

General sulfone construction via sulfur dioxide surrogate control

Shanghai Key Laboratory of Green Chemistry and Chemical Process, School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, East China Normal University, 3663 North Zhongshan Road, Shanghai 200062, P. R. China

Supporting Information

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I. General Information.

^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz NMR spectrometers (Bruker AVANCE) using CDCl_3 . Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm). Chemical shifts for protons are reported in parts per million relative to chloroform (δ 7.26). Chemical shifts for carbon are reported in parts per million relative to chloroform (δ 77.0). Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants in Hertz (Hz), integration. Mass spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 Ultra. IR spectra were recorded on TENSOR (27) Series FT-IR 241.Spectrometers.

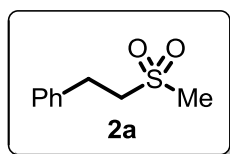
II. General procedure for the alkyl alkyl sulfones synthesis

Under a N_2 atmosphere, alkyl bromide **1** (0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), $\text{PO}(\text{OR}^2)_3$ (1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube. The reaction was stirred at 80 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 h, and water (25 mL) was added. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate and organic layers were combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 . After evaporation of solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography to give the corresponding products **2**.

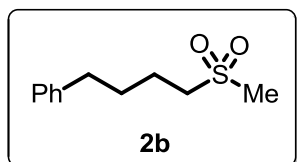
III. General procedure for the aryl alkyl sulfones synthesis

Under a N_2 atmosphere, alkyl iodide **1** (0.5 mmol), $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4$ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), $\text{PO}(\text{OR}^2)_3$ (1.5 mmol), PdCl_2dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube. The reaction was stirred at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 h, and water (25 mL) was added. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate and organic layers were combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 . After evaporation of solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography to give the corresponding products **3**.

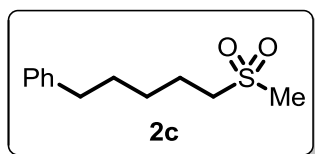
IV. Characterization of the products



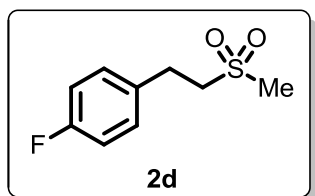
(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzene (2a): Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1a** (92.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2a** in 71% yield (65.4 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 – 7.15 (m, 5H), 3.25 – 3.21 (m, 2H), 3.11 – 3.07 (m, 2H), 2.74 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.3, 128.9, 128.3, 127.1, 56.1, 40.9, 28.5; IR ν 2924, 1600, 1494, 1456, 1433, 1311, 1265, 1149, 1020, 823, 738, 696 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₉H₁₂O₂S Calculated: 184.0558, found: 184.0559.



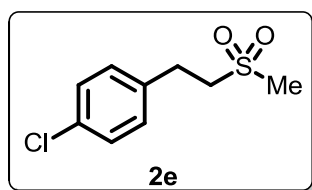
(4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl)benzene (2b). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1b** (106.6 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2b** in 66% yield (69.8 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.06 (m, 3H), 2.98 – 2.88 (m, 2H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 2.59 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.86 – 1.65 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.0, 128.4, 128.2, 126.0, 54.5, 40.3, 35.2, 29.9, 21.9; IR ν 2920, 1498, 1363, 1317, 1298, 1136, 746, 732 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₁₁H₁₆O₂S Calculated: 212.0871, found: 212.0869.



(5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl)benzene (2c). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1c** (113.6 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2c** in 61% yield (69.1 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.13 – 7.05 (m, 3H), 2.93 – 2.86 m, 2H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 2.55 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.83 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.64 – 1.54 (m, 2H), 1.47 – 1.32 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.8, 128.2, 125.7, 54.5, 40.3, 35.3, 30.6, 27.7, 22.1. IR ν 3026, 2858, 1494, 1454, 1290, 1136, 1080, 962, 748 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₁₂H₁₈O₂S Calculated: 214.0664, found: 214.0662.

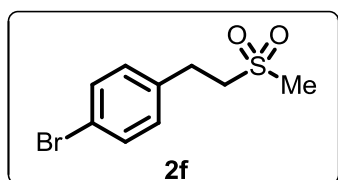


1-fluoro-4-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzene (2d). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1d** (101.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2d** in 64% yield (65.0 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 3.30 – 3.22 (m, 2H), 3.15 – 3.09 (m, 2H), 2.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.7 (d, J = 244.2 Hz), 133.0 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 129.8 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 115.7 (J = 21.4 Hz), 55.9, 40.9, 27.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -115.3. IR ν 2933, 1510, 1413, 1319, 1294, 1247, 1128, 966, 717, 700, cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₉H₁₁FO₂S Calculated: 202.0464, found: 202.0462.



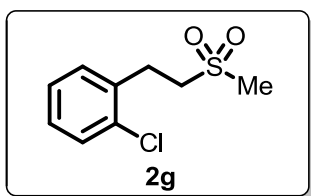
1-chloro-4-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzene (2e).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1e** (109.8 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2e** in 78% yield (85.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.23 – 3.17 (m, 2H), 3.08 – 3.02 (m, 2H), 2.77 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 135.7, 132.8, 129.7, 128.9, 55.6, 40.9, 27.6. IR ν 2933, 1494, 1409, 1319, 1296, 1247, 141, 972, 702, 648 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₉H₁₁ClO₂S Calculated: 218.0168, found: 218.0171.



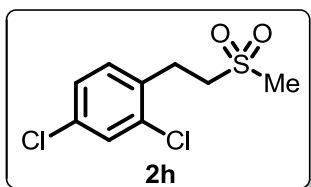
1-bromo-4-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzene (2f).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1f** (132.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2f** in 79% yield (103.9 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.29 – 3.24 (m, 2H), 3.13 – 3.07 (m, 2H), 2.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.3, 131.9, 130.0, 120.9, 55.6, 40.9, 27.7. IR ν 2934, 1712, 1487, 1406, 1305, 1230, 1143, 1180, 1118, 1070, 846, 812, 621 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₉H₁₁BrO₂S Calculated: 261.9663, found: 261.9666.



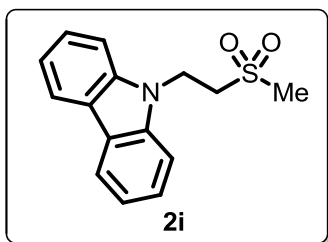
1-chloro-2-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzene (2g).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1g** (109.8 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2g** in 76% yield (83.2 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 – 7.11 (m, 4H), 3.29 – 3.13 (m, 4H), 2.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 134.9, 133.7, 130.7, 129.7, 128.7, 127.3, 53.8, 40.6, 27.0. IR ν 3026, 1363, 1224, 1141, 962, 702 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₉H₁₁ClO₂S Calculated: 218.0168, found: 218.0165.



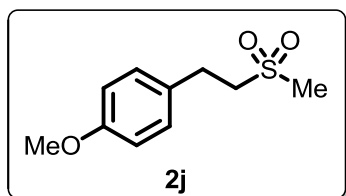
2,4-dichloro-1-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzene

(2h). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1h** (127.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2h** in 81% yield (102.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 3.25 – 3.10 (m, 4H), 2.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 134.3, 133.7, 133.5, 131.5, 129.4, 127.5, 53.5, 40.7, 26.3. IR ν 3026, 1456, 1417, 1224, 1139, 966, 817, 702 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₉H₁₀Cl₂O₂S Calculated: 251.9779, found: 251.9776.



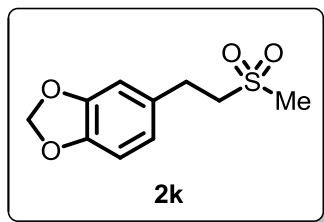
9-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)-9H-carbazole (2i).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1i** (137.1 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2i** in 86% yield (117.3 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 4.76 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.5, 126.2, 123.2, 120.6, 119.9, 108.4, 52.6, 41.6, 36.6. IR ν 3028, 1217, 1136, 746, 721 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₁₅H₁₅NO₂S Calculated: 273.0823, found: 273.0825.



1-methoxy-4-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzene (2j).

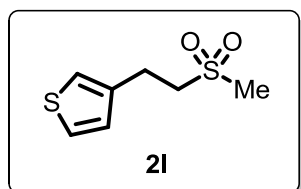
Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1j** (107.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2j** in 74% yield (79.0 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.91 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.31 – 3.25 (m, 2H), 3.14 – 3.09 (m, 2H), 2.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.5, 129.3, 129.2, 114.2, 56.3, 55.2, 40.9, 27.7. IR ν 3026, 1514, 1249, 1138, 1122, 817, 775 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₁₀H₁₄O₃S Calculated: 214.0664, found: 214.0662.



5-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole

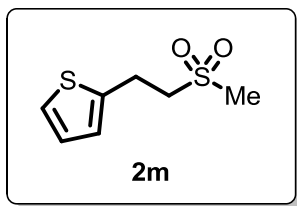
(2k). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1k** (114.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg,

0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2k** in 69% yield (79.0 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.76 – 6.63 (m, 3H), 5.91 (s, 2H), 3.26 – 3.20 (m, 2H), 3.08 – 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 146.5, 130.9, 121.3, 108.6, 108.4, 100.9, 56.1, 40.8, 28.1. IR ν 3026, 1411, 1361, 1303, 1238, 1139, 1120, 1029, 812, 732 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₁₀H₁₂O₄S Calculated: 228.0456, found: 228.0459.



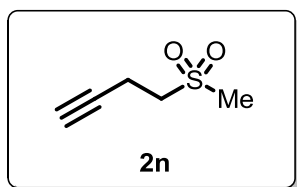
3-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)thiophene (2l). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1l** (95.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg,

1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2l** in 68% yield (64.8 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 (dd, J = 4.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.96 (dd, J = 4.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.32 – 3.26 (m, 2H), 3.21 – 3.14 (m, 2H), 2.79 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.3, 127.4, 126.5, 121.8, 55.2, 40.8, 23.1. IR ν 3025, 1491, 1363, 1222, 1141, 860, 763, 702 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₇H₁₀O₂S₂ Calculated: 190.0122, found: 190.0119.



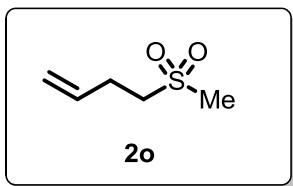
2-(2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl)thiophene (2m).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1m** (95.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2m** in 66% yield (62.9 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.96 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 3.41 – 3.30 (m, 4H), 2.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.4, 127.1, 125.8, 124.5, 56.0, 40.9, 23.0. IR ν 3026, 1363, 1296, 1222, 1138, 1070, 769cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₇H₁₀O₂S₂ Calculated: 190.0122, found: 190.0123.



4-(methylsulfonyl)but-1-yne (2n). Prepared

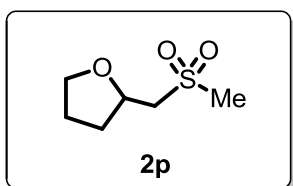
following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1n** (66.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2n** in 61% yield (40.3 mg) as a colorless liquid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.20 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.78 (td, *J* = 7.1, 2.7 Hz, 2H), 2.13 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 79.7, 71.2, 53.3, 41.5, 13.2. IR (film) ν 3302, 2924, 2848, 1419, 1363, 1305, 1126, 763 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₅H₈O₂S Calculated: 132.0245, found: 132.0247.



4-(methylsulfonyl)but-1-ene (2o). Prepared

following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1o** (67.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0

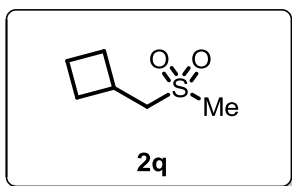
mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2o** in 47% yield (31.3 mg) as a colorless liquid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.74 – 5.86 (m, 1H), 5.21 – 5.06 (m, 2H), 3.13 – 3.02 (m, 2H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.62 – 2.54 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.6, 117.5, 53.8, 40.7, 26.5. IR (film) ν 3018, 2931, 1643, 1444, 1417, 1363, 1238, 765 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₅H₁₀O₂S Calculated: 134.0402, found: 134.0403.



2-((methylsulfonyl)methyl)tetrahydrofuran (2p).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1p** (82.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol),

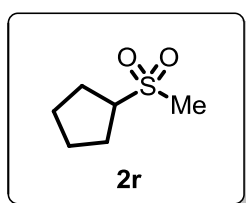
KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2p** in 55% yield (44.4 mg) as a colorless liquid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.29 (td, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.01 – 3.67 (m, 2H), 3.25 – 2.94 (m, 5H), 2.06 – 2.20 (m, 1H), 2.02 – 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.67 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 73.2, 68.3, 59.8, 42.3, 31.3, 25.1. IR (film) ν 2983, 2931, 2873, 1643, 1417, 1240, 103, 767, 698 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) for C₆H₁₂O₃S [M+H]⁺ Calculated: 165.0580, found: 165.0577.



((methylsulfonyl)methyl)cyclobutane (2q). Prepared

following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1q** (74.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg,

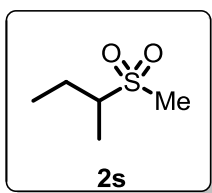
1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2q** in 76% yield (56.1 mg) as a colorless liquid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.08 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.92 – 2.77 (m, 4H), 2.27 – 2.14 (m, 2H), 2.03 – 1.79 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 60.5, 40.9, 29.4, 28.3, 18.9. IR (film) ν 3020, 2083, 2933, 2643, 1413, 1238, 1109, 854, 769 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₆H₁₂O₂S Calculated: 148.0558, found: 148.0557.



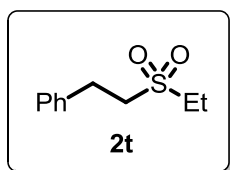
(methylsulfonyl)cyclopentane (2r). Prepared following

general procedure using alkyl bromide **1r** (74.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI

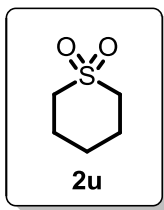
(92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2r** in 63% yield (46.8 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.42 – 3.31 (m, 1H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 2.08 – 1.92 (m, 4H), 1.84 – 1.56 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 62.4, 39.0, 26.7, 25.8. IR ν 3018, 2974, 2872, 1643, 1448, 1415, 964, 819, 759 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) for C₆H₁₃O₂S [M+H]⁺ Calculated: 149.0636, found: 149.0628.



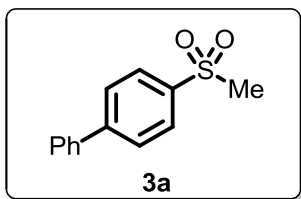
2-(methylsulfonyl)butane (2s). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1s** (68.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2s** in 56% yield (38.2 mg) as a colorless liquid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.88 – 2.74 (m, 4H), 2.12 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.60 – 1.41 (m, 1H), 1.36 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 2.0 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (td, *J* = 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 60.4, 37.1, 22.4, 12.5, 11.0. IR (film) ν 2981, 2933, 2879, 1417, 1242, 758 cm⁻¹; GC-MS (EI) for C₅H₁₂O₂S Calculated: 136.0, found: 136.0.



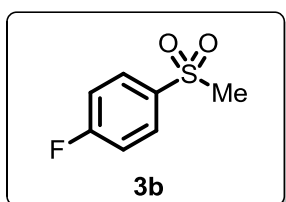
(2-(ethylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzene (2t). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1a** (92.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OEt)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **2t** in 51% yield (50.1 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 3.19 – 3.01 (m, 4H), 2.84 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.5, 128.7, 128.2, 126.9, 53.0, 47.3, 27.8, 6.4. IR ν 2983, 1450, 1417, 765, 725, 696 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₁₀H₁₄O₂S Calculated: 198.0715, found: 198.0717.



tetrahydro-2H-thiopyran 1,1-dioxide (2u). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl bromide **1u** (115.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiourea dioxide (162.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), KI (166.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), TBAI (92.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (325.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **2u** in 82% yield (55.0 mg) as a colorless liquid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.07 – 2.88 (m, 4H), 2.17 – 1.99 (m, 4H), 1.72 – 1.53 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 52.0, 24.1, 23.7. IR (film) ν 2937, 1446, 964, 935, 763 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₅H₁₀O₂S Calculated: 134.0402, found: 134.0401.

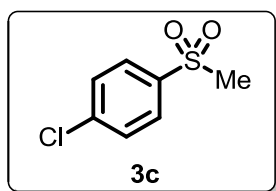


4-(methylsulfonyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3a). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1a'** (140.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3a** in 82% yield (95.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 – 7.89 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.6, 139.0, 129.0, 128.6, 127.9, 127.8, 127.3, 44.5 (One resonance was not observed due to overlapping resonances). IR ν3018, 2980, 1643, 1448, 1415, 966, 788, 761, 748 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₁₃H₁₂O₂S Calculated: 232.0558, found: 232.0560.

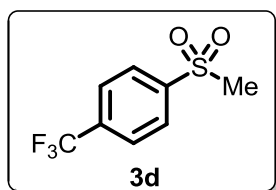


1-fluoro-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3b). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1b'** (111.1 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol),

PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3b** in 84% yield (72.4 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 2.99 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6 (d, J = 254.5 Hz), 136.5 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 130.1 (d, J = 9.6 Hz), 116.5 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 44.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -103.5. IR ν 2983, 1591, 1417, 964, 817, 765 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₇H₇FO₂S Calculated: 174.0151, found: 174.0149.

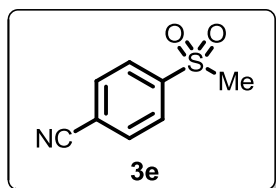


1-chloro-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3c). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1c'** (119.3 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3c** in 88% yield (83.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 3.04 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.3, 138.8, 129.5, 128.8, 44.4. IR ν 3014, 2922, 2873, 2850, 1643, 1581, 1448, 1417, 1392, 825, 765 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₇H₇ClO₂S Calculated: 189.9855, found: 189.9858.

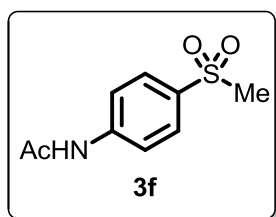


1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3d). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1d'** (136.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3d** in 81% yield (90.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H). ¹³C

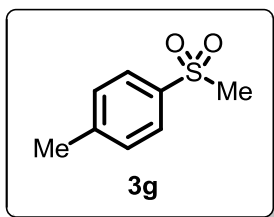
NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.8, 135.3 (d, J = 33.0 Hz), 128.0, 126.5 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.0 (q, J = 271.5 Hz), 44.2. **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.2. **IR** ν 3016, 1417, 1402, 1060, 842, 763 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₈H₇F₃O₂S Calculated: 224.0119, found: 224.0122.



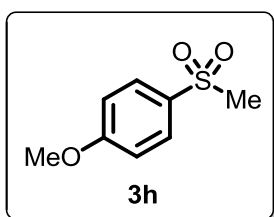
4-(methylsulfonyl)benzonitrile (3e). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1e'** (114.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3e** in 65% yield (58.9 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.2, 133.1, 128.0, 117.4, 116.9, 44.1. **IR** ν 3010, 2261, 1417, 1363, 1138, 831, 798, 754 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₈H₇NO₂S Calculated: 181.0197, found: 181.0199.



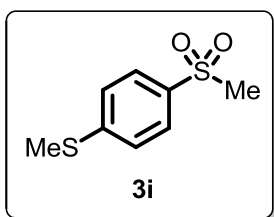
N-(4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)acetamide (3f). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1f'** (130.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3f** in 55% yield (58.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 142.7, 135.2, 128.7, 119.5, 44.6, 24.8. **IR** ν 3026, 1683, 1643, 1587, 1529, 1417, 1363, 1224, 964, 821, 765 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₉H₁₁NO₃S Calculated: 213.0460, found: 213.0461.



1-methyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3g). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1g'** (109.2 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3g** in 82% yield (69.0 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.5, 137.5, 129.8, 127.2, 44.5, 21.5. **IR** ν 3018, 1593, 1448, 1417, 1363, 952, 819, 759 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₈H₁₀O₂S Calculated: 170.0402, found: 170.0399.

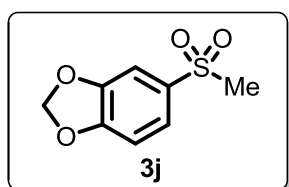


1-methoxy-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3h). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1h'** (117.1 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3h** in 67% yield (62.1 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.02 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.5, 132.0, 129.3, 114.3, 55.6, 44.6. **IR** ν 3018, 2446, 1417, 1363, 1224, 763 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₈H₁₀O₃S Calculated: 186.0351, found: 186.0350.



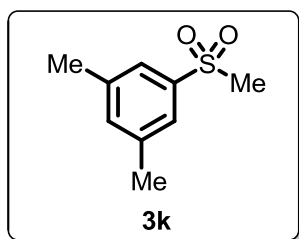
methyl(4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfane (3i). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1i'** (125.1 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg,

0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3i** in 88% yield (89.4 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.0, 136.0, 127.4, 125.3, 44.5, 14.6. **IR** ν 3018, 2924, 2873, 1643, 1577, 1419, 1394, 1363, 1224, 825, 765 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₈H₁₀O₂S₂ Calculated: 202.0122, found: 202.0121.



5-(methylsulfonyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole (3j).

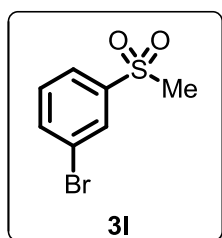
Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1j'** (124.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3j** in 88% yield (88.1 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (s, 2H), 3.00 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.2, 148.3, 133.9, 123.2, 108.5, 107.4, 102.5, 44.7. **IR** ν 3010, 1500, 1477, 1363, 1224, 1020, 925, 761 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₈H₈O₄S Calculated: 200.0143, found: 200.0140.



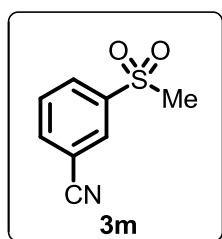
1,3-dimethyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3k).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1k'** (116.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg,

0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3k** in 88% yield (80.9 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.2, 139.3, 135.2, 124.7, 44.4, 21.1. **IR** ν 2960, 1608, 1404, 1315, 1290, 1149, 1105, 1020, 956, 869, 858 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₉H₁₂O₂S Calculated: 184.0558, found: 184.0555.

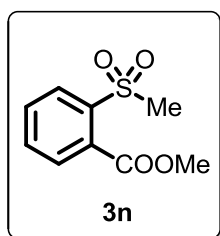


1-bromo-3-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3l). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1l'** (141.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3l** in 76% yield (88.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 – 8.05 (m, 1H), 7.86 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 1.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.42 (m, 1 H), 3.05 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.2, 136.7, 130.8, 130.2, 125.8, 123.2, 44.3. **IR** ν 3016, 1568, 1411, 1363, 1224, 964, 952, 792, 767, 732 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₇H₇BrO₂S Calculated: 233.9350, found: 233.9351.

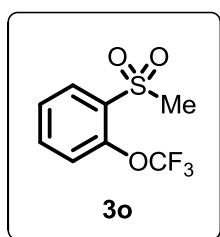


3-(methylsulfonyl)benzonitrile (3m). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1m'** (114.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3m** in 57% yield (51.2 mg) as a white solid by

column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 – 8.23 (m, 1H), 8.20 – 8.15 (m, 1H), 7.96 – 7.92 (m, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.0, 136.8, 131.3, 131.1, 130.5, 116.8, 114.0, 44.2. **IR** ν 3066, 3010, 1415, 1363, 132, 1224, 1170, 975, 964, 802, 756 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₈H₇NO₂S Calculated: 181.0197, found: 181.0195.

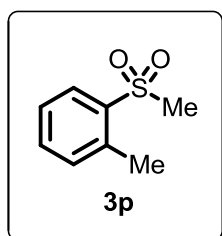


methyl 2-(methylsulfonyl)benzoate (3n). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1n'** (131.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3n** in 73% yield (77.9 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.63 (m, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 139.0, 133.4, 132.9, 131.1, 129.7, 129.5, 53.1, 44.7. **IR** ν 3022, 1419, 1363, 1224, 1058, 952, 827, 783, 742 cm⁻¹; **HRMS** (EI) for C₉H₁₀O₄S Calculated: 214.0300, found: 214.0299.

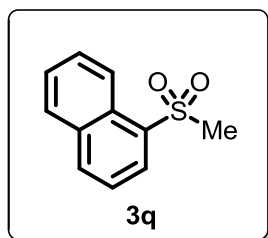


1-(methylsulfonyl)-2-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (3o). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1o'** (144.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3o** in 46% yield (55.6 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.7 (q, J = 1.6 Hz), 135.5, 132.4, 130.4, 126.8, 120.1 (q, J = 259.8 Hz), 120.0 (d, J = 2 Hz), 43.7. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -56.2. IR ν 3014, 2922, 1589, 1444, 1363, 1224, 1068, 954, 921 786, 767 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₈H₇F₃O₃S Calculated: 240.0068, found: 240.0071.

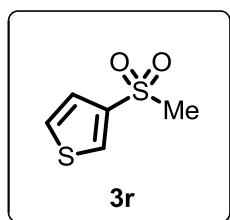


1-methyl-2-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3p). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1p'** (109.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3p** in 48% yield (40.6 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.5, 137.4, 133.6, 132.6, 129.1, 126.6, 43.5, 20.1. IR ν 3012, 2927, 1595, 1450, 1417, 1363, 1224, 1062, 806, 775, 705 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₈H₁₀O₂S Calculated: 170.0402, found: 170.0404.



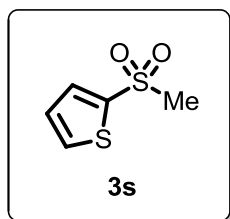
1-(methylsulfonyl)naphthalene (3q). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1q'** (127.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Na₂S₂O₄ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 °C for 15 h giving **3q** in 73% yield (74.8 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.74 – 8.67 (m, 1H), 8.31 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, J =

8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.62 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 135.4, 135.0, 134.0, 129.4, 129.2, 128.6, 128.4, 126.9, 124.3, 123.7, 44.1. IR ν 3014, 1448, 1419, 1363, 1224, 1139, 960, 806, 754 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI) for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{S}$ Calculated: 206.0402, found: 206.0401.



3-(methylsulfonyl)thiophene (3r).

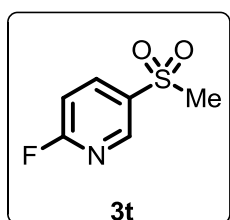
Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1r'** (105.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4$ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), $\text{PO}(\text{OMe})_3$ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl_2dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 h giving **3r** in 78% yield (62.8 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.08 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 5.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, J = 5.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 141.0, 131.8, 128.5, 125.4, 44.7. IR ν 3120, 3099, 3026, 1419, 1363, 1224, 960, 817, 777 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI) for $\text{C}_5\text{H}_6\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$ Calculated: 161.9809, found: 161.9807.



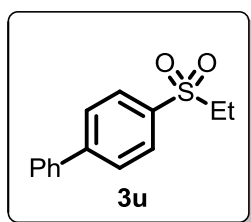
2-(methylsulfonyl)thiophene (3s).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1s'** (105.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4$ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), $\text{PO}(\text{OMe})_3$ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl_2dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 h giving **3s** in 78% yield (62.8 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.69 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 141.5, 133.6, 133.3, 127.8, 45.9. IR ν 3107, 1406, 1298, 1224, 1070, 1018, 956, 852,

763, 736, 651 cm^{-1} ; **HRMS** (EI) for $\text{C}_5\text{H}_6\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$ Calculated: 161.9809, found: 161.9806.

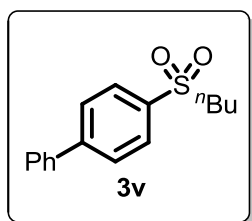


2-fluoro-5-(methylsulfonyl)pyridine (3t). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1t'** (111.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4$ (261.2 mg, 1.5 mmol), $\text{PO}(\text{OMe})_3$ (210.1 mg, 1.5 mmol), PdCl_2dppf (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol), TBAB (241.8 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMSO (5 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 h giving **3t** in 52% yield (45.4 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.82 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (ddd, J = 8.7, 7.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (s, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.8 (d, J = 246.9 Hz), 148.6 (d, J = 17.2 Hz), 141.0 (d, J = 9.7 Hz), 135.1 (d, J = 4.7 Hz), 110.7 (d, J = 37.8 Hz), 44.9. **IR** ν 3061, 3034, 3016, 1589, 1573, 1469, 1365, 1263, 1251, 1224, 1016, 962, 839, 756 cm^{-1} ; **^{19}F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -58.8. **HRMS** (EI) for $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{FNO}_2\text{S}$ Calculated: 175.0103, found: 175.0106.



4-(ethylsulfonyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3u). Under a N_2 atmosphere, alkyl iodide **1u'** (56.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$ (76.0 mg, 1.5 mmol), $\text{PO}(\text{OEt}^2)_3$ (109.3 mg, 0.6 mmol), Mn (32.9 mg, 0.6mmol), PdCl_2dppf (7.3 mg, 0.01 mmol), TBAB (97.2 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 h giving **3u** in 84% yield (41.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 3.16 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ

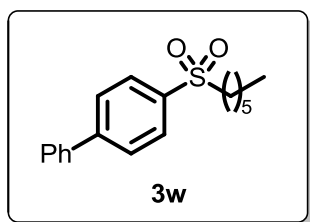
146.5, 139.0, 137.0, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 127.8, 127.3, 50.6, 7.4. **IR** ν 3012, 2920, 1593, 1450, 1398, 1363, 1224, 1089, 960, 786 cm^{-1} ; **HRMS** (EI) for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2\text{S}$ Calculated: 246.0715, found: 246.0713.



4-(butylsulfonyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3v).

Under a N_2 atmosphere, alkyl iodide **1a'** (56.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$ (76.0 mg, 1.5 mmol), $\text{PO}(\text{O}^n\text{Bu})_3$ (159.8 mg, 0.6 mmol), Mn (32.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), PdCl_2dppf (7.3 mg, 0.01 mmol), TBAB (97.2 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred

at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 h giving **3v** in 80% yield (43.6 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 3.19 – 3.05 (m, 2H), 1.80 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.47 – 1.35 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.5, 139.0, 137.6, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 127.8, 127.3, 56.1, 24.6, 21.5, 13.4. **IR** ν 3012, 1593, 1446, 1419, 1365, 1224, 1155, 960, 856, 779 cm^{-1} ; **HRMS** (EI) for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{S}$ Calculated: 274.1028, found: 274.1032.

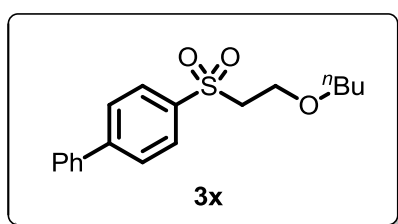


4-(hexylsulfonyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3w).

Under a N_2 atmosphere, alkyl iodide **1a'** (56.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$ (76.0 mg, 1.5 mmol), Trihexyl phosphate (210.3 mg, 0.6 mmol), Mn (32.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), PdCl_2dppf (7.3 mg, 0.01 mmol), TBAB (97.2 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred

at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 h giving **3w** in 66% yield (39.9 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.80 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 3.18 – 3.04 (m, 2H), 1.80 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.17 (m, 6H),

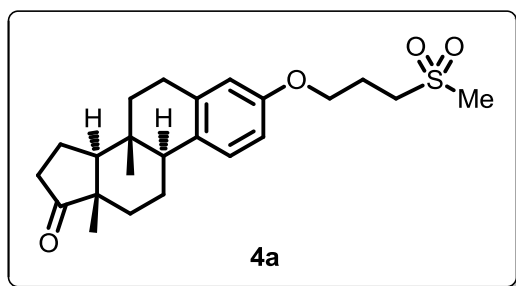
0.86 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.4, 139.0, 137.7, 129.0, 128.5, 128.5, 127.7, 127.3, 56.3, 31.1, 27.8, 22.5, 22.2, 13.8. **IR** ν 3061, 2924, 2870, 1595, 1562, 1481, 1419, 1363, 1222, 1091, 1004, 958, 777, 727, 673 cm^{-1} ; **HRMS** (EI) for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{S}$ Calculated: 302.1341, found: 302.1337.



4-((2-butoxyethyl)sulfonyl)-1,1'-biphenyl

(3x). Under a N_2 atmosphere, alkyl iodide **1a'** (56.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$ (76.0 mg, 1.5 mmol), Tris(2-butoxyethyl) phosphate (239.1

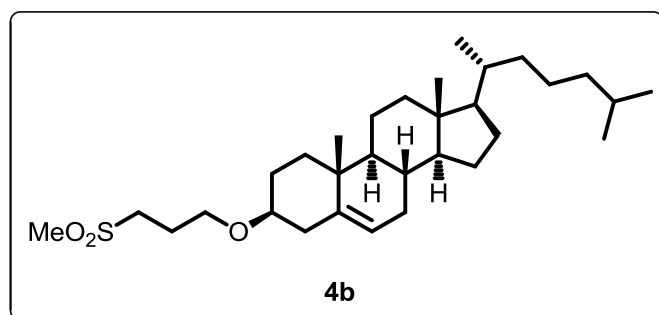
mg, 0.6 mmol), Mn (32.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), PdCl_2dppf (7.3 mg, 0.01 mmol), TBAB (97.2 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 120°C for 15 h giving **3x** in 48% yield (30.3 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 5/1). **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.72 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 3.74 (t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.38 (t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.25 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.33 – 1.26 (m, 2H), 1.17 – 1.10 (m, 2H), 0.75 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.5, 139.1, 138.4, 129.0, 128.5, 127.6, 127.3, 71.0, 64.0, 56.4, 31.4, 29.6, 19.0, 13.7. **IR** ν 3012, 2960, 2868, 1595, 1481, 1448, 1419, 1363, 1224, 1087, 1006, 958, 761 cm^{-1} ; **HRMS** (EI) for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ Calculated: 318.1290, found: 318.1294.



(8R,9S,13S,14S)-8,13-dimethyl-3-(3-(methylsulfonyl)propoxy)-7,8,9,11,12,13,15,16-octahydro-6H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17(14H)-one (4a).

Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1a''** (78.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), thiourea dioxide (64.8 mg, 0.6

mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (84.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), KI (66.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), TBAI (36.9 mg, 0.1 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (130.4 mg, 0.4 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **4a** in 72% yield (56.5 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA = 2/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.72 – 6.58 (m, 2H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.30 – 3.19 (m, 2H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 2.92– 2.85 (m, 2H), 2.49 (dd, *J* = 18.7, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 1.89 (m, 8H), 1.68 – 1.36 (m, 6H), 0.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.2, 137.8, 132.5, 126.3, 114.4, 112.0, 65.3, 51.7, 50.2, 47.8, 43.8, 40.7, 38.2, 35.7, 31.4, 29.5, 26.3, 25.8, 22.6, 21.4, 13.7. IR ν 3012, 2927, 2873, 1498, 1450, 1363, 1242, 1224, 1153, 966, 781, 754 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) for C₂₃H₃₂O₄S Calculated: 390.1865, found: 390.1862.



(3S,8S,9S,10R,13R,14S,17R)-10,13-dimethyl-17-((R)-6-methylheptan-2-yl)-3-(3-(methylsulfonyl)propoxy)-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-

cyclopenta[a]phenanthrene (4b). Prepared following general procedure using alkyl iodide **1b''** (98.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), thiourea dioxide (64.8 mg, 0.6 mmol), PO(OMe)₃ (84.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), KI (66.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), TBAI (36.9 mg, 0.1 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (130.4 mg, 0.4 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL), the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 15 h giving **4b** in 63% yield (63.8 mg) as a white solid by column chromatography (PE/EA 2/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.34 (s, 1H), 3.58 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.19 – 3.07 (m, 3H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.32 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 1.75 (m, 8H), 1.63 – 1.20 (m, 12H), 1.21 – 0.95 (m, 12H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 1.5 Hz, 6H), 0.67 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.5, 121.7, 79.2, 65.3, 56.7, 56.1, 52.2, 50.1, 42.2, 40.6, 39.7, 39.4, 39.0, 37.1, 36.8, 36.1, 35.7, 31.8, 31.8, 28.3, 28.1, 27.9, 24.2,

23.7, 23.4, 22.7, 22.5, 21.0, 19.3, 18.6, 11.8. **IR** ν 2929, 2866, 1448, 1419, 1365, 1224 1153, 962, 754 cm^{-1} ; **HRMS** (ESI) for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{54}\text{O}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{K}]^+$
Calculated: 545.3425, found: 545.3415.

V. X-Ray Crystal Structures

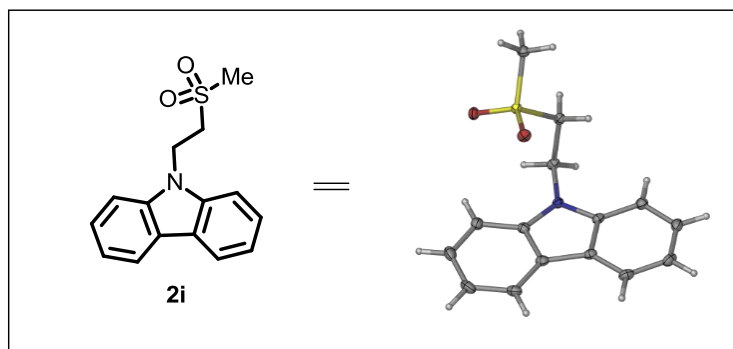


Table S2. Sample and crystal data for **2i** (CCDC 1921692).

Bond precision	C-C = 0.0019 Å
	Wavelength = 1.54184
Cell	a = 5.7433 (1) α = 90° b = 12.4290(1) β = 97.685(1) c = 18.1643 (2) γ = 90°
Temperature	293 K
Volume	1284.98(3)
Space group	P 1 21/c 1
Sum formula	C ₁₅ H ₁₅ N O ₂ S
Mr	273.34
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.413
Z	4
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	2.213
F000	576
h,k,lmax	6, 15, 22
Nref	2576
Tmin,Tmax	0.341, 1.000
Correction method= # Reported T Limits	Tmin = 0.341 Tmax = 1.000
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN	
Data completeness	0.979
Theta(max)	74.515
R(reflections)	0.0340(2441)
wR2(reflections)	0.882 (2576)
S	1.072
Npar	173

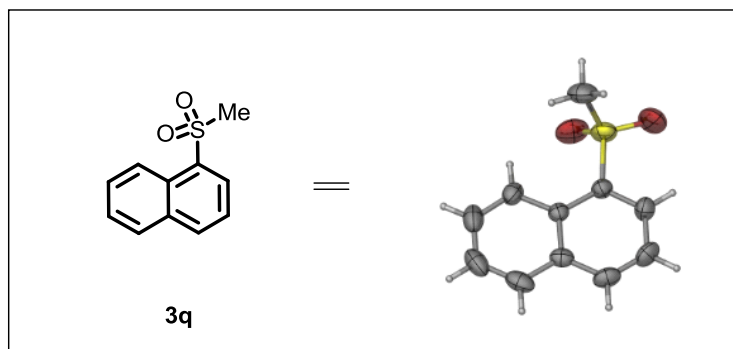
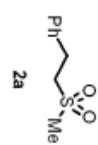


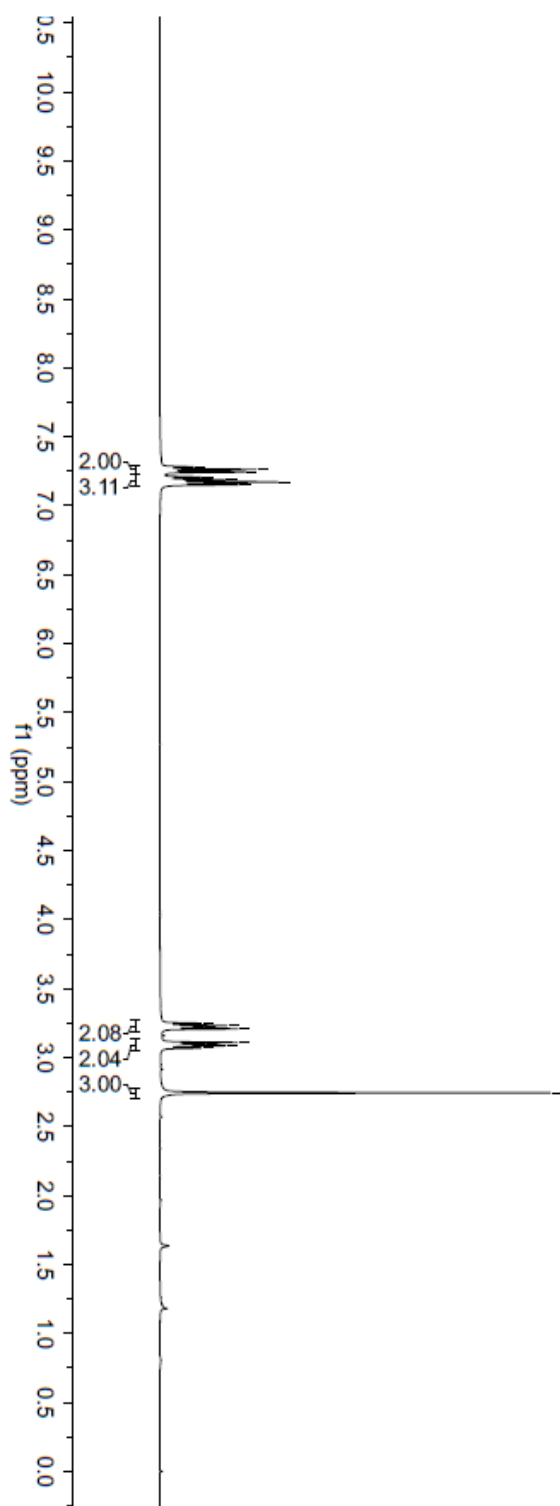
Table S2. Sample and crystal data for **3q** (CCDC 1921697).

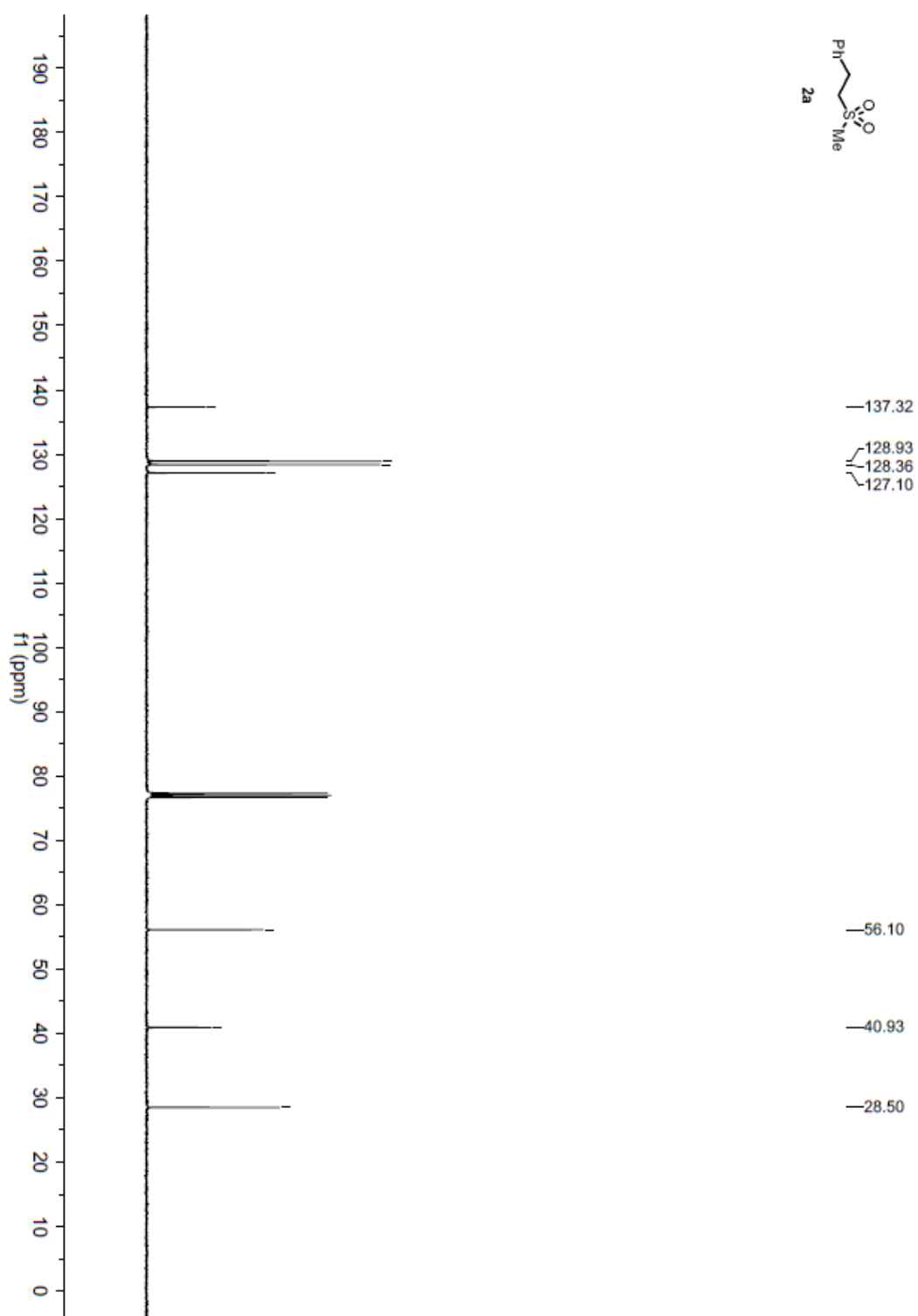
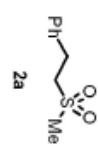
Bond precision	C-C = 0.0021 Å
	Wavelength = 1.54184
Cell	a = 11.2374(1) α = 90°
	b = 10.3578(1) β = 90
	c = 16.9587(1) γ = 90°
Temperature	293 K
Volume	1973.90(3)
Space group	P 1 21/c 1
Sum formula	C ₁₁ H ₁₀ O ₂ S
Mr	206.25
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.388
Z	8
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	2.664
F000	864.0
h,k,lmax	14, 12, 21
Nref	1999
Tmin,Tmax	0.176, 1.000
Correction method= # Reported T Limits	Tmin = 0.176 Tmax = 1.000
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN	
Data completeness	0.993
Theta(max)	74.393
R(reflections)	0.0340(1913)
wR2(reflections)	0.0927 (1999)
S	1.031
Npar	129

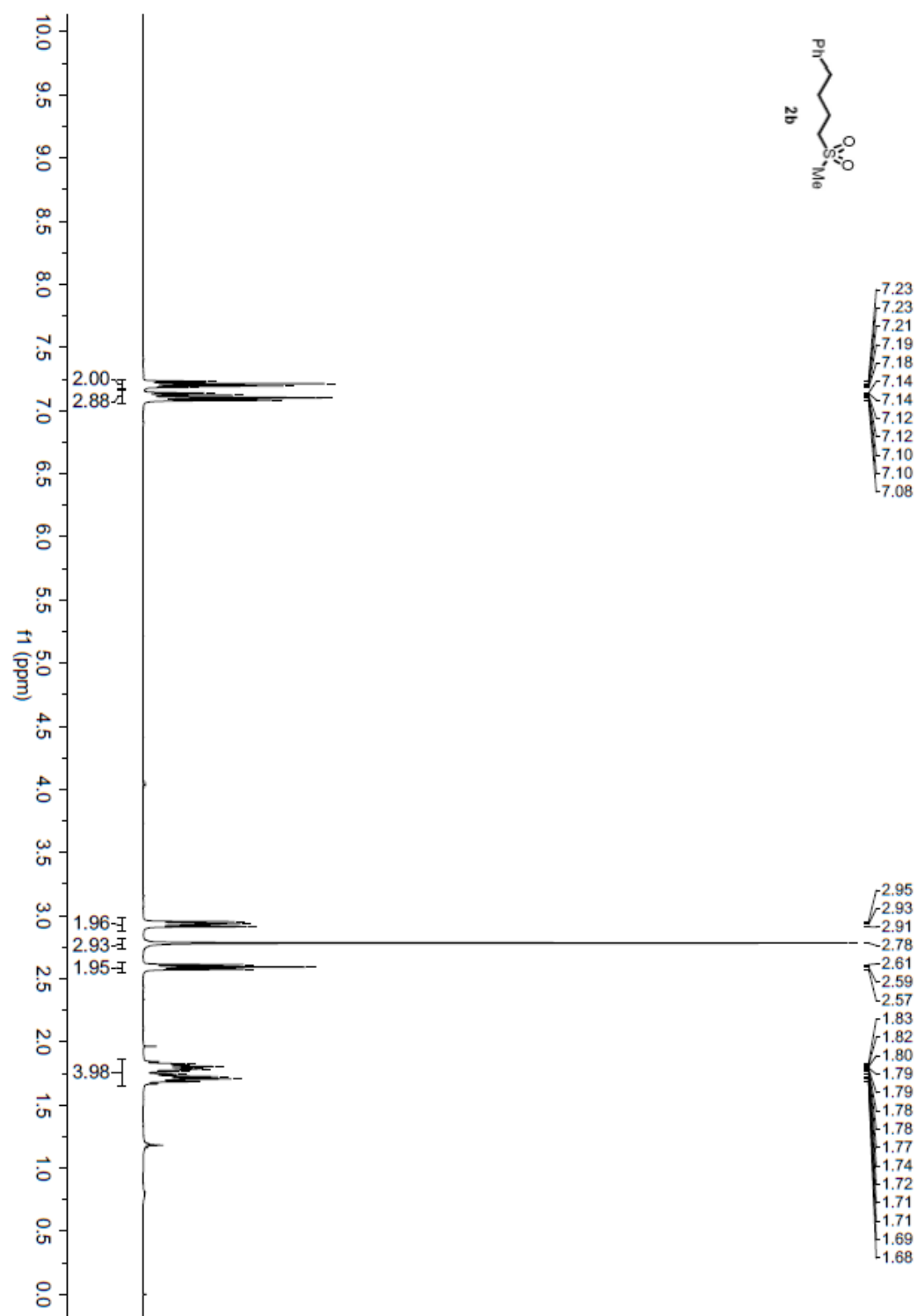


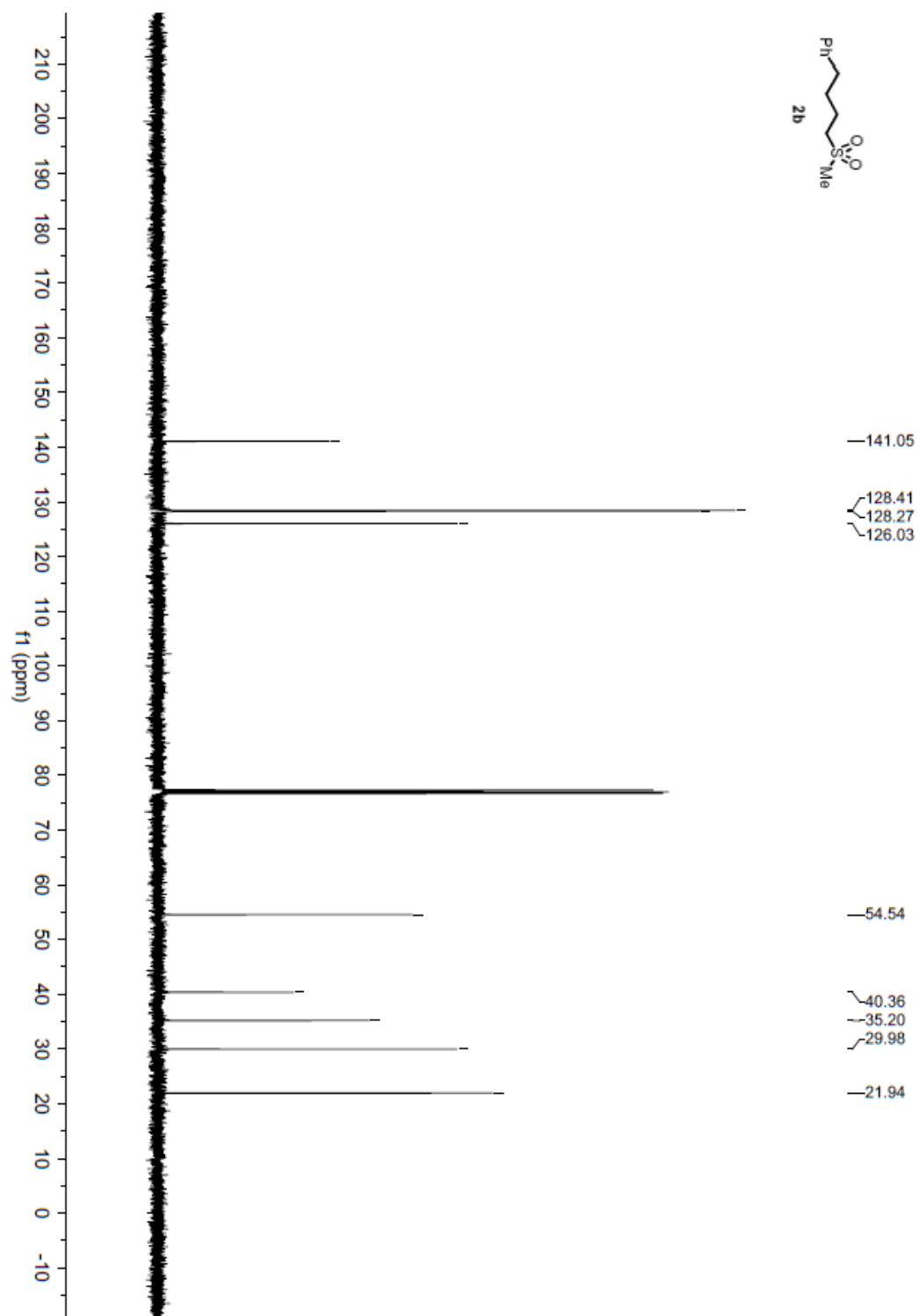
7.28
 7.26
 7.24
 7.21
 7.19
 7.17
 7.15

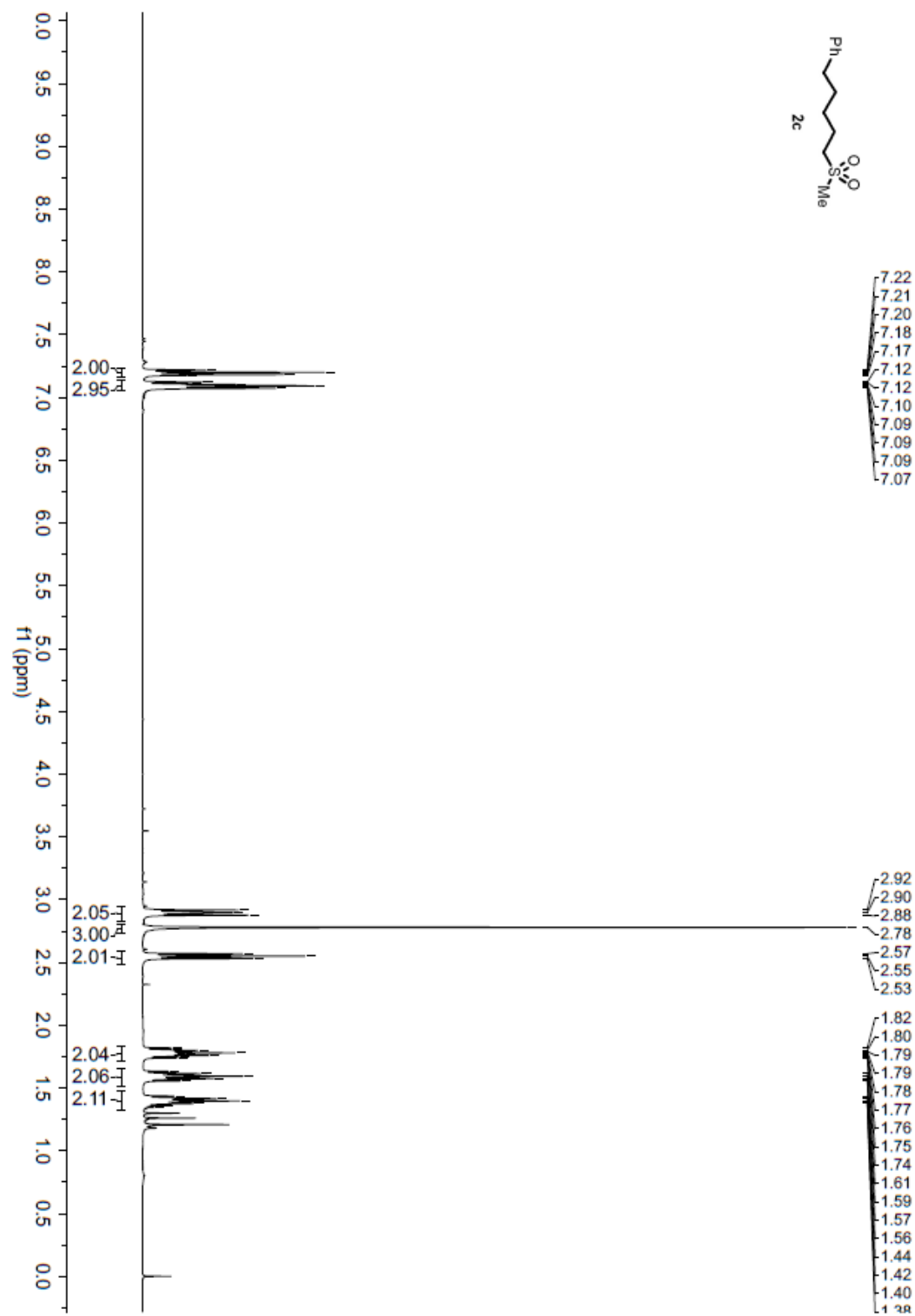
3.25
 3.23
 3.22
 3.21
 3.11
 3.10
 3.09
 3.07
 2.74

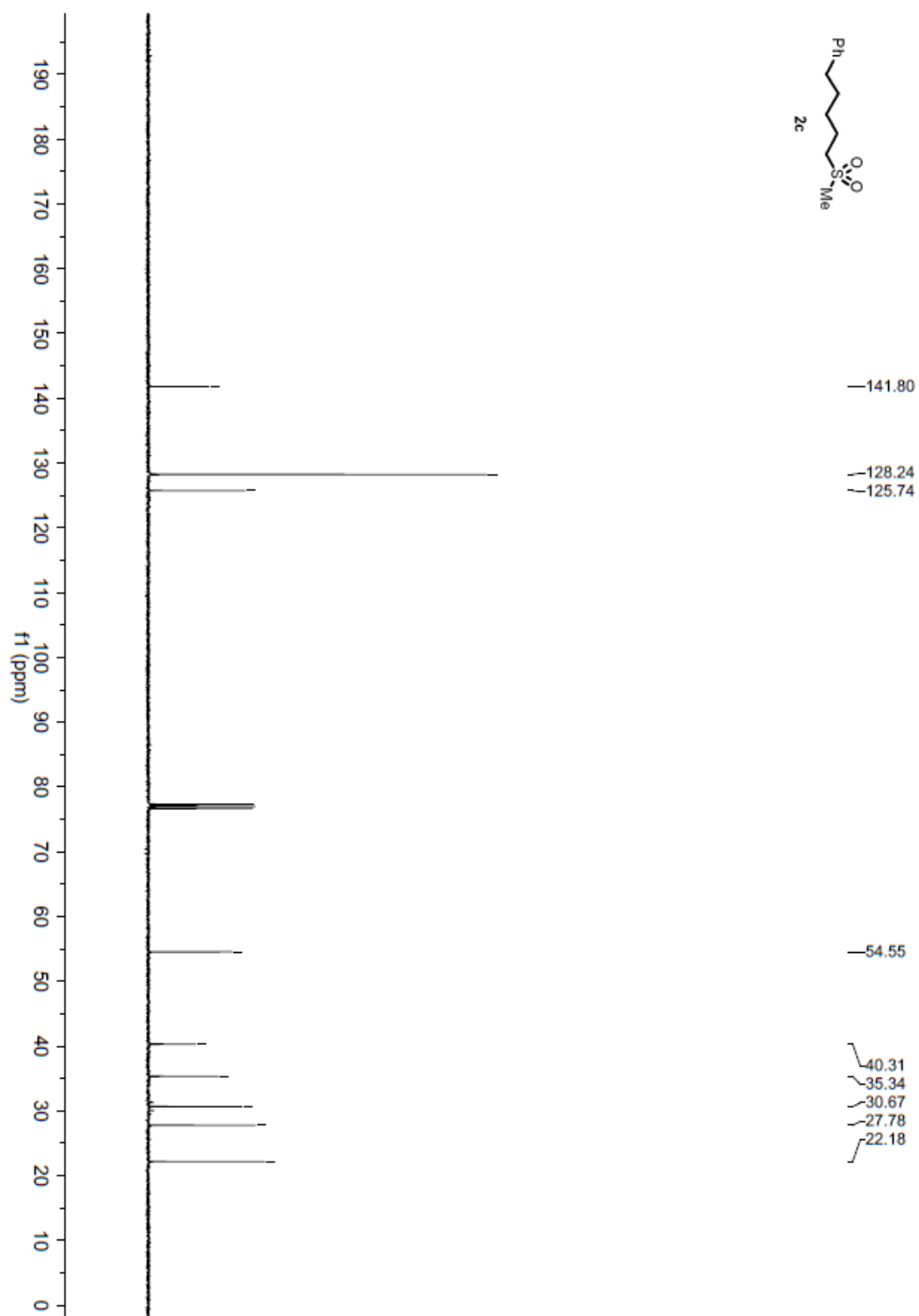
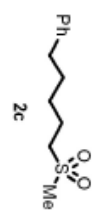


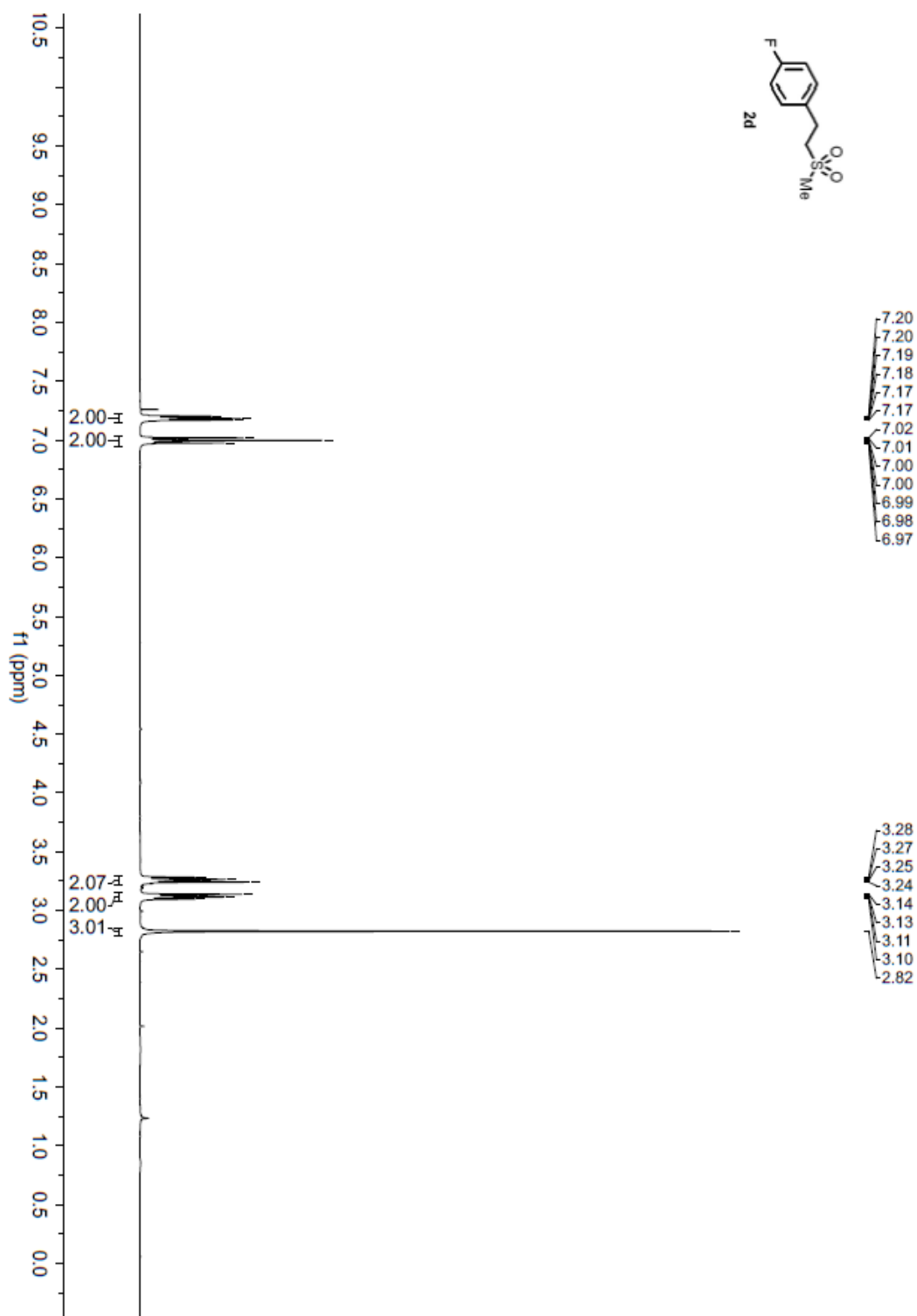
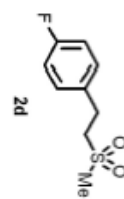


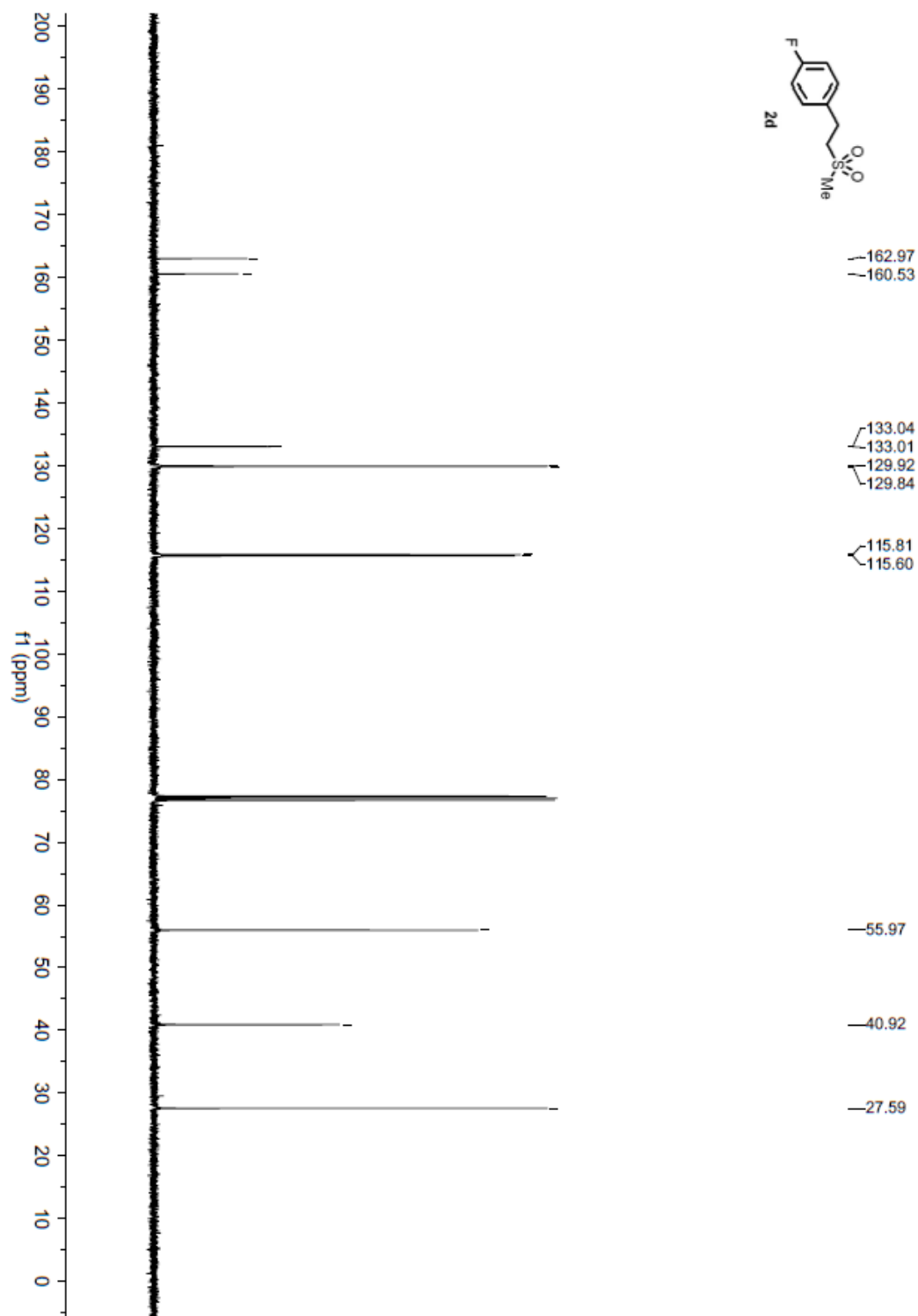
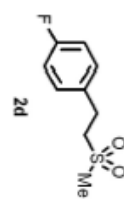


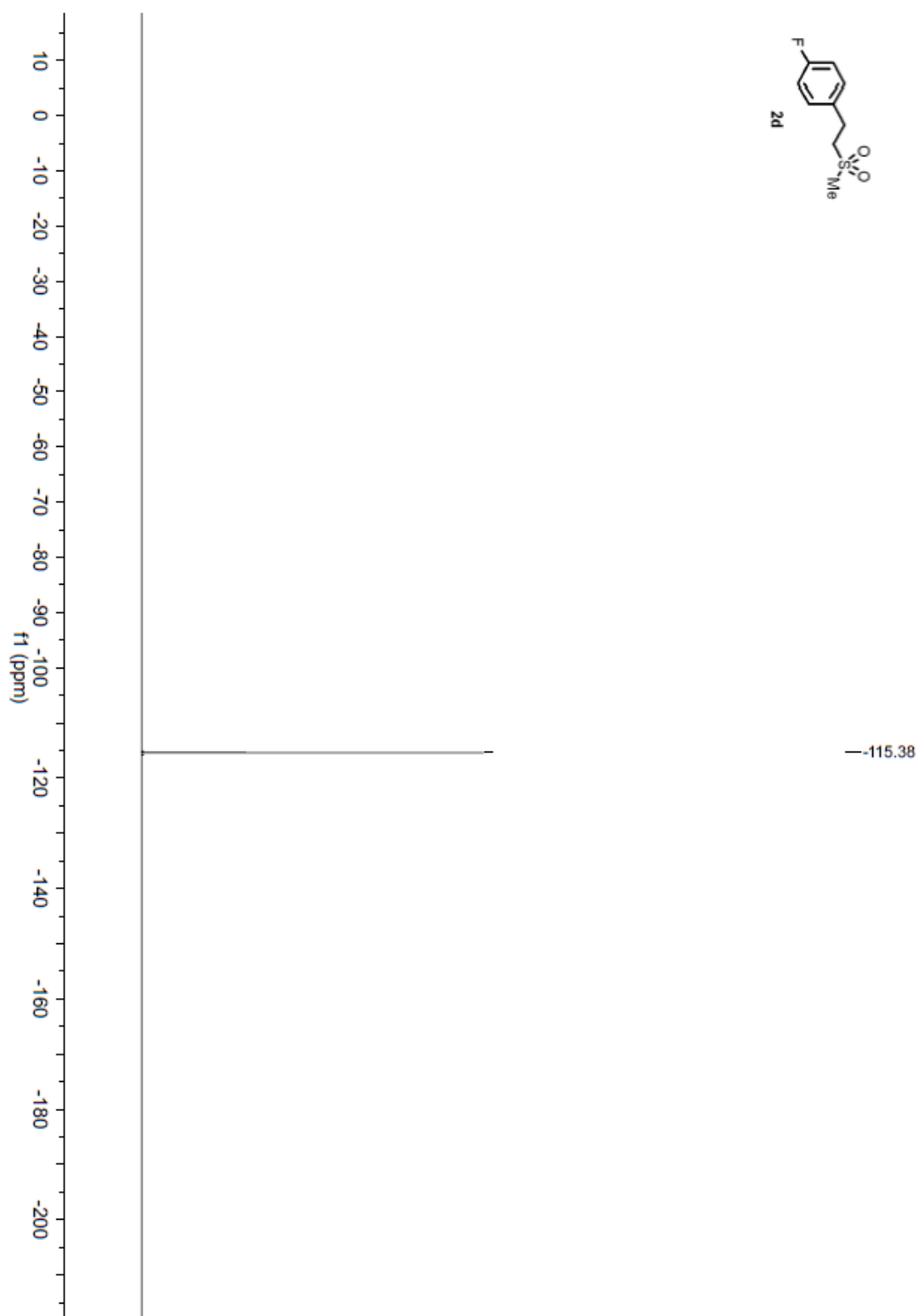
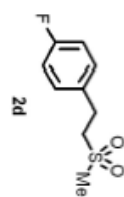


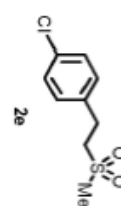








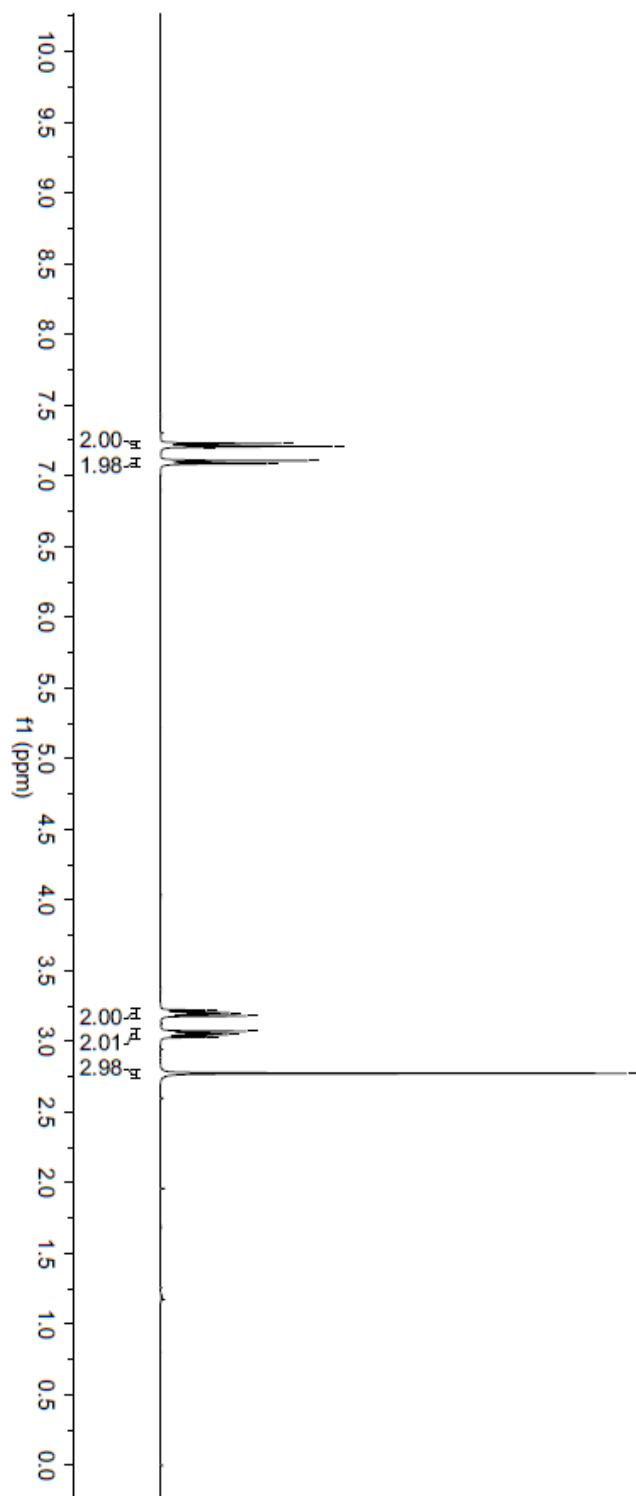


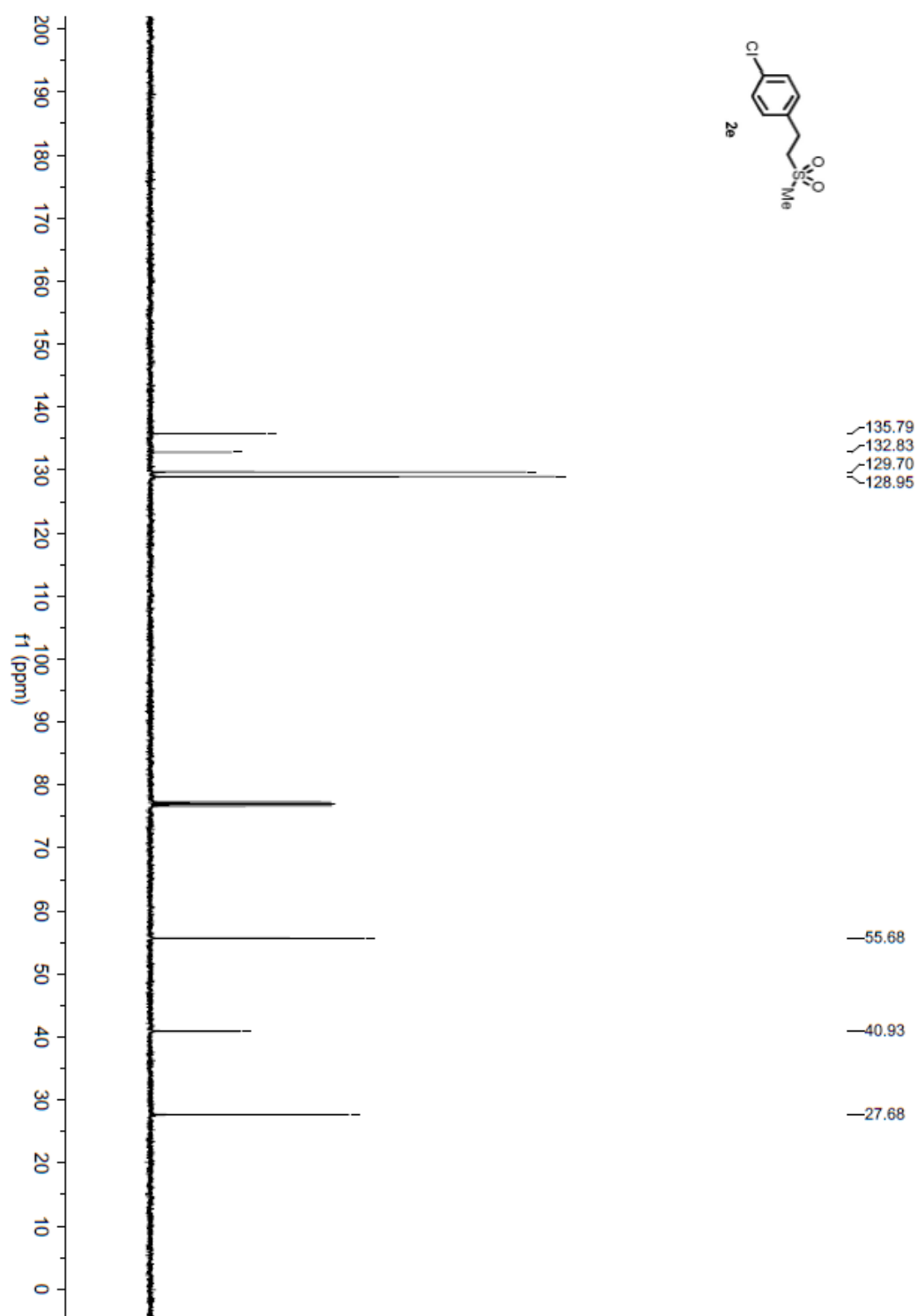
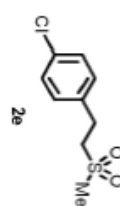


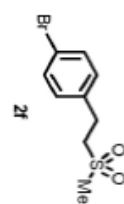
2e

7.24
7.23
7.22
7.21
7.21
7.20
7.11
7.09

3.22
3.20
3.19
3.18
3.07
3.06
3.05
3.03
2.77







7.44
 7.44
 7.43
 7.42
 7.42
 7.11
 7.09

3.28
 3.26
 3.25
 3.24
 3.12
 3.11
 3.10
 3.08
 2.84

