

*Supporting Information for*

**Efficient Synthesis of Chiral  $\gamma$ -Aminobutyric Esters via  
direct Rhodium-Catalyzed Enantioselective  
Hydroaminomethylation of acrylates**

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## SI. General Considerations

**General:** All the reactions were carried out using Schlenk-line inert atmosphere techniques or glovebox techniques. Anhydrous solvents were collected from the system Braun MB SPS-800 except from 1,2-dichloroethane, which was dried over  $\text{CaH}_2$ , and stored under inert atmosphere.

**Reagents:** Commercially available reagents and solvents were purchased at the highest commercial quality from Sigma-Aldrich, Fluka, Alfa Aesar, Fluorochem, Strem and were used as received, without further purification, unless otherwise stated.

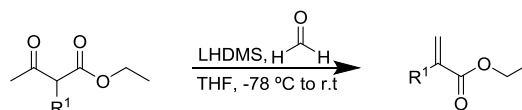
**Analytical methods:**  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra were recorded using a Varian Mercury VX 400 (400, 100.6, and 161.97 MHz respectively). Chemical shift values ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm relative to TMS ( $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ ) or  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  ( $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ ), and coupling constants are reported in Hertz. The following abbreviations are used to indicate the multiplicity: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; bs, broad signal. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent Time-of-Flight 6210 using ESI-TOF (electrospray ionization-time of flight). Samples were introduced to the mass spectrometer ion source by direct injection using a syringe pump and were externally calibrated using sodium formate. The instrument was operating in the positive ion mode. Reactions were monitored by TLC carried out on 0.25 mm E. Merck silica gel 60  $\text{F}_{254}$  glass or aluminum plates. Developed TLC plates were visualized under a short-wave UV lamp (254 nm) and by heating plates that were dipped in potassium permanganate. Flash column chromatography was carried out using forced flow of the indicated solvent on Merck silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh).

The enantiomeric excess of  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric esters **6** or analogous aminoalcohols **17** was determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy using  $\text{Eu}(\text{hcf})_3$ , and HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase performed on a Waters ACQUITY<sup>®</sup> UPC<sup>2</sup> instrument, employing Daicel Chiralpak IA, IG, IC or OD-H chiral columns, and Trefoil CEL2 chiral column. The exact conditions for the analyses are specified within the supporting information section. HPLC traces were compared to racemic samples prepared performing the reactions in the presence of di-*tert*-butylphenylphosphine.

**Catalysis:** The Rh-catalyzed HAM reaction was set up in a CAT24 autoclave from HEL Inc. and was stirred with a teflon-coated magnetic stir bar.

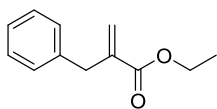
## SII. Synthesis of $\alpha$ -alkyl acrylates

### General Procedure A: Synthesis of $\alpha$ -alkyl acrylates (1b-d)



The reaction was carried out in an oven dried, argon purged, schlenk fitted with a argon inlet and septum and following a modified literature procedure.<sup>1</sup> To a stirred solution of ethyl 2-alkylacetoacetate (17 mmol, 1.0 eq) in THF (136 mL) was added LiHMDS 1.0 M in THF (19 mL, 19 mmol, 1.1 eq) at -78 °C. The solution was left stirring for 30 min then paraformaldehyde (3g, excess) was added as a solid in one portion. The suspension was allowed to reach room temperature and left stirring for 16h. The mixture was filtrated through a pad of Celite to remove the excess of paraformaldehyde. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash chromatography to afford the  $\alpha$ -alkyl acrylate **1**.

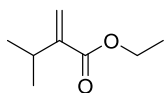
### Ethyl 2-benzylacrylate (**1b**)<sup>1</sup>



General procedure A was followed employing ethyl 2-benzyl-3-oxobutanoate as starting material. Purification by flash chromatography eluting with hexane/EtOAc (20:1) afforded **1b** (3.0 g, 93%) as colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.22 (t, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 4.14 (q, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.41 (bs, 1H), 6.19 (bs, 1H), 7.15-7.27 (m, 5H, Ar). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 14.2 (1C), 38.1 (1C), 60.8 (1C), 126.0 (1C), 126.3-138.8 (6C, Ar), 140.4 (1C), 167.0 (1C). These signals are in agreement with those reported in the literature.

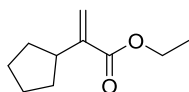
### Ethyl 3-methyl-2-methylenebutanoate (**1c**)<sup>1</sup>



General procedure A was followed employing ethyl 2-acetyl-3-methylbutanoate as starting material. Purification by flash chromatography eluting with hexane/EtOAc (20:1) afforded **1c** (2.2 g, 54%) as colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.07 (d, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8 Hz, 6H), 1.30 (t, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8 Hz, 3H), 2.80 (m, 1H), 4.21 (q, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8 Hz, 2H), 5.50 (bs, 1H), 6.11 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 14.3 (1C), 21.9 (2C), 29.4 (1C), 60.6 (1C), 121.6 (1C), 147.5 (1C), 167.6 (1C). Peaks in agreement with those reported in the literature.

### Ethyl 2-cyclopentylacrylate (**1d**)



General procedure A was followed employing ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-3-oxobutanoate (10 mmol) as starting material. Purification by flash chromatography eluting with hexane/EtOAc (30:1) afforded **1d** (850 mg, 51%) as colorless oil.

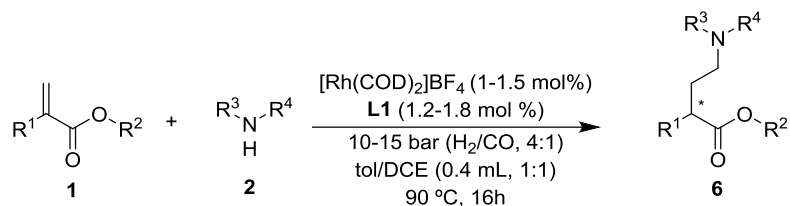
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.26 (t, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8 Hz, 3H), 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.64 (m, 5H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 2.84 (m, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8 Hz, 2H), 5.51 (bs, 1H), 6.10

(bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 14.3 (1C), 25.0 (2C), 31.2 (2C), 41.5 (1C), 60.5 (1C), 121.6 (1C), 144.8 (1C), 167.7 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Exact: (M: 168.1150, M+H: 169.1229); Experimental: (M+H: 169.1221).

<sup>1</sup> Wang, X.; Buchwald, S. L. Rh-Catalyzed Asymmetric Hydro-formylation of Functionalized 1,1-Disubstituted Olefins. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2011, 133, 19080-19083.

### SIII. General procedure for Rh-catalyzed Asymmetric HAM with secondary amines

**General procedure B: rhodium catalyzed asymmetric hydroaminomethylation of α-alkyl acrylates with secondary amines.**



A 2 mL glassware reactor tube was charged with α-alkyl acrylate **1** (0.5 mmol), amine (0.5 mmol), bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium (I) tetrafluoroborate (2 mg, 0.005 mmol) in DCE (0.2 mL) and chiral ligand (*R,R*)-QuinoxP<sup>+</sup>**L1** (2 mg, 0.006 mmol) in toluene (0.2 mL). The reaction tube was placed in the reactor which was pressurized at the desired pressure, heated to 90 °C and left stirring at 900 rpm. The reaction was stopped after 16 h by cooling the reactor in an ice bath for 20 min followed by venting of the system. The mixture was purified by chromatographic column and the enantiomeric excess of the resulting α-alkyl-γ-aminobutyric esters **6** analyzed by chiral HPLC or <sup>1</sup>H NMR using Eu(hcf)<sub>3</sub>.

## SIV. Optimization of Reaction Conditions with Aniline

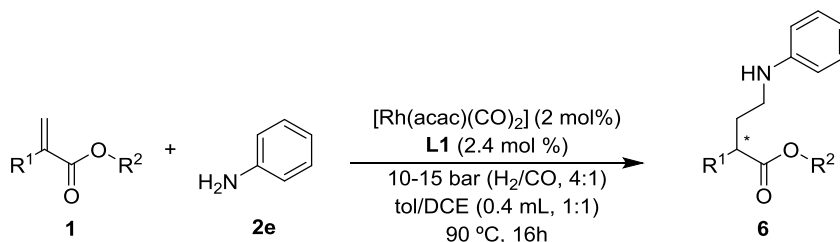
**Table S1:** Optimization of reaction conditions for the asymmetric hydroaminomethylation of methyl methacrylate **1a** with aniline **2e**.

(*R,R*)-QuinoxP\* **L1**

| Entry <sup>a</sup> | Rh                                     | Conv. [%] <sup>[b]</sup> | <b>18</b> <sup>[b]</sup> | <b>19a</b> <sup>[b]</sup> | <b>20a</b> <sup>[b]</sup> | <b>6e</b> [IY] <sup>[b]</sup> | ee [%] <sup>[c]</sup> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>d</sup>     | [Rh(COD) <sub>2</sub> ]BF <sub>4</sub> | 22                       | 16                       | -                         | 6                         | -                             | -                     |
| 2                  | [Rh(acac)(CO) <sub>2</sub> ]           | >99                      | 69                       | 11                        | 18                        | -                             | -                     |
| 3 <sup>d</sup>     | [Rh(acac)(CO) <sub>2</sub> ]           | >99                      | 66                       | 6                         | 16                        | 12 [11]                       | 60                    |
| 4 <sup>e</sup>     | [Rh(acac)(CO) <sub>2</sub> ]           | >99                      | 51                       | 6                         | 16                        | 26 [19]                       | 60                    |
| 5 <sup>f</sup>     | [Rh(COD) <sub>2</sub> ]BF <sub>4</sub> | 77                       | 28                       | 16                        | 17                        | 16 [15]                       | 40                    |

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2e** (0.5 mmol), Rh (1 mol%), **L1** (1.2 mol %), P = 10 bar (H<sub>2</sub>/CO, 4:1), toluene (0.4 ml), T = 90°C, t = 16h. <sup>b</sup> % conversion and yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using naphthalene as internal standard, values in bracket refer to isolated yields. <sup>c</sup> ee determined by HPLC. <sup>d</sup> tol/DCE (1:1, 0.4 ml). <sup>e</sup> Rh (2 mol%), **L1** (2.4 mol%), tol/DCE (1:1, 0.4 ml). <sup>f</sup> NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mol%), tol/DCE (1:1, 0.4 mL).

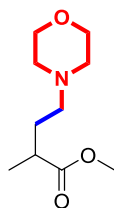
**General procedure C: rhodium catalyzed asymmetric HAM of  $\alpha$ -alkyl acrylates **1** with aniline **2e**.**



A 2 mL glassware reactor tube was charged with  $\alpha$ -alkyl acrylate **1** (0.5 mmol), aniline **2e** (0.5 mmol), dicarbonyl(acetylacetonato)rhodium (I) (2.6 mg, 0.01 mmol) in DCE (0.2 mL) and chiral ligand (*R,R*)-QuinoxP\* **L1** (4 mg, 0.012 mmol) in toluene (0.2 mL). The reaction tube was placed in the reactor which was pressurized with 10 bar of  $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$  (4:1), heated to 90°C and left stirring at 900 rpm. The reaction was stopped after 16 h by cooling the reactor in an ice bath for 20 min followed by venting of the system. The mixture was purified by chromatographic column and the enantiomeric excess of the resulting  $\alpha$ -alkyl- $\gamma$ -aminobutyric esters **6** analyzed by chiral HPLC.

**SV. Synthesis of  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric esters via Rh-catalyzed HAM**

**Methyl 2-methyl-4-morpholinobutanoate (**6a**)**

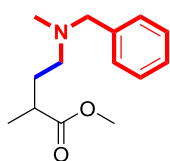


General procedure B was followed employing methyl methacrylate **1a** (53.5  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.5 mmol) and morpholine (44  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2:1) afforded **6a** (60 mg, 60%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 73% by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Acuity

Trefoil Cel2 column with a gradient 90:10  $\text{CO}_2$ /Acetonitrile with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2mL/min,  $\lambda = 230 \text{ nm}$ :  $t_{r \text{ minor}} = 2.0 \text{ min}$ ,  $t_{r \text{ major}} = 1.5 \text{ min}$ .

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.15 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.55 (m, 1H), 1.90 (m, 1H), 2.31 (dt,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 2, 8$  Hz, 2H), 2.49 (bs, 4H), 2.52 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.69 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 4.4$ , 4H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 17.4 (1C), 30.5 (1C), 37.9 (1C), 51.7 (1C), 53.8 (2C), 56.8 (1C), 67.1 (2C), 177.1 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO. Exact: (M: 201.1365, M+H: 202.1443); Experimental: (M+H: 202.1435).

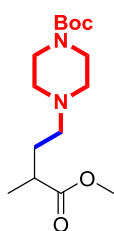
### Methyl 4-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-2-methylbutanoate (**6b**)



General procedure B was followed employing **1a** (53.5 μL, 0.5 mmol) and N-Benzylmethylamine (66.5 μL, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (3:1) afforded **6b** (57 mg, 50%) as colorless oil.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.12 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.94 (m, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.37 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.55 (m, 1H), 3.47 (bs, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 7.24-7.31 (m, 5H, Ar). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 17.3 (1C), 31.4 (1C), 37.5 (1C), 42.2 (1C), 51.7 (1C), 55.0 (1C), 62.6 (1C), 112.7-148.1 (6C, Ar) 177.4 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Exact: (M: 235.1572, M+H: 236.1651); Experimental: (M+H: 236.1647).

### Methyl 4-(*tert*-butyl piperazine-1-carboxylate)-2-methylbutanoate (**6c**)

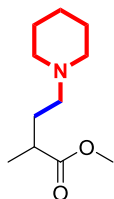


General procedure B was followed employing **1a** (53.5 μL, 0.5 mmol) and N-Boc-piperazine (93.1 mg, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (2:1) afforded **6c** (75.1 mg, 50%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 69 % by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak IG column with a gradient 90:10 CO<sub>2</sub>/MeOH with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2mL/min, λ = 230 nm:  $t_{r \text{ minor}} = 2.2$  min,  $t_{r \text{ major}} = 2.3$  min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.16 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.91 (m, 1H), 2.33 (m, 6H), 2.50 (m, 1H), 3.40 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 4.8$  Hz, 4H), 3.66

(s, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 17.3 (1C), 28.4 (3C), 30.6 (1C), 37.8 (1C), 43.0 (2C), 51.6 (1C), 52.9 (2C), 56.2 (1C), 79.6 (1C), 154.7(1C), 176.9 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. Exact: (M: 300.2049, M+H: 301.2127); Experimental: (M+H: 301.2126).

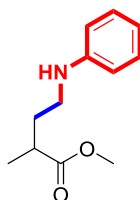
### Methyl 2-methyl-4-(piperidin-1-yl)butanoate (**6d**)



General procedure B was followed employing **1a** (53.5 μL, 0.5 mmol) and piperidine (49.5 μL, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with Et<sub>2</sub>O afforded **6d** (50 mg, 50%) as colorless oil.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.15 (d, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.44 (bs, 2H), 1.56 (m, 5H), 1.90 (m, 1H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.34 (bs, 4H), 2.45 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 17.2 (1C), 24.4 (1C), 25.9 (2C), 30.9 (1C), 37.9 (1C), 51.5 (1C), 54.6 (1C), 57.0 (2C), 177.1 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Exact: (M: 199.1572, M+H: 200.1651); Experimental: (M+H: 200.1660).

### Methyl 2-methyl-4-(phenylamino)butanoate (**6e**)



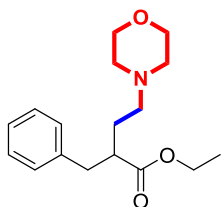
General procedure C was followed employing **1a** (53.5 μL, 0.5 mmol) and aniline (46 μL, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (2:1) afforded **6e** (19 mg, 19%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 60% by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak IA

column with a gradient 95:05 CO<sub>2</sub>/EtOH with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 3mL/min, λ = 240 nm: *t<sub>r</sub> minor* = 1.2 min, *t<sub>r</sub> major* = 1.1 min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.21 (d, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.99 (m, 1H), 2.61 (m, 1H), 3.16 (t, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 6.59 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.7 (tt, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.18 (m, 2H, Ar). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 17.3 (1C), 33.3 (1C), 37.4 (1C), 41.8 (1C), 51.7 (1C), 112.7-148.1

(6C, Ar), 176.9 (1C). **ESI-HRMS:** Calculated for  $C_{12}H_{17}NO_2$ . Exact: (M: 207.1259, M+H: 208.1338); Experimental: (M+H: 208.1331).

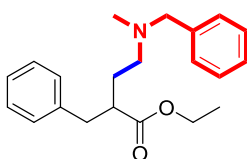
### Ethyl 2-benzyl-4-morpholinobutanoate (**6f**)



General procedure B was followed employing **1b** (95 mg, 0.5 mmol) and morpholine (44  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:2) afforded **6f** (70 mg, 48%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 75 % by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak IG column with a gradient 95:05 CO<sub>2</sub>/Methanol with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm:  $t_{r\text{ minor}}$  = 4.7 min,  $t_{r\text{ major}}$  = 3.9 min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.08 (t,  $J_{H,H}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.80 (m, 1H), 2.27 (m, 6H), 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.87 (m, 1H), 3.59 (m, 4H), 4.0 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.22 (m, 5H, Ar). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.2 (1C), 28.5 (1C), 38.7 (1C), 45.9 (1C), 53.7 (2C), 56.8 (1C), 60.3 (1C), 67.0 (2C), 126.4-139.4 (6C, Ar), 175.4 (1C). **ESI-HRMS:** Calculated for  $C_{17}H_{25}NO_3$ . Exact: (M: 291.1834, M+H: 292.1913); Experimental: (M+H: 292.1907).

### Ethyl 2-benzyl-4-(benzyl(methyl)amino)butanoate (**6g**)

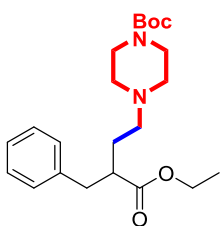


General procedure B was followed employing **1b** (95 mg, 0.5 mmol) and N-benzylmethylamine (66.5  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (4:1) afforded **6g** (58 mg, 37%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 69 % by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a CEL2 column with a gradient 98:02 CO<sub>2</sub>/Methanol with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm:  $t_{r\text{ minor}}$  = 5.7 min,  $t_{r\text{ major}}$  = 4.9 min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.04 (t,  $J_{H,H}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.81 (m, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.84 (m, 1H), 3.36 (bs, 2H),

3.94 (q,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.23 (m, 10H, Ar).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 14.2 (1C), 29.4 (1C), 38.6 (1C), 42.0 (1C), 45.5 (1C), 55.0 (1C), 60.2 (1C), 62.5 (1C), 126.3-139.3 (12C, Ar), 175.5 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_2$ . Exact: (M: 325.2042, M+H: 326.2120); Experimental: (M+H: 326.2116).

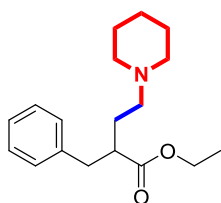
#### Tert-butyl 4-(3-benzyl-4-ethoxy-4-oxobutyl)piperazine-1-carboxylate (**6h**)



General procedure B was followed employing **1b** (95 mg, 0.5 mmol) and N-Boc-piperazine (94 mg, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (1:1) afforded **6h** (97 mg, 50%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 71 % by  $\text{UPC}^2$  analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak IG column with a gradient 85:15  $\text{CO}_2$ /Methanol, flow rate 2mL/min,  $\lambda = 205$  nm:  $t_{r \text{ minor}} = 2.5$  min,  $t_{r \text{ major}} = 2.7$  min.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 1.07 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.38 (s, 9H), 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.80 (m, 1H), 2.24 (m, 6H), 2.64 (m, 2H), 2.88 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 13.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.30 (m, 4H), 3.99 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.20 (m, 5H, Ar).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 14.2 (1C), 28.4 (3C), 28.7 (1C), 38.7 (1C), 45.9 (2C), 52.9 (2C), 56.4 (1C), 60.3 (1C), 79.6 (1C), 126.4-139.1 (6C, Ar), 154.8 (1C), 175.4 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_2$ . Exact: (M: 390.2519, M+H: 391.2597); Experimental: (M+H: 391.2596).

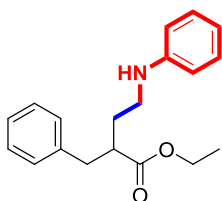
#### Ethyl 2-benzyl-4-(piperidin-1-yl)butanoate (**6i**)



General procedure B was followed employing **1b** (95 mg, 0.5 mmol) and piperidine (49.5  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  eluting with pentane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (20:1) afforded **6i** (40 mg, 28%) as colorless oil.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.07 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.33 (m, 2H), 1.47 (m, 4H), 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.82 (m, 1H), 2.21 (m, 6H), 2.59 (m, 1H), 2.68 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 13.2, 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 13.6, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.98 (q,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.08-7.21 (m, 5H, Ar). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 14.2 (1C), 24.4 (1C), 25.9 (2C), 29.0 (1C), 38.7 (1C), 46.1 (1C), 54.6 (2C), 57.1 (1C), 60.2 (1C), 126.2-139.2 (6C, Ar), 175.4 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Exact: (M: 289.2042, M+H: 290.2120); Experimental: (M+H: 290.2119).

### Ethyl 2-benzyl-4-(phenylamino)butanoate (**6j**)

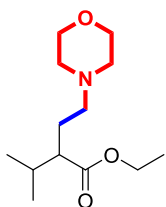


General procedure C was followed employing **1b** (95 mg, 0.5 mmol) and aniline (46.0 μL, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (4:1) afforded **6j** (26 mg, 18%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 66 % by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a

Daicel Chiralpak IA column with a gradient 90:10 CO<sub>2</sub>/Methanol, flow rate 3mL/min, λ = 241 nm:  $t_{r \text{ minor}} = 1.5$  min,  $t_{r \text{ major}} = 1.7$  min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 1.14 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.97 (m, 1H), 2.77 (m, 2H), 3.01 (m, 1H), 3.15 (m, 2H), 4.06 (q,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 6.55 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 8.4$  Hz, 2H, Ar), 6.67 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$  Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.14-7.30 (m, 7H, Ar). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 14.2 (1C), 31.4 (1C), 38.6 (1C), 42.0 (1C), 45.5 (1C), 60.5 (1C), 112.7-148.0 (12C, Ar), 175.3 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Exact: (M: 297.1729, M+H: 298.1807); Experimental (M+H: 298.1802).

### Ethyl 2-isopropyl-4-morpholinobutanoate (**6k**)

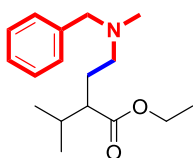


General procedure B was followed employing **1c** (71 mg, 0.5 mmol) and morpholine (44  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) afforded **6k** (117 mg, 96%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 84% by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak

IG column with a gradient 95:5 CO<sub>2</sub>/Acetonitrile with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 230 nm:  $t_{r\text{ minor}}$  = 1.8 min, :  $t_{r\text{ major}}$  = 1.7 min.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 0.92 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.82 (m, 2H), 2.11 (m, 1H) 2.26 (m, 2H), 2.41 (bs, 4H), 3.68 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 4.14 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.5 (1C), 20.3 (1C), 20.5 (1C), 26.4 (1C), 30.9 (1C), 51.0 (1C), 53.9 (2C), 57.6 (1C), 60.1 (1C), 67.1 (2C), 175.6 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>. Exact: (M: 243.1834, M+H: 244.1913); Experimental: (M+H: 244.1907).

### Ethyl 4-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-2-isopropylbutanoate (**6l**)



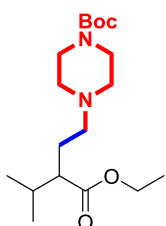
General procedure B was followed employing **1c** (71 mg, 0.5 mmol) and N-benzylmethylamine (66.5  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:3) afforded **6l** (98 mg, 70%) as colorless oil.

The enantiomeric excess was determined to be >80% by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using Eu(hfc)<sub>3</sub>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 0.92 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.23 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.86 (m, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 2.19 (m, 1H), 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.37 (m, 1H), 3.40 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 5H, Ar). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.3 (1C), 20.1 (1C), 20.4 (1C), 27.1 (1C), 30.7 (1C), 42.0 (1C) 50.4 (1C), 55.7 (1C), 59.9 (1C), 62.5 (1C), 126.8-139.1 (6C, Ar), 175.5 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**:

Calculated for  $C_{17}H_{27}NO_2$ . Exact: (M: 277.2042, M+H: 278.2120); Experimental: (M+H: 278.2115).

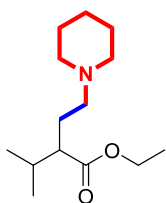
### Tert-butyl 4-(3-(ethoxycarbonyl)-4-methylpentyl)piperazine-1-carboxylate (6m)



General procedure B was followed employing **1c** (71 mg, 0.5 mmol) and N-Boc-piperazine (93.1 mg, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) afforded **6m** (94 mg, 55%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be >90% by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using Eu(hfc)<sub>3</sub>.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 0.91 (t,  $J_{H,H}$  = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.25 (t,  $J_{H,H}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.44 (s, 9H), 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.83 (m, 1H), 2.12 (m, 1H), 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.30 (m, 1H), 2.34 (bs, 4H), 3.39 (t,  $J_{H,H}$  = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 4.13 (m, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.5 (1C), 20.2 (1C), 20.5 (1C), 26.5 (1C), 28.4 (3C), 30.7 (1C), 43.1 (1C), 43.8 (1C), 50.9 (1C), 53.0 (2C), 57.0 (1C), 59.9 (1C), 79.5 (1C), 154.7 (1C), 175.4 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for  $C_{18}H_{34}N_2O_4$ . Exact: (M: 342.2519, M+H: 343.2597); Experimental: (M+H: 343.2595).

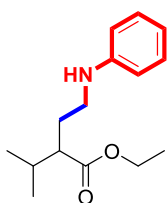
### Ethyl 2-isopropyl-4-(piperidin-1-yl)butanoate (6n)



General procedure B was followed employing **1c** (71 mg, 0.5 mmol) and piperidine (49.5  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with Et<sub>2</sub>O afforded the **6n** (111 mg, 92%) as colorless oil.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 0.92 (dd,  $J_{H,H}$  = 8, 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (t,  $J_{H,H}$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.55 (m, 4H), 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.84 (m, 1H), 2.09 (m, 1H), 2.18 (m, 1H), 2.30 (m, 1H), 2.34 (bs, 4H), 4.13 (m, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.4 (1C), 20.1 (1C), 20.5 (1C), 24.4 (1C), 26.0 (2C), 26.8 (1C), 30.8 (1C), 51.2 (1C), 54.7 (2C), 57.8 (1C), 59.9 (1C), 175.6 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for  $C_{14}H_{27}NO_2$ . Exact: (M: 241.2042, M+H: 242.2120); Experimental: (M+H: 242.2109).

### Ethyl 2-isopropyl-4-(phenylamino)butanoate (**6o**)

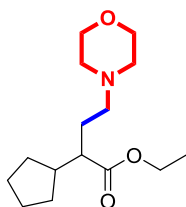


General procedure C was followed employing **1c** (71 mg, 0.5 mmol) and aniline (46  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) afforded **6o** (68.7 mg, 55%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 77% by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak

IG column with a gradient 85:15 CO<sub>2</sub>/Acetonitrile with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 3 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 243 nm:  $t_{r\text{ minor}}$  = 2.3 min,  $t_{r\text{ major}}$  = 1.8 min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 0.93 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 6.6, 2.4, 6H), 1.25 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.93 (m, 2H), 2.23 (m, 1H), 3.10 (m, 2H), 4.14 (m, 2H), 6.58 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.59 (tt,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.16 (m, 2H, Ar). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.5 (1C), 20.2 (1C), 20.5 (1C), 29.2 (1C), 30.9 (1C), 42.7 (1C), 50.6 (1C), 60.4 (1C) 112.8-148.2 (6C, Ar), 175.6 (1C). **ESI- HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Exact: (M: 249.1729, M+H: 250.1807); Experimental: (M+H: 250.1796).

### Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-4-morpholinobutanoate (**6p**)



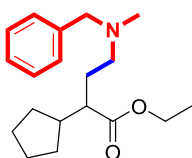
General procedure B was followed employing **1d** (84.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) and morpholine (44  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) afforded **6p** (101 mg, 75%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 85% by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel

Chiralpak IG column with a gradient 96:4 CO<sub>2</sub>/MeOH with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 230 nm:  $t_{r\text{ minor}}$  = 3.7 min,  $t_{r\text{ major}}$  = 3.5 min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.14 (tt,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 6.8, 2Hz, 1H), 1.22 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.50-1.69 (m, 6H), 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.96 (m, 1H), 2.12 (m, 1H), 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.31 (m, 1H), 2.40 (bs, 4H), 3.68 (bs, 4H), 4.13 (m, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.5 (1C), 25.1 (1C), 28.6 (1C),

30.8 (1C), 31.0 (1C), 43.0 (1C), 50.0 (1C), 53.9 (2C), 54.1 (1C), 57.4 (1C), 60.1 (1C), 67.1 (2C), 176.0 (1C). **ESI-HRMS:** Calculated for  $C_{15}H_{27}NO_3$ . Exact: (M: 269.1991, M+H: 270.2069); Experimental: (M+H: 270.2065).

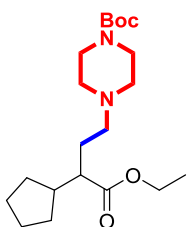
### Ethyl 4-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-2-cyclopentylbutanoate (**6q**)



General procedure B was followed employing **1d** (84.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) and morpholine N-benzylmethylamine (66.5  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) afforded **6q** (82 mg, 55%) as colorless oil.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.14 (m, 2H), 1.22 (t,  $J_{H,H}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.50-1.83 (m, 8H), 1.97 (m, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.39 (m, 1H), 3.41 (d,  $J_{H,H}$  = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (d,  $J_{H,H}$  = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.31 (m, 5H, Ar). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.4 (1C), 25.1 (2C), 29.4 (1C), 30.7 (1C), 31.0 (1C), 42.1 (1C), 43.0 (1C), 49.5 (1C), 55.7 (1C), 60.0 (1C), 62.6 (1C), 127.0-139.3 (6C, Ar), 176.0 (1C). **ESI-HRMS:** Calculated for  $C_{19}H_{29}NO_3$ . Exact: (M: 303.2198, M+H: 304.2277); Experimental: (M+H: 304.2280).

### Tert-butyl 4-(3-cyclopentyl-4-ethoxy-4-oxobutyl)piperazine-1-carboxylate (**6r**)

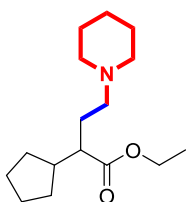


General procedure B was followed employing **1d** (84.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-Boc-piperazine (93.1 mg, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (4:1) afforded **6r** (136.4 mg, 74%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 84% by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak IG column with a gradient 90:10 CO<sub>2</sub>/MeOH with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 230 nm:  $t_{r \text{ minor}}$  = 3.2 min,  $t_{r \text{ major}}$  = 3.7 min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.03 (m, 1H), 1.15 (t,  $J_{H,H}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (m, 1H), 1.35 (s, 9H), 1.43 (m, 6H), 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.85 (m, 1H), 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.33 (m, 4H), 2.45 (m, 1H), 3.39 (m, 4H), 4.10 (m, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR**

(100.6 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.2 (1C), 15.9 (1C), 25.0 (1C), 28.1 (3C), 28.6 (1C), 30.5 (1C), 30.8 (1C), 42.9 (2C), 49.9 (1C), 53.0 (2C), 56.8 (1C), 60.0 (1C), 64.7 (1C), 79.7 (1C), 154.5 (1C), 175.6 (1C). **ESI-HRMS:** Calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. Exact: (M: 368.2675, M+H: 369.2753); Experimental: (M+H: 369.2696).

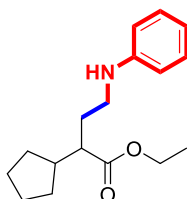
### Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-4-(piperidin-1-yl)butanoate (**6s**)



General procedure B was followed employing **1d** (84.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) and piperidine (49.5  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) afforded **6s** (67 mg, 50%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 84% by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak IC column with a gradient 90:10 CO<sub>2</sub>/EtOH, with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 230 nm:  $t_{r\text{ minor}}$  = 3.5 min,  $t_{r\text{ major}}$  = 3.8 min.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.15 (m, 2H), 1.24 (m, 1H), 1.25 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.43 (bs, 2H), 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.60 (bs, 7H), 1.84 (m, 3H), 1.96 (m, 1H), 2.13 (td,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 10, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (m, 1H), 2.40 (bs, 4H), 4.13 (m, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.5 (1C), 24.5 (1C), 25.1 (1C), 25.9 (2C), 28.8 (1C), 30.8 (1C), 30.9 (1C), 43.0 (2C), 50.1 (1C), 54.7 (2C), 57.6 (1C), 60.0 (1C), 175.8 (1C). **ESI-HRMS:** Calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Exact: (M: 267.2198, M+H: 268.2277); Experimental: (M+H: 268.2285).

### Ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-4-(piperidin-1-yl) butanoate (**6t**)

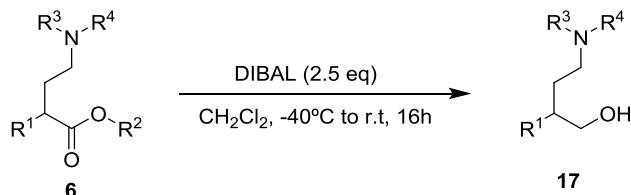


General procedure C was followed employing **1d** (84.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) and aniline (46.0  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) afforded **6t** (68.9 mg, 50%) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 84% by UPC<sup>2</sup> analysis on a Daicel Chiralpak IG column with a gradient 80:20 CO<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 3 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 243 nm:  $t_{r\text{ minor}}$  = 3.4 min,  $t_{r\text{ major}}$  = 2.8 min.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 1.11 (m, 1H), 1.20 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.56 (m, 6H), 1.84 (m, 3H), 2.01 (m, 1H), 2.26 (m, 1H), 3.11 (m, 2H), 4.14 (q,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.69 (t,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.16 (m, 2H, Ar). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 14.3 (1C), 25.0 (2C), 30.7 (1C), 30.8 (1C), 31.2 (1C), 42.4 (1C), 42.8 (1C), 49.5 (1C), 60.3 (1C), 112.8-148.1 (6C, Ar), 175.9 (1C). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Exact: (M: 275.1885, M+H: 276.1964); Experimental: (M+H: 276.1962).

## SVI. Reduction of $\gamma$ -aminobutyric esters to alcohols

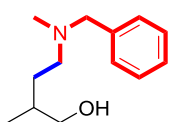
**General procedure D: reduction of  $\alpha$ -alkyl- $\gamma$ -aminobutyric esters **6** into the corresponding aminoalcohols **17****



Diisobutylaluminum hydride (DIBAL) solution 1.0 M in DCM (2.5 eq) was added dropwise to a solution of the corresponding amino ester **6** (1 eq) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2.0 mL) at -40°C. The reaction was left stirring at -40°C for 1h, then

allowed to reach room temperature and left stirring overnight. The reaction was quenched by addition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  sat. solution (2 mL) at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and the mixture was left stirring for 2h. Then, the aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 x 2 mL), the organic phases were dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtrated and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was finally purified by chromatographic column using  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  to afford the corresponding **17**.

#### 4-(benzyl(methyl)amino)-2-methylbutan-1-ol (**17a**)

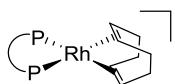


General procedure D was followed employing **6c** (31 mg, 0.13 mmol) and DIBAL (325  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.33 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography eluting with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and 1% of MeOH afforded **17a** (26 mg, 95 %) as colorless oil. The enantiomeric excess was determined to be 62% by HPLC analysis on a Chiralpack IG column with a gradient 95:05  $\text{CO}_2/\text{MeOH}$ , with 0.1% of diethylamine as additive, flow rate 2 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm:  $t_{r \text{ minor}} = 7.4$  min,  $t_{r \text{ major}} = 7.7$  min.

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 0.86 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8$  Hz, 3H), 1.55 (m, 1H), 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.75 (m, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.43 (m, 1H), 2.52 (m, 1H), 3.29 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 11.4, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 12.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 11.6, 1.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.56 (d,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 12.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.27 (m, 5H, Ar).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 18.3 (1C), 34.0 (1C), 36.9 (1C), 41.1 (1C), 56.5 (1C), 62.7 (1C), 68.7 (1C), 127.5-137.4 (6C, Ar). **ESI-HRMS**: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$ . Exact: (M: 207.1623, M+H: 208.1701); Experimental: (M+H: 208.1698).

## SVII. Synthesis and characterization of Rhodium complexes

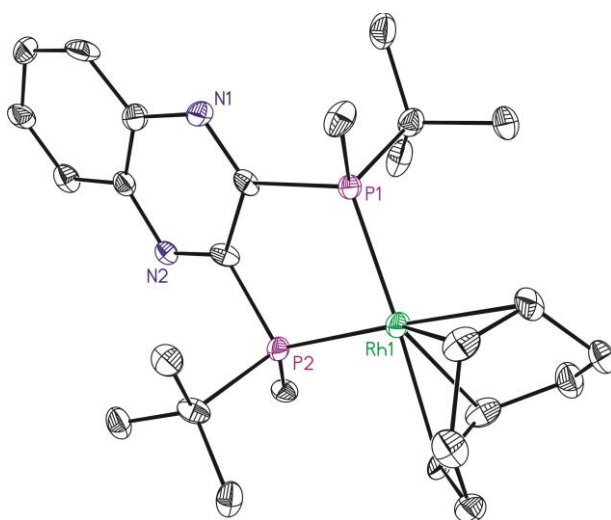
### [Rh(COD)(L1)]BF<sub>4</sub> (**7**)



Bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate (40 mg, 0.1 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous dichloromethane (5 mL) and cooled to  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ . Then, (*R,R*)-QuinoxP\* **L1** (33.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (5 mL) was added dropwise for 30 min. The

reaction was left stirring at -20 °C for 1h and then left stirring at room temperature for another 1h. After that, the crude was concentrated under vacuum, and the complex was precipitated with anhydrous diethyl ether at 0°C. The precipitated was filtrated, and washed with anhydrous hexane to afford the desired complex **7** (49 mg, 78 %) as orange solid.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ: 1.10 (d,  $J_{P,H}$  = 15.2 Hz, 18H), 1.86 (d,  $J_{P,H}$  = 8.0 Hz, 6H), 2.23 (m, 4H), 2.56 (m, 2H), 2.67 (m, 2H), 5.03 (m, 2H), 6.12 (m, 2H), 7.99 (dd,  $J_{H,H}$  = 6.4, 3.2 Hz, 2H, Ar), 8.29 (dd,  $J_{H,H}$  = 6.4, 3.2 Hz, 2H, Ar). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ: 4.0 (t,  $J_{P,C}$  = 10.3 Hz, 2C), 26.2 (2C), 28.4 (6C), 35.8 (2C), 38.4 (t,  $J_{P,C}$  = 12.8 Hz, 2C), 92.4 (m, 2C), 107.2 (dt,  $J_{Rh,C}$  = 7.8 Hz,  $J_{P,C}$  = 2.2 Hz, 2C), 130.2-142.8 (6C, Ar), 154.4 (td,  $J_{P,C}$  = 53.3 Hz,  $J_{Rh,C}$  = 2.4 Hz, 2C, Ar). **<sup>31</sup>P NMR** (161.97 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ: 41.6 (d,  $J_{Rh,P}$  = 148.2 Hz, 2P). **ESI-HRMS:** Calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>40</sub>N<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Rh. Exact: (M<sup>+</sup>: 545.1716); Experimental: (M<sup>+</sup>: 545.1715).

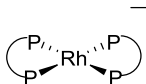


**Figure S1:** ORTEP drawing of the complex [Rh(COD)(**L1**)]BF<sub>4</sub> **7** (with ellipsoid at 50% probability). Solvent molecules, H, B and F atoms are omitted for clarity and only partial labelling scheme is illustrated.

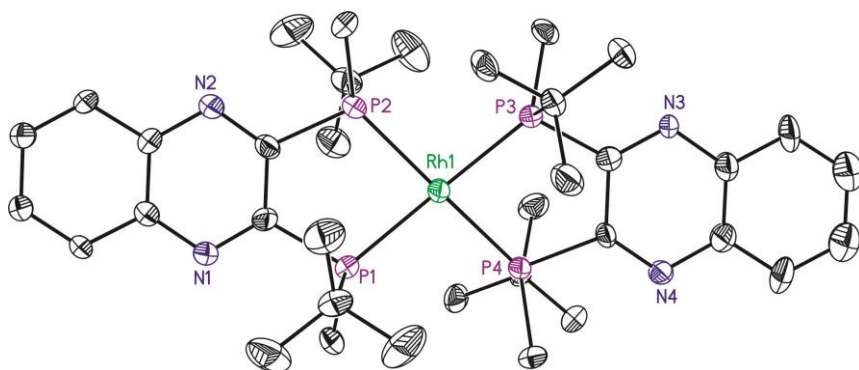
**Table S2:** Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for complex **7**.

| Bond lengths   |            |                |            |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Rh-P(1)        | 2.258 (3)  | Rh-C(20)       | 2.304 (11) |
| Rh-P(2)        | 2.267 (3)  | Rh-C(23)       | 2.236 (10) |
| Rh-C(19)       | 2.204 (13) | Rh-C(24)       | 2.292 (10) |
| Angles         |            |                |            |
| P(1)-Rh-P(2)   | 85.43 (10) | C(20)-Rh-C(24) | 86.8 (4)   |
| C(19)-Rh-C(23) | 95.9 (4)   |                |            |

**[Rh(L1)<sub>2</sub>]BF<sub>4</sub> (**8**)**


 Bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate (40 mg, 0.1 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL). Then, (*R,R*)-QuinoxP\* **L1** (100 mg, 0.3 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (2 mL) was added dropwise, and the reaction was left stirring for 1h. After that, the crude was concentrated under vacuum, and the complex was precipitated with anhydrous diethyl ether at 0 °C. The precipitated was filtrated, and washed with anhydrous hexane to afford the desired complex **8** (73 mg, 85 %) as orange solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ: 1.07 (t, *J*<sub>P,H</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 36H), 2.23 (s, 12H), 7.99 (dd, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 6.4, 3.2 Hz, 4H, *Ar*), 8.32 (dd, *J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 6.4, 3.2 Hz, 4H, *Ar*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ: 9.5 (t, *J*<sub>P,C</sub> = 6.9 Hz, 4C), 28.4 (12C), 38.3 (t, *J*<sub>P,C</sub> = 6.4 Hz, 4C), 130.0-142.5 (12C, *Ar*), 155.8 (td, *J*<sub>P,C</sub> = 26.8 Hz, *J*<sub>Rh,C</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 4C, *Ar*). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161.97 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ: 38.9 (d, *J*<sub>Rh,P</sub> = 130.4 Hz, 2P). **ESI-HRMS:** Calculated for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>56</sub>N<sub>4</sub>P<sub>4</sub>Rh<sup>+</sup>. Exact: (M<sup>+</sup>: 771.2505); Experimental: (M<sup>+</sup>: 771.2539).

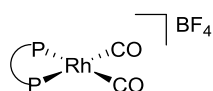


**Figure S2:** ORTEP drawing of the complex  $[\text{Rh}(\text{L1})_2]\text{BF}_4$  **8** (with ellipsoid at 50% probability). Solvent molecules, H, B and F atoms are omitted for clarity and only partial labelling scheme is illustrated.

**Table S3:** Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for complex **8**.

| Bond lengths |            |              |            |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Rh-P(1)      | 2.317 (17) | Rh-P(3)      | 2.305(9)   |
| Rh-P(2)      | 2.316 (17) | Rh-P(4)      | 2.294(9)   |
| Angles       |            |              |            |
| P(1)-Rh-P(2) | 84.79(6)   | P(2)-Rh-P(4) | 160.79(19) |
| P(1)-Rh-P(3) | 163.5(2)   | P(3)-Rh-P(4) | 85.5(3)    |
| P(1)-Rh-P(4) | 98.15(19)  |              |            |
| P(2)-Rh-P(3) | 97.02(2)   |              |            |

### $[\text{Rh}(\text{CO})_2(\text{L1})]\text{BF}_4$ (**9**)

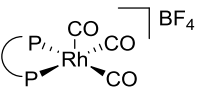


Complex  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})(\text{L1})]\text{BF}_4$  **7** (20 mg, 0.035 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 mL). Then, CO was bubbled into the previous solution for 1h. After that, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was washed with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (3 x 1 mL) to afford the desired complex **9** (20 mg, 97 %) as yellow solid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$ : 1.24 (d,  $J_{\text{P,H}} = 17.2$  Hz, 18H), 2.13 (dd,  $J_{\text{P,H}} = 10.0$  Hz,  $J_{\text{Rh,H}} = 1.2$  Hz, 6H), 8.12 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.4$ , 3.6 Hz, 2H, Ar), 8.38 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.4$ , 3.6 Hz, 2H, Ar).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$ : 7.5 (t,  $J_{\text{P,C}} = 13.5$  Hz,

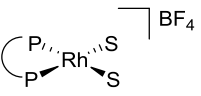
2C), 27.8 (6C), 36.5 (t,  $J_{P,C} = 13.8$  Hz, 2C) , 130.0-142.7 (6C, Ar), 152.3 (td,  $J_{P,C} = 57.8$  Hz,  $J_{Rh,C} = 2.6$  Hz, 2C, Ar), 184.6 (m, 2C, CO).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161.97 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$ : 47.2 (d,  $J_{Rh,P} = 114.7$  Hz, 2P). IR (neat):  $\nu$  (CO) = 2097, 2051  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

### [Rh(CO)<sub>3</sub>(L1)]BF<sub>4</sub> (10)

 Bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate (6 mg, 0.015 mmol) dissolved in anhydrous dichloroethane (0.25 mL), and (*R,R*)-QuinoxP\* **L1** (6 mg, 0.018 mmol) in anhydrous deuterated toluene (0.25 mL) were mixed inside a sapphire NMR tube inside the glovebox. Then, the tube was sealed and removed from the glovebox. After that, the tube was pressurized with 30 bar CO, heated at 90 °C and the reaction was left stirring for 16h. After that, the crude was analysed by NMR.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, *tol-d*)  $\delta$ : 0.95 (d,  $J_{P,H} = 14.3$  Hz, 18H), 1.81 (d,  $J_{P,H} = 6.9$  Hz, 6H), 7.72 (dd,  $J_{H,H} = 6.4, 3.5$  Hz, 2H, Ar), 8.09 (dd,  $J_{H,H} = 6.4, 3.5$  Hz, 2H, Ar).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz, *tol-d*)  $\delta$ : 7.9 (m, 2C), 27.4 (m, 6C), 36.3 (m, 2C) , 126.2-142.7 (6C, Ar), 153.1 (t,  $J_{P,C} = 57.8$  Hz, 2C, Ar).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161.97 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$ : 48.7 (d,  $J_{Rh,P} = 116$  Hz). IR (neat):  $\nu$  (CO) = 2120, 2086, 2041  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

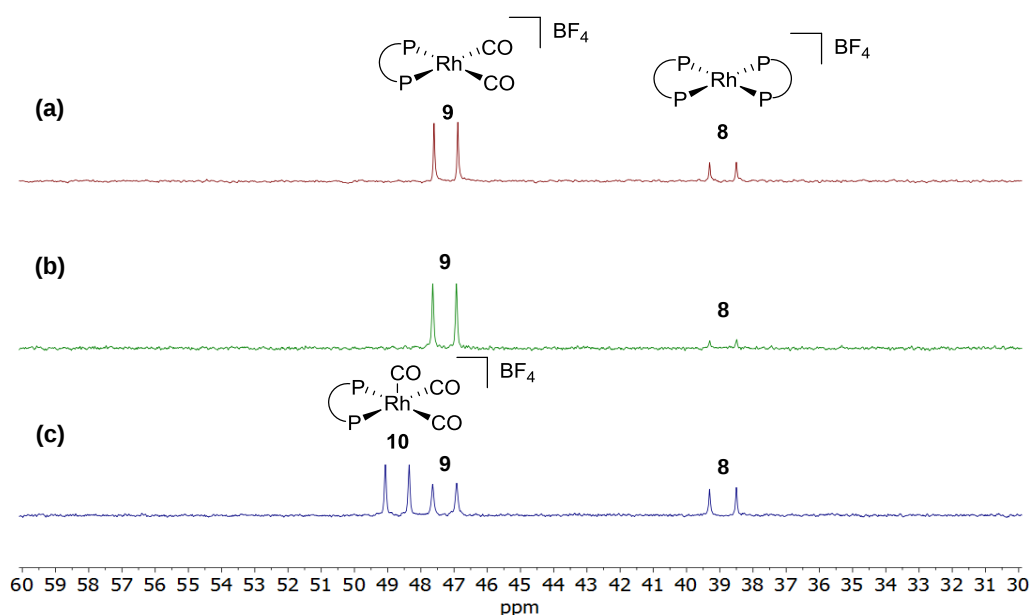
### [Rh(Solv.)<sub>2</sub>(L1)]BF<sub>4</sub> (11)

 Bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate (6 mg, 0.015 mmol) dissolved in anhydrous dichloroethane (0.25 mL), and (*R,R*)-QuinoxP\* **L1** (6 mg, 0.018 mmol) in anhydrous deuterated toluene (0.25 mL) were mixed inside a sapphire NMR tube inside the glovebox. Then, the tube was sealed and removed from the glovebox. After that, the tube was pressurized with 8 bar H<sub>2</sub>, and then the reaction was left stirring for 1h at room temperature. After that, the crude was analysed by NMR.

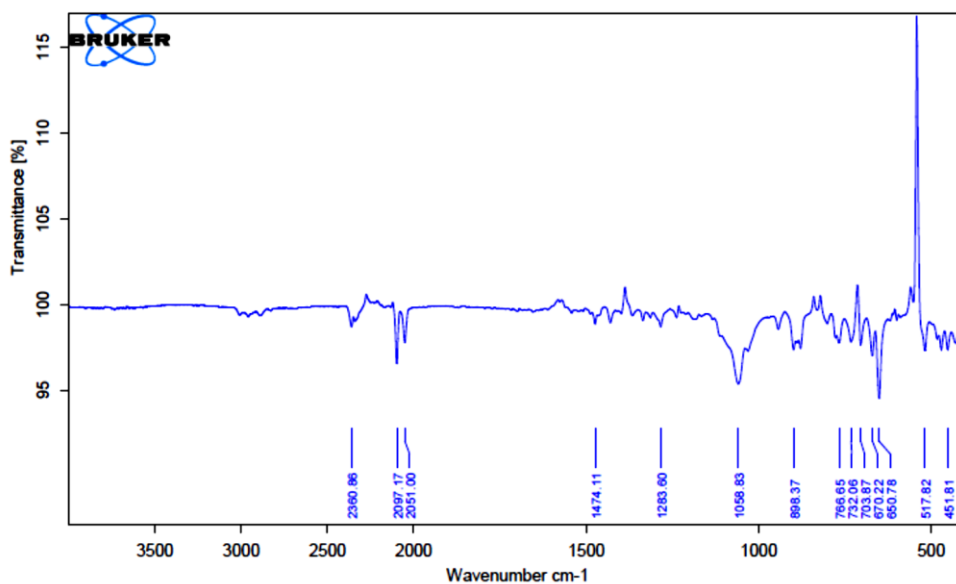
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{tol-d}$ )  $\delta$ : 0.80 (d,  $J_{\text{P,H}} = 15.3$  Hz, 18H), 1.77 (d,  $J_{\text{P,H}} = 8.5$  Hz, 6H), 7.55 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6, 3.5$  Hz, 2H, *Ar*), 7.96 (dd,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.5, 3.5$  Hz, 2H, *Ar*).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161.97 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$ : 60.1 (d,  $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 200$  Hz).

## SVIII. Selected NMR and IR spectra from in situ HP NMR studies

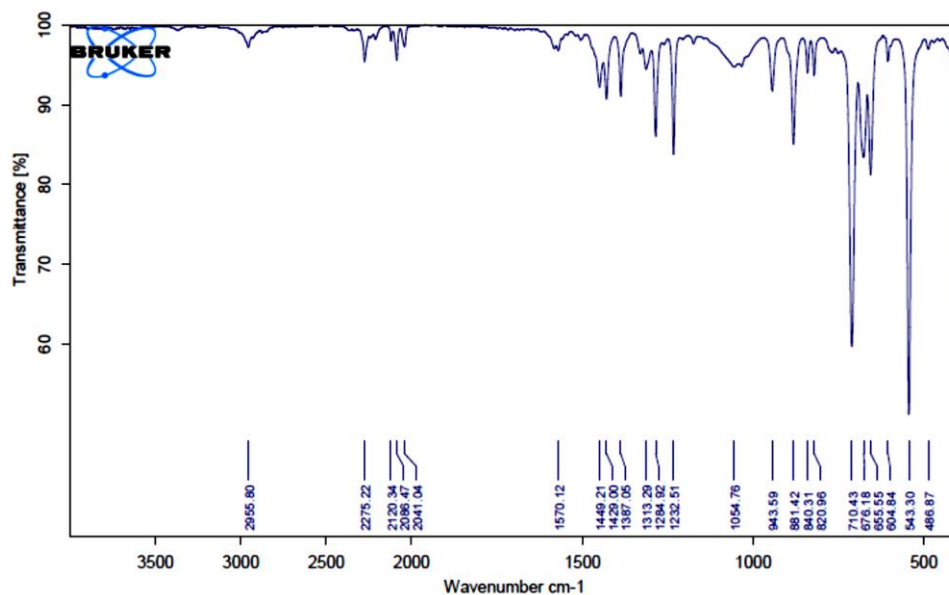
### A. $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$ in the presence of L1 under CO pressure



**Figure S3:**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  and L1 in  $\text{tol-d}^8/\text{DCE}$  at variable CO pressures and temperatures: a) 10 bar of CO for 16h at room temperature, b) 30 bar CO for 96h at rt, c) 10 bar at rt for 16h, then 10 bar of CO at 90 °C for 16 h.

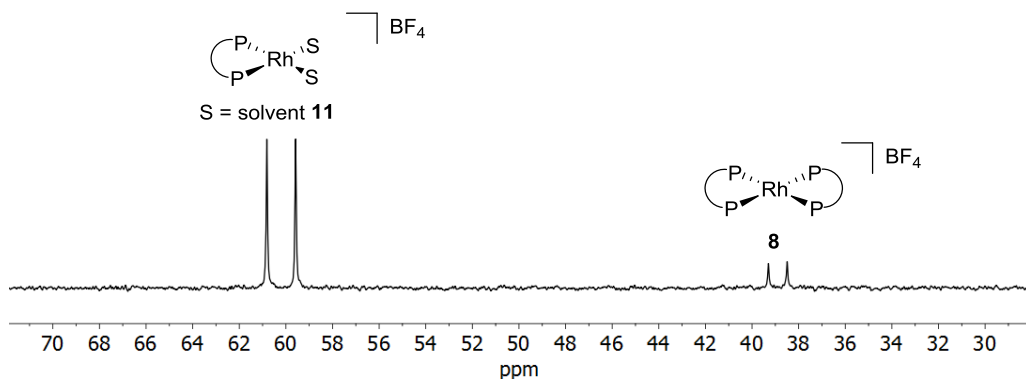


**Figure S4:** IR spectra of the resulting solution of mixing  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  and **L1** in  $\text{tol-d}_8/\text{DCE}$  under 10 bar of CO for 16h at room temperature.



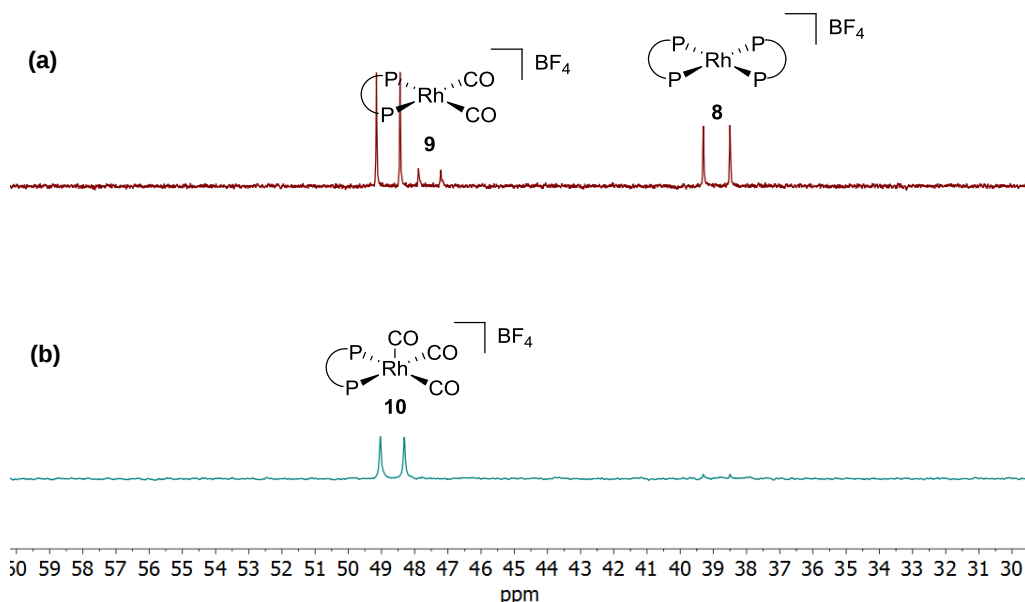
**Figure S5:** IR spectra of the resulting solution of mixing  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  and **L1** in  $\text{tol-d}_8/\text{DCE}$  under 10 bar of CO for 16h at 90 °C.

**B.  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  in the presence of L1 under  $\text{H}_2$  pressure**



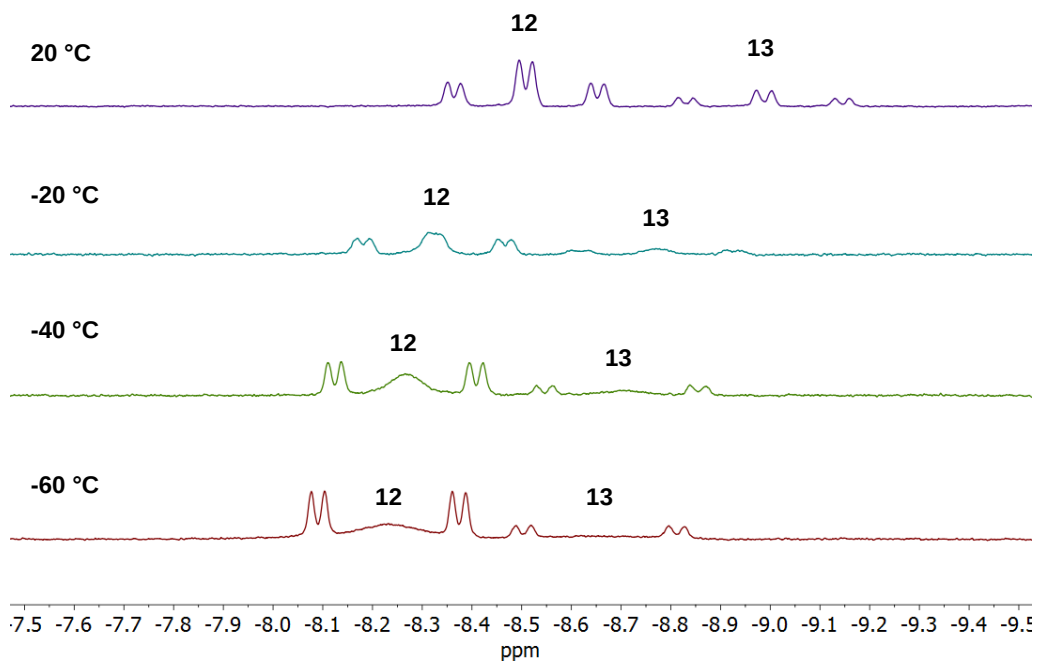
**Figure S6:**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  and **L1** in  $\text{tol-d}^8/\text{DCE}$  at 8 bar of  $\text{H}_2$  at room temperature.

**C.  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  in the presence of L1 under  $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$  pressure**

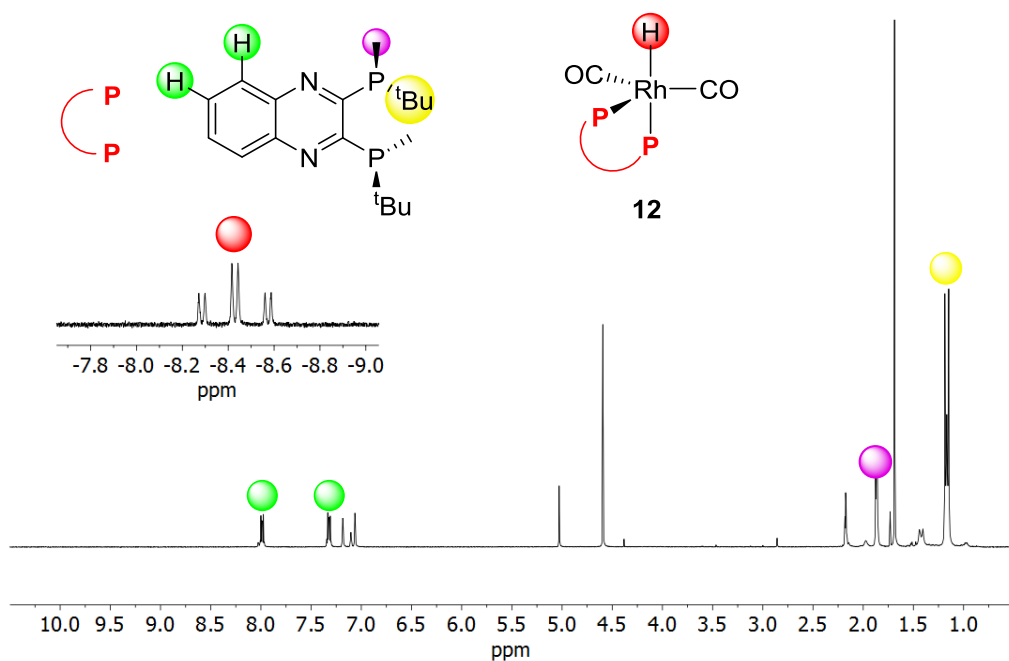


**Figure S7:**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  and **L1** in  $\text{tol-d}^8/\text{DCE}$  under variable  $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$  pressures and at  $90^\circ\text{C}$ : a) 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) for 24h, b) 20 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) for 48 h.

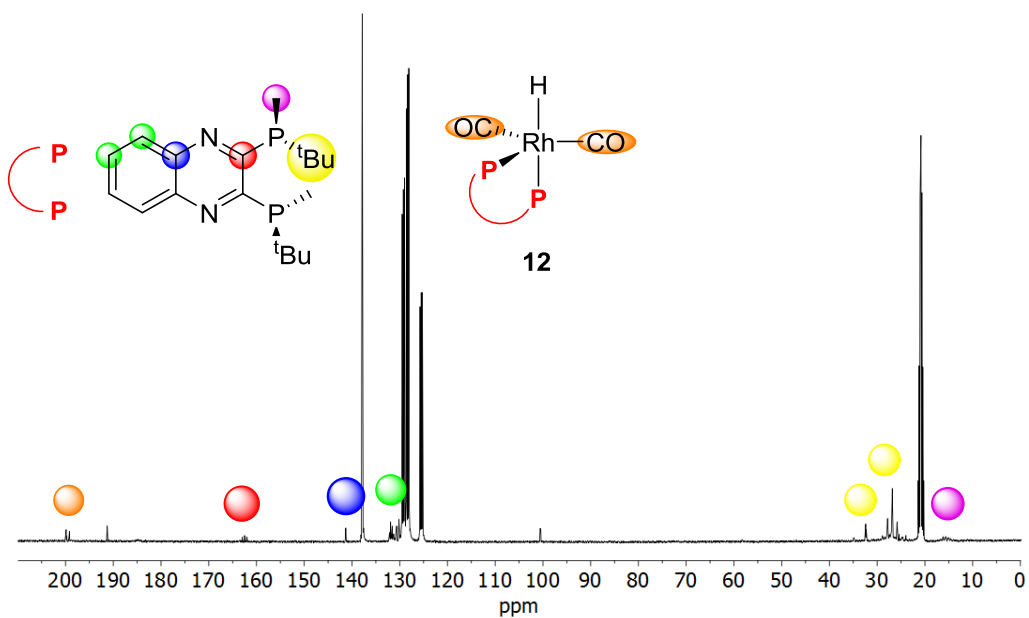
#### D. Characterization of species 12 and 13



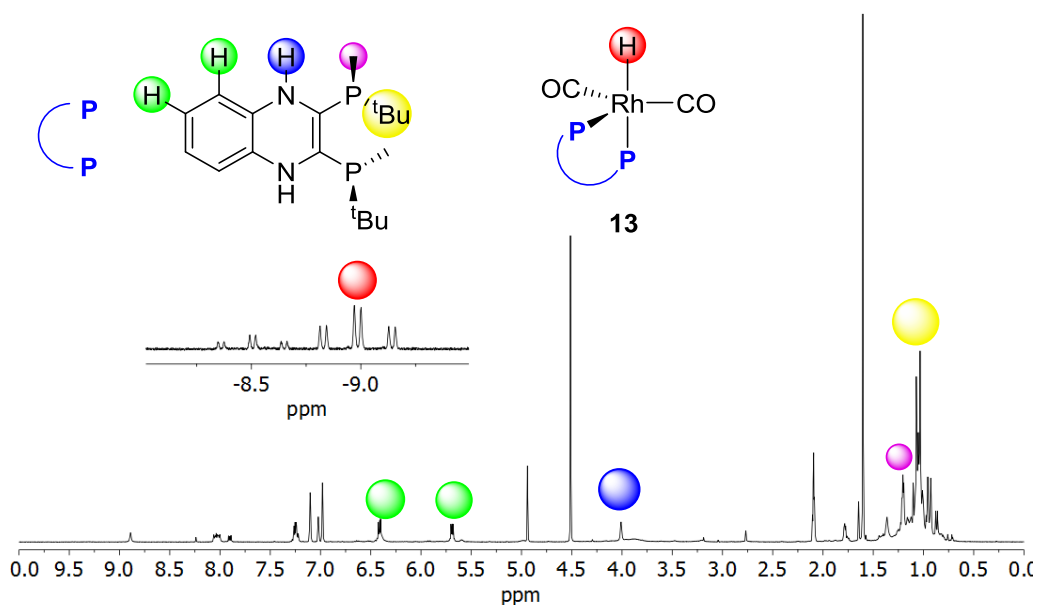
**Figure S8:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence **L1** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) and at 90 °C for 16 h recorded at variable temperature.



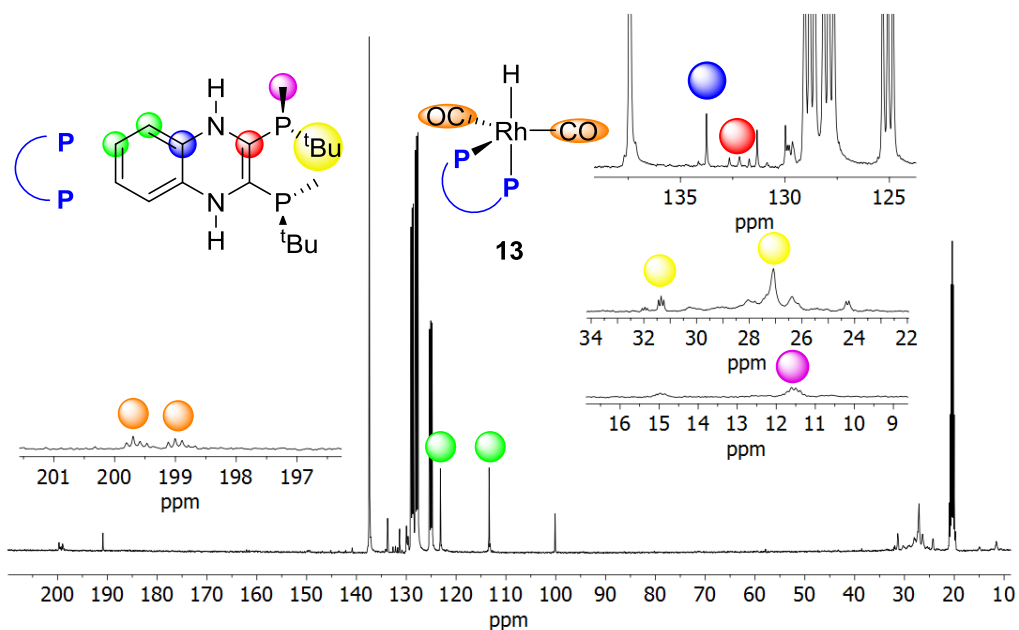
**Figure S9:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) and at room temperature. Inset: hydride region.



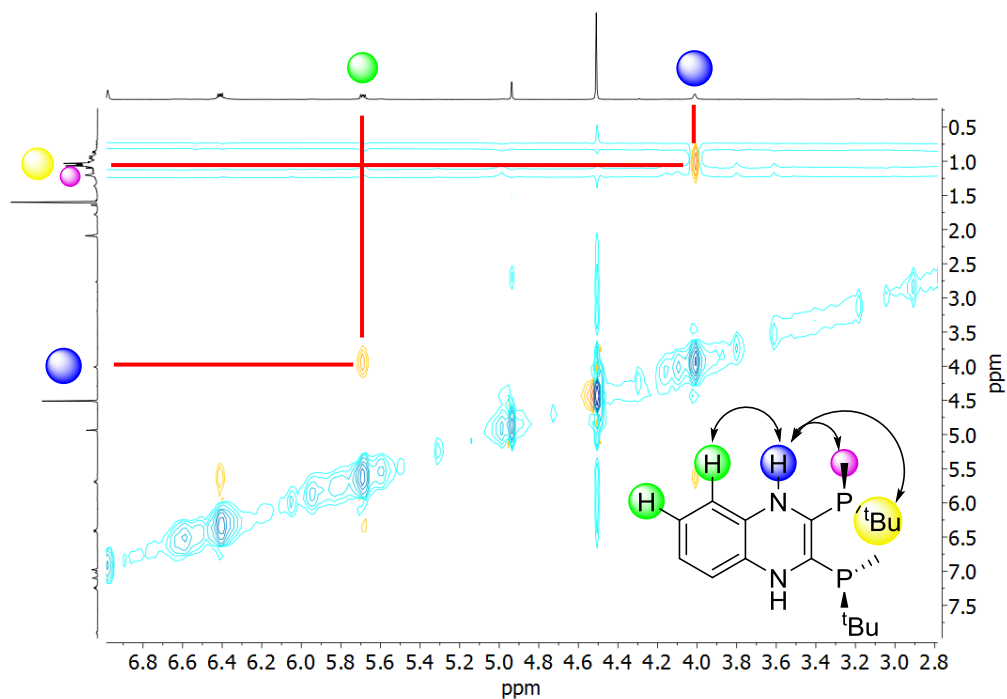
**Figure S10:**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) and at room temperature for 16 h.



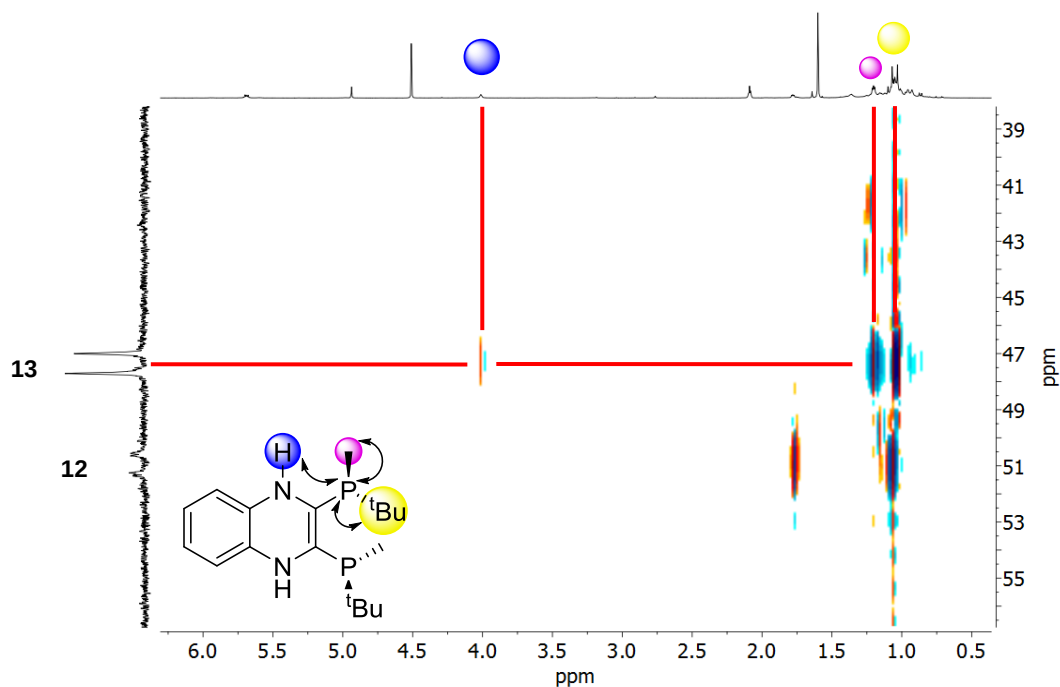
**Figure S11:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence **L1** under 20 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) and at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  for 16 h. Signals corresponding to species **13** emphasized. Inset: hydride region.



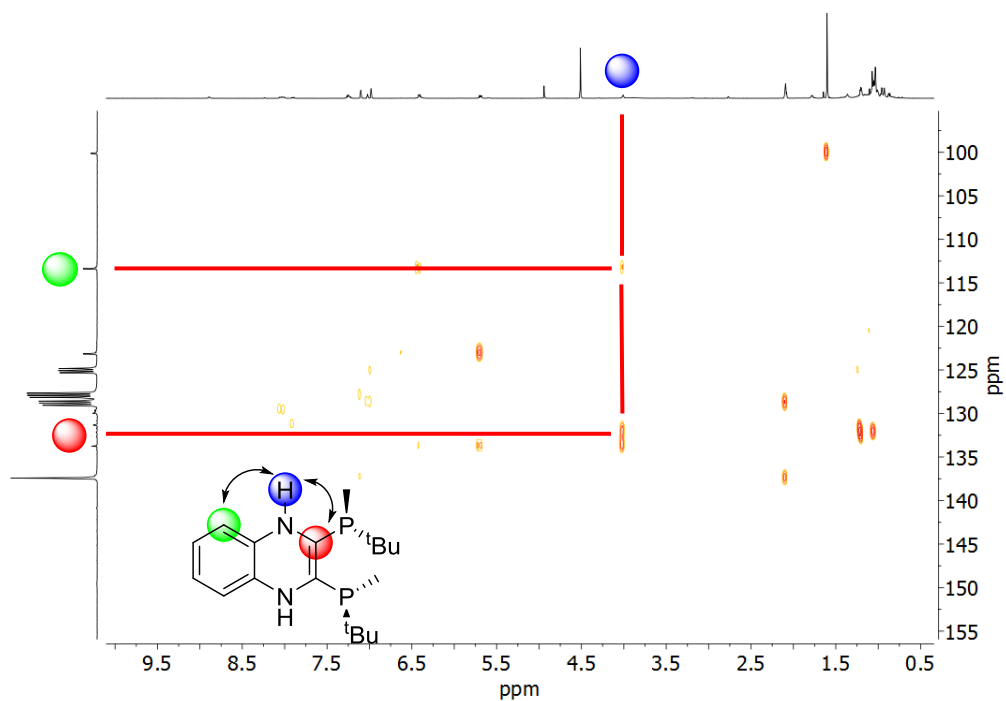
**Figure S12:**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence **L1** under 20 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) and at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  for 16 h. Signals corresponding to species **13** emphasized. Inset: different areas of the spectra.



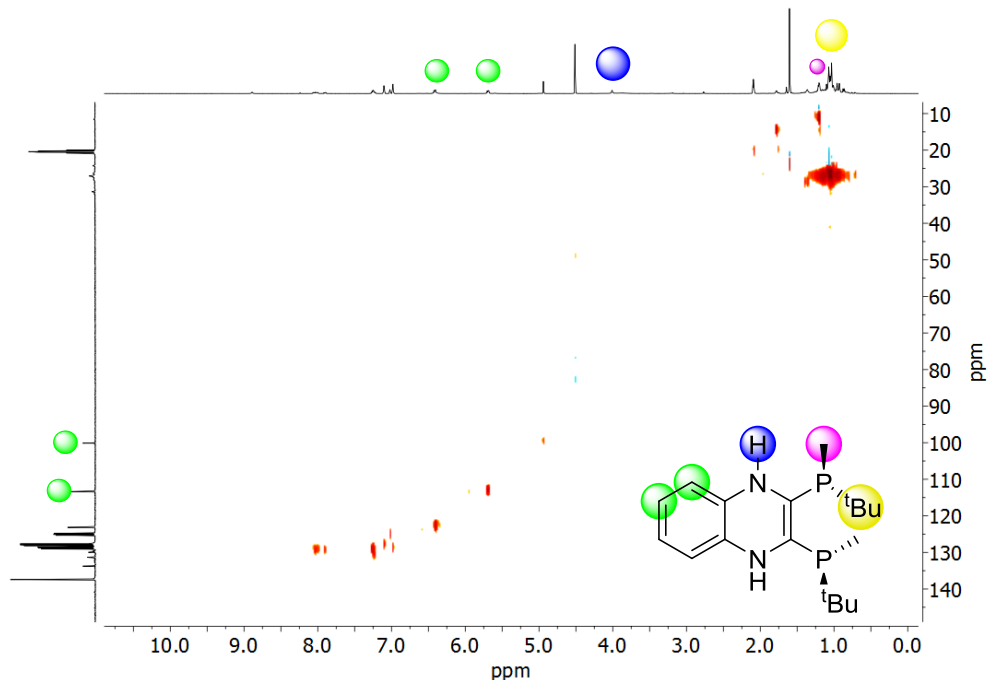
**Figure S13:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence **L1** under 20 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) and at 90 °C for 16 h. Signals corresponding to species **13** emphasized



**Figure S14:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{31}\text{P}$  HMBC NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence **L1** under 20 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) and at 90 °C for 16 h. Signals corresponding to species **13** emphasized

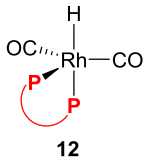
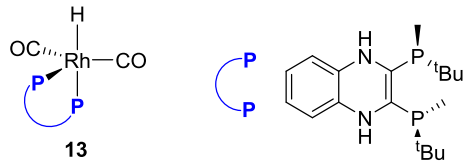


**Figure S15:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1** under 20 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) and at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  for 16 h. Signals corresponding to species **13** emphasized.



**Figure S16:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1** under 20 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  for 16 h. Signals corresponding to species **13** emphasized.

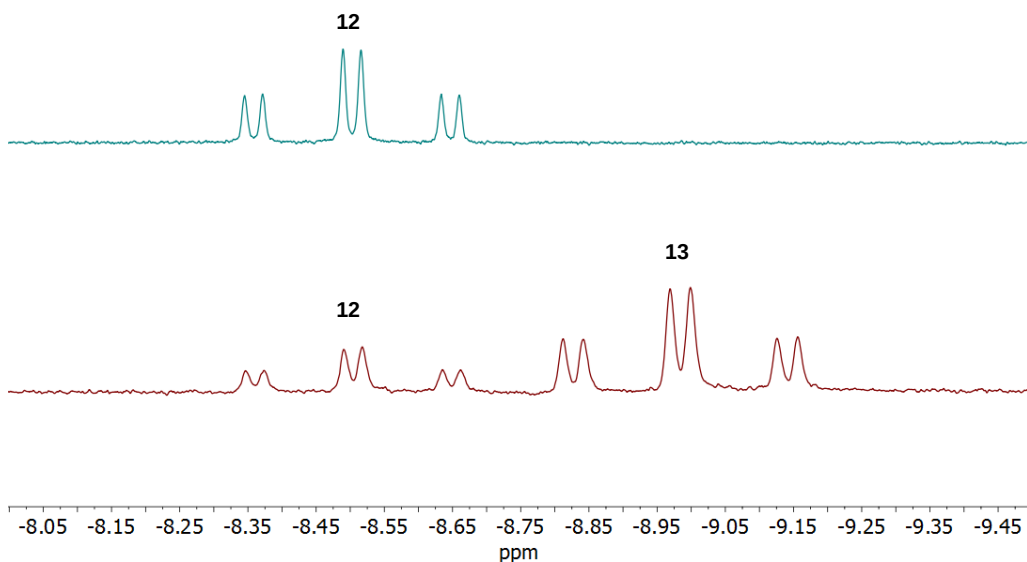
**Table S4:** Selected spectroscopic data of the rhodium coordination sphere from rhodium complexes **12** and **13**.

|  |  |                                                                     |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $\delta^{31}\text{P}$ ppm                                                         | $\delta^1\text{H}$ ppm                                                             | $\delta^{13}\text{CO}$ ppm                                          |                                                                   |
| <b>12</b>                                                                         | 51.6 (d, $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 114.7$ Hz)                                             | - 8.5 (td, $J_{\text{Rh,H}} = 10.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{P,H}} = 57.6$ Hz) | 199 (dt, $J_{\text{P,C}} = 10.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{Rh,C}} = 68.8$ Hz) |
| <b>13</b>                                                                         | 48.9 (d, $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 115.5$ Hz)                                             | - 9.0 (td, $J_{\text{Rh,H}} = 12.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{P,H}} = 62.8$ Hz) | 199 (dt, $J_{\text{P,C}} = 11.6$ Hz, $J_{\text{Rh,C}} = 69.7$ Hz) |

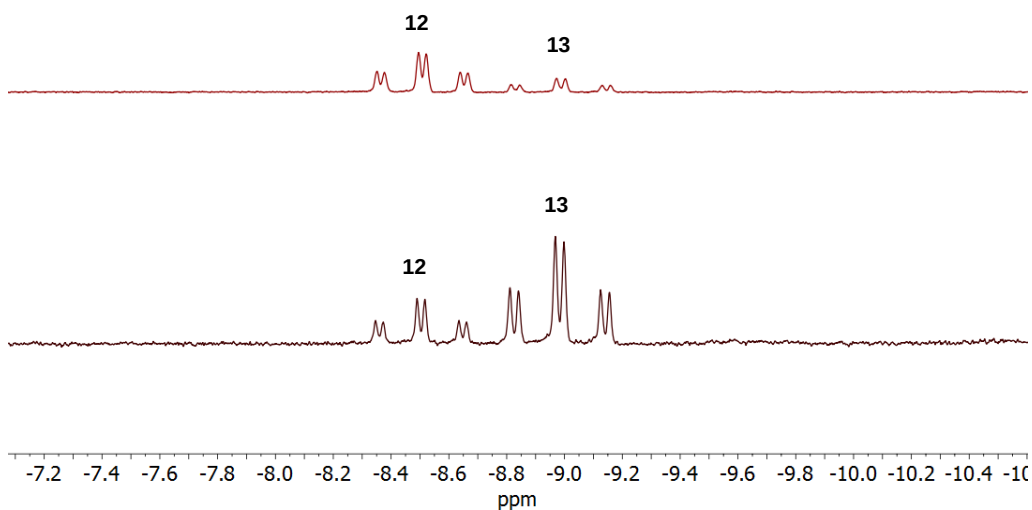
**Table S5:** Selected spectroscopic data corresponding to the quinaxaline backbone of rhodium complexes **12** and **13**.

| <b>12</b>                                        |                                                                                                                                | <b>13</b>                                        |                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $\delta^1\text{H}$ ppm                           | $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ppm                                                                                                      | $\delta^1\text{H}$ ppm                           | $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ppm                                                                                                      |
| 1.05 (C( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ) | 28 (C( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ), 31.9 (t, $J_{\text{P,C}} = 9.4$ Hz, C( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ) | 1.05 (C( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ) | 28 (C( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ), 31.3 (t, $J_{\text{P,C}} = 9.9$ Hz, C( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ) |
| 1.79 ( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> )                  | 14.9 ( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> )                                                                                                | 1.20 ( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> )                  | 11.6 ( <u>CH</u> <sub>3</sub> )                                                                                                |
| -                                                | 162.5 (t, $J_{\text{P,C}} = 47.9$ Hz, C)                                                                                       | -                                                | 132.2 (t, $J_{\text{P,C}} = 48.1$ Hz, C)                                                                                       |
| -                                                | -                                                                                                                              | 4 ( <u>NH</u> )                                  | -                                                                                                                              |
| -                                                | 141.2 (C)                                                                                                                      | -                                                | 133.8 (C)                                                                                                                      |
| 7.3 ( <u>CH</u> )                                | 131.3 ( <u>CH</u> )                                                                                                            | 5.7 ( <u>CH</u> )                                | 113.1 ( <u>CH</u> )                                                                                                            |
| 7.9 ( <u>CH</u> )                                | 129.9 ( <u>CH</u> )                                                                                                            | 6.4 ( <u>CH</u> )                                | 123.0 ( <u>CH</u> )                                                                                                            |

## E. Experiments to control the formation of hydrides **12** and **13**

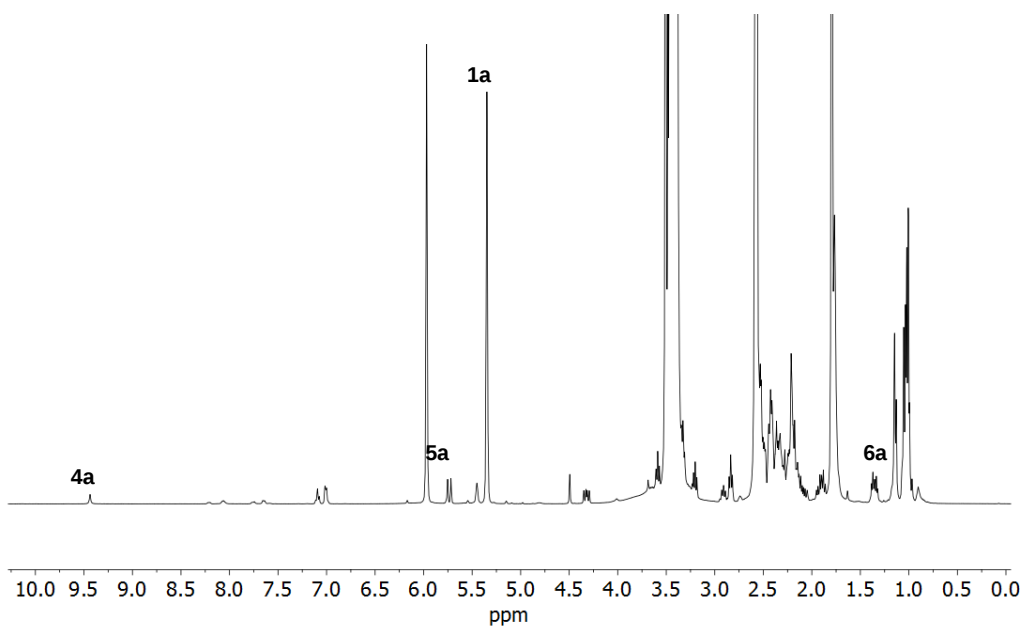


**Figure S17:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at variable temperature. Top: 20 °C. Bottom: 90 °C.

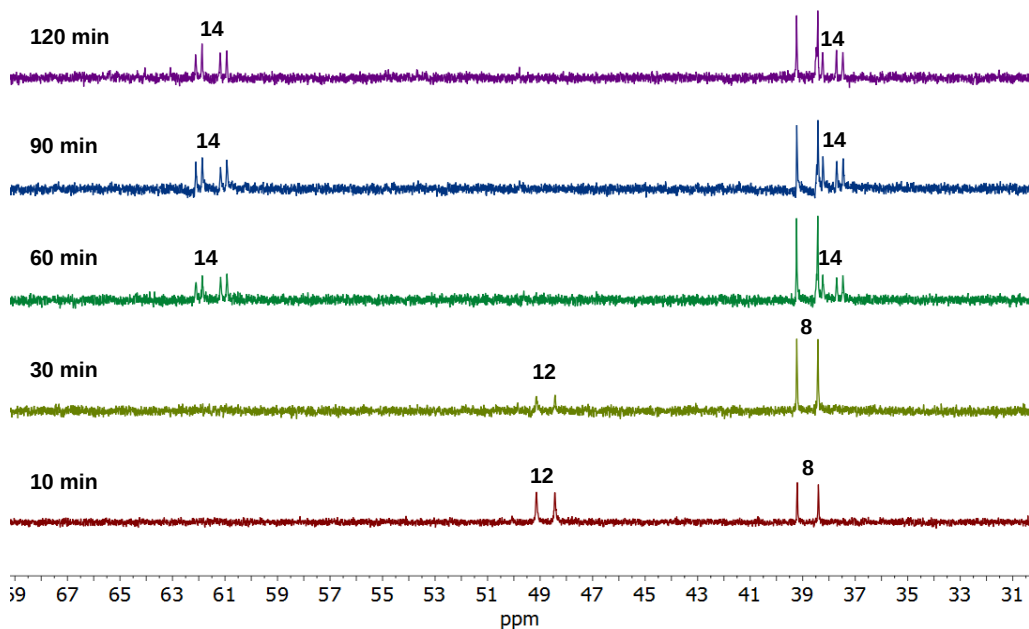


**Figure S18:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at 90 °C using different concentrations. Top:  $[\text{Rh}] = 0.0125\text{M}$  Bottom:  $[\text{Rh}] = 0.0375\text{M}$ .

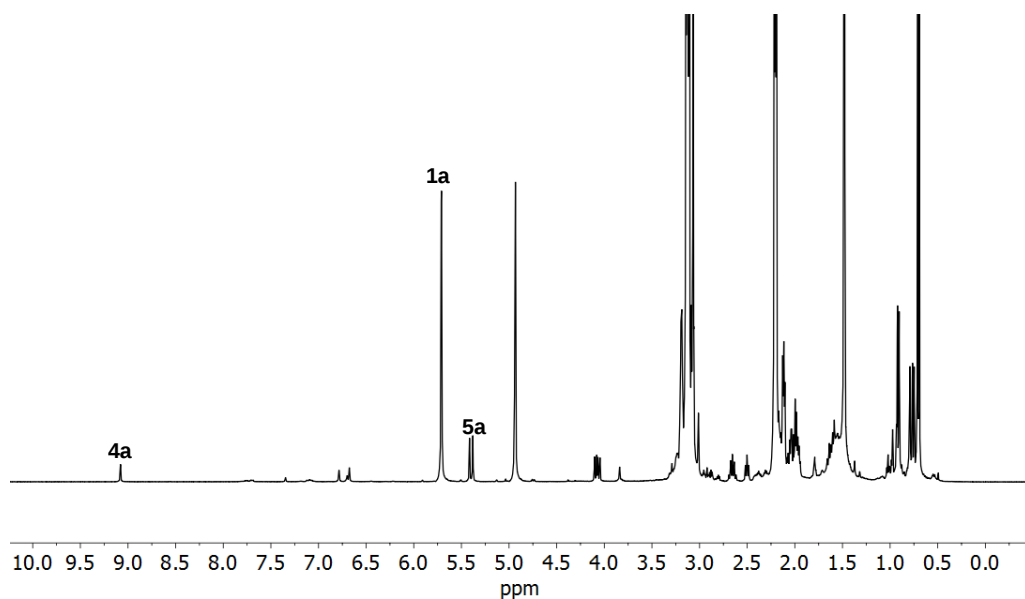
## F. Reaction monitoring experiments



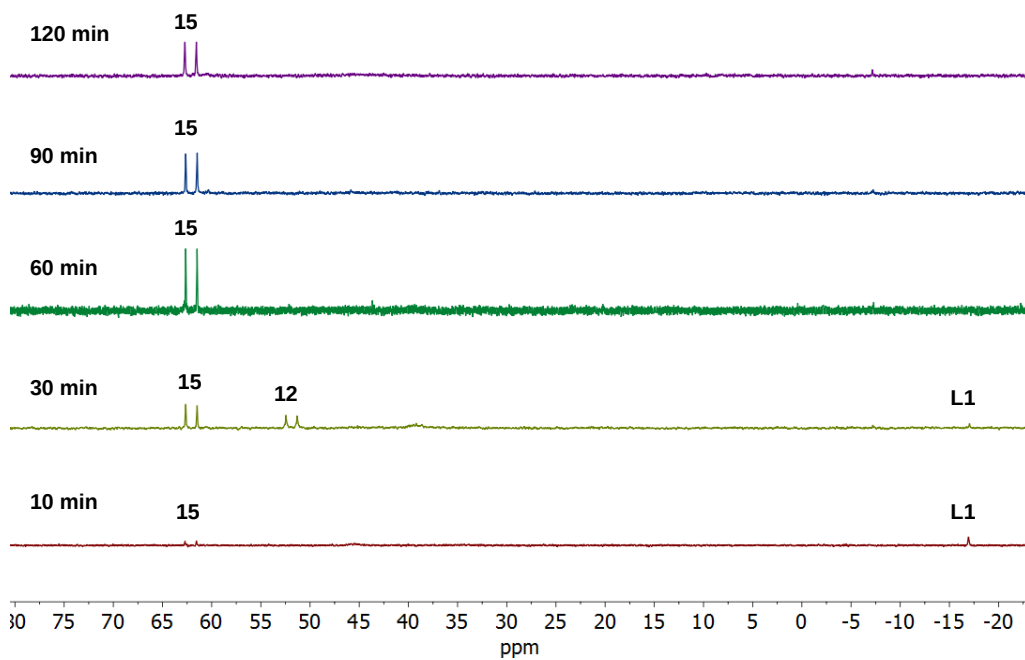
**Figure S19:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  in the presence of **L1**, methyl methacrylate **1a** and morpholine **2a** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\text{tol-d}_8/\text{DCE}$ .



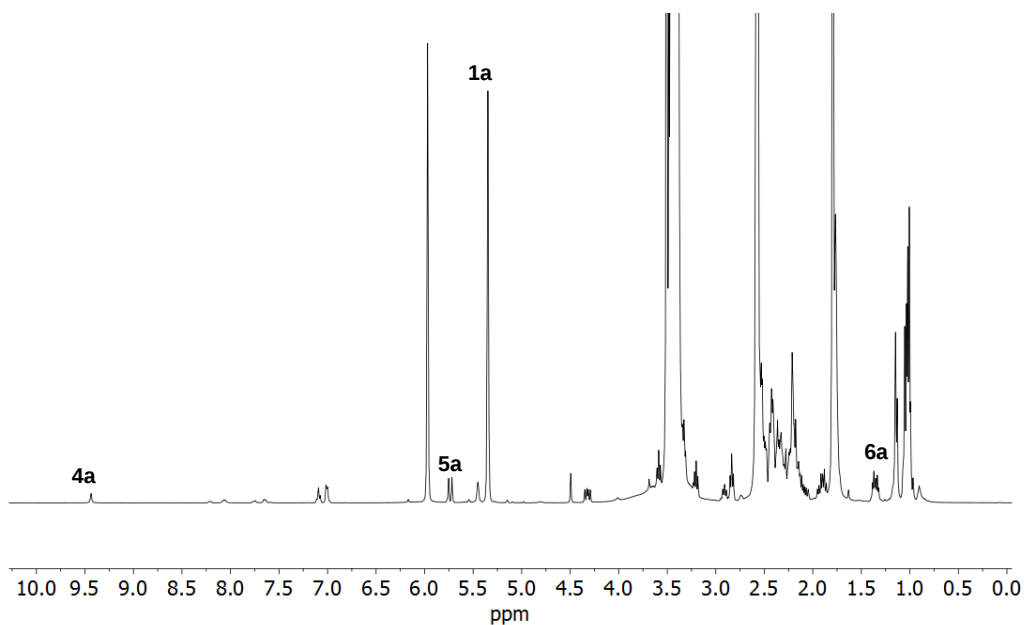
**Figure S20:**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2]\text{BF}_4$  in the presence of **L1**, methyl methacrylate **1a** and morpholine **2a** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\text{tol-d}_8/\text{DCE}$ .



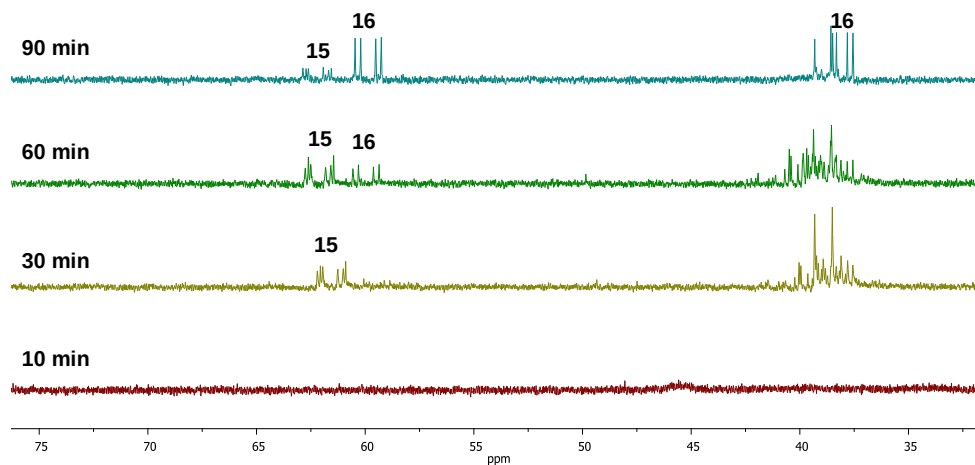
**Figure S21:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1**, methyl methacrylate **1a** and morpholine **2a** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\text{tol-d}_8$ .



**Figure S22:**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1**, methyl methacrylate **1a** and morpholine **2a** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\text{tol-d}_8$ .



**Figure S23:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1**, methyl methacrylate **1a** and morpholine **2a** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\text{tol-d}_8/\text{DCE}$ .



**Figure S24:**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{CO})_2]$  in the presence of **L1**, methyl methacrylate **1a** and morpholine **2a** under 10 bar ( $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$ , 4:1) at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\text{tol-d}_8/\text{DCE}$ .

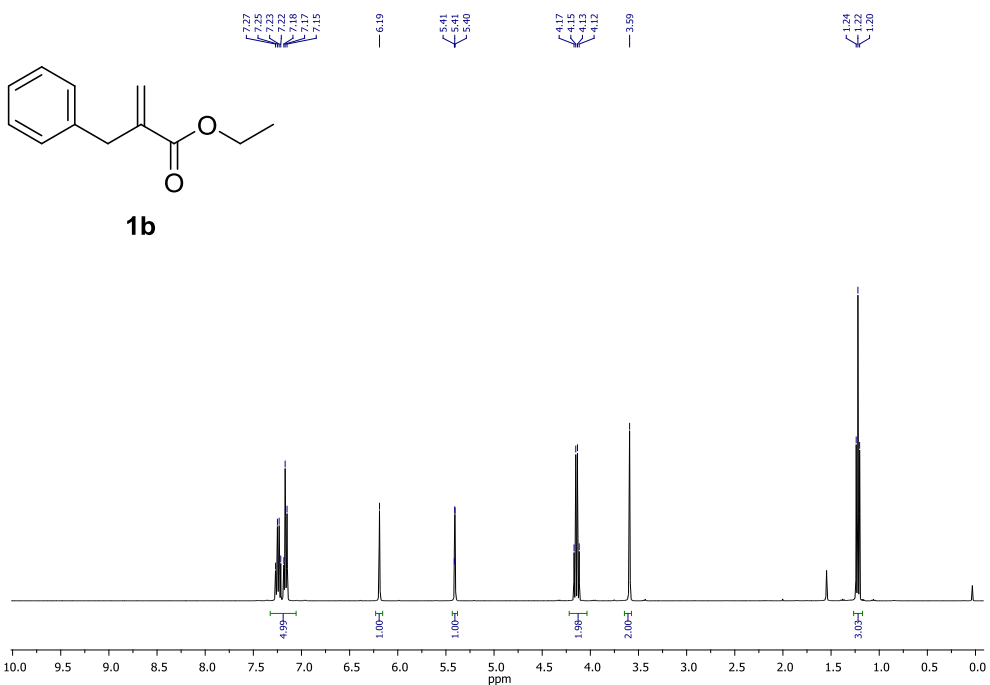
## SIX. Selected spectroscopic data

**Table S6:** Selected spectroscopic data of the rhodium species detected by HP-NMR.

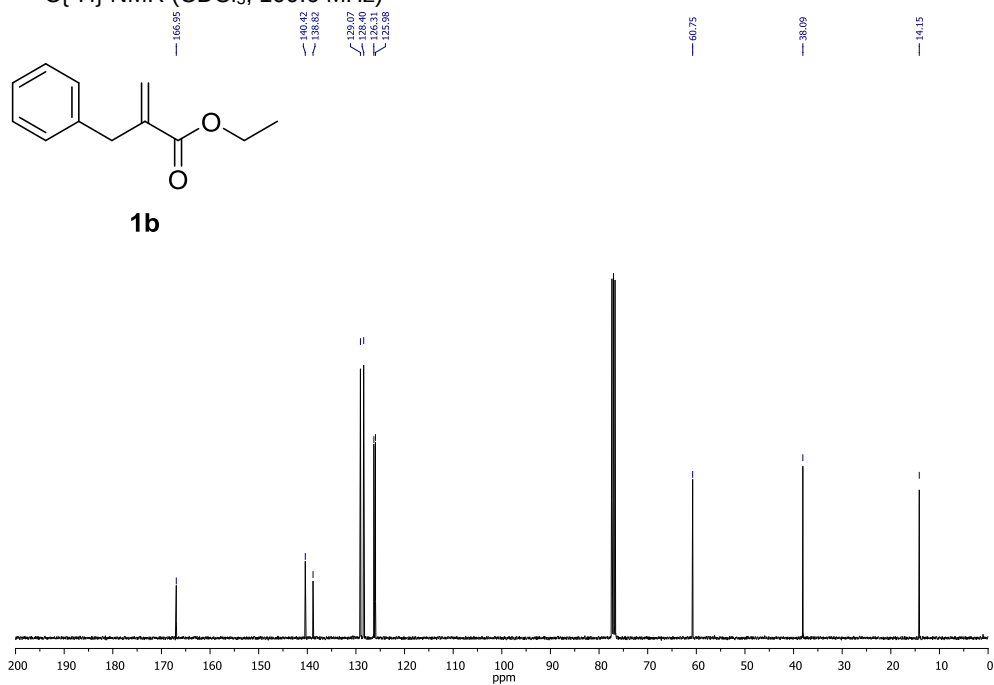
| Species                                                           | $\delta^{31}\text{P}$ ppm                                            | IR ( $\nu\text{CO}$ ) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| [Rh(COD)( <b>L1</b> )]BF <sub>4</sub> <b>7</b>                    | 41.6 (d, $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 148$ Hz)                                 | -                     |
| [Rh( <b>L1</b> ) <sub>2</sub> ]BF <sub>4</sub> <b>8</b>           | 38.9 (d, $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 130$ Hz)                                 | -                     |
| [Rh(CO) <sub>2</sub> ( <b>L1</b> )]BF <sub>4</sub> <b>9</b>       | 47.2 (d, $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 115$ Hz)                                 | 2097, 2051            |
| [Rh(CO) <sub>3</sub> ( <b>L1</b> )]BF <sub>4</sub> <b>10</b>      | 48.7 (d, $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 116$ Hz)                                 | 2120, 2086, 2041      |
| [Rh(Solvent) <sub>2</sub> ( <b>L1</b> )]BF <sub>4</sub> <b>11</b> | 60.1 (d, $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 200$ Hz)                                 | -                     |
| [Rh( <b>5a</b> )( <b>L1</b> )]BF <sub>4</sub> <b>14</b>           | 38 ppm ( $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 123.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{P,P}} = 38.7$ Hz)   | -                     |
|                                                                   | 61.5 ppm ( $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 151.7$ Hz, $J_{\text{P,P}} = 38.5$ Hz) |                       |
| [Rh(acac)( <b>L1</b> )] <b>15</b>                                 | 62.0 ppm ( $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 187.6$ Hz)                             | -                     |
| [Rh( <b>5a</b> )( <b>L1</b> )]acac <b>16</b>                      | 38 ppm ( $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 123$ Hz, $J_{\text{P,P}} = 41$ Hz)       | -                     |
|                                                                   | 59.8 ppm ( $J_{\text{Rh,P}} = 154$ Hz, $J_{\text{P,P}} = 41$ Hz)     |                       |

## SX. Spectra of novel compounds

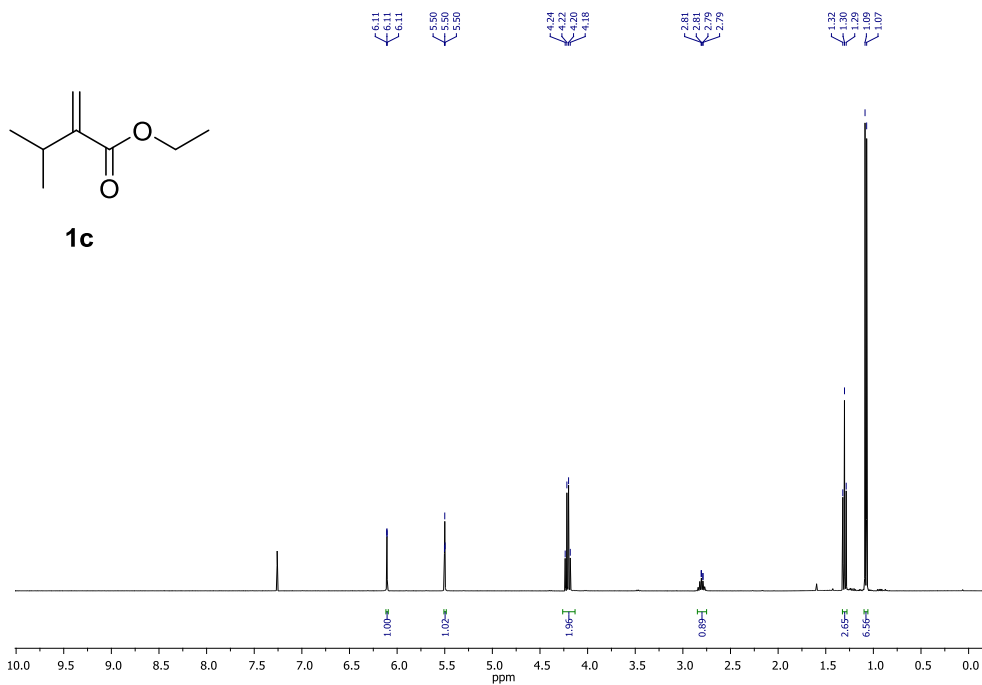
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



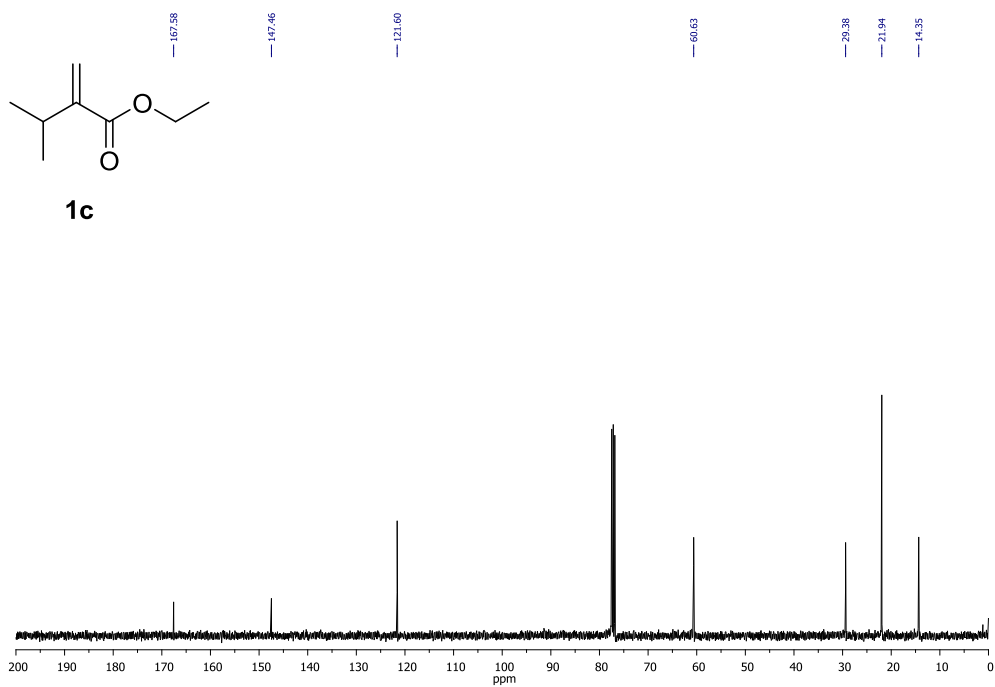
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



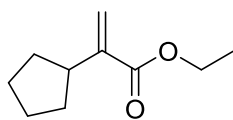
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



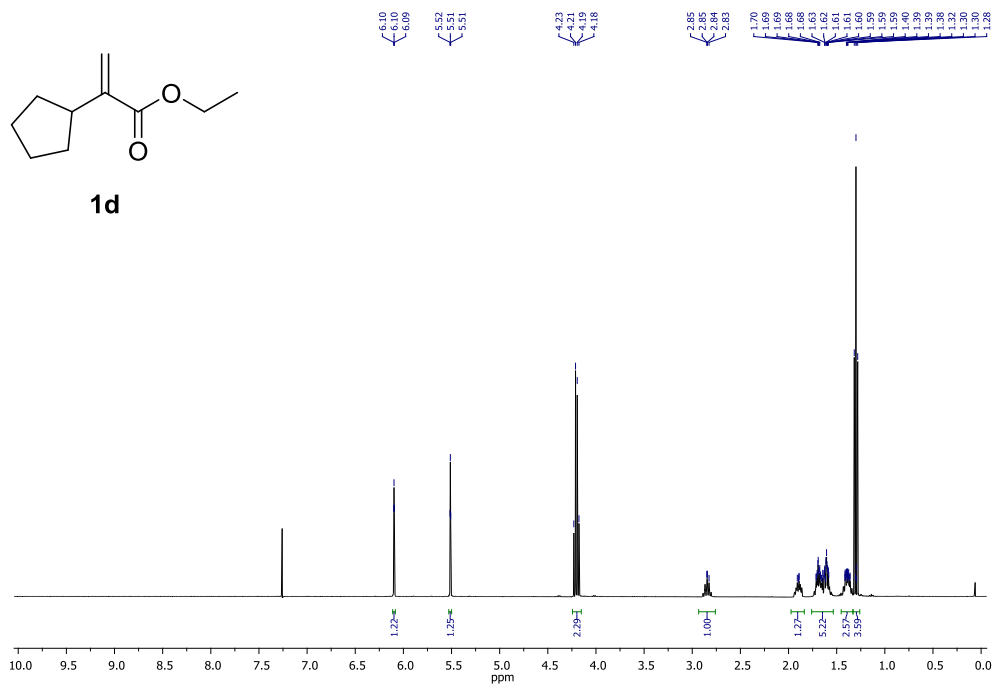
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



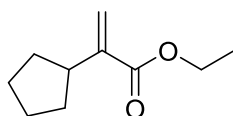
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



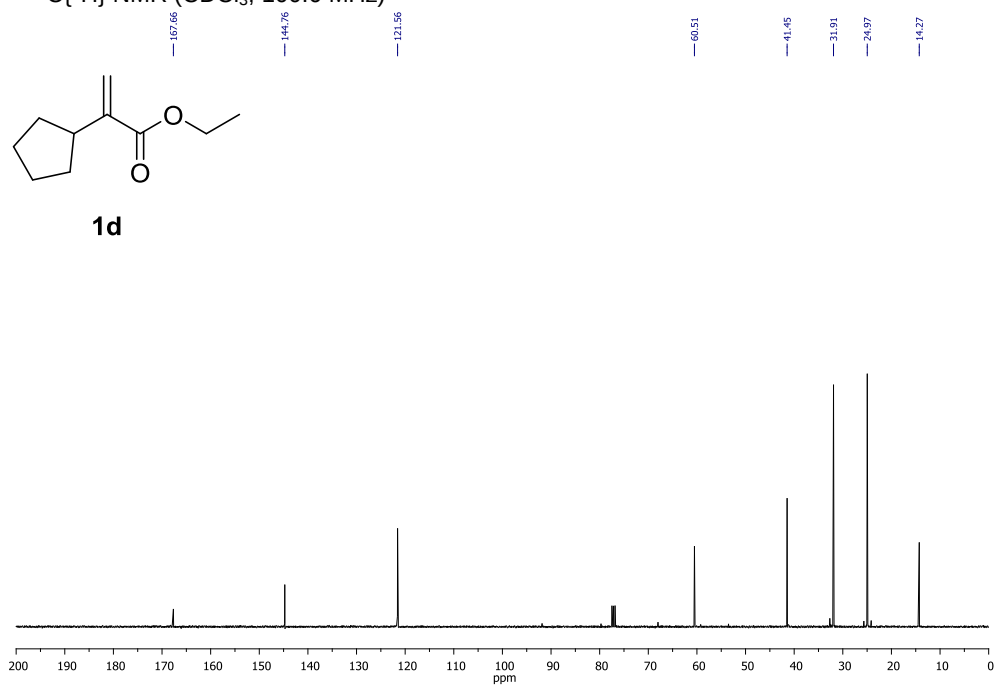
**1d**



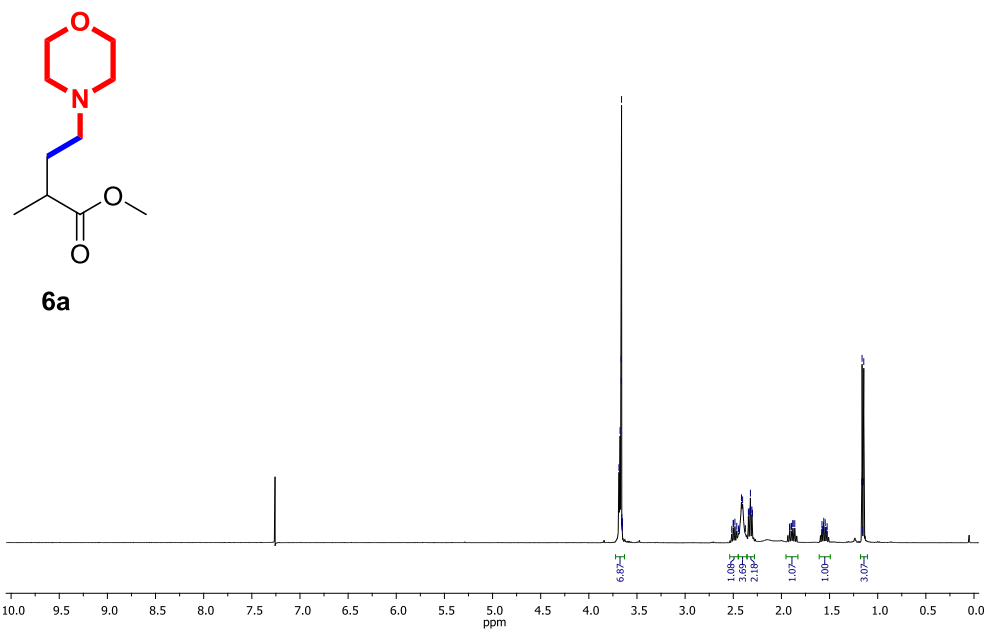
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



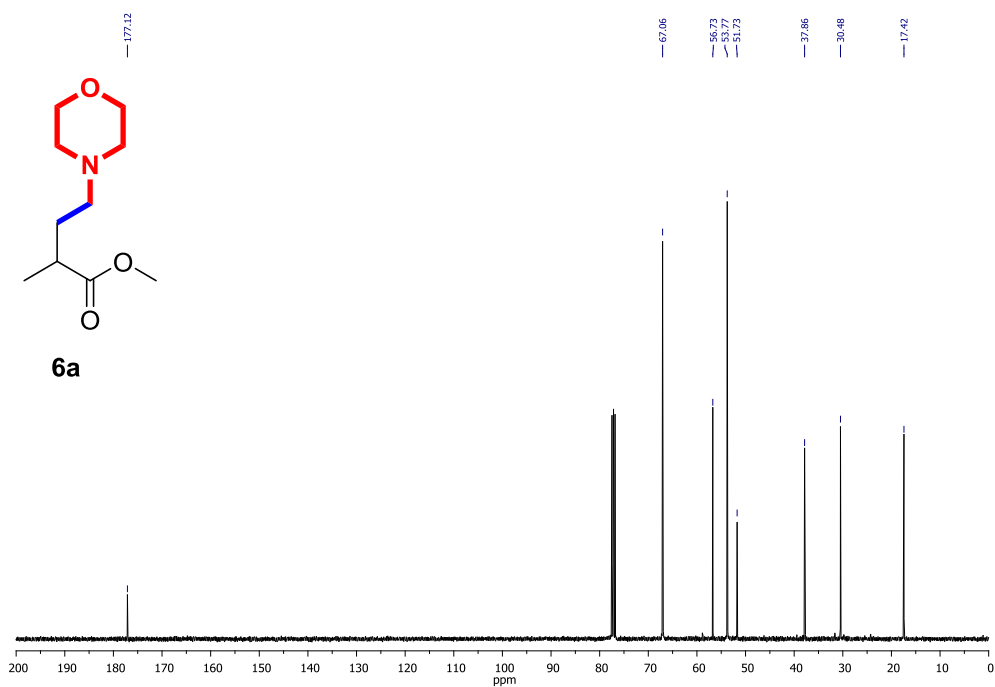
**1d**



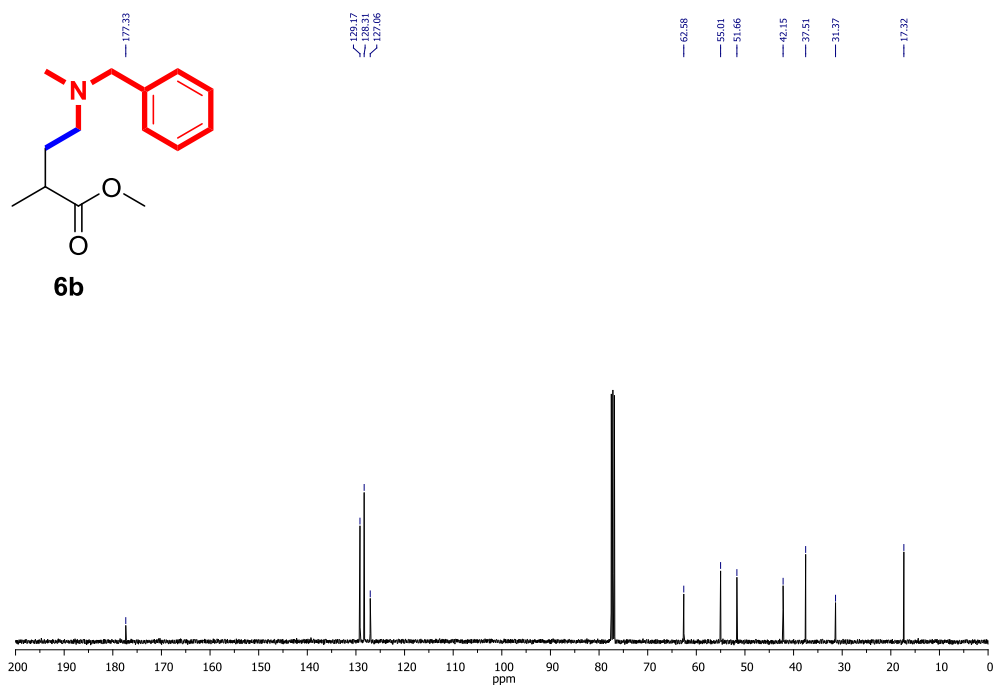
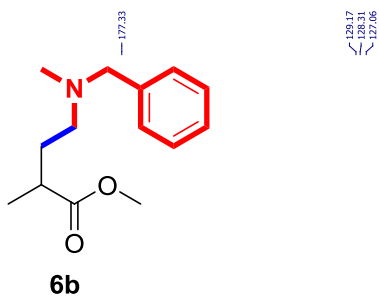
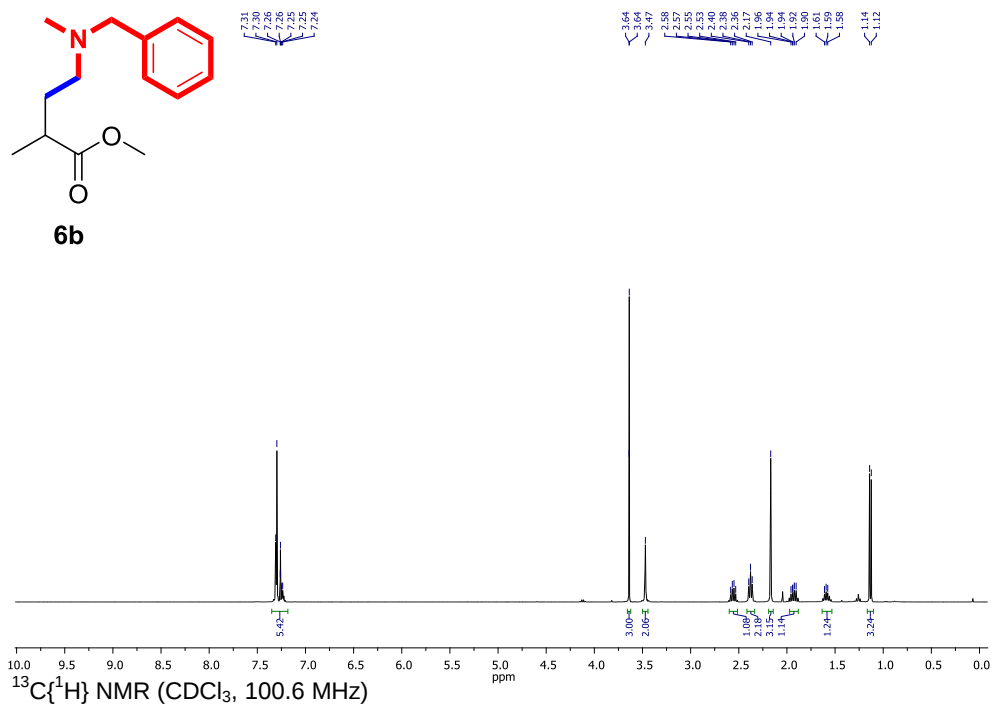
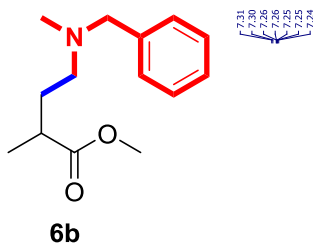
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



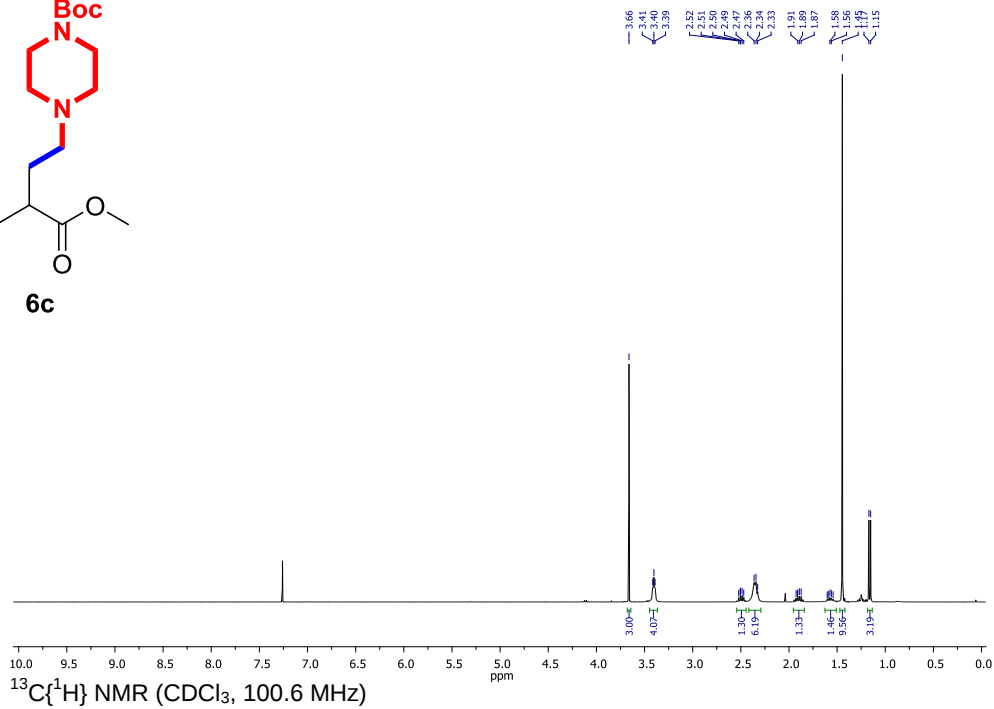
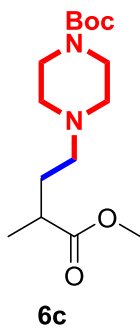
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



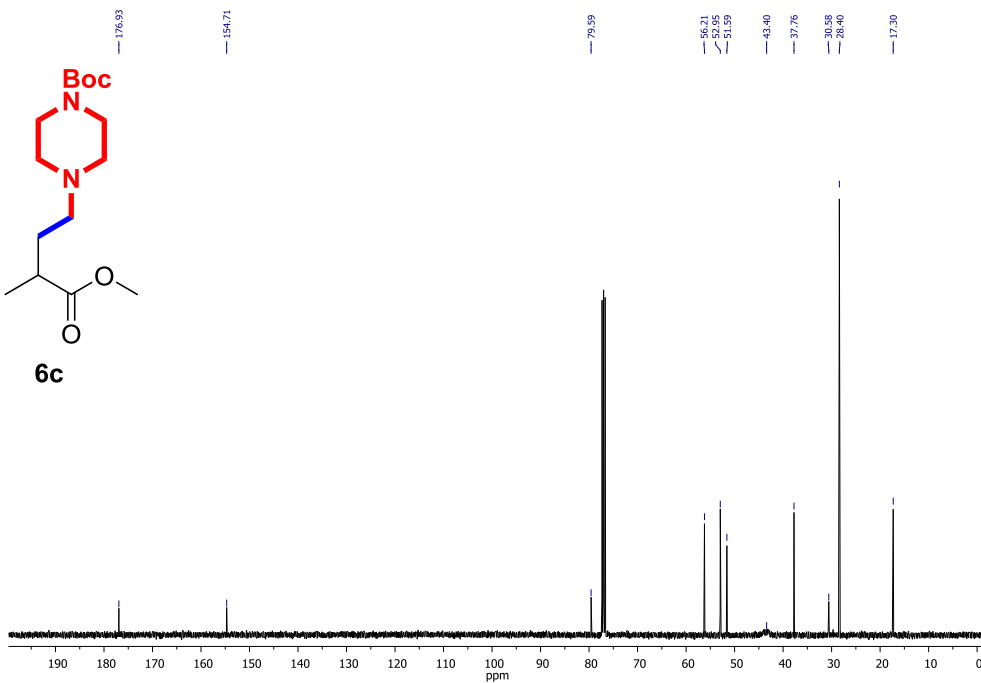
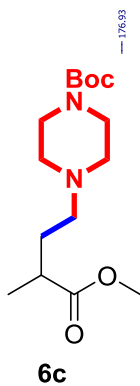
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



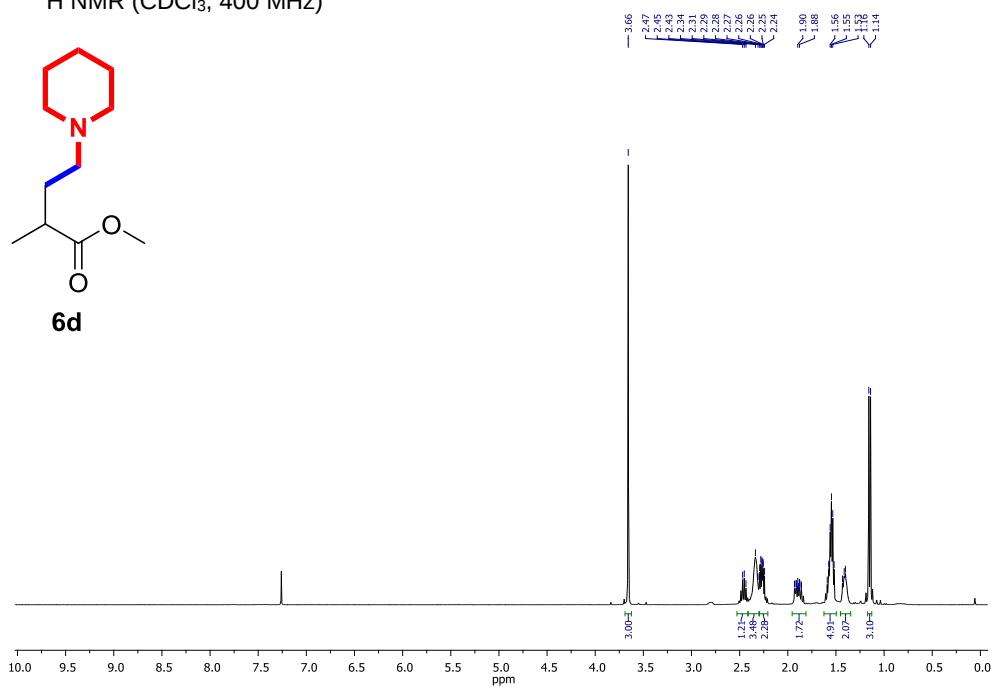
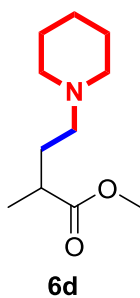
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



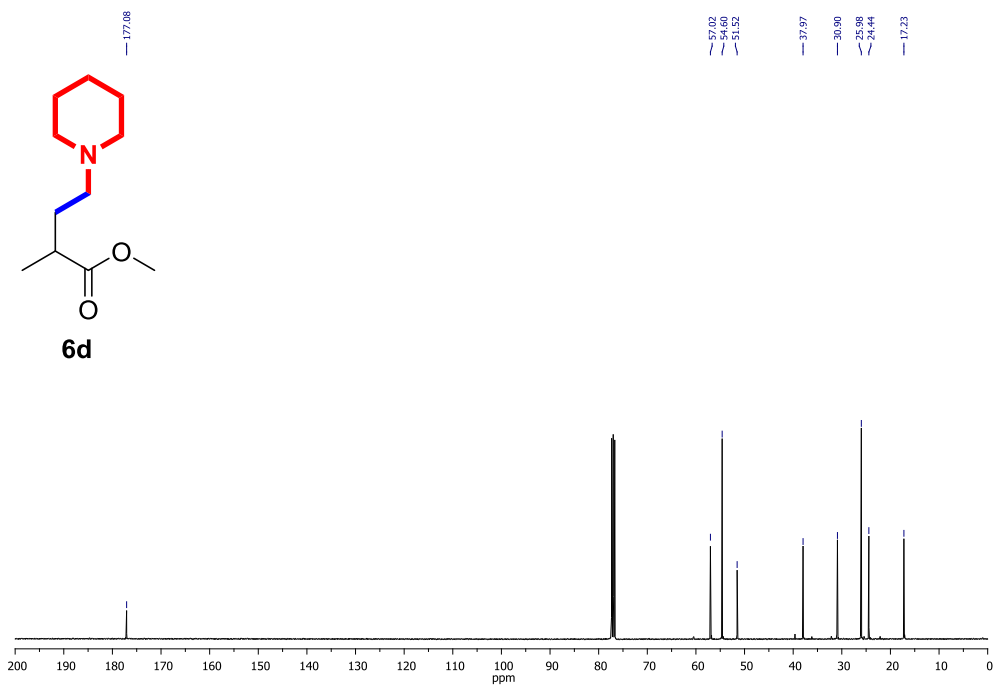
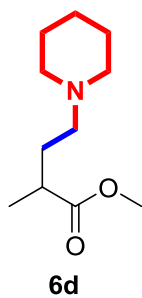
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



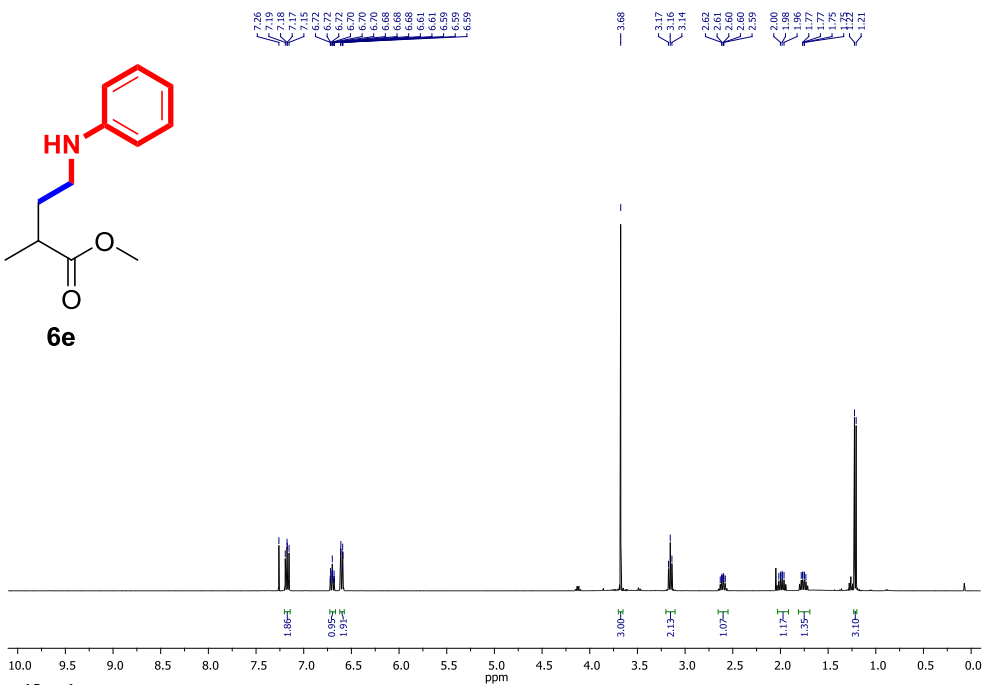
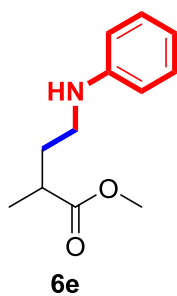
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



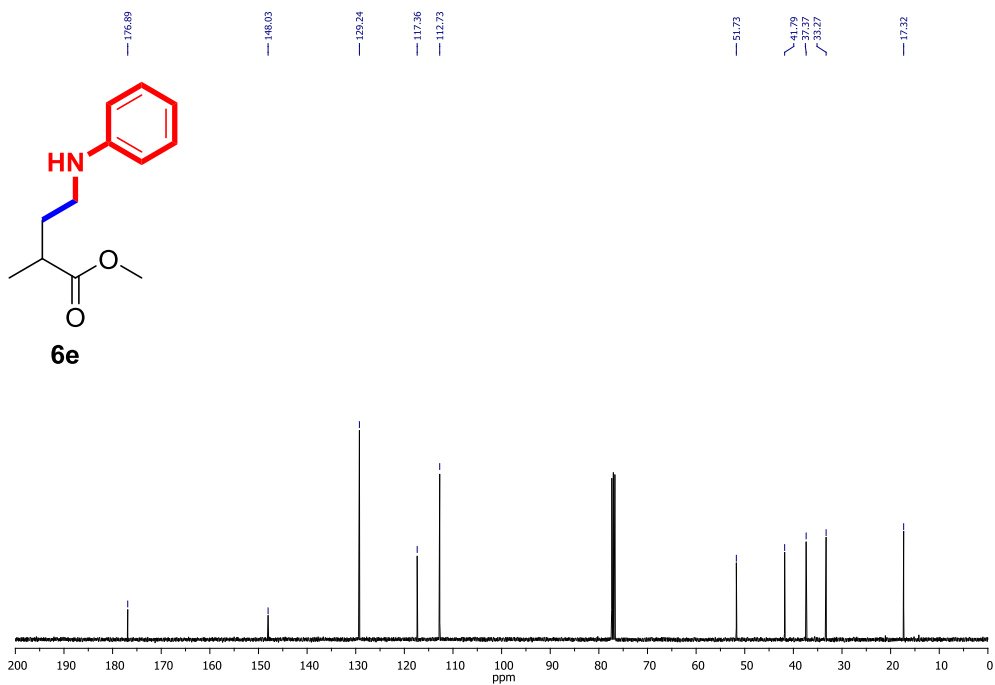
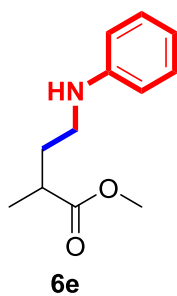
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



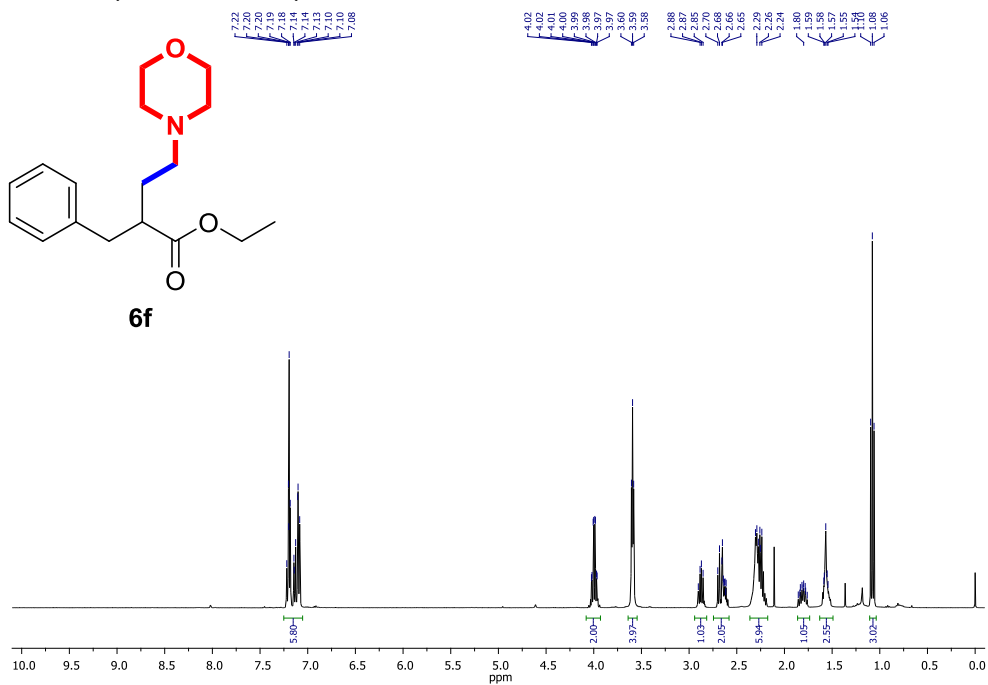
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



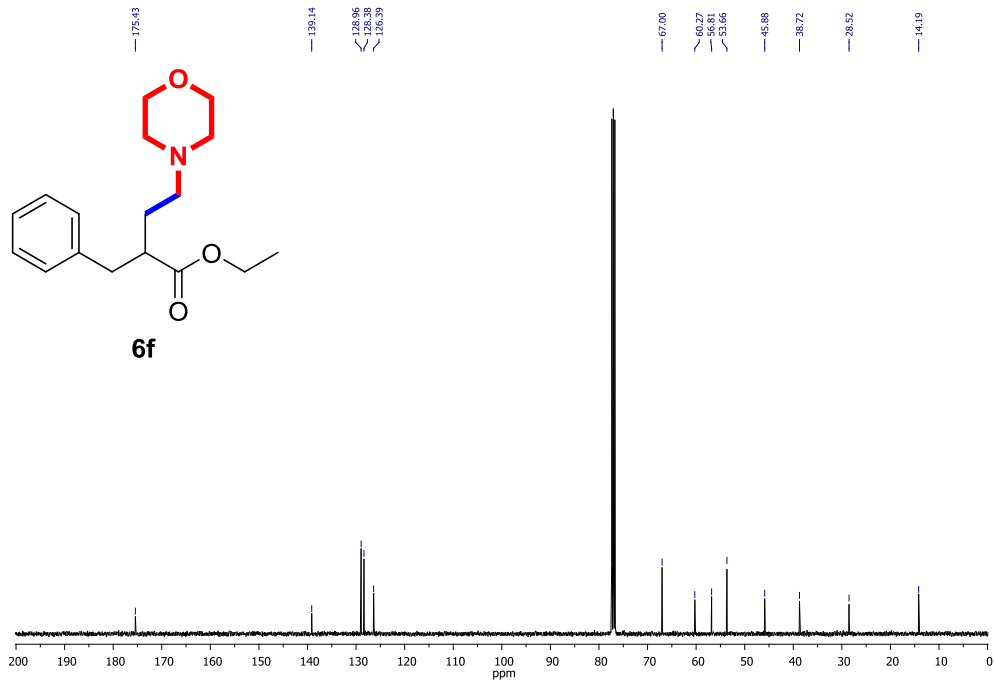
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)

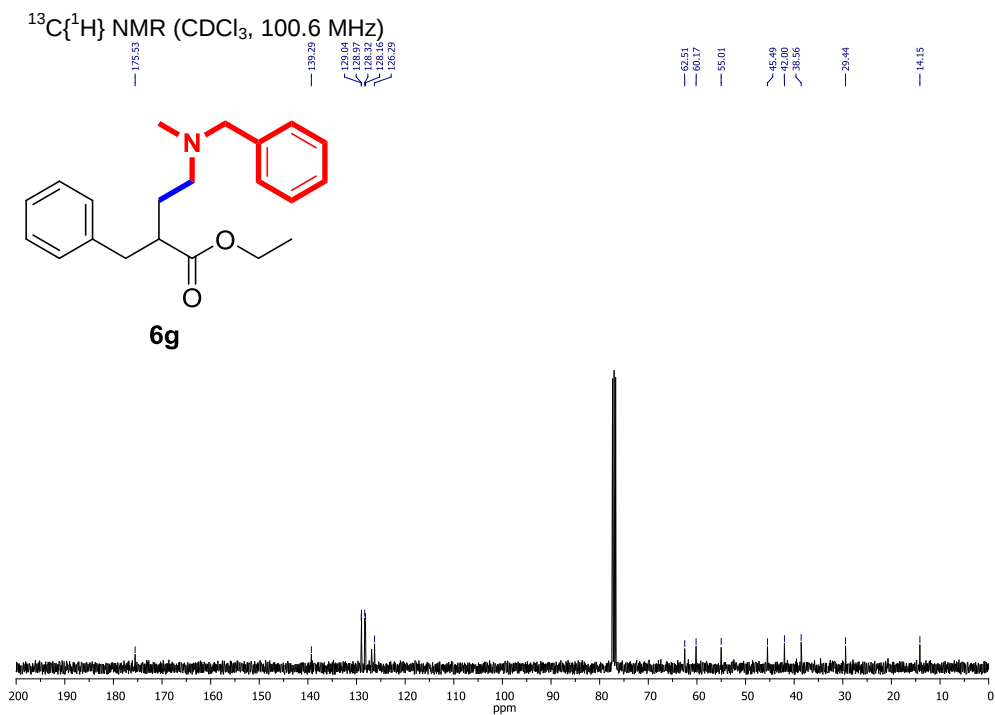
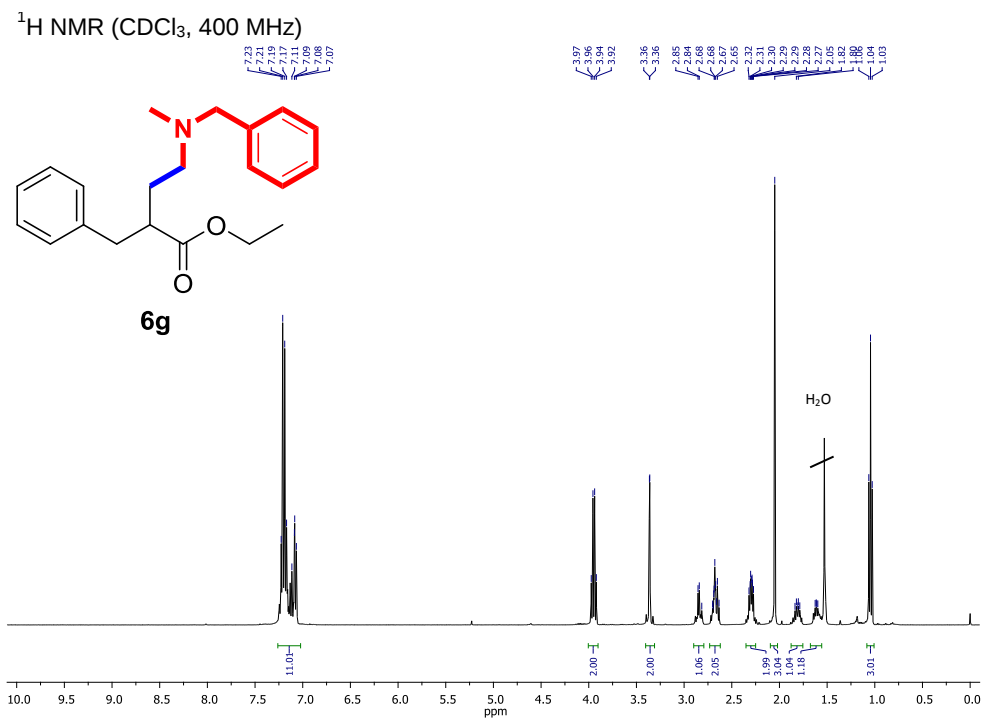


$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)

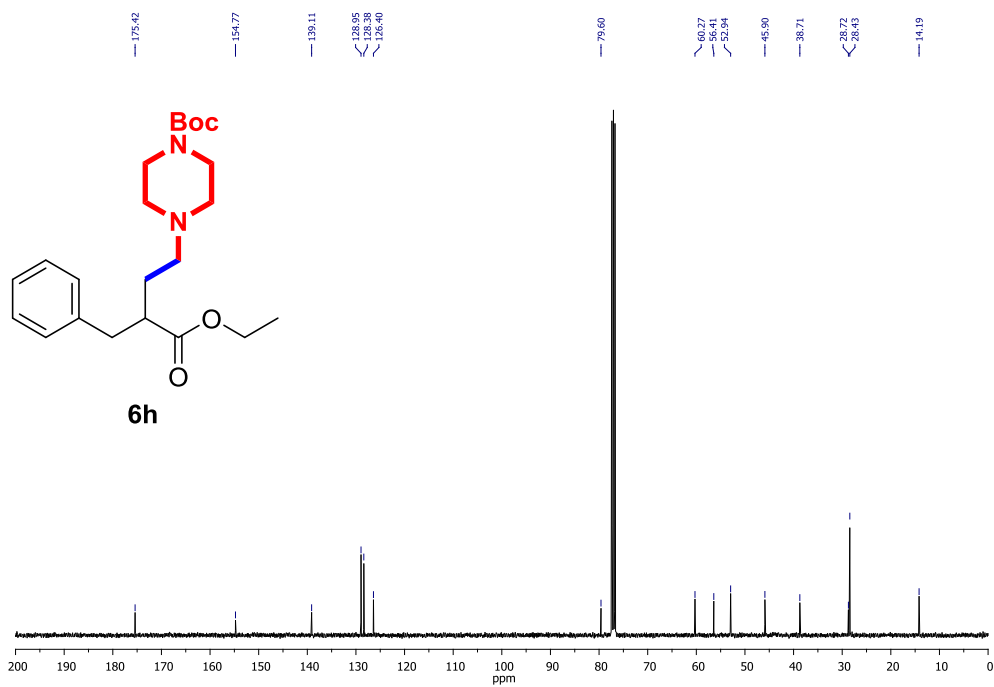
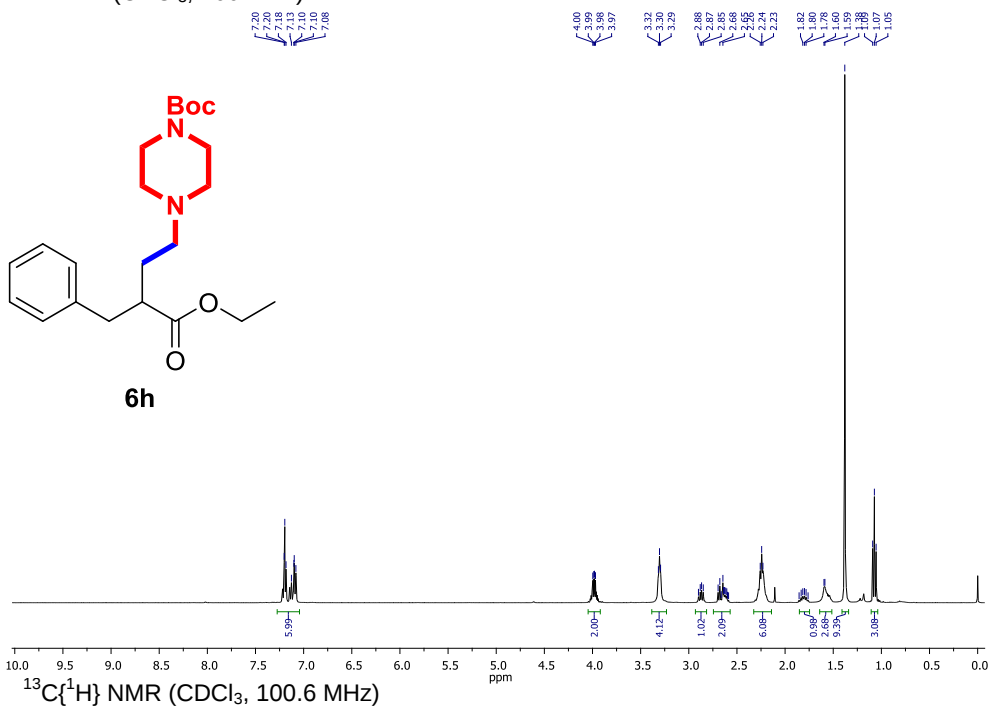


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)

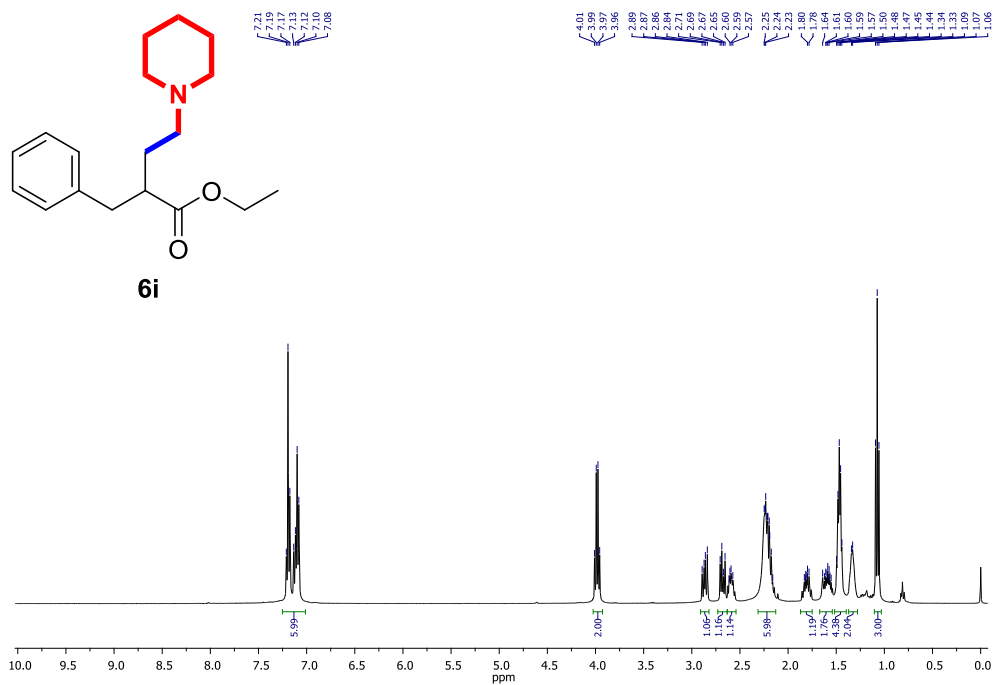
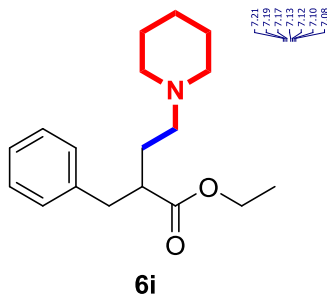




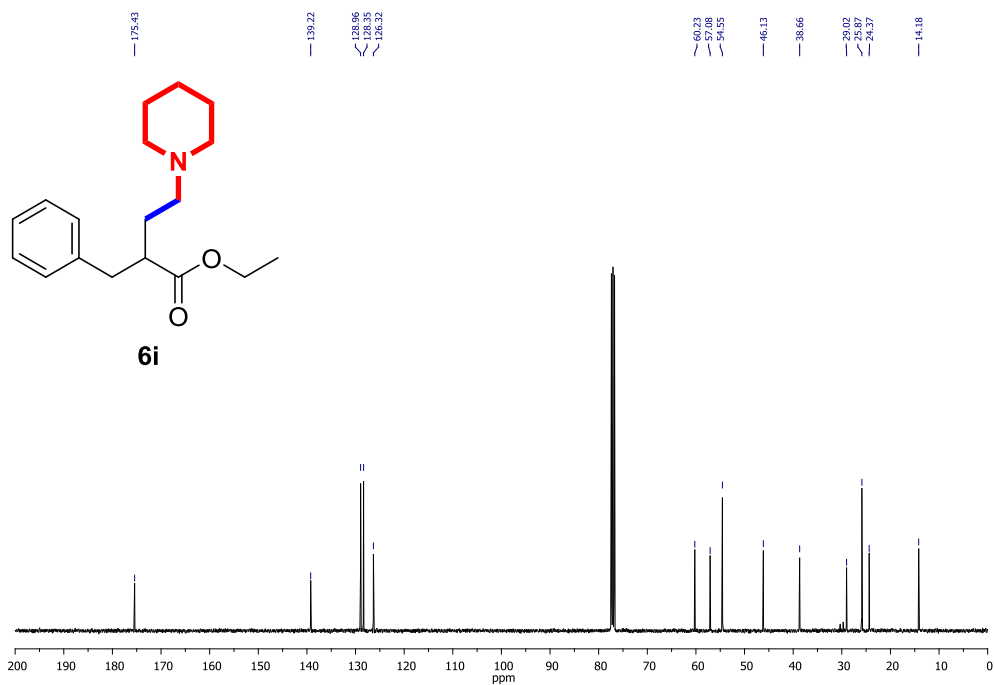
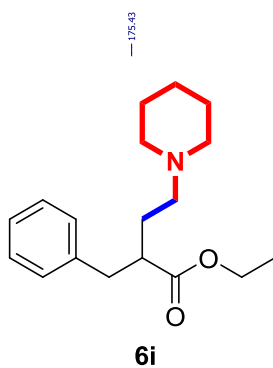
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



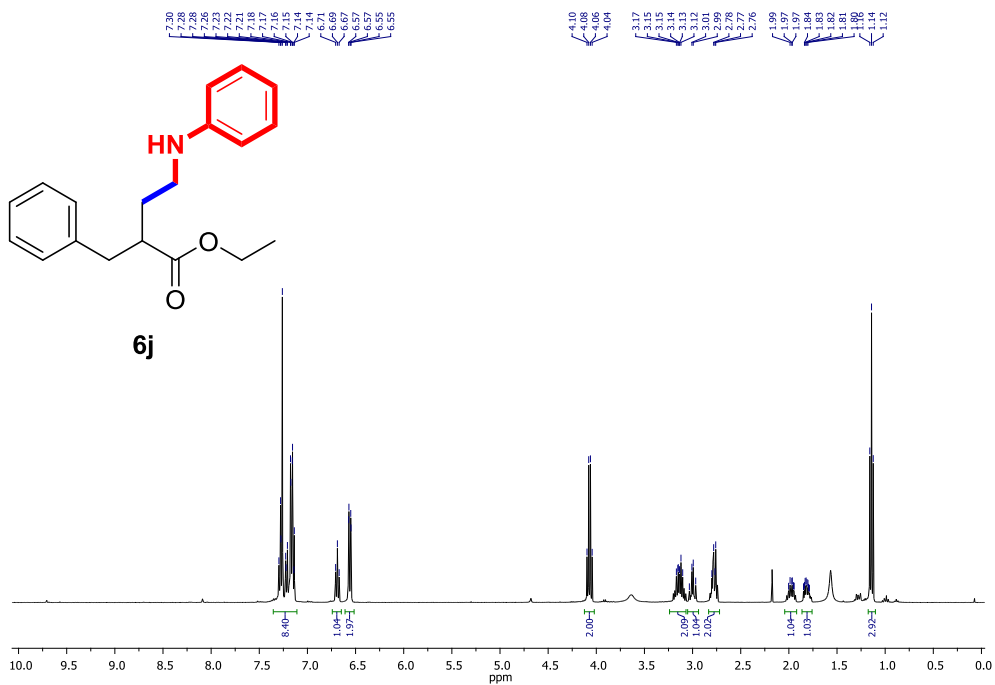
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



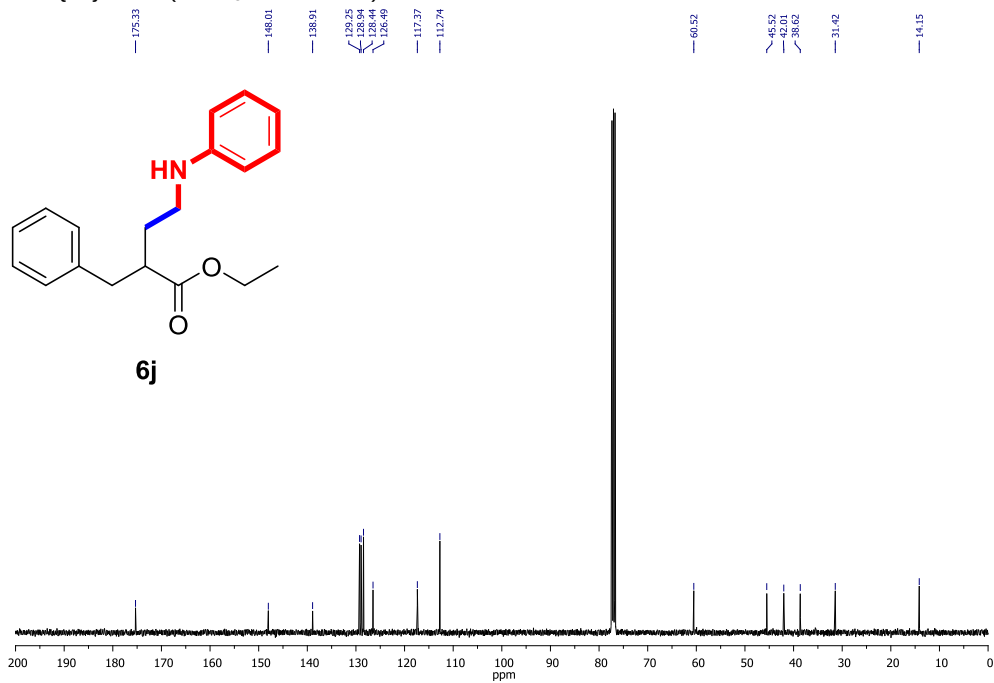
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



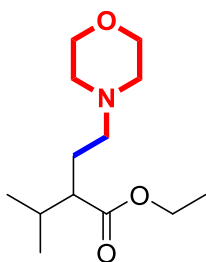
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



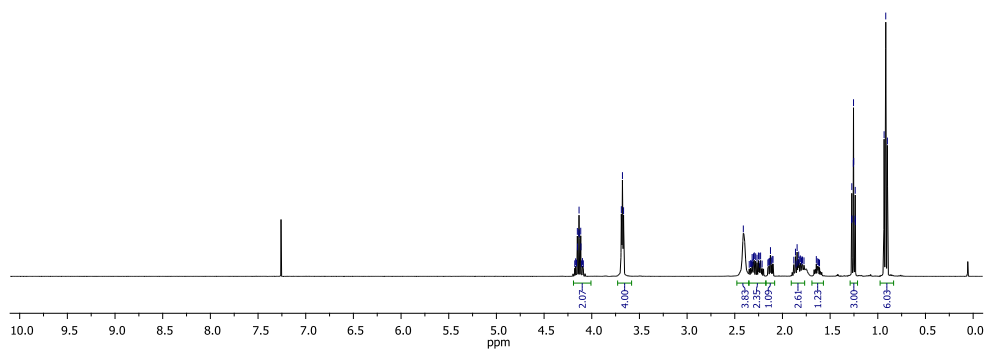
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



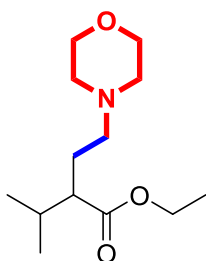
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



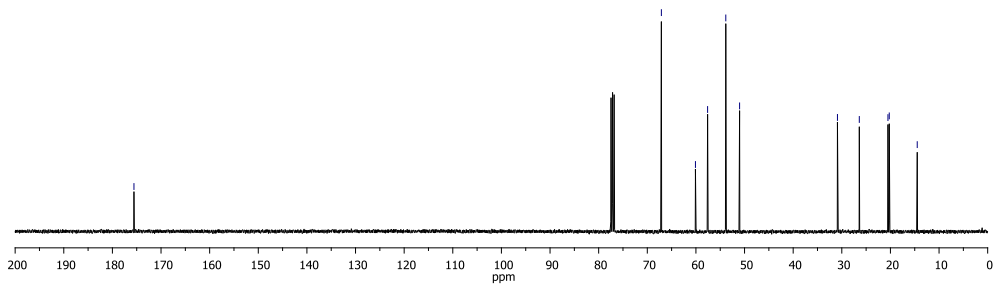
**6k**



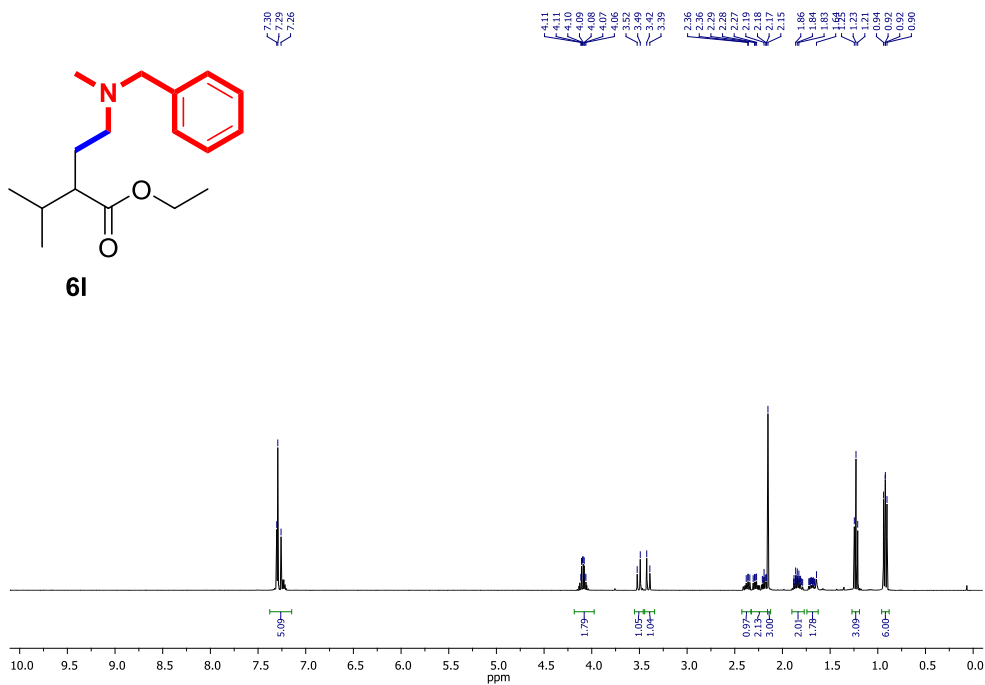
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



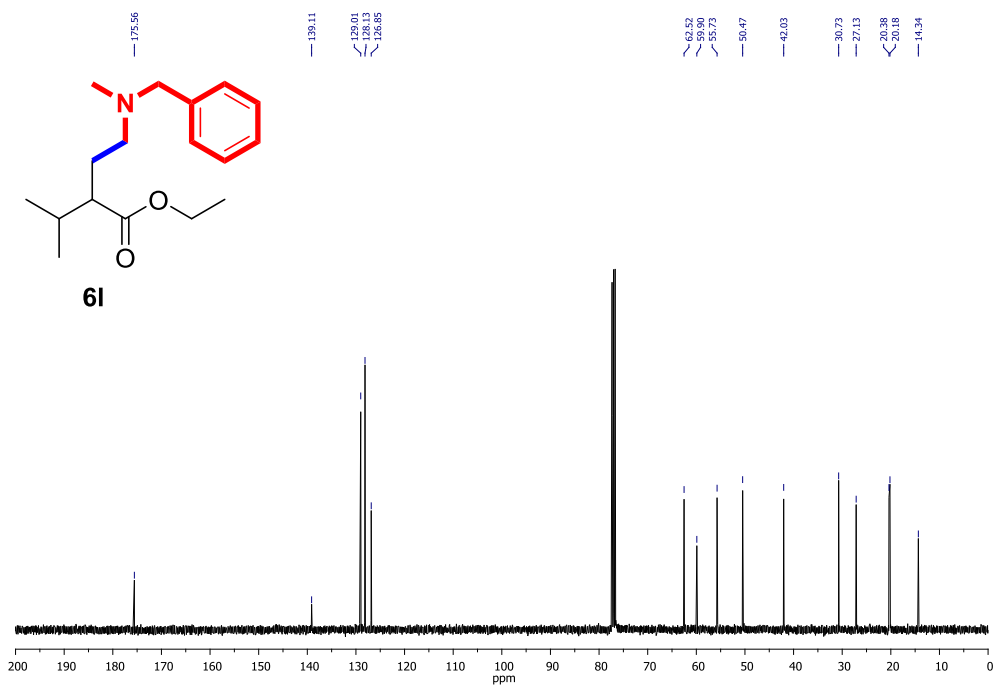
**6k**



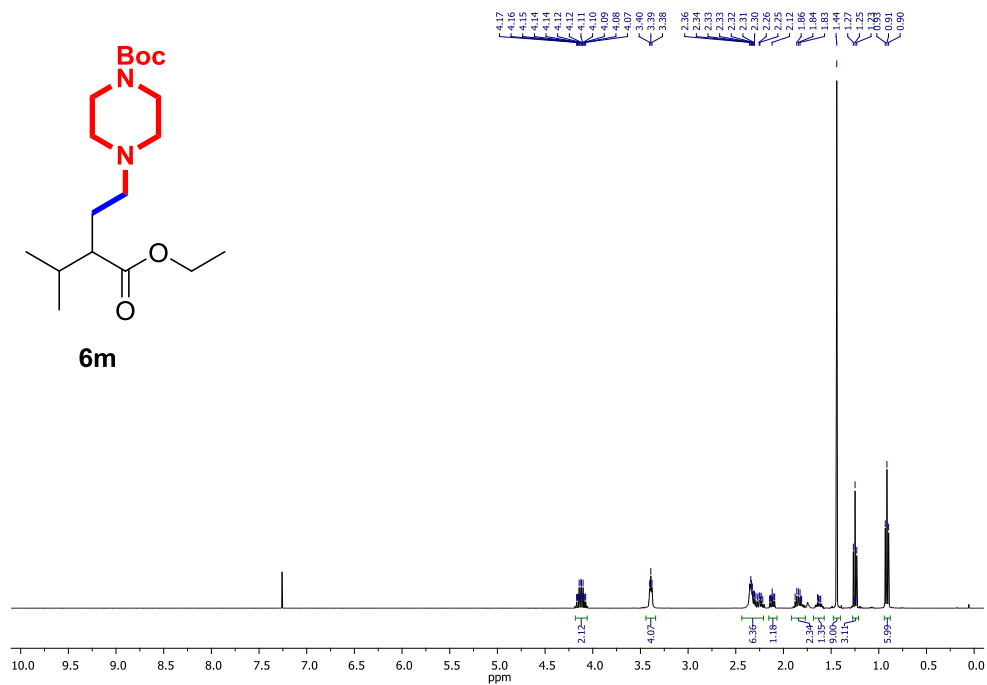
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



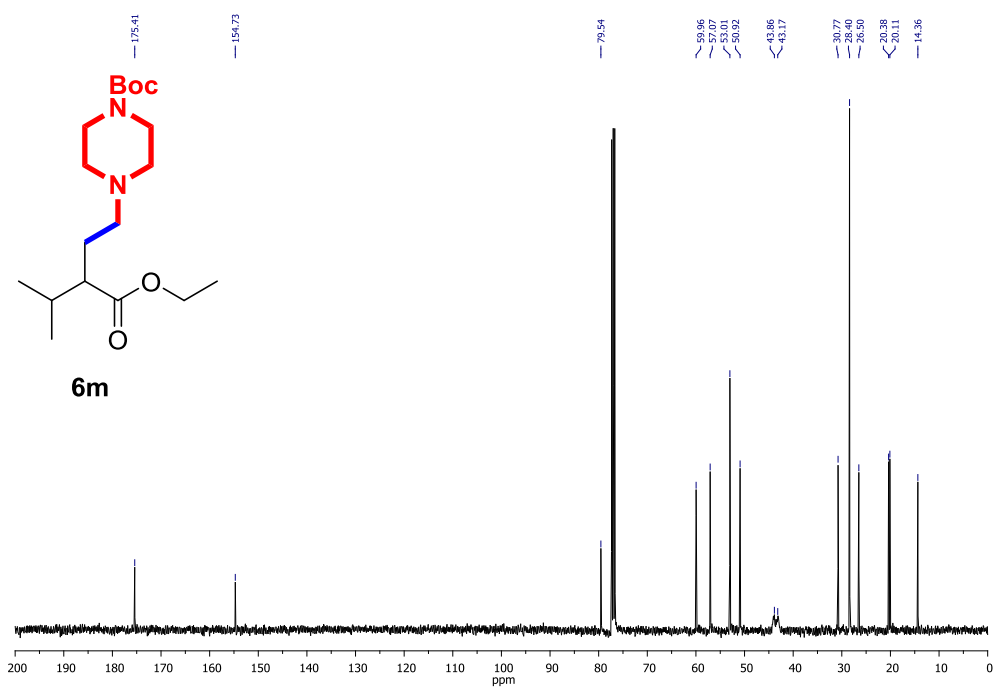
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



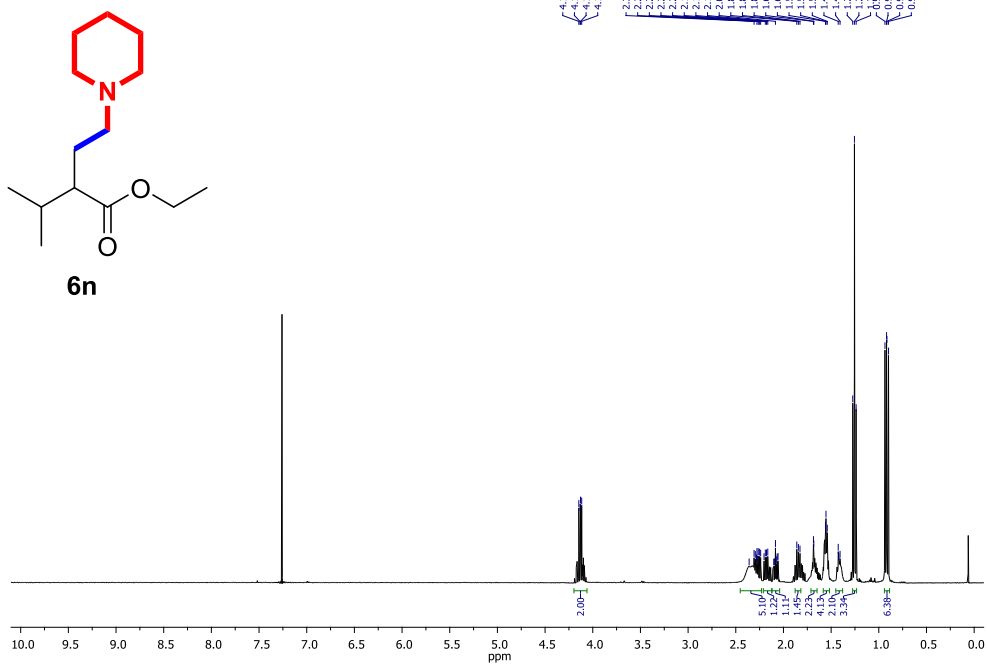
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



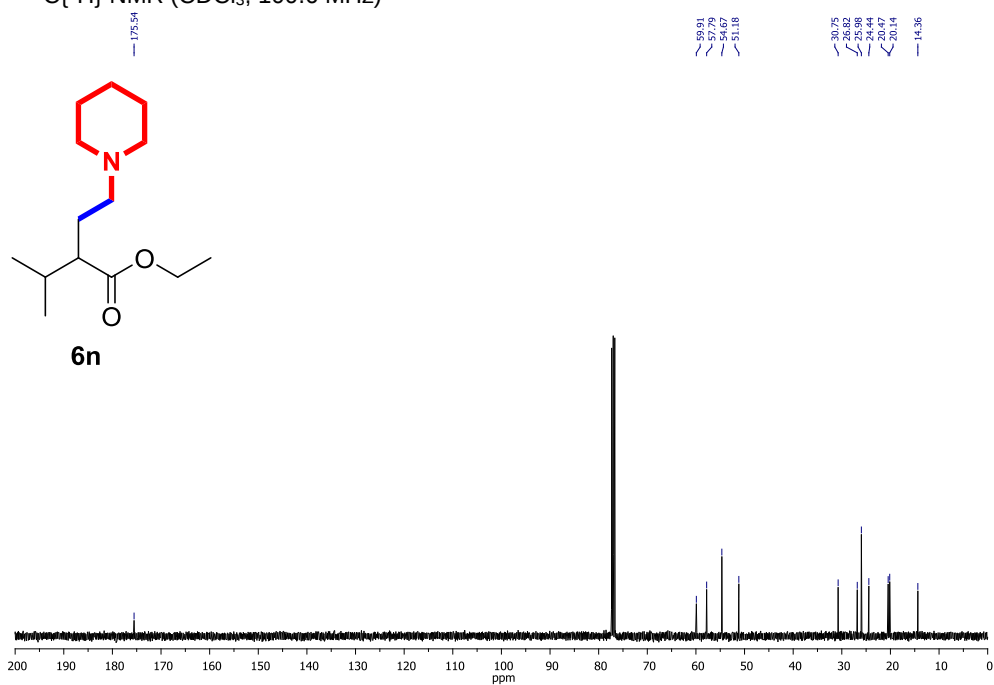
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



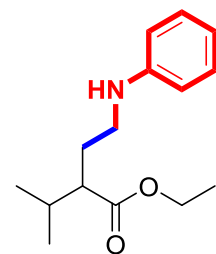
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



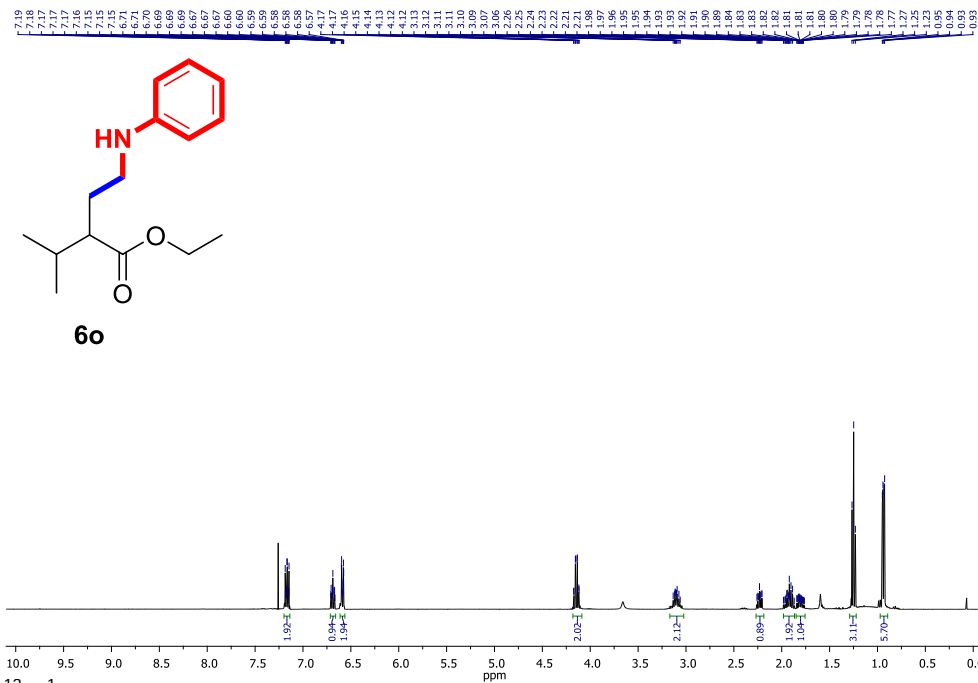
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



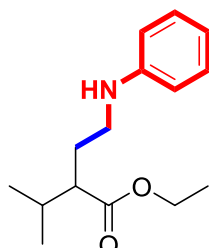
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



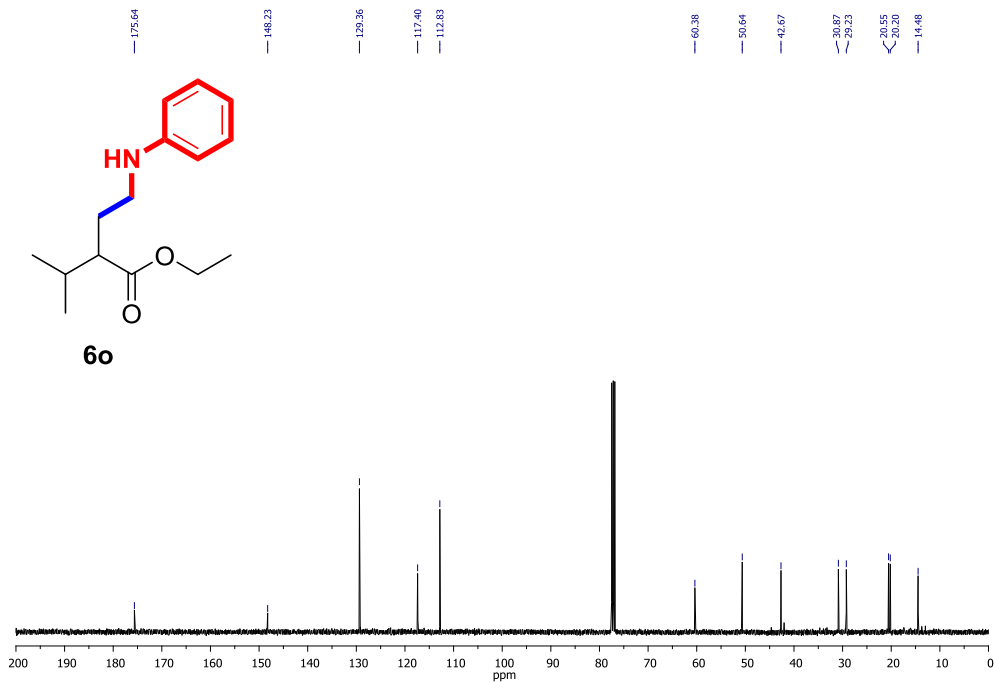
**6o**



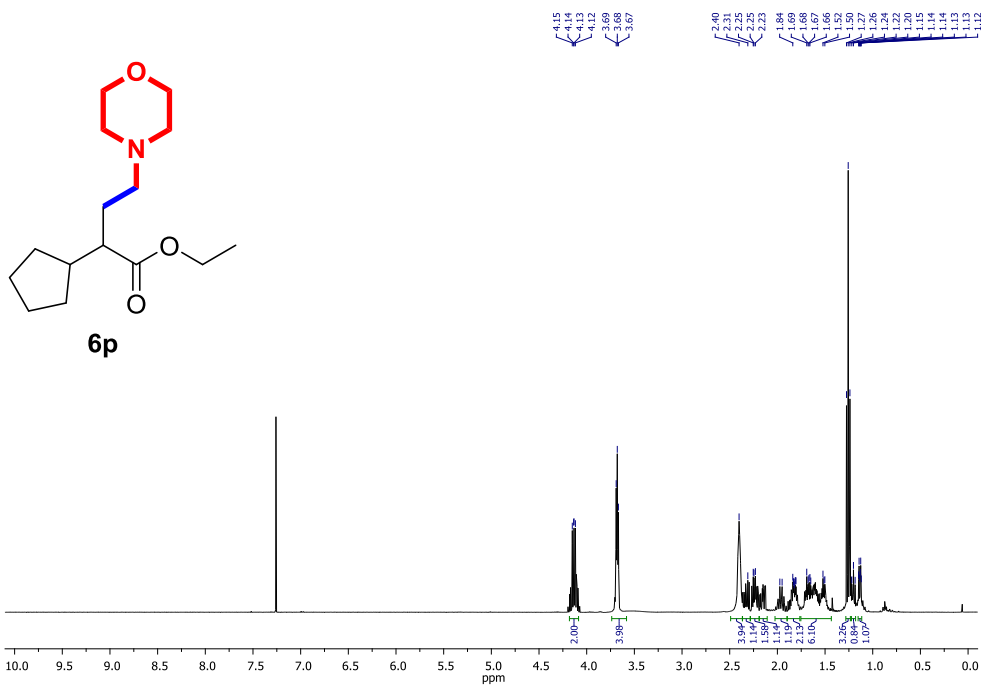
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



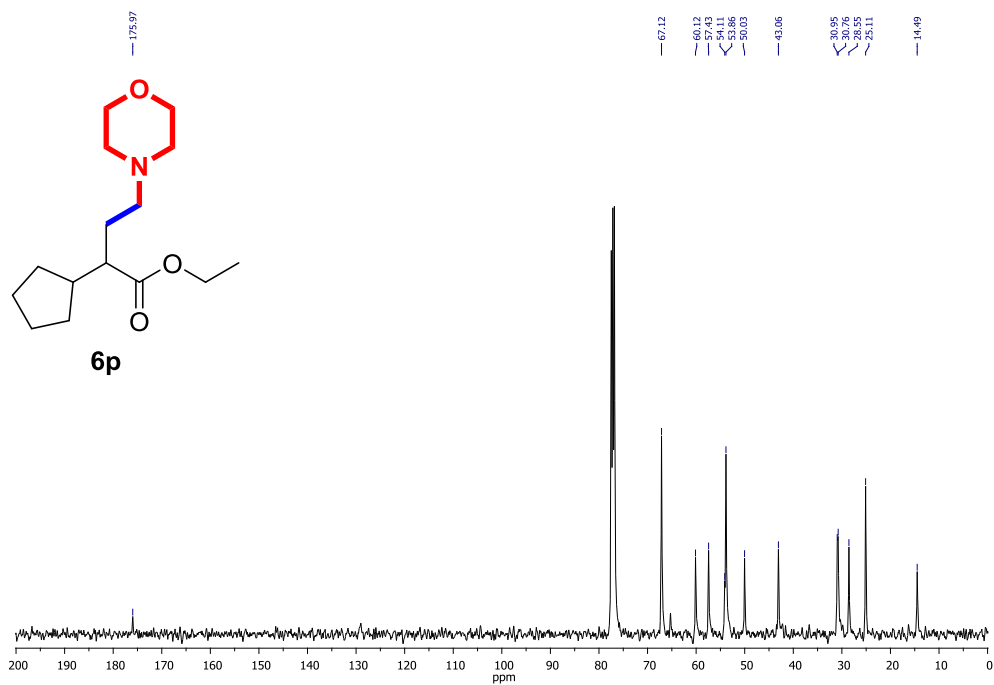
**6o**



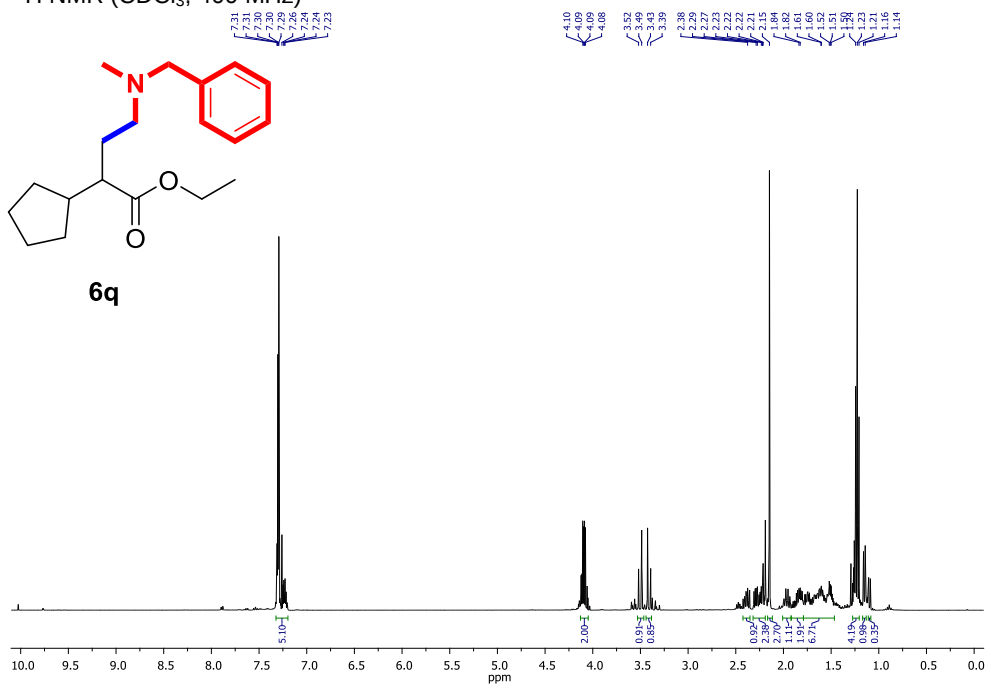
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



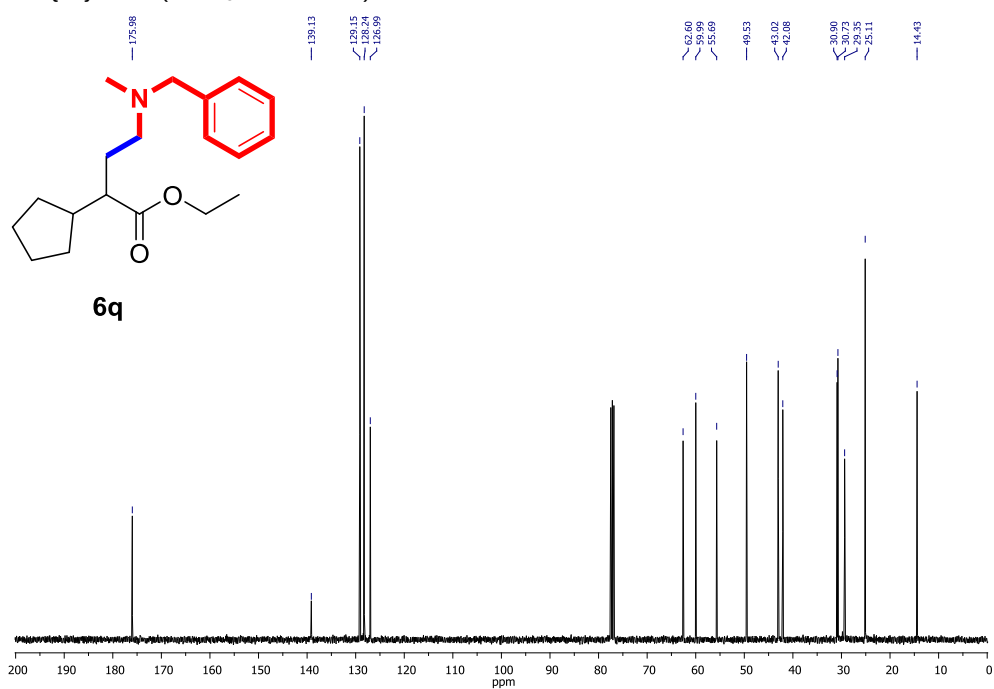
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



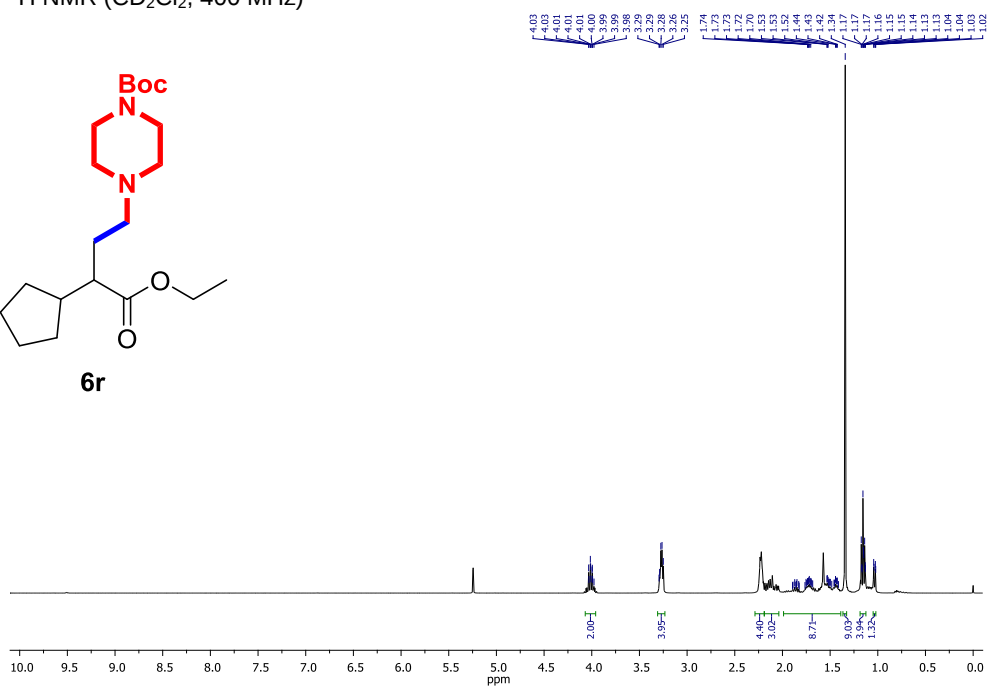
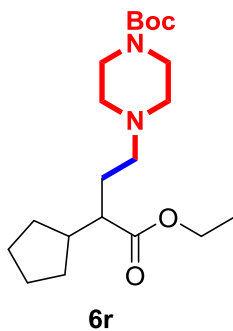
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



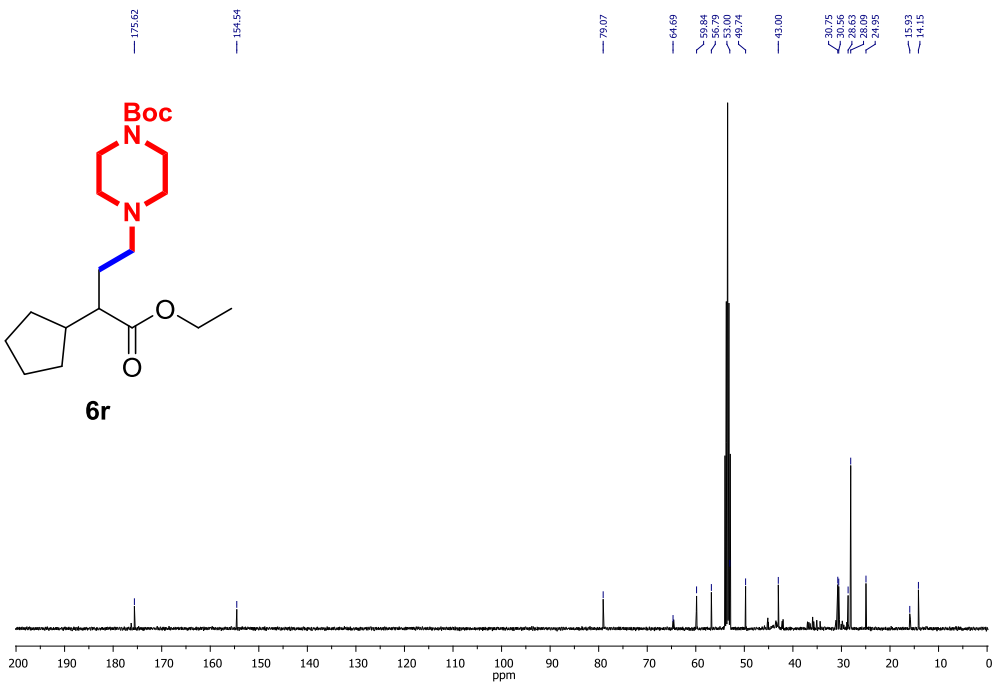
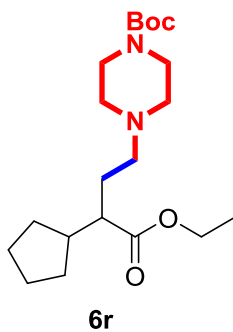
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



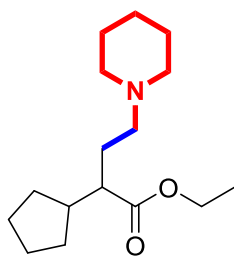
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 400 MHz)



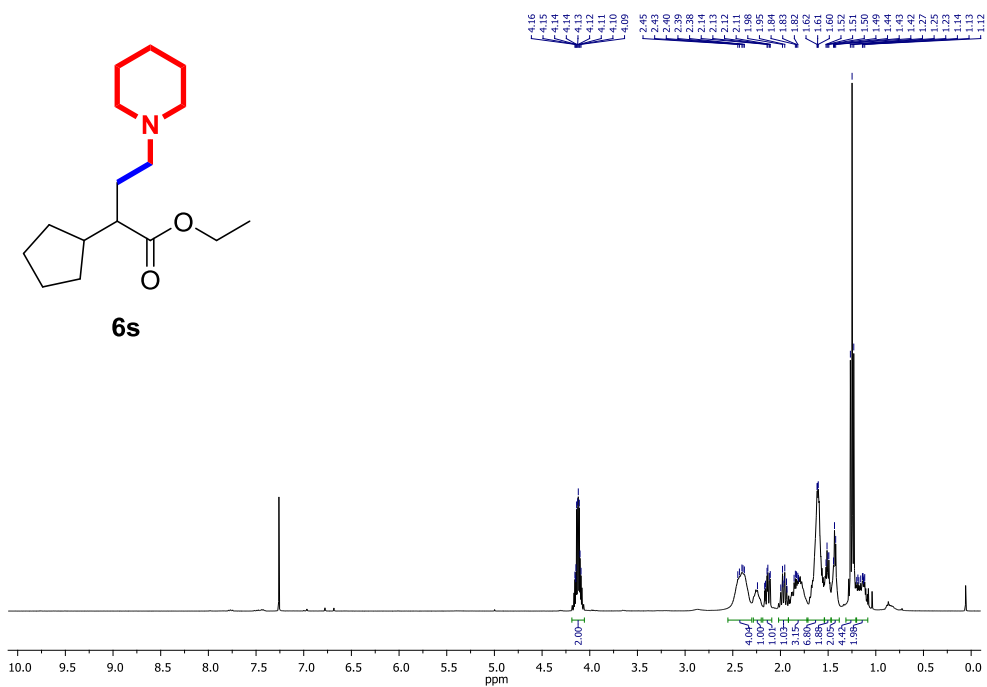
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 100.6 MHz)



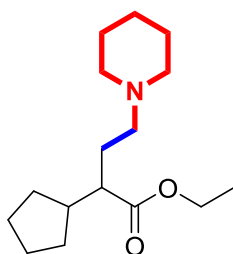
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



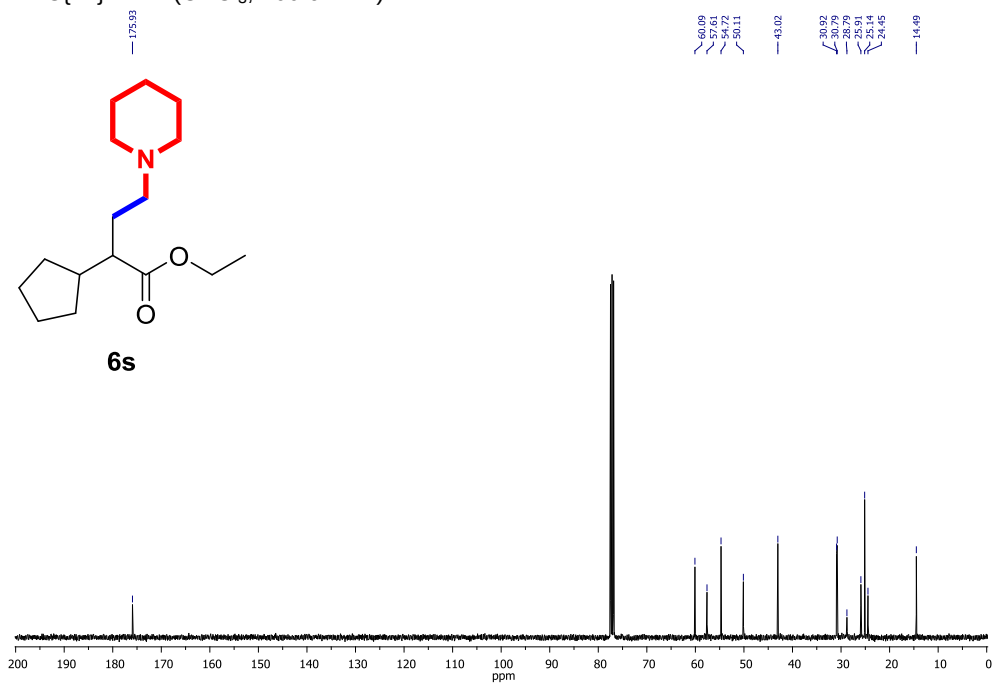
**6s**



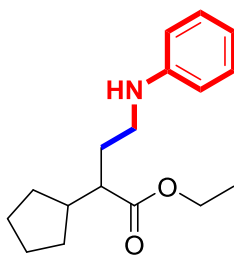
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



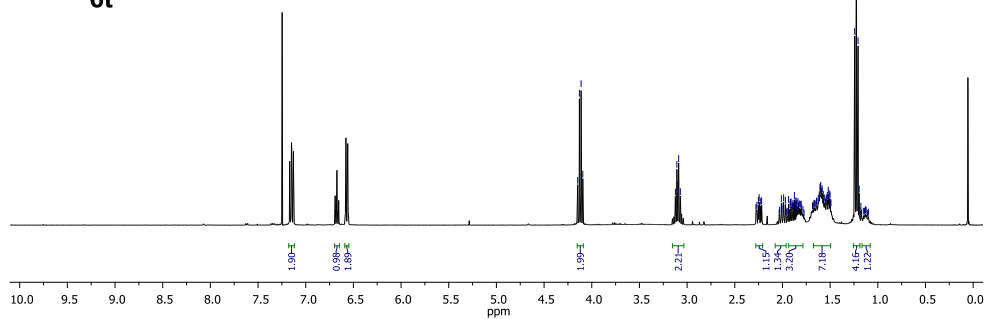
**6s**



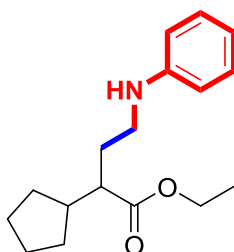
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)



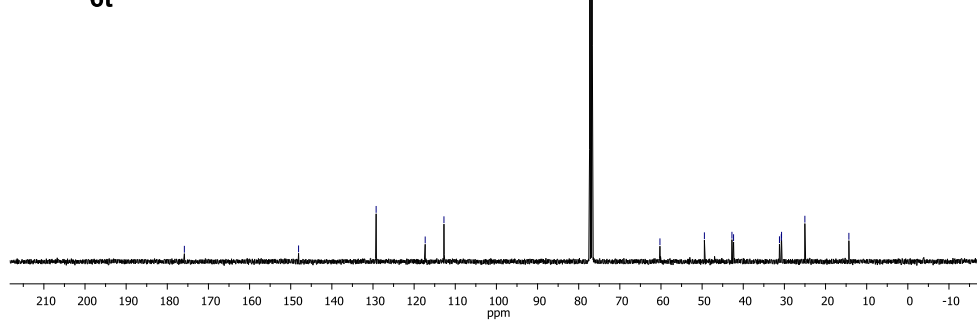
**6t**



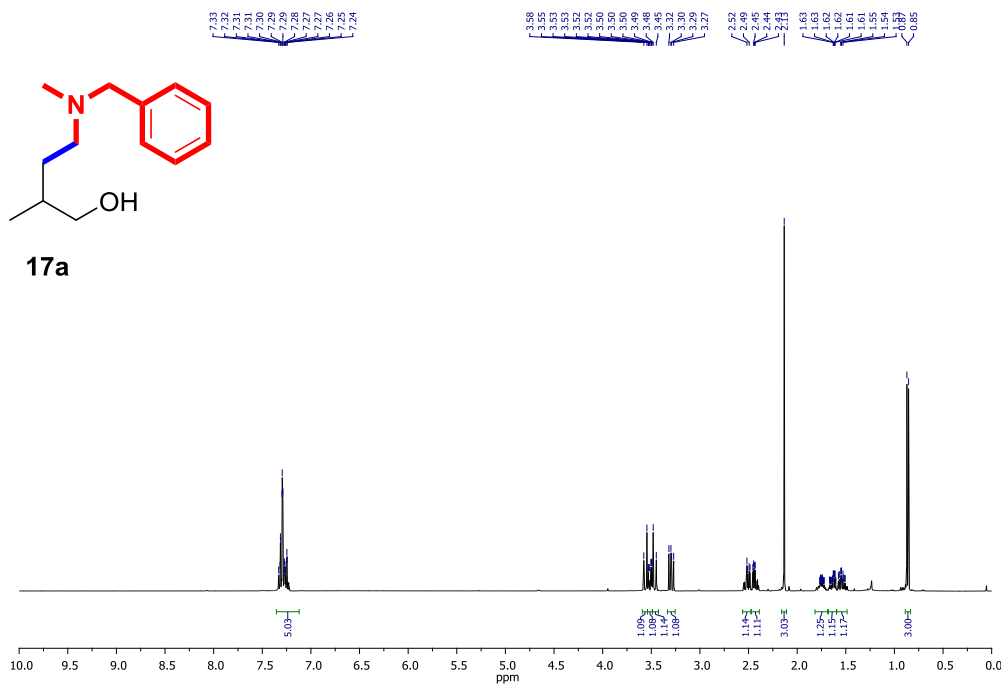
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)



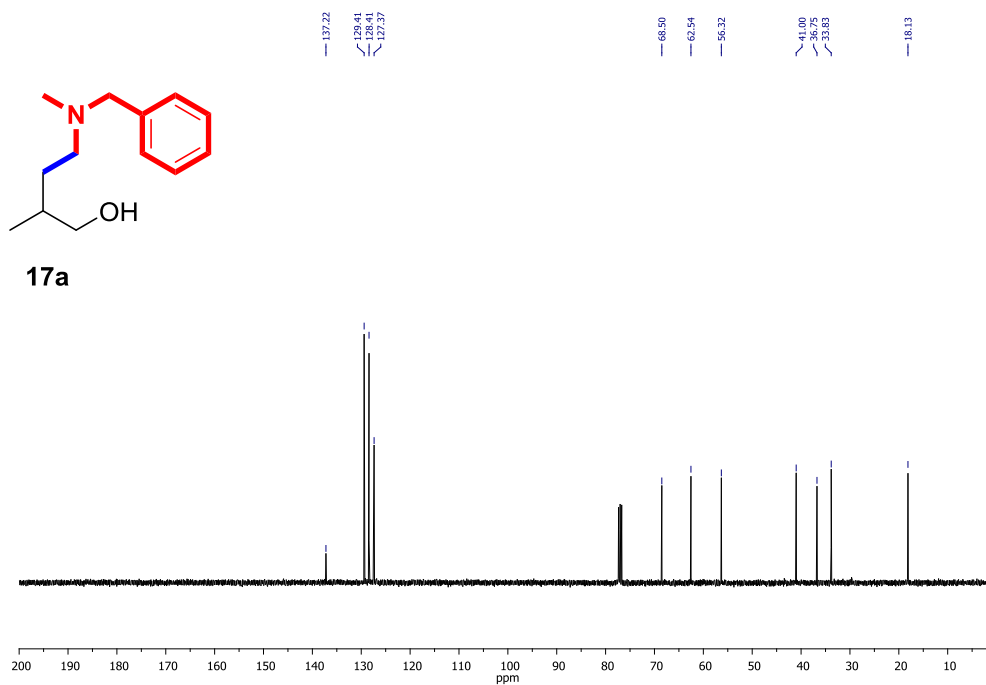
**6t**



$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)

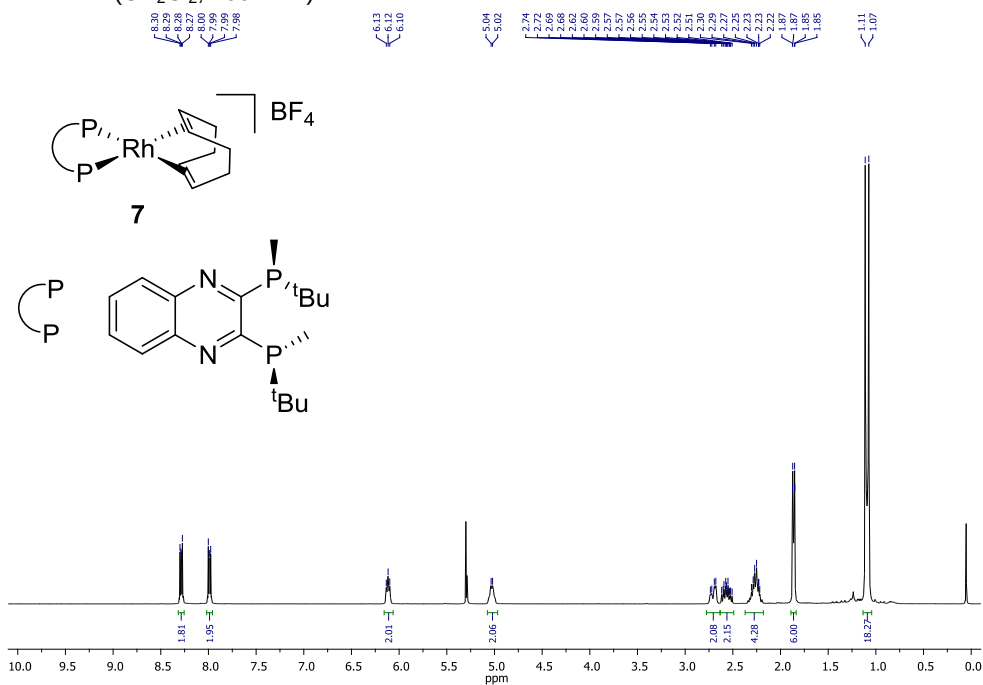


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100.6 MHz)

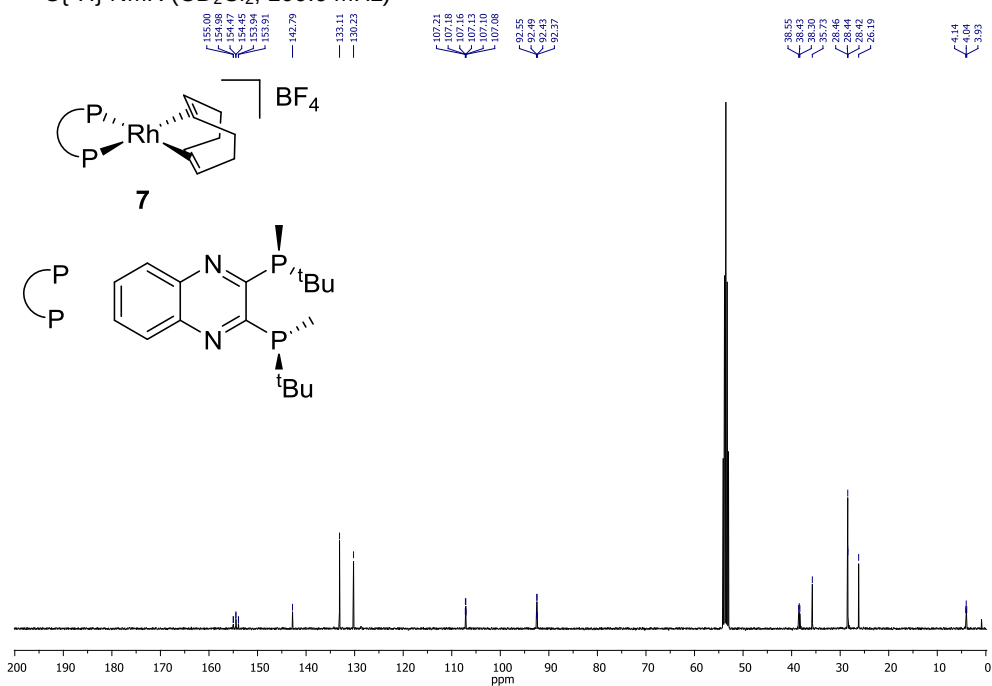


## SXI. Spectroscopic data of rhodium complexes 7, 8 and 9

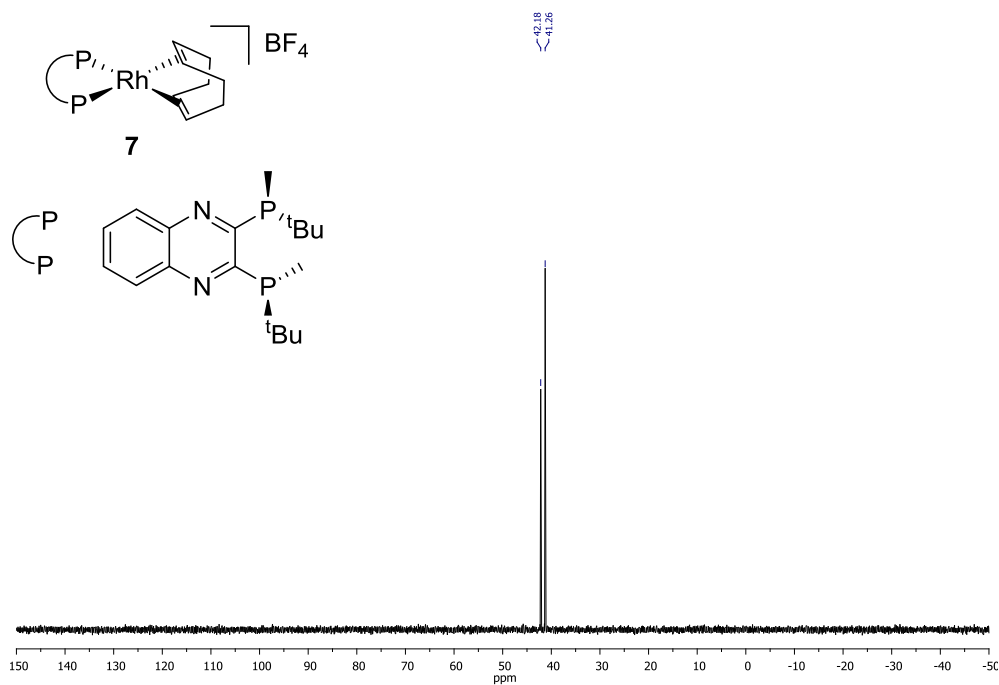
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 400 MHz)



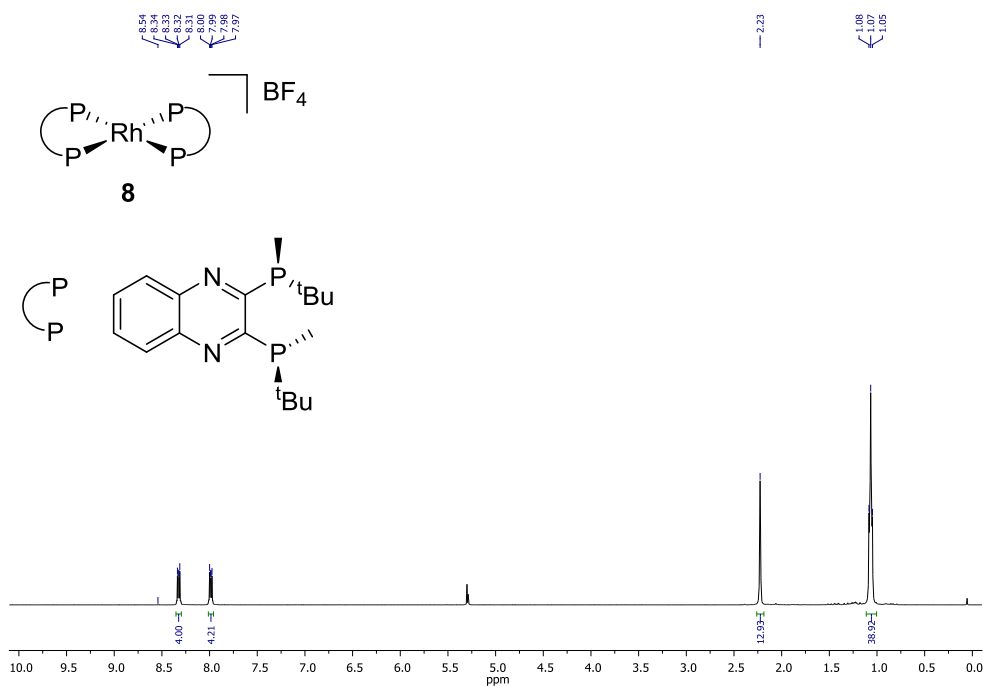
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 100.6 MHz)



$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 161.97 MHz)



$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 400 MHz)



<sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of compound **8** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. The chemical structure of **8** is shown above the spectrum. The spectrum displays several peaks corresponding to the phosphorus environments in the molecule. The peaks are labeled with their chemical shifts (ppm): 155.89, 155.82, 155.35, 142.45, 132.45, 130.03, 38.27, 38.31, 38.24, 28.34, 9.54, 9.47, and 9.40.

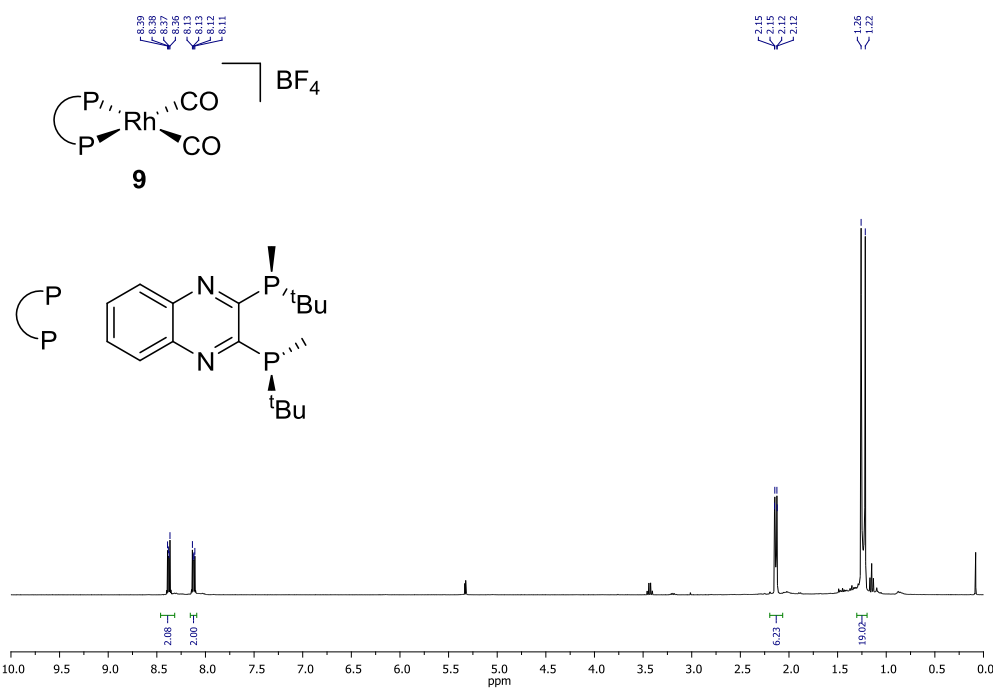
The figure displays the chemical structures of complexes **8** and **9**, along with their  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum.

Complex **8** is a rhodium complex with a  $\text{BF}_4$  counterion. It features a rhodium center coordinated by two phosphorus atoms in a bidentate fashion, forming a five-membered ring.

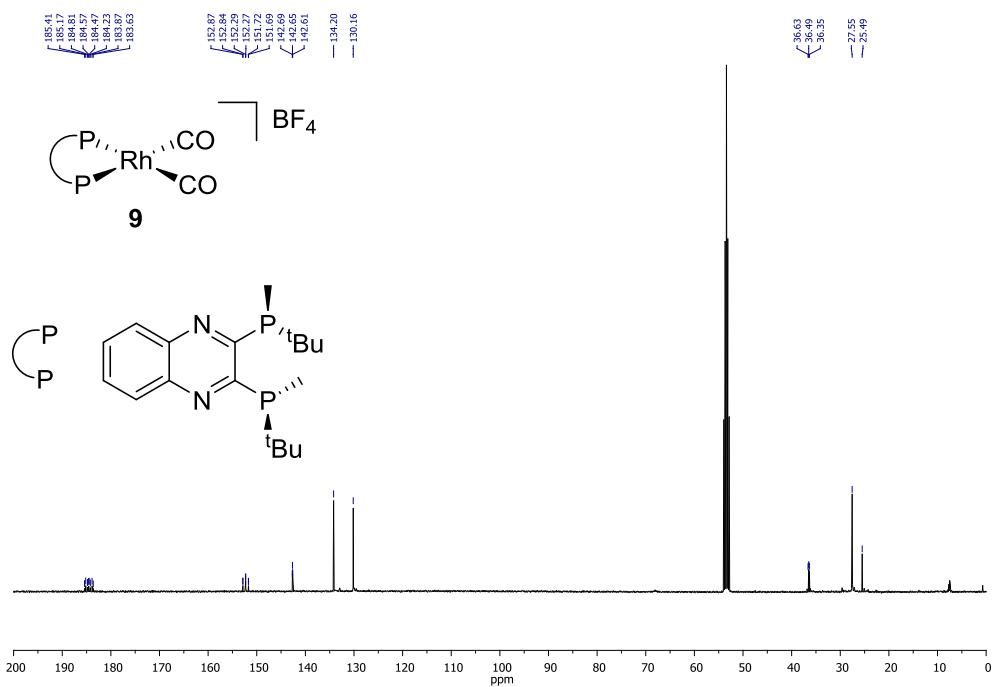
Complex **9** is a nickel complex with a  $\text{BF}_4$  counterion. It features a nickel center coordinated by two phosphorus atoms in a bidentate fashion, forming a five-membered ring. The ligand is a 1,2-bis(phosphino)benzimidazole derivative, with the phosphorus atoms coordinated to the nickel center.

The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum shows a single sharp peak at approximately 38 ppm, indicating that both complexes exhibit a single phosphorus environment in solution.

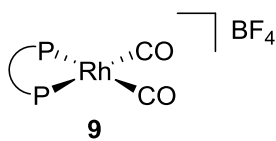
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 400 MHz)



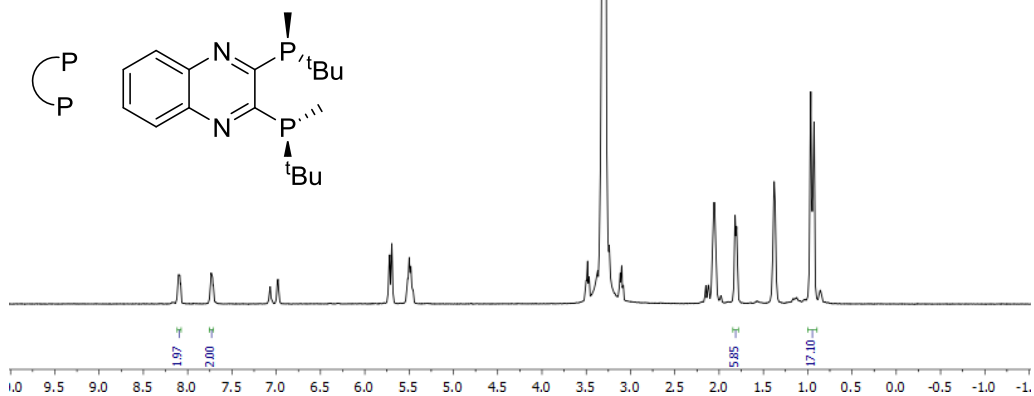
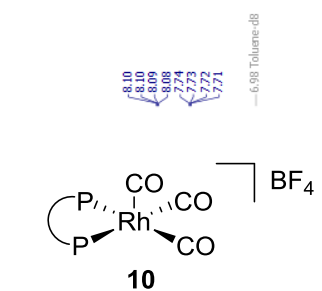
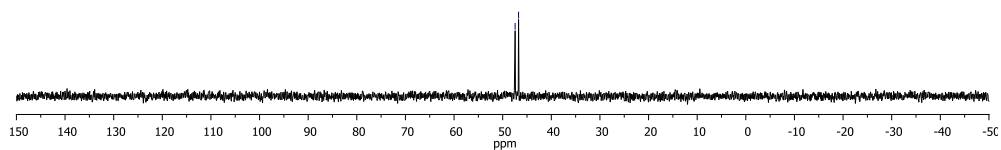
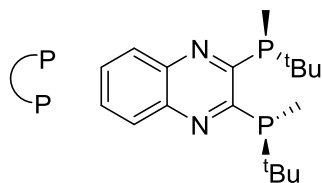
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 100.6 MHz)

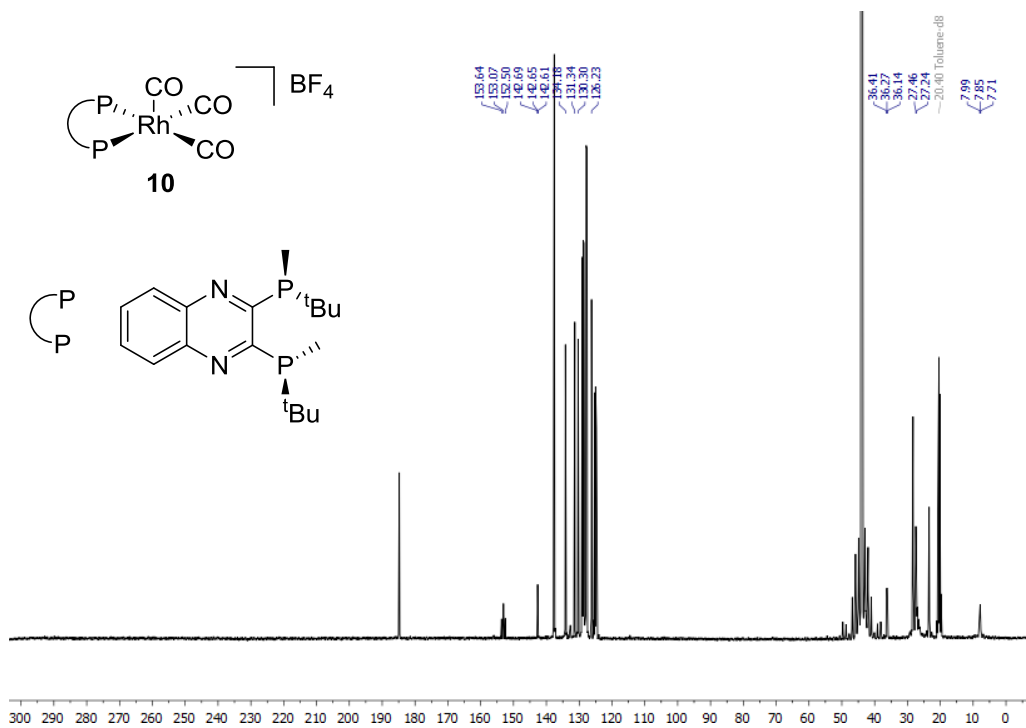
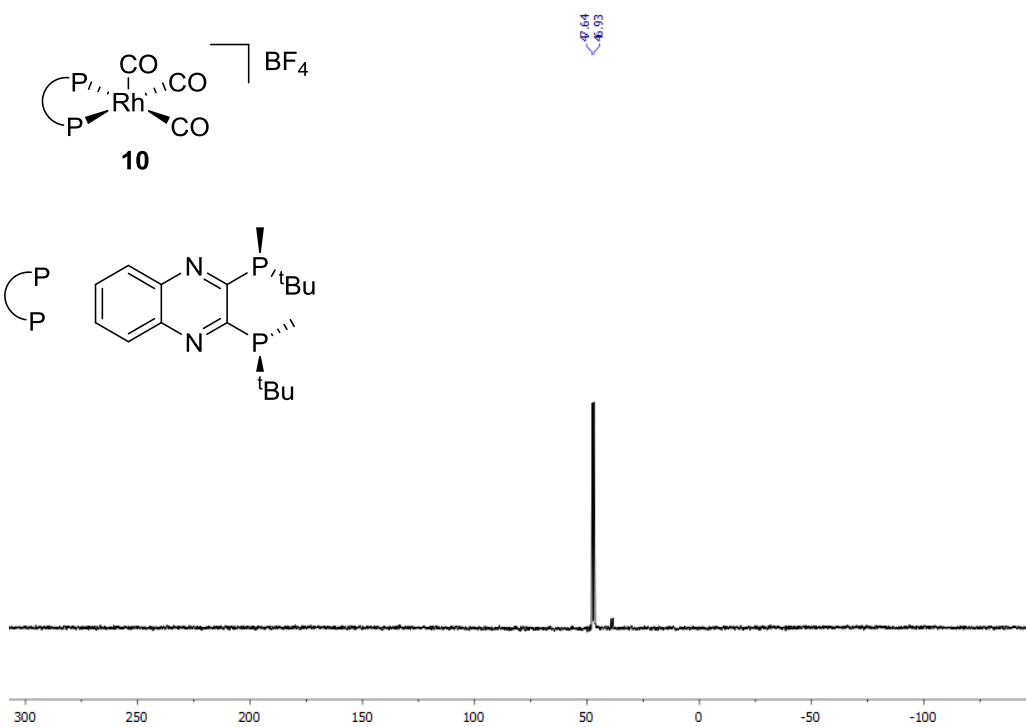


$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 161.97 MHz)



47.44  
46.73



$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (tol-d, 100.6 MHz) $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 161.97 MHz)



## SXII. Enantiomeric excess determination

