

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Metal-free Cascade construction of C-C bond by activation of inert C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H bond

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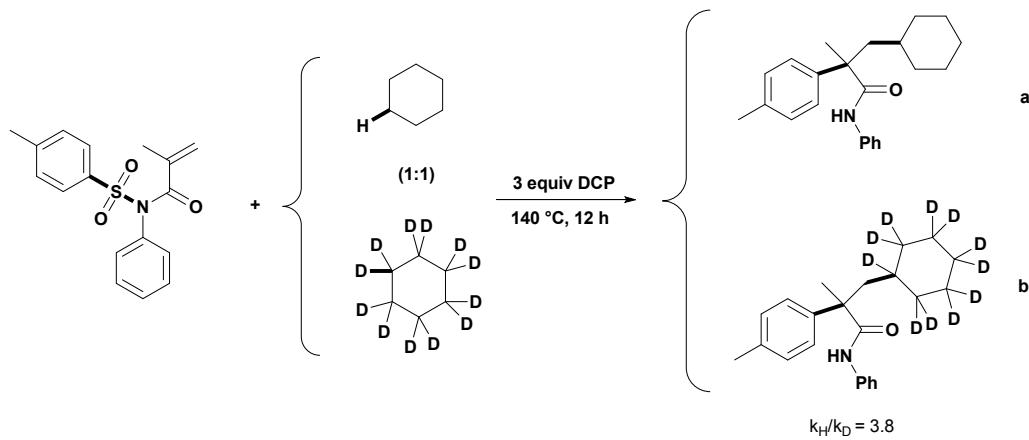
## General Information

The reagents were used as purchased from chemical suppliers. All reactions were carried out under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere using Schlenk technology. The initial reactants were prepared according to literature.<sup>S1</sup> Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) was used to follow the progress of reactions. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained using 400 MHz spectrometer at room temperature, with TMS as internal standard. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are determined in ppm downfield from tetramethylsilane. Abbreviations for signal couplings are: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet.

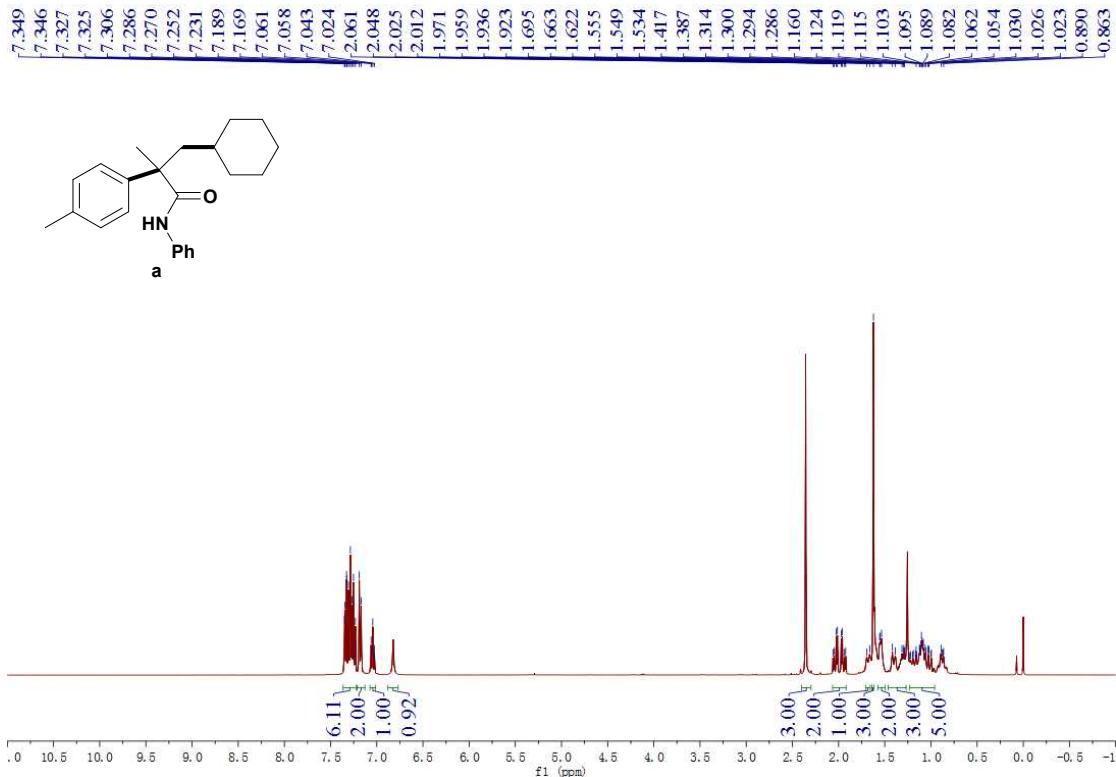
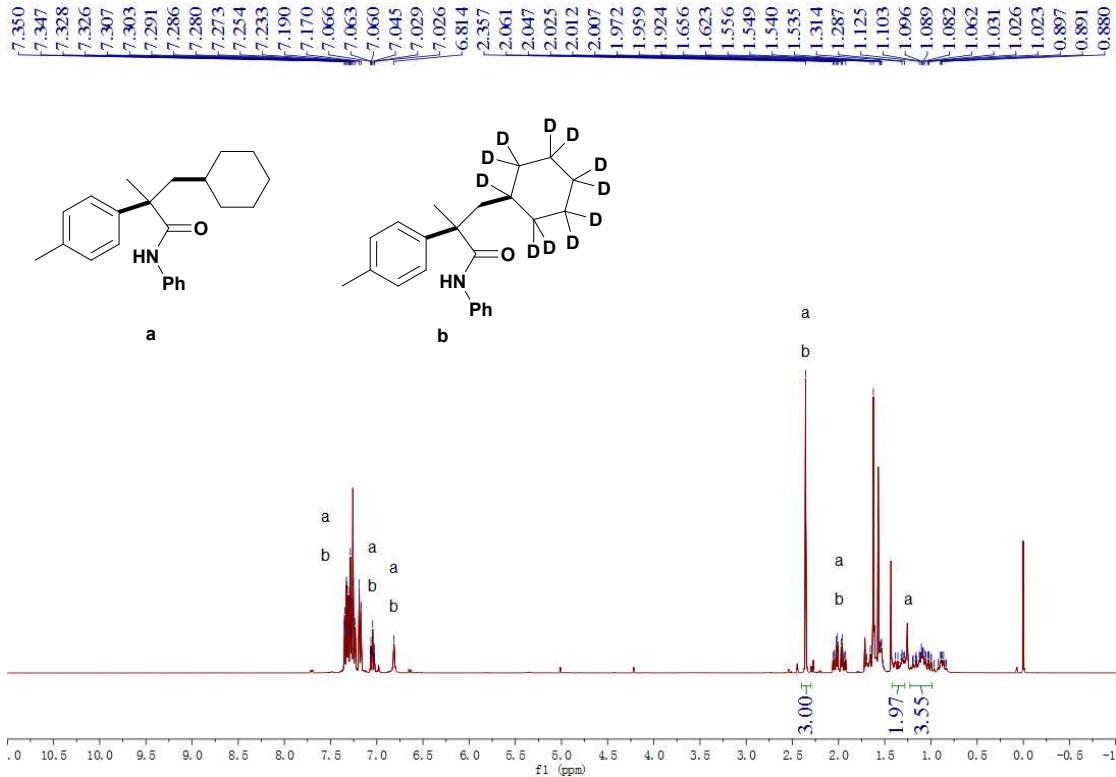
## Mechanism studies

### Kinetic Isotope Effect experimental procedure

*N*-phenyl-*N*-(phenylsulfonyl)methacrylamide (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), dicumyl peroxide (DCP, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv), cyclohexane (0.5 mL), cyclohexane-d<sub>12</sub>(0.5 ml) and a stir bar were added into a sealed tube. The sealed tube was degassed by alternating vacuum evacuation and N<sub>2</sub> backfill three times. Then the sealed tube was heated at 140 °C for 12 h. And the mixture was concentrated in vacuum and the residue was purified using TLC on silica gel (GF254) to give the corresponding product **2**. The KIE value was calculated according to <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the mixture of products **a** and **b**.



**Scheme 2. Mechanism studies**



### General information of activation of inert C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H bond

N-phenyl-N-(phenylsulfonyl)methacrylamide (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), dicumyl peroxide (DCP, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv), cycloane (1 mL) and a stir bar were added into a sealed tube. The sealed tube was degassed by alternating vacuum evacuation and N<sub>2</sub> backfill three times. Then the tube was heated at

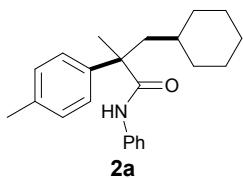
140 °C for 12 h. And the mixture was concentrated in vacuum and the residue was purified using TLC on silica gel to give the corresponding product **2**.

## References

(S1) X. Mu, T. Wu, H.Y. Wang, Y. L. Guo and G. S. Liu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2012, **134**, 878.

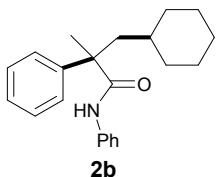
## Characterization of products 2

3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2a**)



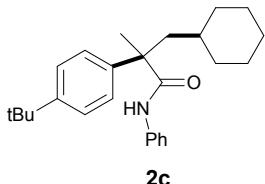
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.36-7.22 (m, 6H), 7.18 (d,  $J=8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.07-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.66 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.46-1.27 (m, 3H), 1.23-0.96 (m, 5H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  175.6, 141.2, 138.0, 136.9, 129.5, 128.9, 126.8, 124.0, 119.7, 51.2, 46.0, 35.3, 35.3, 34.1, 26.5, 26.4, 26.2, 24.4, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 336.2322, found: 336.2322.

3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-N,2-diphenylpropanamide (**2b**)



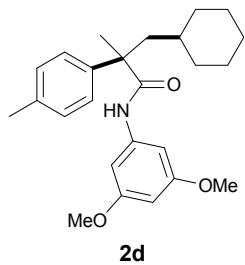
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.45-7.27 (m, 8H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.087-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 2.08-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.66 (m, 1H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.29 (m, 3H), 1.23-1.00 (m, 5H), 0.90-0.85 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  175.4, 144.3, 138.0, 128.9, 128.8, 127.3, 126.9, 124.1, 119.7, 51.6, 46.0, 35.3, 35.2, 34.1, 26.44, 3.41, 26.2, 24.3. HRMS(ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 322.2165, found: 322.2168.

2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-N-phenylpropanamide (**2c**)



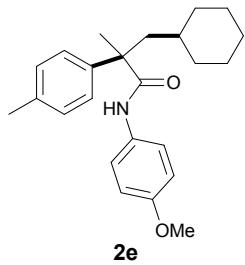
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.39-7.31 (m, 6H), 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.09-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 2.06-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.58-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.36 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H), 1.21-0.99 (m, 4H), 0.96-0.87 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  175.5, 150.1, 141.3, 138.0, 128.9, 126.5, 125.7, 124.0, 119.8, 51.2, 46.1, 35.4, 35.2, 34.4, 34.1, 31.3, 26.5, 26.4, 26.2, 24.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{40}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 406.3104, found: 406.3104.

**3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2d**)**



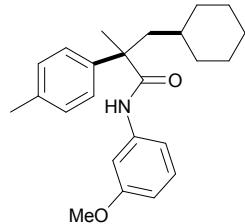
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.08 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.29 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.55-6.42 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.10-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.67 (m, 1H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.36-1.28 (m, 1H), 1.23-0.99 (m, 5H), 0.93-0.84 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.6, 154.0, 142.2, 141.2, 136.6, 129.3, 128.8, 126.8, 111.3, 108.6, 105.2, 56.5, 55.8, 51.5, 45.8, 35.3, 35.1, 34.1, 26.4, 26.2, 24.0, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_3$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 396.2533, found: 396.2536.

**3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2e**)**



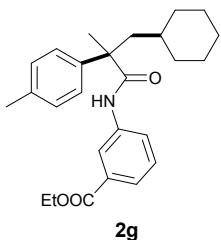
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.29 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.87-6.76 (m, 2H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.66 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.28 (m, 2H), 1.24-0.97 (m, 5H), 0.92-0.85 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.5, 156.24, 141.6, 136.8, 131.2, 129.5, 126.9, 121.6, 114.0, 55.5, 51.0, 46.0, 35.3, 35.3, 34.1, 26.5, 26.4, 26.21, 24.5, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 366.2428, found: 366.2425.

**3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2f**):**



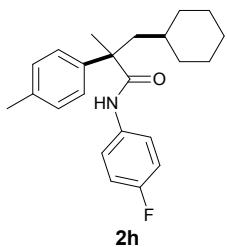
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t,  $J = 2.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.76-6.67 (m, 1H), 6.67-6.55 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.49 (m, 2H), 1.44-1.27 (m, 3H), 1.20-0.99 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.7, 160.1, 141.0, 139.3, 136.9, 129.6, 129.5, 126.8, 111.6, 110.1, 105.1, 55.3, 51.3, 45.9, 35.3, 35.3, 34.0, 26.4, 26.2, 24.4, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 366.2428, found: 366.2428.

**ethyl 3-(3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamido)benzoate (**2g**)**



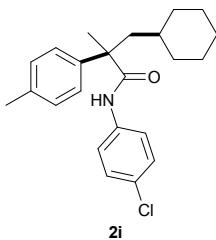
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.86-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 4.35 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.07-1.93 (m, 2H), 1.69-1.65 (m, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.61-1.49 (m, 3H), 1.42-1.30 (m, 5H), 1.22-0.99 (m, 4H), 0.92-0.84 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.9, 166.3, 140.8, 138.2, 137.1, 131.1, 129.6, 129.0, 126.8, 125.0, 124.1, 120.3, 61.1, 51.3, 45.9, 35.3, 35.2, 34.0, 26.4, 26.2, 24.3, 21.0, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd. For  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_3$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 408.2533, found: 408.2533.

**3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2h**)**



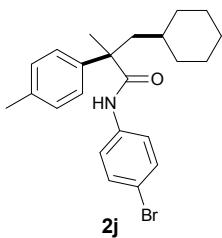
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.39-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.97-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.69-1.64 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.29 (m, 3H), 1.22-0.99 (m, 4H), 0.92-0.85 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.7, 141.1, 137.0, 129.6, 126.8, 121.6, 121.5, 115.6, 1154, 51.1, 45.9, 35.3, 35.2, 34.0, 30.3, 26.4, 26.4, 26.2, 24.4, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{FNO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 376.2047, found: 376.2048.

***N*-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2i**)**



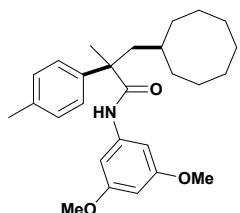
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 4H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.61 (s), 1.57-1.49 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.30 (m, 2H), 1.24-0.80 (m, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.72, 140.9, 137.0, 136.6, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 126.8, 120.9, 51.3, 45.9, 35.3, 35.2, 34.0, 26.4, 26.2, 24.4, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{ClNO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 370.1932, found: 370.1933.

***N*-(4-bromophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2j**)**



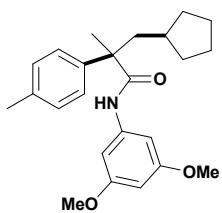
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.38-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.41-1.29 (m, 2H), 1.24-0.82 (m, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.7, 140.9, 137.1, 137.1, 131.8, 129.6, 126.8, 121.2, 116.5, 51.3, 45.9, 35.3, 35.2, 34.0, 26.4, 26.4, 26.2, 24.4, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{BrNO} (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ : 414.1427, found: 414.1425.

#### 3-cyclooctyl-N-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2o**)



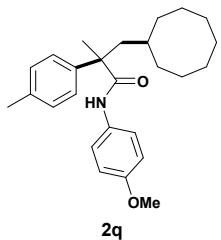
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.08 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.53-6.46 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.15-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 1.64-1.62 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.34 (m, 13H), 1.24-1.19 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.6, 154.0, 142.2, 141.1, 136.6, 129.3, 128.8, 126.9, 111.4, 108.6, 105.2, 56.5, 55.8, 51.9, 46.3, 34.1, 33.9, 33.4, 27.3, 26.3, 25.2, 25.0, 23.9, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{38}\text{NO}_3 (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ : 424.2846, found: 424.2843.

#### 3-cyclopentyl-N-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2p**)



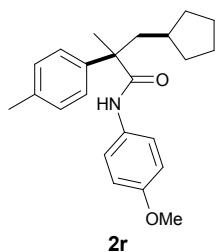
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.09 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.71-6.65 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz 1H), 6.53-6.47 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.27-2.16 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.59-1.50 (m, 3H), 1.43-1.33 (m, 2H), 1.19-1.10 (m, 1H), 1.04-0.96 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.7, 154.0, 142.2, 141.1, 136.6, 129.3, 128.8, 126.9, 111.4, 108.6, 105.15, 56.6, 55.8, 51.8, 44.8, 36.7, 34.7, 34.5, 25.0, 24.9, 24.2, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_3 (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ : 382.2377, found: 382.3376.

#### 3-cyclooctyl-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2q**)



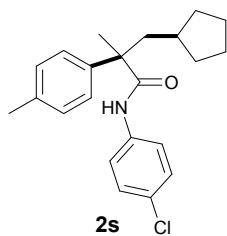
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.83-6.76 (m, 2H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.10-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.59-1.28 (m, 14H), 1.23 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.6, 156.2, 141.2, 136.8, 131.2, 129.5, 127.0, 121.6, 114.0, 55.5, 51.4, 46.5, 34.1, 34.1, 33.3, 27.3, 27.3, 26.3, 25.2, 25.0, 24.4, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{36}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 394.2741, found: 394.2743.

**3-cyclopentyl-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (2r)**



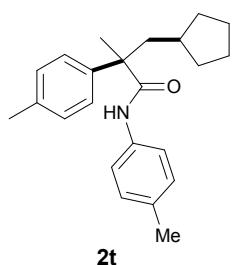
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.32-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.83-6.76 (m, 2H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.25-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.58-1.47 (m, 3H), 1.42-1.32 (m, 2H), 1.17-1.09 (m, 1H), 1.02-0.93 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.6, 156.2, 141.3, 136.8, 131.2, 129.5, 127.0, 121.5, 114.0, 55.5, 51.3, 45.0, 36.7, 34.6, 25.0, 24.9, 24.6, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 352.2271, found: 352.2269.

***N*-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (2s)**



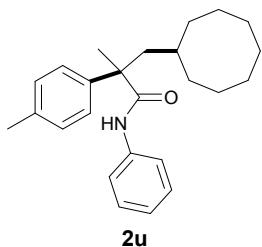
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (s, 2H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 4H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.18 (m, 2H), 1.79-1.66 (m, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.55-1.49 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.30 (m, 2H), 1.16-1.07 (m, 1H), 1.02-0.91 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.8, 140.8, 137.1, 136.6, 129.6, 128.9, 128.9, 126.9, 120.9, 51.5, 44.9, 36.6, 34.6, 34.5, 25.0, 24.9, 24.5, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{ClNNaO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ): 378.1595, found: 378.1598.

**3-cyclopentyl-2-methyl-*N*,2-di-*p*-tolylpropanamide (2t):**



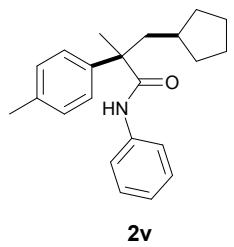
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.25-2.12 (m, 2H), 1.80-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.58-1.46 (m, 3H), 1.42-1.32 (m, 2H), 1.18-1.10 (m, 1H), 1.03-0.92 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.6, 141.2, 136.9, 135.5, 133.6, 129.5, 129.3, 127.0, 119.7, 51.4, 45.0, 36.7, 34.6, 34.5, 25.0, 24.9, 24.6, 21.0, 20.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO} (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ : 336.2322, found: 336.2321.

#### 3-cyclooctyl-2-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2u**)



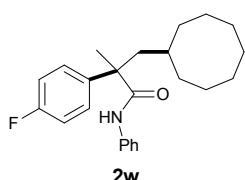
yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.36-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.11-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.60-1.34 (m, 12H), 1.29-1.27 (m, 1H), 1.24-1.13 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.7, 141.1, 138.0, 136.9, 129.5, 128.9, 127.0, 124.0, 119.7, 51.6, 46.5, 34.1, 33.3, 27.3, 27.3, 26.23, 25.2, 25.0, 24.3, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO} (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ : 364.2635, found: 364.2636.

#### 3-cyclopentyl-2-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2v**)



yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.06-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.26-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.47 (m, 3H), 1.45-1.35 (m, 2H), 1.17-1.09 (m, 1H), 1.02-0.93 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  175.8, 141.1, 138.1, 136.9, 129.6, 128.9, 127.0, 124.0, 119.6, 51.5, 44.9, 36.7, 34.6, 34.6, 25.0, 24.9, 24.6, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO} (\text{M}+\text{H}^+)$ : 322.2165, found: 322.2163.

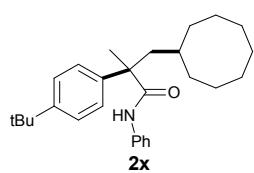
#### 3-cyclooctyl-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-N-phenylpropanamide (**2w**)



**2w**

yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.42-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 2.11-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 1.59-1.31 (m, 12H), 1.24-1.13 (m, 2H), 1.04-0.80 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.7, 124.2, 119.7, 115.8, 115.5, 51.5, 46.8, 34.2, 34.1, 33.3, 27.2, 27.2, 26.3, 25.2, 25.1, 24.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{FNNaO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ): 390.2204, found: 390.2206.

#### 2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-cyclooctyl-2-methyl-N-phenylpropanamide (**2x**)

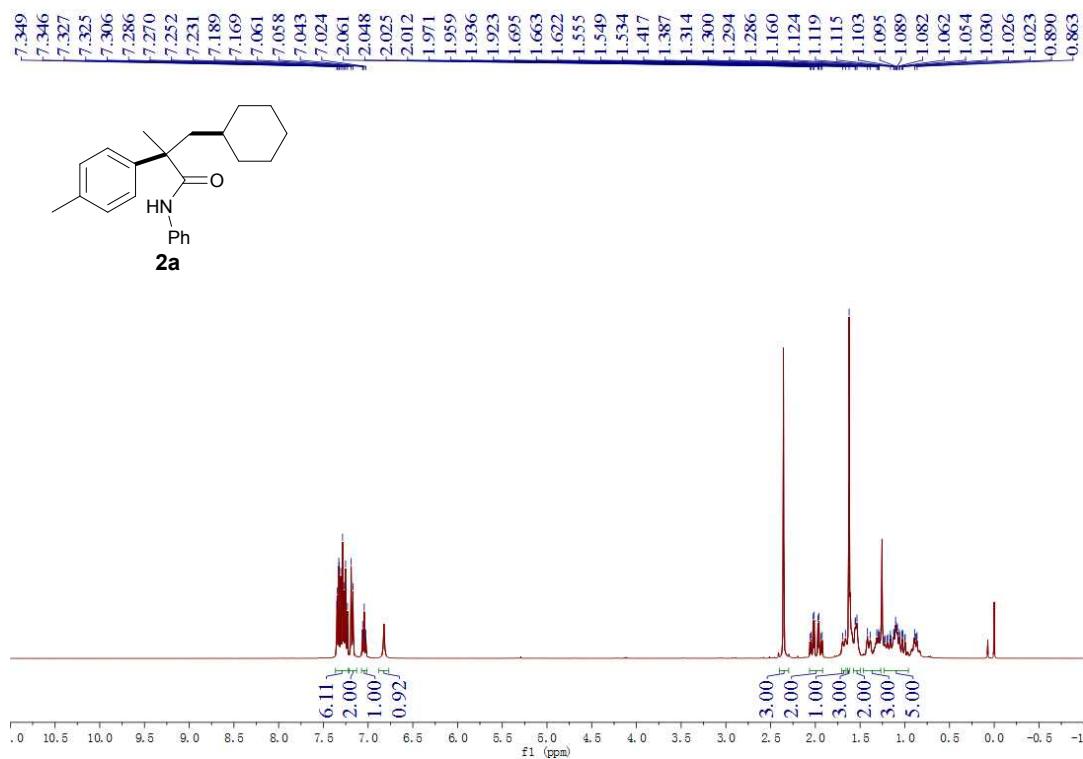


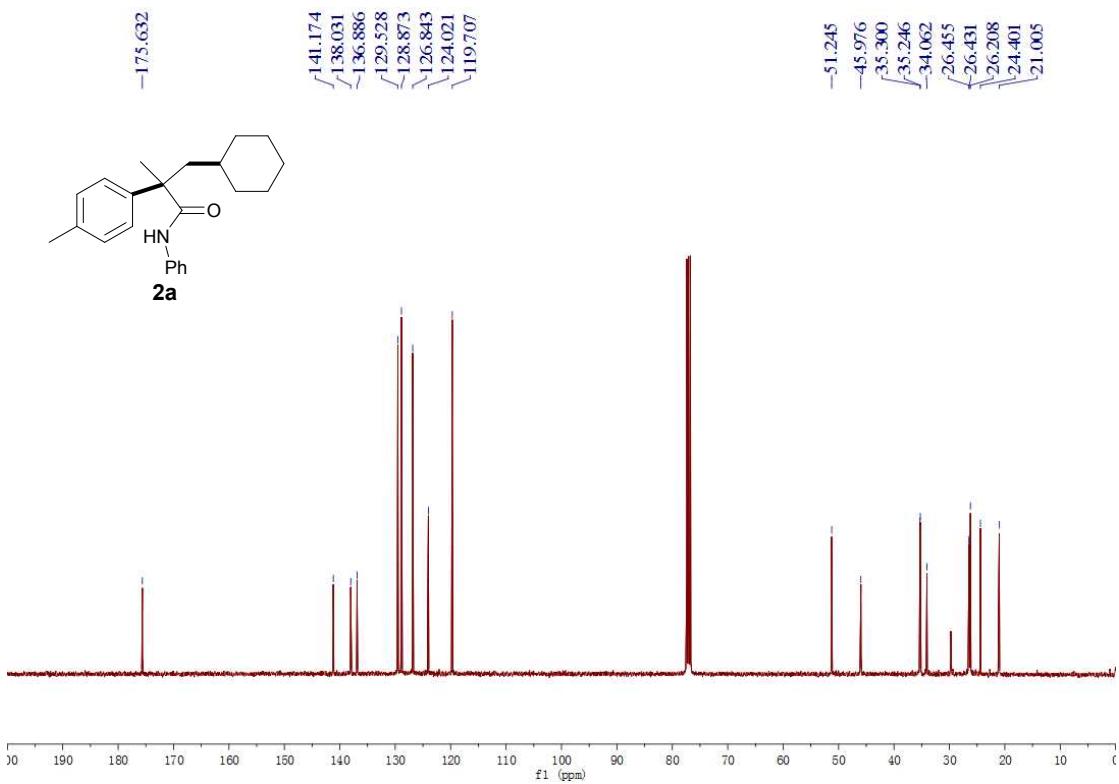
**2x**

yellow-green oil,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.41-7.30 (m, 6H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.03 (m, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 2.09-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.60 (s, 1H), 1.56-1.34 (m, 11H), 1.33 (s, 9H), 1.30 - 1.27 (m, 1H), 1.25-1.16 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.6, 150.1, 141.0, 138.1, 128.9, 126.7, 125.6, 124.0, 119.8, 51.6, 46.8, 34.5, 34.3, 34.2, 33.3, 31.3, 27.3, 27.2, 26.3, 25.2, 25.1, 24.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{40}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 406.3104, found: 406.3104.

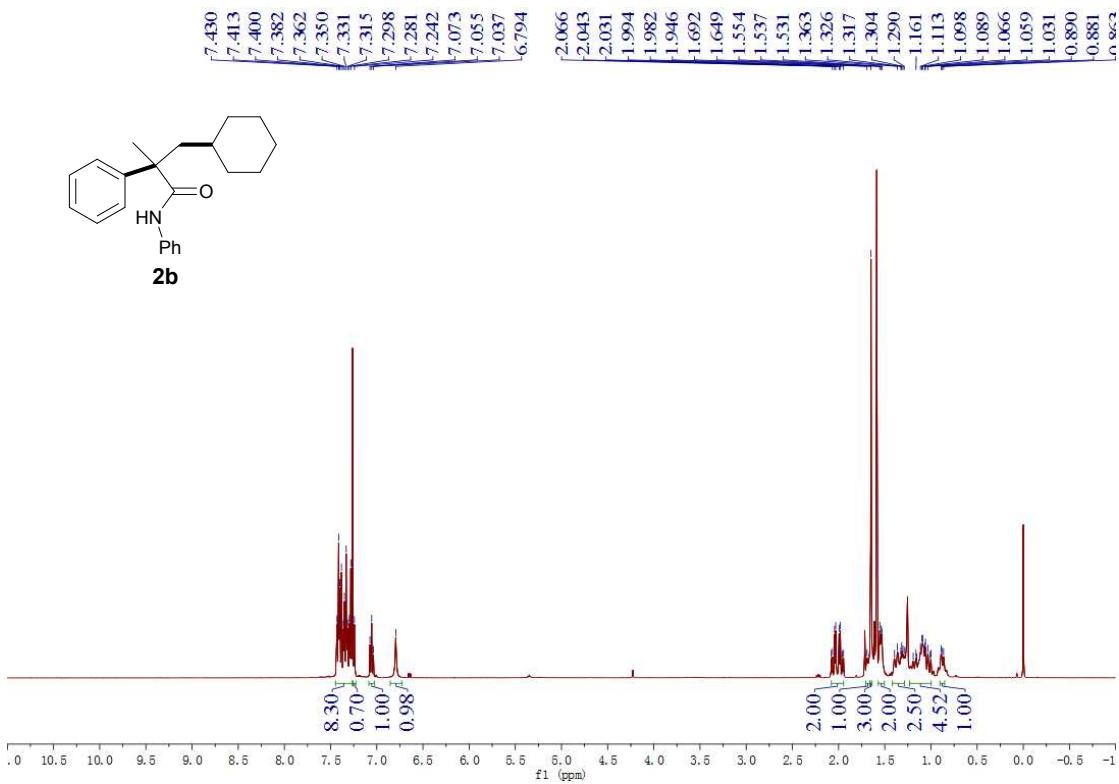
#### Copies of $^1\text{H}$ NMR, $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR

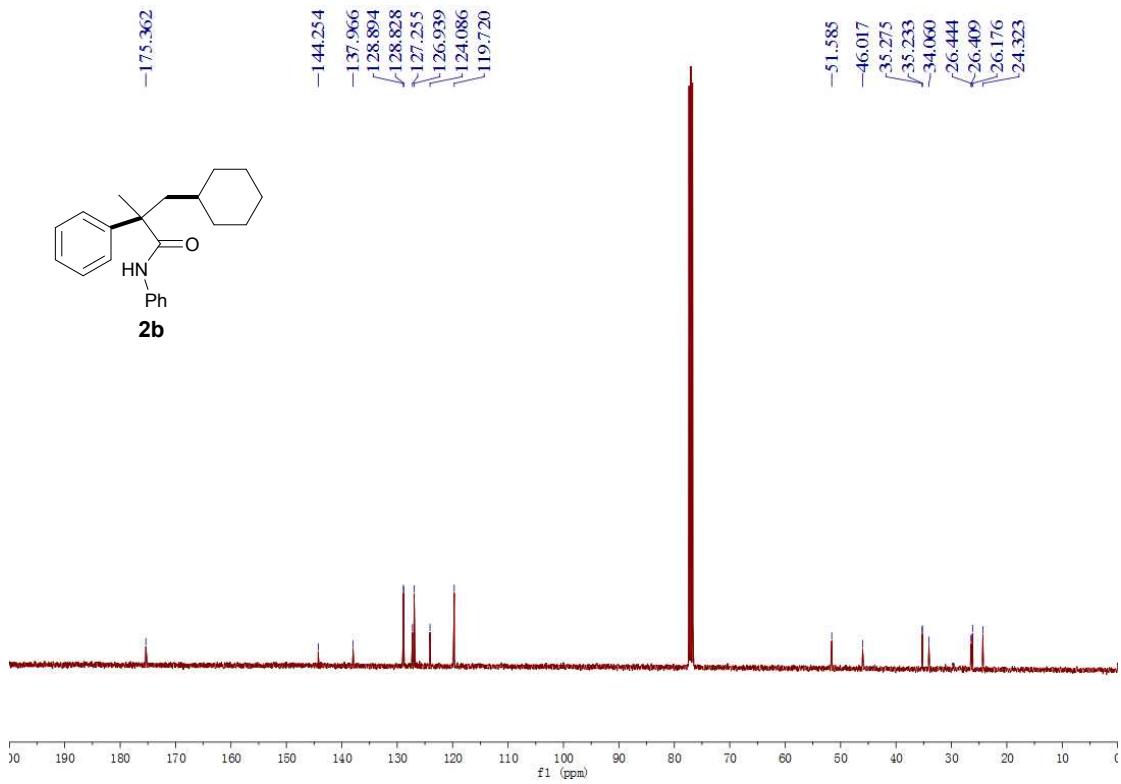
##### 3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2a**)



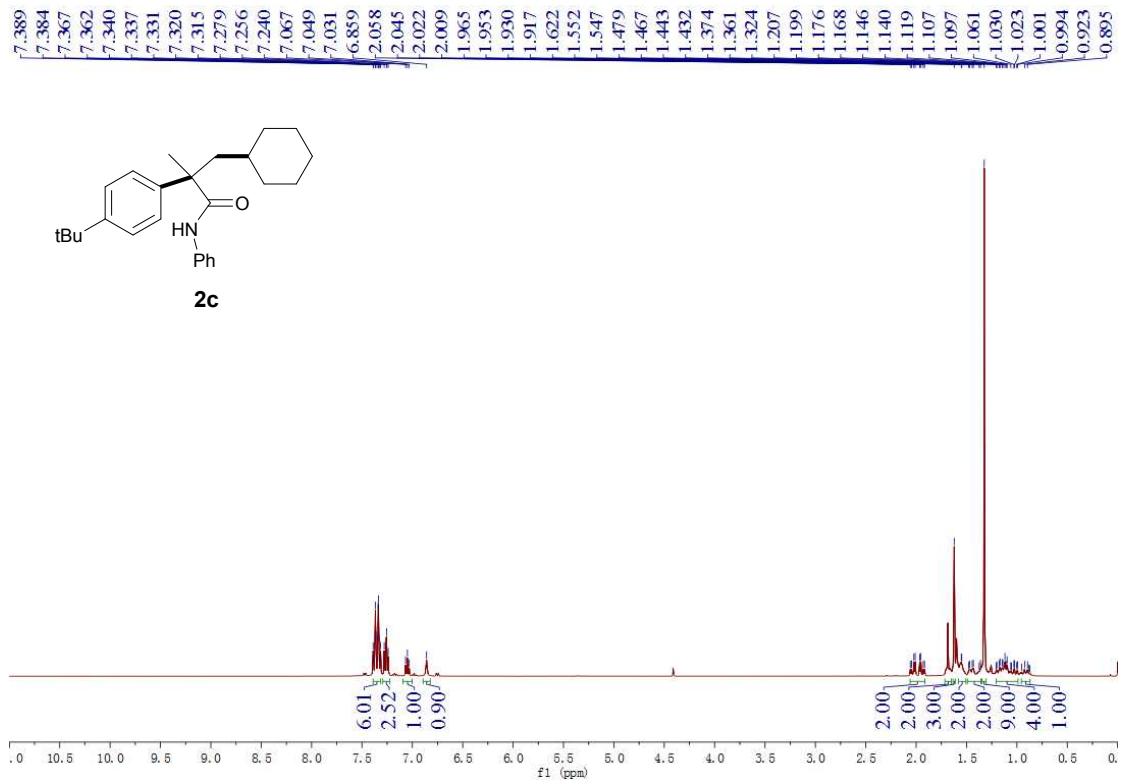


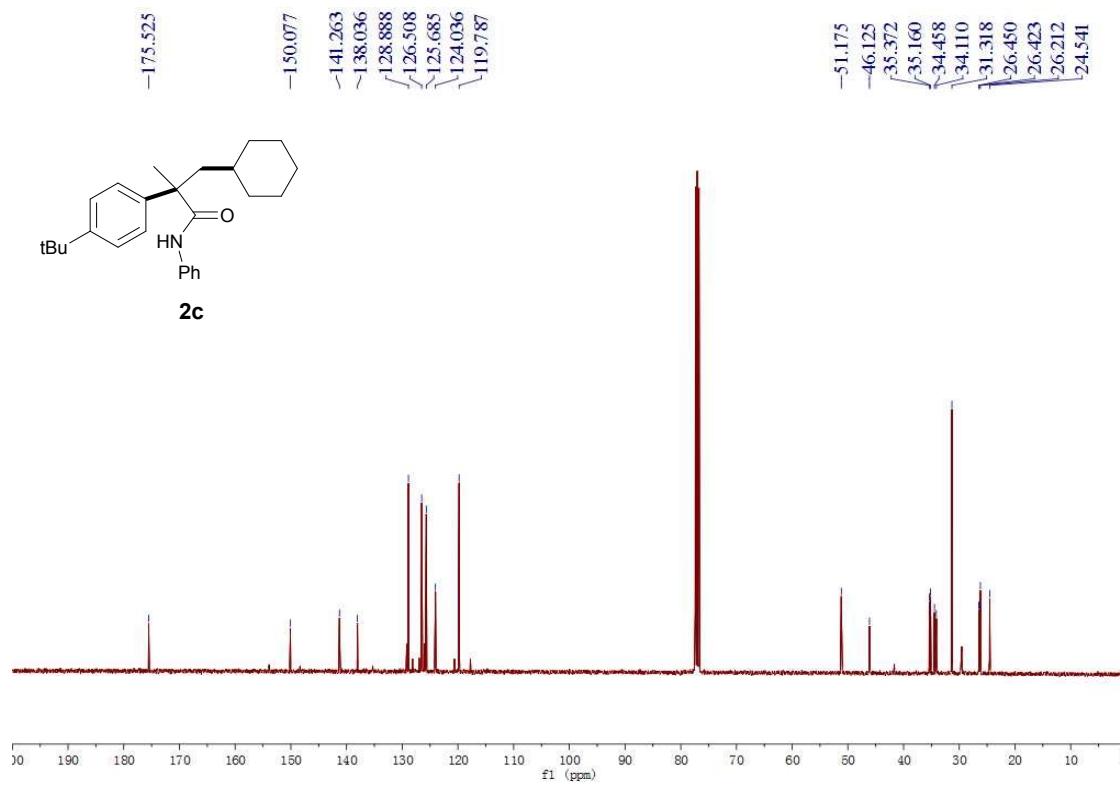
3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-N,N-diphenylpropanamide (**2b**)



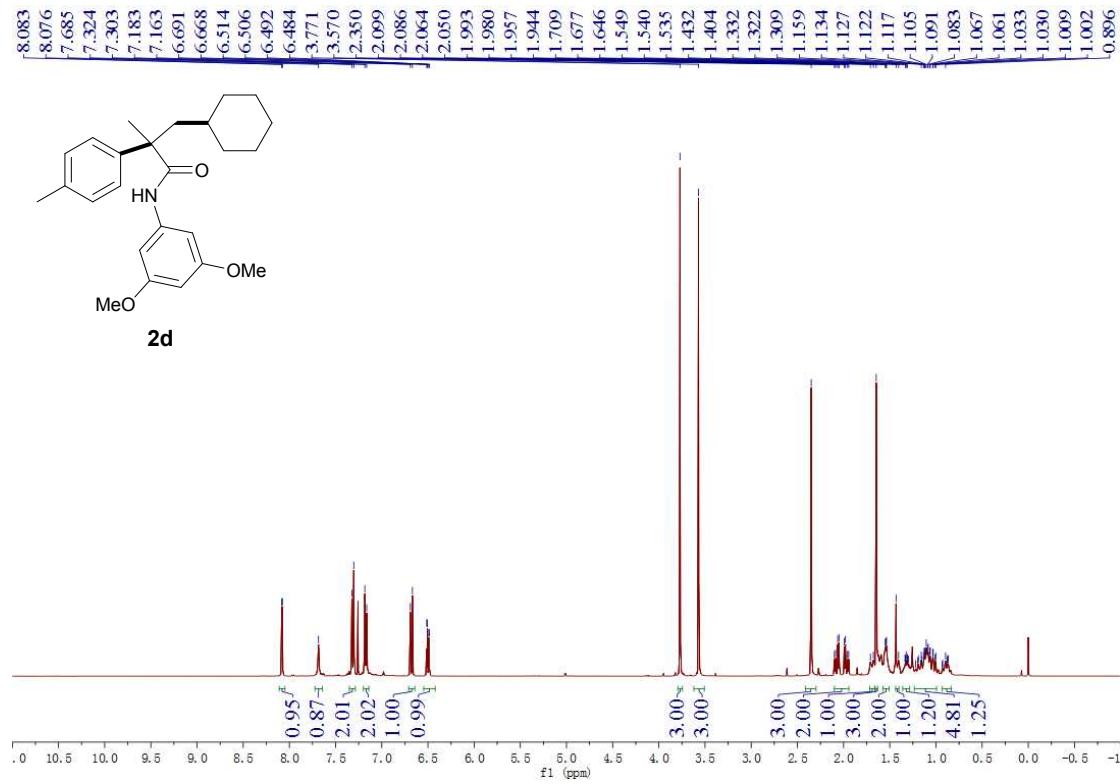


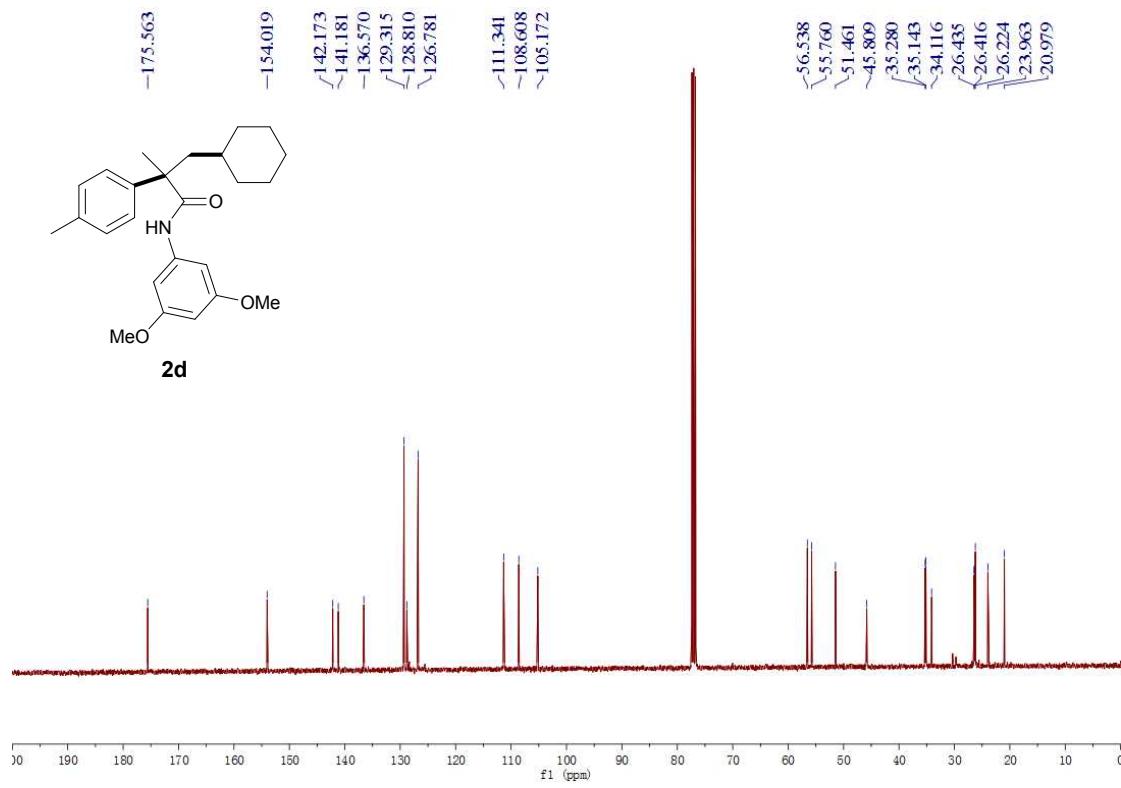
**2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-*N*-phenylpropanamide (**2c**)**



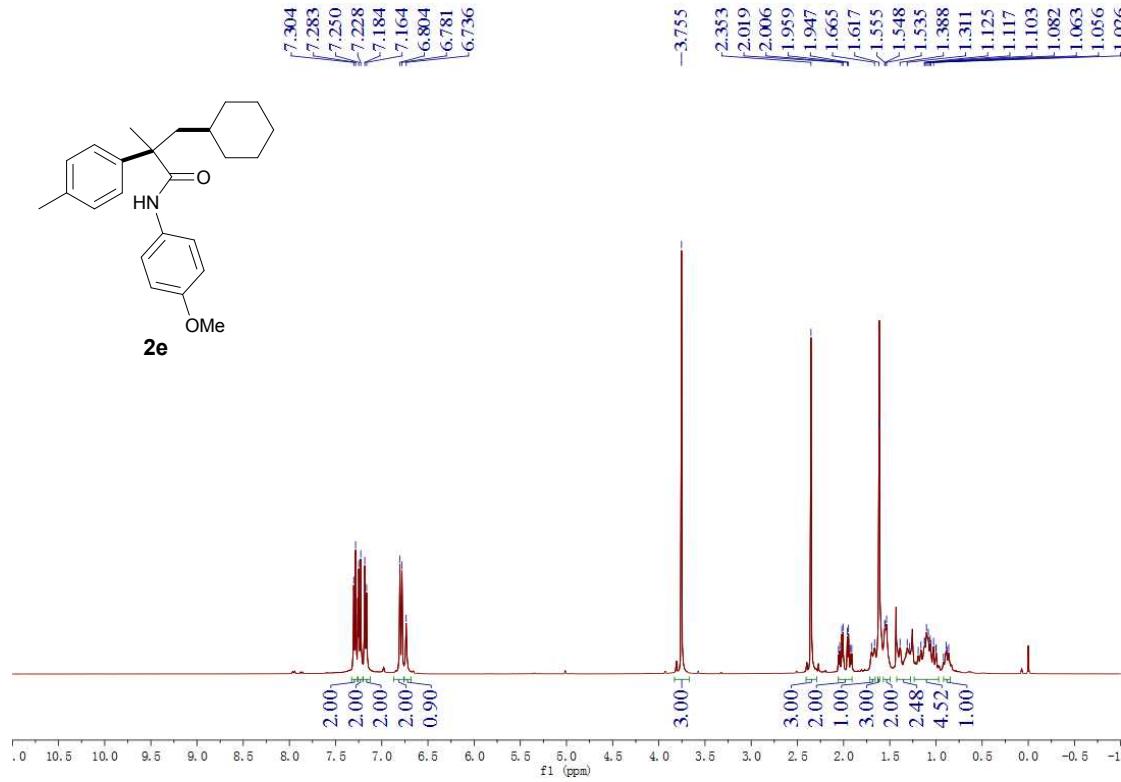


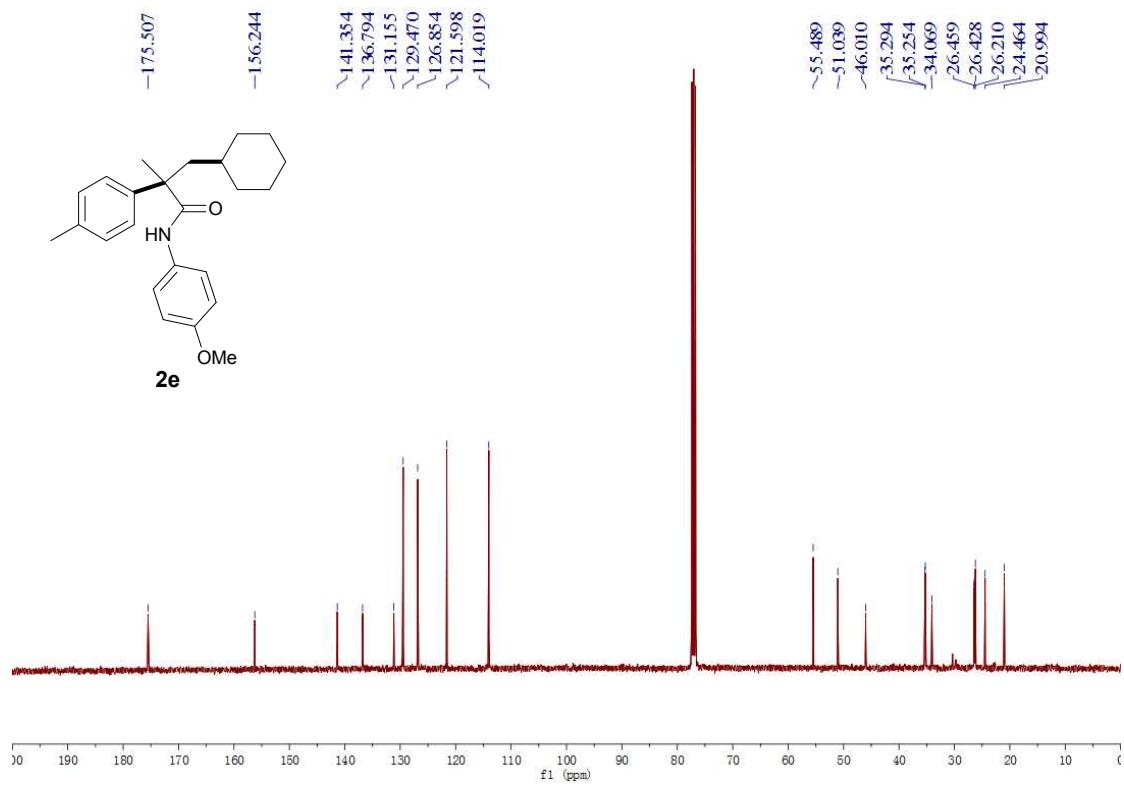
3-cyclohexyl-N-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2d**)



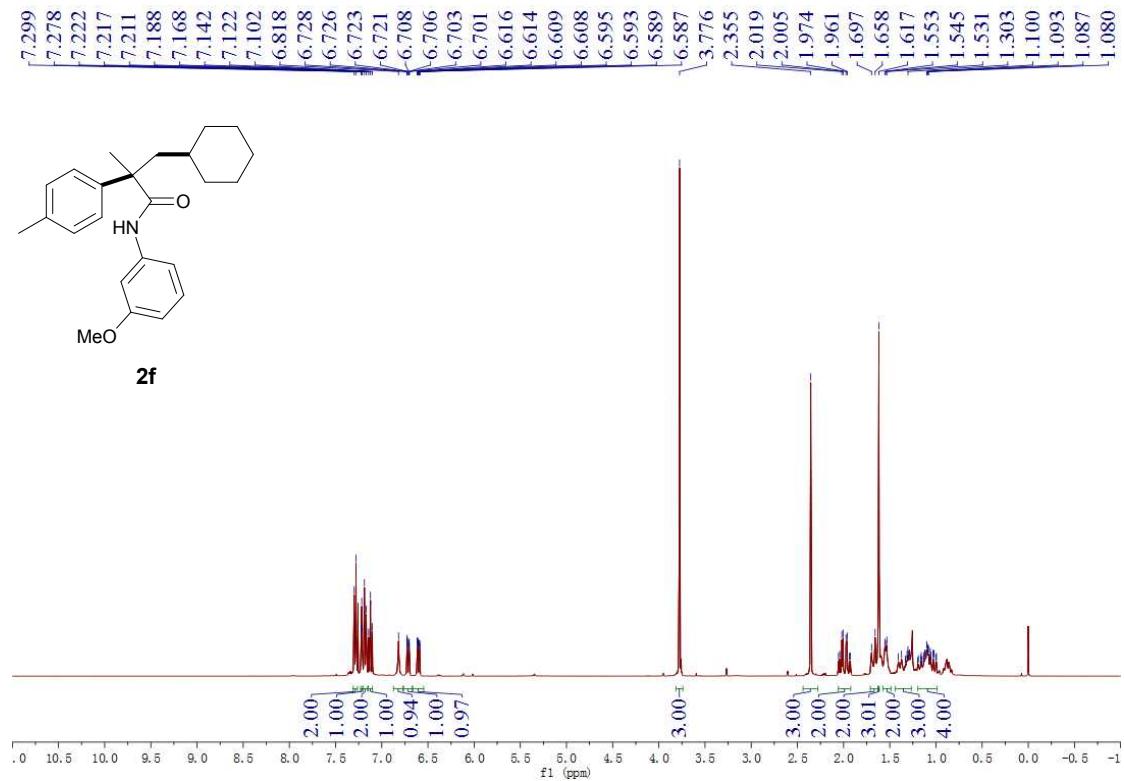


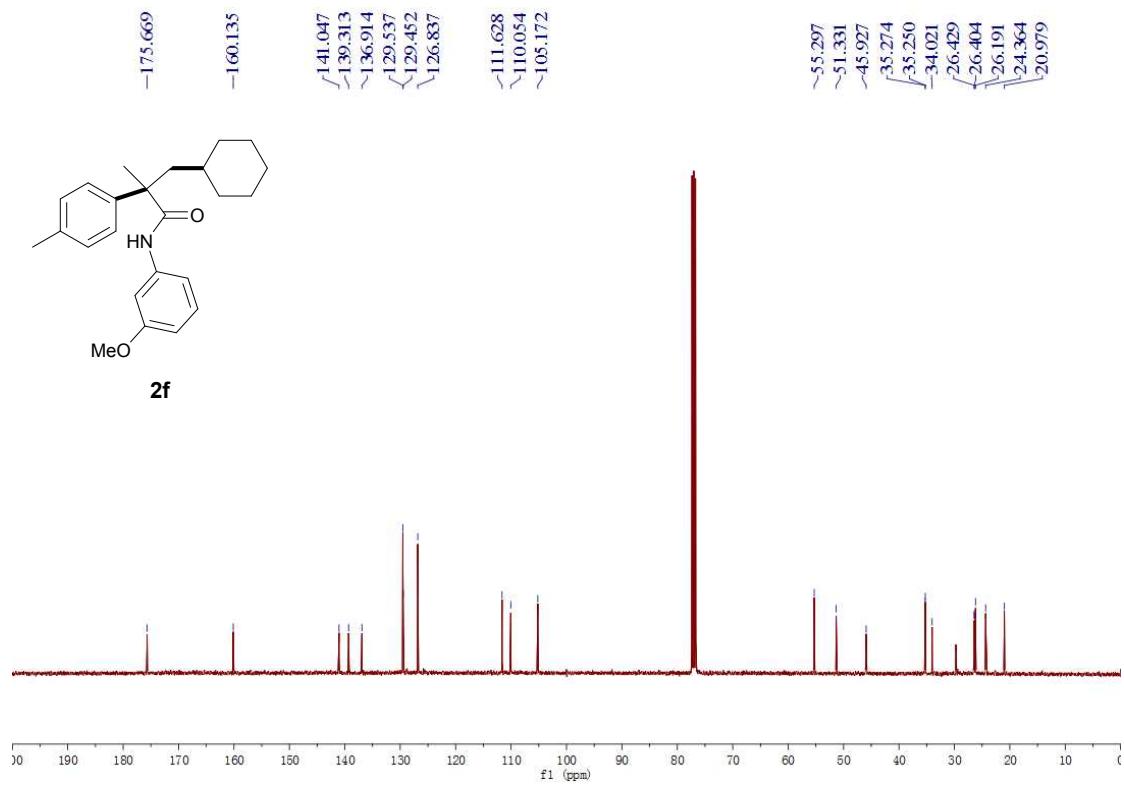
3-cyclohexyl-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2e**)



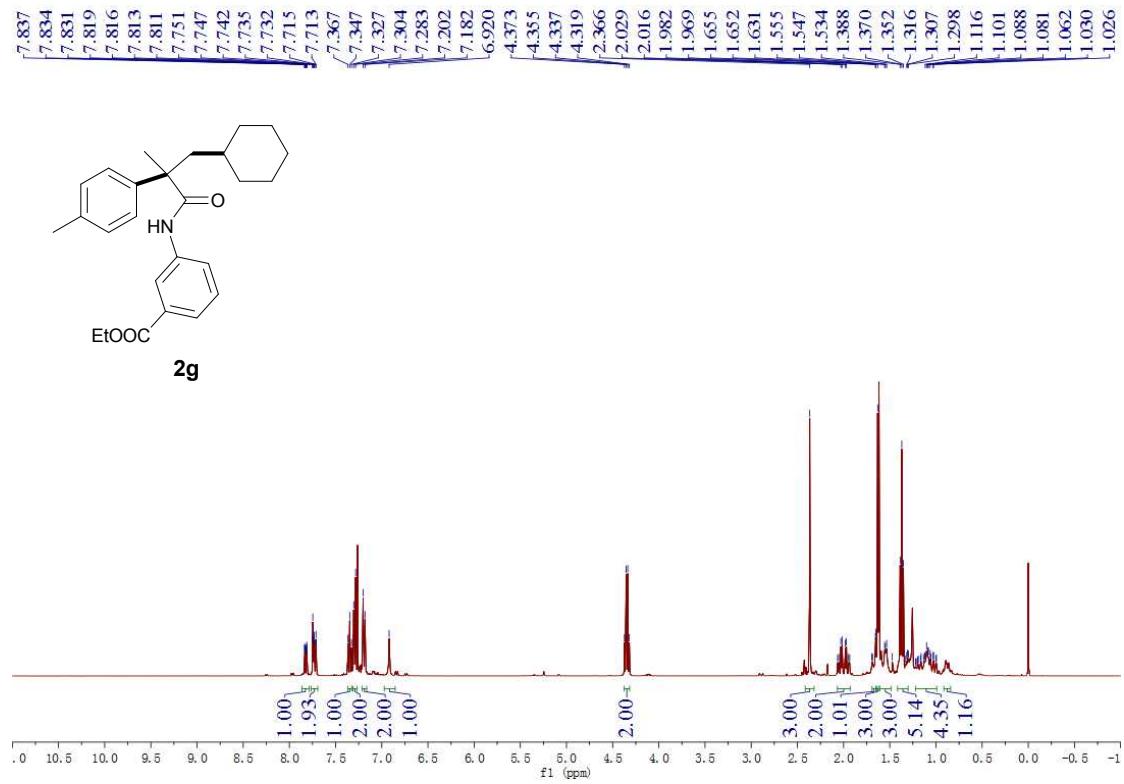


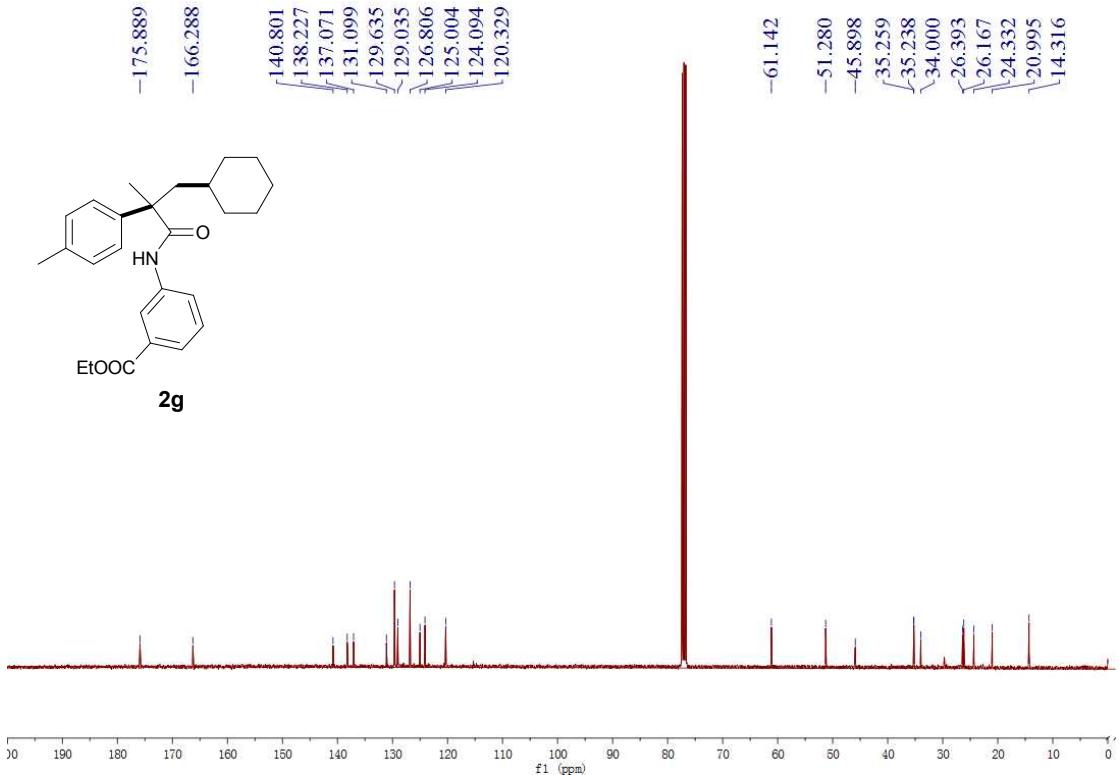
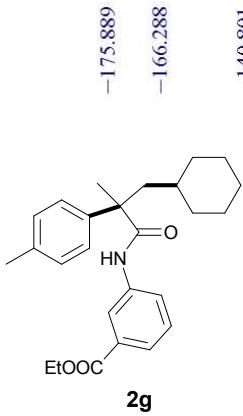
3-cyclohexyl-N-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2f**)



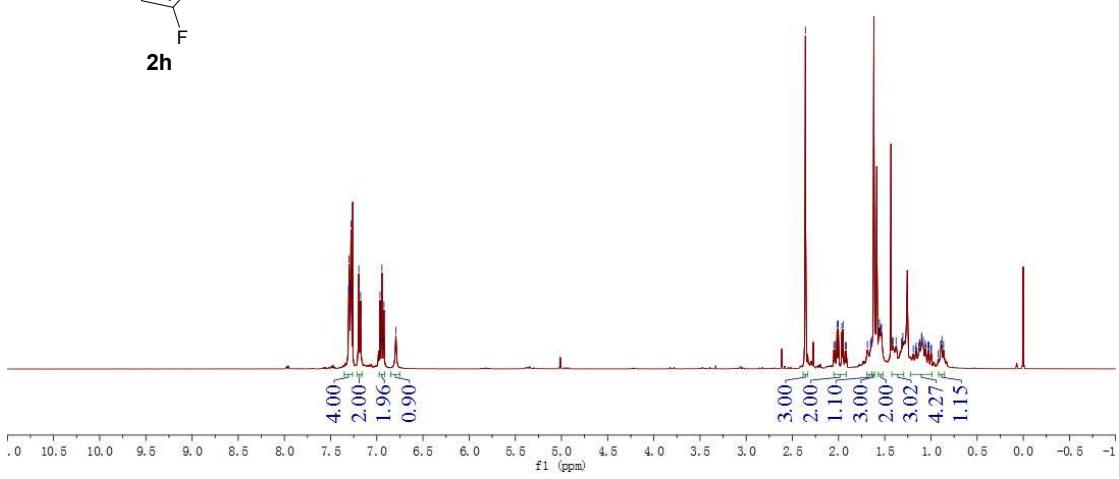
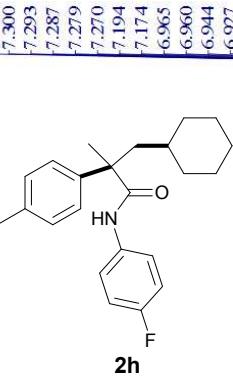


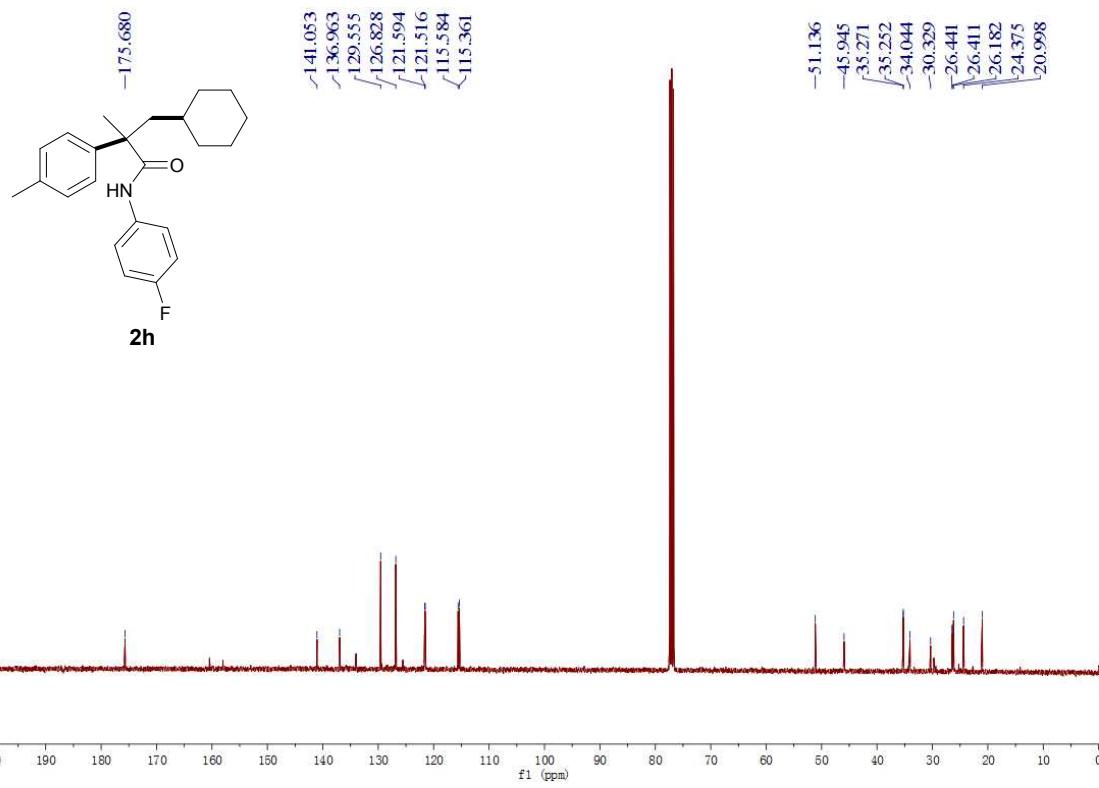
ethyl 3-(3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamido)benzoate (**2g**)



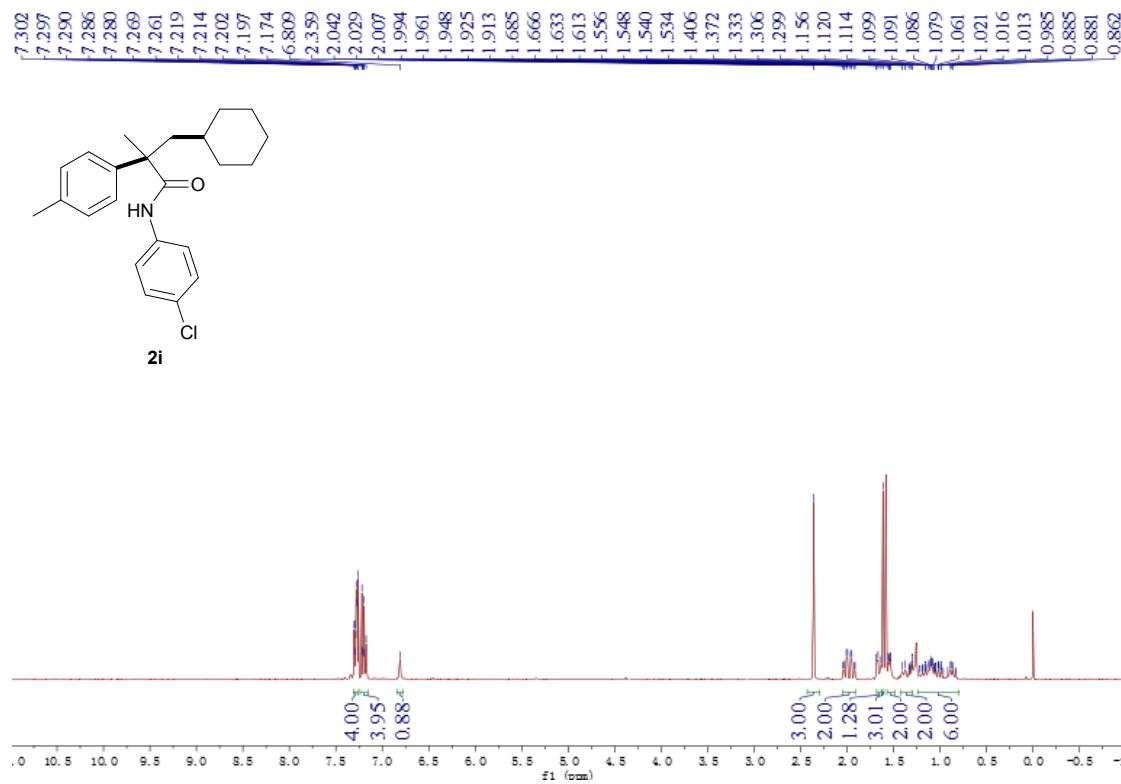


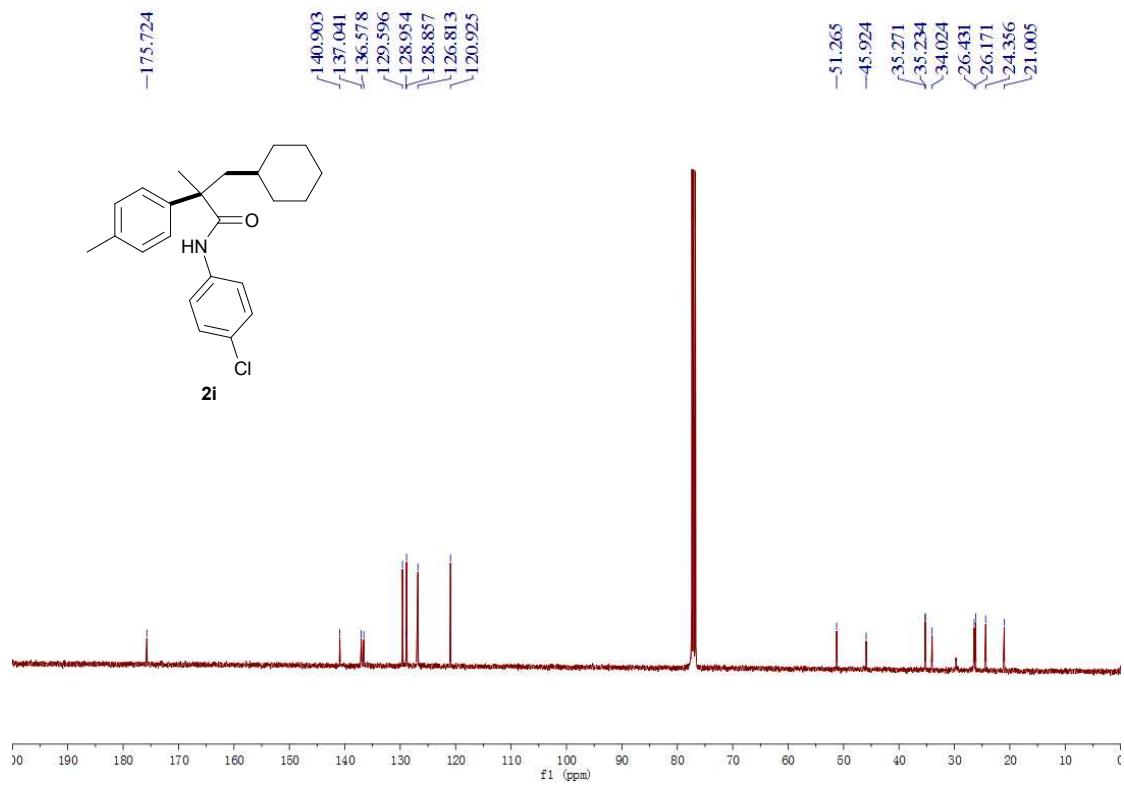
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2h**)



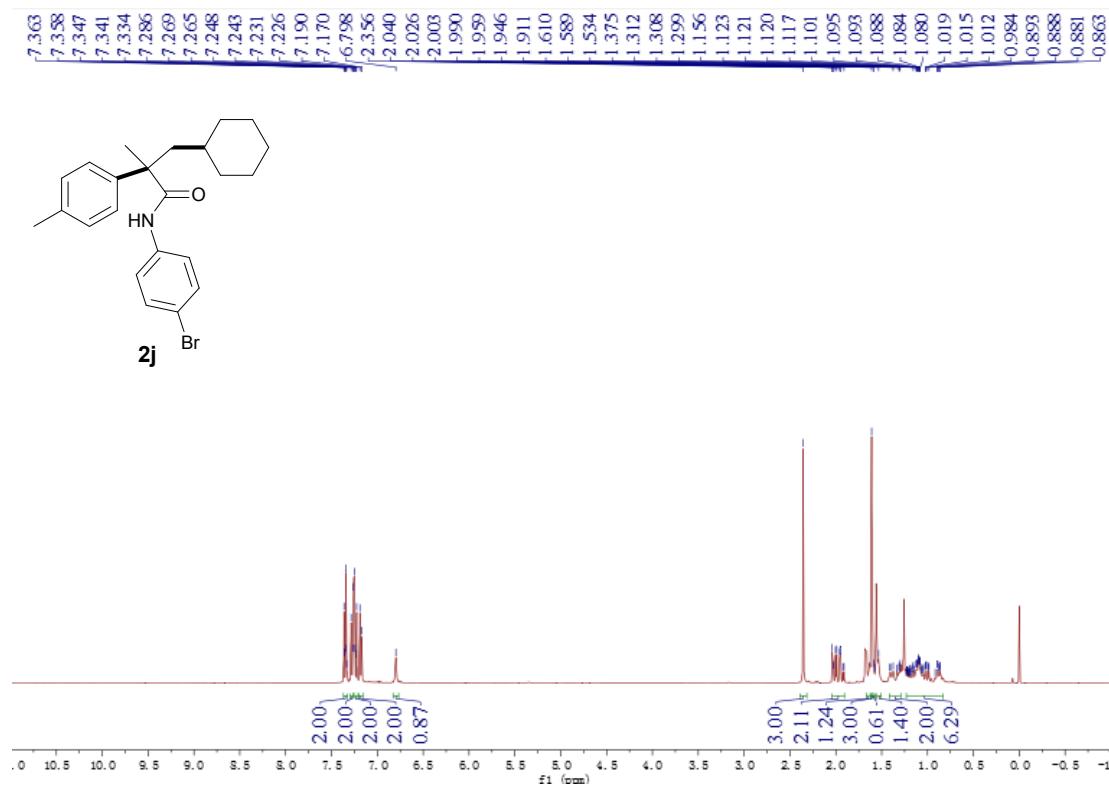


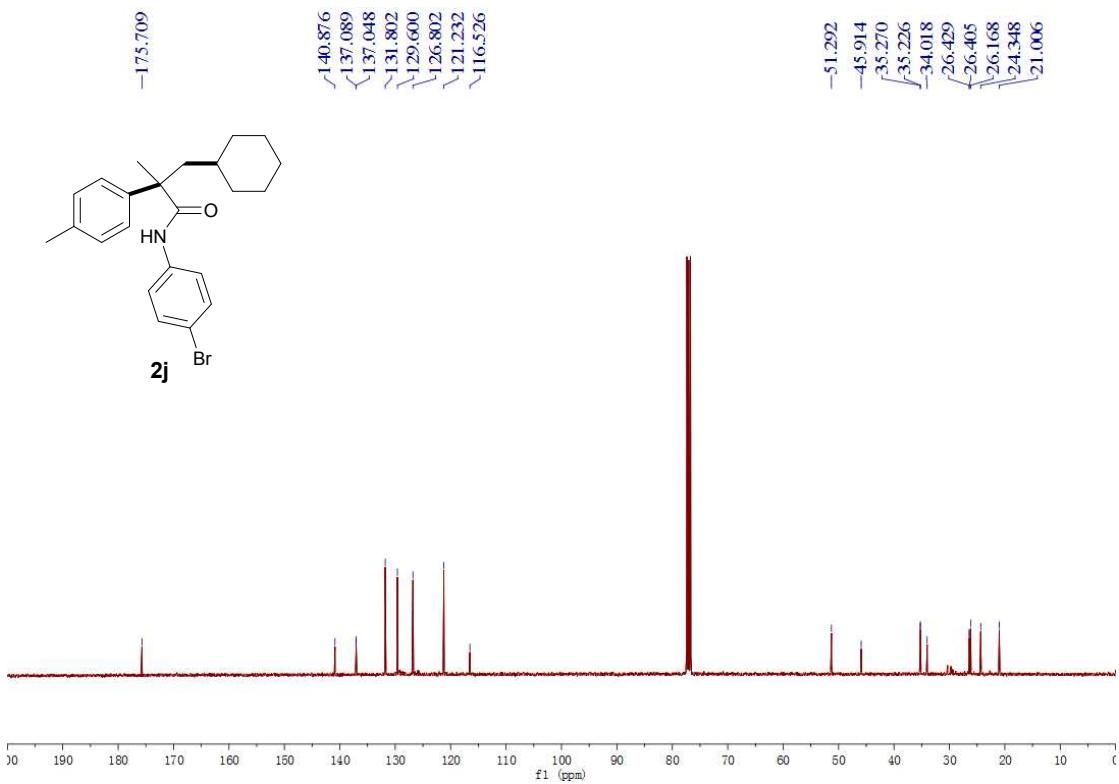
*N*-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2i**)



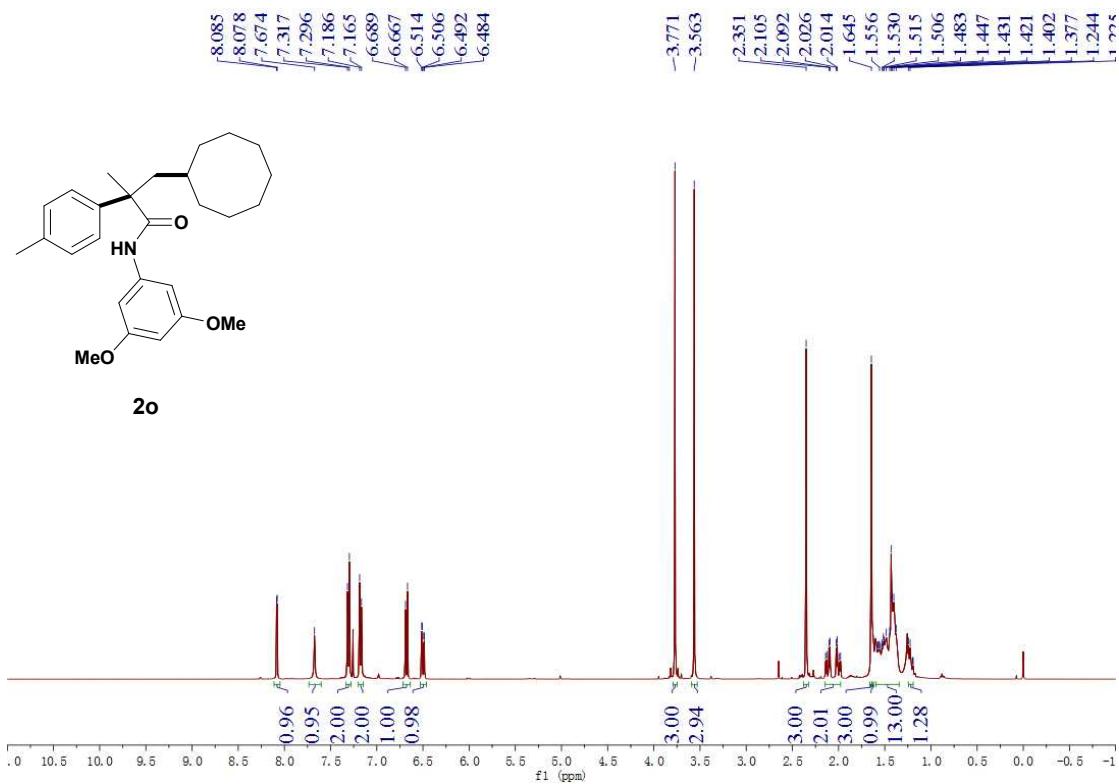


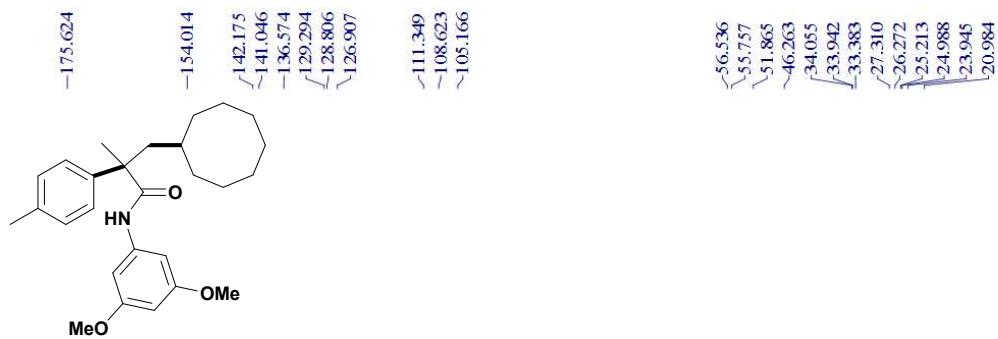
***N*-(4-bromophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2j**)**



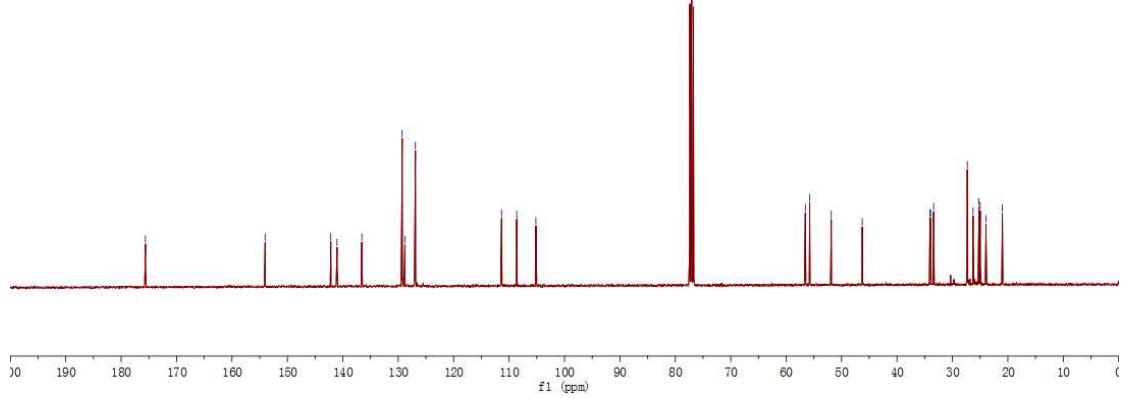


**3-cyclooctyl-N-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2o**)**

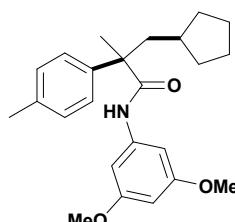




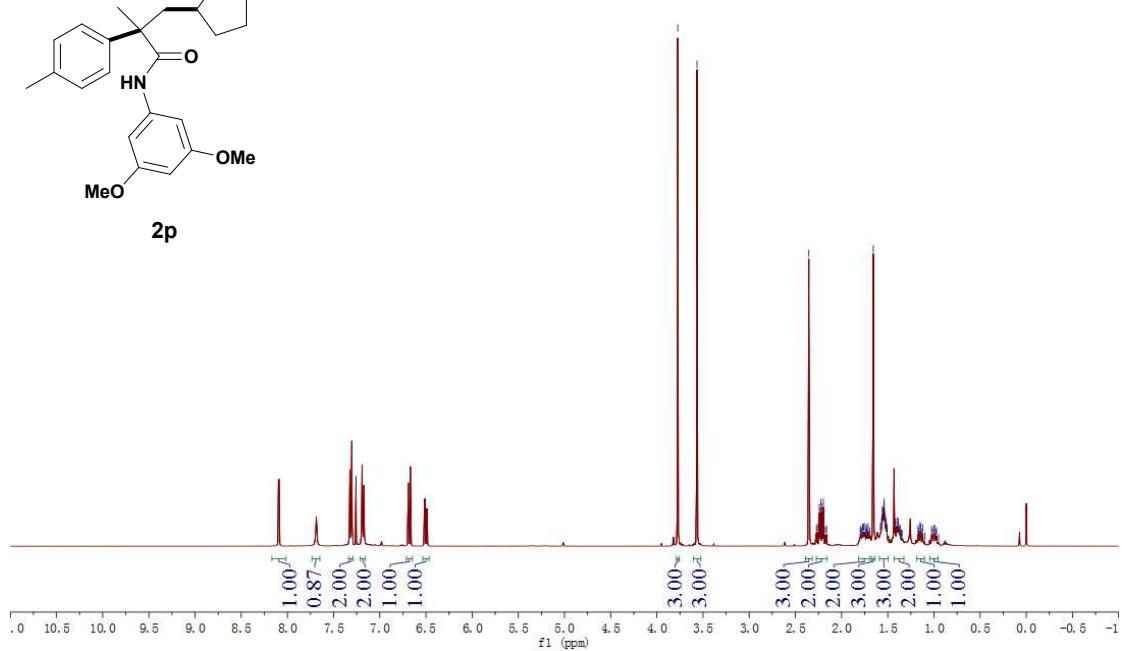
20

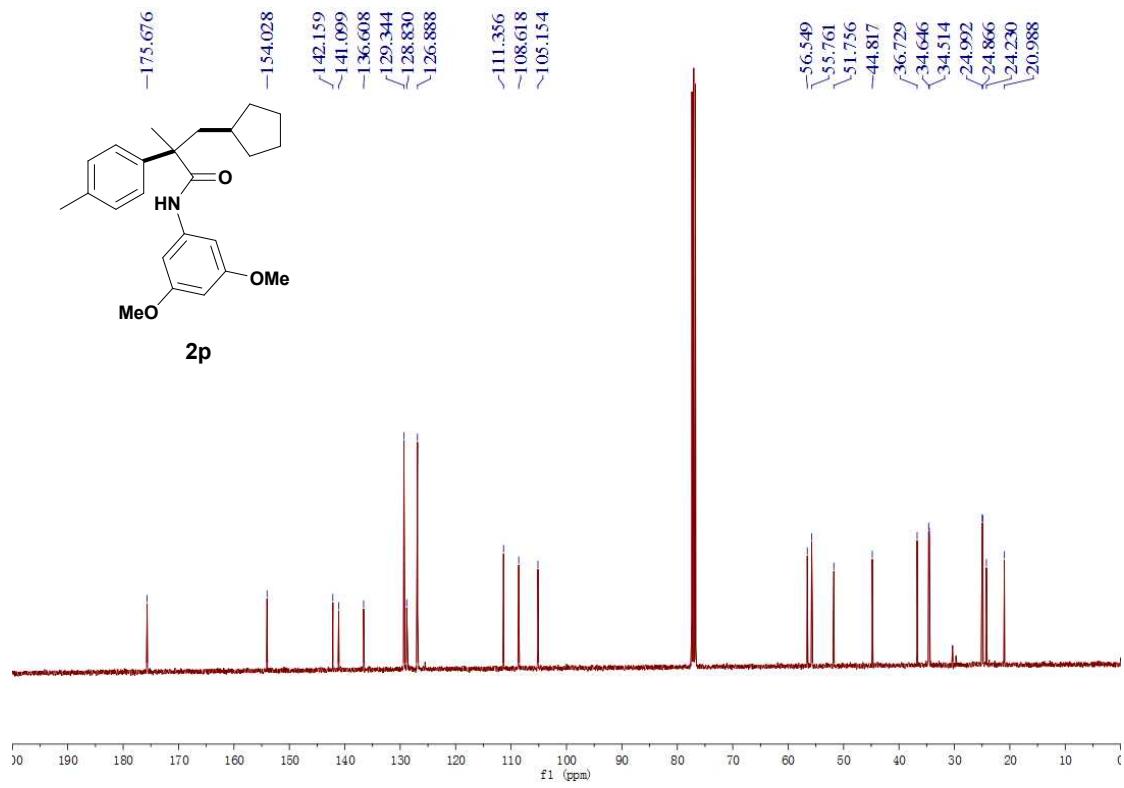


### 3-cyclopentyl-*N*-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2p**)

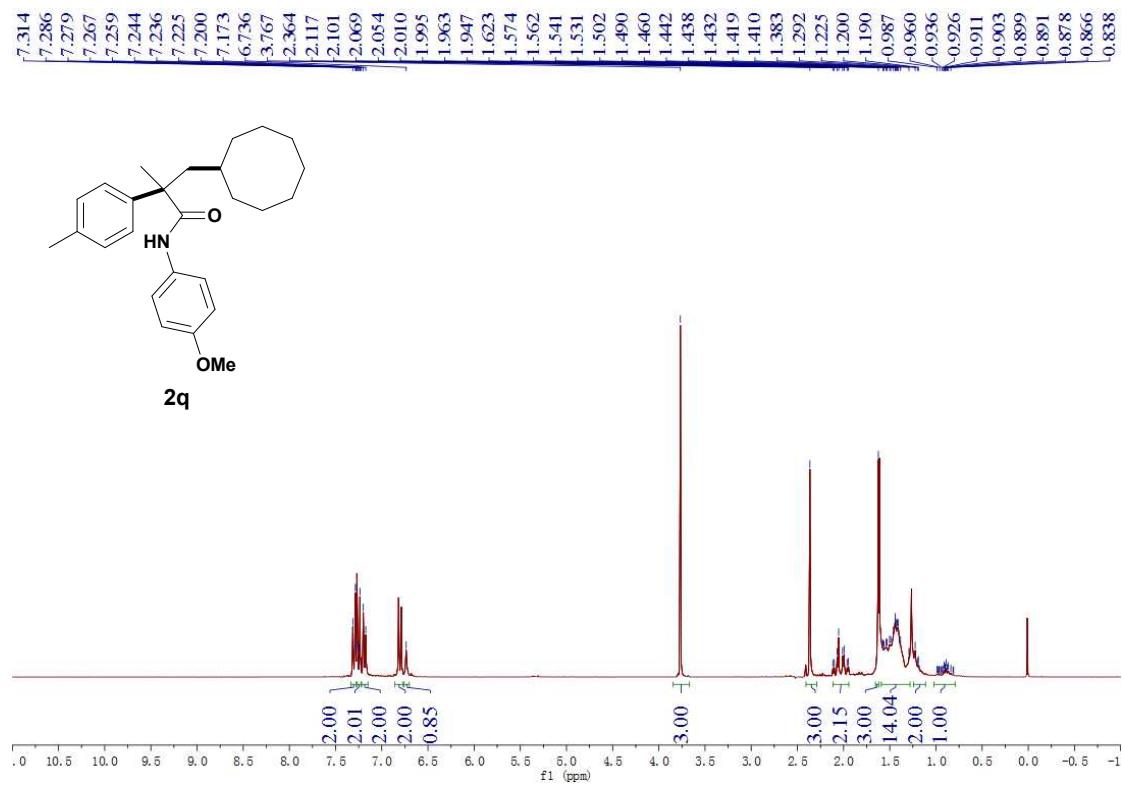


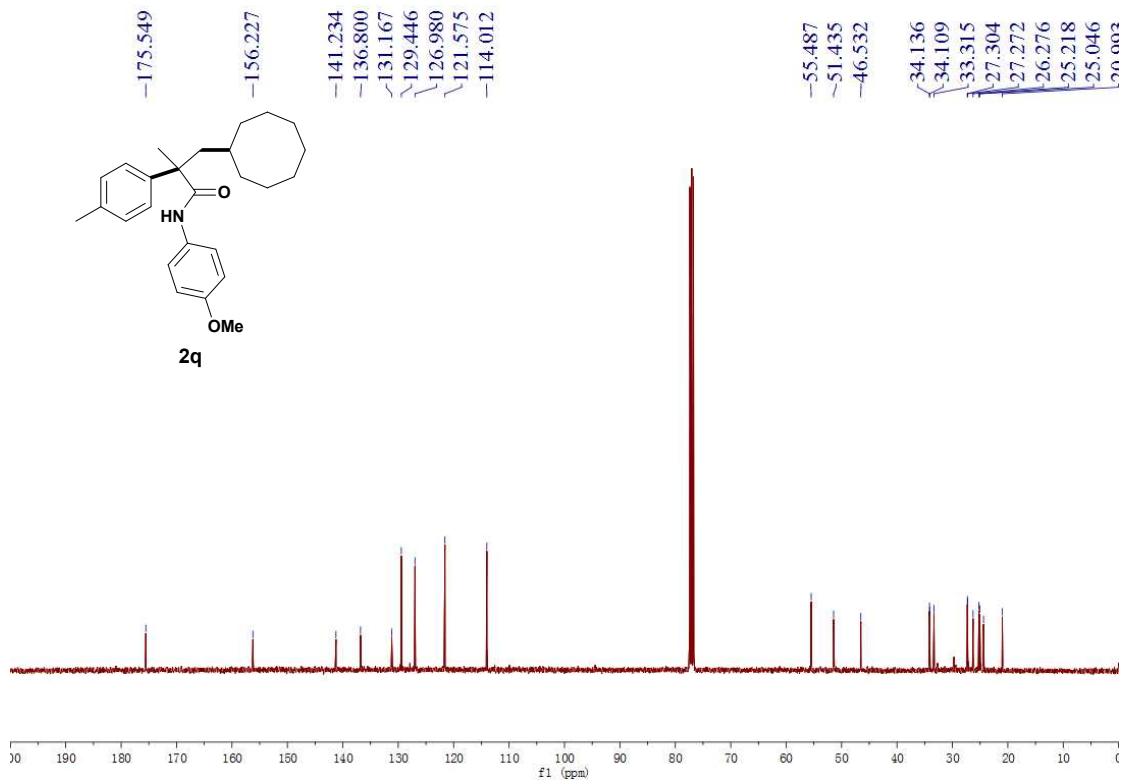
2p



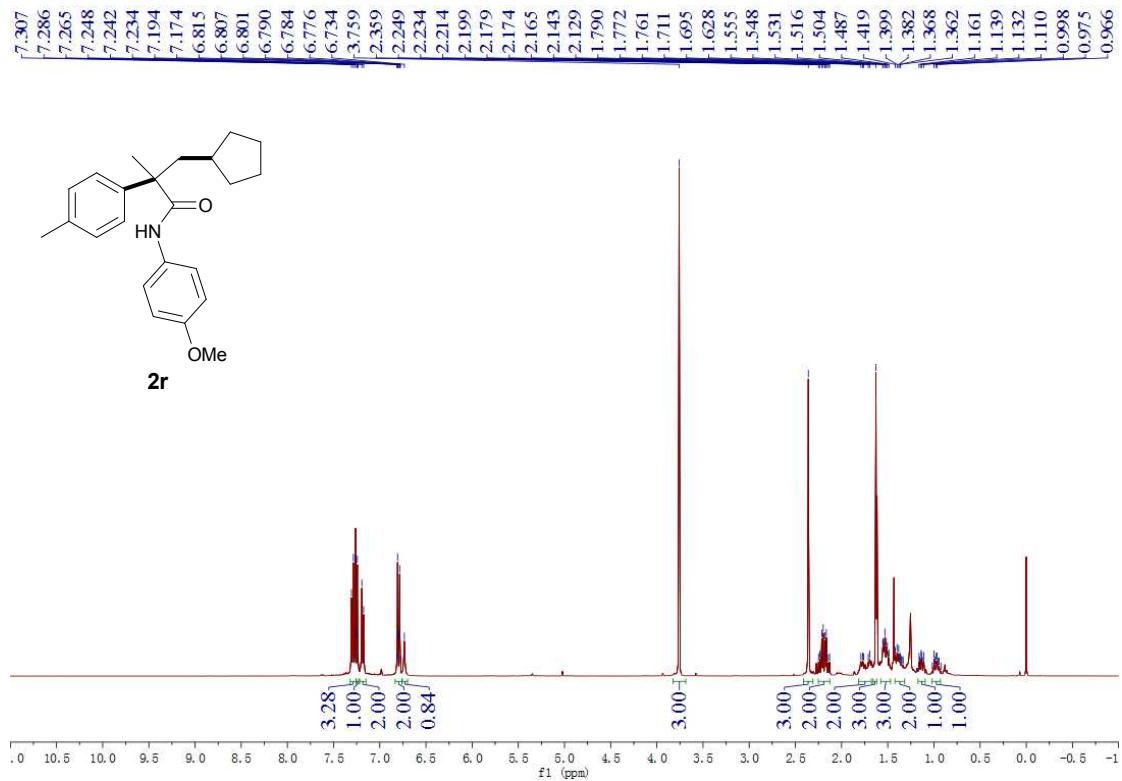


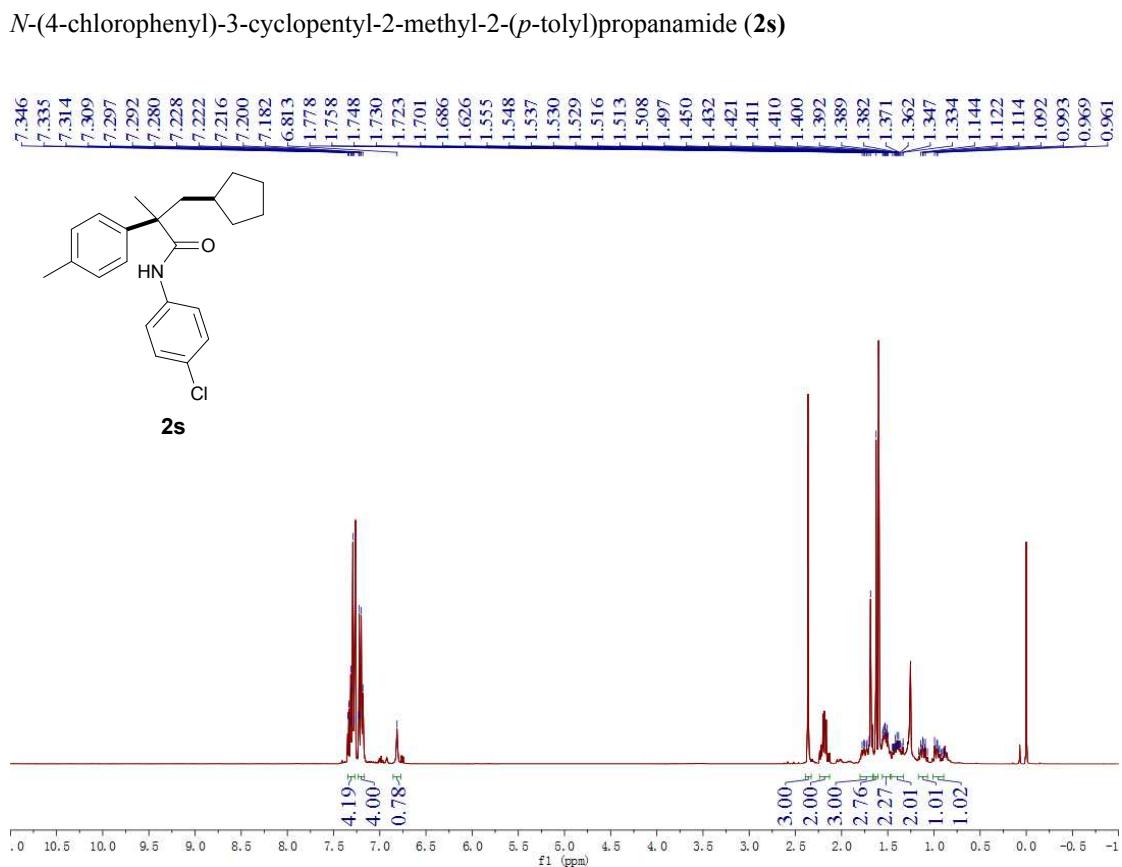
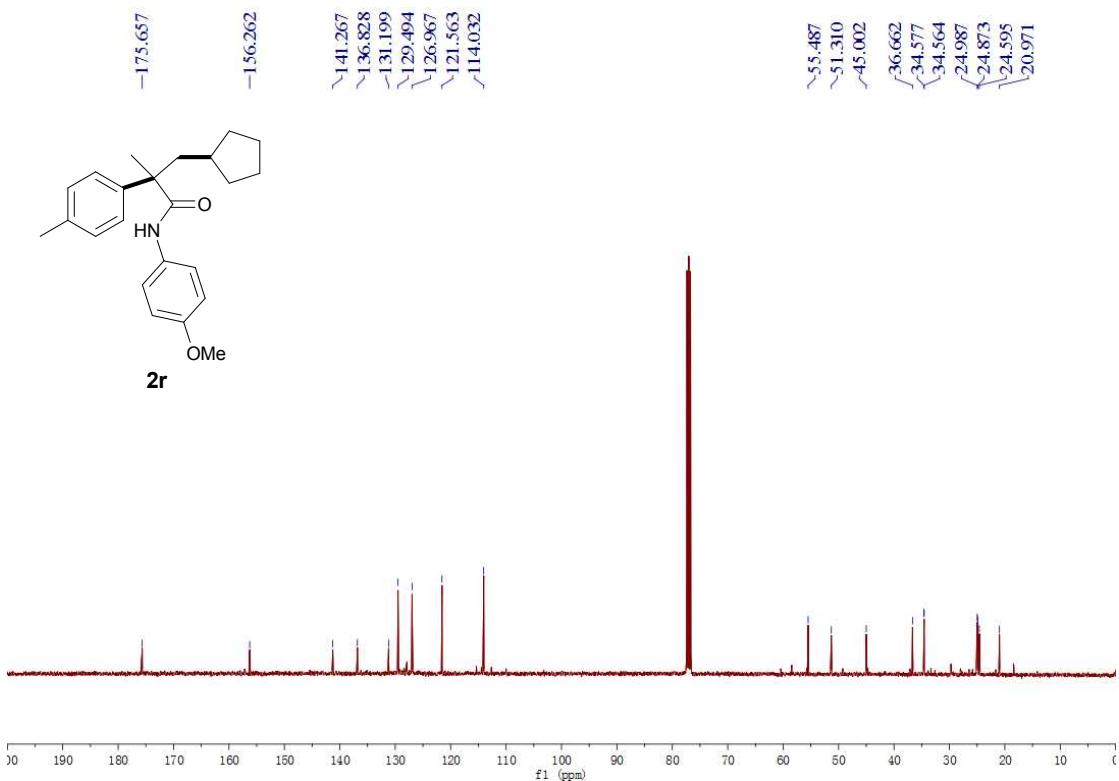
**3-cyclooctyl-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2q**)**

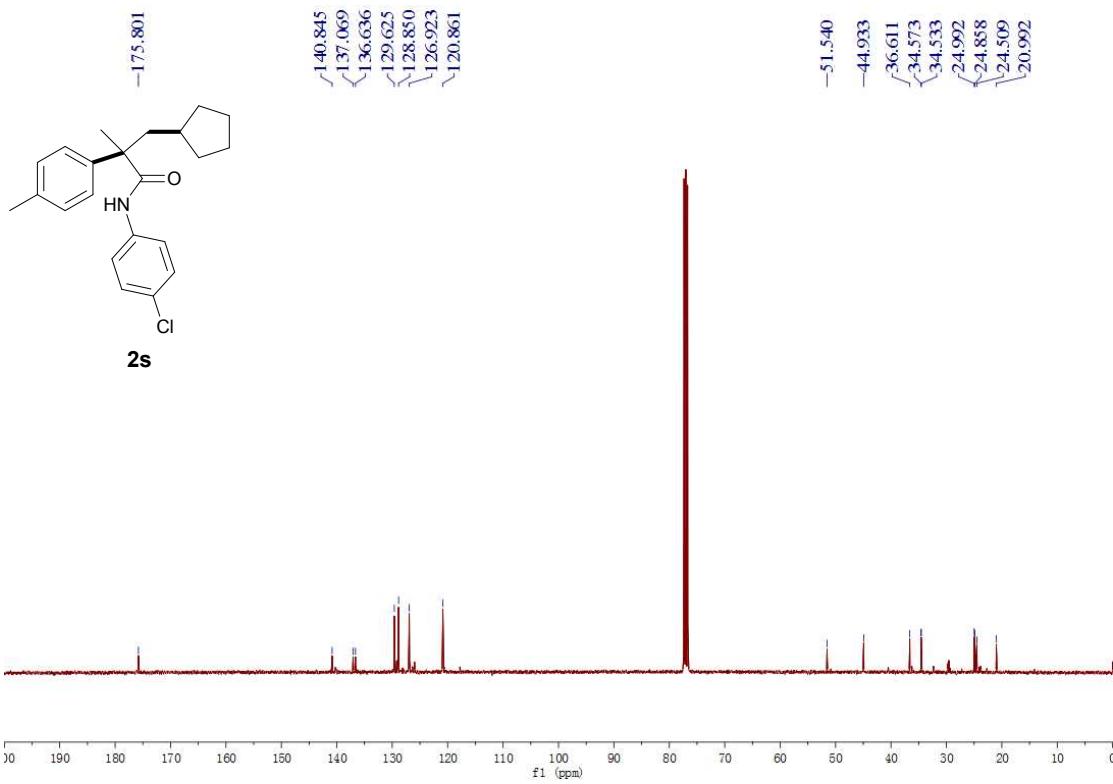




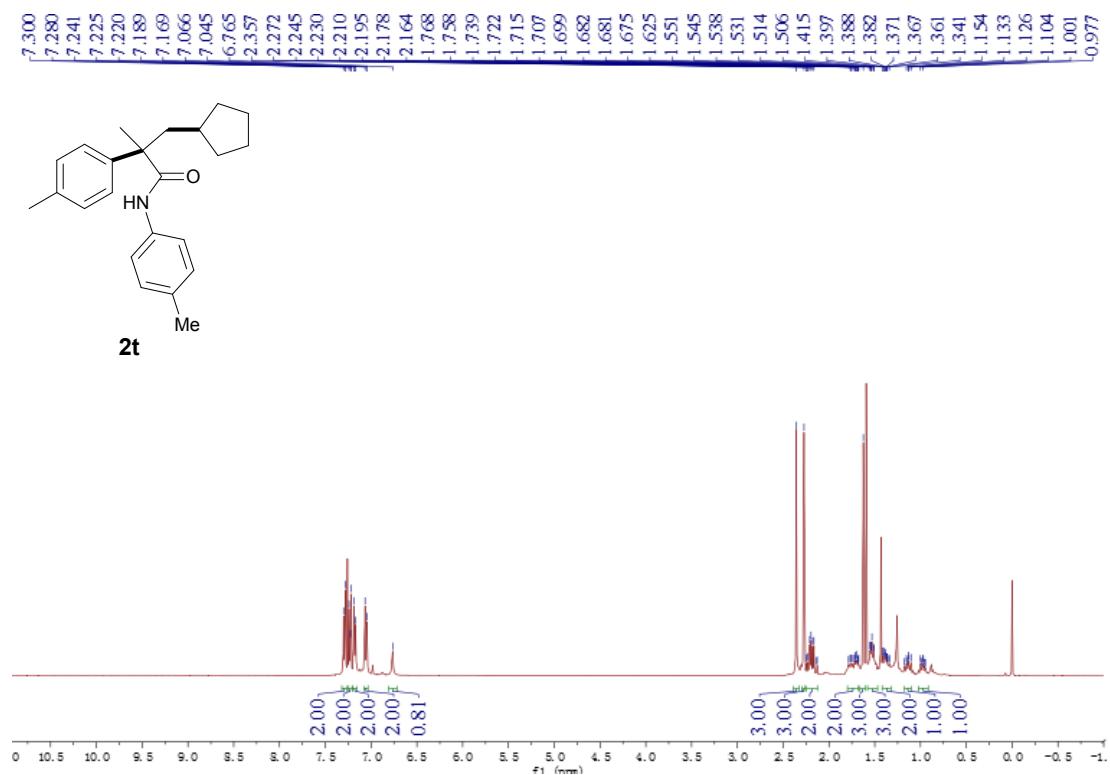
### 3-cyclopentyl-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2r**)

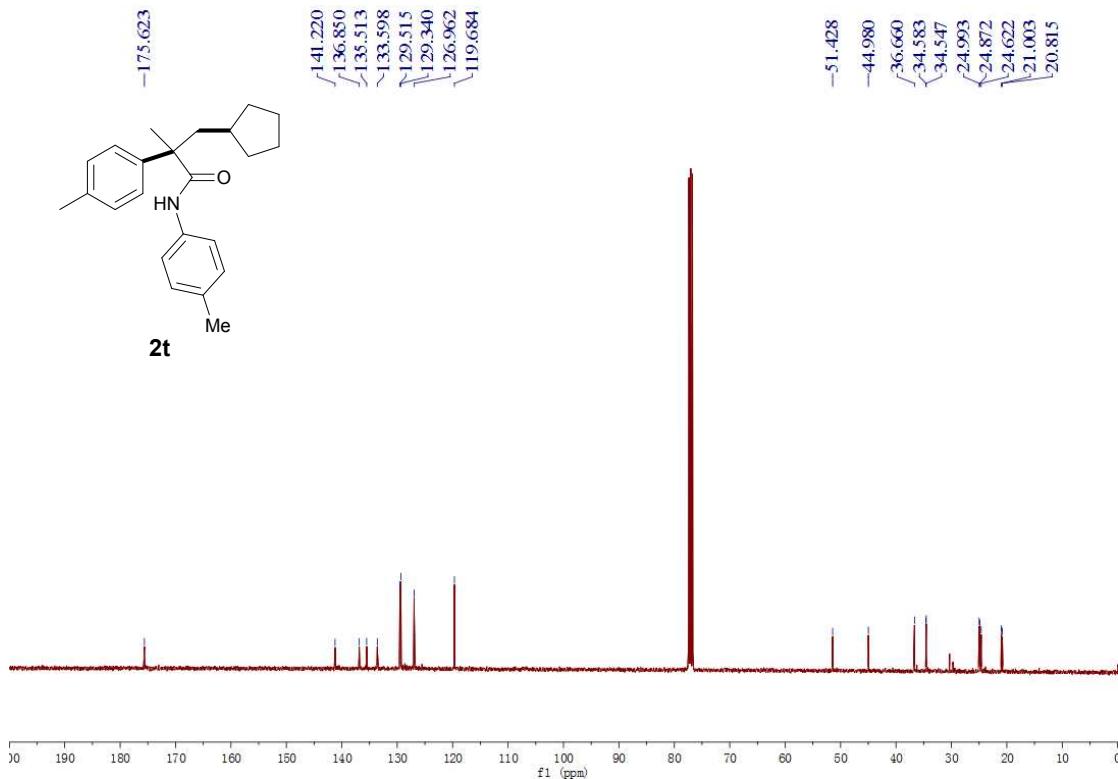




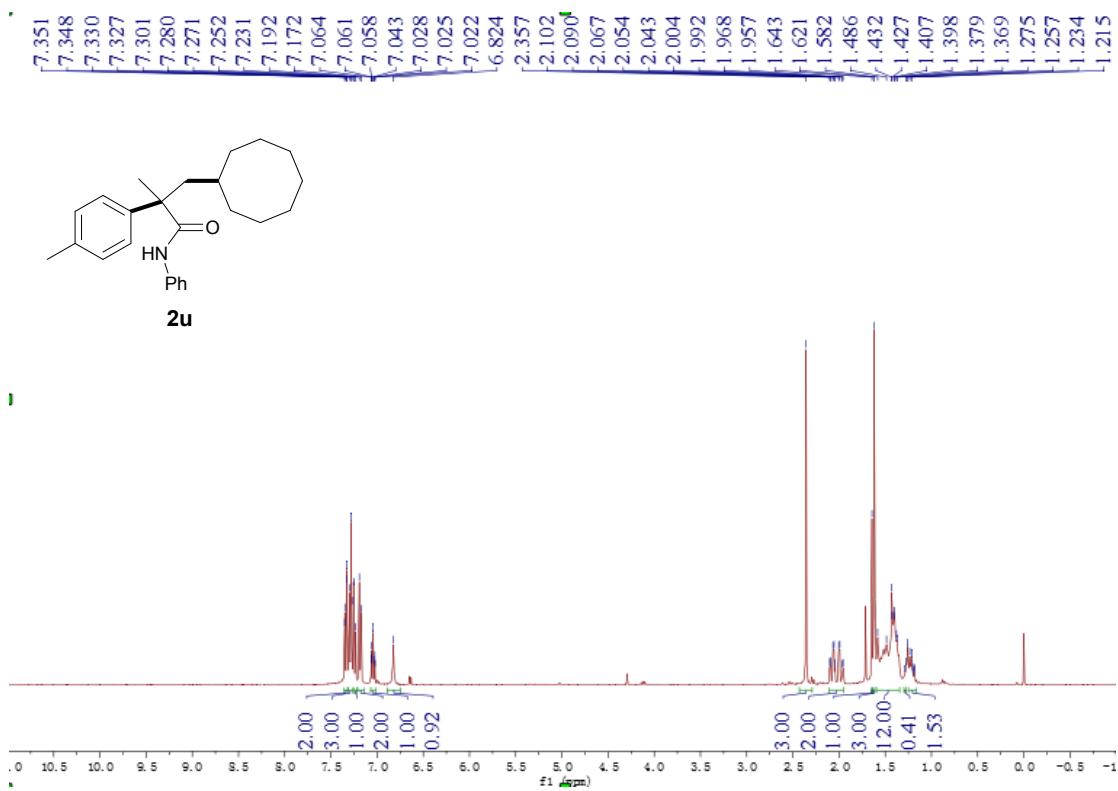


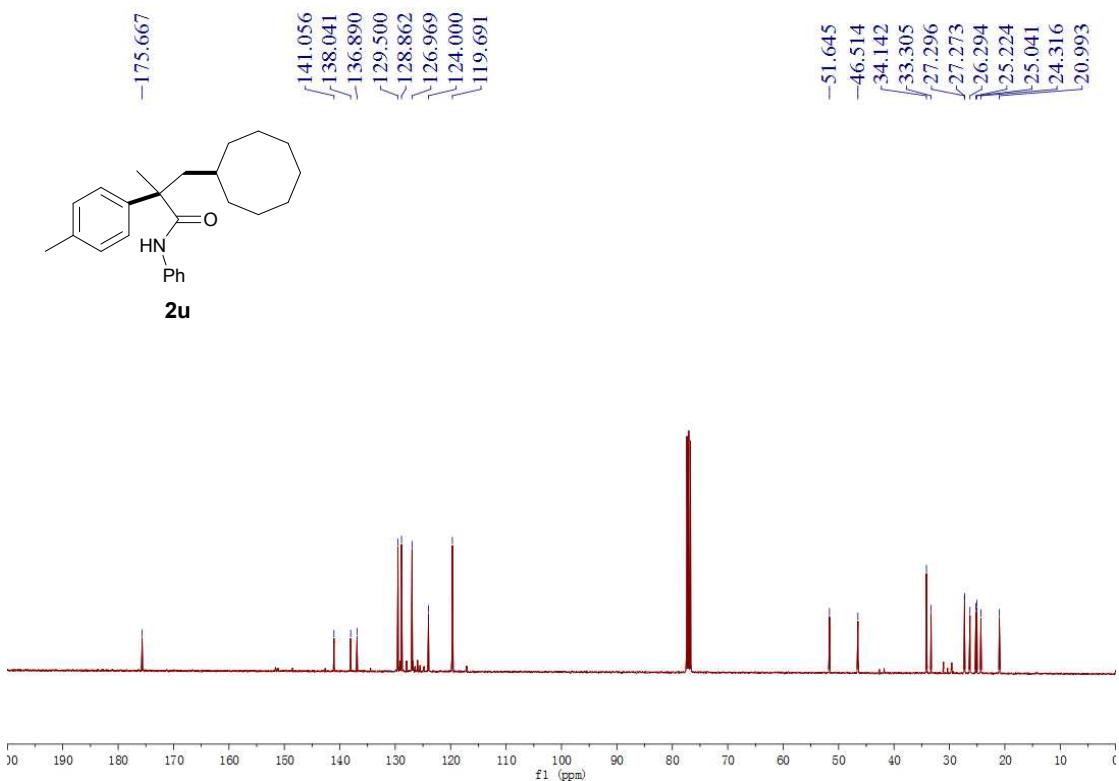
3-cyclopentyl-2-methyl-N,2-di-*p*-tolylpropanamide (**2t**)



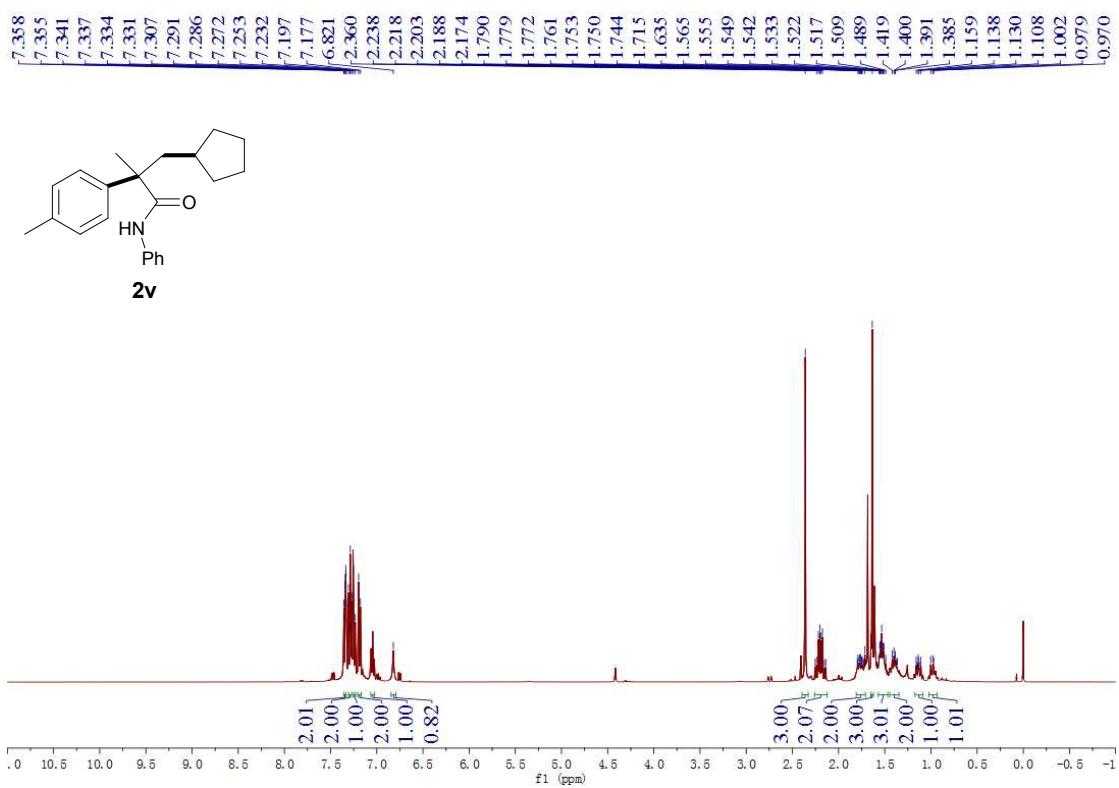


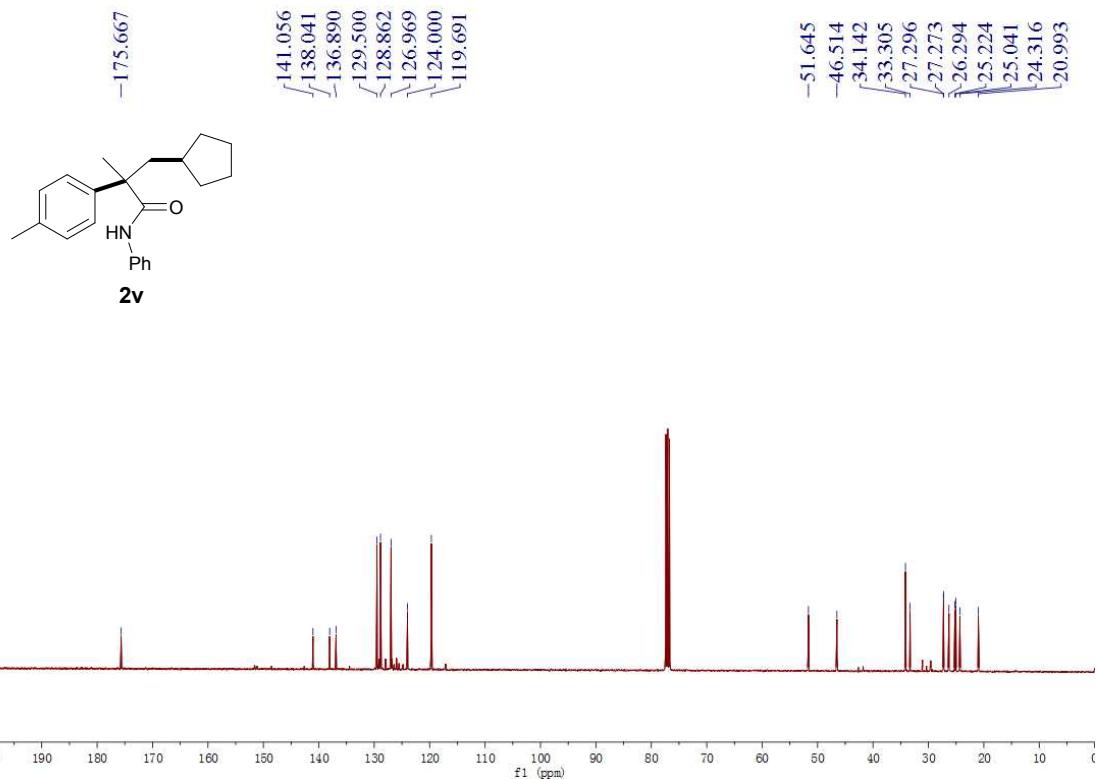
3-cyclooctyl-2-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2u**)



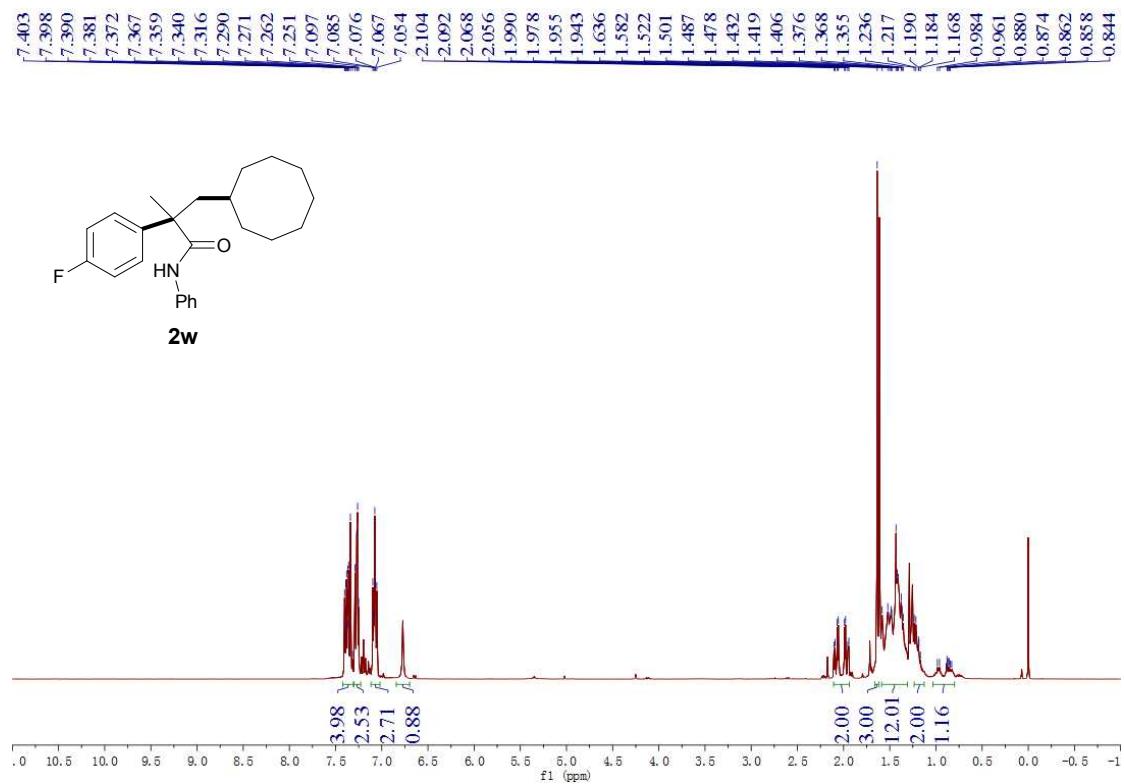


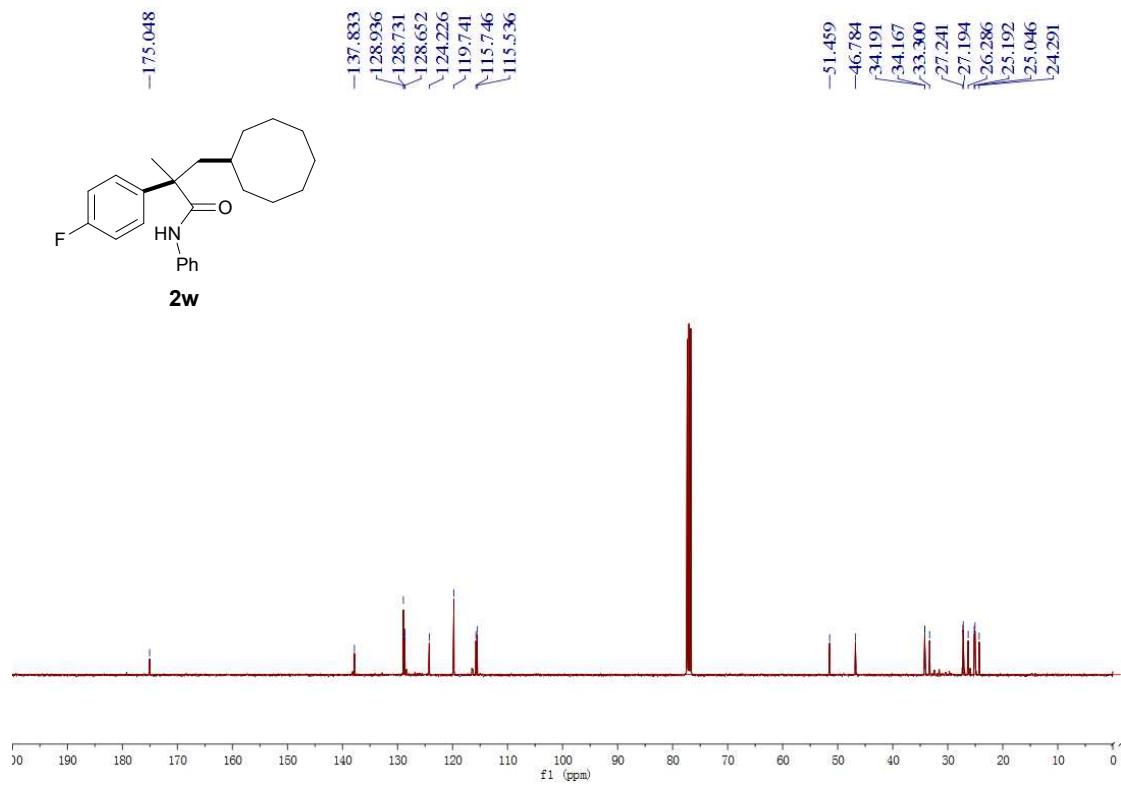
3-cyclopentyl-2-methyl-N-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanamide (**2v**)





**3-cyclooctyl-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-N-phenylpropanamide (**2w**)**





**2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-cyclooctyl-2-methyl-*N*-phenylpropanamide (**2x**)**

