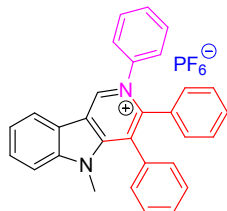
12H), 7.07–7.03 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 159.34, 154.95, 143.54, 142.01, 135.46, 135.32, 133.54, 131.70, 130.92, 128.83, 128.72, 128.02, 127.50, 127.20, 126.89, 124.58, 123.17, 122.83, 121.98, 121.00, 120.50, 119.98. ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO) δ -143.11 (sep, $J_{\text{F-P}} = 711.83$ Hz; PF_6^-). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrN}_2^+ [\text{M-PF}_6]^+$: 475.0804, found 475.0803. IR (neat): ν =556, 697, 760, 801, 843, 902, 1047, 1075, 1123, 1168, 1214, 1244, 1296, 1331, 1355, 1401, 1429, 1490, 1519, 1588, 1636, 2851, 2921, 3058, 3419 cm^{-1} .

7-Methoxy-2,3,4-triphenyl-5H-pyrido[4,3-b]indol-2-ium hexafluorophosphate (8e)



Green solid (134 mg, 68%). M.p.: 162-164 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.62 (s, 1H), 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.70 – 6.53 (m, 19H), 3.85 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 159.80, 154.33, 143.27, 134.76, 133.87, 132.95, 131.34, 130.33, 129.01, 128.91, 128.37, 128.18, 127.81, 127.32, 127.16, 123.53, 122.19, 121.10, 116.10, 110.70, 100.76, 55.36. ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO) δ -143.05 (sep, $J_{\text{F-P}} = 711.83$ Hz; PF_6^-). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+ [\text{M-PF}_6]^+$: 427.1805, found 427.1803. IR (neat): ν = 699, 843, 1115, 1153, 1434, 1458, 1615, 3423 cm^{-1} .

5-Methyl-2,3,4-triphenyl-5H-pyrido[4,3-b]indol-2-ium hexafluorophosphate (8f)



Green solid (176 mg, 92%). M.p.: M.p.: 223-225 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.28 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 5H), 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.26 (dd, $J = 6.4, 2.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 – 7.03 (m, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz,

DMSO) δ 149.27, 144.70, 143.92, 143.16, 139.16, 132.86, 132.12, 131.54, 131.45, 130.38, 130.24, 129.55, 129.39, 129.29, 128.56, 127.96, 127.70, 124.19, 123.24, 122.63, 120.50, 119.92, 112.33, 32.67. IR (neat): ν = 699, 843, 1115, 1153, 1434, 1458, 1615, 3423 cm^{-1} . ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO) δ -143.08 (sep, $J_{\text{F-P}}$ = 711.02 Hz; PF_6). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2^+$ $[\text{M-PF}_6]^+$: 411.1856, found 411.1851. IR (neat): ν = 557, 700, 765, 789, 840, 1082, 1139, 1246, 1367, 1414, 1451, 1495, 1560, 1599, 1637, 3057, 3419 cm^{-1} .

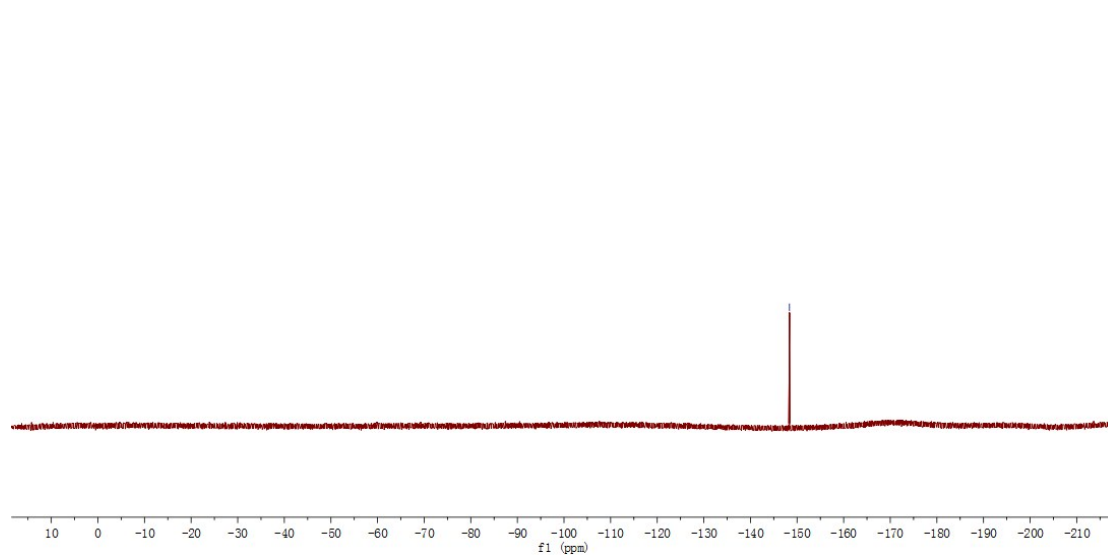
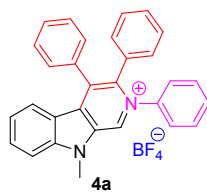
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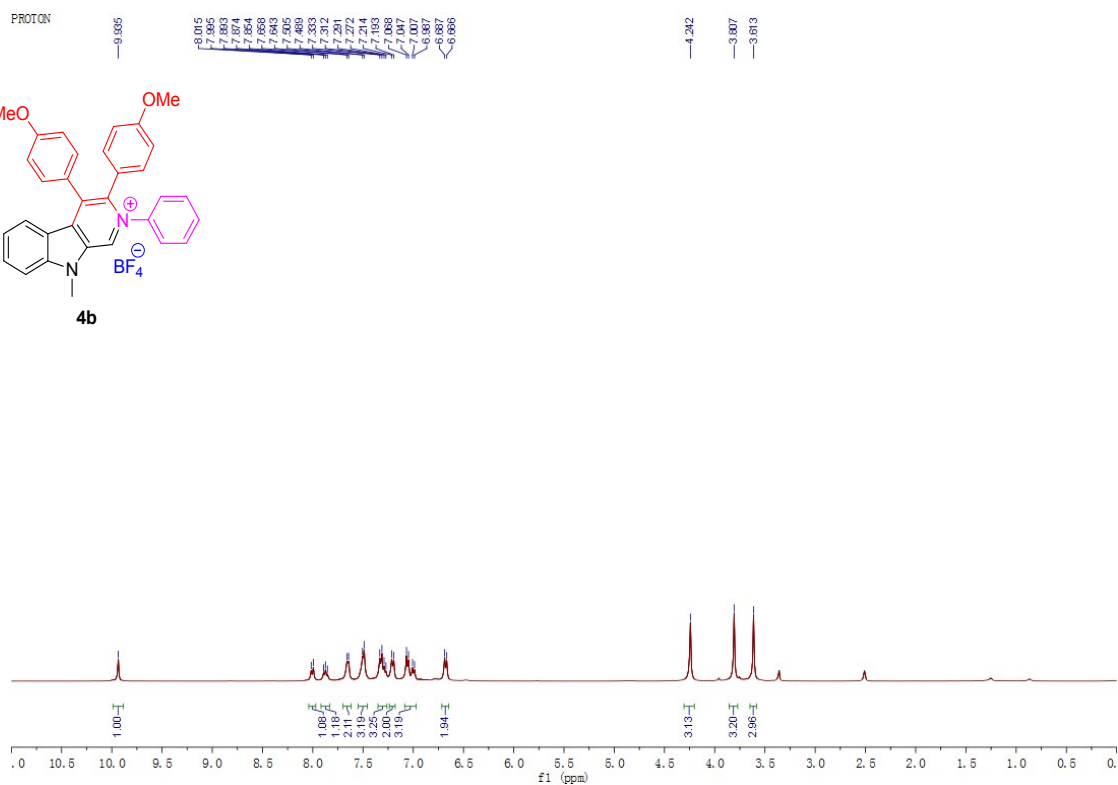
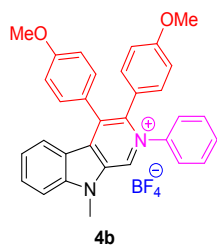
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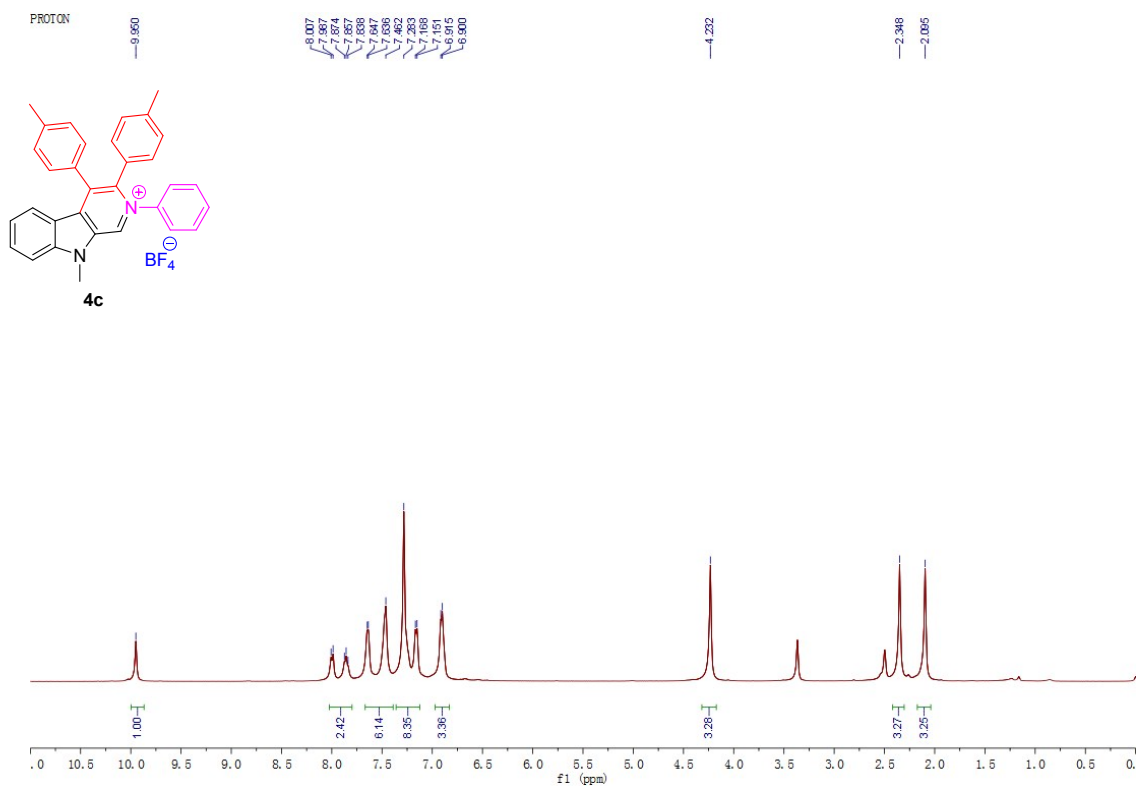
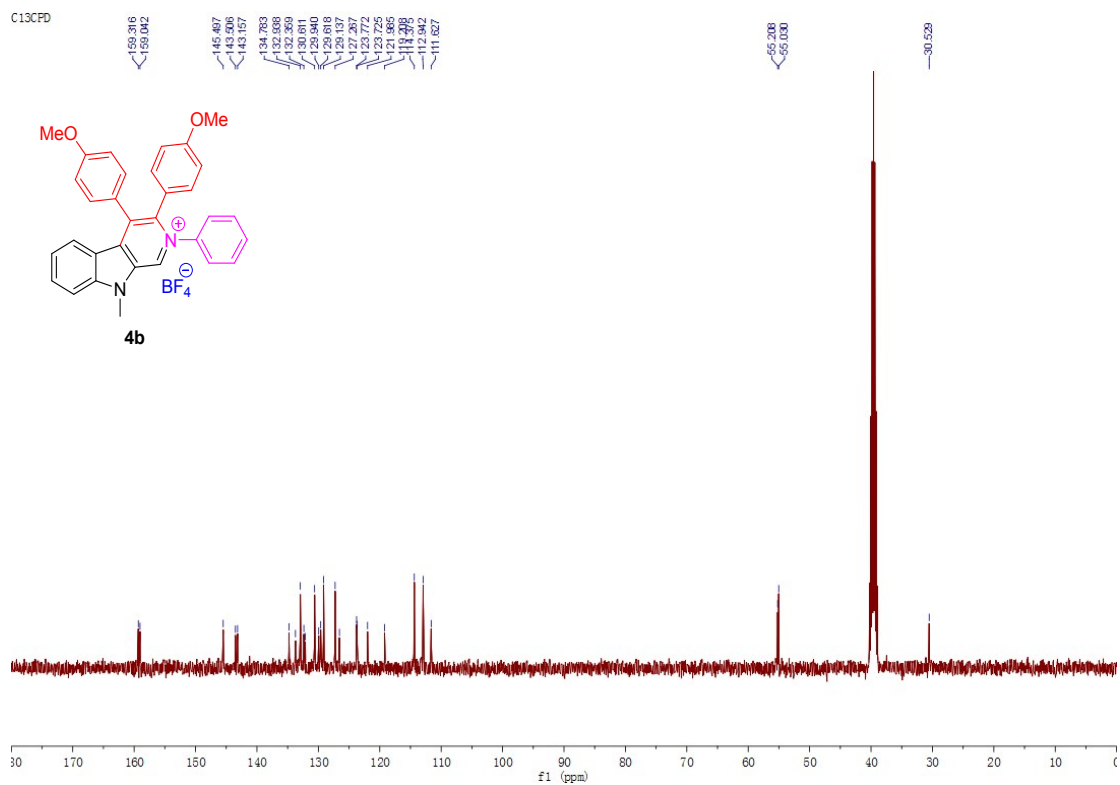
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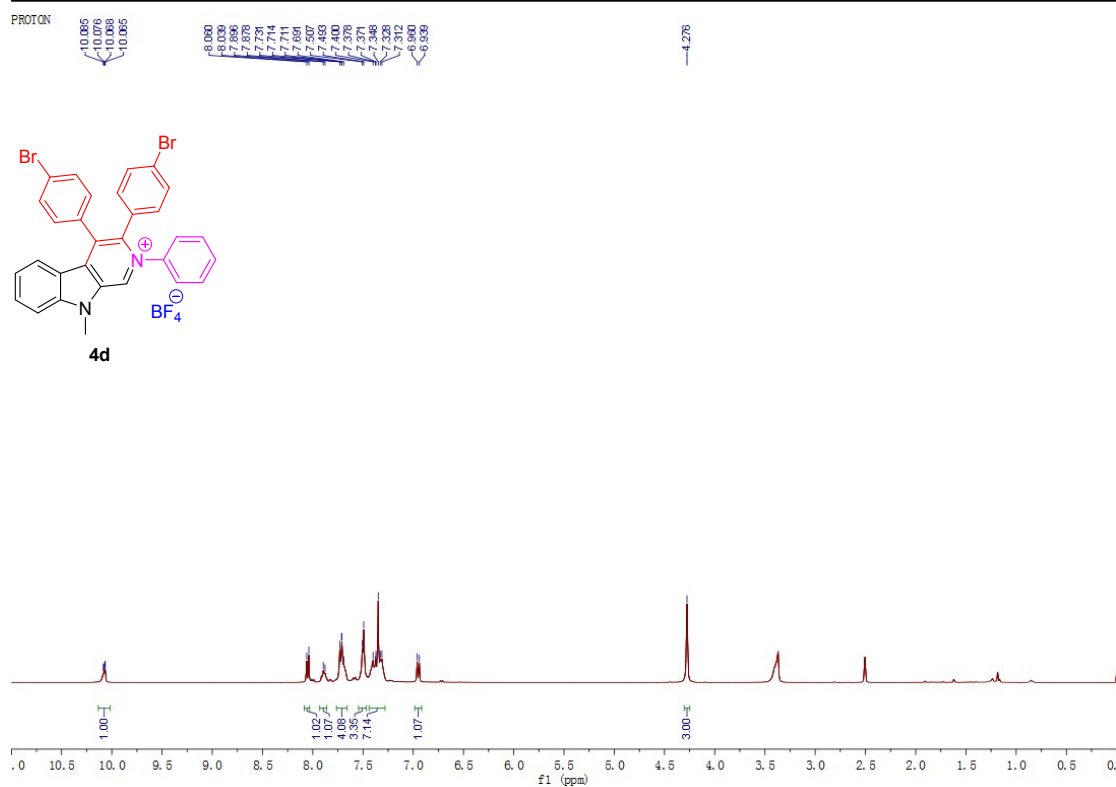
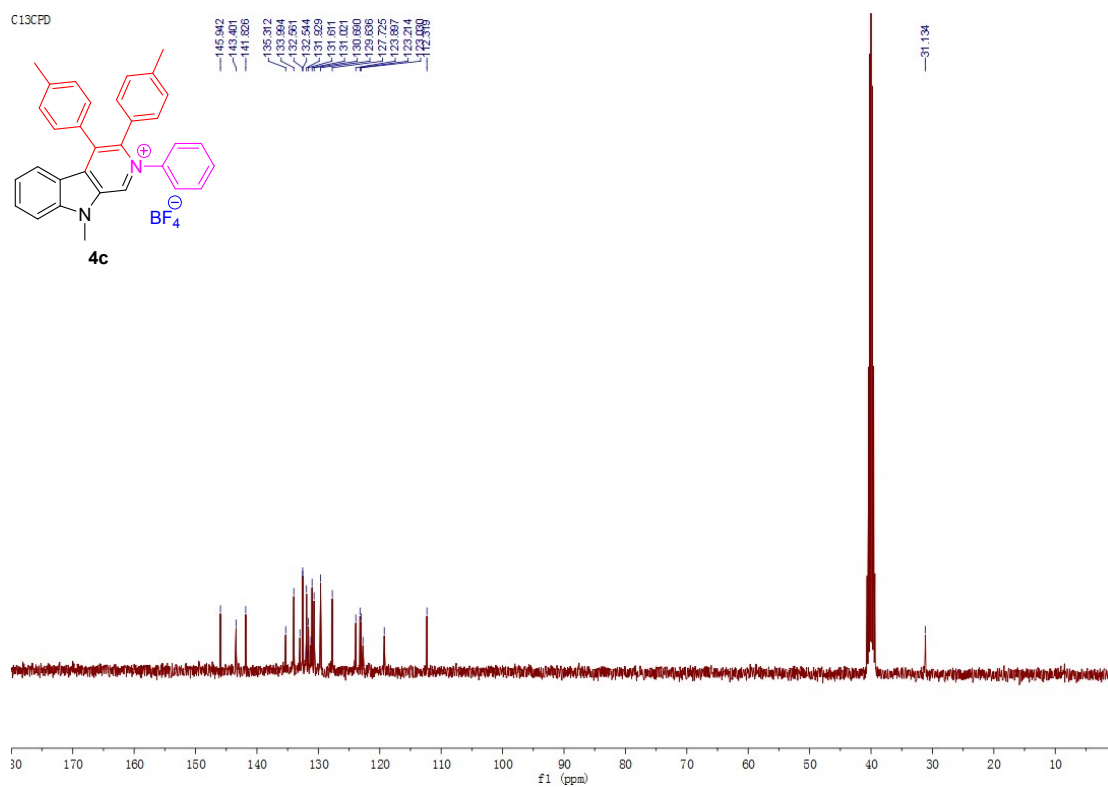
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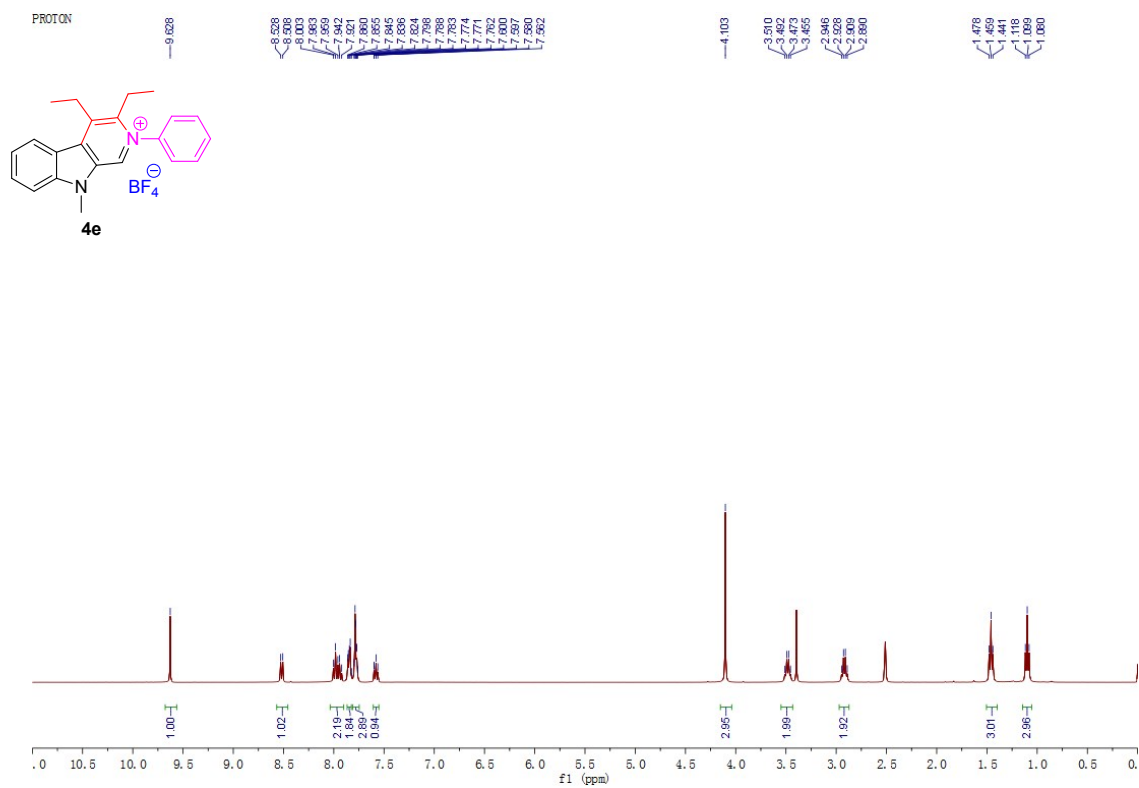


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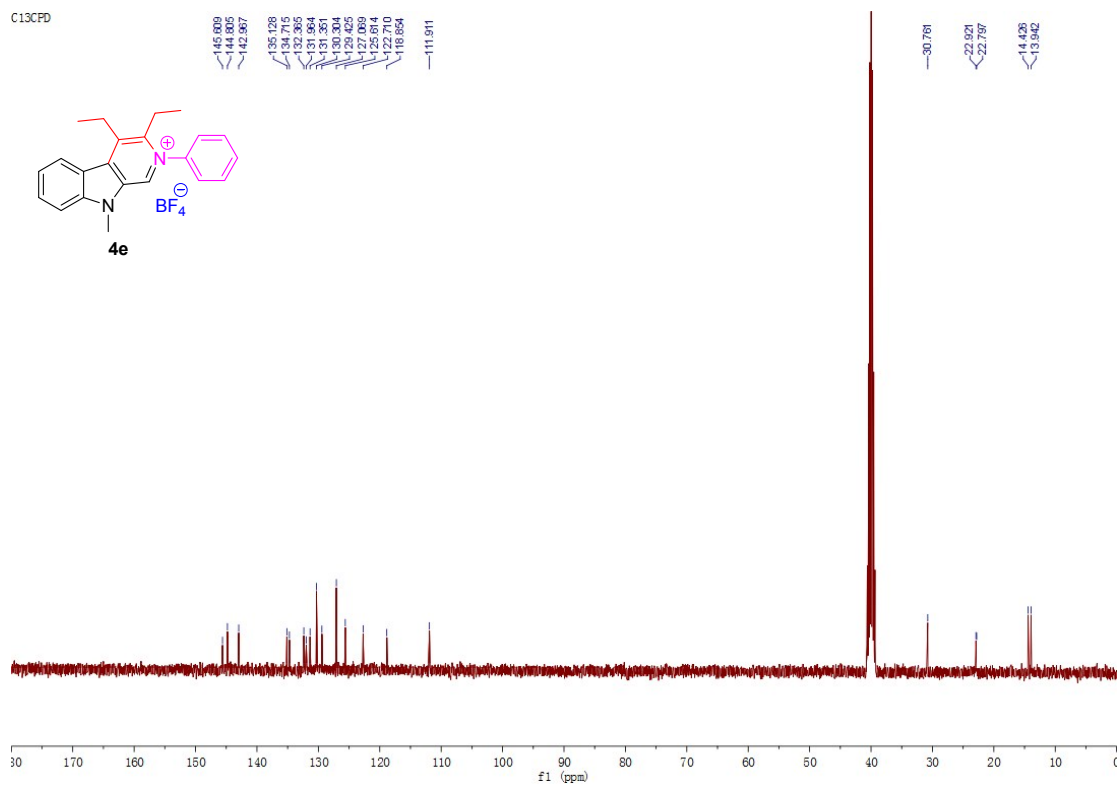




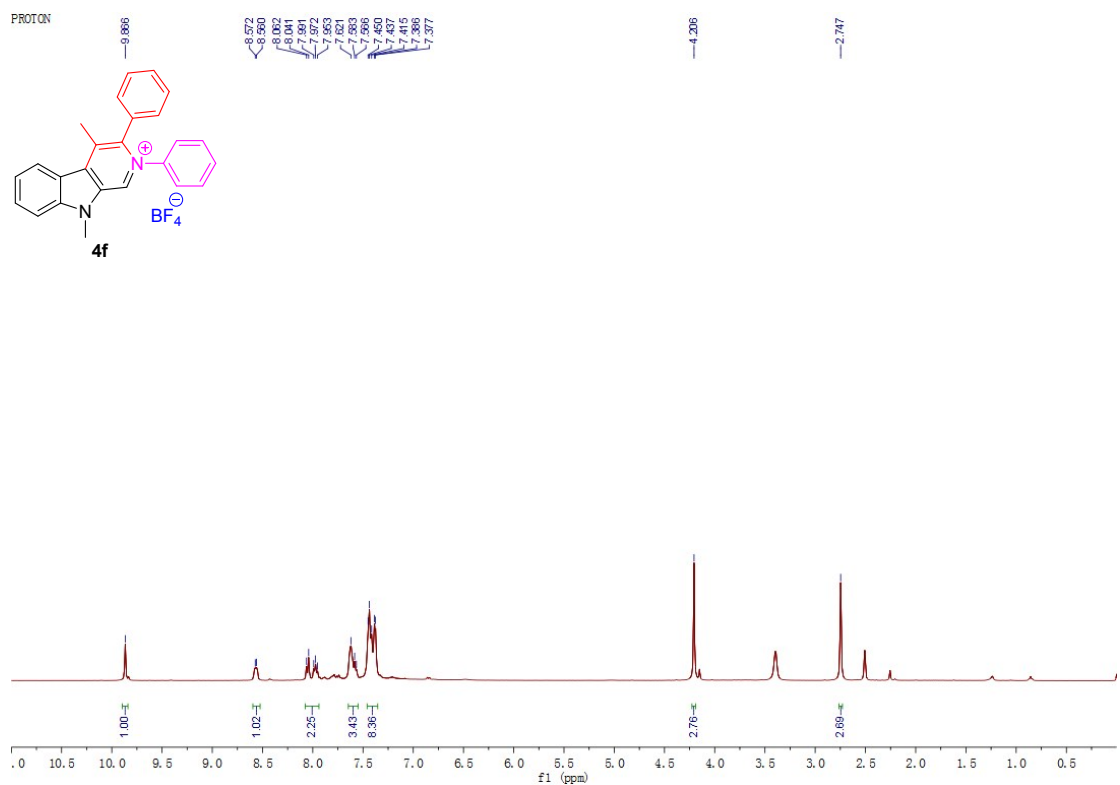




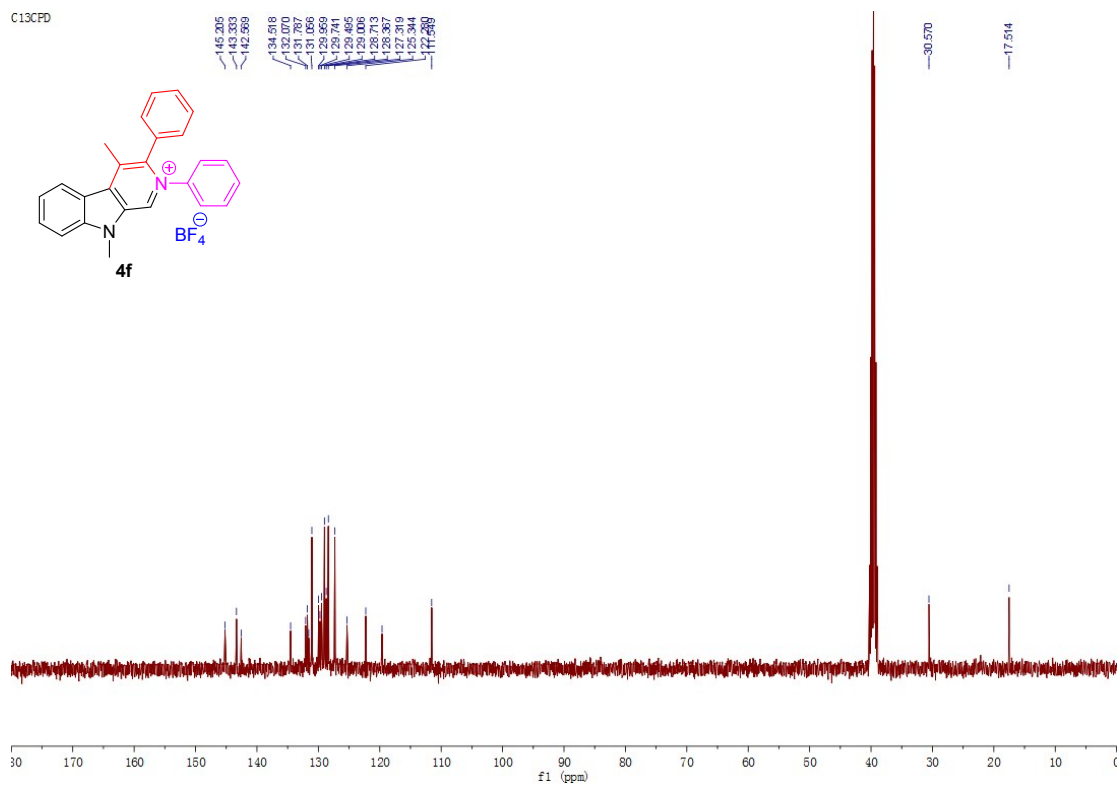
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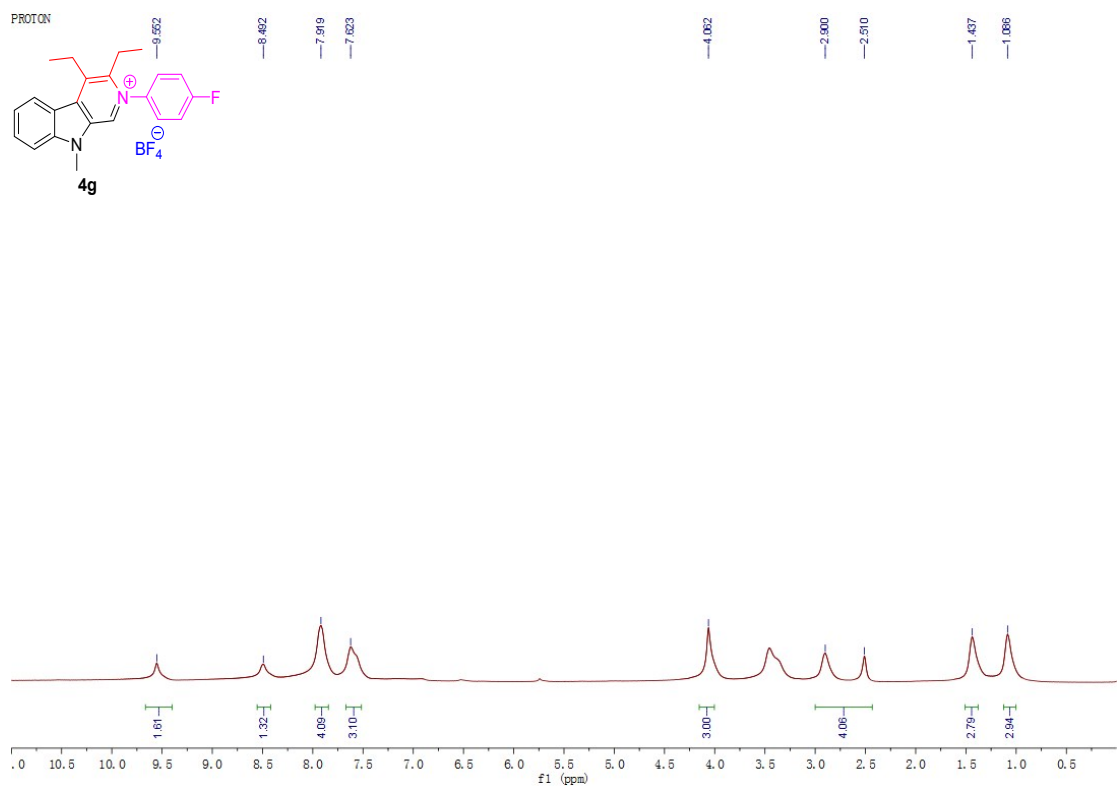
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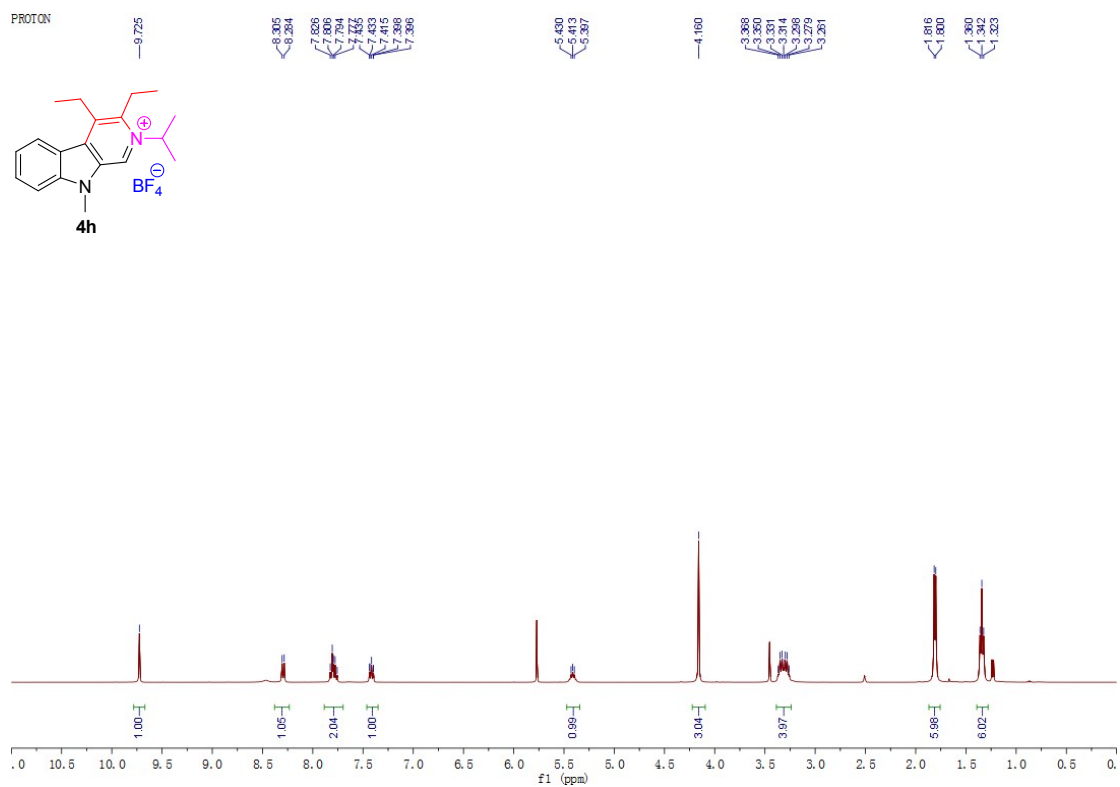
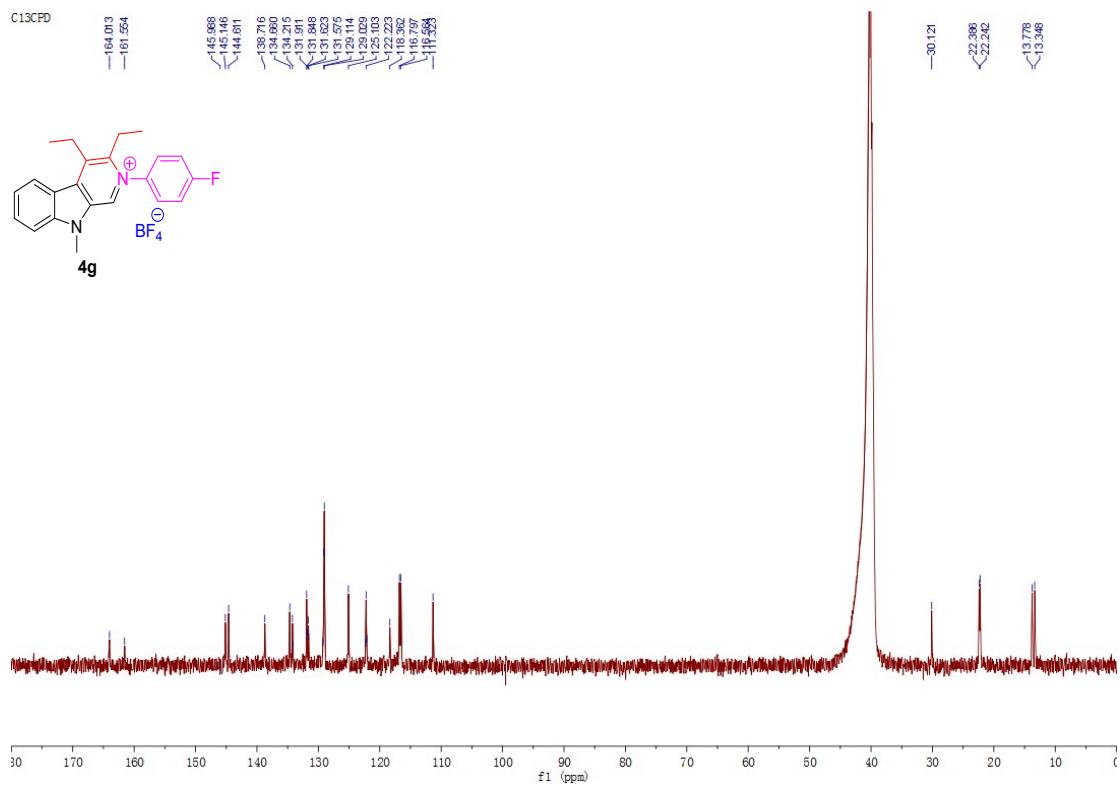


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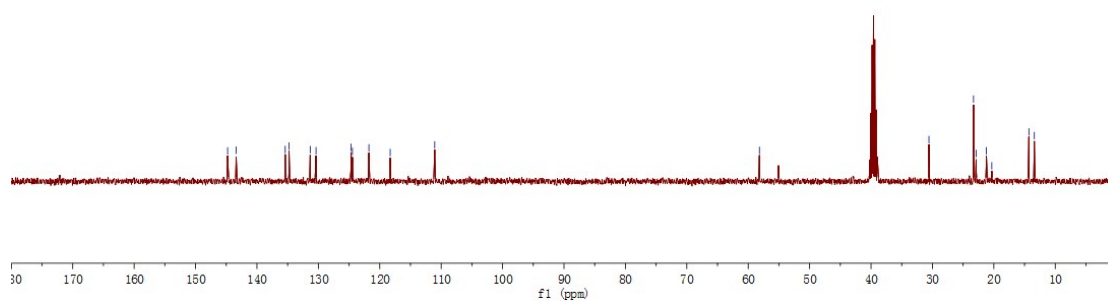
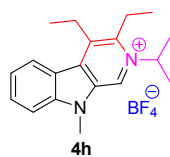
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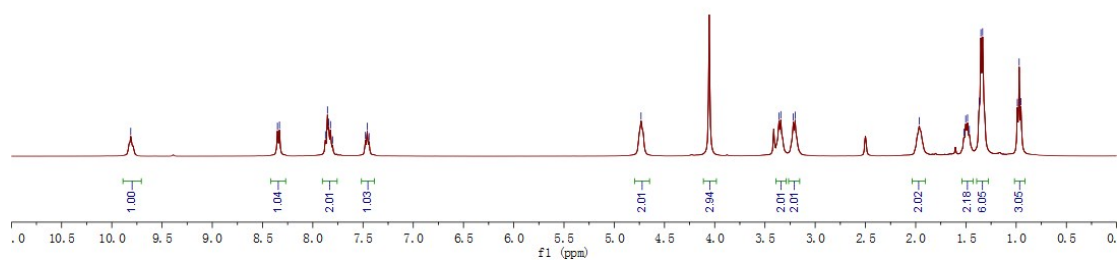
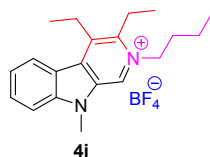
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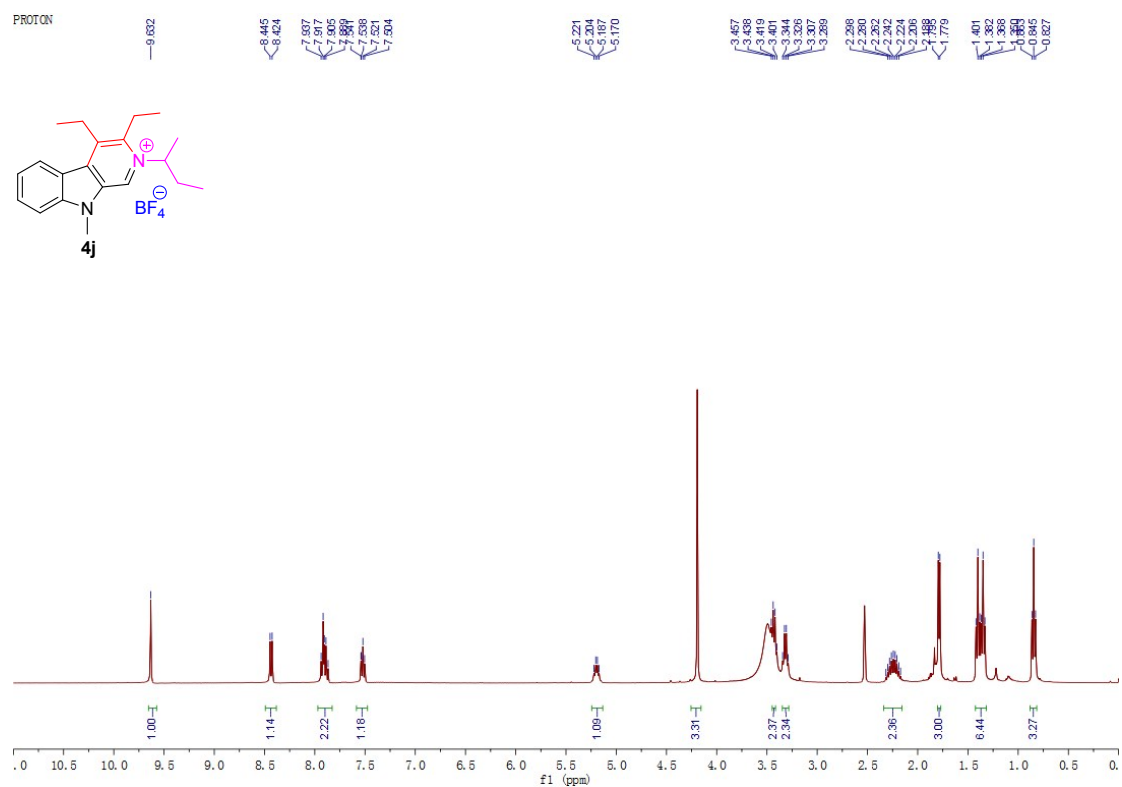
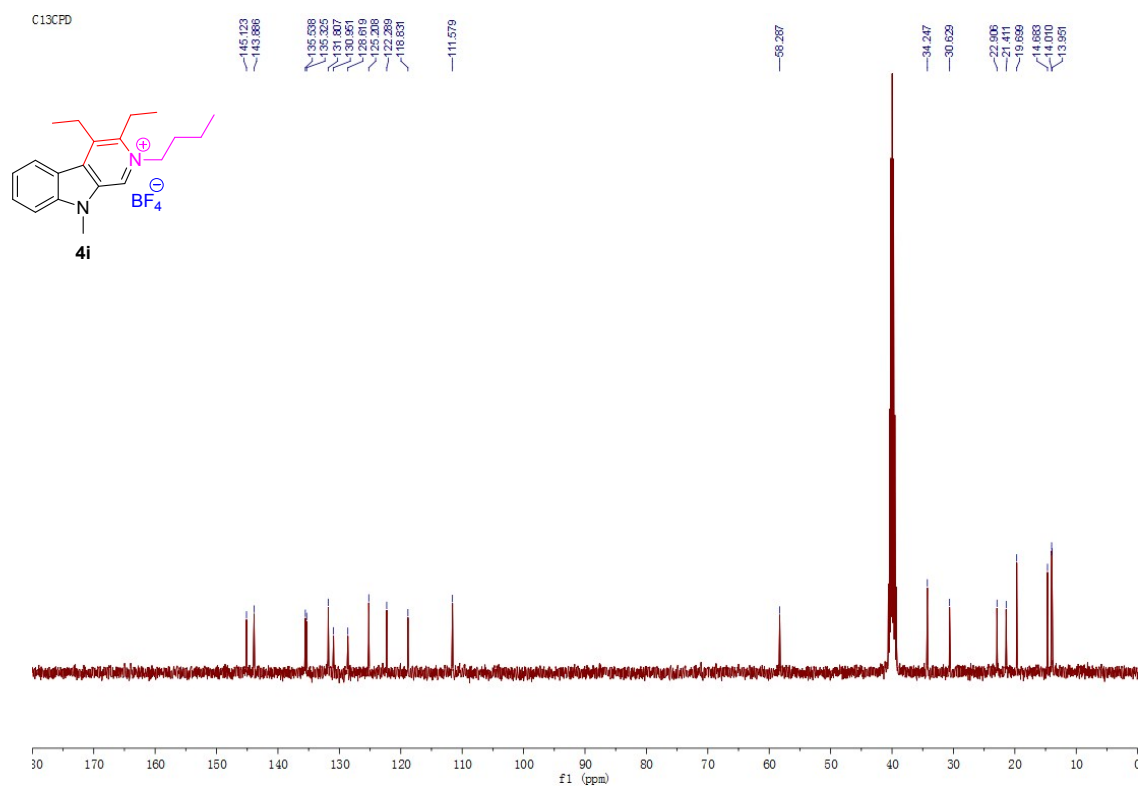
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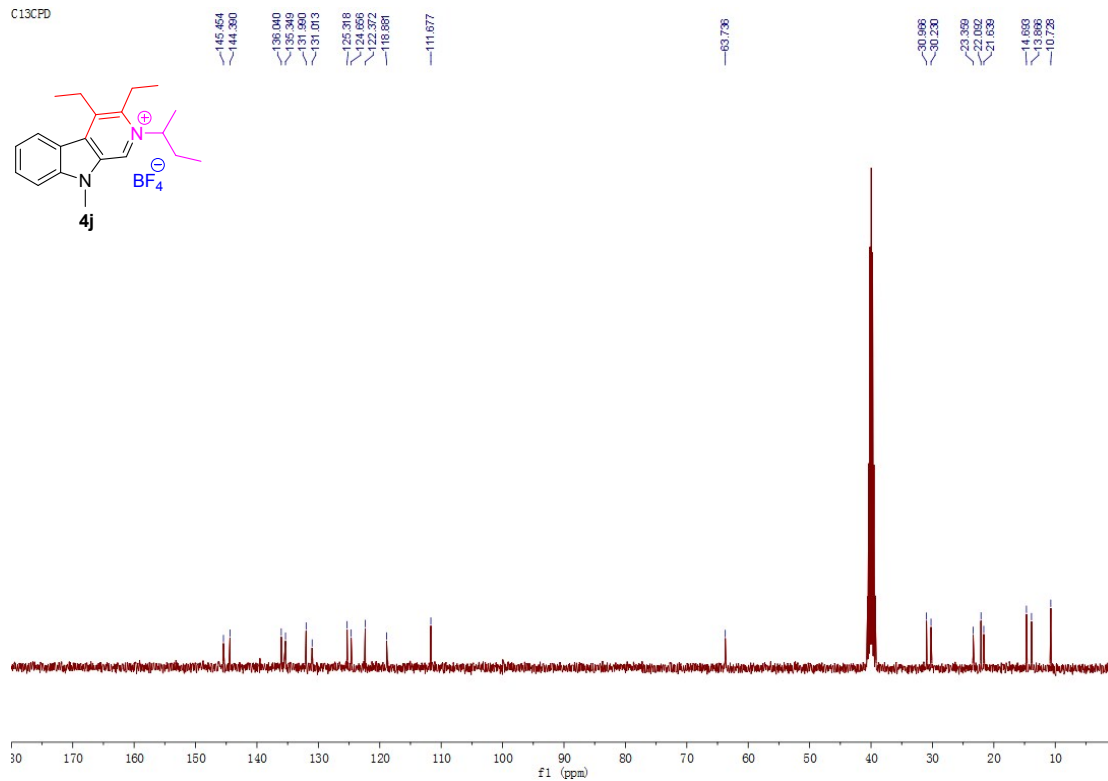
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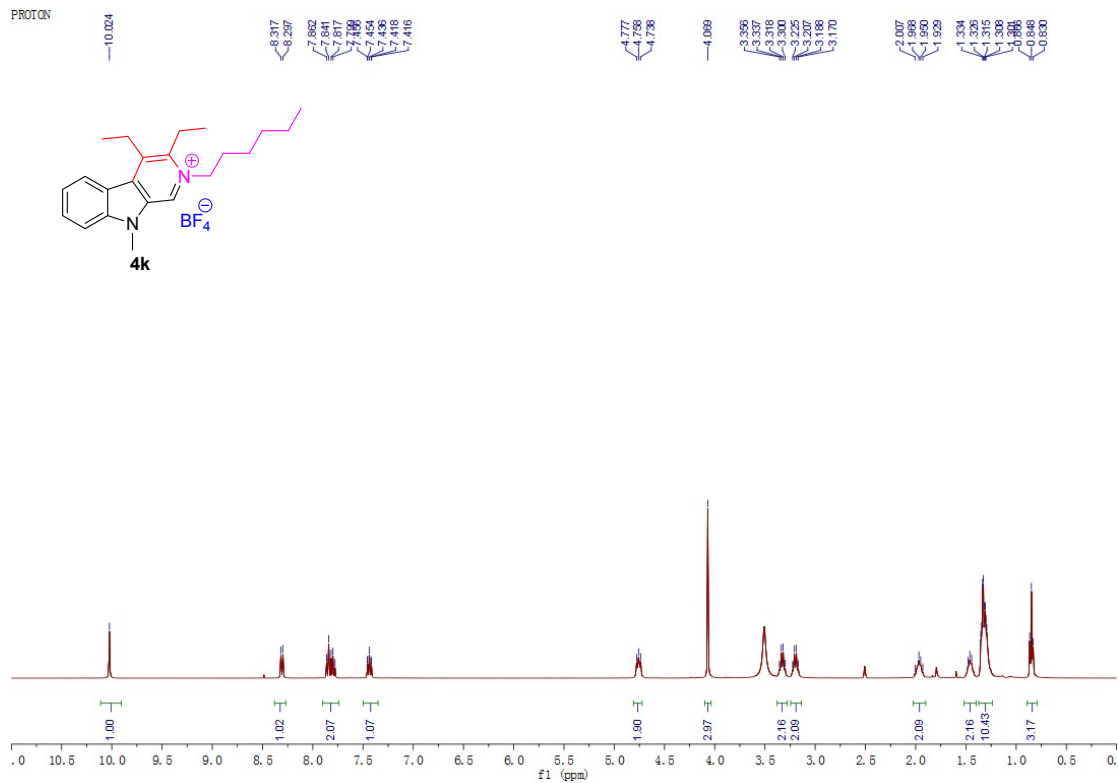




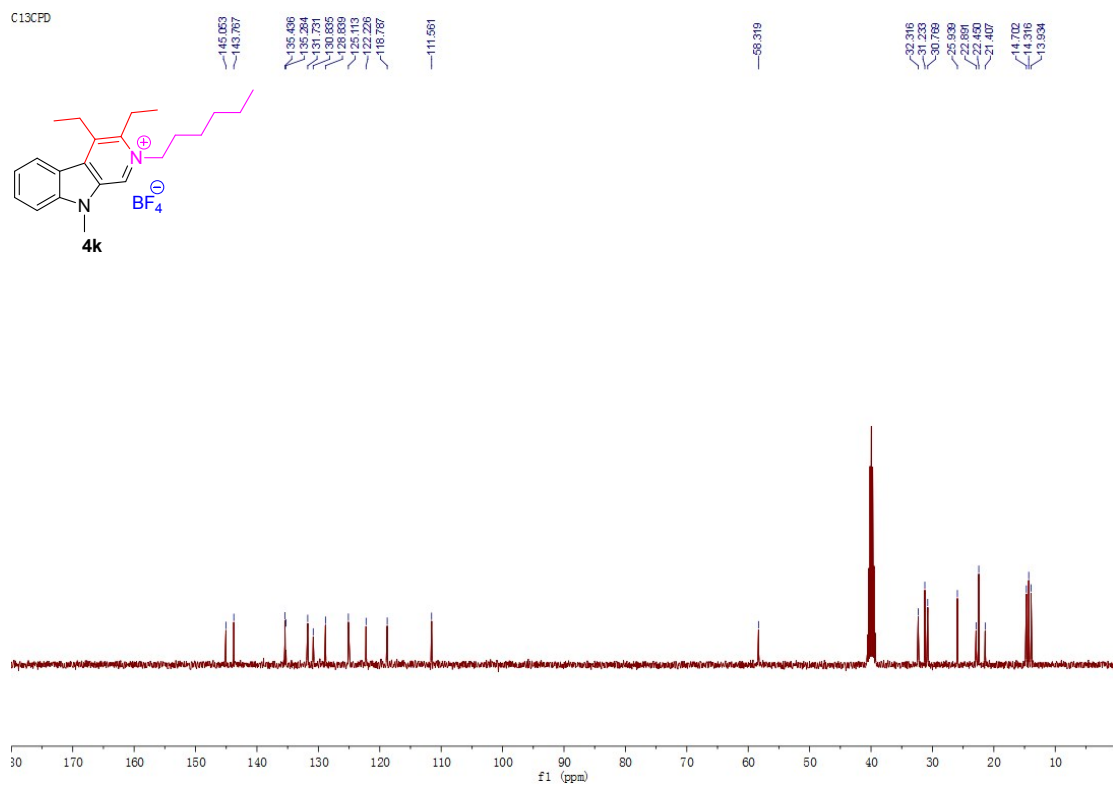
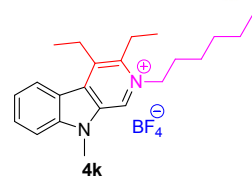
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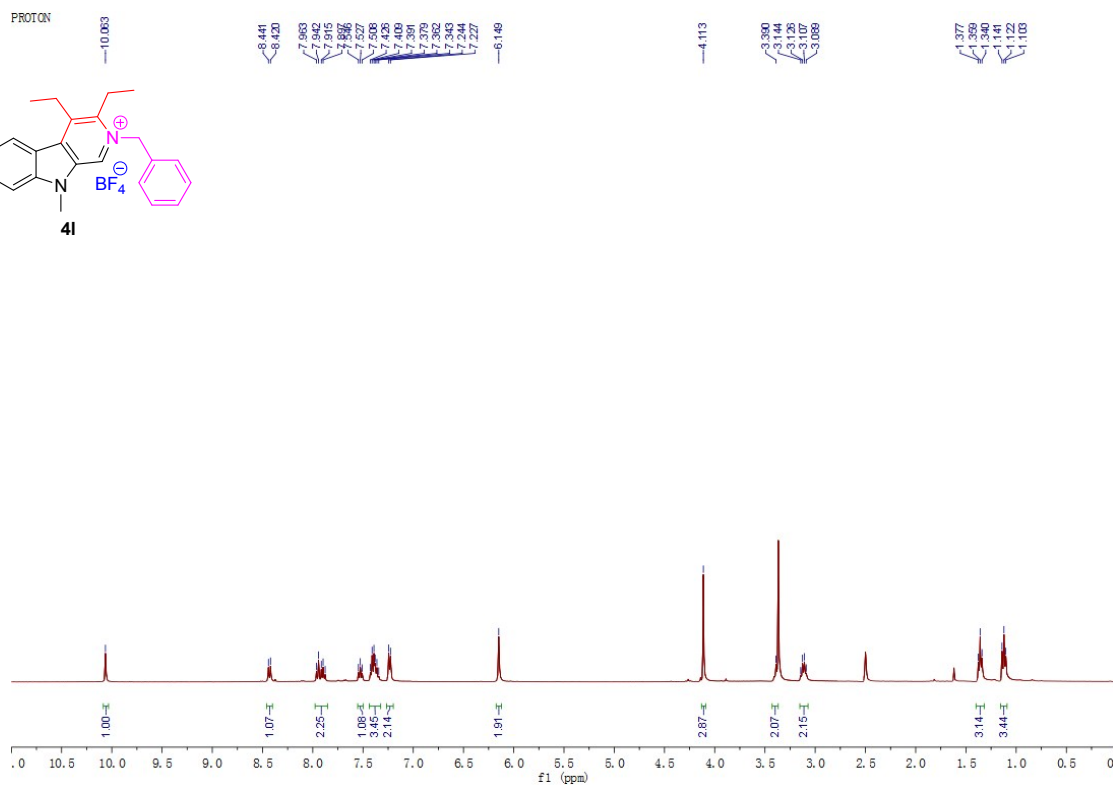
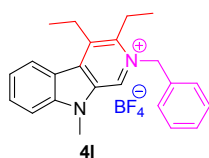
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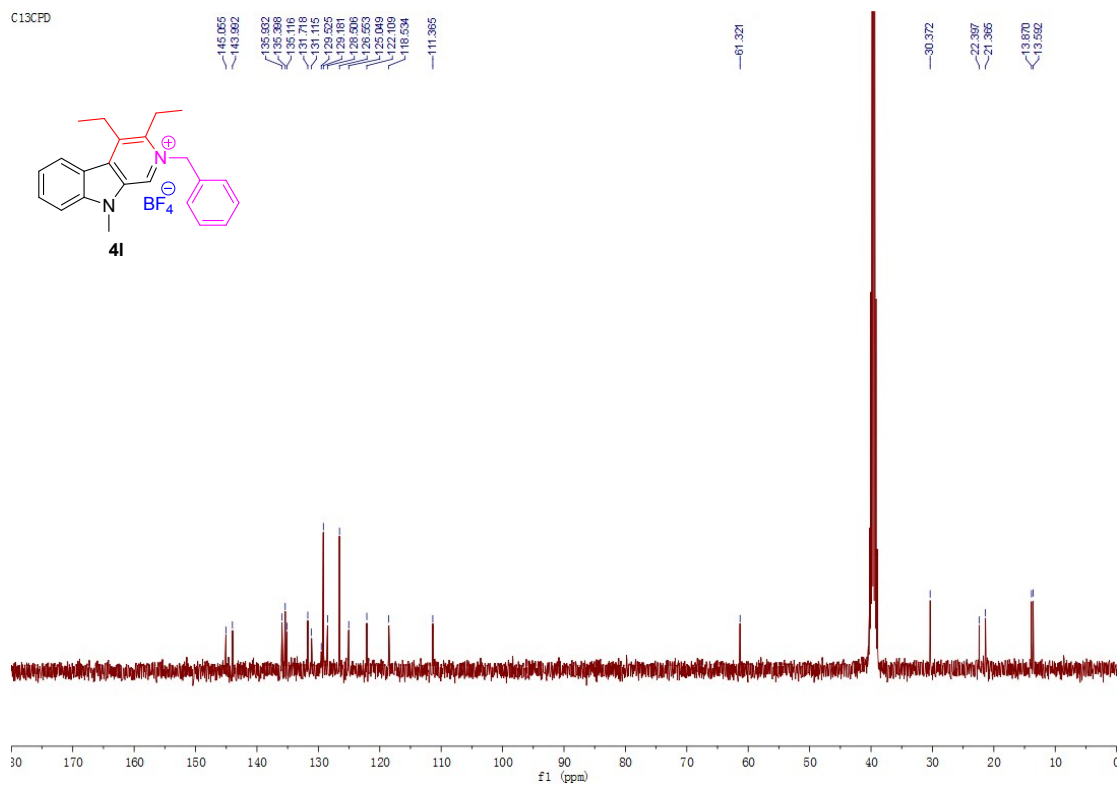
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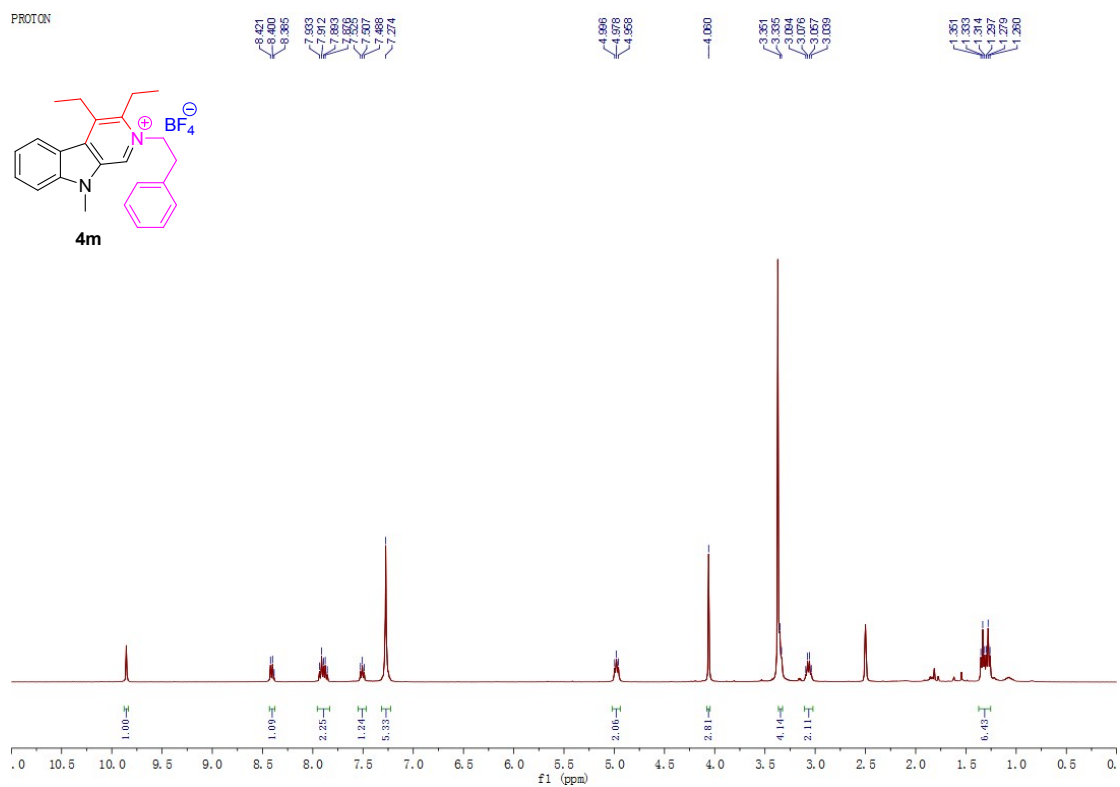
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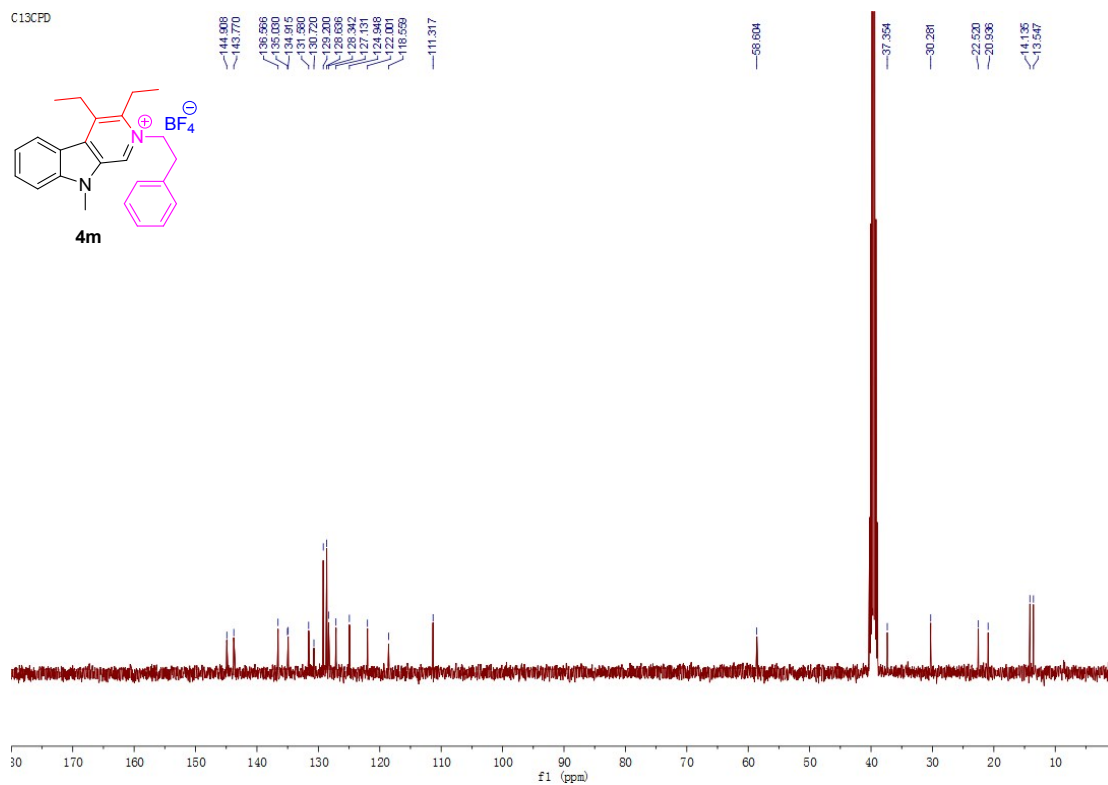
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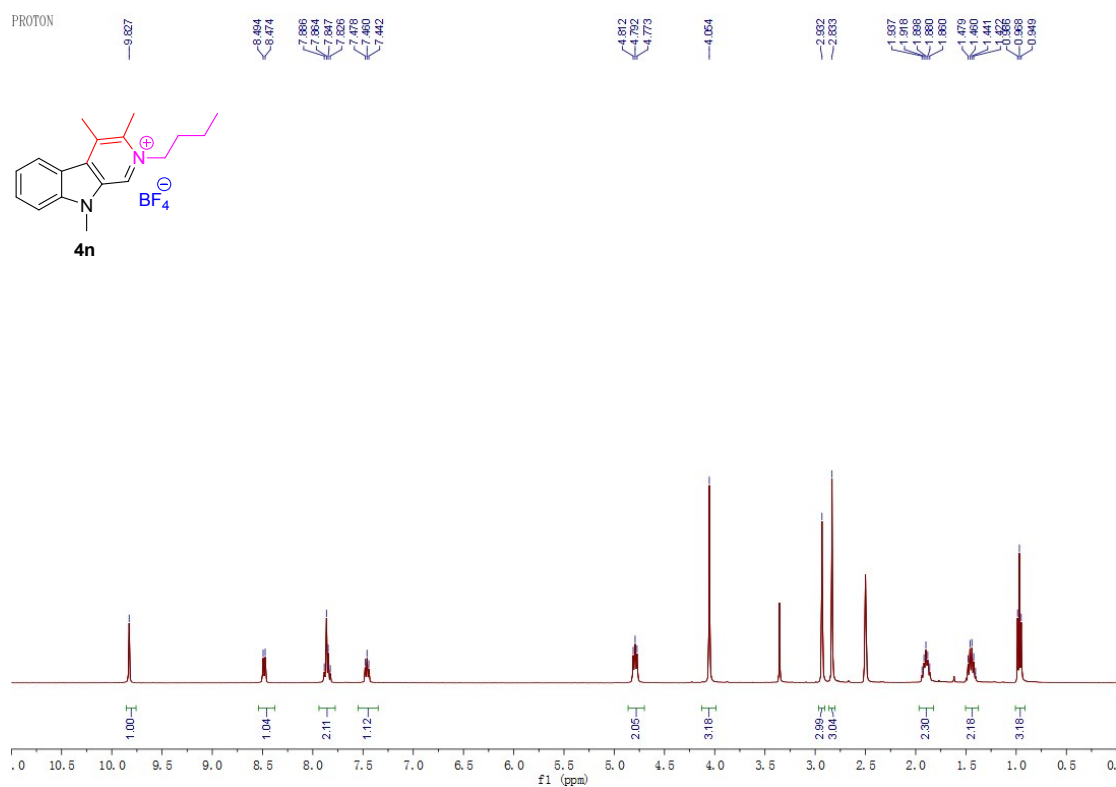
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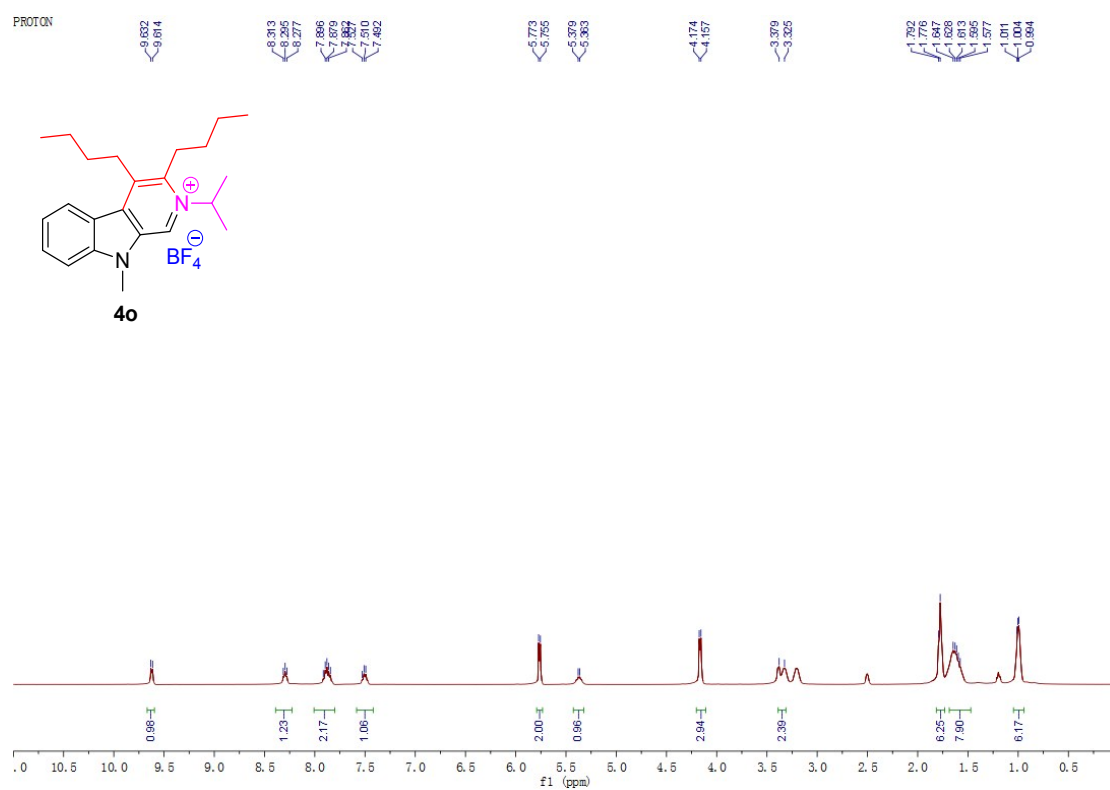
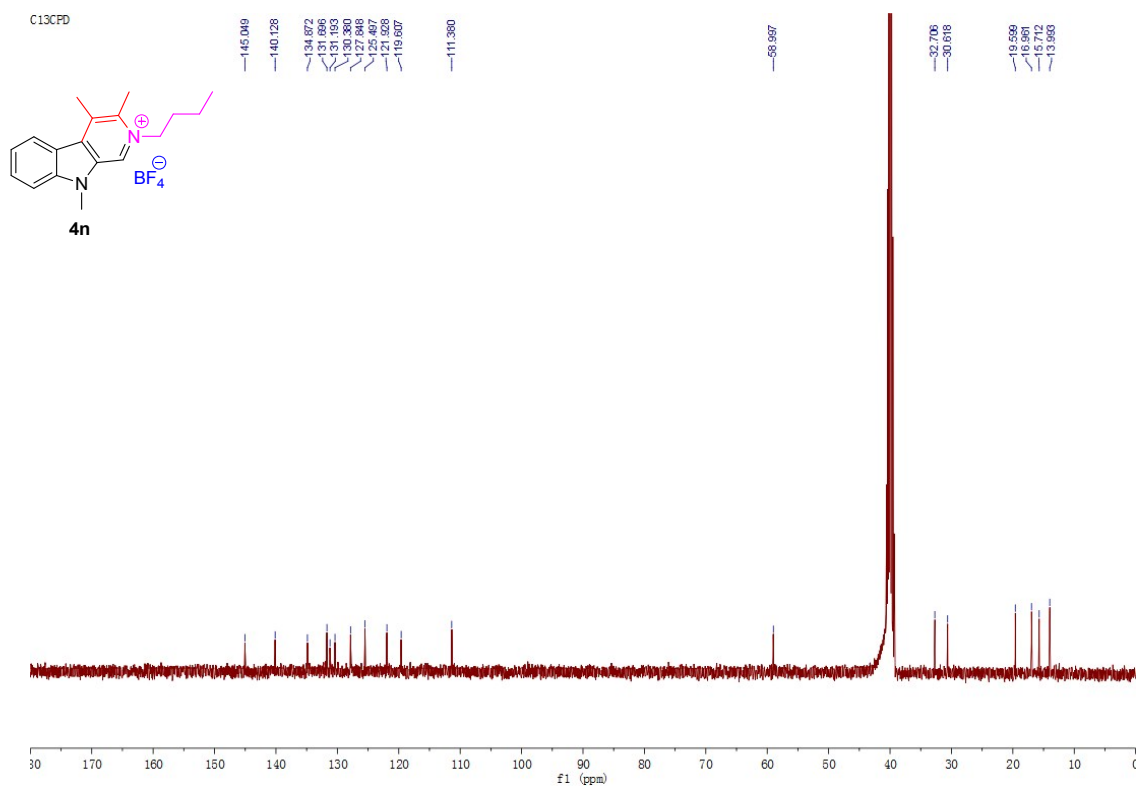


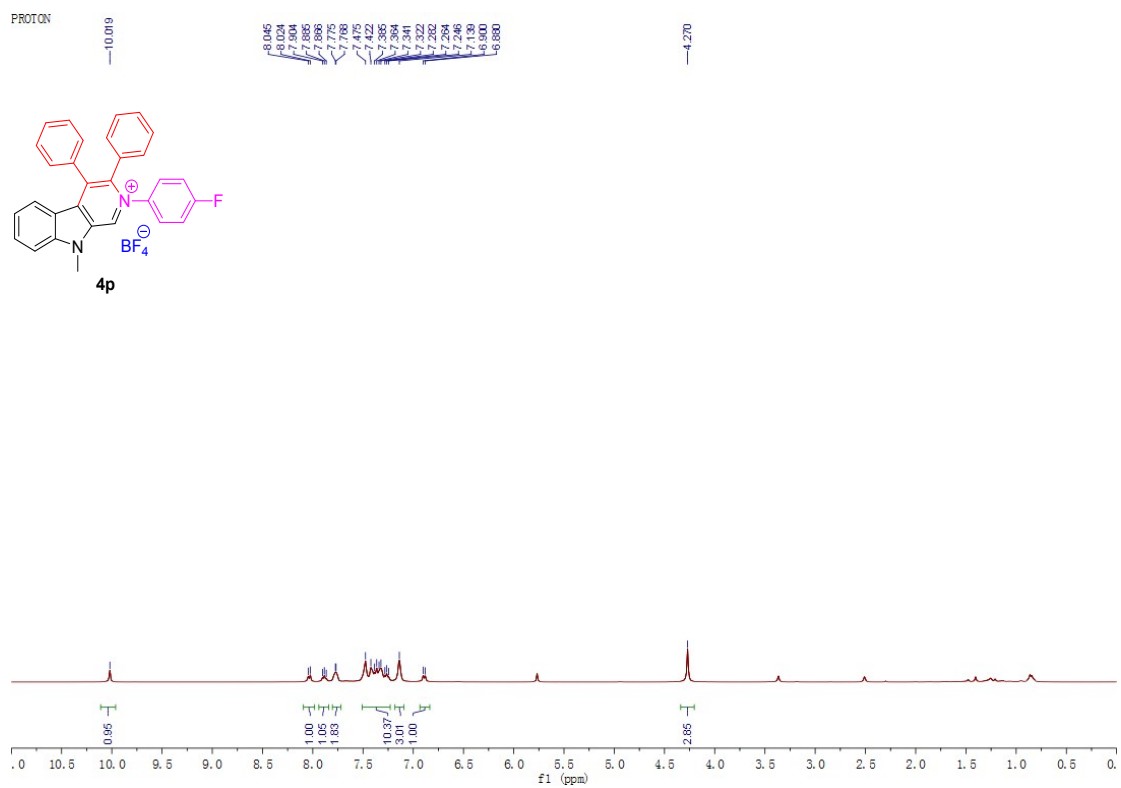
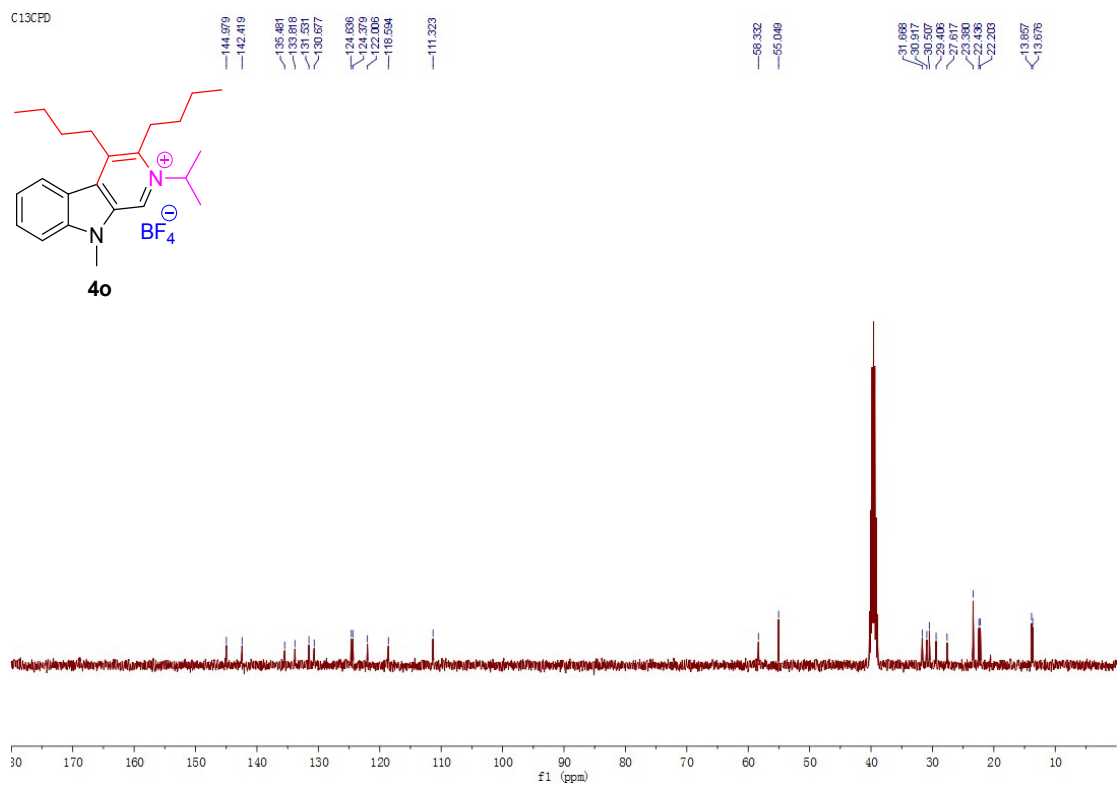
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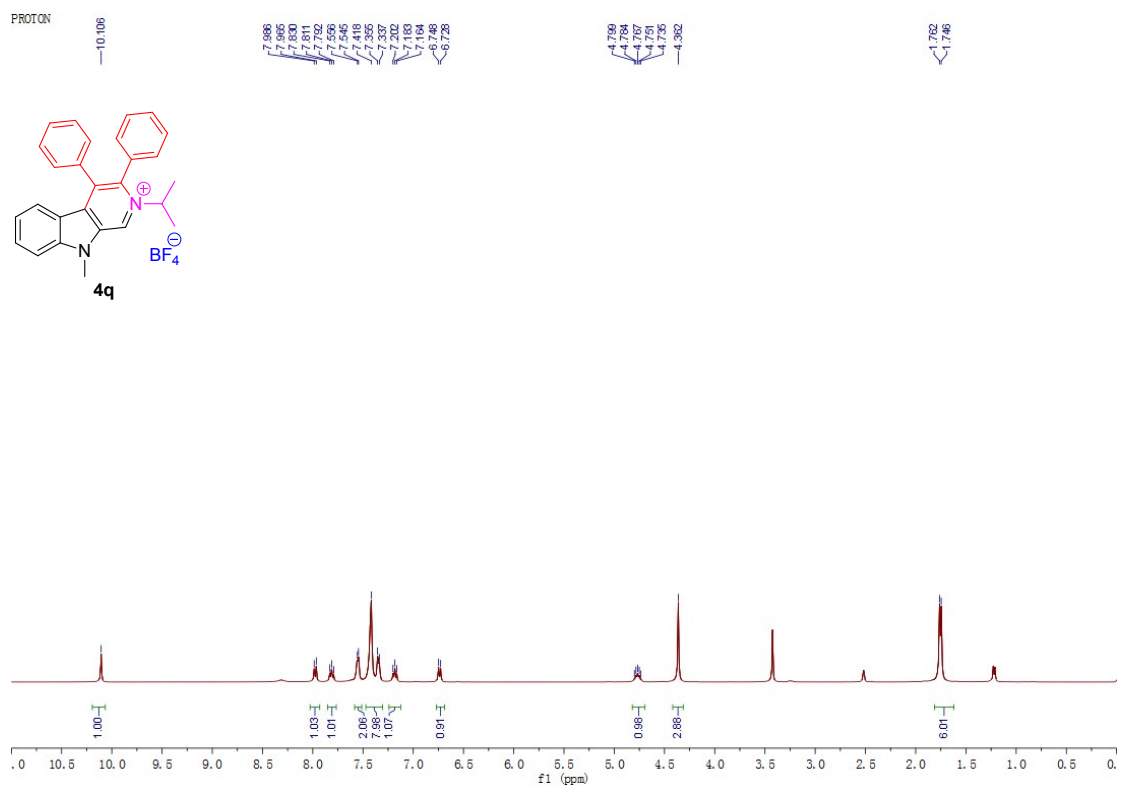
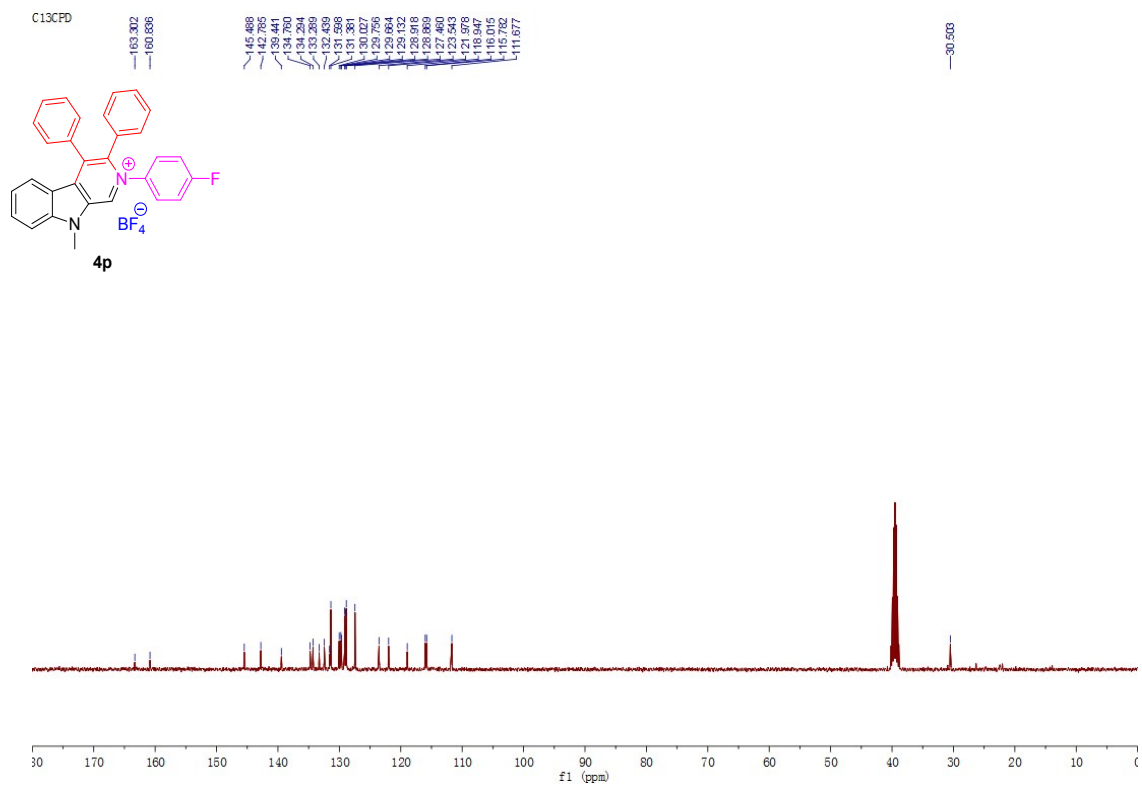


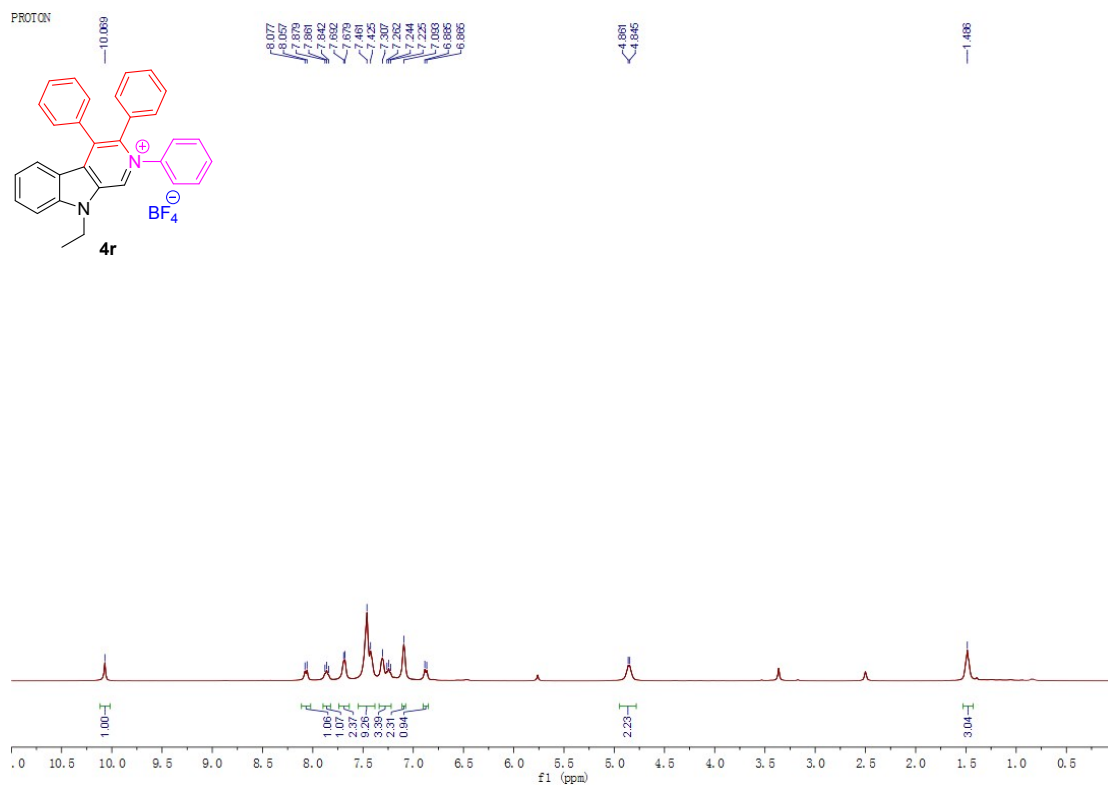
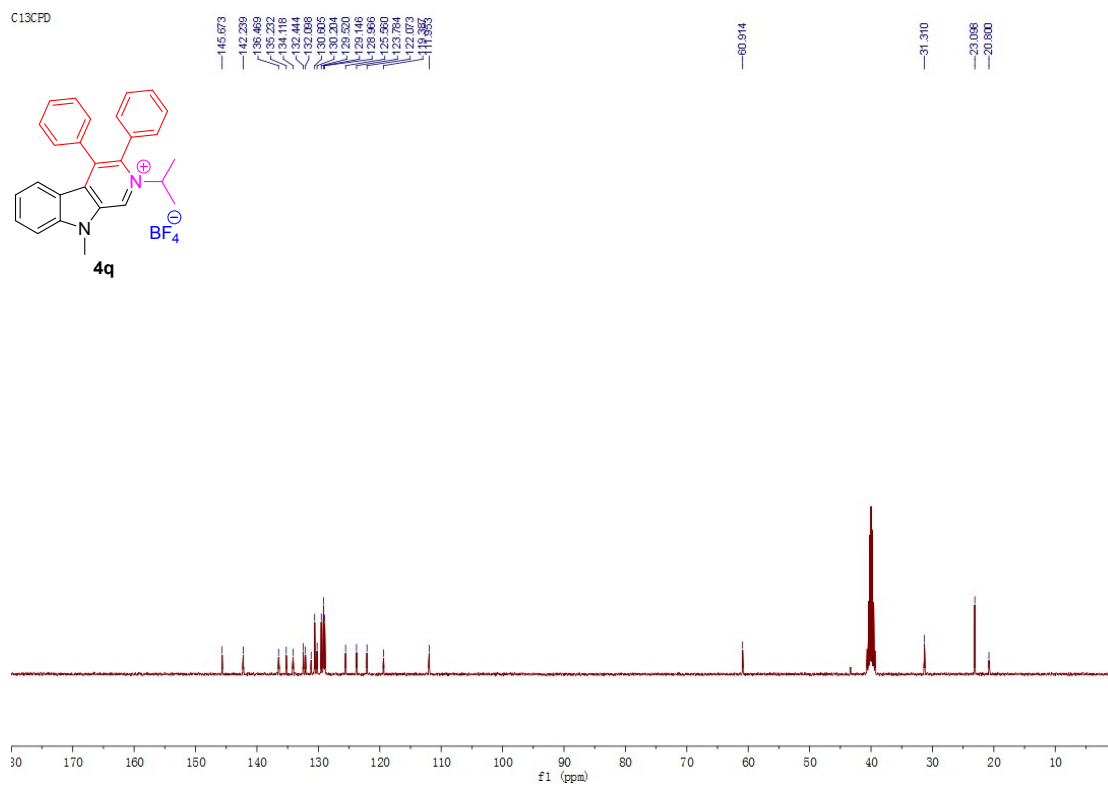
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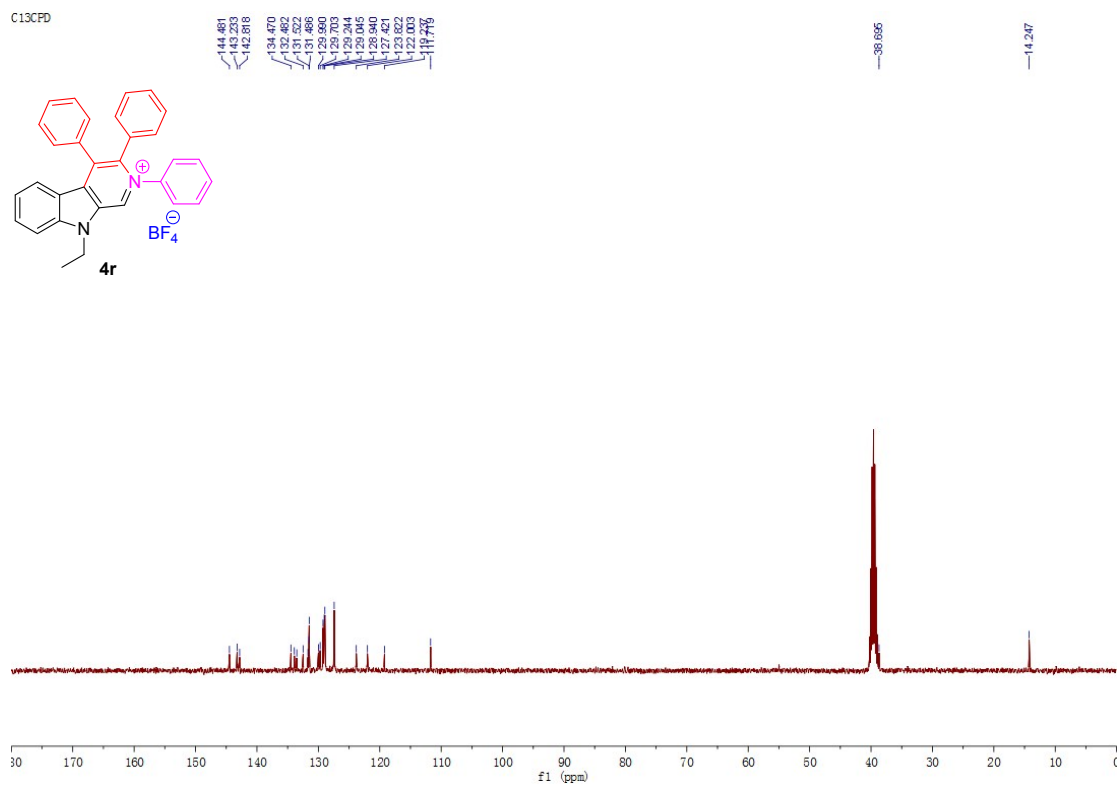




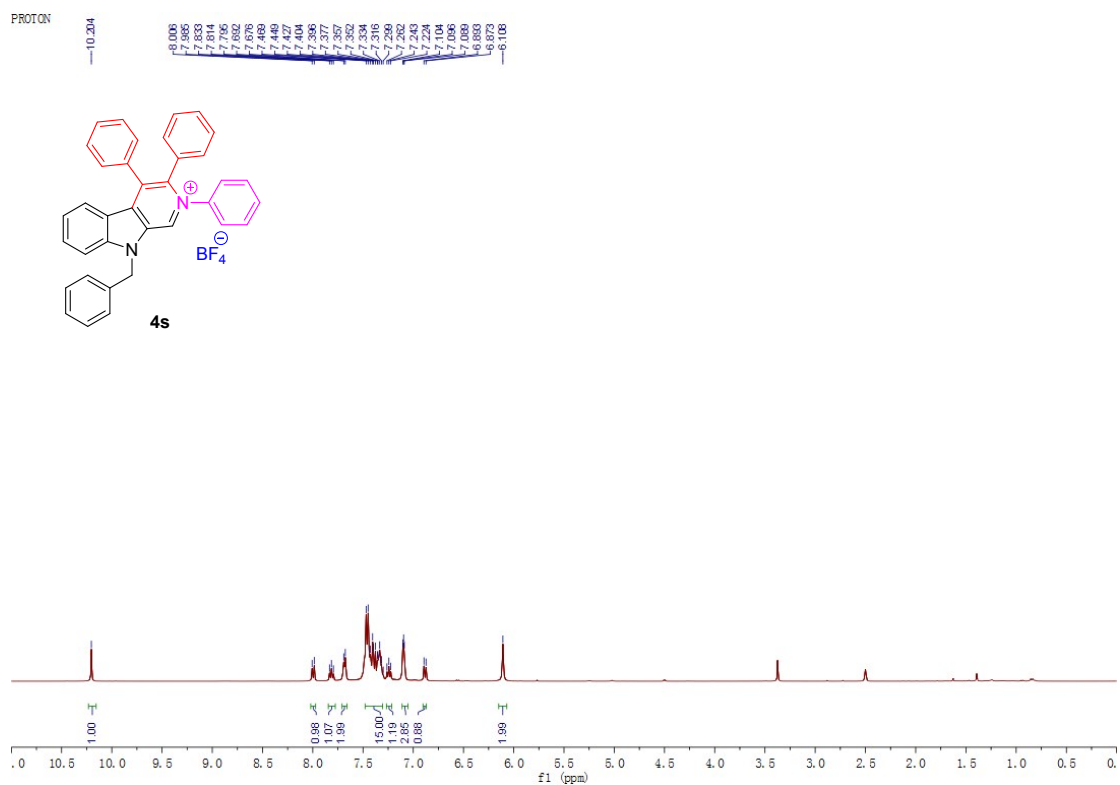




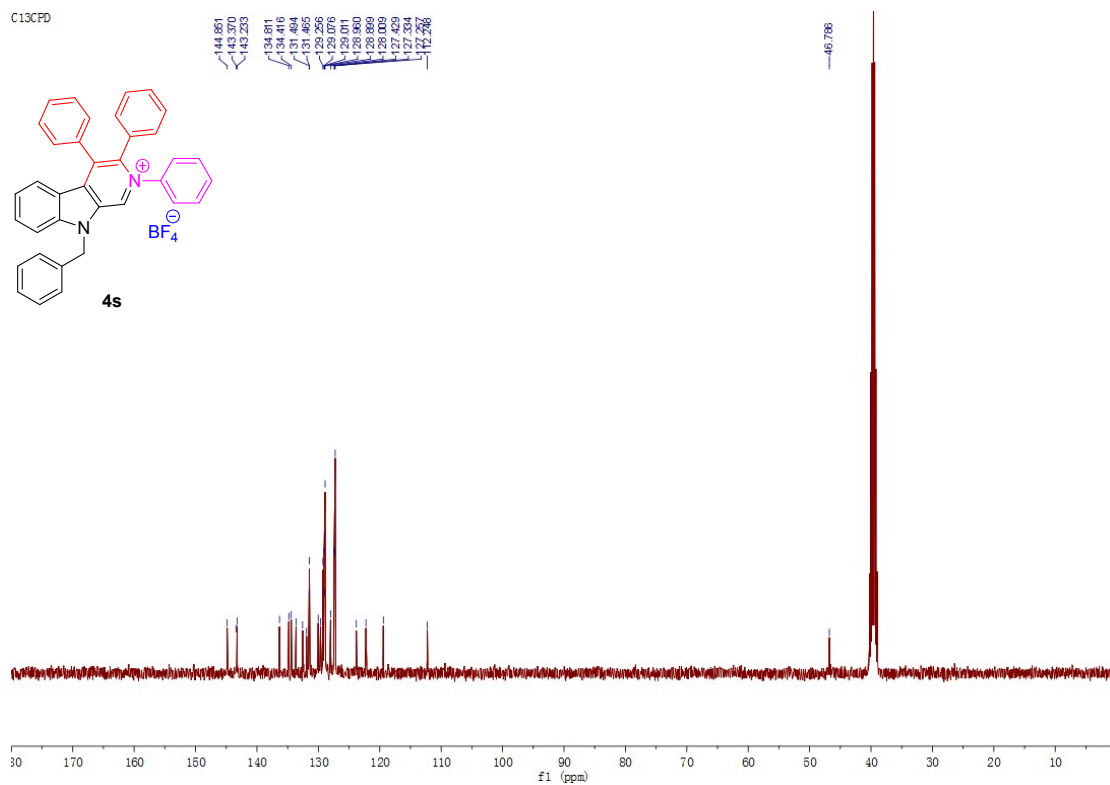
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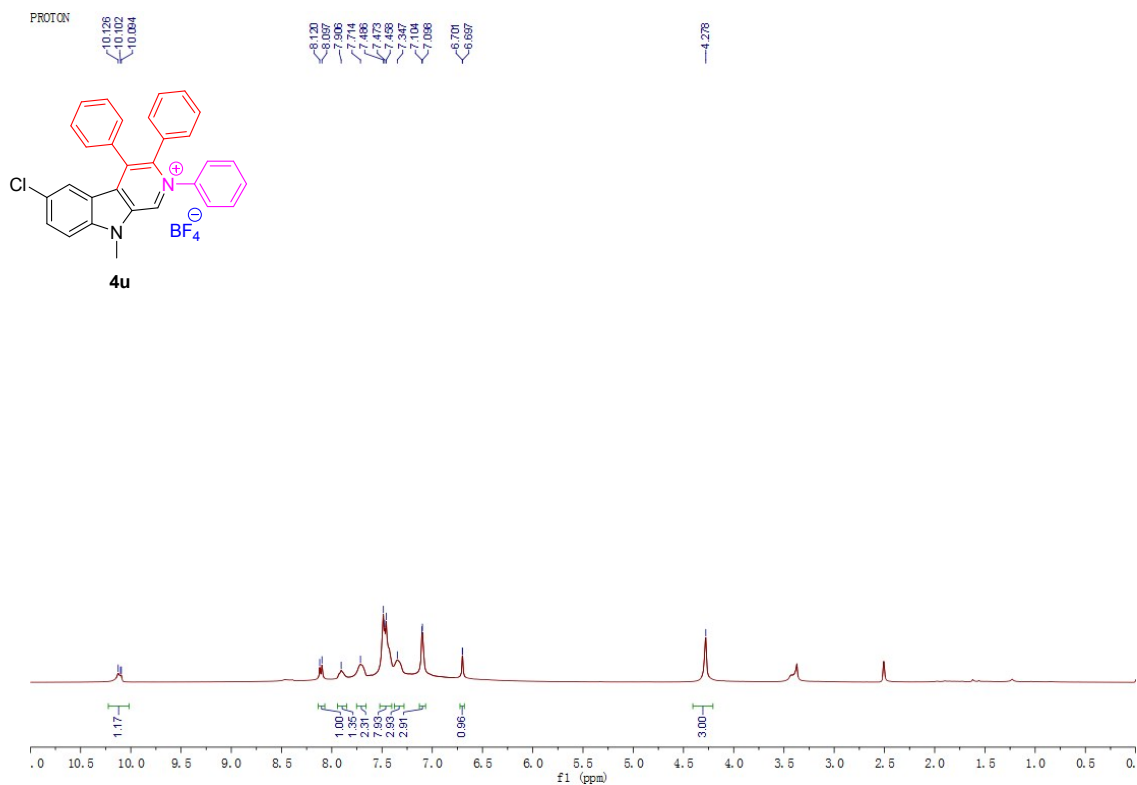
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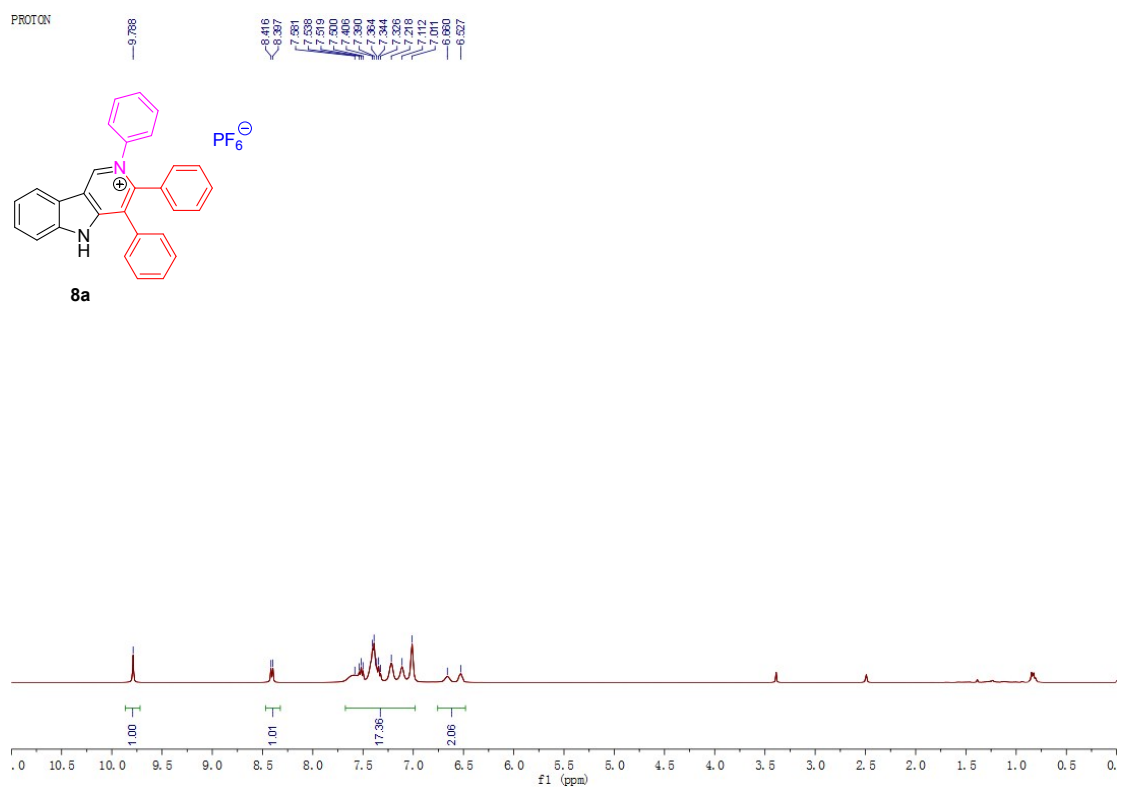
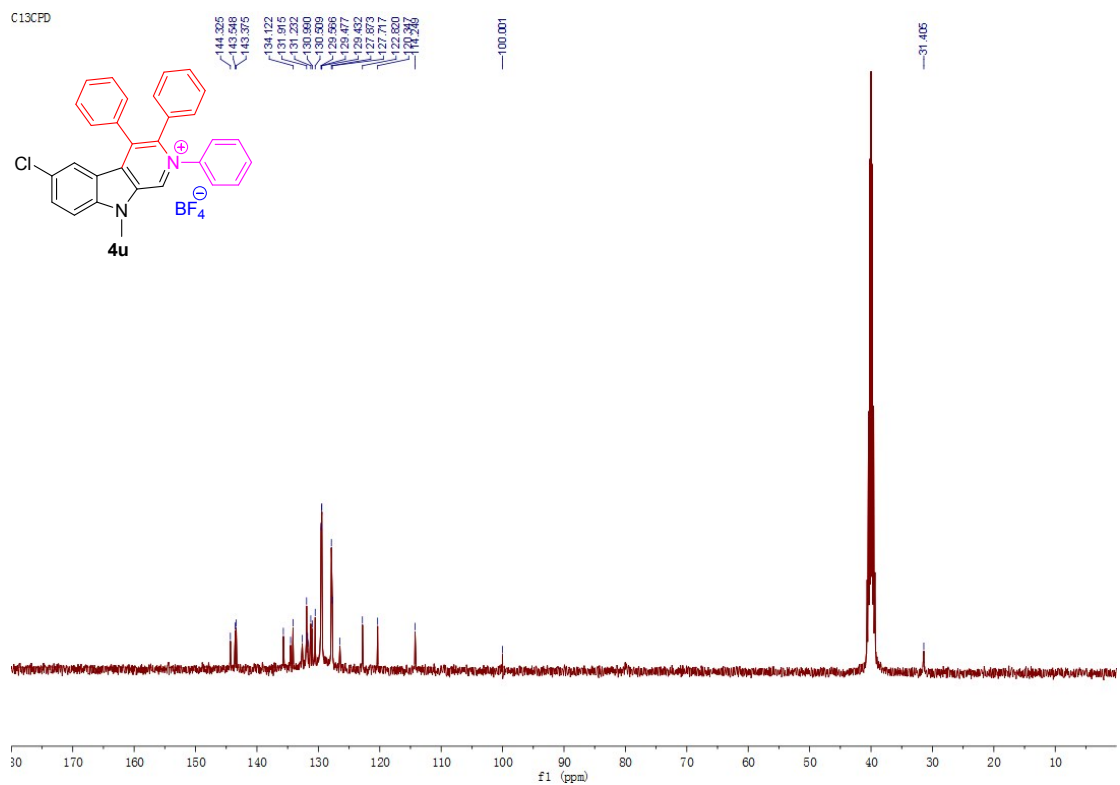


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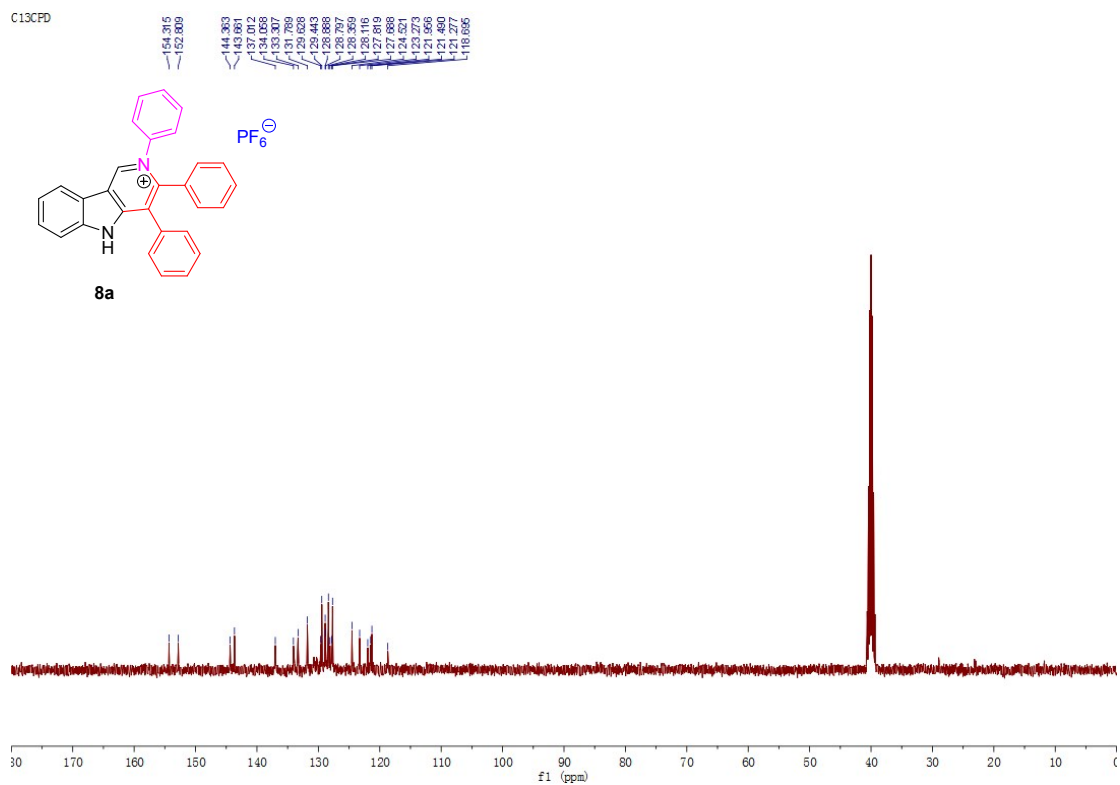


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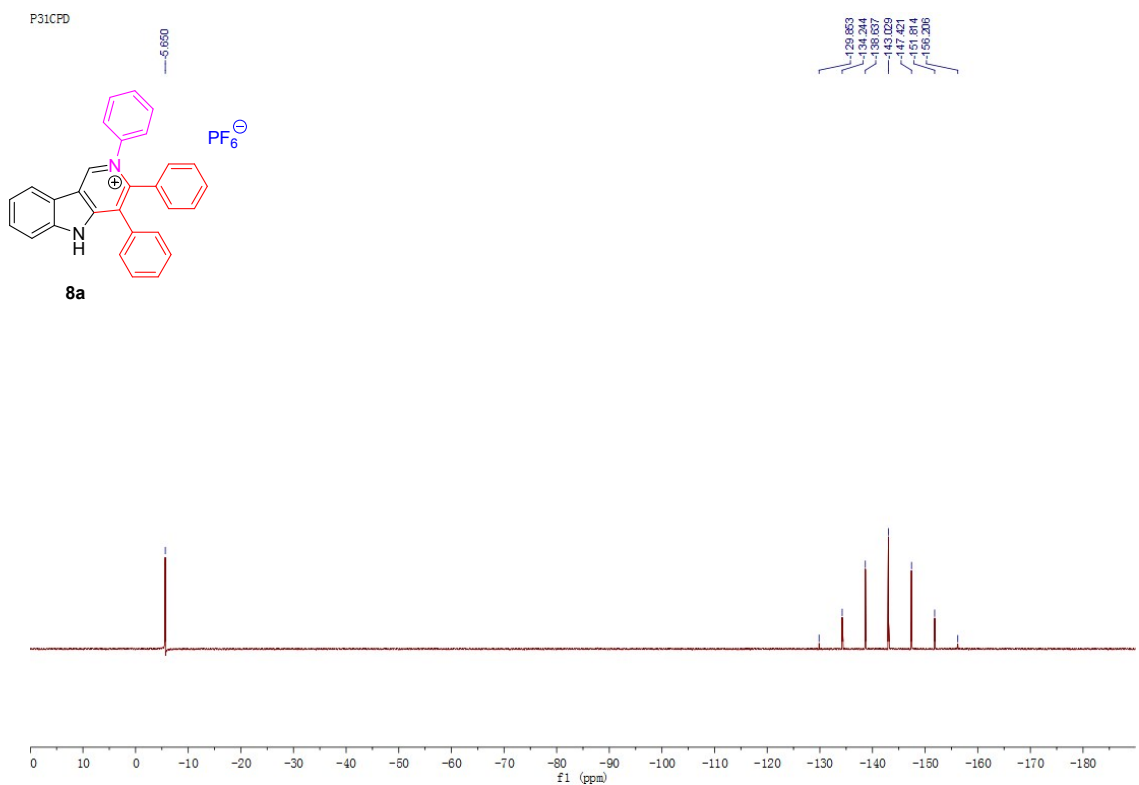




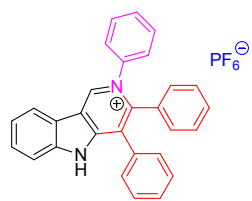
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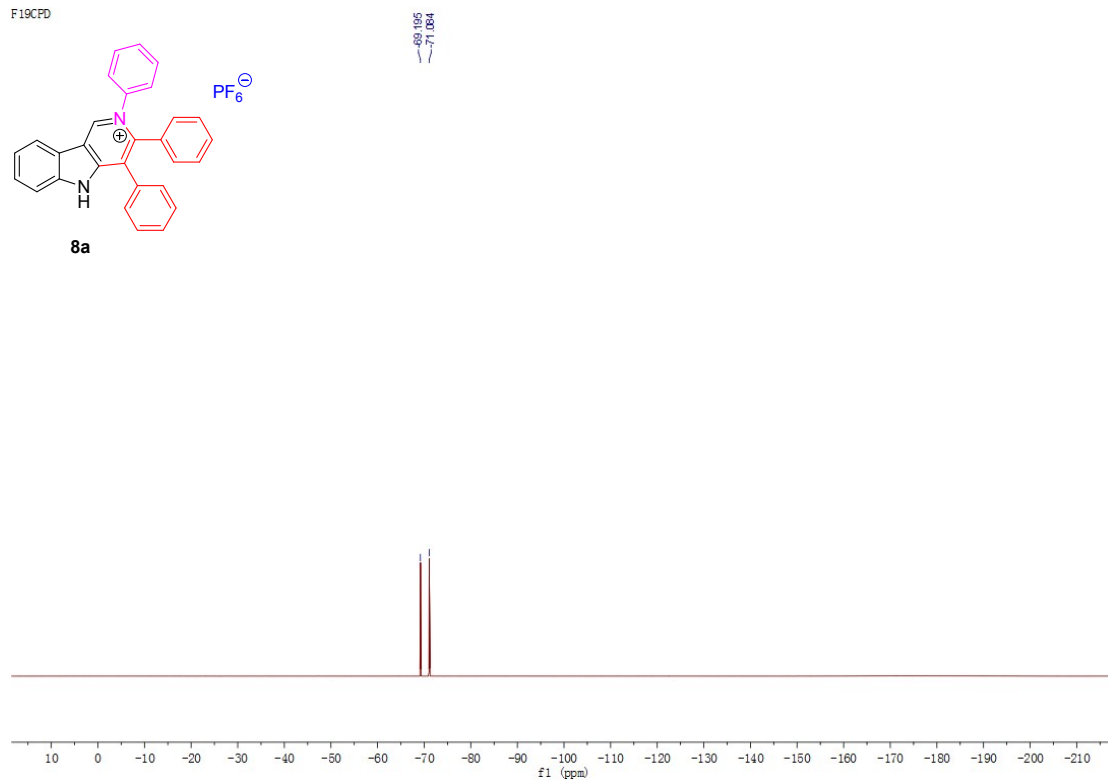
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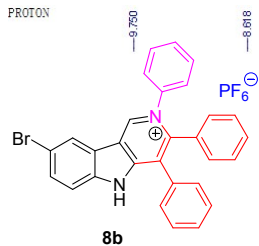
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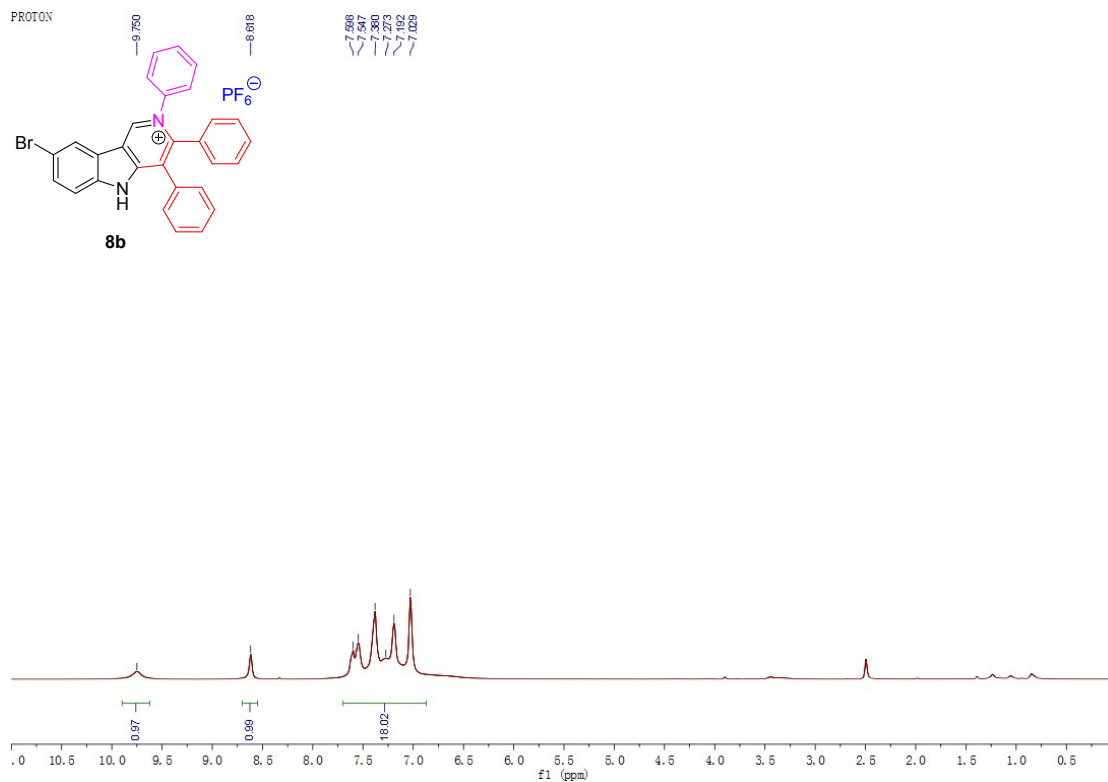
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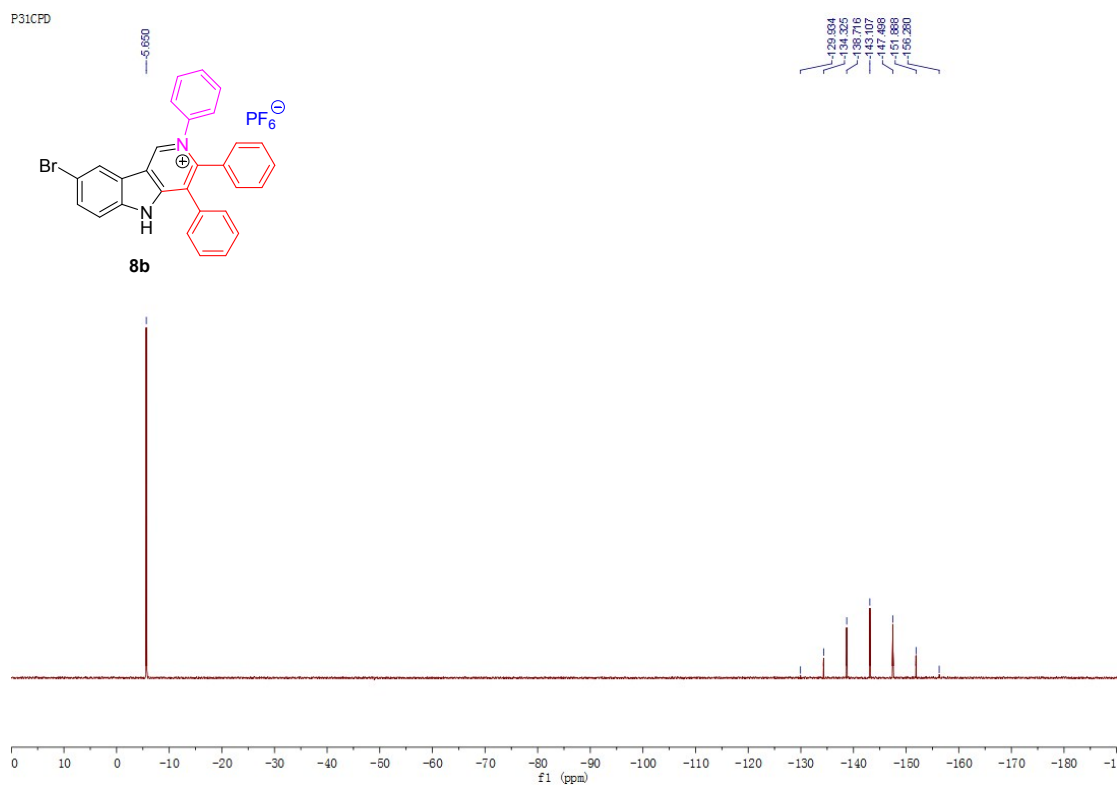
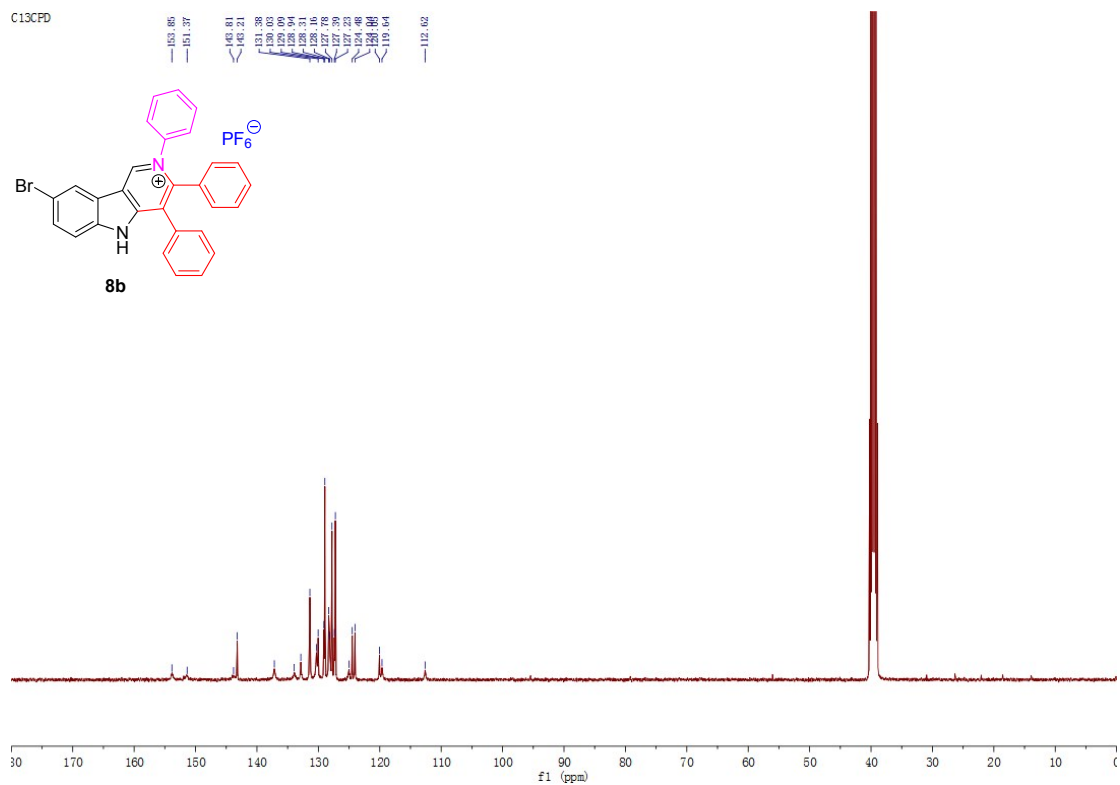


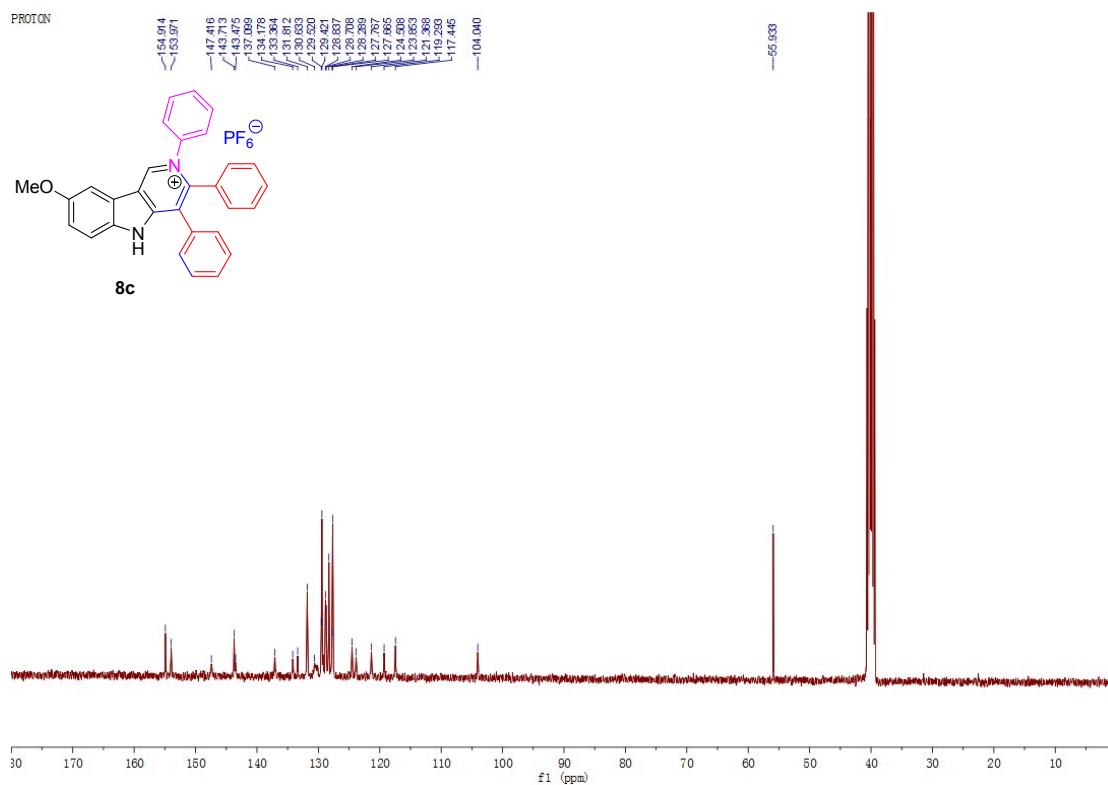
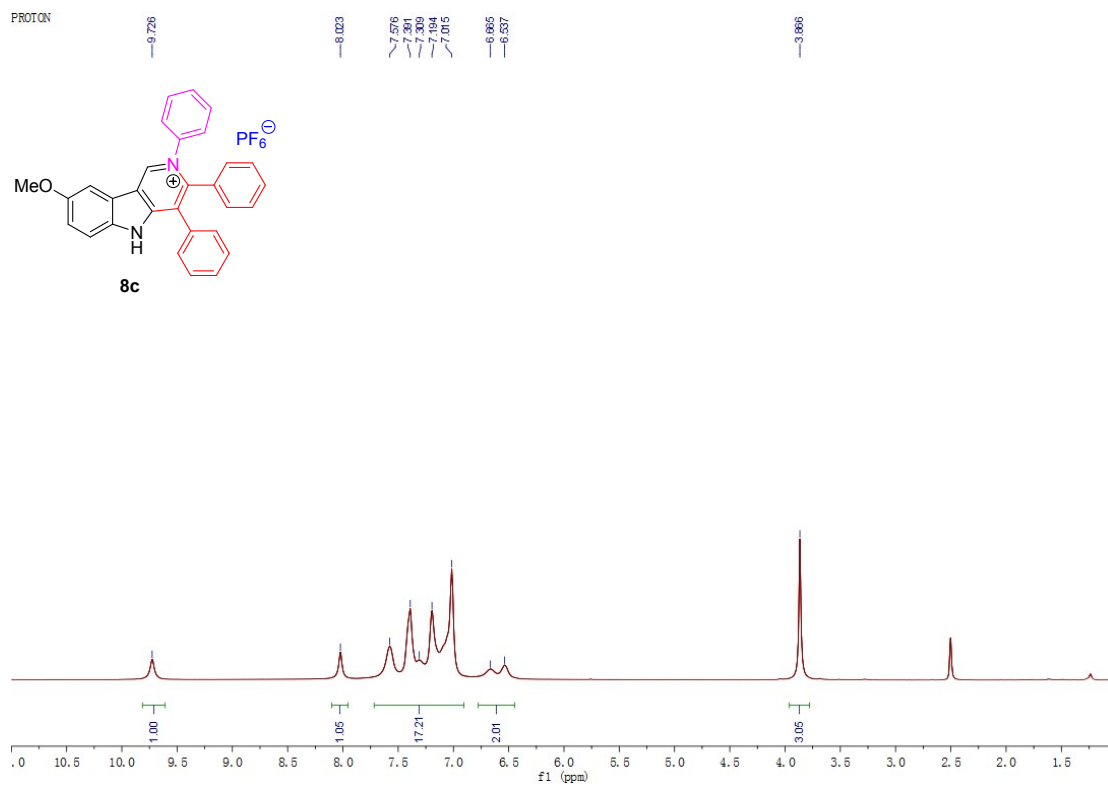
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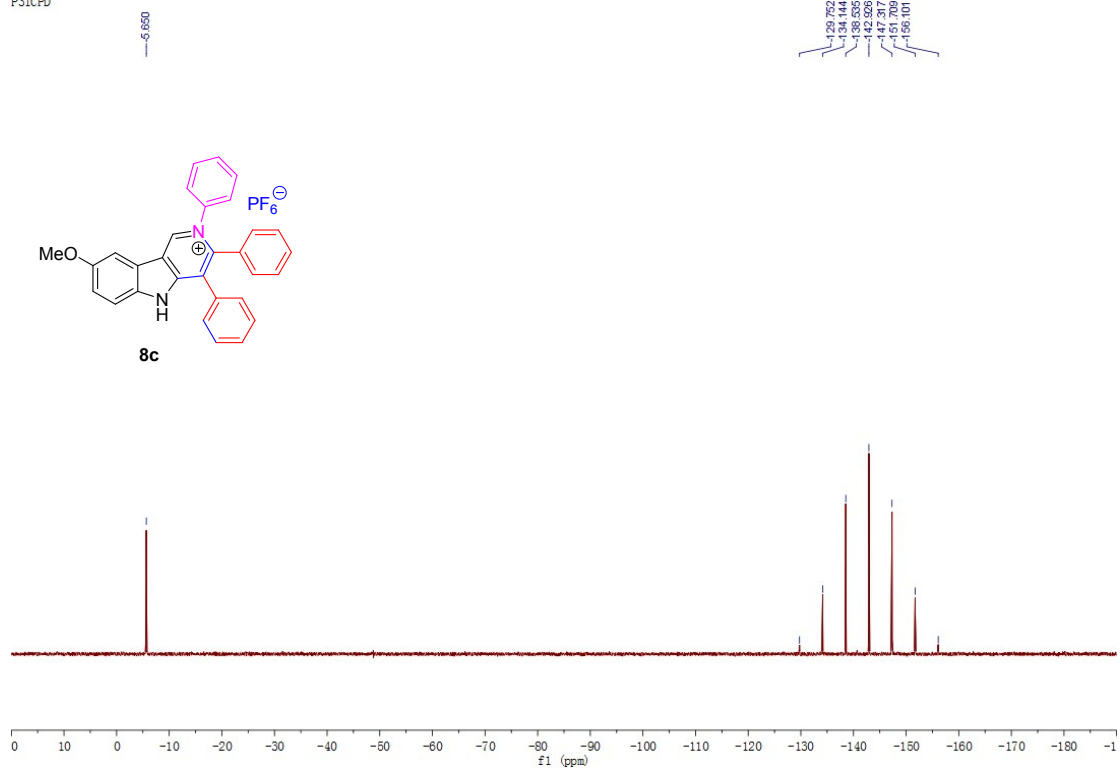
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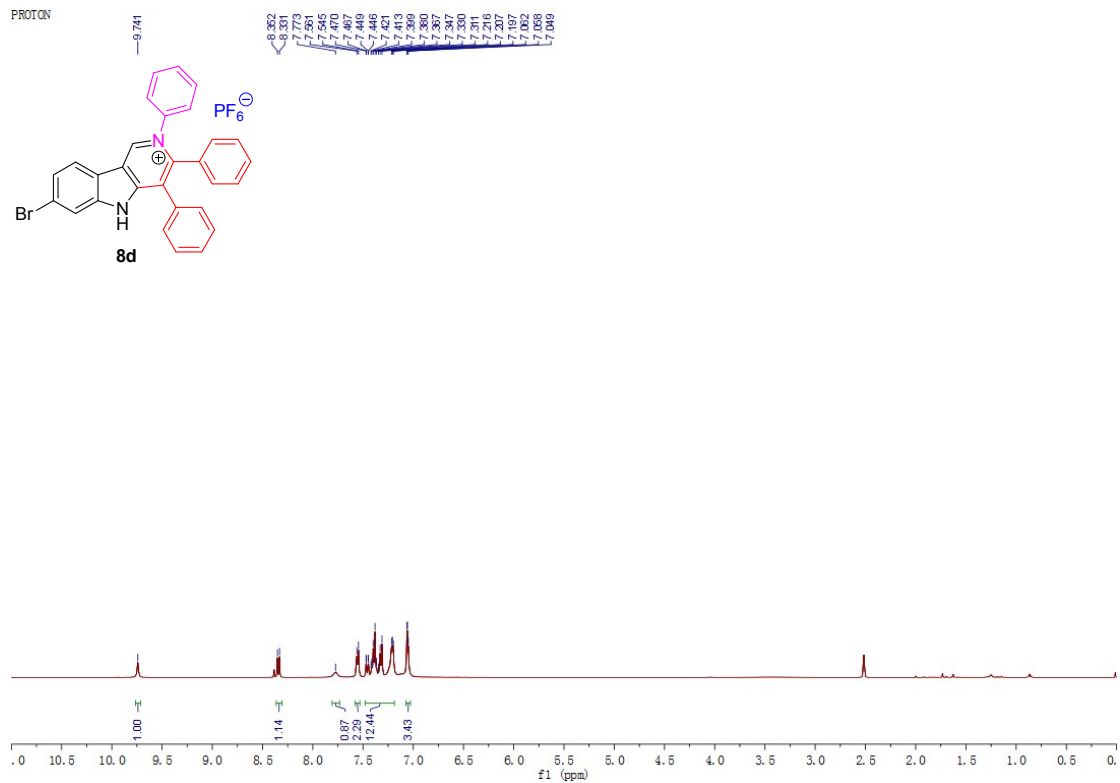




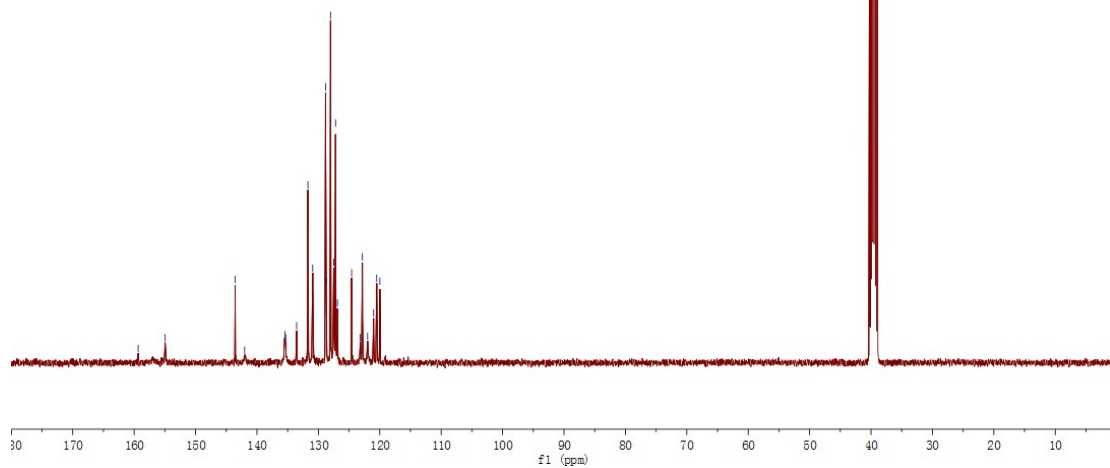
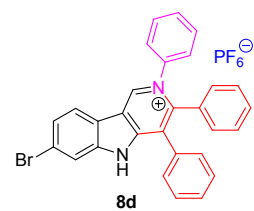
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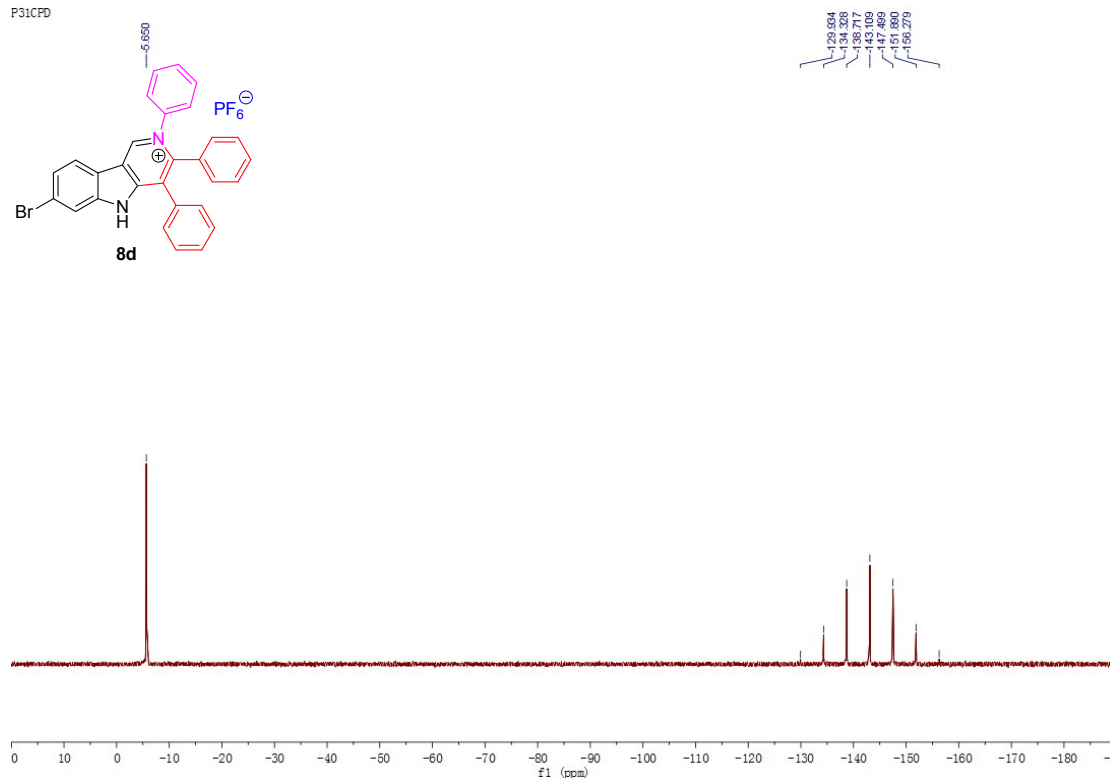
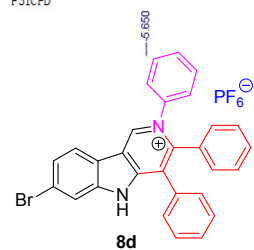
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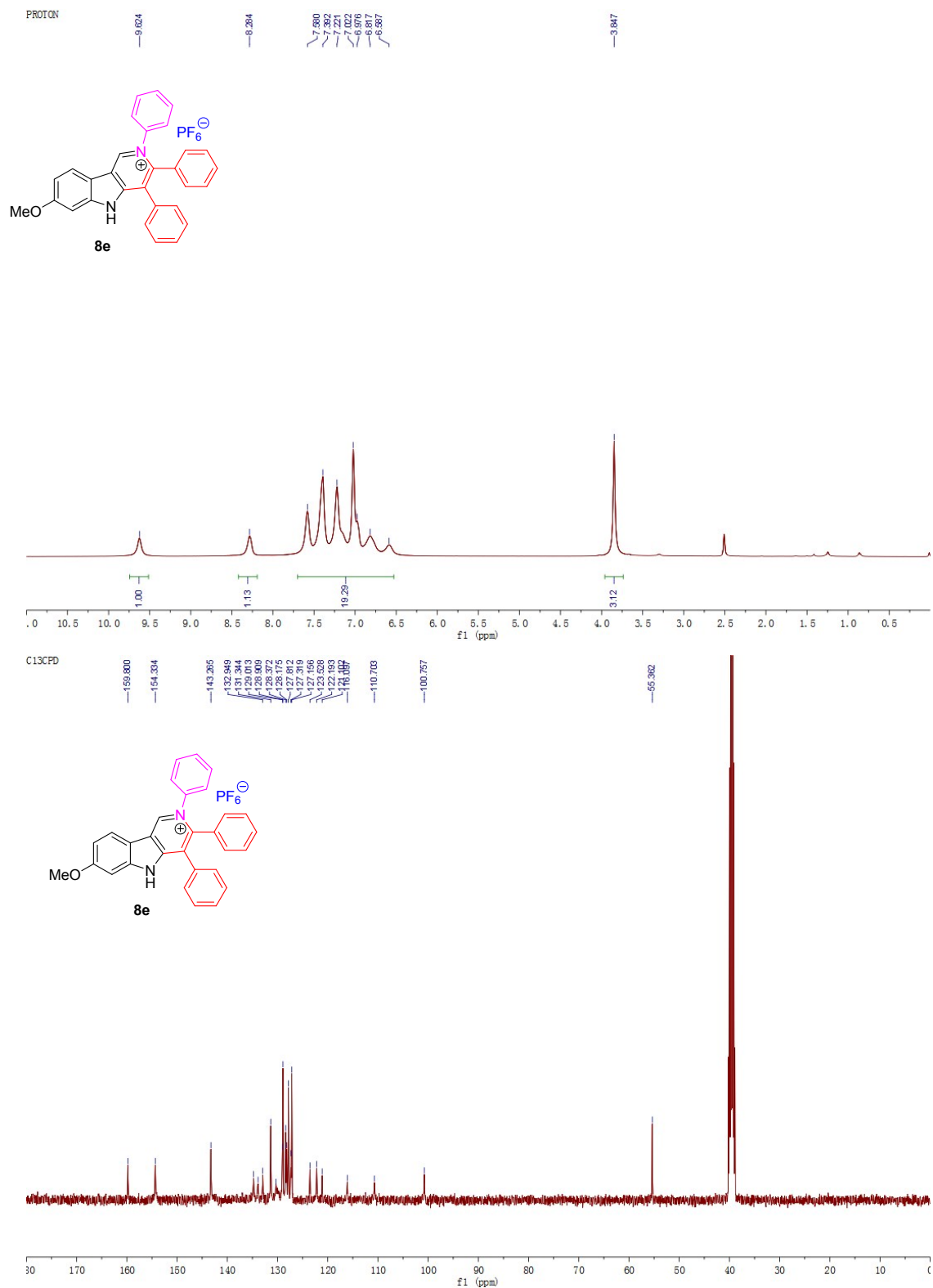


C13CPD



P31CPD





P31CPD

