

## Supporting information

For

### Cu(I) based catalysts derived from bidentate ligands and studies on the effect of substituents for N-arylation of benzimidazoles and indoles

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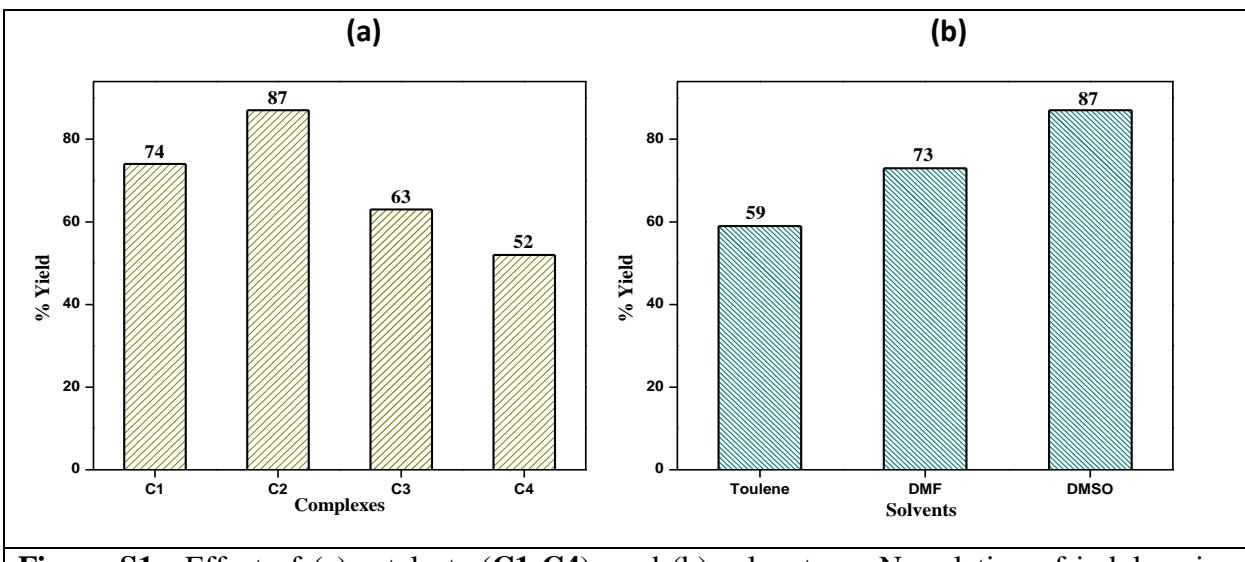
**Table S1** Crystal data of complex **C1**.

Empirical formula	C36 H30 Cl Cu N3 P
Formula weight (gmol <sup>-1</sup> )	634.60
Space group	P 31
Temperature /K	293(2)
$\lambda$ (Å) (Mo-K $\alpha$ )	0.71073
Crystal system	Hexagonal
a (Å)	10.2089(3)
b (Å)	10.2089(3)
c (Å)	26.3489(10)
$\alpha$ (°)	90.00
$\gamma$ (°)	120.00
$\beta$ (°)	90.00
V (Å <sup>3</sup> )	2378.21(17)
Z	3
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ (gcm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.329
Crystal size (mm)	0.23x 0.23x 0.23
F(000)	984.0
Theta range for data collection	2.46–27.13
Index ranges	−11<h < 11, −11<k <11, −29<l <29.
Data/restraints/parameters	4852/1/380
GOF <sup>a</sup> on F <sup>2</sup>	1.030
R1 <sup>b</sup> [I > 2σ(I)]	0.0336
R1[all data]	0.0365
wR2 <sup>c</sup> [I > 2σ(I)]	0.0710
wR2 [all data]	0.0720

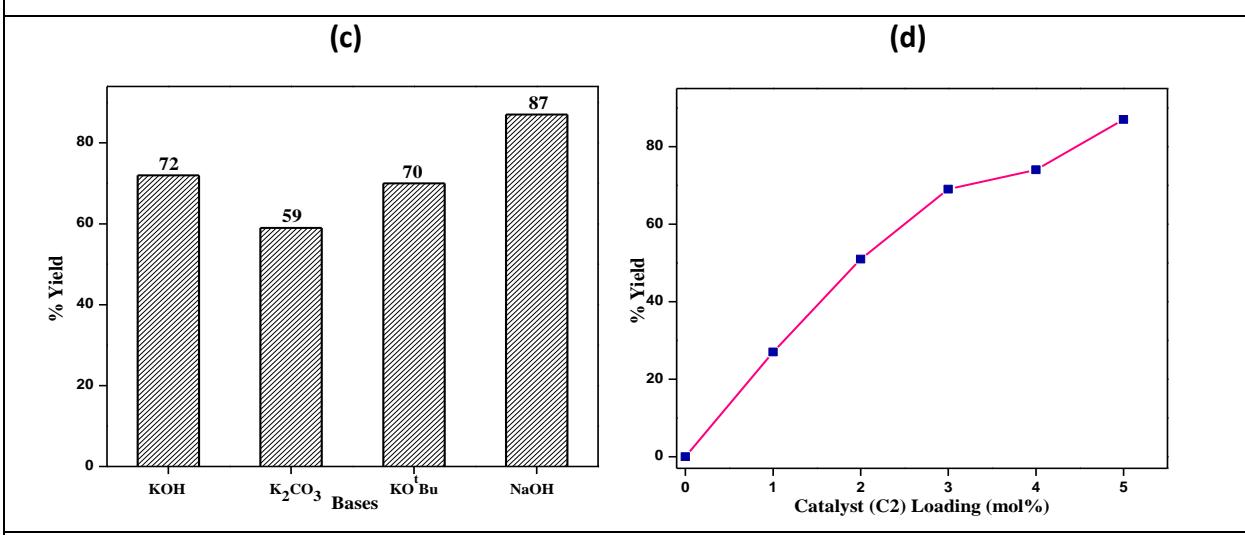
<sup>a</sup>GOF =  $[\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / M - N]^{1/2}$  ( $M$  = number of reflections,  $N$  = number of parameters refined).  
<sup>b</sup>R1 =  $\sum \|F_o\| - \|F_c\| / \sum \|F_o\|$ . <sup>c</sup>wR2 =  $[\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$ .

**Table S2** Bond distances and bond angles of complex **C1**.

Bond distance (Å)			
Cu(1)-Cl(1)	2.2787(19)	Cu(1)-N(3)	2.182(6)
Cu(1)-N(1)	2.067(6)	Cu(1)-P(1)	2.1889(17)
N(2)-N(3)	1.384(8)		
Bond angle(°)			
N(1)-Cu(1)-N(3)	77.1(2)	N(1)-Cu(1)-P(1)	117.32(18)
N(1)-Cu(1)-Cl(1)	106.84(17)	N(3)-Cu(1)-Cl(1)	117.15(15)
P(1)-Cu(1)-Cl(1)	121.46(7)		



**Figure S1 :** Effect of (a) catalysts (**C1-C4**) and (b) solvents on N-arylation of indole using iodobenzene to synthesize (1-phenyl-1H-indole).



**Figure S2 :** Effect of (a) bases and (b) catalyst loading (**C2**) on N-arylation of indole using iodobenzene to synthesize (1-phenyl-1H-indole).

**Table S3** Optimization table for N-arylation of benzimidazole to synthesize 1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole.

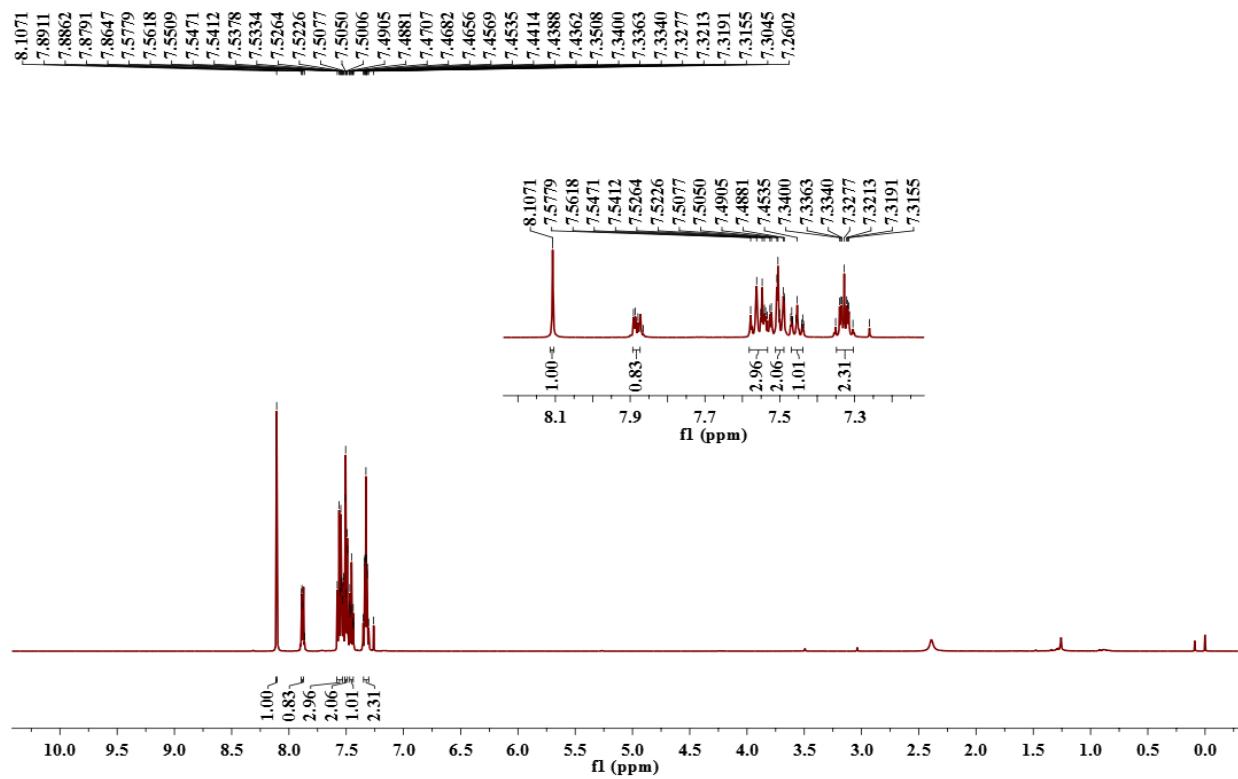
S. No	Catalyst	Heterocycle	Haloarene	Base	Solvent	Product	% Yield <sup>a</sup>
Effect of Catalysts							
1.	C1	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	74
2.	C2	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	89
3.	C3	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	68
4.	C4	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	61
Effect of Solvents							
5.	C2	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	Toluene	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	69
6.	C2	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMF	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	77
7.	C2	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	89
Effect of Bases							
8.	C2	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	KOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	76
9.	C2	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	68
10.	C2	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	KO <sup>t</sup> Bu	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	72
11.	C2	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	89
Effect of Catalyst Loading							
12.	C2 (0mol%)	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	0
13.	C2 (1mol%)	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	30
14.	C2 (2mol%)	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	55
15.	C2 (3mol%)	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	67
16.	C2 (4mol%)	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	74
17.	C2 (5mol%)	Benzimidazole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole	89

<sup>a</sup> represents the isolated yield.

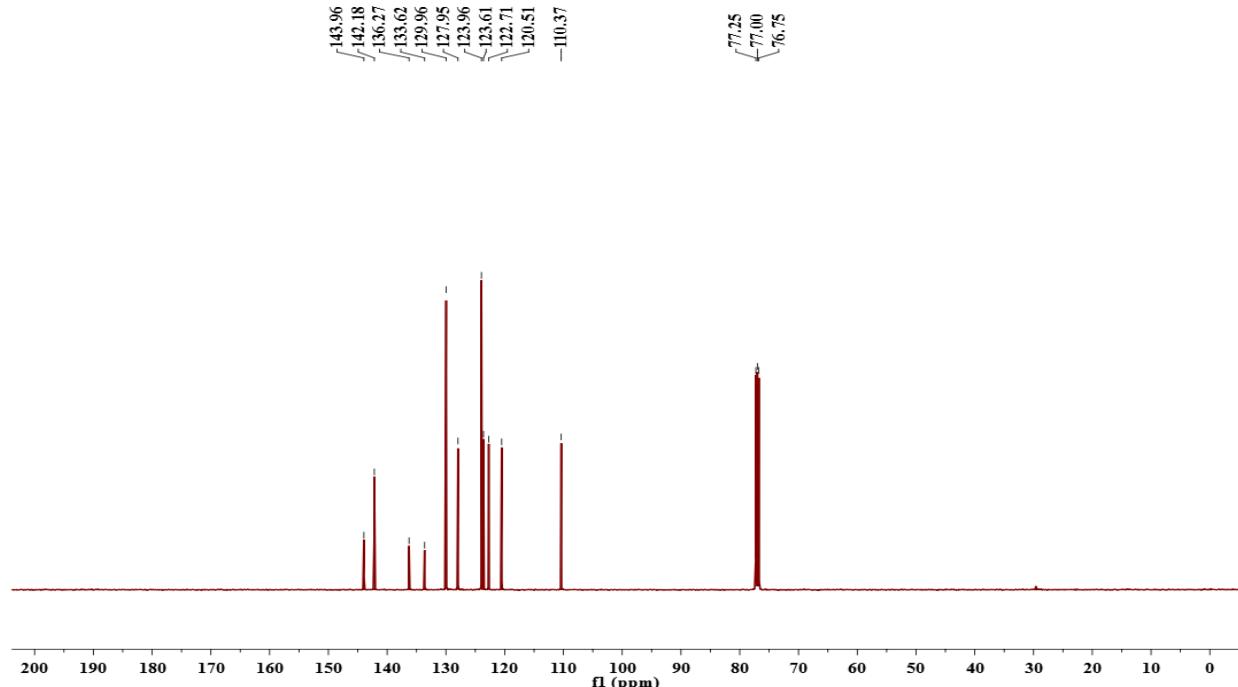
**Table S4** Optimization table for N-arylation of indole to synthesize 1-phenyl-1H-indole.

S.No	Catalyst	Heterocycle	Haloarene	Base	Solvent	Product	% Yield <sup>a</sup>
Effect of Catalysts							
1.	C1	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	74
2.	C2	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	87
3.	C3	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	63
4.	C4	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	52
Effect of Solvents							
5.	C2	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	Toulene	1-phenyl-1H-indole	59
6.	C2	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMF	1-phenyl-1H-indole	73
7.	C2	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	87
Effect of Bases							
8.	C2	Indole	Iodobenzene	KOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	72
9.	C2	Indole	Iodobenzene	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	59
10.	C2	Indole	Iodobenzene	KO <sup>t</sup> Bu	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	70
11.	C2	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	87
Effect of Catalyst Loading							
12.	C2 (0 mol%)	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	0
13.	C2 (1 mol%)	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	27
14.	C2 (2 mol%)	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	51
15.	C2 (3 mol%)	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	69
16.	C2 (4 mol%)	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	74
17.	C2 (5 mol%)	Indole	Iodobenzene	NaOH	DMSO	1-phenyl-1H-indole	87

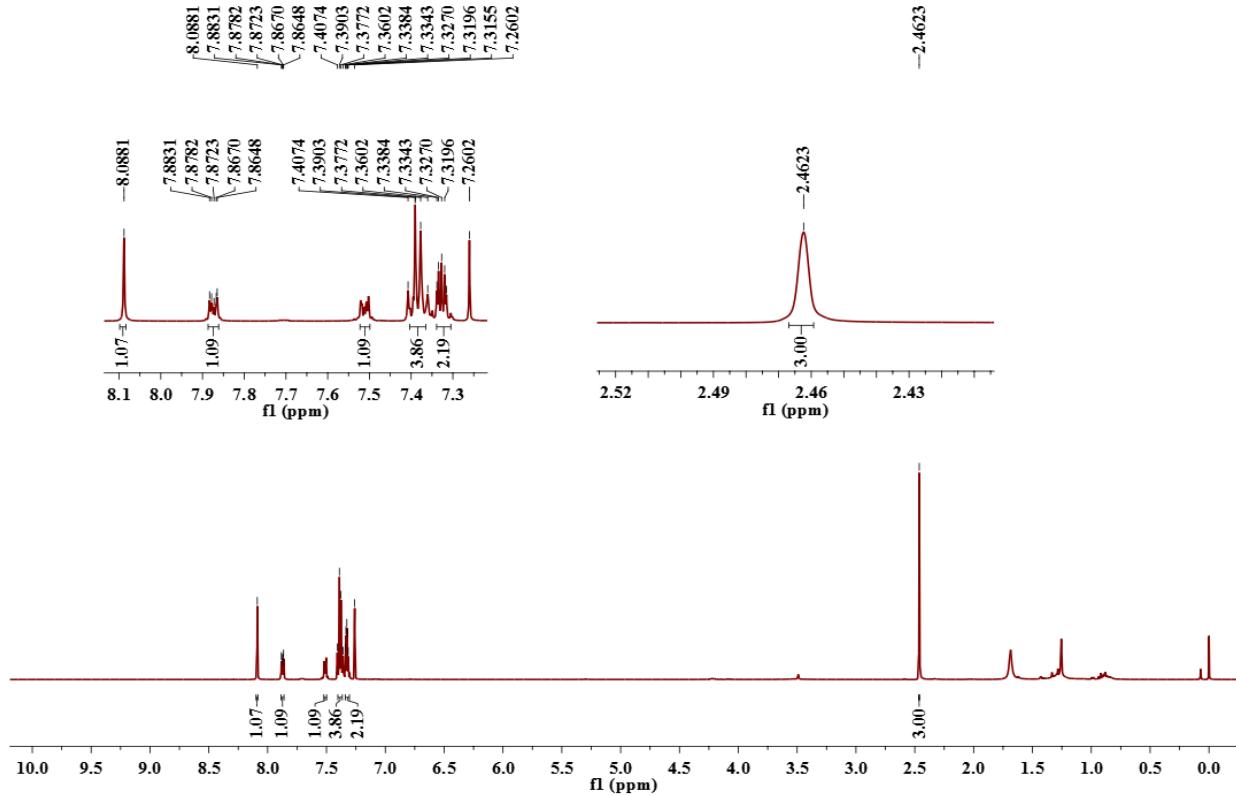
<sup>a</sup> represents the isolated yield.



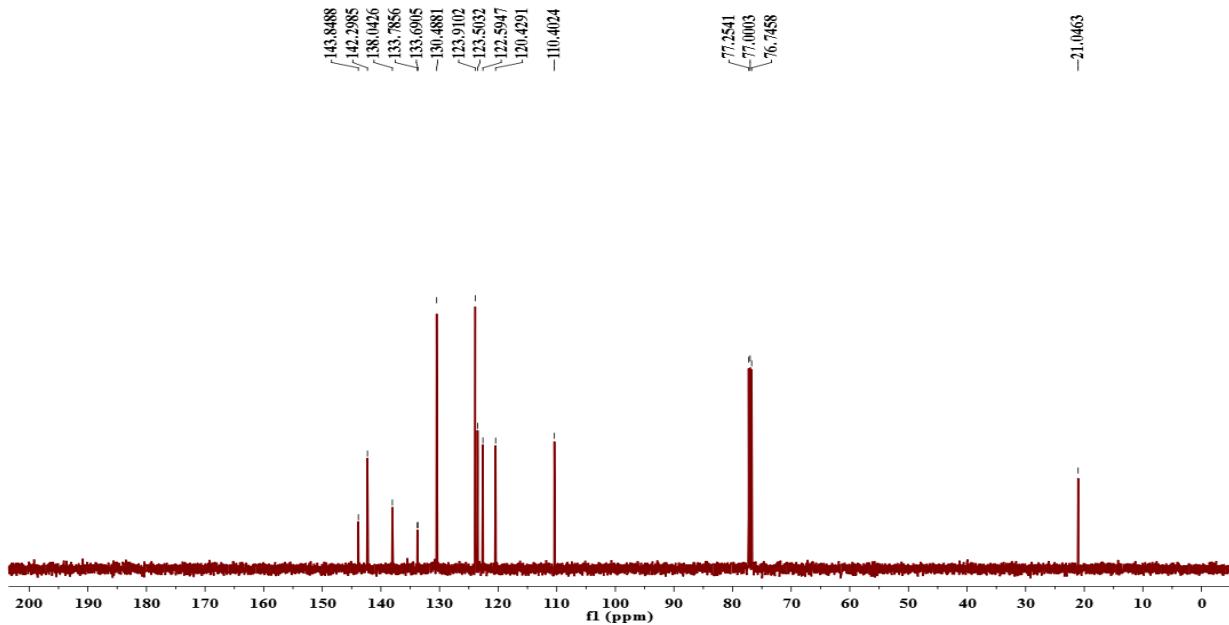
**Figure S3**  $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum of **R1** (1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole {C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



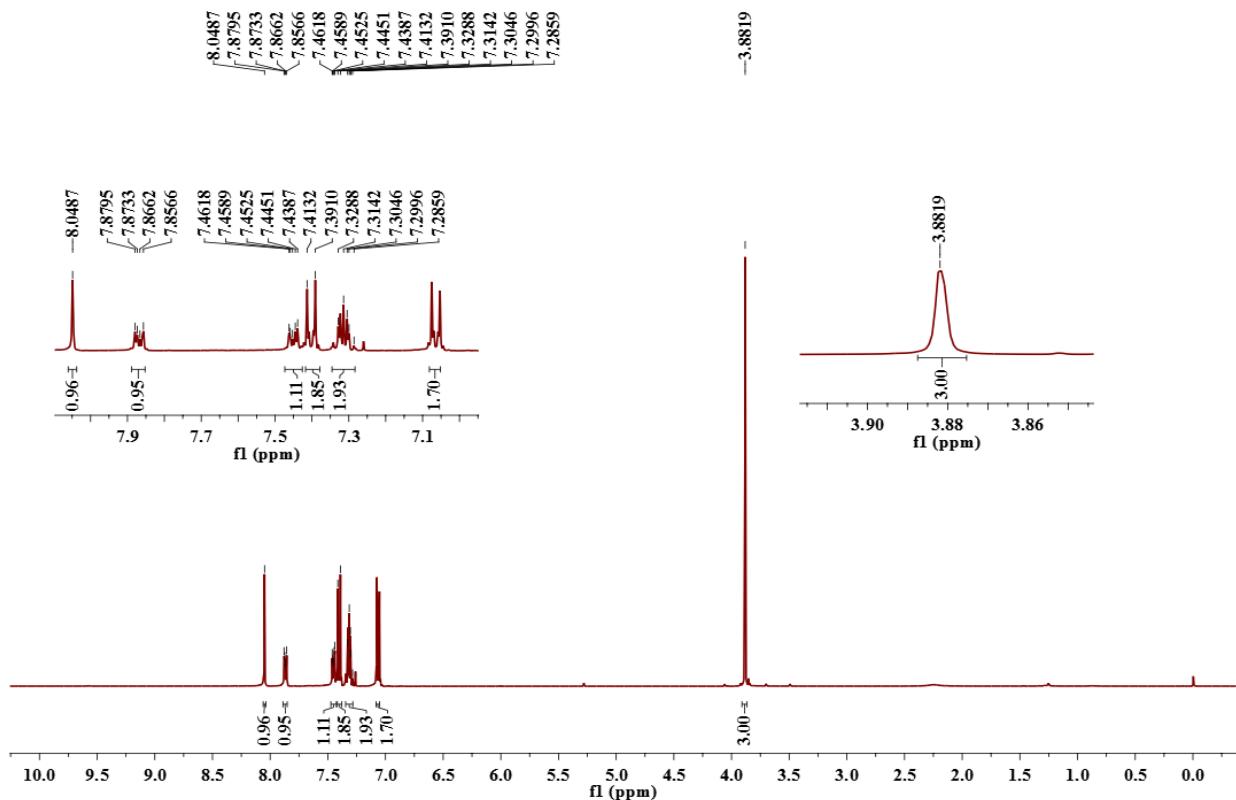
**Figure S4**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R1** (1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole ( $\{\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\}$ )) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



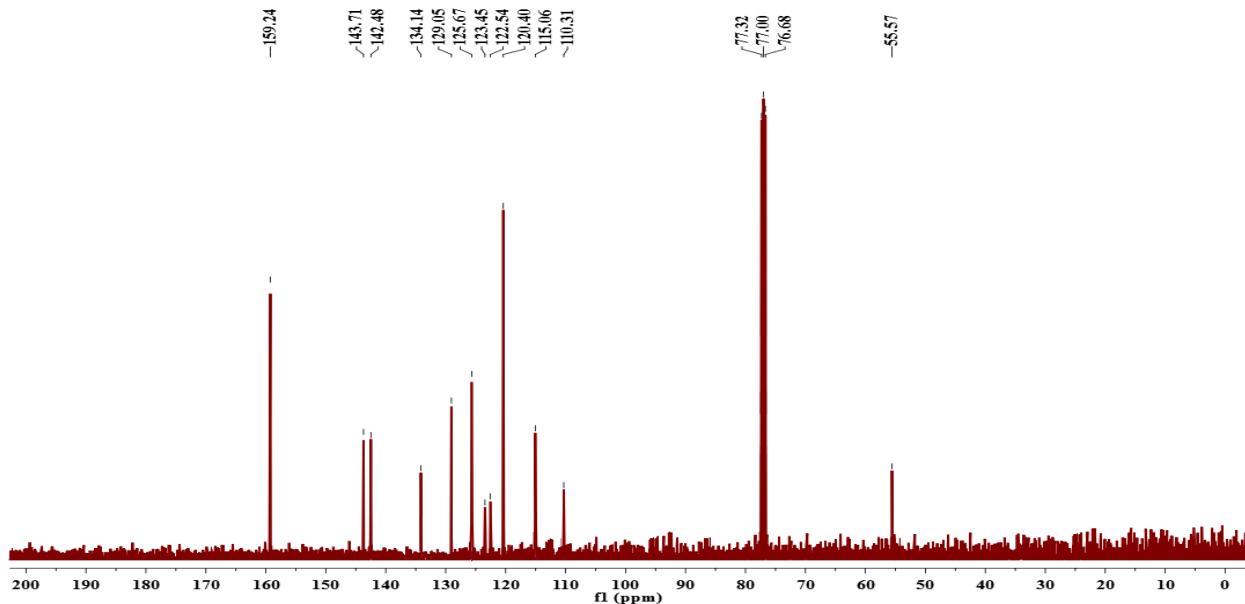
**Figure S5**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R2** (1-(p-tolyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole {C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



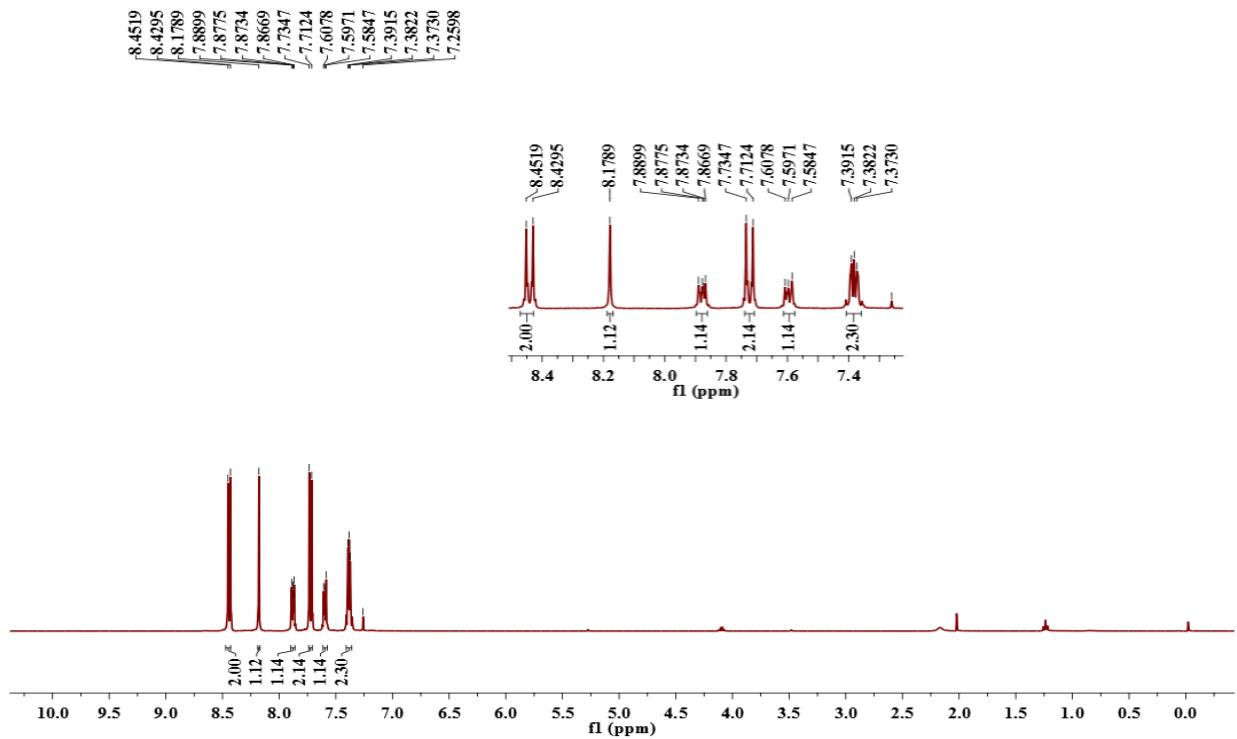
**Figure S6**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R2** (1-(p-tolyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole {C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



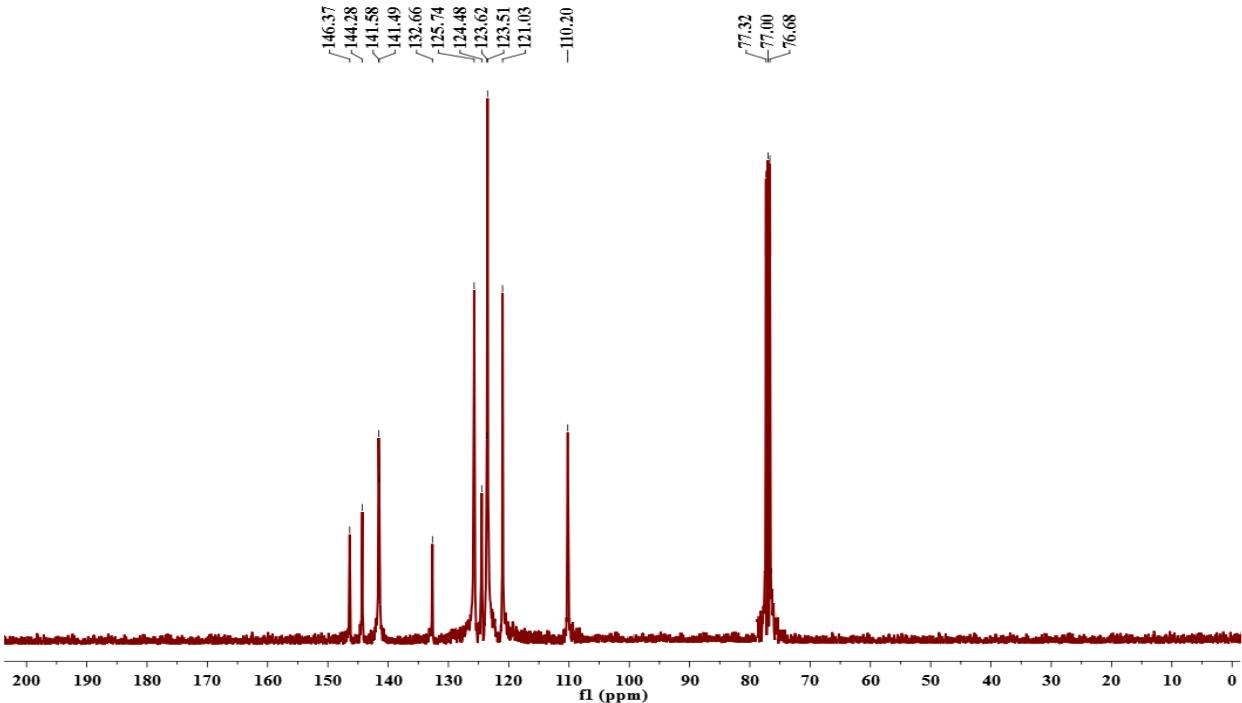
**Figure S7**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R3** (1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazole ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ }) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



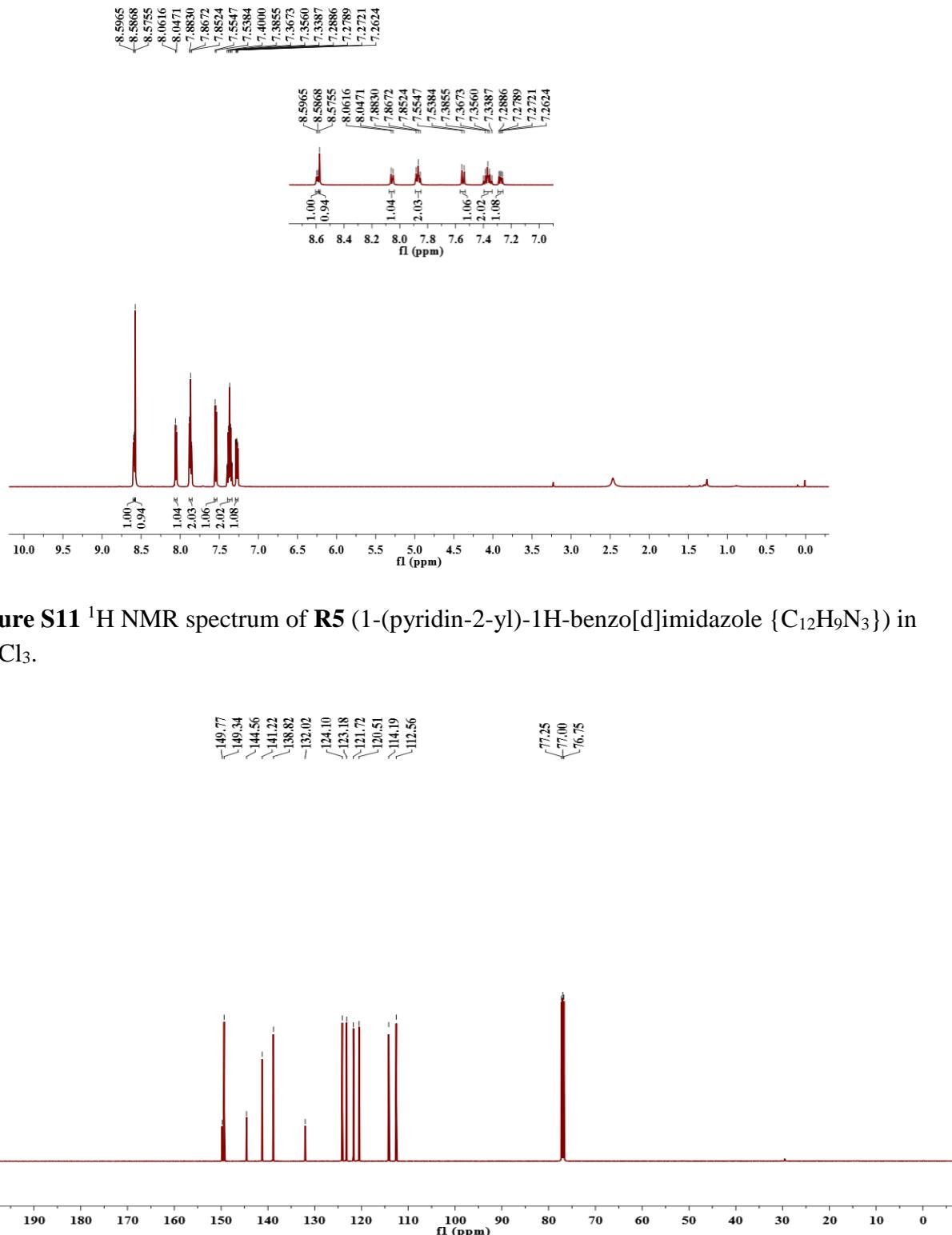
**Figure S8**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R3** (1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole  $\{\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}\}$ ) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S9**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R4** (1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole {C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

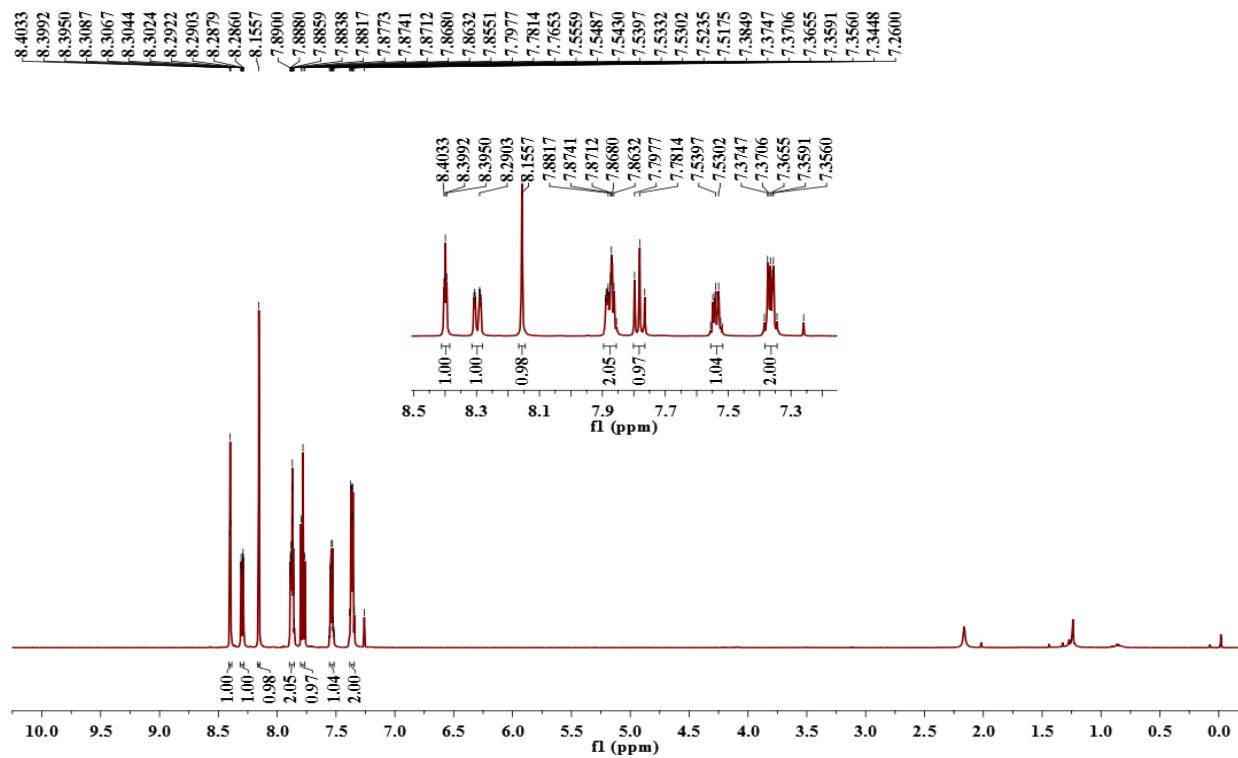


**Figure S10**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R4** (1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole {C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

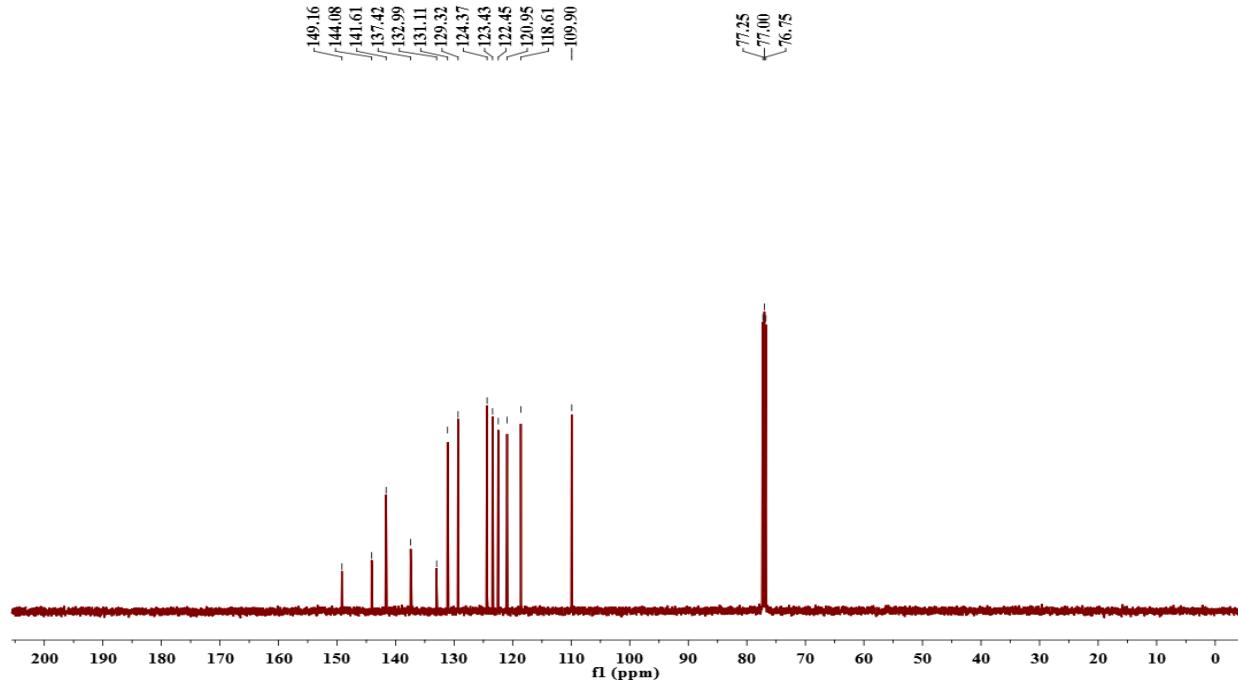


**Figure S11**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R5** (1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole { $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3$ }) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

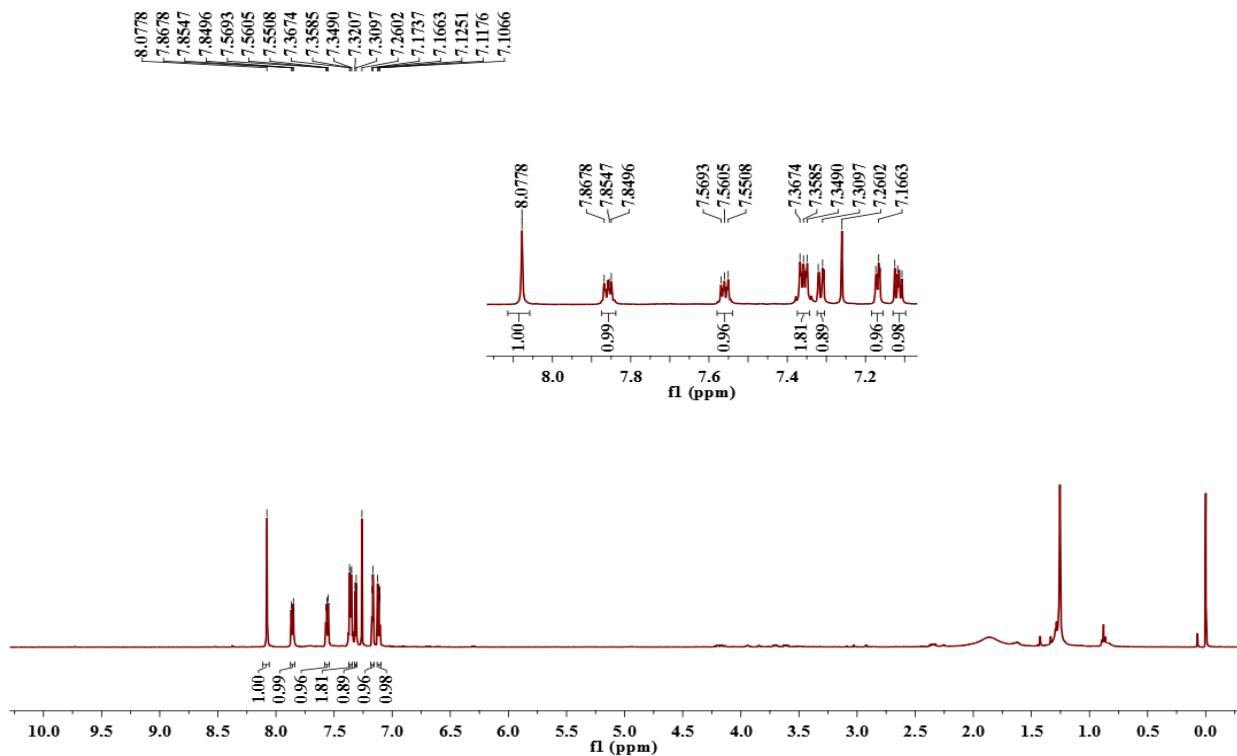
**Figure S12**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R5** (1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole { $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3$ }) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



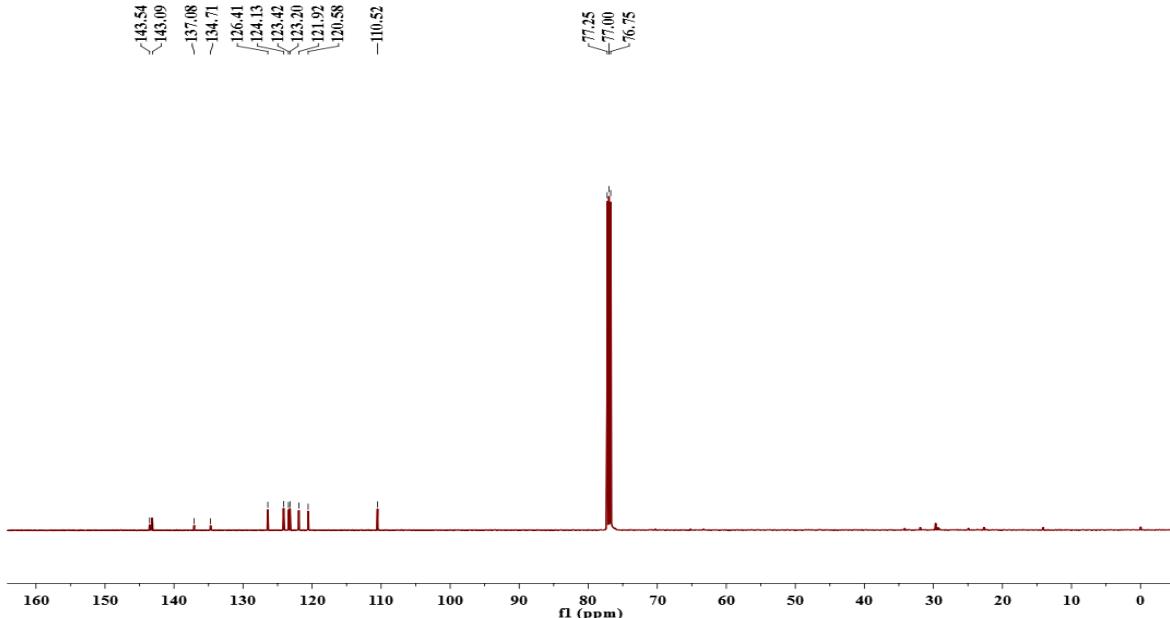
**Figure S13**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R6** (1-(3-nitrophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole {C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



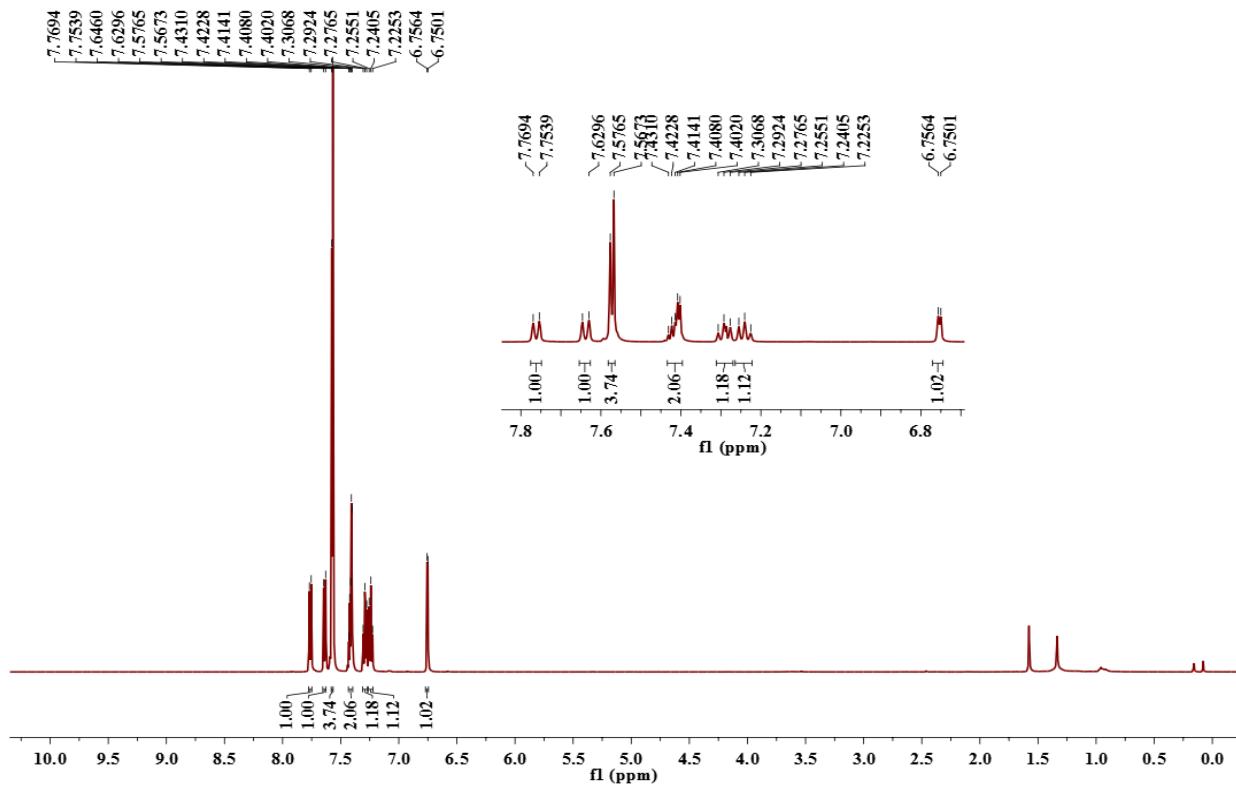
**Figure S14**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R6** (1-(3-nitrophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole { $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ }) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



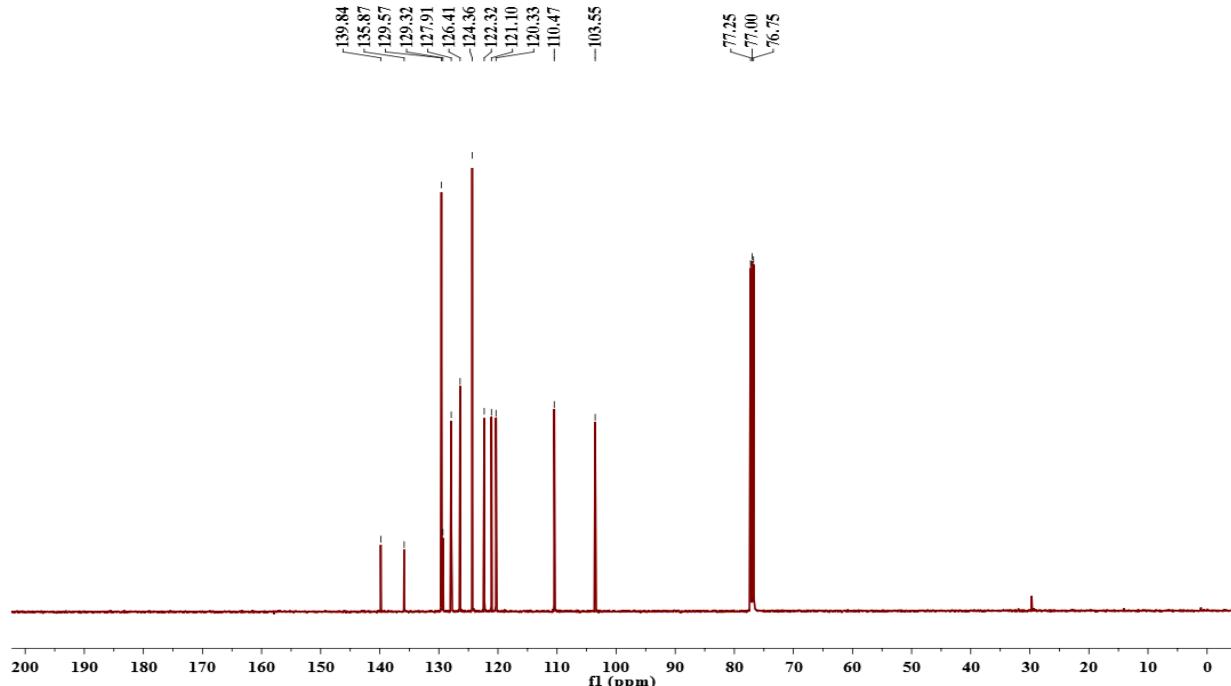
**Figure S15**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R7** (1-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole {C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



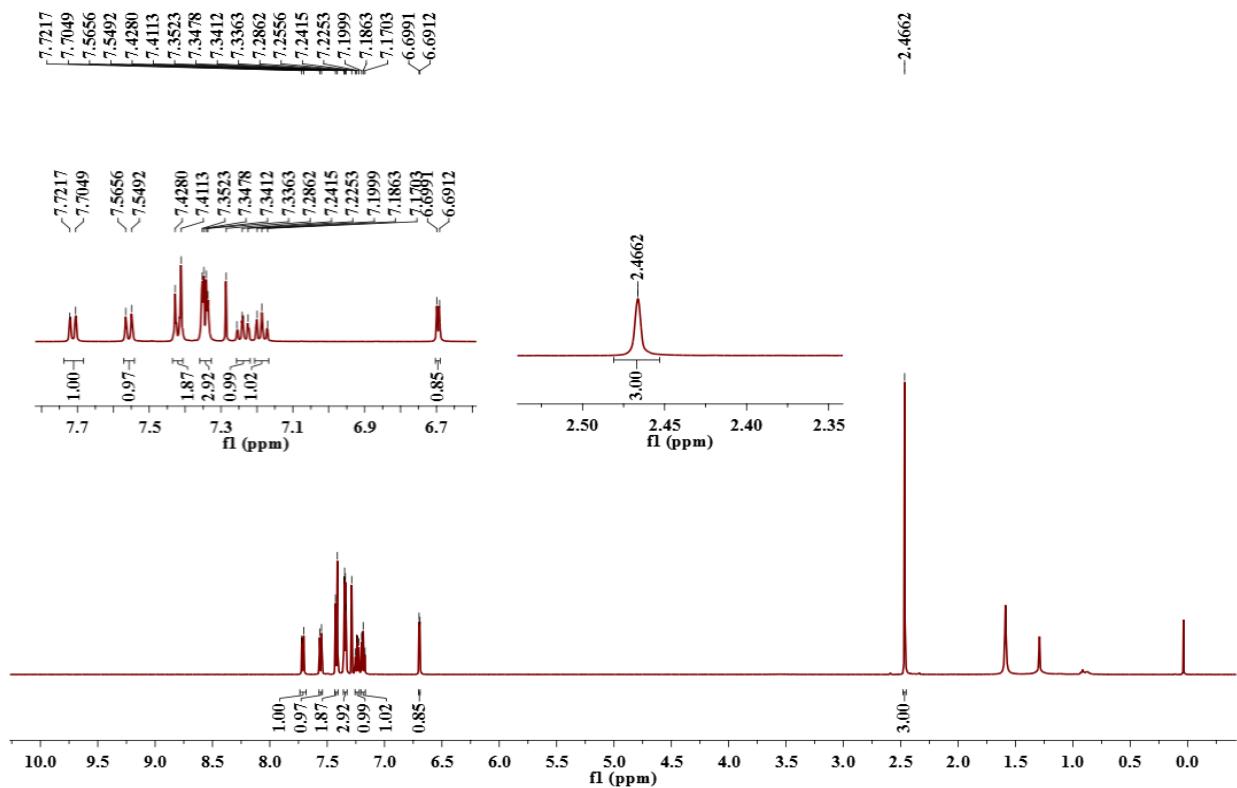
**Figure S16**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R7** (1-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole {C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



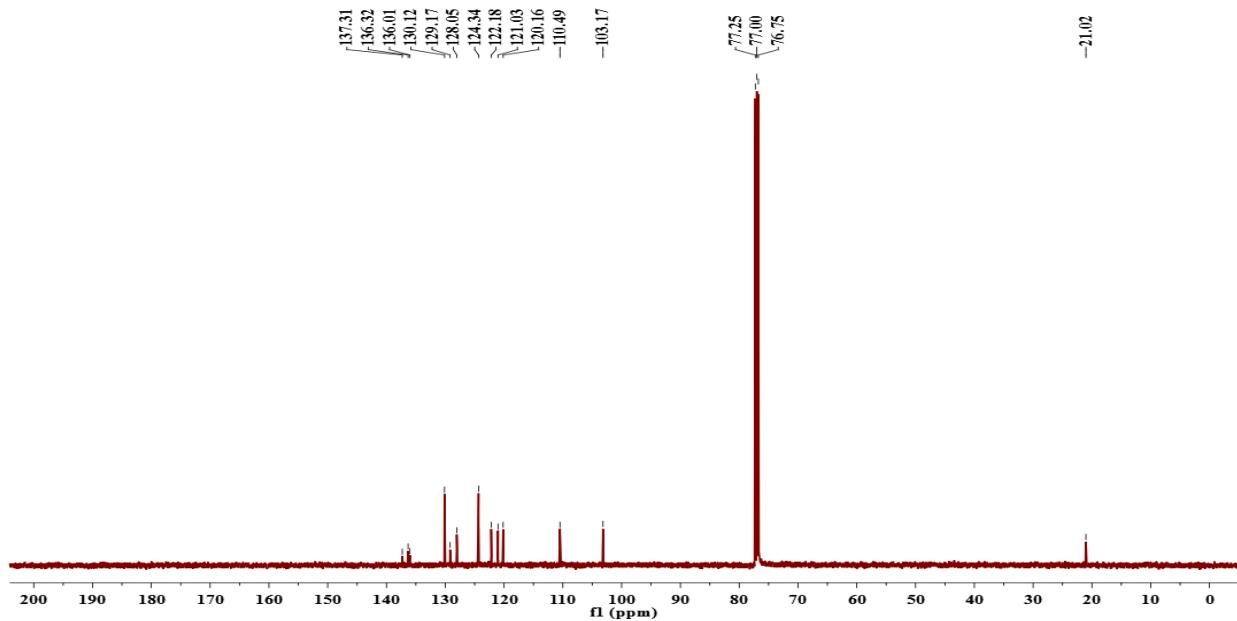
**Figure S17**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R8** (1-phenyl-1H-indole {C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



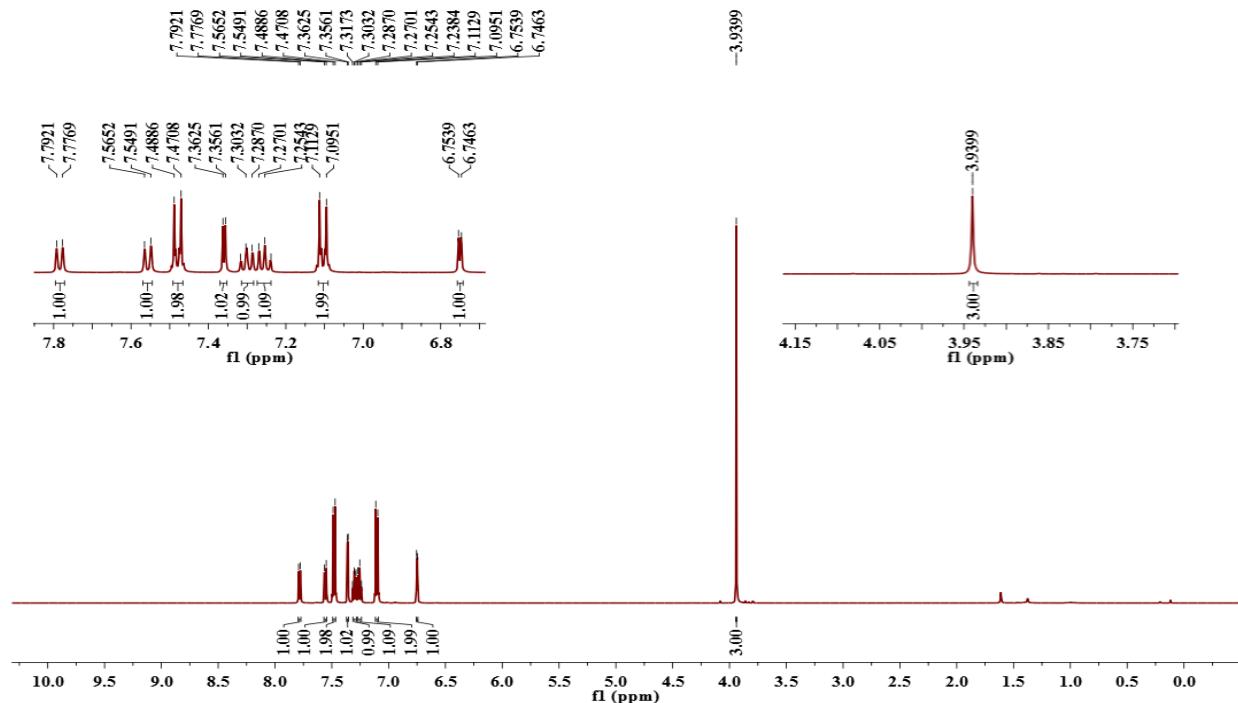
**Figure S18**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R8** (1-phenyl-1H-indole {C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



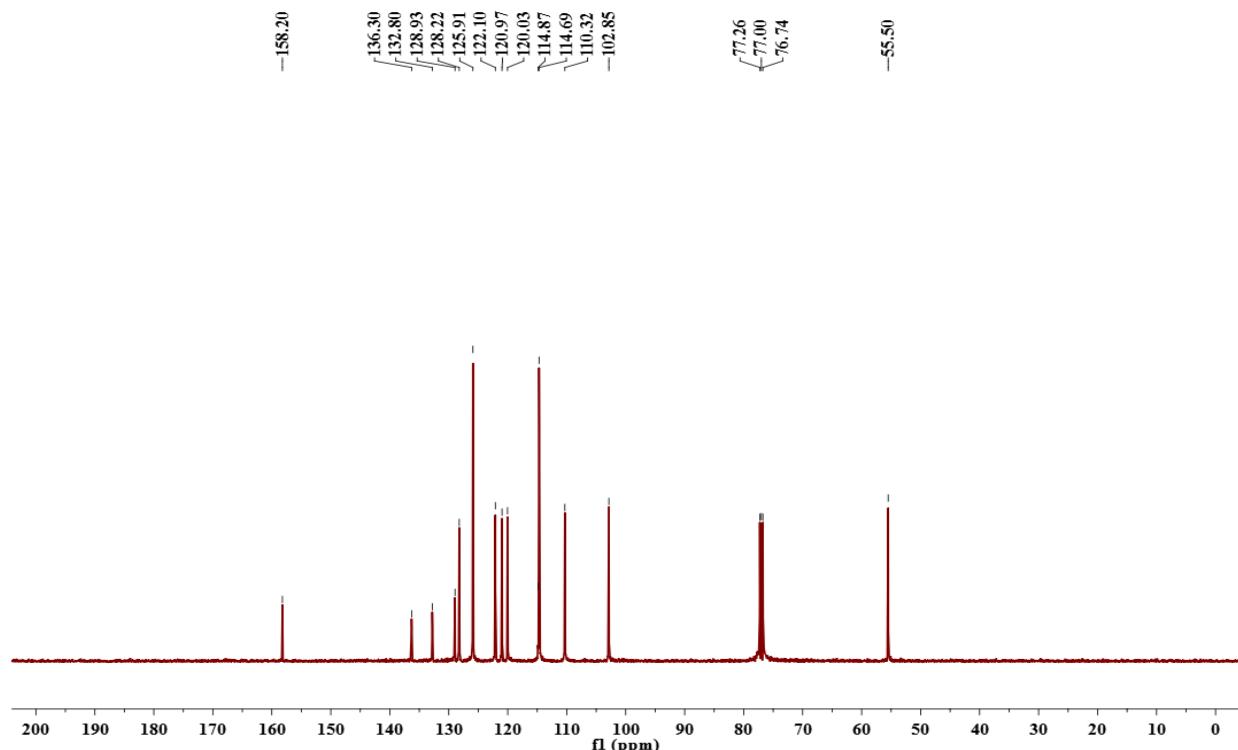
**Figure S19**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R9** (1-(p-tolyl)-1H-indole {C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N}) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



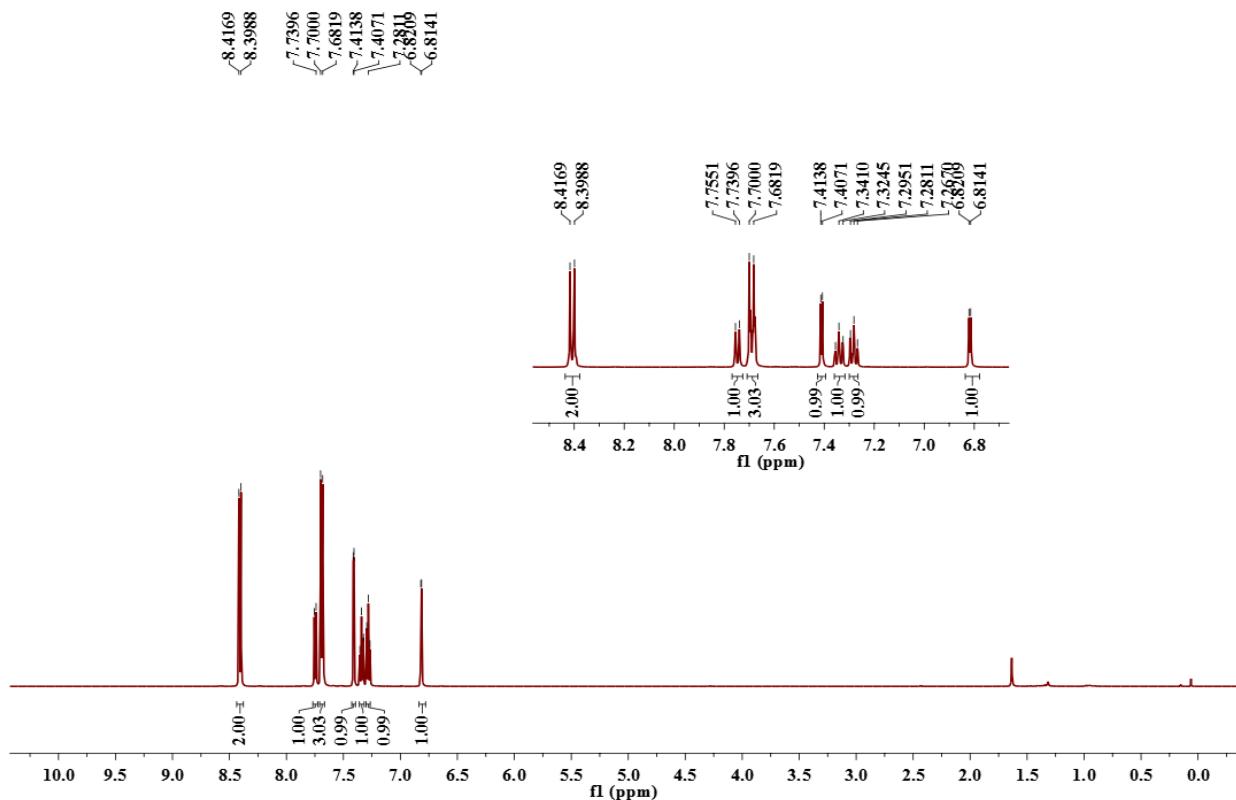
**Figure S20**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R9** (1-(p-tolyl)-1H-indole {C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N}) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



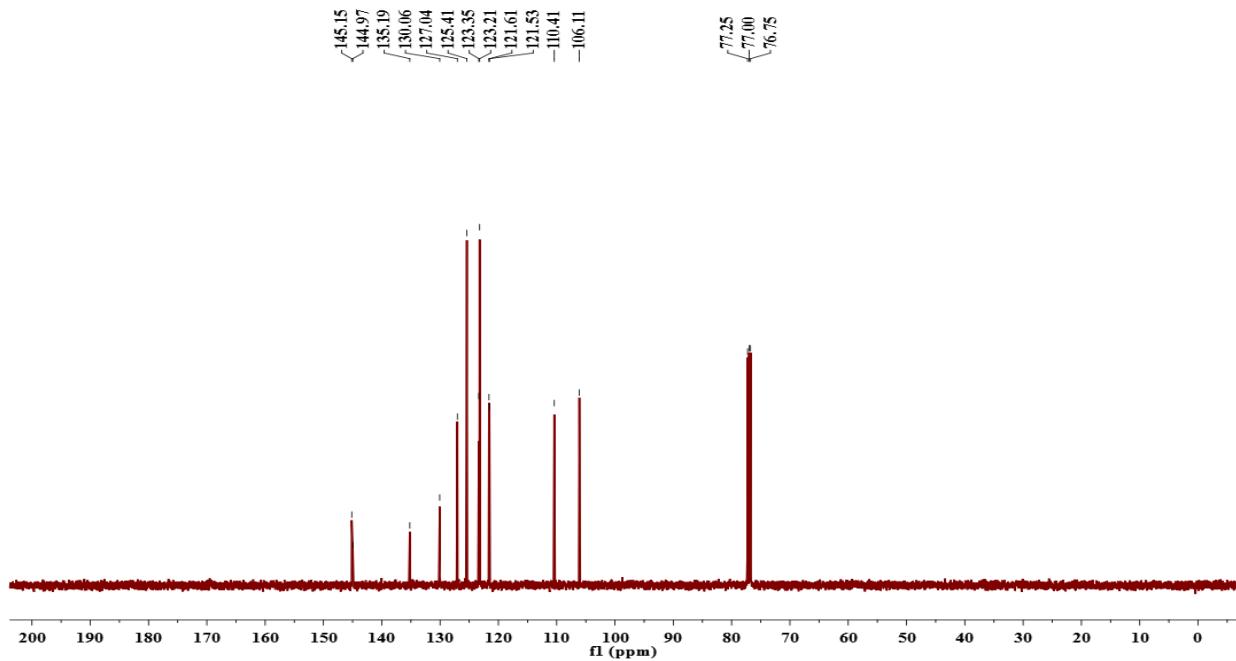
**Figure S21**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R10** (1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indole {C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



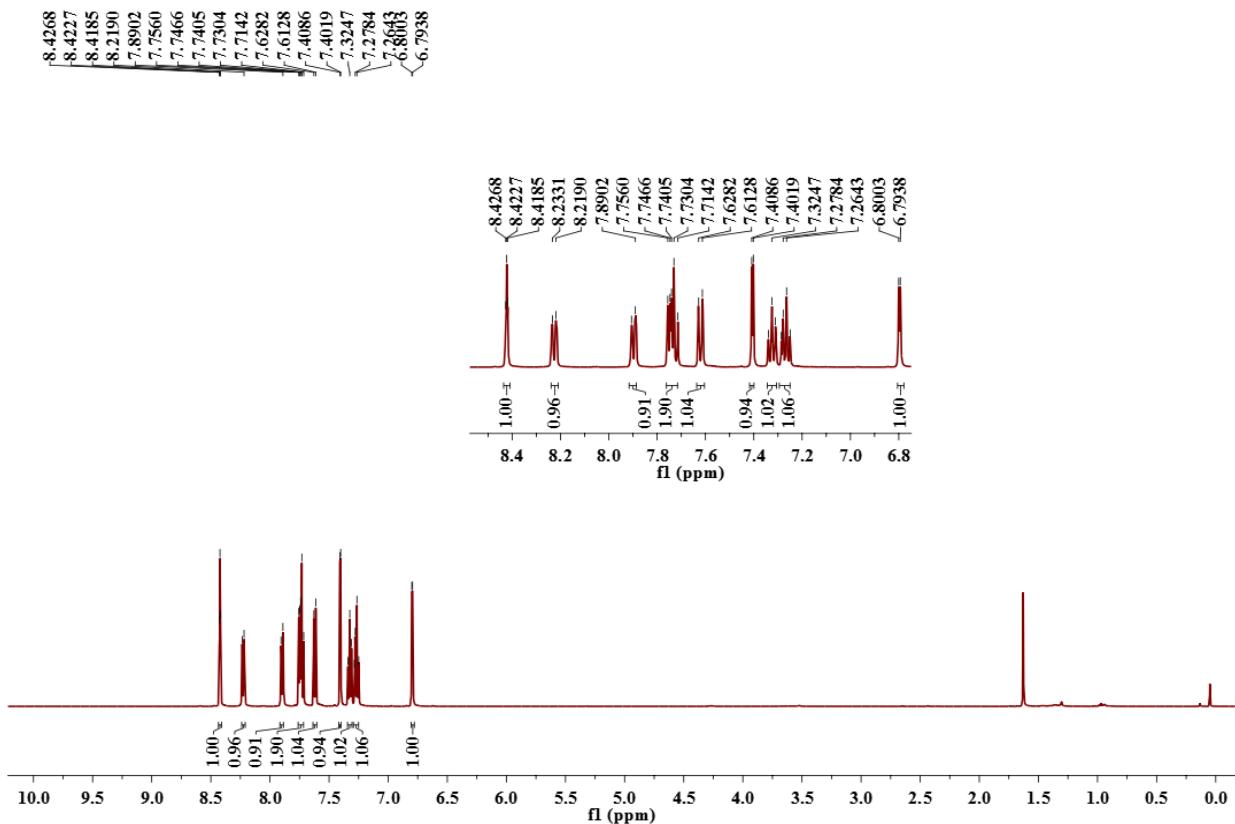
**Figure S22**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R10** (1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole {C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



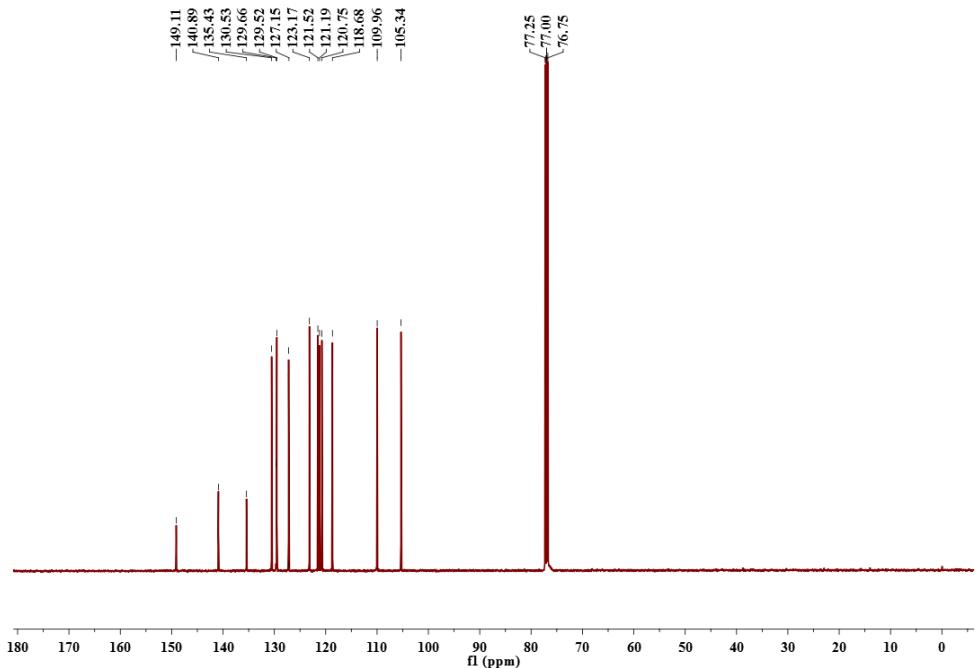
**Figure S23**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R11** (1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1H-indole {C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>}) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



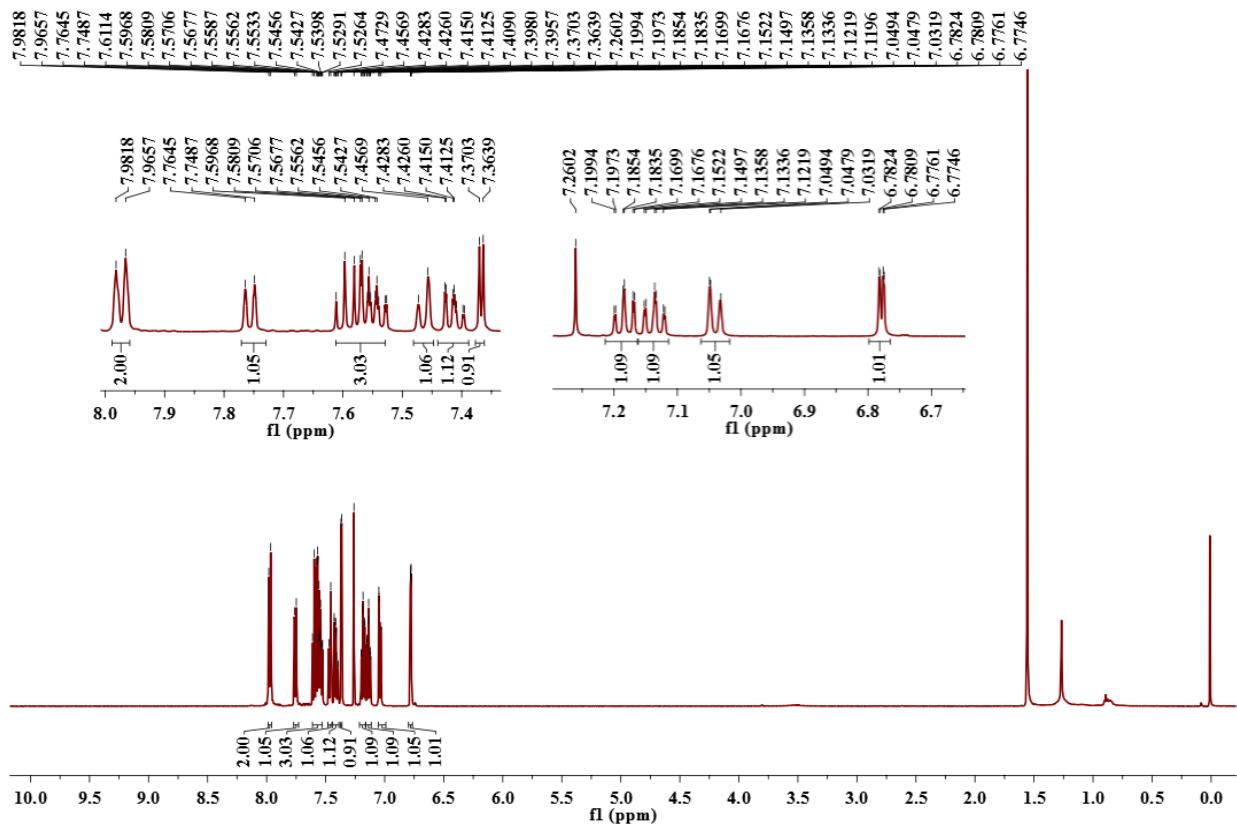
**Figure S24**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R11** (1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1H-indole { $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ }) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



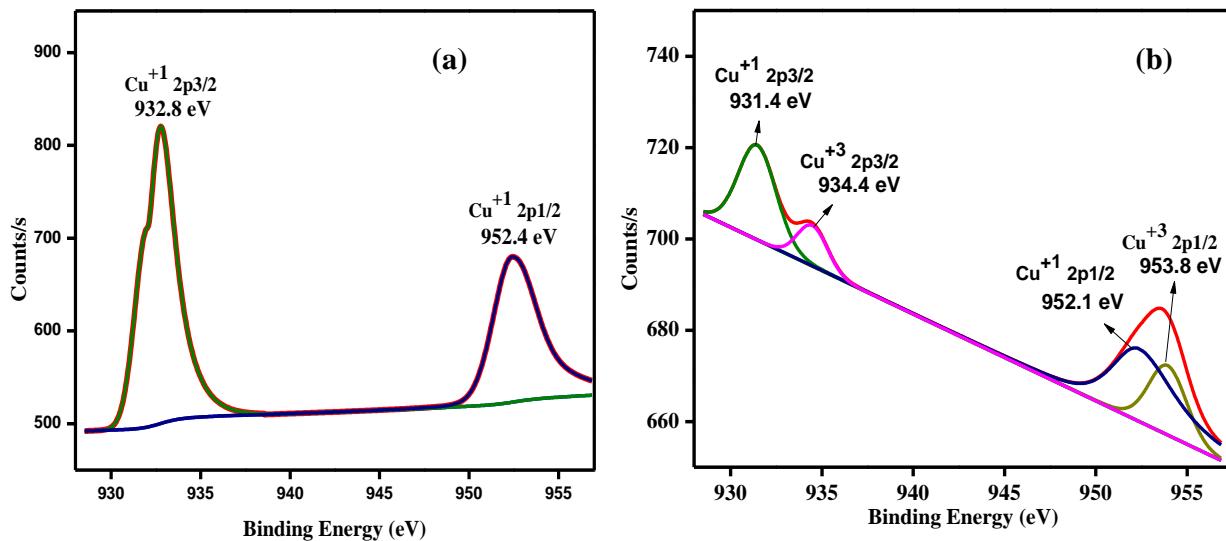
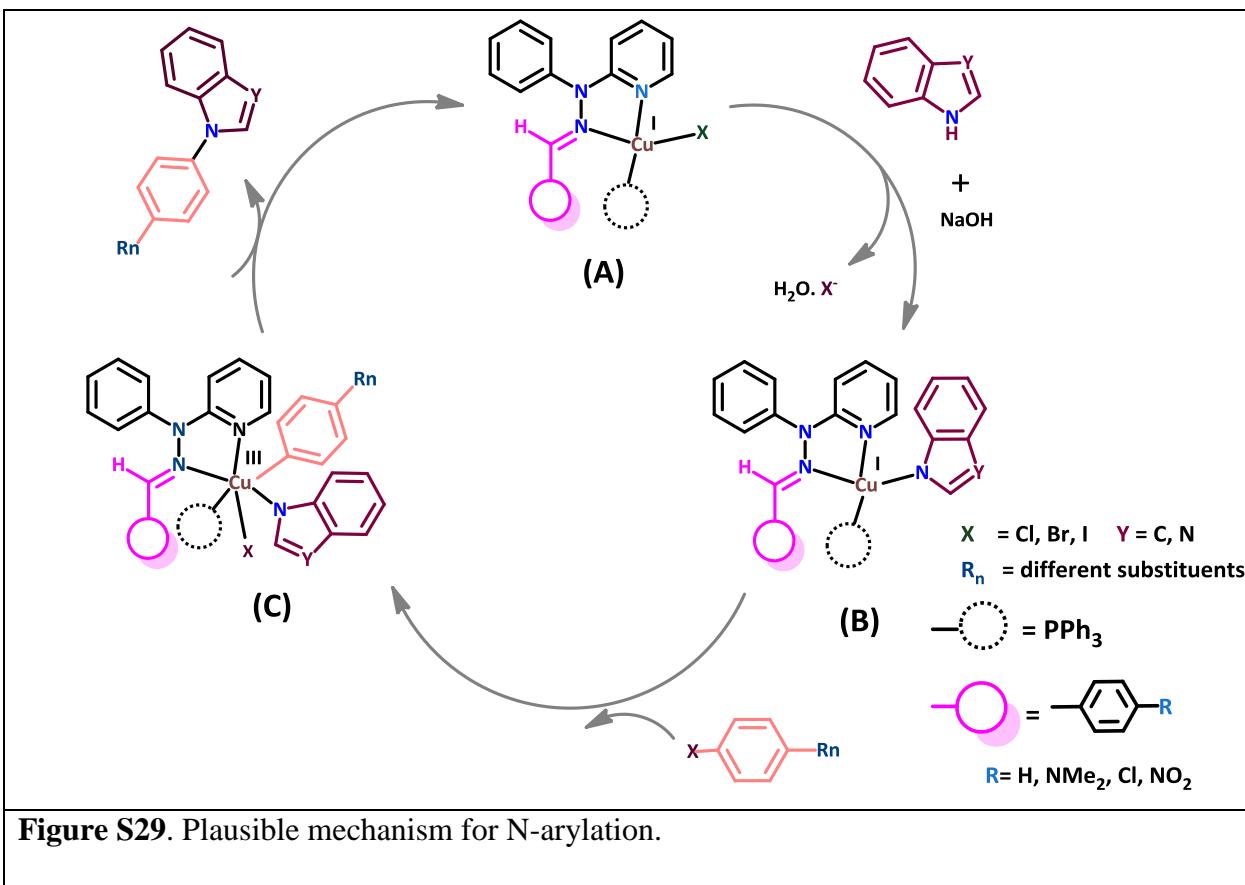
**Figure S25**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **R12** (1-(3-nitrophenyl)-1H-indole  $\{\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\}$ ) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S26**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **R12** (1-(3-nitrophenyl)-1H-indole  $\{\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\}$ ) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S28**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of R13



**Figure S30.** The XPS spectra of the 2p level of copper and deconvolution peaks of the Cu species: deconvoluted (red), Cu(I) (olive and navy blue), Cu(III) (pink and dark yellow), (a) precatalyst Cu(I) and (b) precatalyst Cu(I) after treatment with NaOH, benzimidazole and iodobenzene in DMSO at 110 °C after 30 min.