

Supporting Information

Rh/Cu-Catalyzed Multiple C-H, C-C and C-N Bonds Cleavage: Facile Synthesis of Pyrido[2,1-a]indoles from 1-(Pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indoles and γ -Substituted *tert*-Propargyl Alcohols

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Content	Page number
1. General	2
2. Preparation of Starting Materials	3
3. General Procedure	13
4. Mechanism Studies	31
5. Proposed Mechanism for C-H alkynylation	36
6. References	37
7. X-ray Studies	38
8. NMR Spectra	51

1. General

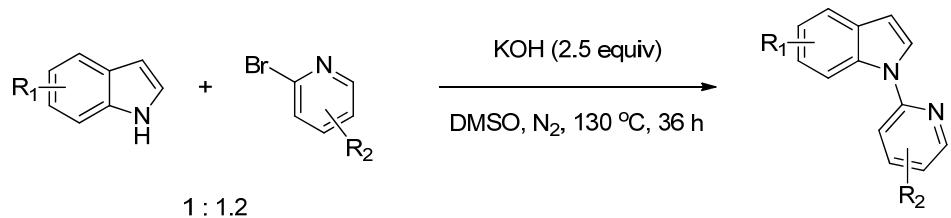
Unless otherwise noted, all reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All glassware was dried overnight at 110 °C prior to use. Chromatography was performed on 300-400 mesh silica gel. Melting points were determined on a Mel-Temp apparatus and are reported uncorrected. Mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on Bruker En Apex ultra 7.0T FT-MS by the Public Instrument Platform of College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Xiamen University.

^1H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer and a Bruker AV-500 spectrometer in chloroform-d₃. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the internal TMS signal at 0.0 ppm as a standard. The data is being reported as (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet or unresolved, brs = broad singlet, coupling constant (s) in Hz, integration).

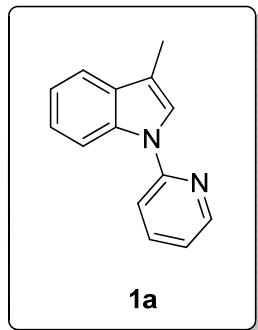
^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer and a Bruker AV-500 spectrometer in chloroform-d₃. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the internal chloroform signal at 77.0 ppm as a standard.

2. Preparation of Starting Materials

Compounds **1a-1o** were prepared according to the known procedures.¹

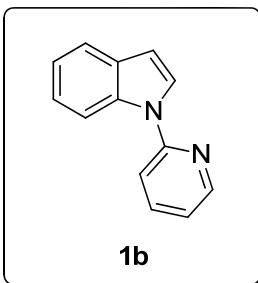


3-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (1a**)**



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.40 (m, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dt, *J* = 2.2 Hz, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.11 (dt, *J* = 1.1 Hz, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (m, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 152.5, 148.7, 138.2, 135.3, 131.0, 123.2, 123.1, 120.8, 119.3, 119.0, 114.7, 113.8, 113.1, 9.6 ppm. This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.¹

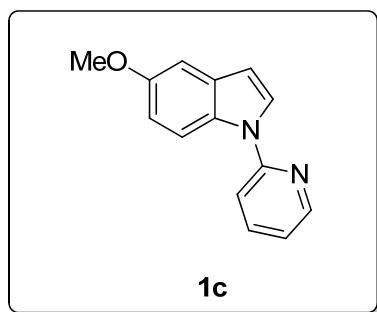
1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (1b**)**



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.61 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 152.5, 148.9, 138.3, 135.1, 130.4, 126.0, 123.1, 121.2, 121.0, 120.0, 114.5, 113.0, 105.5 ppm.

This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.¹

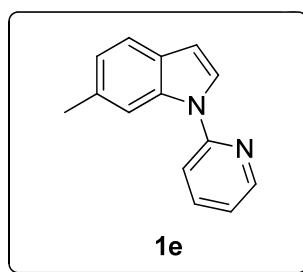
5-methoxy-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (1c)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.55 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.95 (dd, *J* = 1.9 Hz, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 155.0, 152.6, 148.9, 138.4, 131.2, 130.2, 126.3, 119.7, 114.2, 113.9, 112.7, 105.4, 103.0, 55.8 ppm;

This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.¹

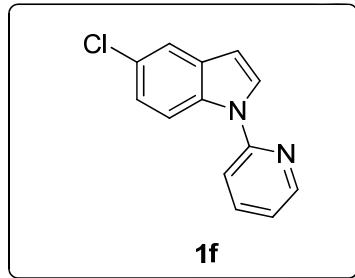
6-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (1e)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.60 = (dd, *J* = 1.0 Hz, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.17(d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81(m, 1H), 7.75(d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (br, 2H), 7.17(m, 2H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 152.5, 148.8, 138.2, 133.3,

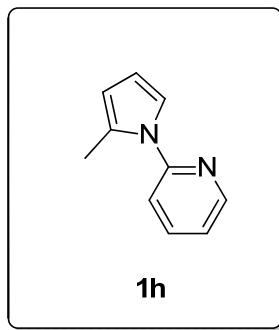
130.7, 130.5, 125.8, 124.5, 120.8, 120.0, 114.1, 112.7, 105.1, 21.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N₂Na (M+Na)⁺ 231.0893, found 231.0898.

5-chloro-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (1f)



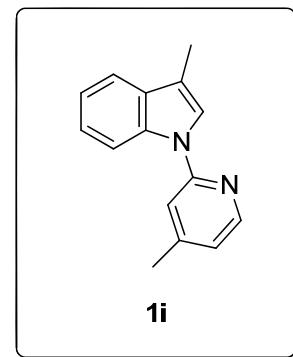
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.59 (m, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 1.9 Hz, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 4.5 Hz, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 152.3, 149.0, 138.5, 133.6, 131.5, 127.0, 126.8, 123.3, 120.4, 120.3, 114.4, 114.3, 105.0 ppm; This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.¹

2-(2-methyl-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)pyridine (1h)



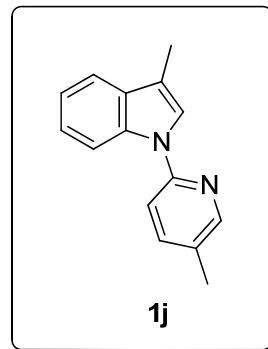
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.53 (m 1H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.31 (dt, *J* = 0.9, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 1.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 153.0, 148.8, 138.2, 129.2, 120.9, 120.3, 117.0, 110.2, 109.1, 14.2 ppm; This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.¹

3-methyl-1-(4-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (1i)



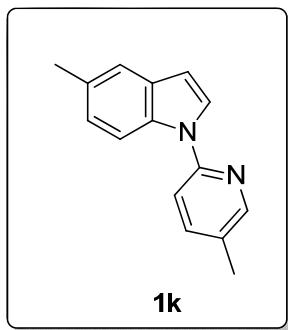
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.33 (m, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.5, 148.9, 139.0, 135.4, 130.9, 129.0, 123.5, 123.1, 120.6, 119.1, 114.2, 113.8, 112.9, 17.8, 9.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₂Na (M+Na)⁺, 245.1049, found 245.1042.

3-methyl-1-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (**1j**)



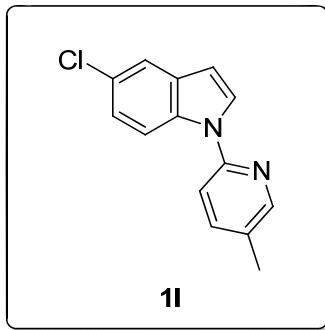
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.42 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.28 (m, 3H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 152.8, 149.6, 148.5, 135.4, 131.0, 123.4, 123.1, 120.8, 120.7, 119.1, 114.7, 114.5, 113.1, 21.3, 9.7 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₂Na (M+Na)⁺, 245.1049, found 245.1042.

5-methyl-1-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (**1k**)



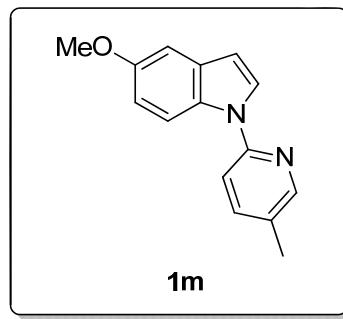
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.26 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 1.9, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.5, 149.0, 138.9, 133.4, 130.6, 130.3, 129.3, 126.1, 124.5, 120.8, 114.0, 112.4, 104.7, 21.4, 17.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₂Na (M+Na)⁺, 245.1049, found 245.1042.

5-chloro-1-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (**1l**)



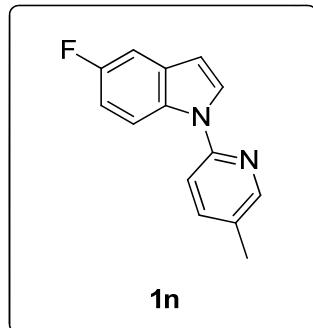
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.31 (dd, *J* = 0.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (dd, *J* = 0.6, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.1, 149.0, 139.1, 133.5, 131.2, 130.0, 127.2, 126.6, 123.1, 120.4, 114.1, 114.0, 104.5, 17.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₁N₂ClNa (M+Na)⁺, 265.0503, found 265.0505.

5-methoxy-1-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (**1m**)



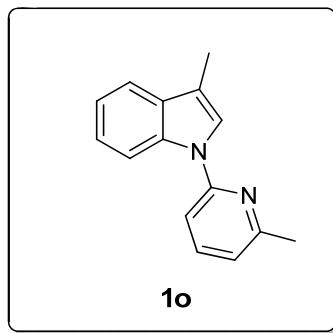
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.29 (dd, *J* = 0.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 154.9, 150.4, 148.9, 138.9, 130.9, 130.2, 129.3, 126.4, 113.8, 112.6, 104.8, 102.9, 55.8, 17.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₂ONa (M+Na)⁺, 261.0998, found 261.0991.

5-fluoro-1-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (**1n**)



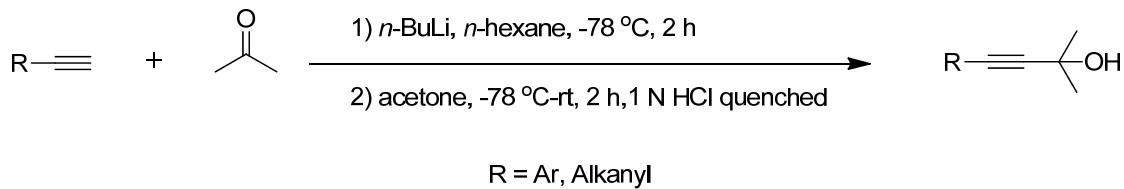
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (m, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 158.4 (*J*_{CF} = 235.6 MHz), 150.3, 148.9, 139.1, 131.7, 130.8 (*J*_{CF} = 10.1 MHz), 129.8, 127.4, 114.0, 113.9, 111.0 (*J*_{CF} = 25.6 MHz), 105.8 (*J*_{CF} = 23.1 MHz), 104.8 (*J*_{CF} = 4.1 MHz), 17.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₁N₂FNa (M+Na)⁺, 249.0798, found 249.0799.

3-methyl-1-(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (**1o**)

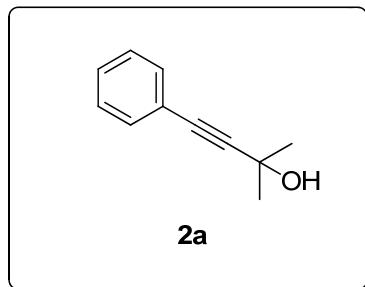


¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 158.1, 152.0, 138.4, 135.4, 131.0, 123.3, 123.0, 120.6, 119.0, 118.8, 114.4, 113.2, 110.8, 24.4, 9.6 ppm. HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₂Na (M+Na)⁺, 245.1049, found 245.1042.

Compounds **2a-2l** were prepared according to the known procedures.²⁻³

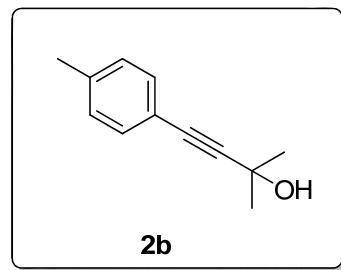


2-methyl-4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-ol (2a)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.21 (m, 3H), 2.16 (br, 1H), 1.54 (s, 6H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 159.5, 133.0, 114.8, 113.8, 92.5, 81.9, 65.5, 55.2, 31.5 ppm. This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

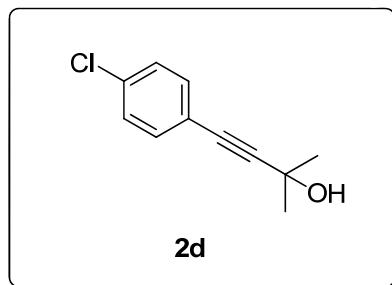
2-methyl-4-(p-tolyl)but-3-yn-2-ol (2b)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (br, 1H), 1.49 (s, 6H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 138.3, 131.5, 129.0, 119.7, 93.2, 82.2, 65.6, 31.5, 21.4 ppm.

This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

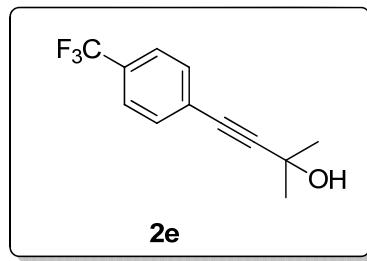
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methylbut-3-yn-2-ol (2d)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (br, 1H), 1.53 (s, 6H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 134.2, 132.8, 128.5, 121.2, 94.7, 81.0, 65.5, 31.4.

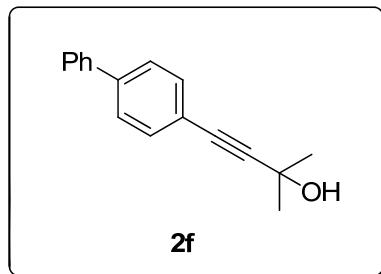
This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

2-methyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-3-yn-2-ol (2e)

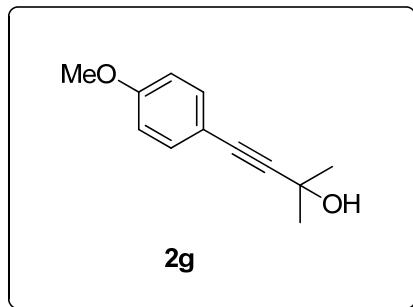


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.54 (m, 4H), 2.34 (br, 1H), 1.65 (s, 6H) ppm.

This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

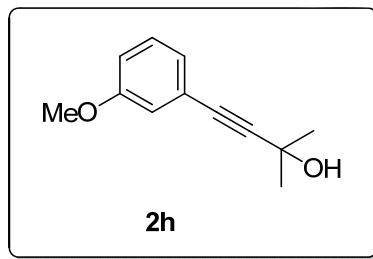
4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-methylbut-3-yn-2-ol (2f)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 3H), 1.99 (br, 1H), 1.56 (s, 6H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 141.0, 140.3, 132.0, 128.8, 127.6, 127.0, 126.9, 121.6, 94.4, 82.0, 65.7, 31.5 ppm. This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylbut-3-yn-2-ol (2g)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.32 (br, 1H), 1.55 (s, 6H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 159.5, 133.0, 114.8, 113.8, 92.5, 81.9, 65.5, 55.2, 31.5 ppm. This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

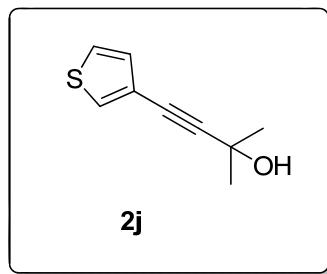
4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylbut-3-yn-2-ol (2h)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.87 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.21 (br, 1H), 1.64 (s, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 159.3, 129.3, 124.2, 123.8, 116.5, 114.9, 93.7, 82.1, 65.6, 55.3, 31.5 ppm.

This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

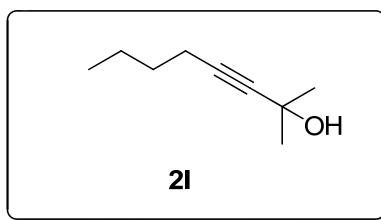
2-methyl-4-(thiophen-3-yl)but-3-yn-2-ol (2j)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.10 (m, 1H), 6.95 (m, 1H), 2.38 (br, 1H), 1.5347 (s, 6H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 129.9, 128.6, 125.3, 121.8, 93.5, 77.3, 65.6, 41.5 ppm.

This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

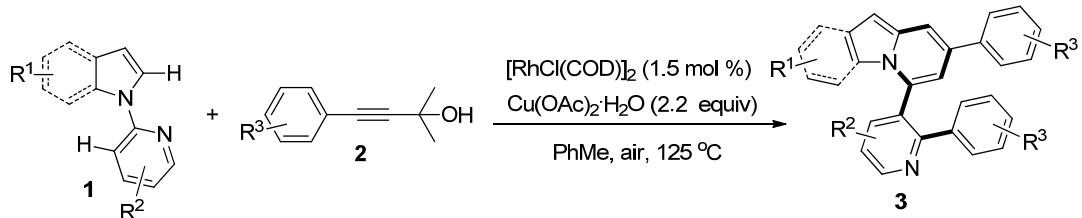
2-methyloct-3-yn-2-ol (2l)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.20 (m, 3H), 1.51 (s, 6H), 1.43 (m, 3H), 1.23 (br, 1H), 1.05 (br, 1H), 0.93 (m, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 85.07, 82.58, 65.30, 31.77, 21.90, 18.25, 13.58 ppm.

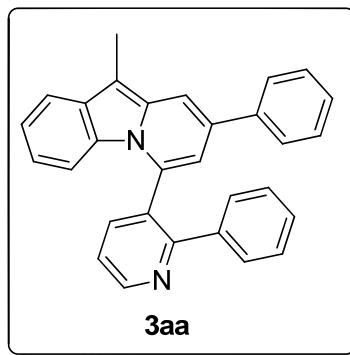
This compound is known and the spectroscopic date match those reported.²

3. General Procedure



A mixture of 1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole derivatives **1** (0.20 mmol), γ -substituted *tert*-propargyl alcohols **2** (0.80 mmol), $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})]_2$ (1.5 mol %), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (88 mg, 0.44 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube under an air atmosphere. Then the mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for desired time (usually 6 h) until complete consumption of starting materials judged by TLC. Then the reaction mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica gel, washed with ethyl acetate and concentrated, the residue was purified by chromatography (ethyl acetate/ hexane = 1/100 to 1/20) to afford the desired products **3**.

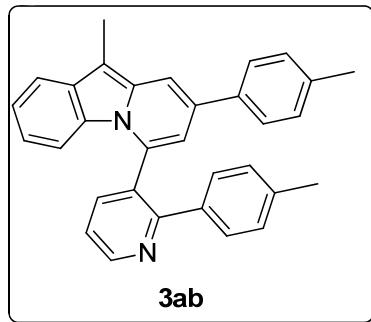
10-methyl-8-phenyl-6-(2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3aa)



3aa: Yield: 78%; yellow solid, 64 mg; m.p: 152-154 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.98 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.03-6.97 (m, 4H), 6.52 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.0, 141.7, 141.4, 139.5, 138.3, 134.9, 133.7, 131.5, 130.7, 130.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.8, 127.2, 126.1, 123.3, 120.6, 117.9, 114.4, 104.8, 101.8, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₀H₂₃N₂ (M+H)⁺, 411.1856, found 411.1859.

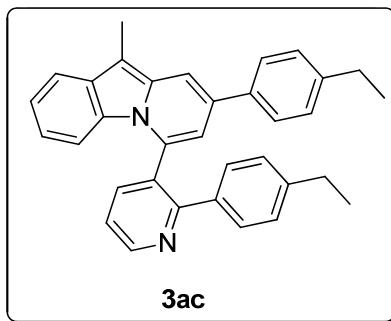
10-methyl-8-(p-tolyl)-6-(2-(p-tolyl)pyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ab)



3ab: Yield: 66%; yellow solid, 58 mg; m.p: 207-209 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.1 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.0, 141.7, 141.3, 138.0, 136.8, 136.7, 135.5, 134.9, 133.8, 131.5, 130.7, 130.3, 129.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 126.0, 123.2, 120.4, 117.8, 114.5, 104.1, 101.4, 21.2, 20.9, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₂H₂₇N₂ (M+H)⁺, 439.2169, found 439.2172.

8-(4-ethylphenyl)-6-(2-(4-ethylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl)-10-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ac)

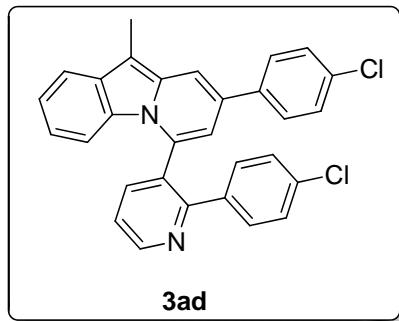


3ac: Yield: 76%; yellow solid, 71 mg; m.p: 220-222 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.37 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.32 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.1, 144.4, 143.1, 141.8, 141.3, 136.8, 135.8, 134.8,

133.8, 131.5, 130.6, 130.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.3, 129.1, 127.9, 127.3, 126.1, 123.2, 120.3, 117.7, 114.5, 104.2, 101.3, 28.7, 28.3, 15.6, 15.2, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₄H₃₁N₂ (M+H)⁺, 467.2482, found 467.2484.

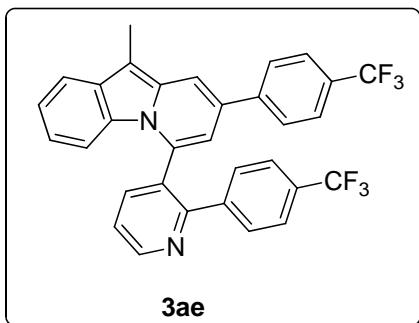
8-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)pyridin-3-yl)-10-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ad)



3ad: Yield: 67%; yellow solid, 64 mg; m.p: 202-204 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 3H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 149.8, 140.3, 140.0, 137.9, 136.6, 134.7, 134.1, 133.4, 133.3, 131.5, 130.6, 130.5, 129.6, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.2, 123.4, 120.9, 118.2, 114.2, 105.0, 102.5, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₀H₂₁Cl₂N₂ (M+H)⁺, 479.1076, found 479.1077.

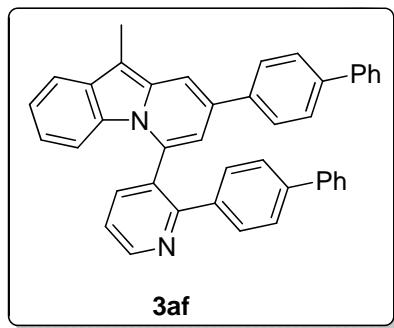
10-methyl-8-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-6-(2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ae)



3ae: Yield: 41%; yellow solid, 45 mg; m.p: 192-194 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.54 (m, 3H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (m, 4H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ 149.8, 143.0, 141.3, 139.8, 134.6, 133.1, 132.8, 131.5, 130.8, 130.6, 129.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 126.1, 125.6, 125.5, 124.7, 123.7, 121.3, 118.5, 114.2, 106.3, 103.5, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₂H₂₀F₆N₂ (M+H)⁺, 547.1603, found 547.1603.

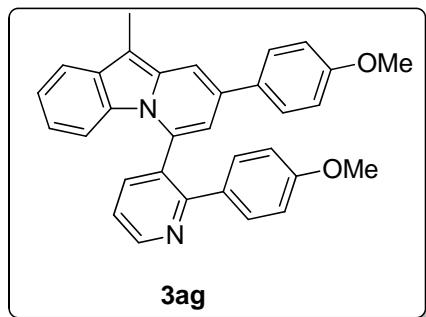
8-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-6-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)pyridin-3-yl)-10-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3af)



3af: Yield: 76%; yellow solid, 85 mg; m.p: 215-217 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.62-7.55 (m, 5H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.1, 142.0, 141.2, 140.9, 140.9, 140.8, 140.4, 140.1, 139.8, 138.5, 137.2, 134.9, 133.7, 132.9, 131.5, 130.6, 130.5, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 126.8, 126.5, 126.4, 123.3, 120.7, 118.0, 114.4, 104.8, 102.1, 8.0 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₄₂H₃₁N₂ (M+H)⁺, 563.2482, found 563.2476.

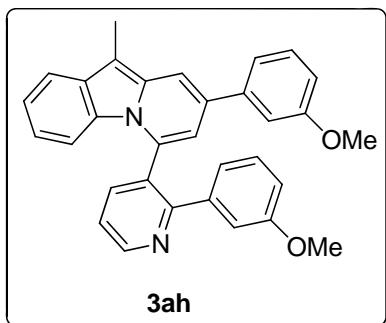
8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridin-3-yl)-10-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ag)



3ag: Yield: 74%; yellow solid, 70 mg; m.p: 165-167 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.00-6.95 (m, 3H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 159.8, 158.7, 150.1, 141.4, 140.9, 134.8, 133.9, 132.0, 131.5, 131.0, 130.5, 130.3, 129.5, 129.2, 128.8, 127.8, 127.4, 123.2, 120.3, 117.7, 114.3, 114.0, 113.3, 103.3, 101.1, 55.3, 54.9, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₂H₂₇N₂O₂ (M+H)⁺, 471.2067, found 471.2064.

8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridin-3-yl)-10-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ah)

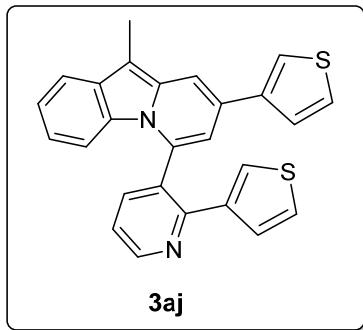


3ah: Yield: 41%; yellow solid, 39 mg; m.p: 168-170 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.74 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.67-7.60 (m, 4 H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.51 (s, 2 H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.80 (s, 1 H), 6.75 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.57 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 3.37 (s, 3 H), 2.47 (s, 3 H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ 160.0, 159.0, 150.7, 141.4, 140.8, 138.8, 133.1, 131.8, 130.8, 130.6, 129.6, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 123.8, 121.1, 120.9, 118.6, 118.2, 114.6, 114.4, 114.3, 113.0,

111.7, 105.5, 55.4, 54.9, 8.0 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₂H₂₇N₂O₂ (M+H)⁺, 471.2067, found 471.2064.

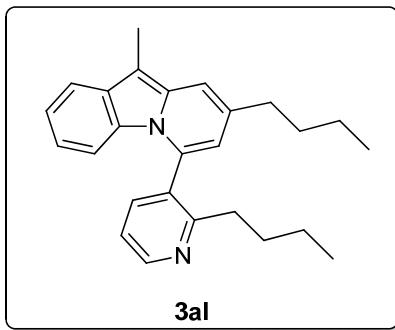
10-methyl-8-(thiophen-3-yl)-6-(2-(thiophen-3-yl)pyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3aj)



3aj: Yield: 76%; yellow solid, 64 mg; m.p: 184-186 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.86 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.62-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.84-6.80 (m, 2H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.37(s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.4, 140.8, 139.6, 138.1, 135.9, 134.3, 133.3, 131.6, 130.5, 130.0, 129.3, 129.1, 128.2, 127.6, 126.3, 125.3, 125.1, 123.4, 123.2, 122.9, 120.7, 117.9, 114.3, 104.4, 102.0, 8.0 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₂₆H₁₉N₂S₂ (M+H)⁺, 423.0984, found 423.0988.

8-butyl-6-(2-butylpyridin-3-yl)-10-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3al)

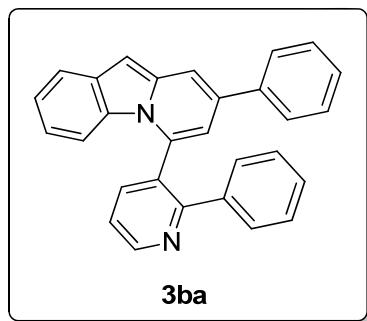


3al: Yield: 41%; yellow solid, 30 mg; m.p: 135-137 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.92 (t,

J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.85-2.70 (m, 2H), 2.55-2.47 (m, 4H), 2.36-2.28 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.22-1.12 (m, 1H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.73 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 150.4, 140.8, 139.6, 138.1, 135.9, 134.3, 133.3, 131.6, 130.5, 130.0, 129.3, 129.1, 128.2, 127.6, 126.3, 125.3, 125.1, 123.4, 123.2, 122.9, 120.7, 117.9, 114.3, 104.4, 102.0, 8.0 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₂₆H₃₁N₂ (M+H)⁺, 371.2482, found 371.2477.

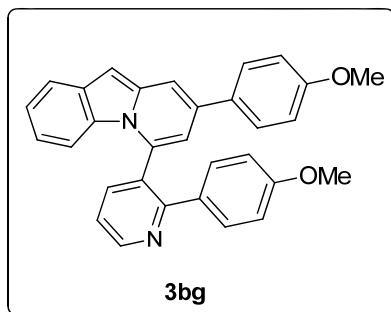
8-phenyl-6-(2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ba)



3ba: Yield: 61%; yellow solid, 48 mg; m.p: 144-147 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.77-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.02-6.95 (m, 4H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 150.0, 142.7, 141.3, 139.3, 137.9, 137.0, 134.7, 131.0, 130.6, 130.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 127.2, 126.1, 123.7, 120.5, 119.9, 114.6, 106.4, 94.3 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₂₉H₂₁N₂ (M+H)⁺, 397.1699, found 397.1701.

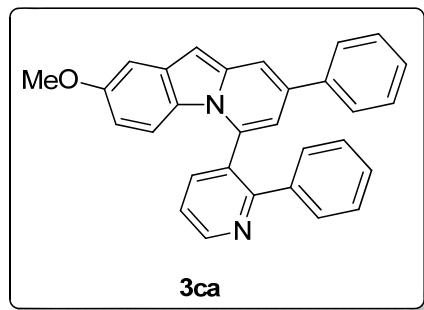
8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3bg)



3bg: Yield: 66%; yellow solid, 60 mg; m.p: 153-155 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.79-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.64 (m, 3H), 7.63-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.76-6.75 (m, 2H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.60 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 160.1, 158.9, 150.1, 142.6, 141.3, 140.8, 139.5, 137.0, 134.8, 131.1, 130.5, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.3, 123.8, 120.9, 120.7, 120.1, 118.6, 114.7, 114.3, 114.2, 112.9, 111.7, 94.5, 55.4, 54.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₁H₂₅N₂O₂ (M+H)⁺, 457.1911, found 457.1919.

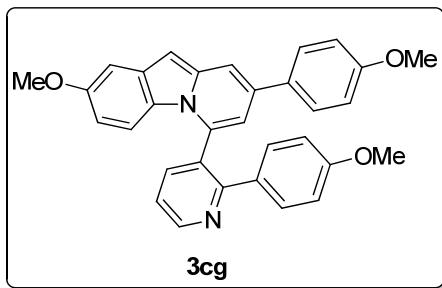
2-methoxy-8-phenyl-6-(2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ca)



3ca: Yield: 68%; yellow solid, 58 mg; m.p: 159-161 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.79-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 2.0 Hz, 4H), 6.65 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 6.42 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 156.7, 149.5, 142.7, 141.3, 139.3, 138.0, 137.8, 134.6, 132.2, 130.6, 130.5, 129.2, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 127.2, 126.1, 124.2, 115.4, 111.1, 106.1, 100.4, 94.0, 55.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z Calcd for C₃₀H₂₃N₂O (M+H)⁺, 427.1805, found 427.1802.

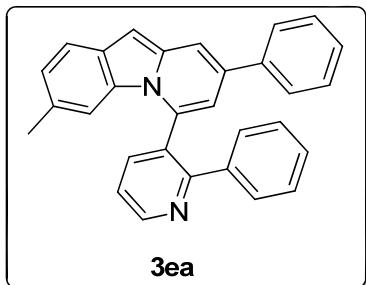
2-methoxy-8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3cg)



3cg: Yield: 78%; yellow solid, 76 mg; m.p: 159-161 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (m, 3H), 6.54 (m, 4H), 6.31 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 160.0, 158.8, 156.7, 149.7, 142.6, 141.0, 138.1, 134.7, 132.3, 131.9, 130.8, 130.6, 130.5, 129.5, 129.3, 127.9, 127.5, 124.3, 115.4, 114.0, 113.3, 110.8, 104.7, 100.4, 93.4, 55.4, 55.3, 55.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z Calcd for C₃₂H₂₇N₂O₃ (M+H)⁺, 487.2016, found 487.2013.

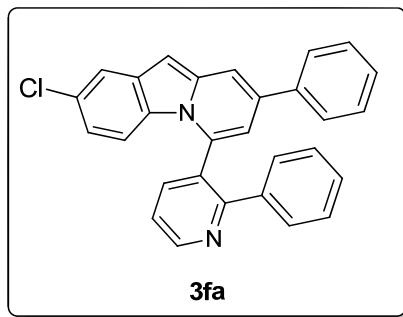
3-methyl-8-phenyl-6-(2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ea)



3ea: Yield: 74%; yellow solid, 61 mg; m.p: 192-194 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (m, 3H), 6.90 (m, 3H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.0, 142.1, 141.4, 139.5, 138.0, 136.6, 134.8, 130.5, 130.4, 130.2, 129.5, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.2, 126.1, 125.5, 119.5, 114.7, 106.6, 94.2, 22.0 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₀H₂₃N₂ (M+H)⁺, 411.1856, found 411.1859.

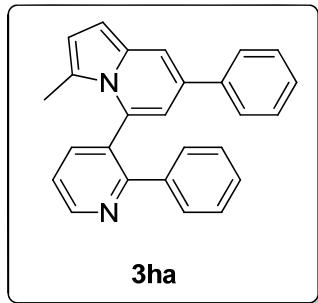
2-chloro-8-phenyl-6-(2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3fa)



3fa: Yield: 61%; yellow solid, 53 mg; m.p: 159-161 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.01 (m, 3H), 6.91 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.0, 143.4, 141.3, 139.1, 138.3, 137.7, 134.4, 132.0, 130.8, 130.7, 129.6, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 127.4, 126.3, 120.8, 119.1, 115.5, 106.3, 93.7 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₂₉H₂₀ClN₂ (M+H)⁺, 431.1310, found 431.1316.

3-methyl-7-phenyl-5-(2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)indolizine (3ha)

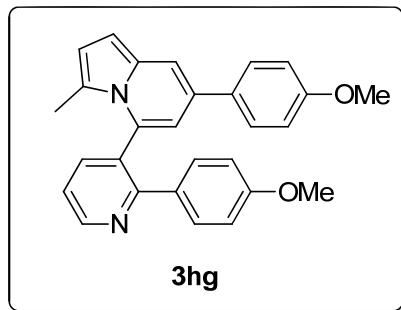


3ha: Yield: 61%; yellow solid, 44 mg; m.p: 135-137 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.84 (dd, *J* = 1.3, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 1.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dt, *J* = 1.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 1.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dt, *J* = 1.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (m, 3H), 6.30 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (t, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 146.9, 141.5, 139.8, 138.5, 137.7, 135.0, 134.3, 130.3,

129.9, 129.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 127.4, 127.2, 126.8, 125.6, 121.5, 117.4, 107.4, 99.8, 14.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for $C_{26}H_{21}N_2$ ($M+H$)⁺, 361.1699, found 360.1692.

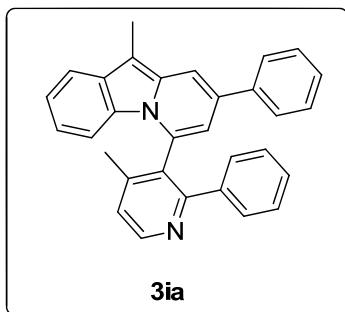
7-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridin-3-yl)-3-methylindolizine (3hg)



3hg: Yield: 66%; yellow solid, 56 mg; m.p: 154-156 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2), 6.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 1.73 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 159.4, 158.8, 147.1, 141.1, 137.6, 134.9, 134.4, 132.3, 131.2, 130.4, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 126.9, 126.3, 121.3, 117.3, 114.0, 113.6, 106.3, 99.2, 55.3, 55.1, 14.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for $C_{28}H_{25}O_2N_2$ ($M+H$)⁺, 421.1911, found 421.1917.

10-methyl-6-(4-methyl-2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)-8-phenylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ia)

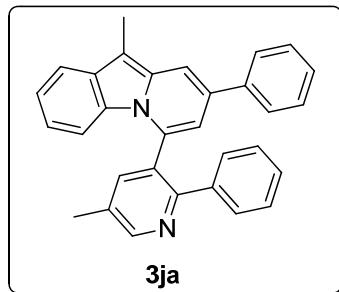


3ia: Yield: 31%; yellow solid, 26 mg; m.p: 174-176 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.88 (dd, *J* = 1.9, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.89 (m, 3H), 6.70 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 6.31 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz,**

CDCl₃): δ = 149.4, 141.7, 141.6, 140.1, 138.4, 136.9, 134.5, 133.3, 131.8, 131.5, 130.0, 129.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.7, 127.0, 126.1, 123.4, 121.0, 118.0, 113.7, 104.7, 101.8, 31.4, 19.2, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₁H₂₅N₂ (M+H)⁺, 425.2012, found 425.2008.

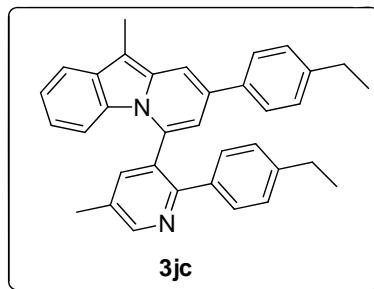
10-methyl-6-(5-methyl-2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)-8-phenylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ja)



3ja: Yield: 84%; yellow solid, 71 mg; m.p: 167-169 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.95-6.81 (m, 4H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.4, 141.5, 139.4, 138.5, 138.2, 138.1, 134.4, 133.6, 131.5, 131.3, 130.6, 129.6, 128.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.7, 127.0, 126.2, 123.3, 120.6, 117.9, 114.6, 104.9, 101.9, 21.1, 7.9 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₁H₂₅N₂ (M+H)⁺, 425.2012, found 425.2008.

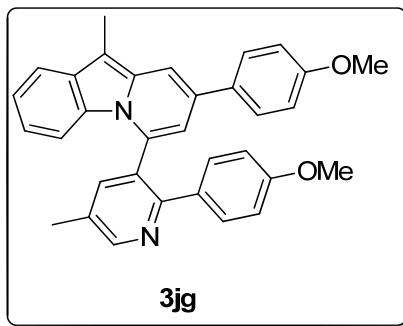
8-(4-ethylphenyl)-6-(2-(4-ethylphenyl)-5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-10-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3jc)



3jc: Yield: 91%; yellow solid, 87 mg; m.p: 184-186 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 3H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 4, 9.7 Hz, 3H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.59 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.32 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.3, 144.4, 142.8, 141.8, 138.4, 137.8, 136.8, 135.8, 134.6, 133.8, 131.5, 131.1, 130.5, 129.6, 128.9, 128.3, 128.1, 127.2, 126.1, 123.2, 120.3, 117.7, 114.6, 104.2, 101.3, 28.7, 28.2, 21.1, 15.6, 15.2, 7.9; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₅H₃₃N₂ (M+H)⁺, 481.2638, found 481.2671.

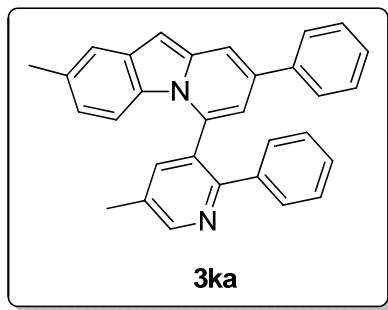
8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-10-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3jg)



3jg: Yield: 86%; red solid, 83 mg; m.p: 222-225 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 9.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (m, 3H), 6.42 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.35 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 159.9, 158.6, 150.4, 141.5, 138.0, 137.7, 134.6, 133.9, 132.0, 131.6, 131.2, 131.1, 130.5, 129.6, 129.5, 128.9, 127.5, 123.2, 120.3, 117.7, 114.5, 114.0, 113.3, 103.4, 101.1, 55.5, 55.0, 21.1, 8.0 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₃H₂₉N₂O₂ (M+H)⁺, 485.2224, found 485.2221.

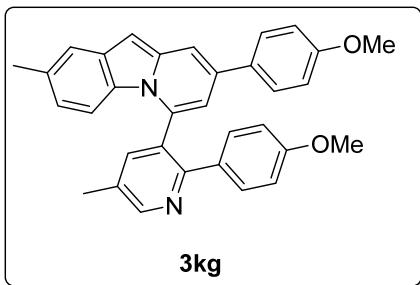
2-methyl-6-(5-methyl-2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)-8-phenylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3ka)



3ka: Yield: 88%; yellow solid, 75 mg; m.p: 161-163 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.00 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.55 (s, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.02 (m, 3H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125MHz, CDCl₃):** δ 150.1, 142.6, 139.4, 138.5, 138.1, 138.0, 137.2, 134.5, 133.4, 131.4, 131.2, 130.5, 129.6, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 127.0, 126.2, 122.4, 119.5, 114.3, 106.4, 93.8, 21.5, 21.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₁H₂₅N₂(M+H)⁺, 425.2012, found 425.2008.

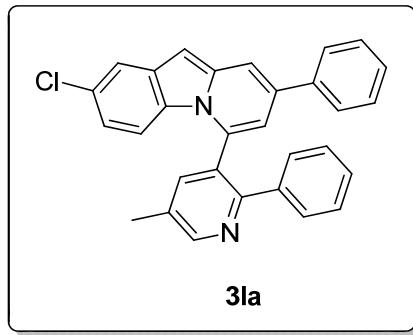
8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-2-methylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3kg)



3kg: Yield: 84%; yellow solid, 81 mg; m.p: 187-189 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 = (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (m, 3H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 159.0, 157.6, 149.3, 141.3, 137.0, 136.7, 136.4, 133.3, 132.3, 130.9, 130.5, 130.2, 129.7, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 126.6, 126.5, 121.2, 118.3, 113.3, 113.0, 112.3, 104.0, 92.3, 54.4, 54.0, 20.5, 20.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₃H₂₉N₂O₂(M+H)⁺, 485.2224, found 484.2226.

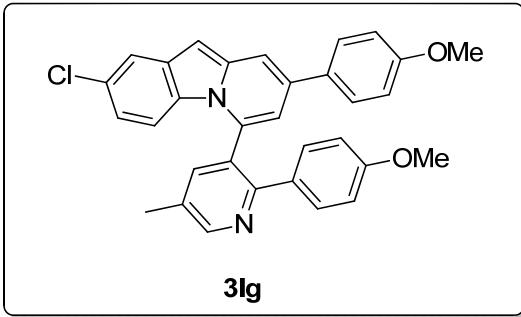
2-chloro-6-(5-methyl-2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)-8-phenylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3la)



3la: Yield: 74%; yellow solid, 66 mg; m.p: 171-173 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.93 = (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.87 (m, 3H), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 150.2, 143.4, 139.0, 138.4, 138.3, 138.2, 137.7, 137.2, 134.0, 132.0, 131.5, 130.5, 129.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.8, 127.5, 127.2, 126.3, 120.7, 119.0, 115.6, 106.3, 93.7, 21.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₀H₂₂ClN₂ (M+H)⁺, 445.1466, found 445.1472.

2-chloro-8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methylpyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3lg)

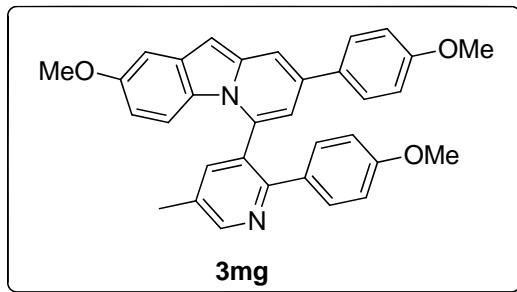


3lg: Yield: 84%; yellow solid, 85 mg; m.p: 187-189 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.92 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 3H), 6.92 (m, 4H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (m, 3H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 160.3, 158.7, 150.3, 143.2, 138.4, 137.9, 134.0, 132.1, 131.5,

131.4, 130.5, 130.4, 129.6, 127.7, 127.5, 120.5, 118.9, 115.6, 114.1, 114.0, 113.3, 104.8, 93.1, 55.4, 55.0, 21.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for $C_{32}H_{27}ClN_2O_2$ ($M+H$)⁺, 505.1677, found 505.1674.

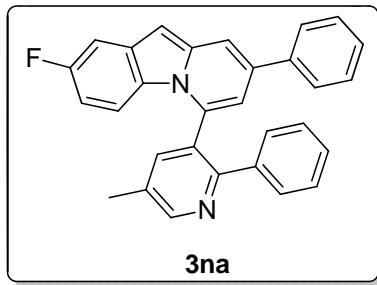
2-methoxy-8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methylpyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3mg)



3mg: Yield: 79%; yellow solid, 79 mg; m.p: 188-190 °C.

1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.89 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, J = 1.2, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.48 (dd, J = 2.4, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (m, 3H), 6.23 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 160.0, 158.6, 156.6, 149.9, 142.5, 138.0, 137.9, 137.8, 134.3, 132.3, 131.8, 131.3, 130.7, 130.4, 129.6, 129.4, 127.6, 124.3, 115.5, 114.0, 113.3, 110.8, 104.7, 100.3, 93.4, 55.4, 55.3, 55.0, 21.1 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for $C_{33}H_{29}N_2O_3$ ($M+H$)⁺, 501.2173, found: 501.2171.

2-fluoro-6-(5-methyl-2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)-8-phenylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3na)

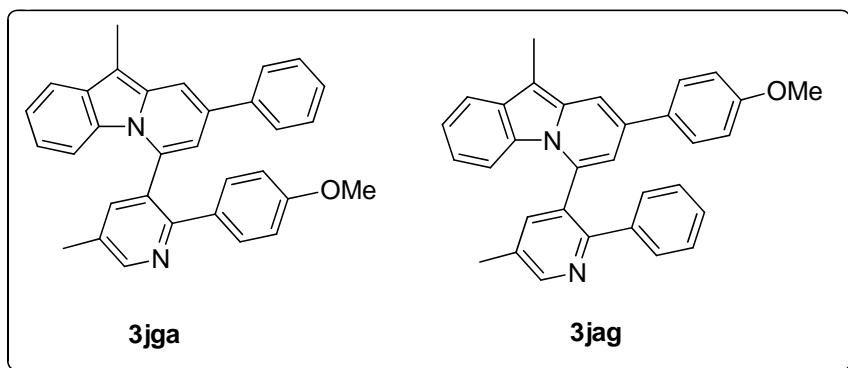


3na: Yield: 74%; yellow solid, 63 mg; m.p: 186-189 °C.

1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.94 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, J = 2.1, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (m,

2H), 6.87 (m, 3H), 6.60 (dt, $J = 2.4, 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 6.33 (dd, $J = 4.4, 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.8 ($J = 240.8$ MHz), 150.2, 143.3, 139.0, 138.5, 138.4, 138.3, 137.7, 134.1, 131.9 ($J = 11.0$ MHz), 131.5, 130.5, 129.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.7, 127.1, 126.3, 125.8, 115.7 ($J = 9.6$ MHz), 109.0 ($J = 25.4$ MHz), 106.1, 104.2 ($J = 23.5$ MHz), 94.2 ($J = 4.5$ MHz), 21.2 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₀H₂₂FN₂ (M+H)⁺, 429.1762, found 429.1766.

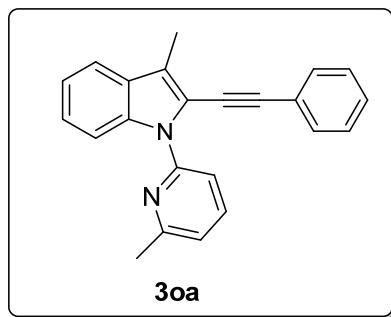
6-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-10-methyl-8-phenylpyrido[1,2-a]indole (3jga) and 8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-10-methyl-6-(5-methyl-2-phenylpyridin-3-yl)pyrido[1,2-a]indole (3jag)



3jga and 3jag: 1 : 1.1, Yield: 36%.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.95 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2.2H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3.3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 159.8, 158.6, 150.4, 150.1, 141.6, 141.5, 139.5, 138.4, 138.3, 138.1, 138.0, 137.7, 134.7, 134.5, 133.9, 133.6, 131.9, 131.5, 131.4, 131.2, 131.0, 130.5, 130.4, 129.6, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.7, 127.4, 126.9, 126.1, 123.2, 123.1, 120.5, 120.2, 117.8, 117.7, 114.5, 114.4, 114.0, 113.3, 104.8, 103.3, 101.7, 101.0, 55.3, 55.0, 21.1, 21.0, 7.9, 7.8 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₃₂H₂₇ON₂ (M+H)⁺, 455.2118, found 455.2119.

3-methyl-1-(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)-2-(phenylethynyl)-1*H*-indole (3oa)

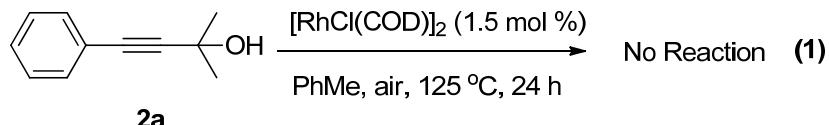


3oa: Yield: 61%; colorless solid, 39 mg; m.p: 150-152 °C.

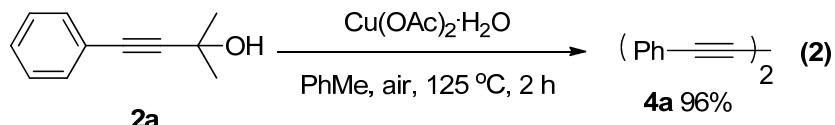
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 = (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 158.0, 150.9, 137.9, 136.6, 131.0, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 124.4, 123.2, 121.2, 121.0, 120.8, 119.1, 118.5, 116.6, 112.1, 98.2, 81.5, 24.3, 9.9; HRMS m/z (ESI) Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₂Na (M+Na)⁺, 345.1362, found 345.1367.

4. Mechanism Studies

4.1 Stoichiometric reactions of **2a** with $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})]_2$ and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

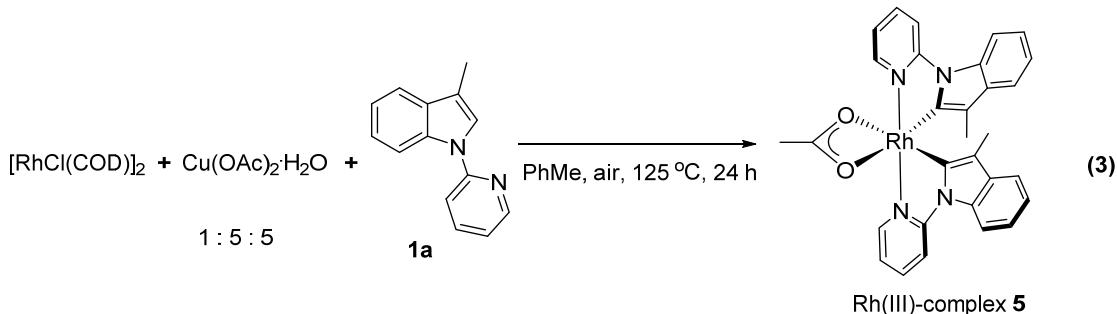


A mixture of 2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-butyn-2-ol **2a** (0.80 mmol), $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})]_2$ (1.5 mol %, 0.024 mmol) and toluene (2 ml) were added to a Schlenk tube under an air atmosphere. Then the mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for 24 h. Only trace amount of **4a** was detected by TLC.



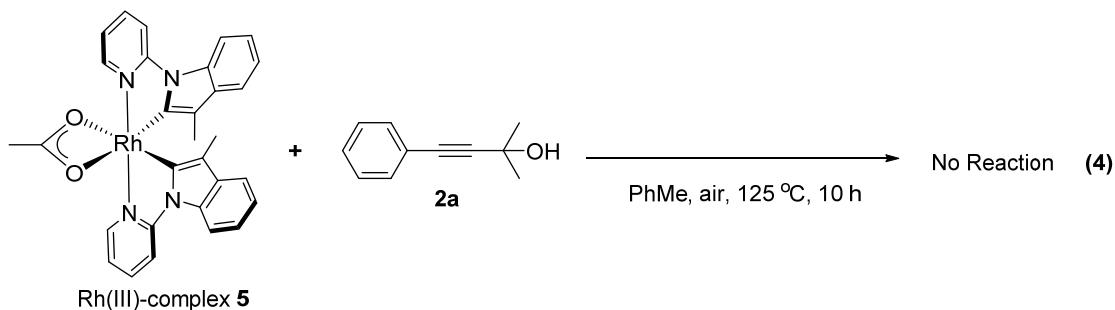
A mixture of 2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-butyn-2-ol **2a** (0.80 mmol), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (80 mg, 0.40 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube under an air atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for 2 h, which was then filtered through a short plug of silica gel, washed with ethyl acetate and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography (hexane) to afford the desired products **4a** in 96% isolated yield.

4.2 Stoichiometric reactions of **1a** with $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})]_2$ in the presence of $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

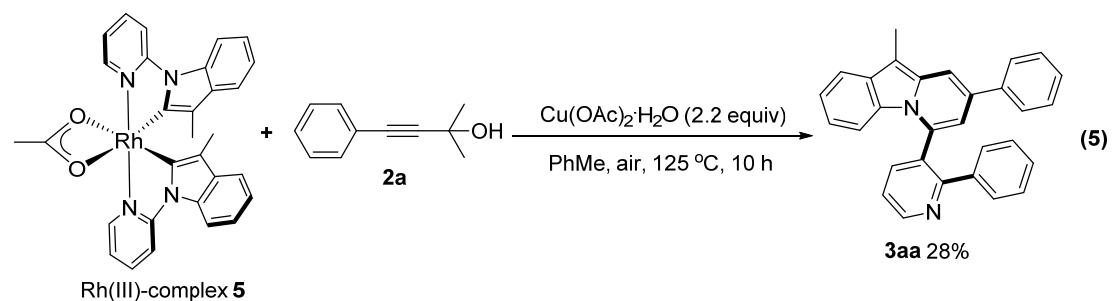


A mixture of $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})]_2$ (0.2 mmol), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (200 mg, 1 mmol), 1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole **1a** (208 mg, 1 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube under an air atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for 24 h, which was then concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography (methanol/ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/20/100) to afford the desired product **5** in 85% isolated yield. **5**: Yield: 85%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.72 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (m, 6H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H) ppm; The poor solubility of complex **5** prevented $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR characterization.

4.3 Stoichiometric reactions of complex **6** with **2a** and copper phenylacetylide **6**

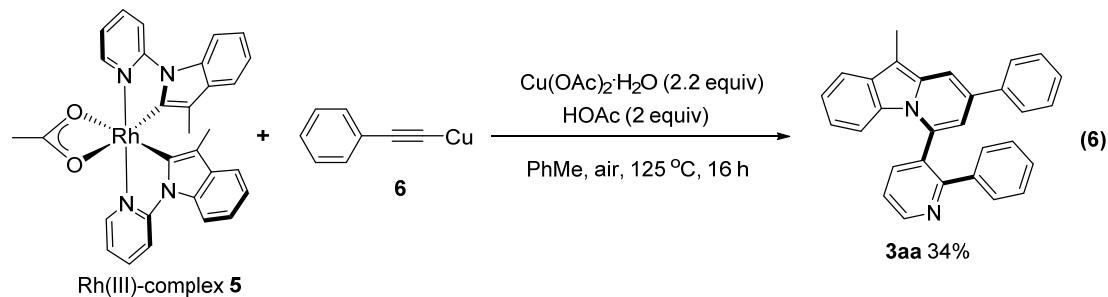


A mixture of **5** (0.2 mmol), 2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-butyn-2-ol **2a** (0.22 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube under an air atmosphere. Then the mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for 10 h. No reaction took place as detected by TLC.



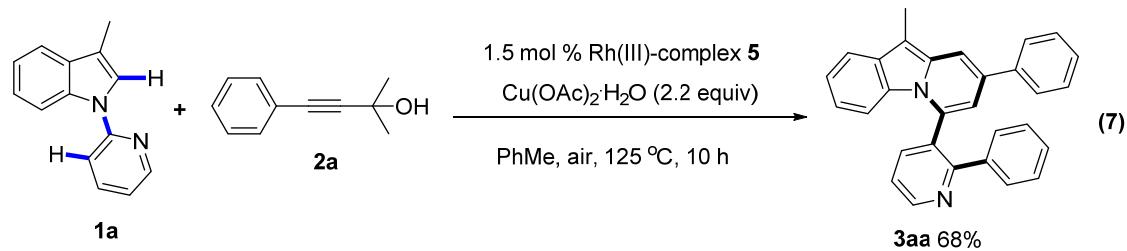
A mixture of **5** (0.2 mmol), 2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-butyn-2-ol **2a** (0.22 mmol), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.44 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube under an

air atmosphere. Then the mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for for 10 h until complete consumption of **2a** judged by TLC. Then the reaction mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica gel, washed with ethyl acetate and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/50) to afford the desired products **3aa** in 28% isolated yield based on comlex **5**.



A mixture of **5** (0.2 mmol), PhC≡CCu **6** (1.0 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (0.44 mmol), HOAc (0.44 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube under an air atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for for 16 h, which was then filtered through a short plug of silica gel, washed with ethyl acetate and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/50) to afford the desired products **3aa** in 34% isolated yield.

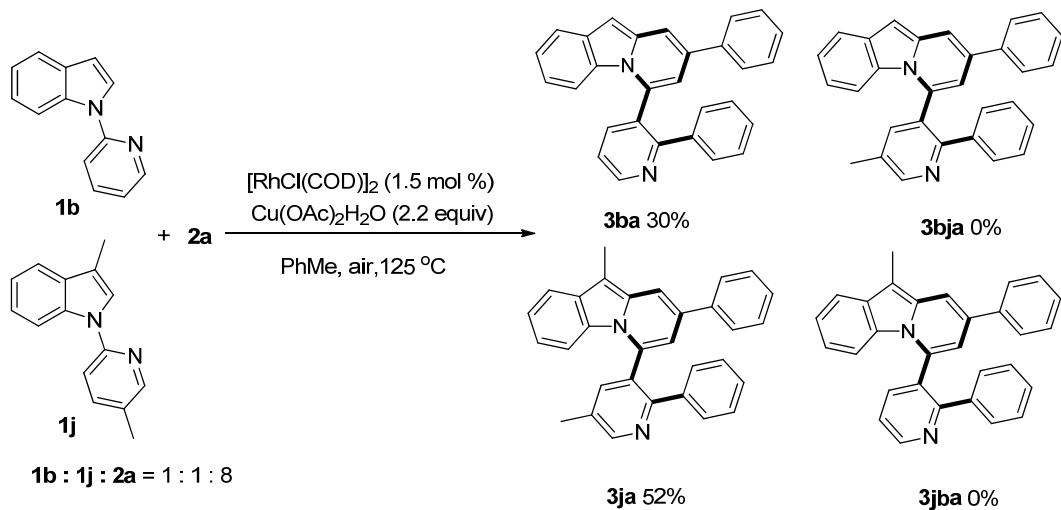
4.4 catalytic activity of complex 5



A mixture of 1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole **1a** (0.20 mmol), 2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-butyn-2-ol **2a** (0.80 mmol), **5** (1.5 mol %), Cu(OAc)₂ ·H₂O (88 mg, 0.44 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) was added to a Schlenk tube under an air atmosphere. Then the mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for about 10 h until complete consumption of **1a** judged by TLC. Then the reaction mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica

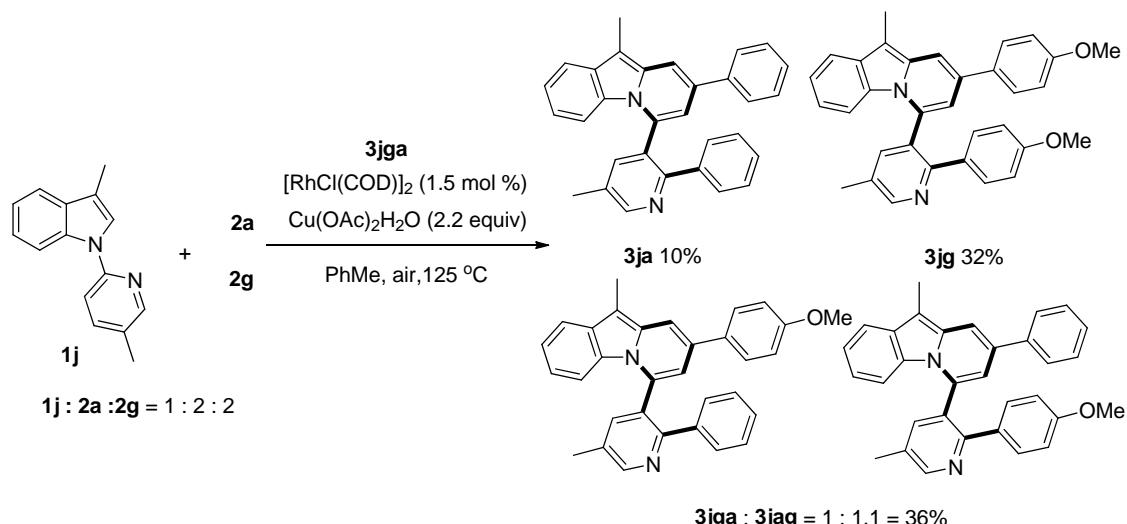
gel, washed with ethyl acetate and concentrated, the residue was purified by chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/50) to afford the desired products **3aa** in 68% isolated yield.

4.5 Cross Reactions between **1b**, **1j**, and **2a**



A mixture of 1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole **1b** (0.10 mmol), 3-methyl-1-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole **1j** (0.10 mmol), 2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-butyn-2-ol **2a** (0.80 mmol), $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})]_2$ (1.5 mol %), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (88 mg, 0.44 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) was added to a Schlenk tube. Then the mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for 8 h until complete consumption of **1b** and **1j** judged by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica gel, washed with ethyl acetate and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography to afford **3ba** in 30% isolated yield (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/150) and **3ja** in 52% isolated yield (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/30).

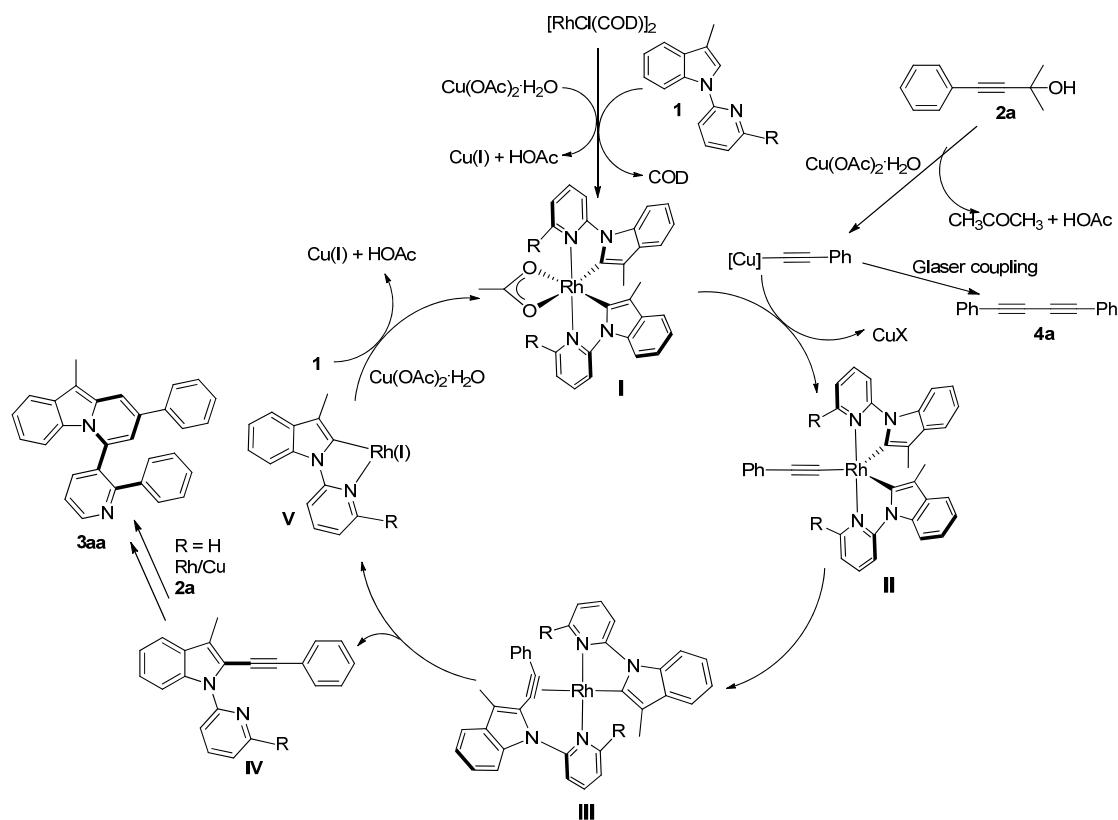
4.6 Cross Reactions between **1j**, **2a**, and **2g**



A mixture of 3-methyl-1-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole **1j** (0.20 mmol), 2-methyl-4-phenyl-3-butyn-2-ol **2a** (0.40 mmol), 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylbut-3-yn-2-ol **2g** (0.40 mmol), $[RhCl(COD)]_2$ (1.5 mol %), $Cu(OAc)_2H_2O$ (88 mg, 0.44 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube. The mixture was stirred at 125 °C (bath temperature, pre-heated) under air for 8 h until complete consumption of **1j** judged by TLC. Then the reaction mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica gel, washed with ethyl acetate and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography to afford **3ja** in 10% isolated yield (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/200), **3jga** and **3jag** as a mixture in 36% isolated yield (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/50), and **3jg** in 32% isolated yield (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/20).

5. Proposed mechanism for C-H alkynylation

It is worthy to note that blocking the C-6 position of the pyridine directing group with a Me group (substrate **1o**) suppressed formation of the corresponding pyrido[2,1-a]indole product and only the the alkynylation product **3oa** was isolated. Probably, the steric hindrance of the Me group at the C-6 position prevented the further transformation of **3oa**. Isolation of **3oa** indicated that the alkynylation step was possibly involved in the catalytic cycle for the formation of pyrido[2,1-a]indolets **3**. Thus it is reasonable to believe that the catalytic reactions start with the direct C-H alkynylation of substrates **1**, which then proceed to undergo a series of transformations to afford the target products finally.



Scheme S1. Proposed mechanism for the C-H alkynylation.

A proposed mechanism for the C-H alkynylation is shown in Scheme S1. Initially, the reaction of $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})_2]$ with $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ leads to formation of active metalating agent **I**. Then, substrate **1a** could react with complex **I** to generate intermediate **II** through chelation with pyridyl nitrogen and subsequent C-H activation of the alkene. Meanwhile, copper phenylacetylide was generated from the reactionn of **2a** with $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ via β -carbon elimination. Transmetalation of the alkynyl group from Cu to Rh generated the

Rh(III) species **III**. Intermediate **III** could undergo a reductive elimination to yield the desired alkynylation product and extruded Rh(I), which could be reoxidized by Cu(II) to the catalytically active species **I** to complete the catalytic cycle. Cu(II) might also regenerate from Cu(I) with O₂ in the air. Meanwhile, copper phenylacetylide generated in situ could undergo Glaser coupling to afford conjugate diyne **4a** as a byproduct. The alkynylation product **3aa** could react with another **2a** to yield pyrido[2,1-a]indole skeleton.

Unfortunately, our further attempt to detect or isolate other intermediates from the reaction mixtures failed. The mechanistic details for the further transformation of the alkynylation product to give the pyrido[2,1-a]indole skeleton are unclear yet.

6. References

1. S. Xu, X. Huang, X. Hong, B. Xu, *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 4614.
2. S. Ma, B. Wu, X. Jiang, S. Zhao, *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 2568-2575.
3. Y. Yu, W. Yang, F. Rominger, A.-S.-K. Hashmi, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 7586.

7. X-ray studies

7.1 X-ray Crystal Structures of 3af

The data (CCDC1032403) can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

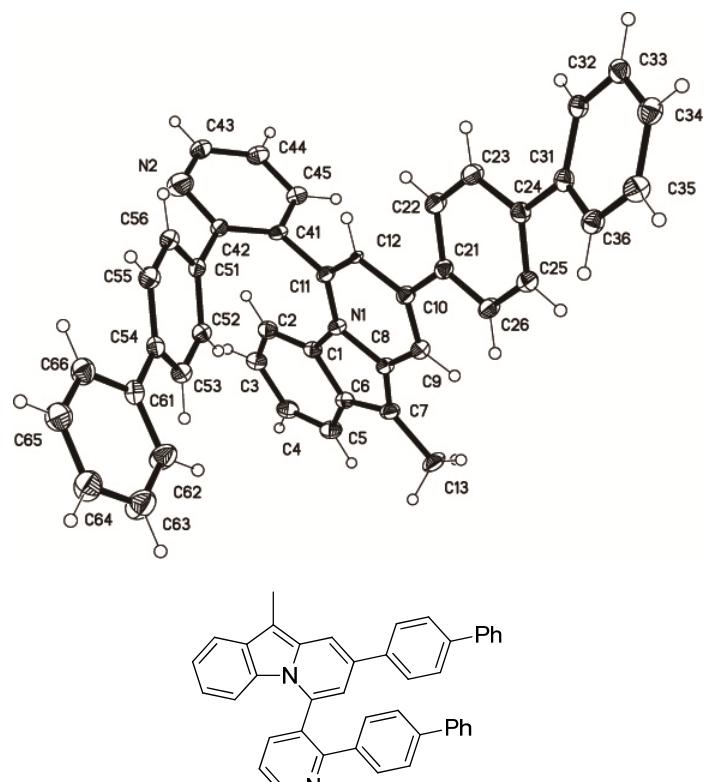
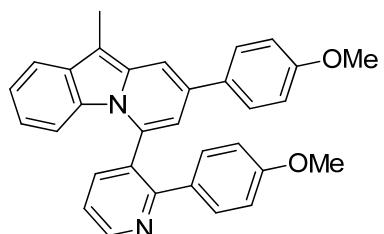
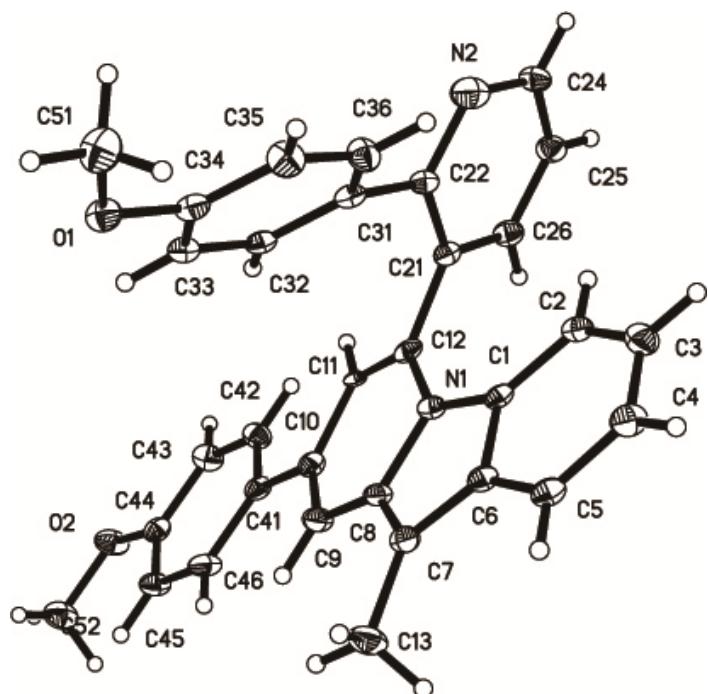


Table S1: Crystallographic Details for **3af**

Complex NO.	3af
empirical formula	C ₄₂ H ₃₀ N ₂
formula weight	562.68
temperature, K	173(2)
radiation (Mo K α), Å	0.71073
crystal system	Triclinic
space group	P-1
a, Å	11.0719(10)
b, Å	11.9763(11)
c, Å	12.7664(9)
α , °	95.060(7)
β , °	92.632(6)
γ , °	117.362(9)
V , Å ³	1490.4(2)
Z	2
d_{calcd} , g cm ⁻³	1.254
abs coeff, mm ⁻¹	0.073
$F(000)$	592
crystal size, mm	0.15 x 0.13 x 0.11
θ range, °	3.22 to 26.00
indep reflns	10217 / 5857 [R(int) = 0.0266]
data-restraints-params	5857 / 0 / 397
GOF on F^2	1.134
final R ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	R ₁ = 0.0681, wR ₂ = 0.1520
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0915, wR ₂ = 0.1634
peak and hole, e.Å ⁻³	0.571 and -0.696

7.2 X-ray Crystal Structures of 3ag

The data (CCDC1032402) can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.



3ag

Table S2: Crystallographic Details for **3ag**

Complex NO.	3ag
empirical formula	C ₃₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₂
formula weight	470.55
temperature, K	173(2)
radiation (Mo K α), Å	0.71073
crystal system	Monoclinic
space group	P2(1)/c
a, Å	18.889(2)
b, Å	7.1199(8)
c, Å	18.6541(19)
α , °	90
β , °	104.646(11)
γ , °	90
V , Å ³	2427.3(5)
Z	4
d_{calcd} , g cm ⁻³	1.288
abs coeff, mm ⁻¹	0.080
$F(000)$	992
crystal size, mm	0.15 x 0.13 x 0.12
θ range, °	3.07 to 25.99
indep reflns	10153 / 4763 [R(int) = 0.0611]
data-restraints-params	4763 / 2 / 325
GOF on F^2	1.059
final R ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	R ₁ = 0.0791, wR ₂ = 0.1860
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.1145, wR ₂ = 0.2093
peak and hole, e.Å ⁻³	0.685 and -0.615

7.3 X-ray Crystal Structures of 3ia

The data (CCDC1032405) can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

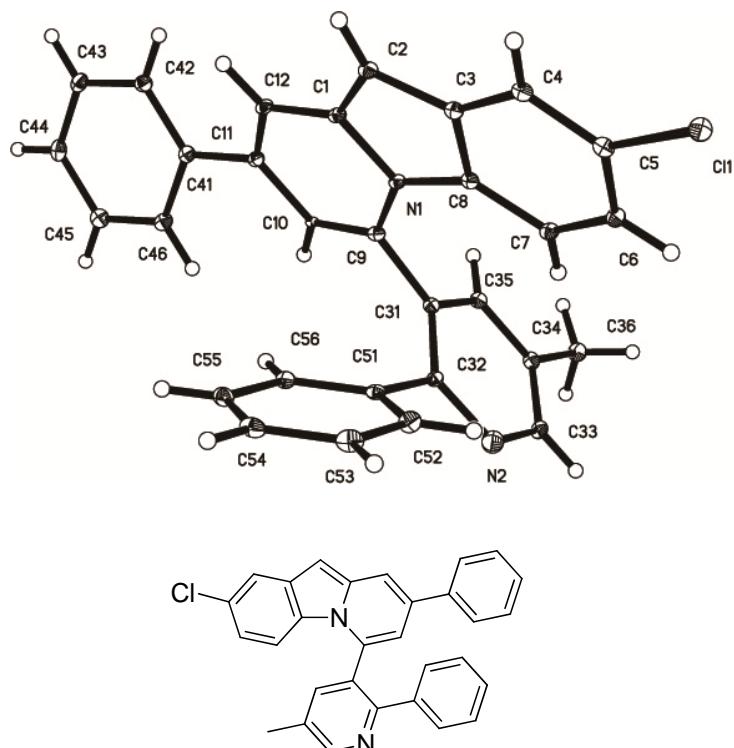


Table S3: Crystallographic Details for **3la**

Complex NO.	3la
empirical formula	C ₃₀ H ₂₁ Cl N ₂
formula weight	444.94
temperature, K	173(2)
radiation (Mo K α), Å	0.71073
crystal system	Triclinic
space group	P-1
a, Å	8.8053(4)
b, Å	11.2771(10)
c, Å	12.0975(13)
α , °	67.401(9)
β , °	89.113(7)
γ , °	83.151(6)
V , Å ³	1100.51(16)
Z	2
d_{calcd} , g cm ⁻³	1.343
abs coeff, mm ⁻¹	0.195
$F(000)$	464
crystal size, mm	0.15 x 0.12 x 0.10
θ range, °	3.42 to 26.00
indep reflns	8275 / 4304 [R(int) = 0.0340]
data-restraints-params	4304 / 0 / 298
GOF on F^2	1.061
final R ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	R ₁ = 0.0630, wR ₂ = 0.1664
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0764, wR ₂ = 0.1778
peak and hole, e.Å ⁻³	0.758 and -0.815

7.4 X-ray Crystal Structures of 3jga

The data (CCDC1032406) can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

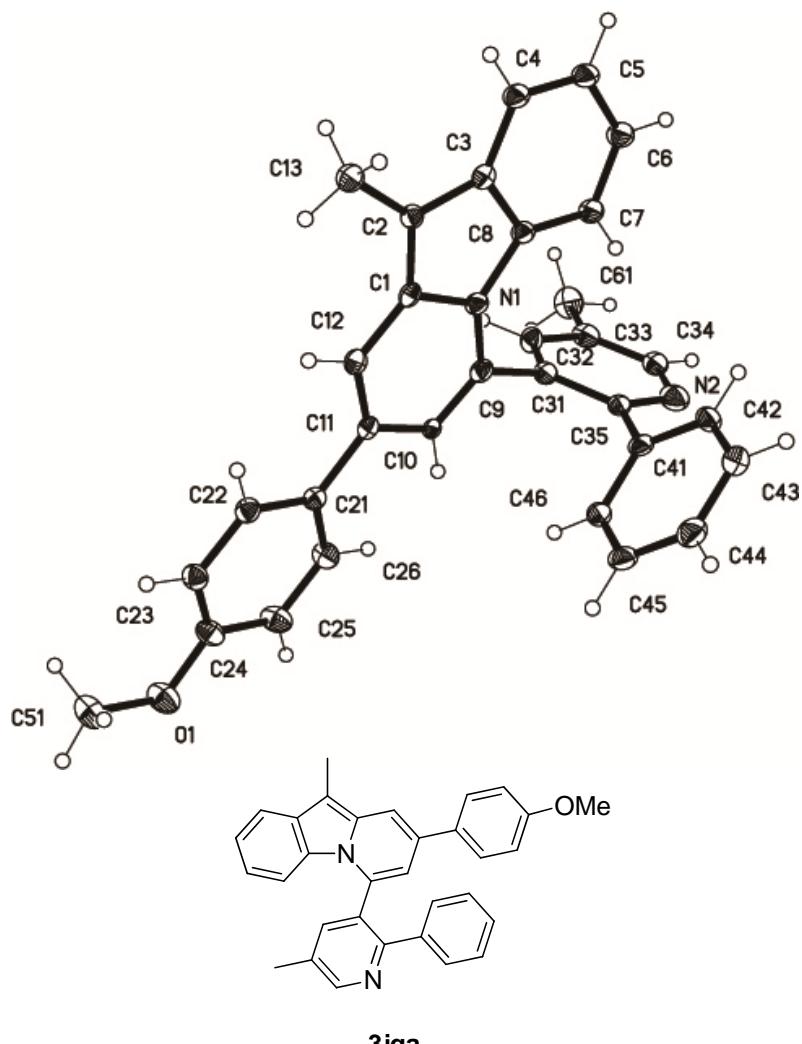
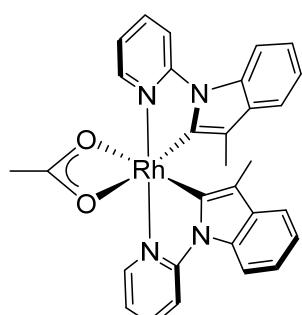
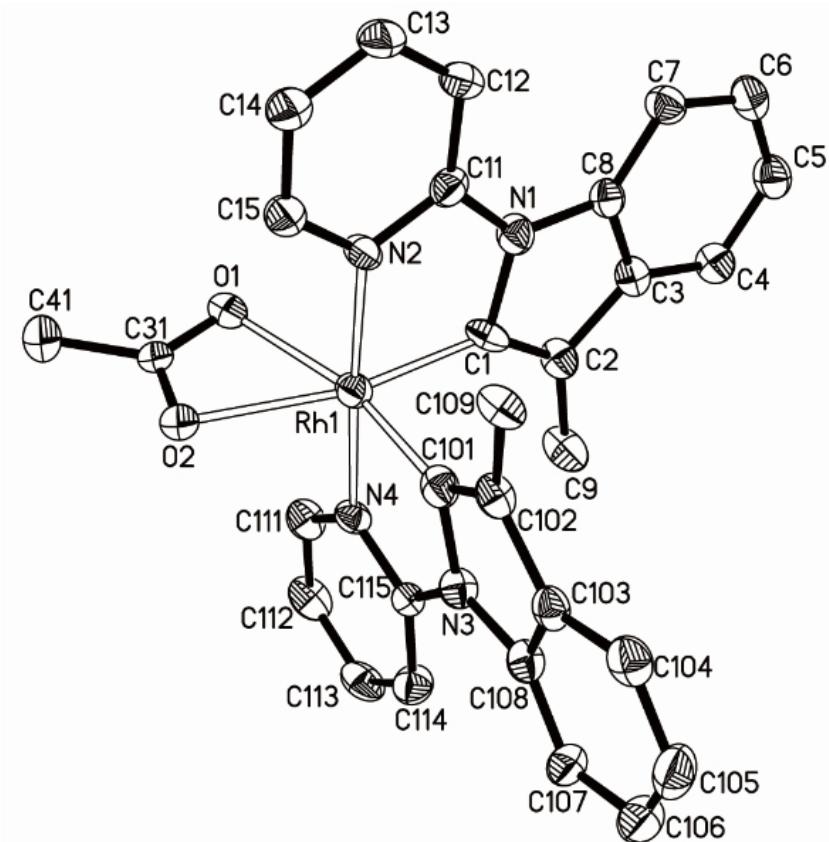


Table S4: Crystallographic Details for **3iga**

Complex NO.	3iga
empirical formula	C ₃₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O
formula weight	454.55
temperature, K	173(2)
radiation (Mo K α), Å	0.71073
crystal system	Monoclinic
space group	P2 ₁ /c
a, Å	9.9489(5)
b, Å	17.1959(6)
c, Å	14.4905(8)
α , °	90
β , °	109.121(6)
γ , °	90
V , Å ³	2342.26(19)
Z	2
d_{calcd} , g cm ⁻³	1.343
abs coeff, mm ⁻¹	0.195
$F(000)$	960
crystal size, mm	0.15 x 0.14 x 0.11
θ range, °	3.42 to 26.00
indep reflns	8275 / 4304 [R(int) = 0.0340]
data-restraints-params	4304 / 0 / 298
GOF on F^2	1.061
final R ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	R ₁ = 0.0630, wR ₂ = 0.1664
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0764, wR ₂ = 0.1778
peak and hole, e.Å ⁻³	0.758 and -0.815

7.6 X-ray Crystal Structures of complex 5

The data (CCDC1032404) can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.



Rh(III)-complex 5

Table S5: Crystallographic Details for **5**

Complex NO.	5
empirical formula	C ₃₀ H ₂₅ N ₄ O ₂ Rh · 0.3 CH ₂ Cl ₂
formula weight	601.93
temperature, K	173(2)
radiation (Mo K α), Å	0.71073
crystal system	Triclinic
space group	P-1
a, Å	9.6401(19)
b, Å	11.069(2)
c, Å	12.562(3)
α , °	82.69(3)
β , °	77.98(3)
γ , °	83.72(3)
V , Å ³	1295.6(4)
Z	2
d_{calcd} , g cm ⁻³	1.543
abs coeff, mm ⁻¹	0.757
$F(000)$	613
crystal size, mm	0.14 x 0.14 x 0.12
θ range, °	3.30 to 26.00
indep reflns	16782 / 4565 [R(int) = 0.0616]
data-restraints-params	4565 / 0 / 362
GOF on F^2	1.051
final R ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)	R ₁ = 0.0505, wR ₂ = 0.1225
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0727, wR ₂ = 0.1693
peak and hole, e.Å ⁻³	0.901 and -0.964

Table S6: Bond lengths [Å] and angles [deg] for **5**.

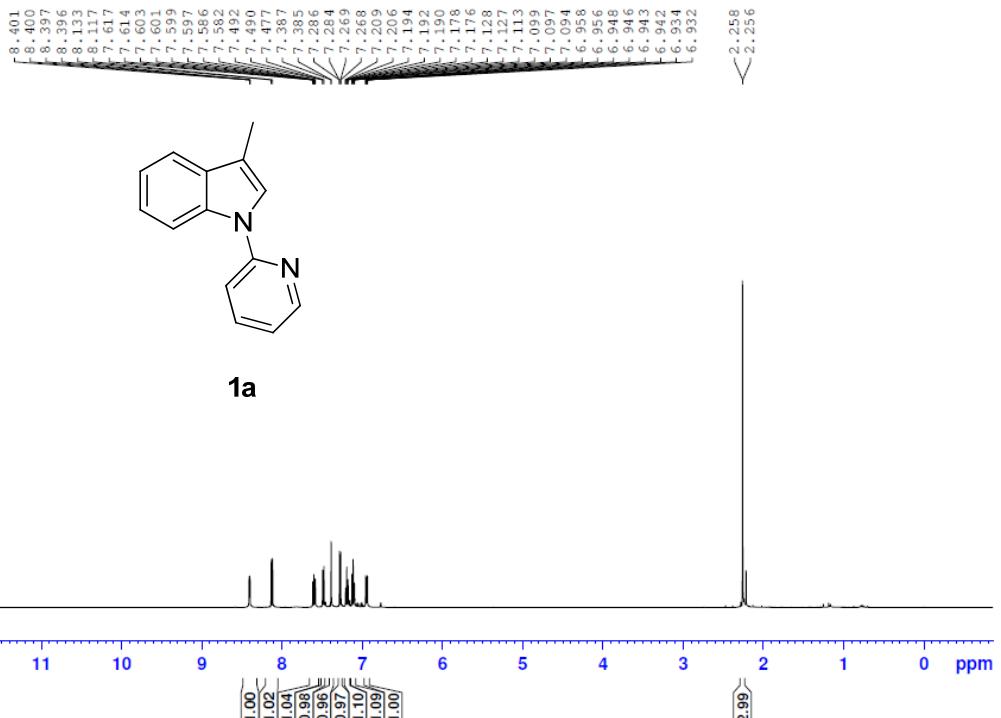
Bond lengths [Å]			
Rh(1)-C(1)	1.967(7)	Rh(1)-N(4)	2.035(5)
Rh(1)-C(101)	1.927(7)	Rh(1)-N(2)	2.037(5)
Rh(1)-O(1)	2.241(5)	Rh(1)-O(2)	2.246(5)
O(1)-C(31)	1.305(8)	O(2)-C(31)	1.283(8)
N(1)-C(11)	1.379(8)	N(2)-C(15)	1.334(8)
N(1)-C(8)	1.416(8)	N(2)-C(11)	1.349(8)
N(1)-C(1)	1.438(8)	C(2)-C(3)	1.450(9)
C(1)-C(2)	1.351(9)	C(2)-C(9)	1.503(9)
N(3)-C(115)	1.373(8)	N(4)-C(111)	1.340(8)
N(3)-C(108)	1.414(8)	N(4)-C(115)	1.340(8)
N(3)-C(101)	1.456(8)	C(4)-C(5)	1.379(10)
C(3)-C(4)	1.382(9)	C(5)-C(6)	1.393(10)
C(3)-C(8)	1.403(9)	C(6)-C(7)	1.385(9)
C(7)-C(8)	1.395(9)	C(102)-C(109)	1.507(9)
C(11)-C(12)	1.390(9)	C(104)-C(105)	1.376(11)
C(12)-C(13)	1.380(10)	C(105)-C(106)	1.385(12)
C(103)-C(104)	1.384(9)	C(106)-C(107)	1.383(10)
C(103)-C(108)	1.406(9)	C(107)-C(108)	1.386(9)
C(103)-C(102)	1.447(9)	C(111)-C(112)	1.378(10)
C(13)-C(14)	1.376(10)	C(112)-C(113)	1.392(11)
C(14)-C(15)	1.356(9)	C(113)-C(114)	1.366(10)
C(31)-C(41)	1.508(10)	C(114)-C(115)	1.397(9)
C(101)-C(102)	1.380(9)		

Bond angles [deg]			
C(101)-Rh(1)-C(1)	86.4(3)	C(101)-Rh(1)-O(1)	165.7(2)
C(101)-Rh(1)-N(4)	81.0(2)	C(1)-Rh(1)-O(1)	107.7(2)
C(1)-Rh(1)-N(4)	95.9(2)	N(4)-Rh(1)-O(1)	94.53(18)
C(101)-Rh(1)-N(2)	98.2(2)	N(2)-Rh(1)-O(1)	86.98(19)
C(1)-Rh(1)-N(2)	81.2(2)	C(101)-Rh(1)-O(2)	106.0(2)
N(4)-Rh(1)-N(2)	177.05(19)	C(1)-Rh(1)-O(2)	167.2(2)
N(4)-Rh(1)-O(2)	89.30(18)	N(4)-Rh(1)-C(31)	92.2(2)
N(2)-Rh(1)-O(2)	93.65(18)	N(2)-Rh(1)-C(31)	90.4(2)
O(1)-Rh(1)-O(2)	60.14(17)	O(1)-Rh(1)-C(31)	30.3(2)
C(101)-Rh(1)-C(31)	135.7(2)	O(2)-Rh(1)-C(31)	29.8(2)
C(1)-Rh(1)-C(31)	137.9(3)	C(31)-O(1)-Rh(1)	89.4(4)
C(11)-N(1)-C(8)	131.9(5)	N(1)-C(1)-Rh(1)	111.1(4)
C(11)-N(1)-C(1)	119.0(5)	C(31)-O(2)-Rh(1)	89.8(4)
C(8)-N(1)-C(1)	109.1(5)	C(15)-N(2)-C(11)	119.1(5)
C(2)-C(1)-N(1)	107.7(5)	C(15)-N(2)-Rh(1)	125.3(4)
C(2)-C(1)-Rh(1)	141.1(5)	C(11)-N(2)-Rh(1)	115.4(4)
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	108.7(6)	C(4)-C(3)-C(8)	119.3(6)
C(1)-C(2)-C(9)	128.5(6)	C(4)-C(3)-C(2)	132.4(6)
C(3)-C(2)-C(9)	122.9(6)	C(8)-C(3)-C(2)	108.3(5)
C(115)-N(3)-C(108)	132.1(5)	C(111)-N(4)-C(115)	119.5(5)
C(115)-N(3)-C(101)	117.9(5)	C(111)-N(4)-Rh(1)	124.5(4)
C(108)-N(3)-C(101)	109.8(5)	C(115)-N(4)-Rh(1)	116.0(4)
C(5)-C(4)-C(3)	120.0(6)	N(2)-C(11)-N(1)	113.1(5)
C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	120.0(6)	N(2)-C(11)-C(12)	120.8(6)
C(7)-C(6)-C(5)	121.7(6)	N(1)-C(11)-C(12)	126.2(6)
C(6)-C(7)-C(8)	117.3(6)	C(13)-C(12)-C(11)	118.5(6)

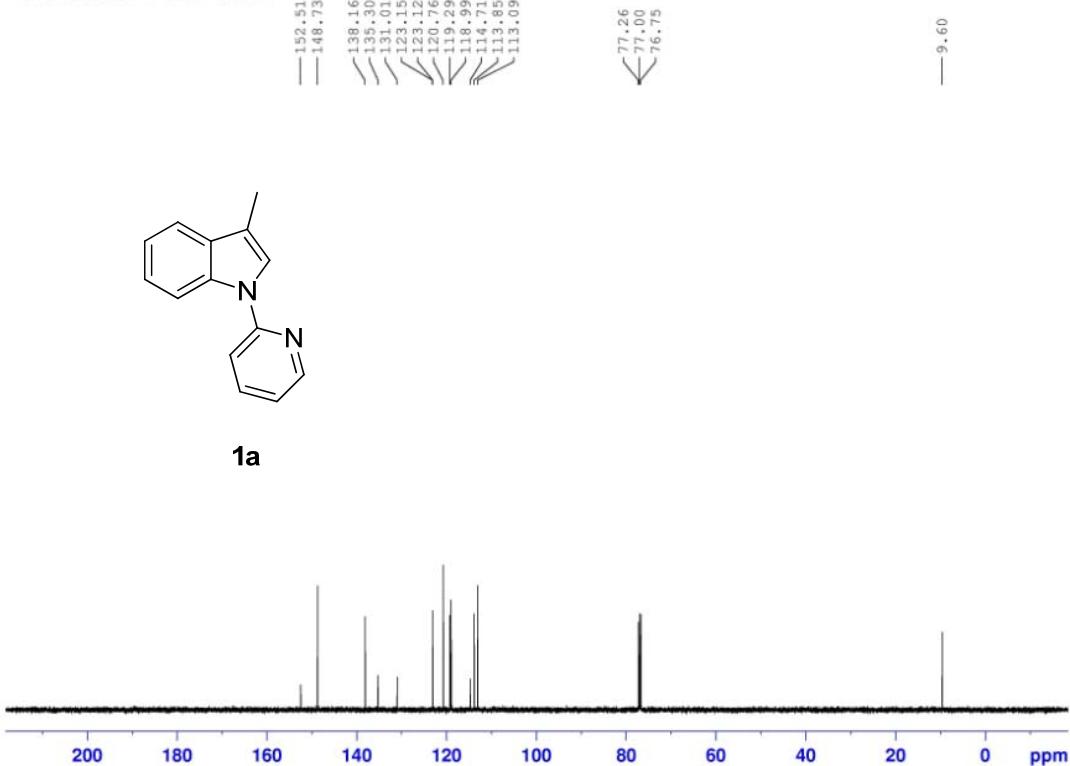
C(7)-C(8)-C(3)	121.7(6)	C(104)-C(103)-C(108)	119.5(6)
C(7)-C(8)-N(1)	132.2(6)	C(104)-C(103)-C(102)	131.8(6)
C(3)-C(8)-N(1)	106.2(5)	C(108)-C(103)-C(102)	108.5(5)
C(14)-C(13)-C(12)	120.2(6)	C(105)-C(104)-C(103)	119.4(7)
C(15)-C(14)-C(13)	118.2(7)	C(104)-C(105)-C(106)	120.5(7)
N(2)-C(15)-C(14)	123.2(6)	C(107)-C(106)-C(105)	121.6(7)
O(2)-C(31)-O(1)	120.7(6)	C(106)-C(107)-C(108)	117.7(7)
O(2)-C(31)-C(41)	121.1(7)	C(107)-C(108)-C(103)	121.2(6)
O(1)-C(31)-C(41)	118.2(7)	C(107)-C(108)-N(3)	132.4(6)
O(2)-C(31)-Rh(1)	60.5(3)	C(103)-C(108)-N(3)	106.4(6)
O(1)-C(31)-Rh(1)	60.2(3)	N(4)-C(111)-C(112)	122.6(7)
C(41)-C(31)-Rh(1)	177.8(6)	C(111)-C(112)-C(113)	117.8(6)
C(102)-C(101)-N(3)	106.0(6)	C(114)-C(113)-C(112)	120.0(6)
C(102)-C(101)-Rh(1)	141.8(5)	C(113)-C(114)-C(115)	119.1(7)
N(3)-C(101)-Rh(1)	112.2(4)	N(4)-C(115)-N(3)	112.8(5)
C(101)-C(102)-C(103)	109.2(6)	N(4)-C(115)-C(114)	120.9(6)
C(101)-C(102)-C(109)	127.7(6)	N(3)-C(115)-C(114)	126.3(6)
C(103)-C(102)-C(109)	123.1(5)		

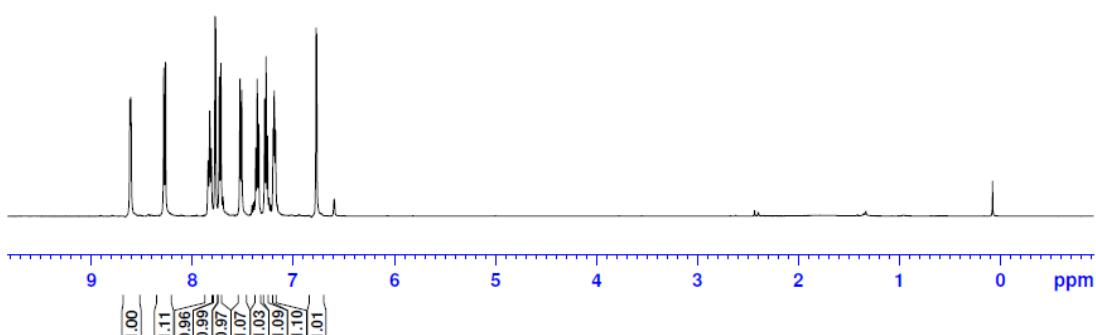
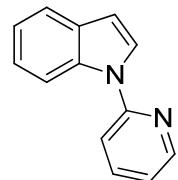
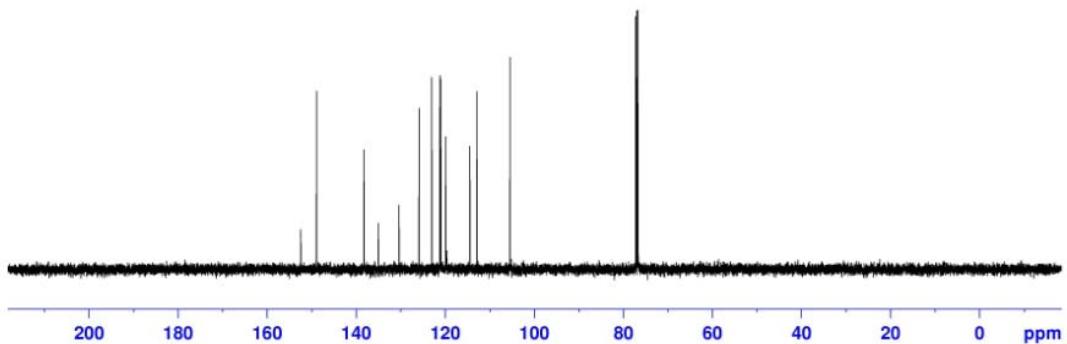
8. NMR Spectra

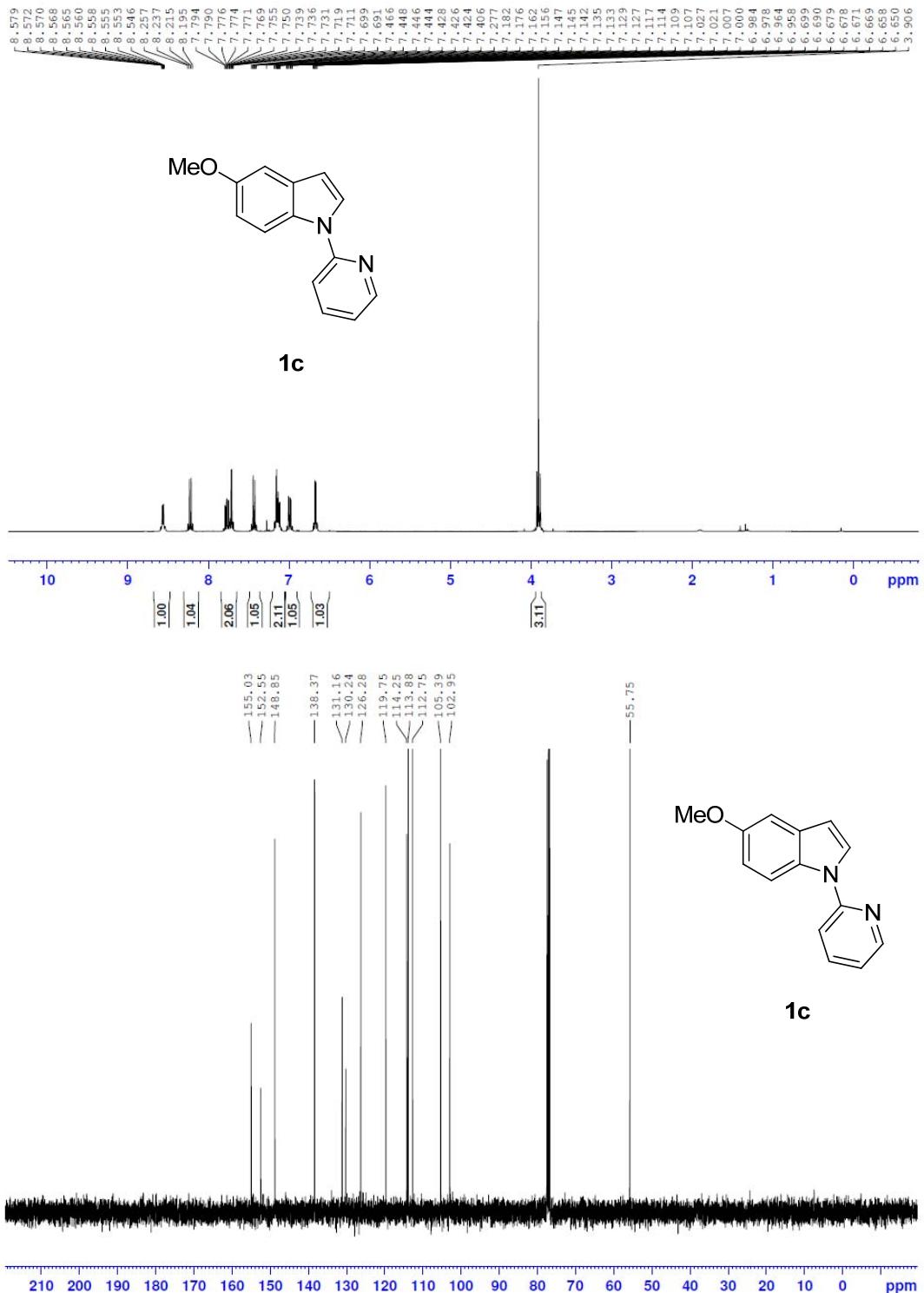
TL20130911-9 1H CDCl₃



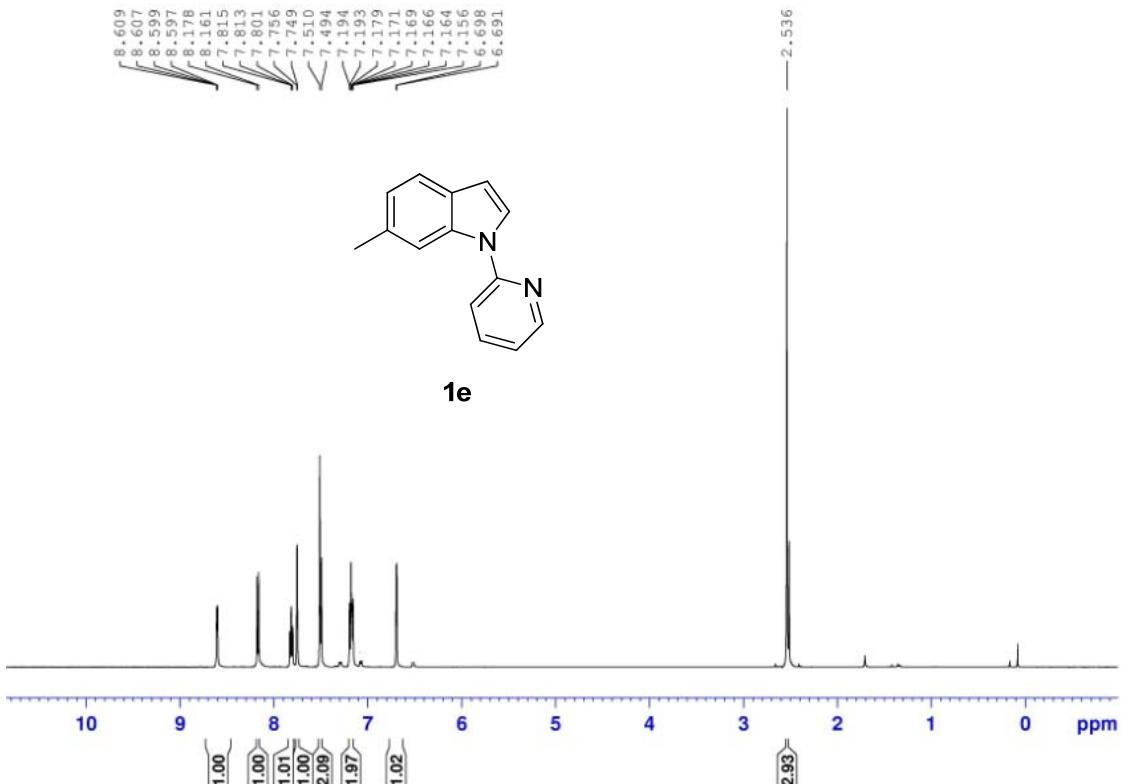
TL20130911-9 13C CDCl₃



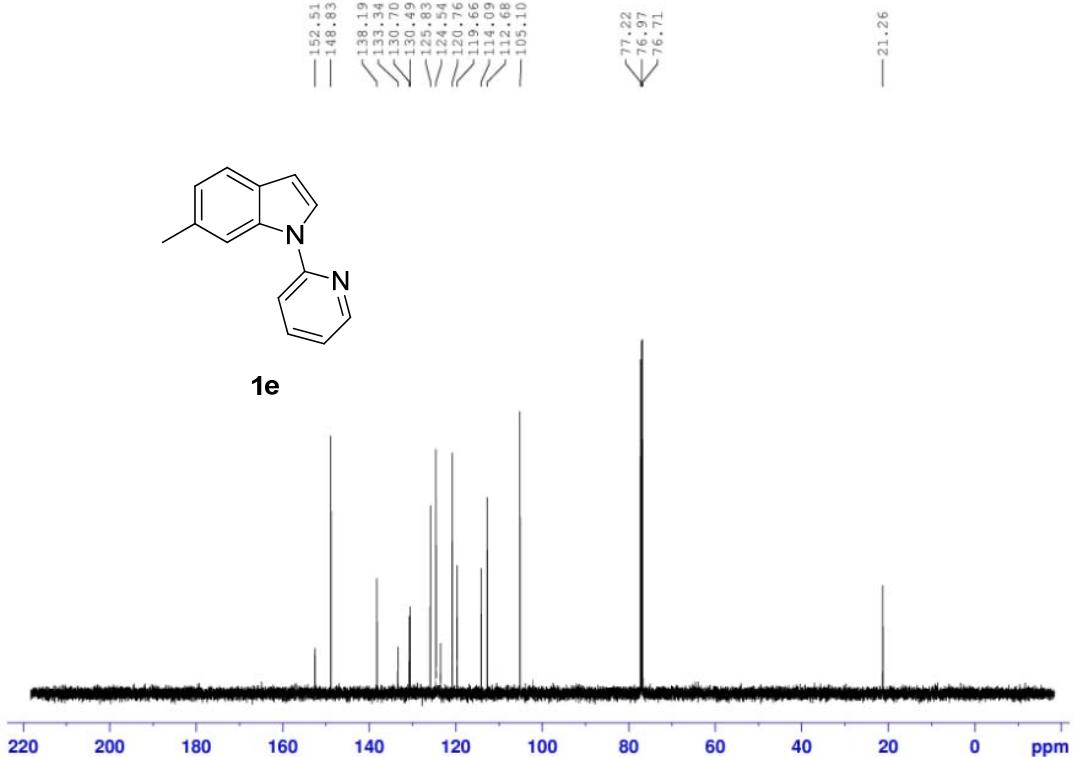
CDCl₃CDCl₃



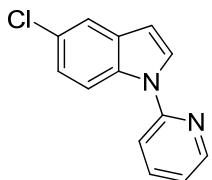
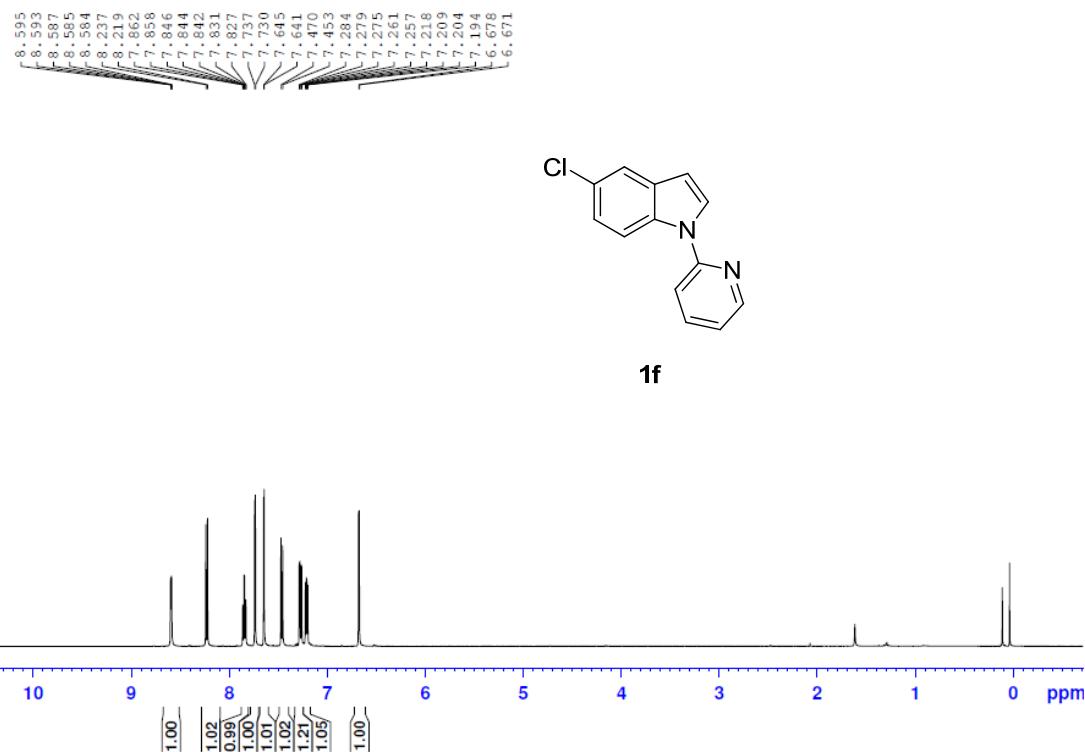
CDC13



CDC13

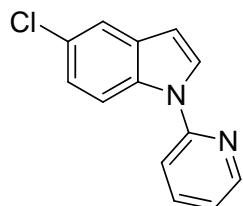
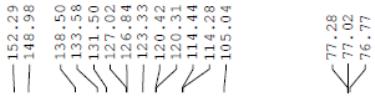


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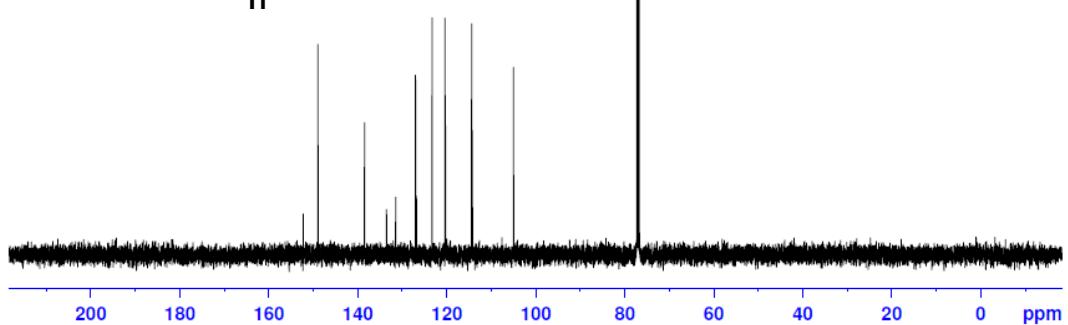


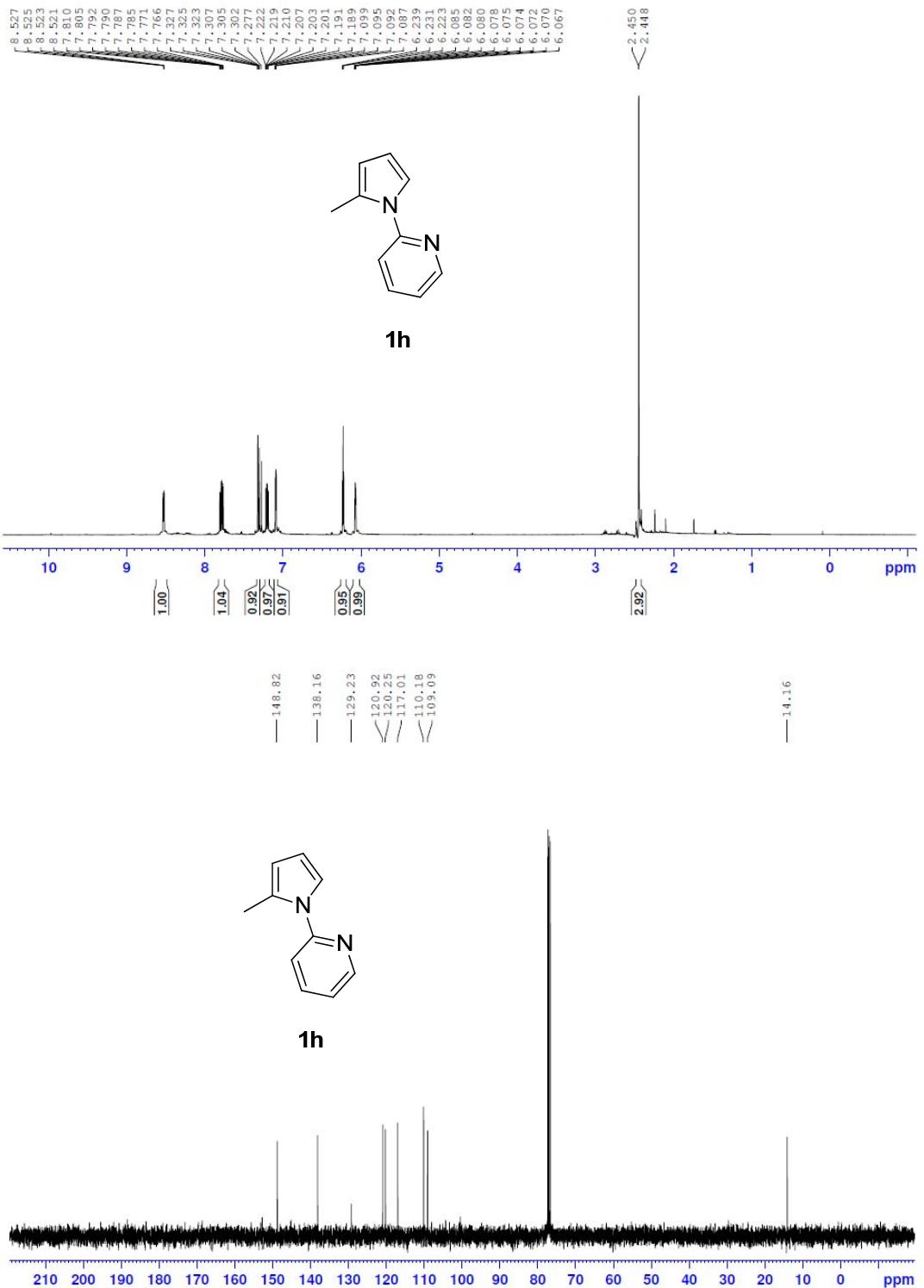
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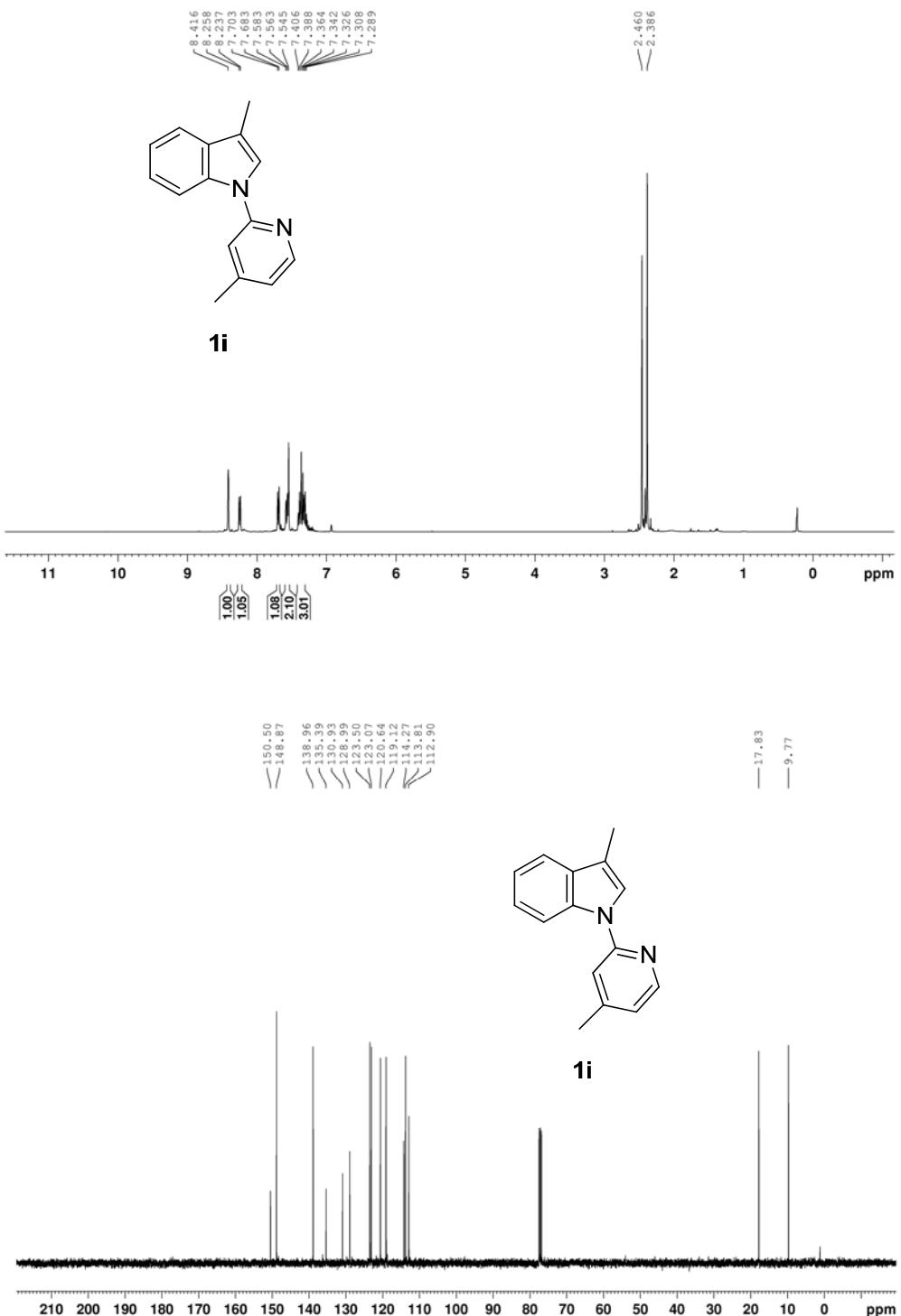
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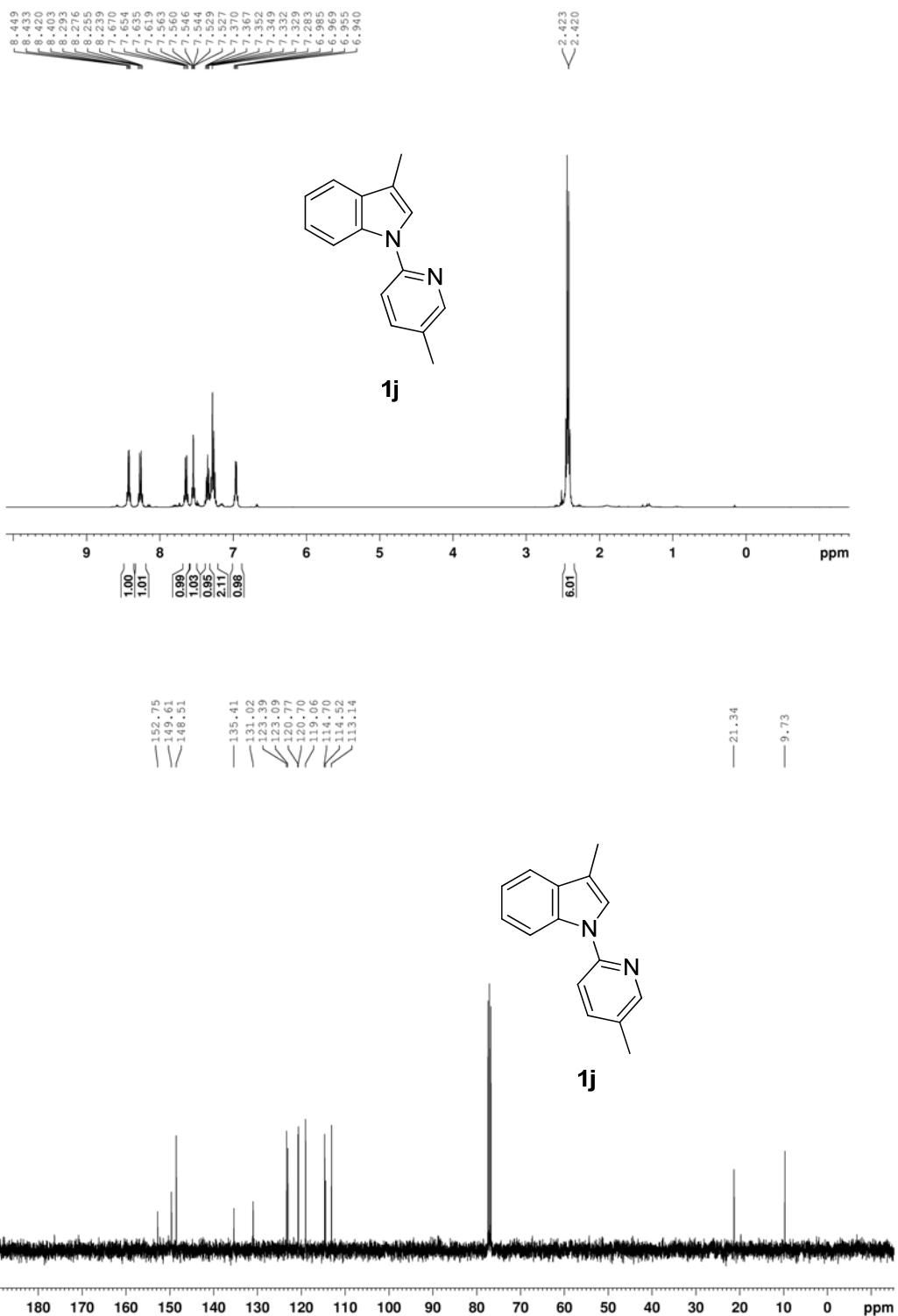


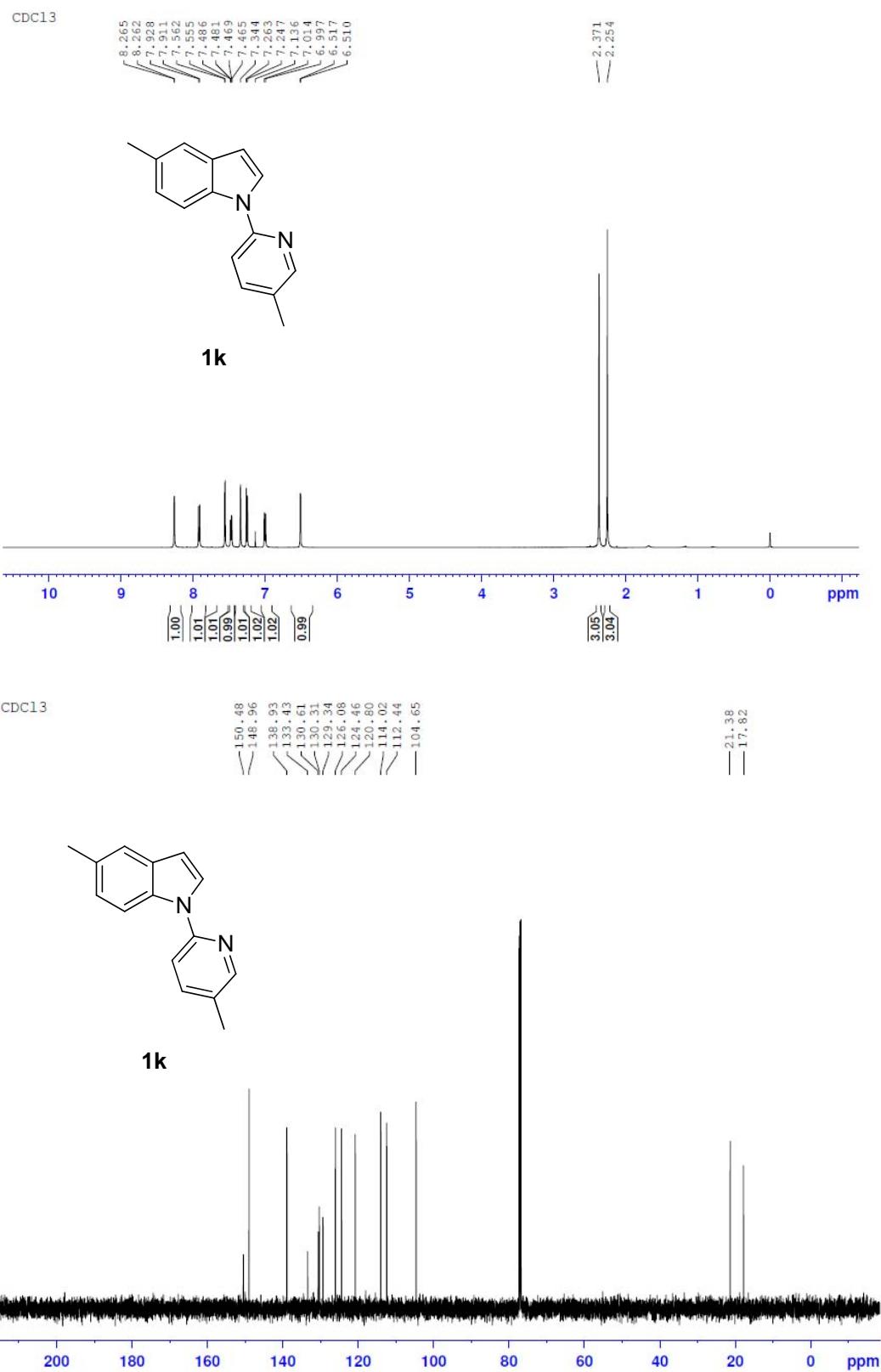
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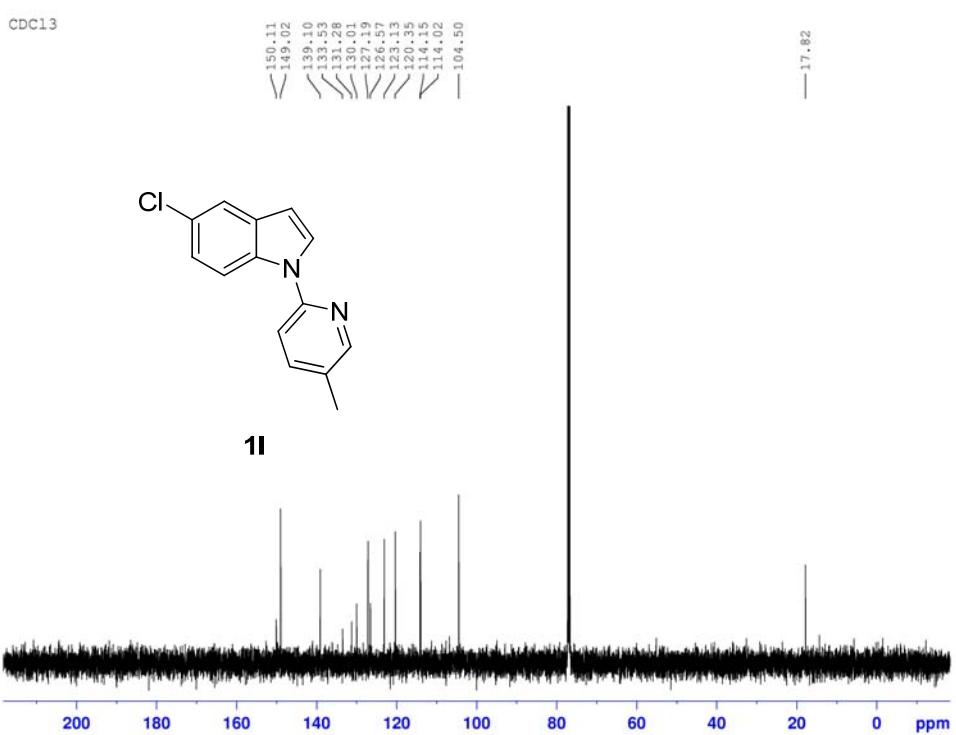
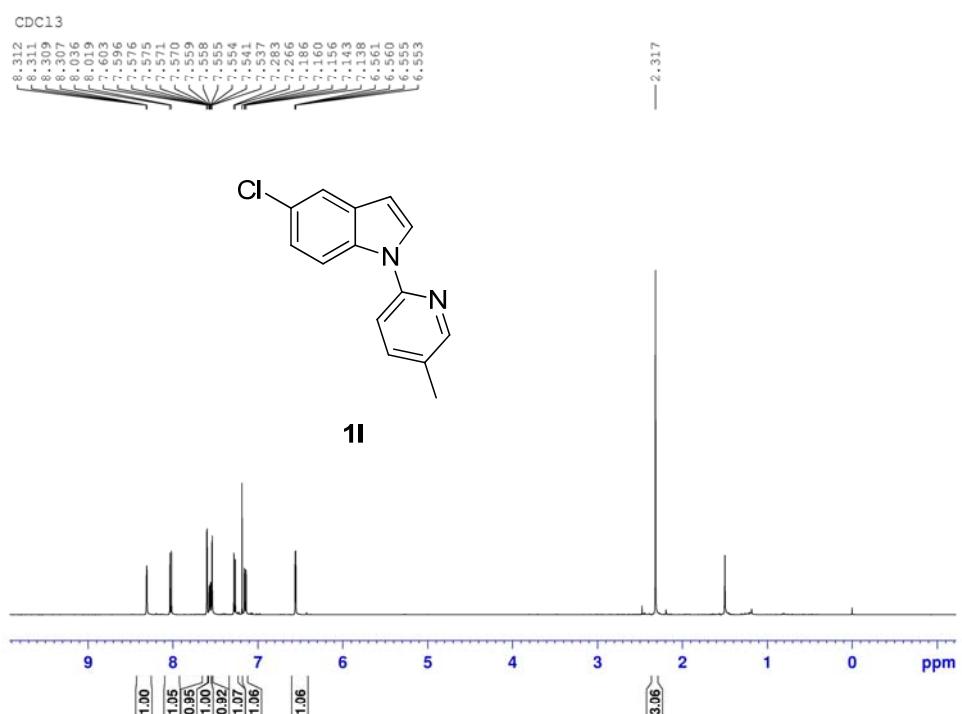


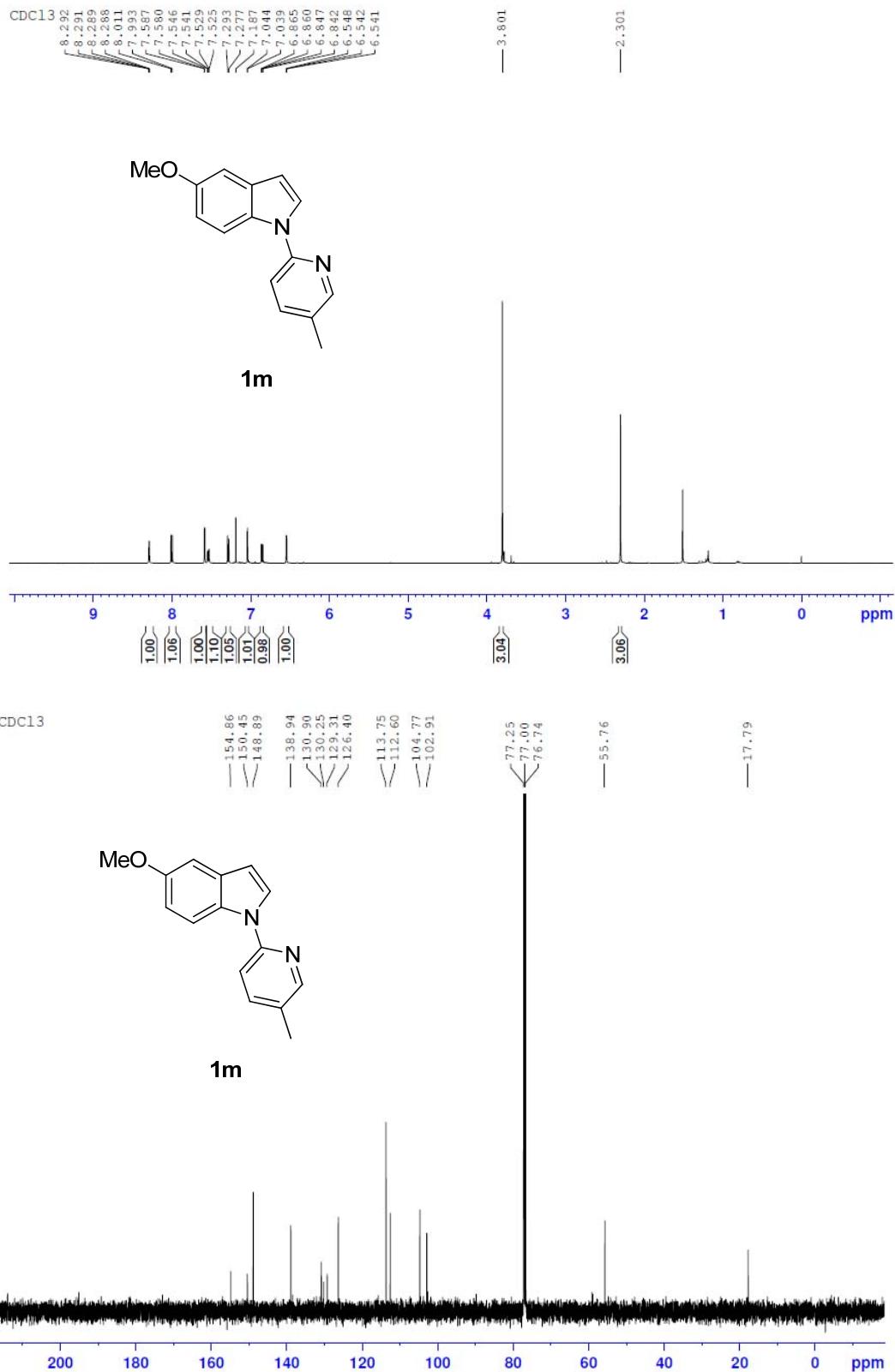


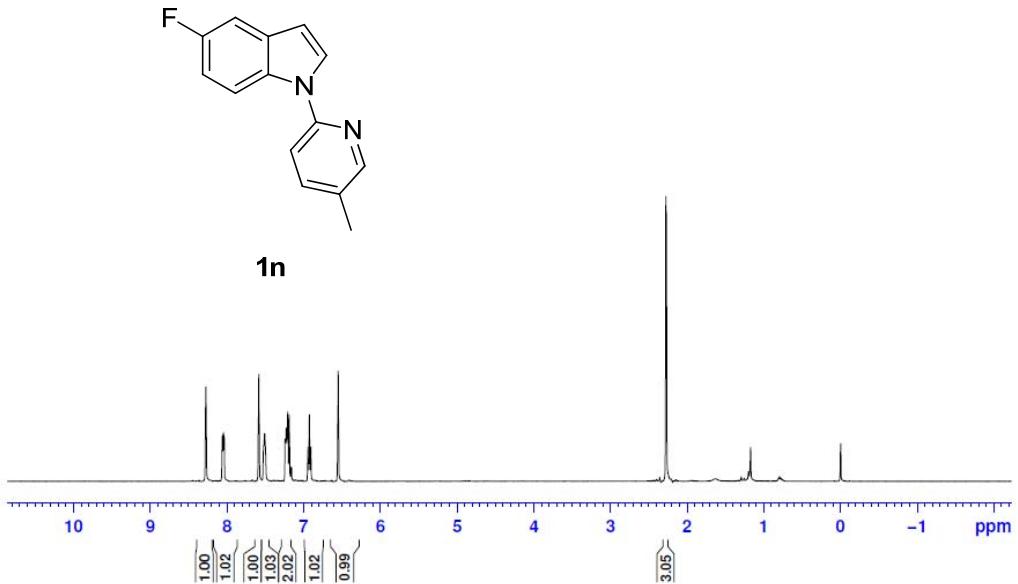
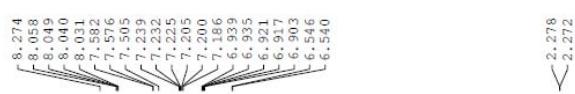
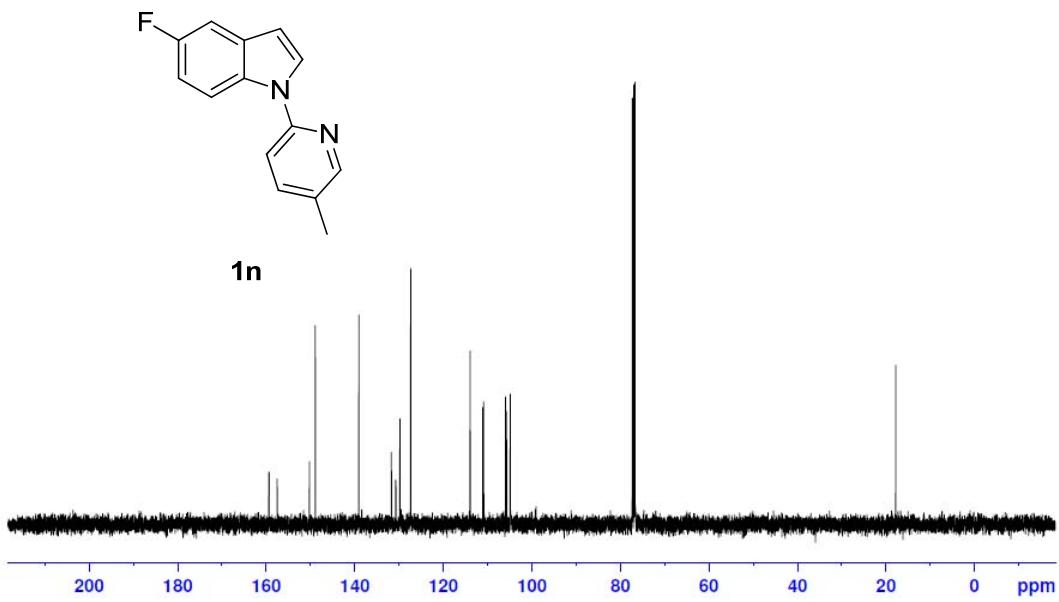


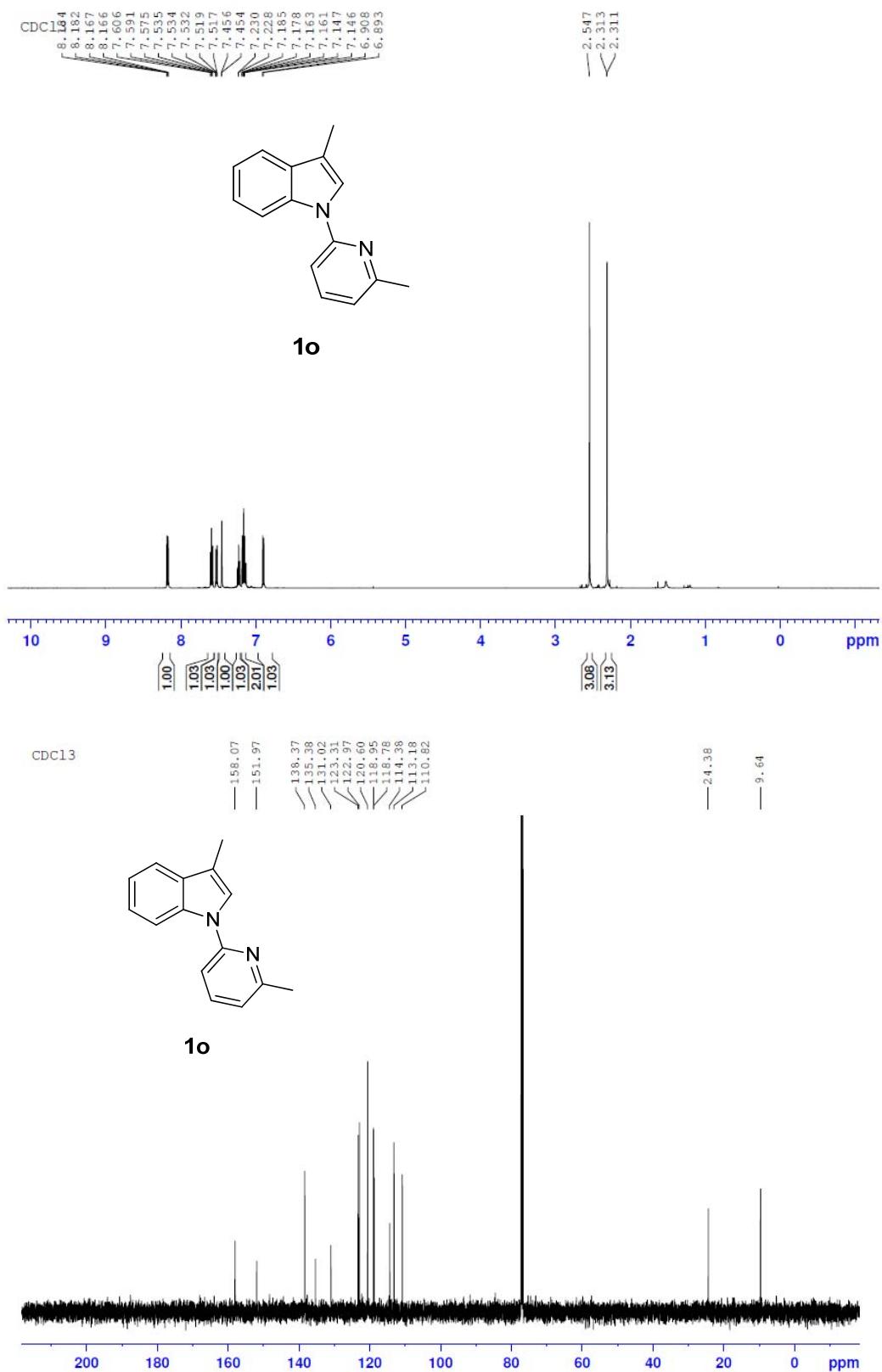


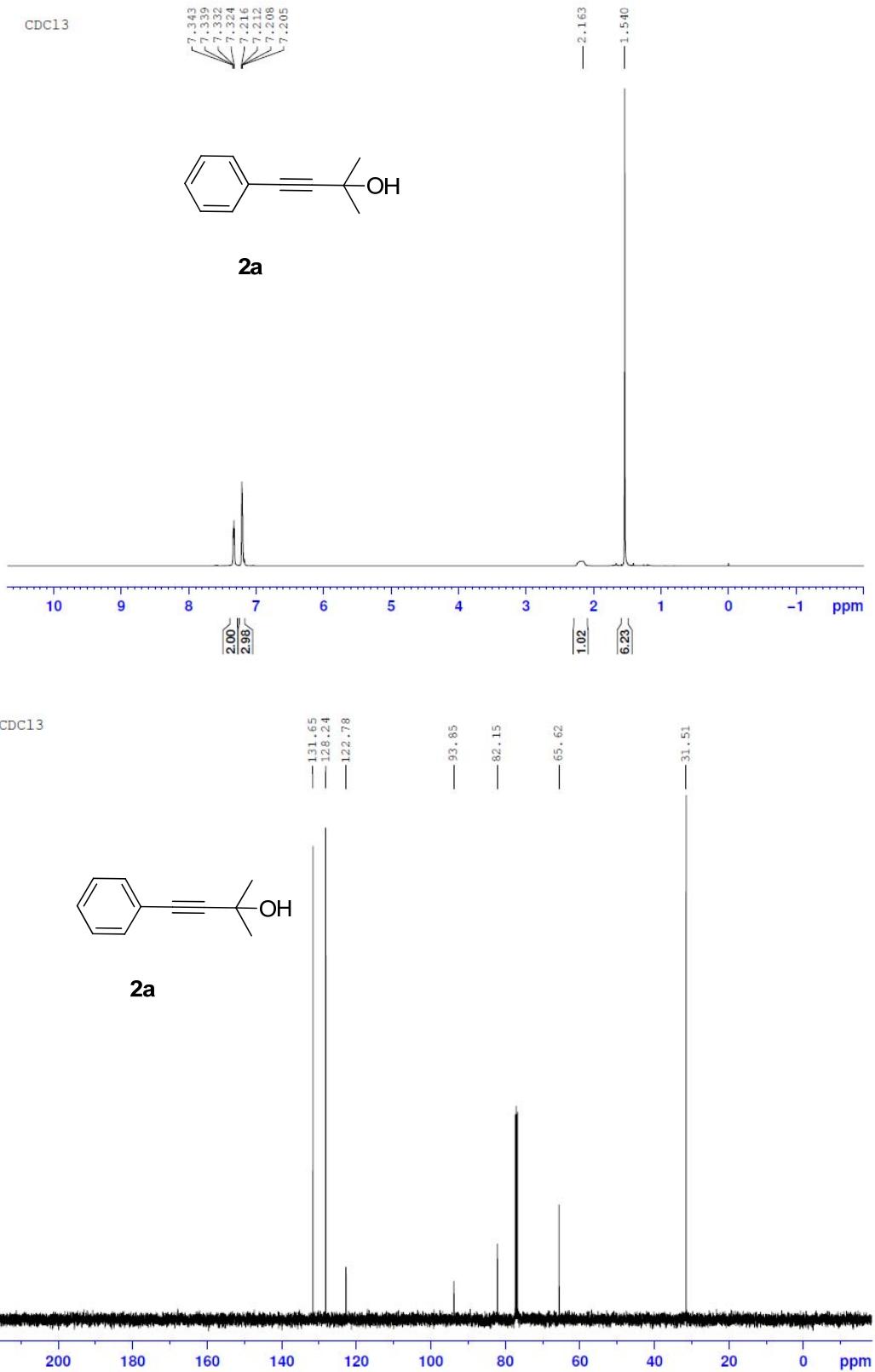


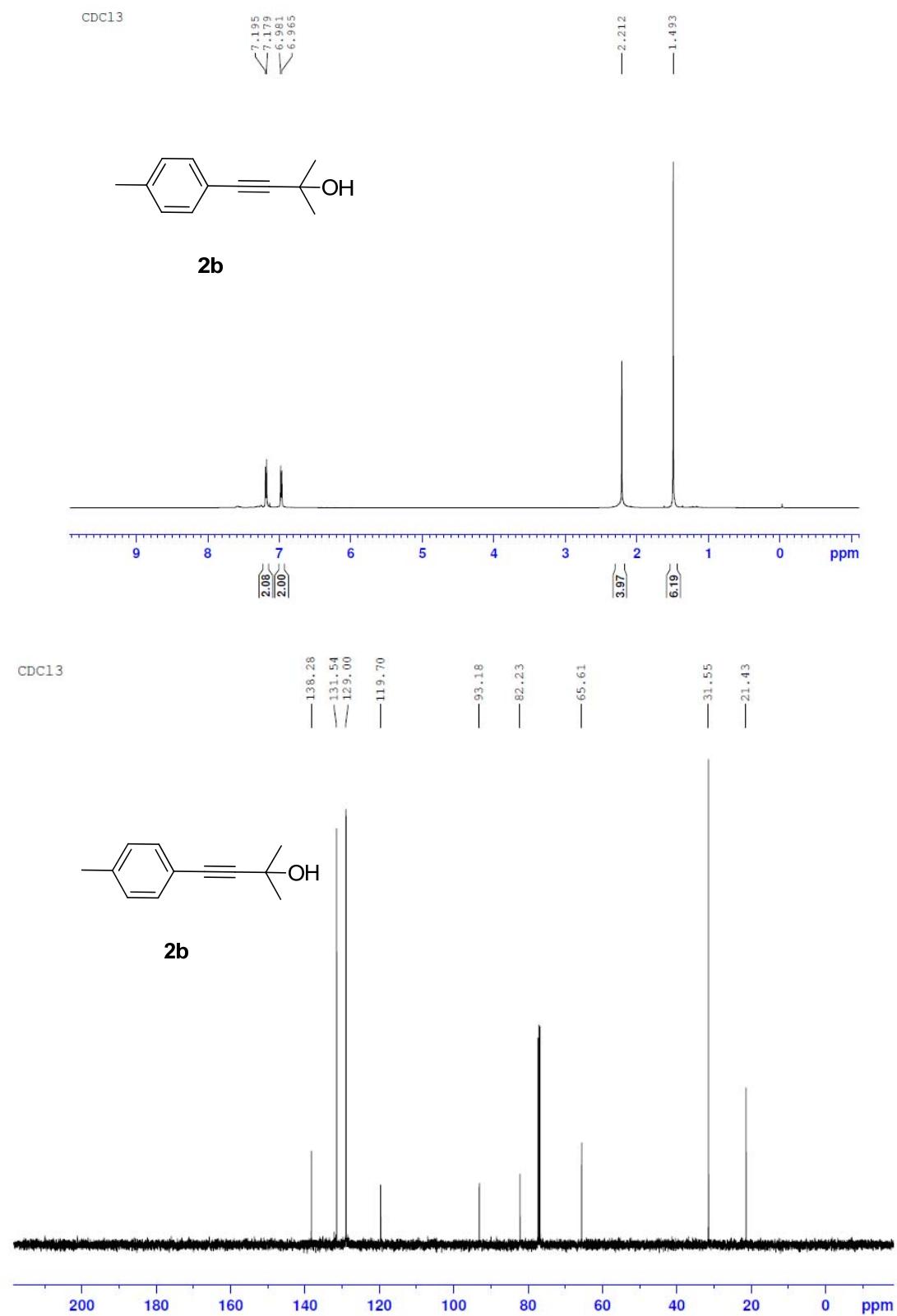


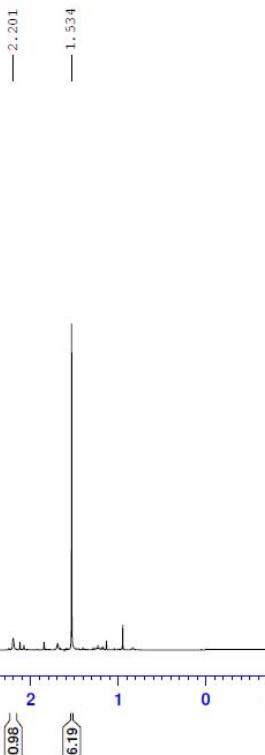
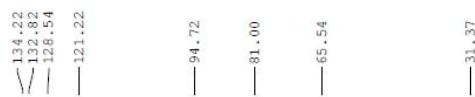
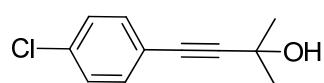
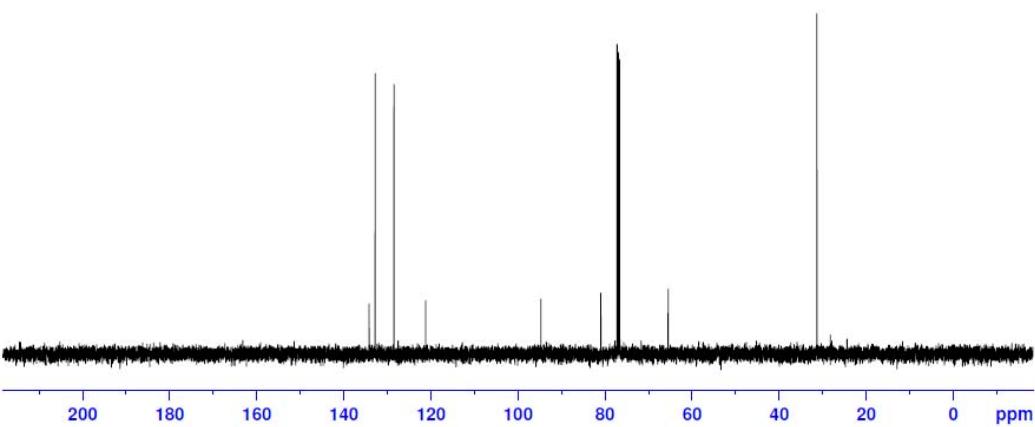


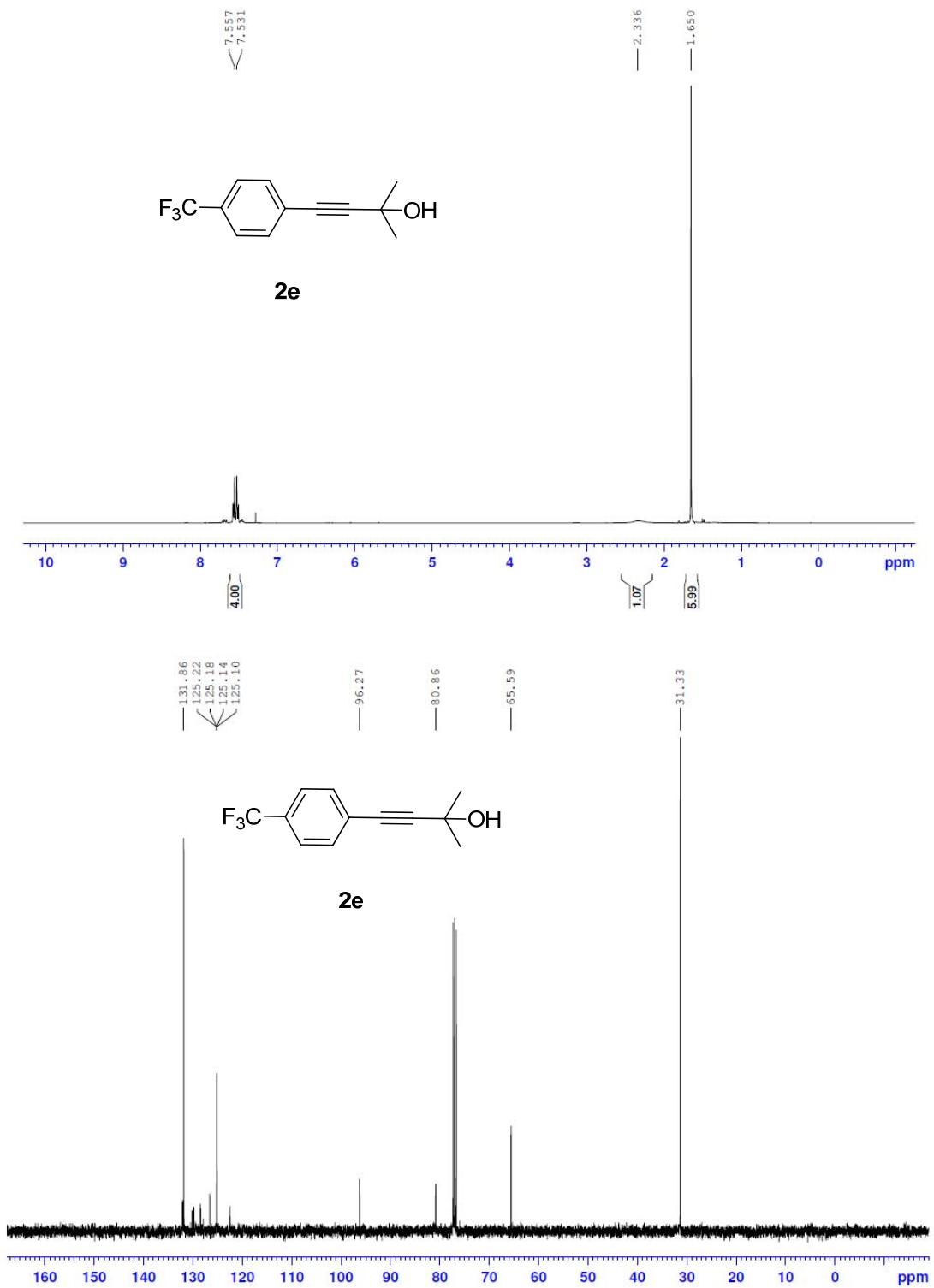
CDCl₃CDCl₃

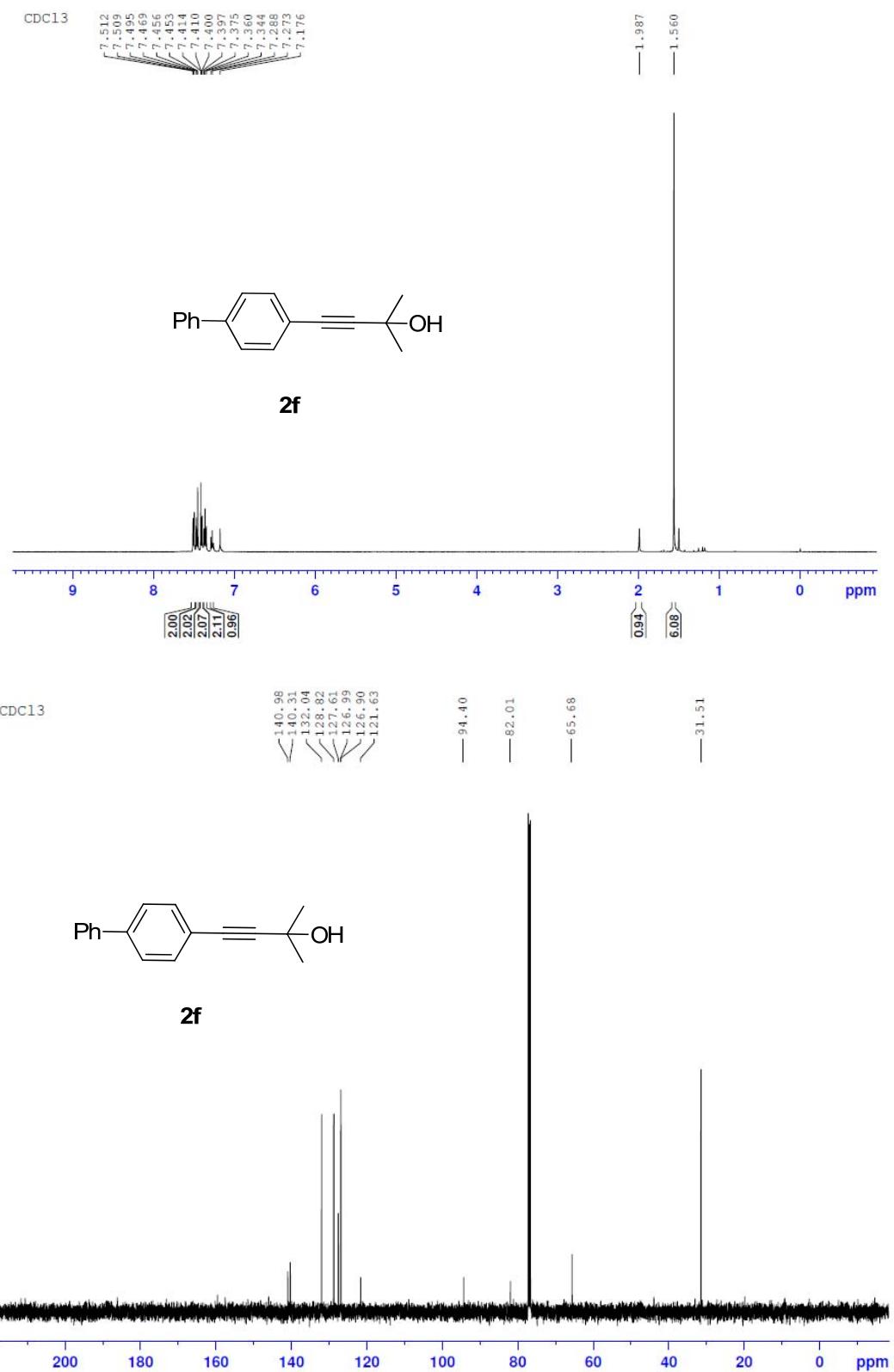




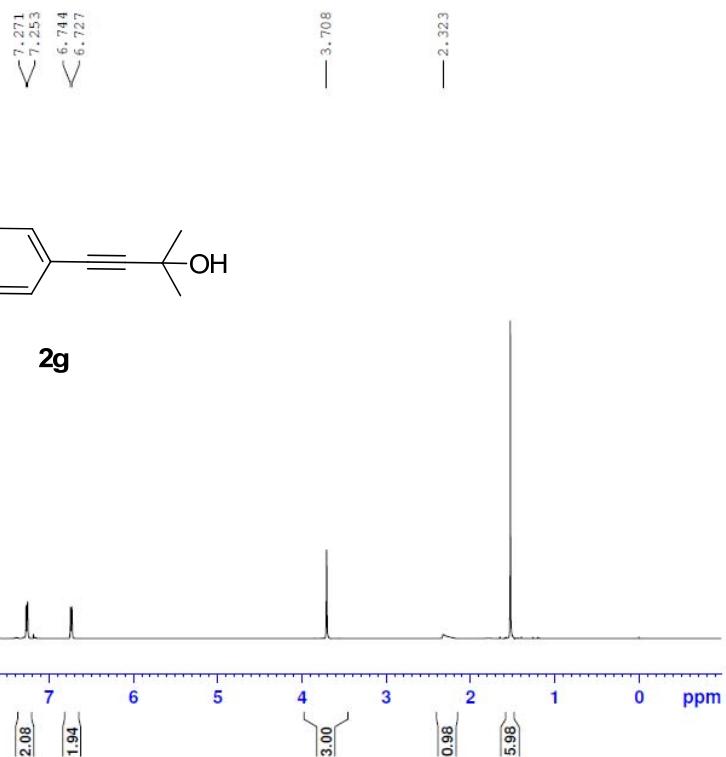
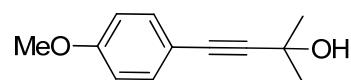
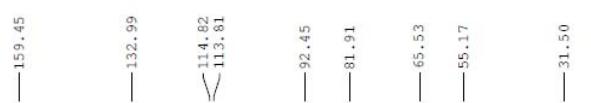
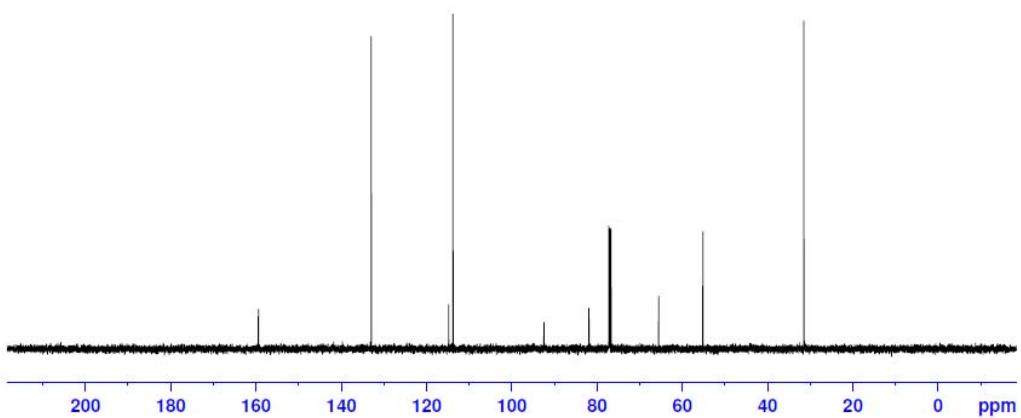


CDCl₃CDCl₃CDCl₃**2d**

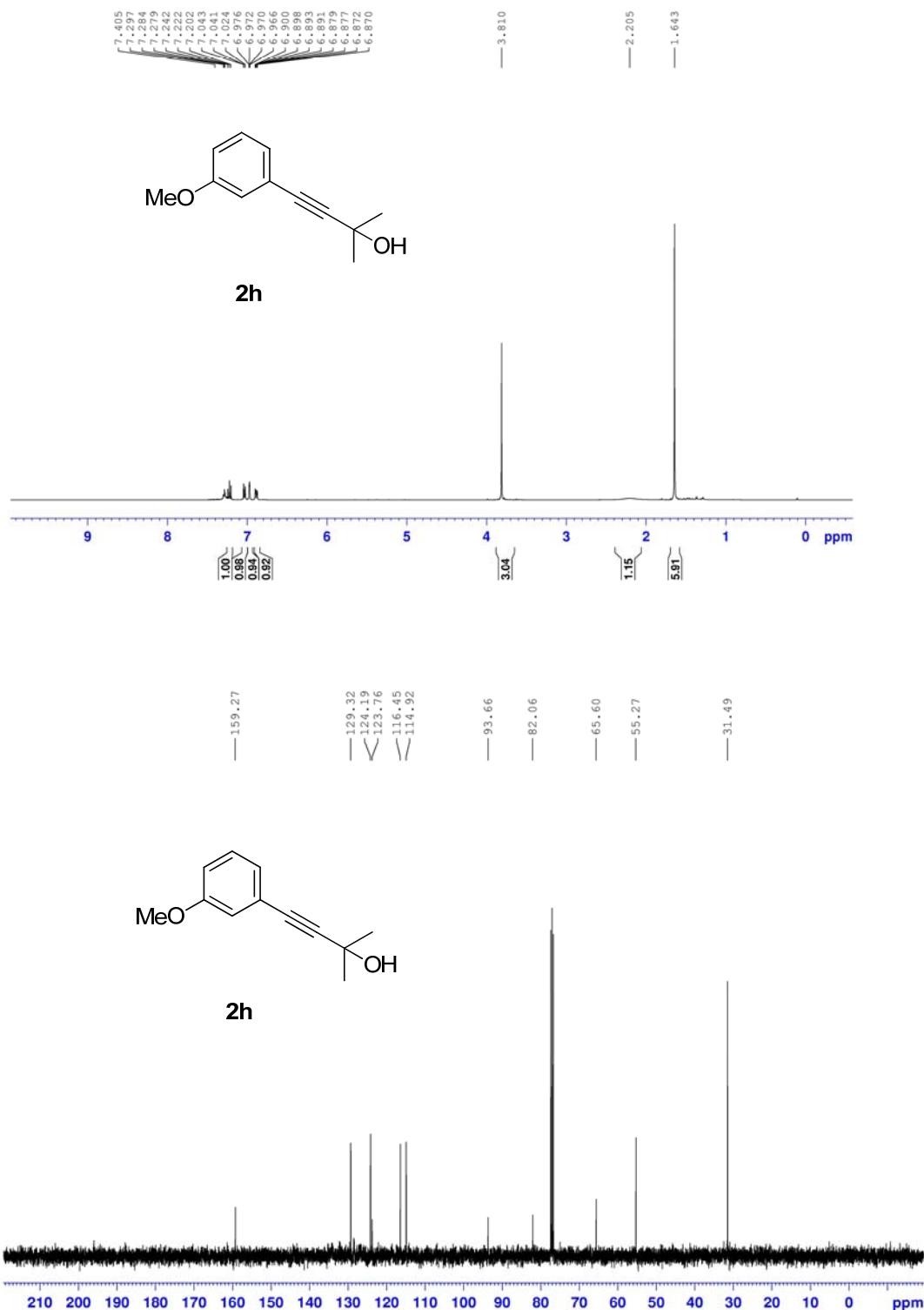


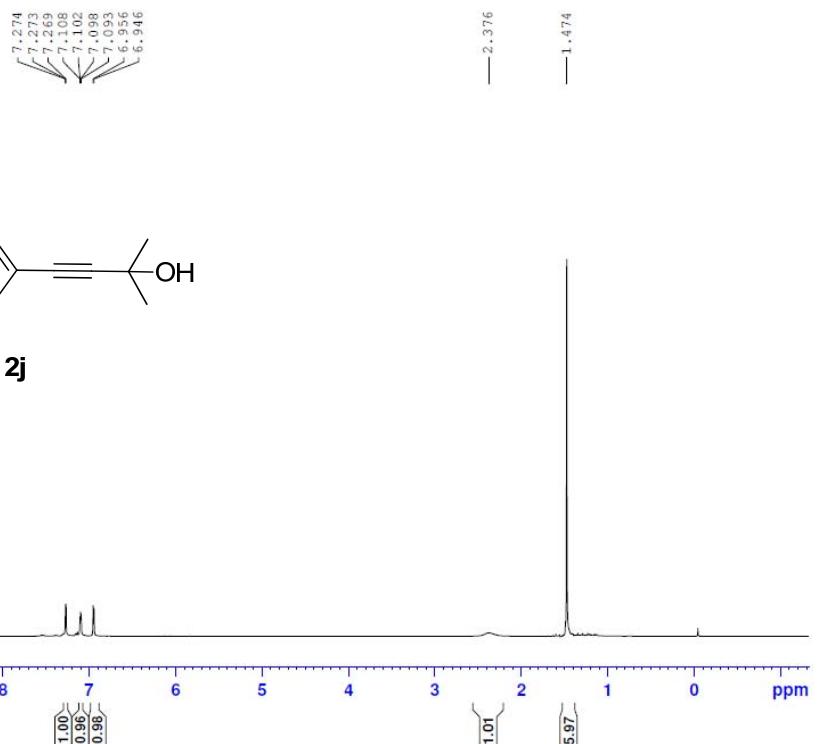
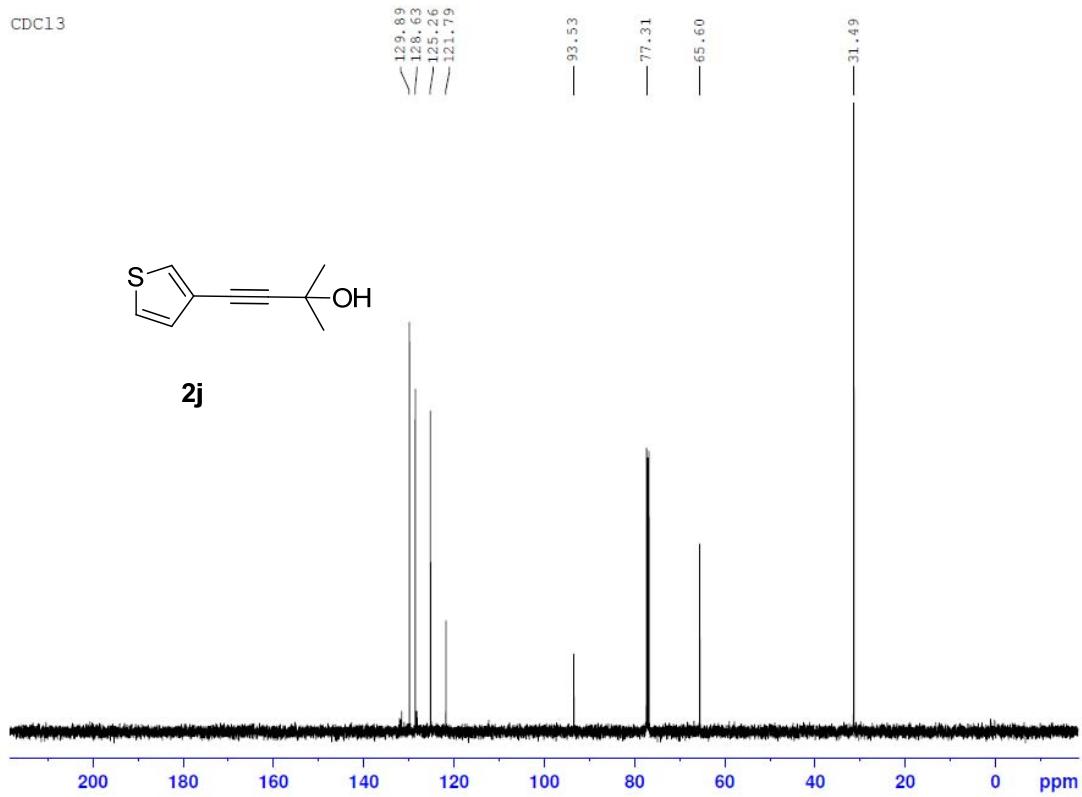


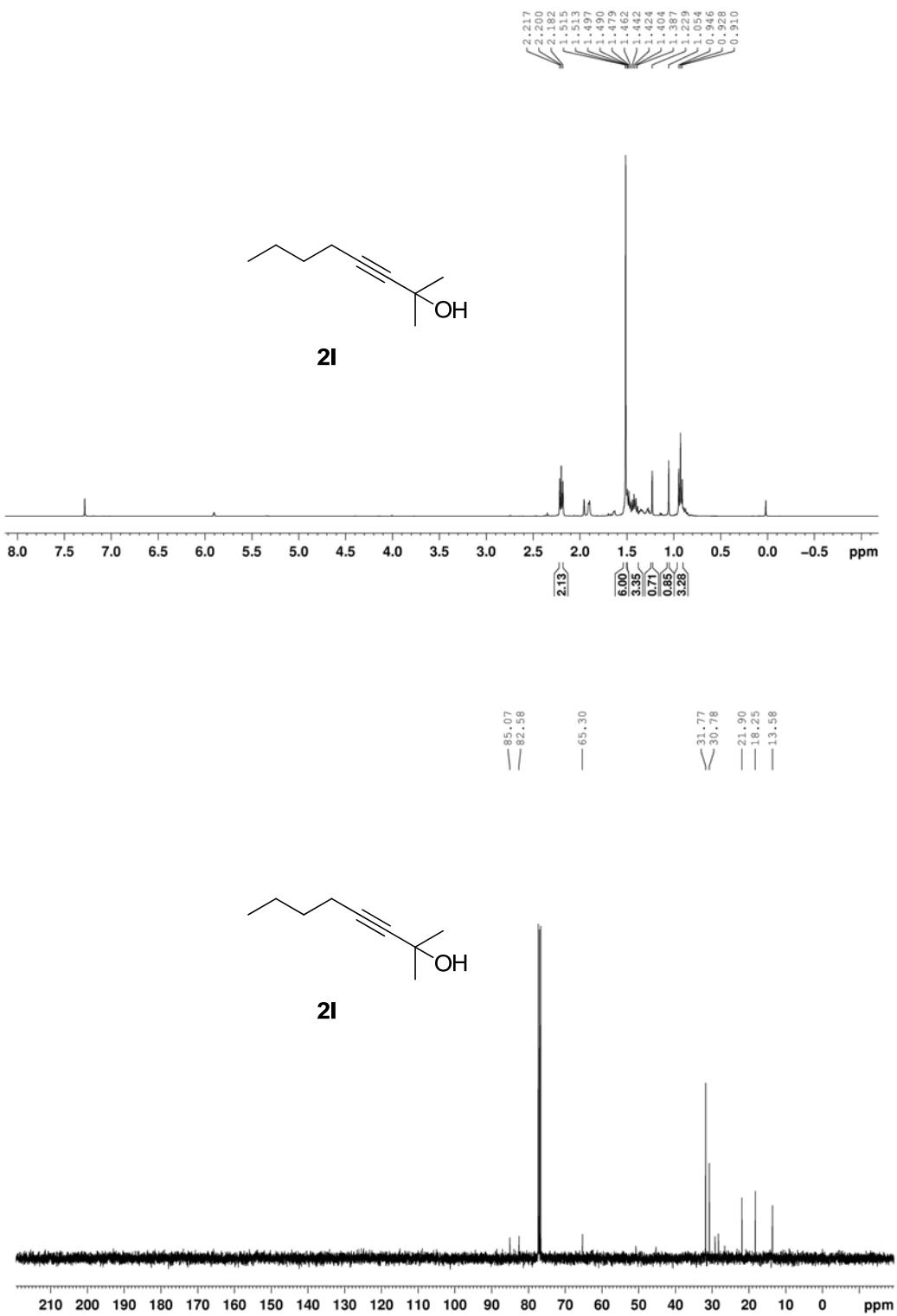
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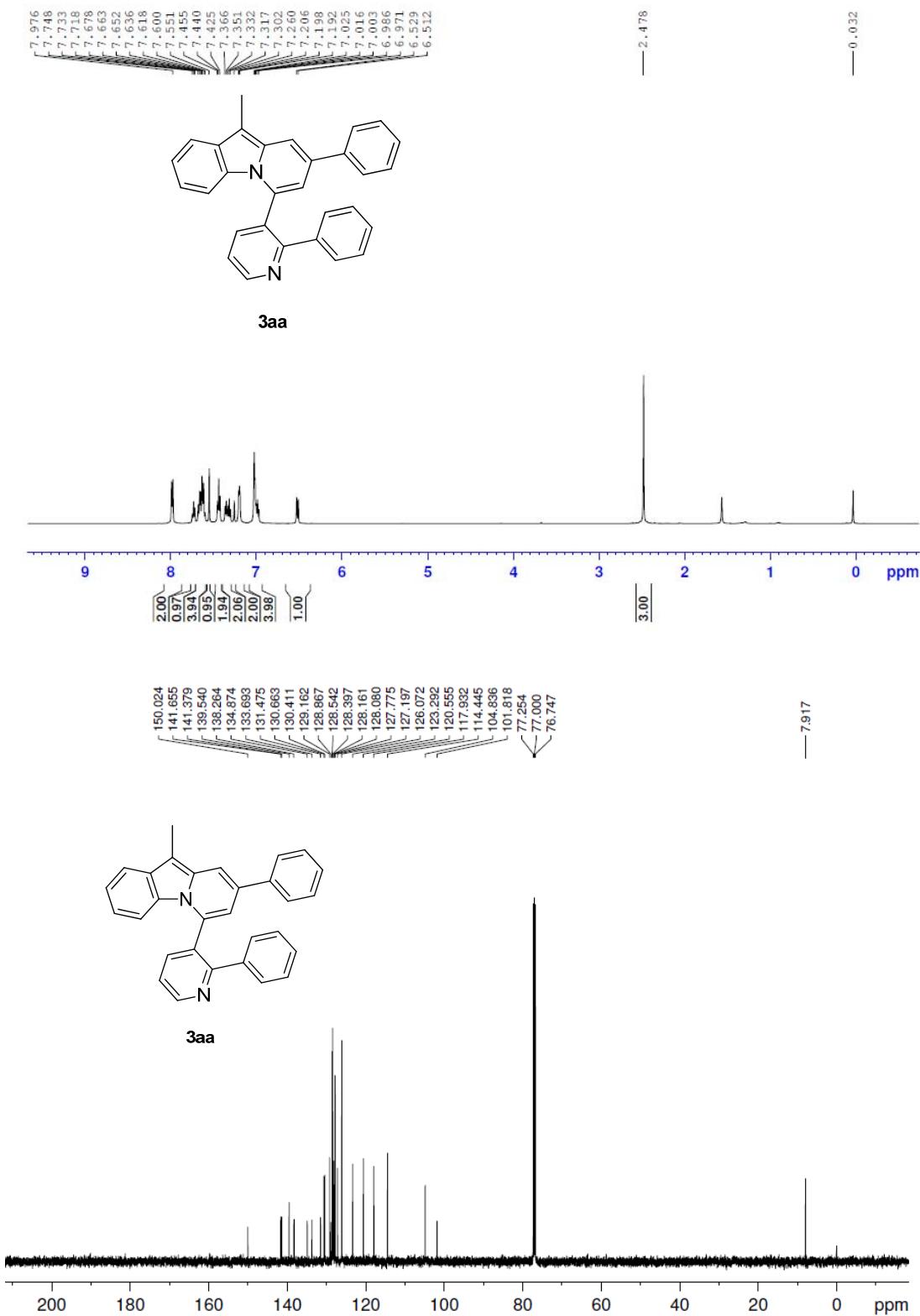
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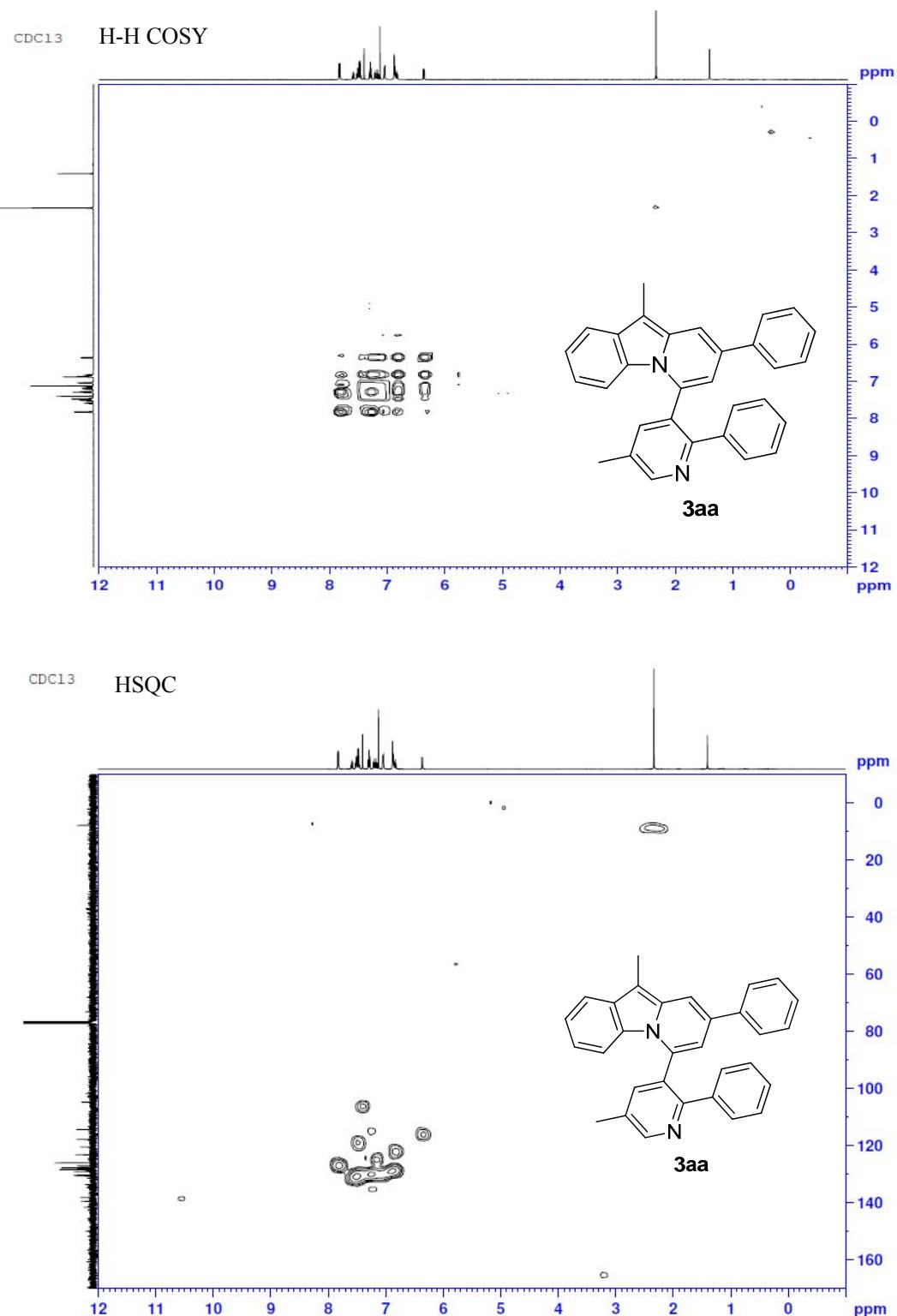
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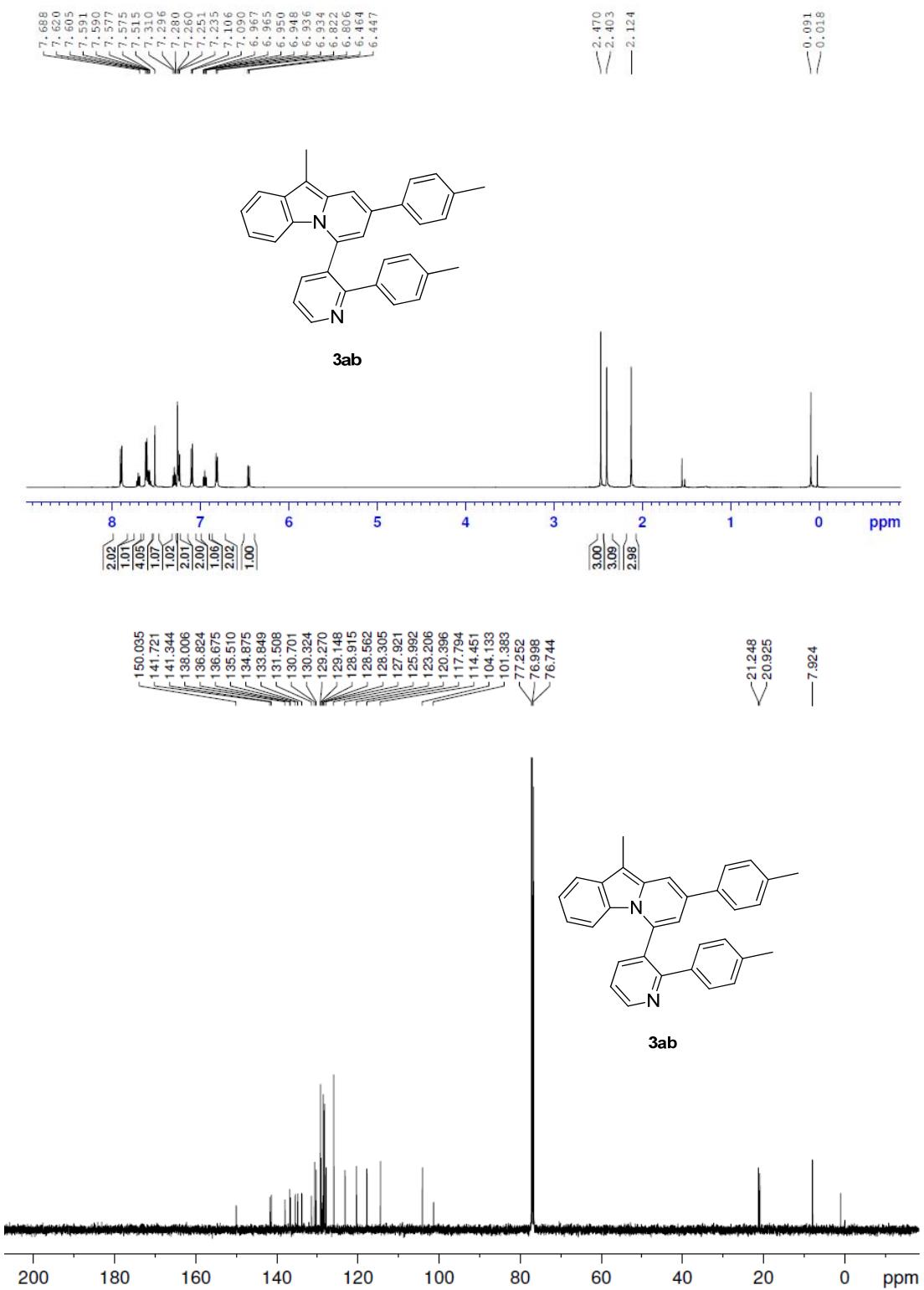


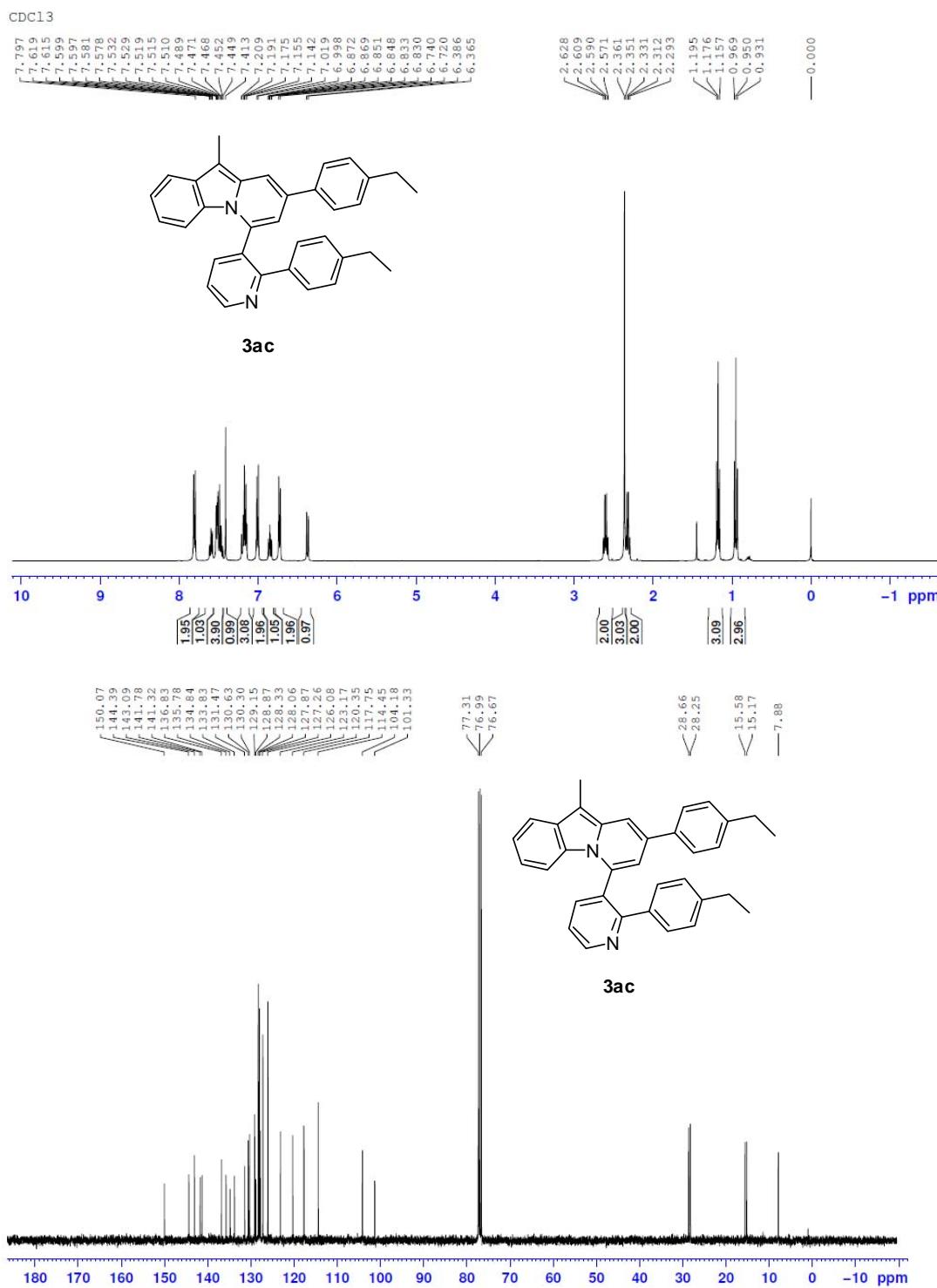
CDCl₃CDCl₃

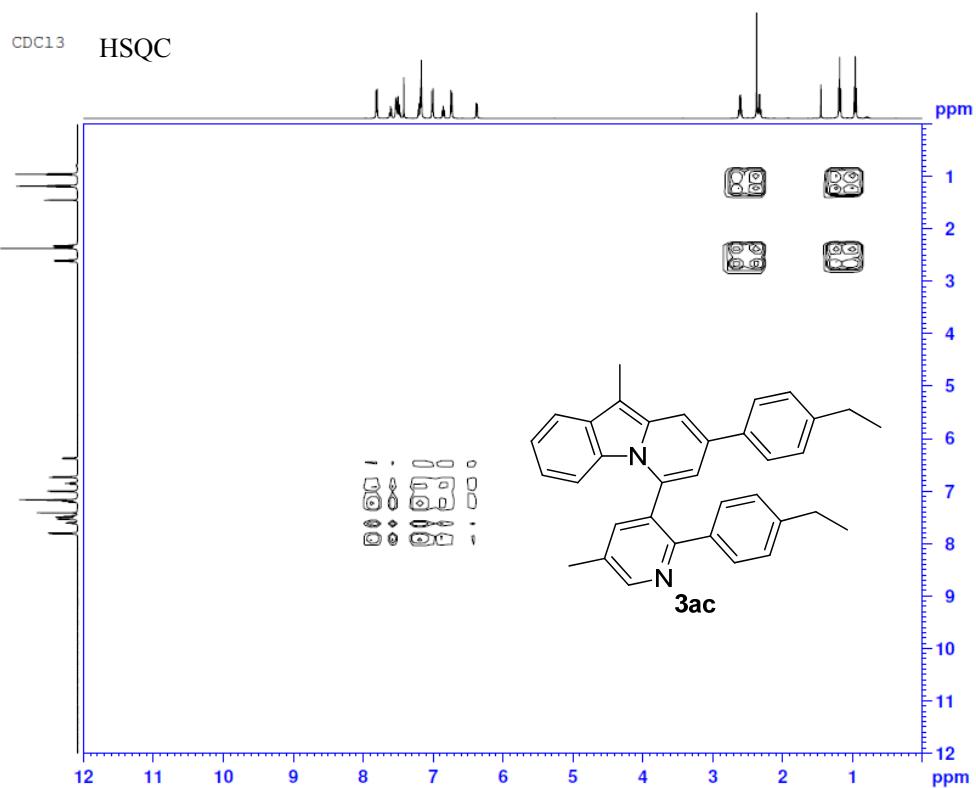
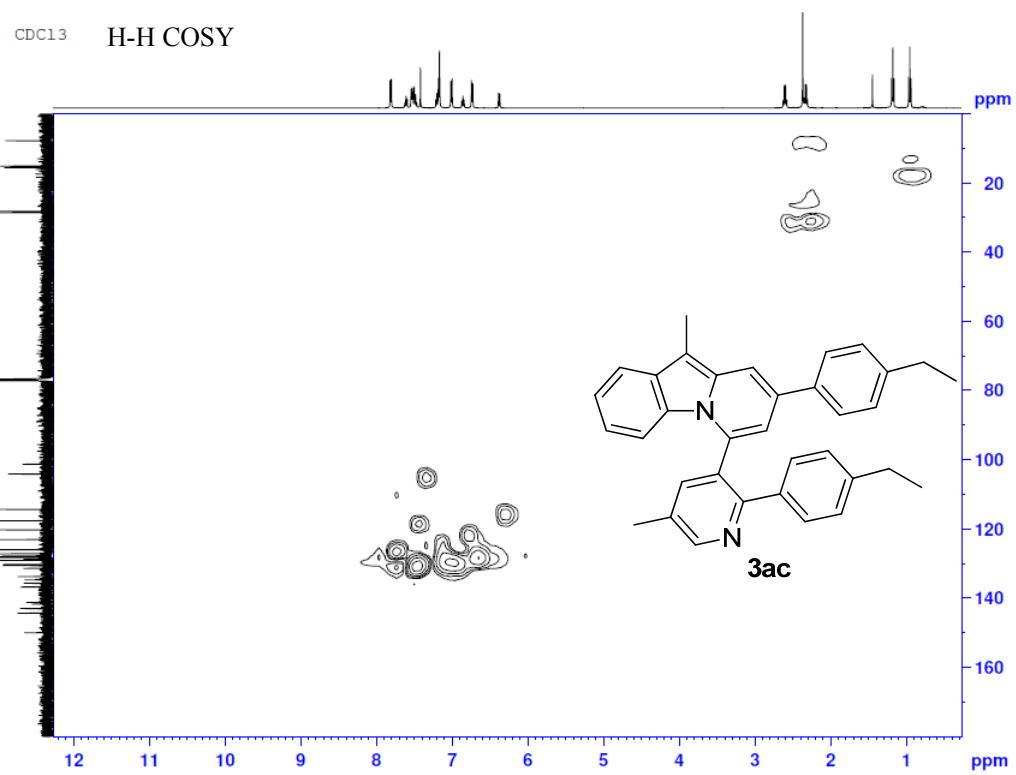


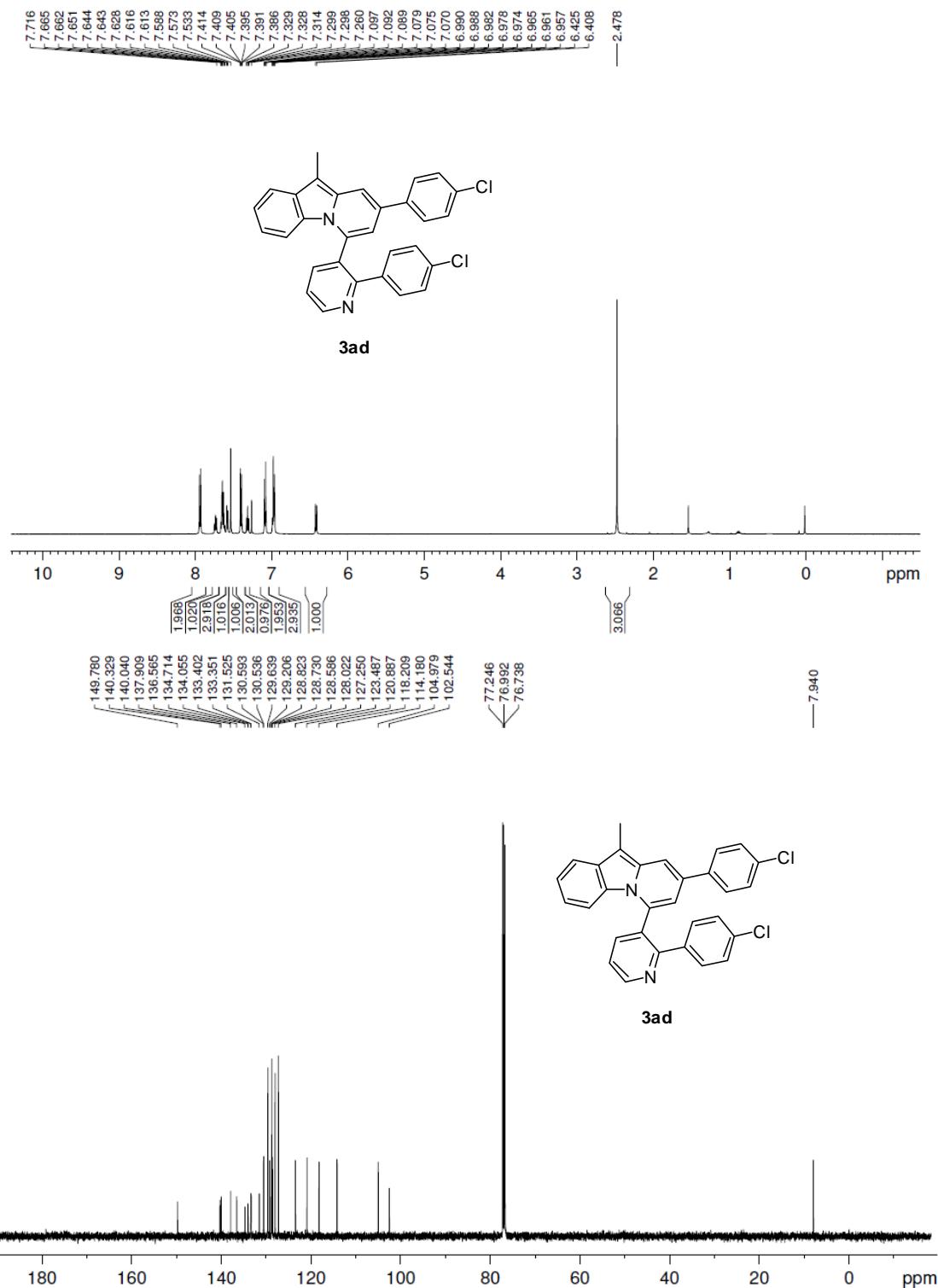


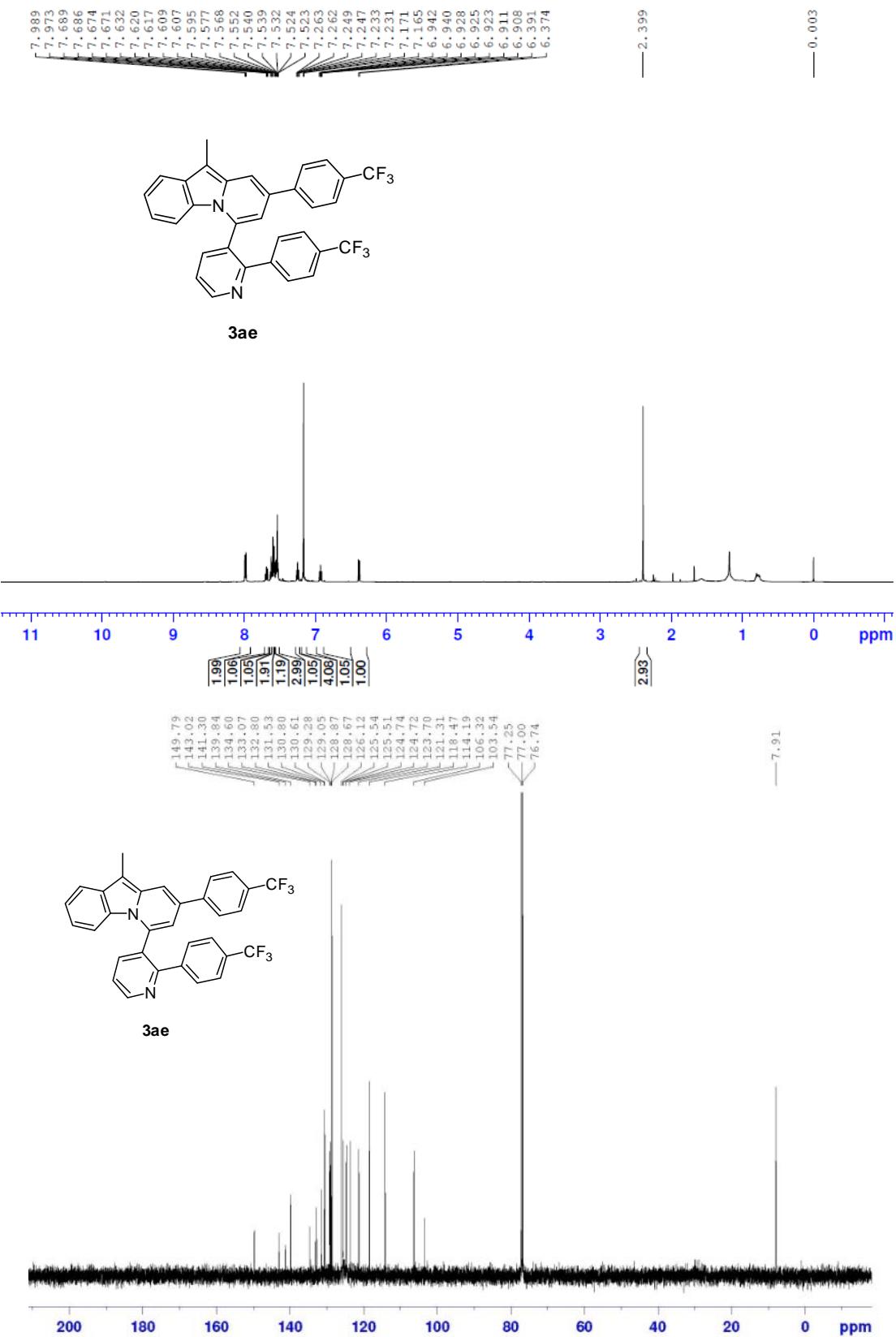


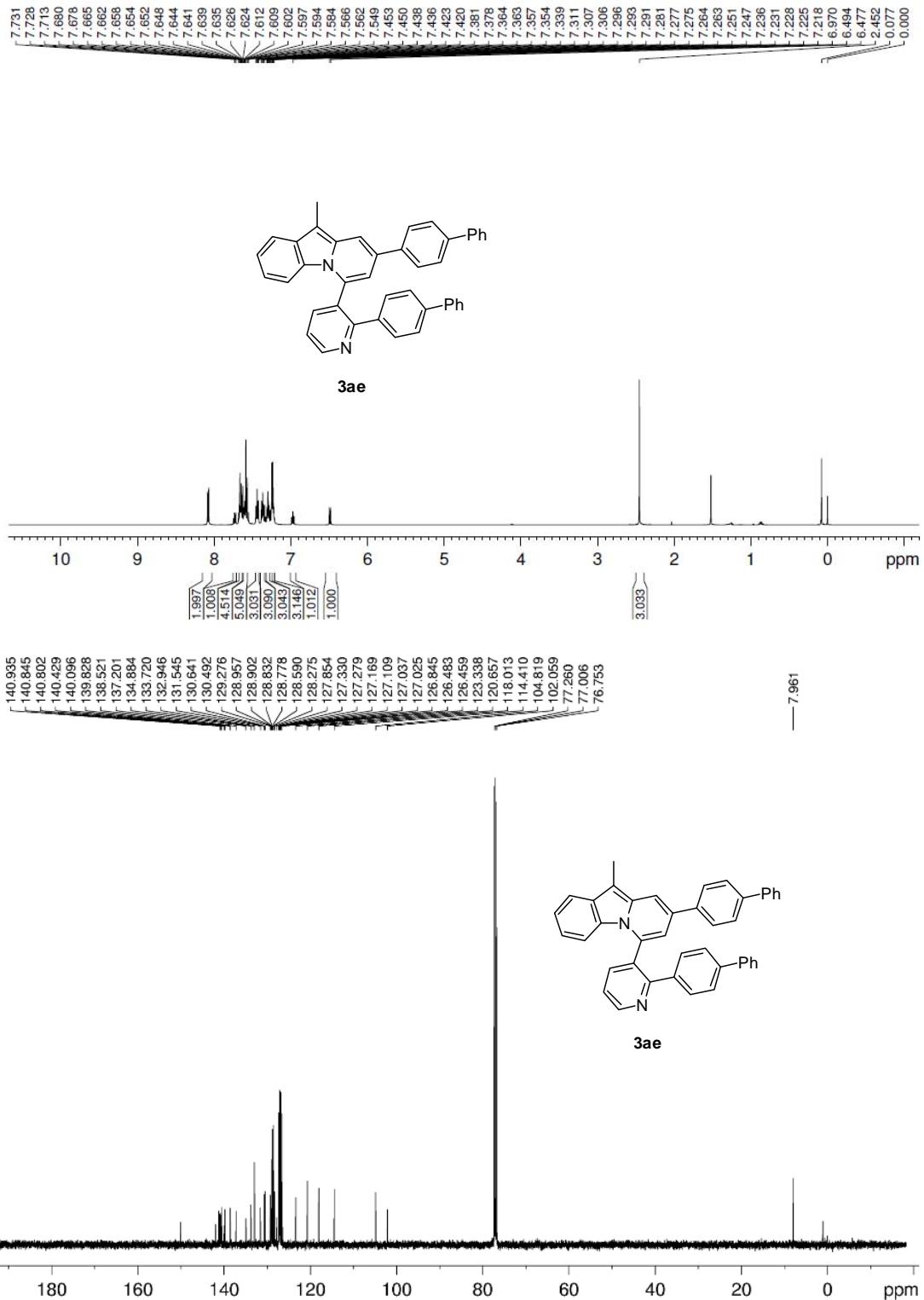


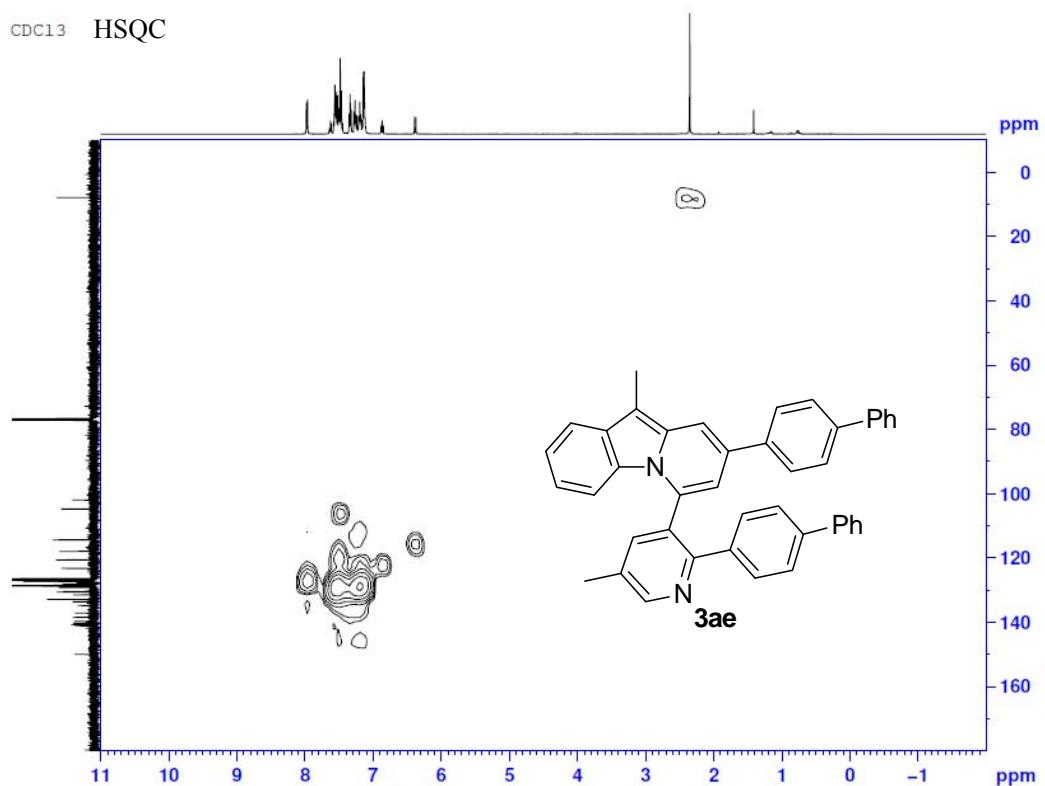
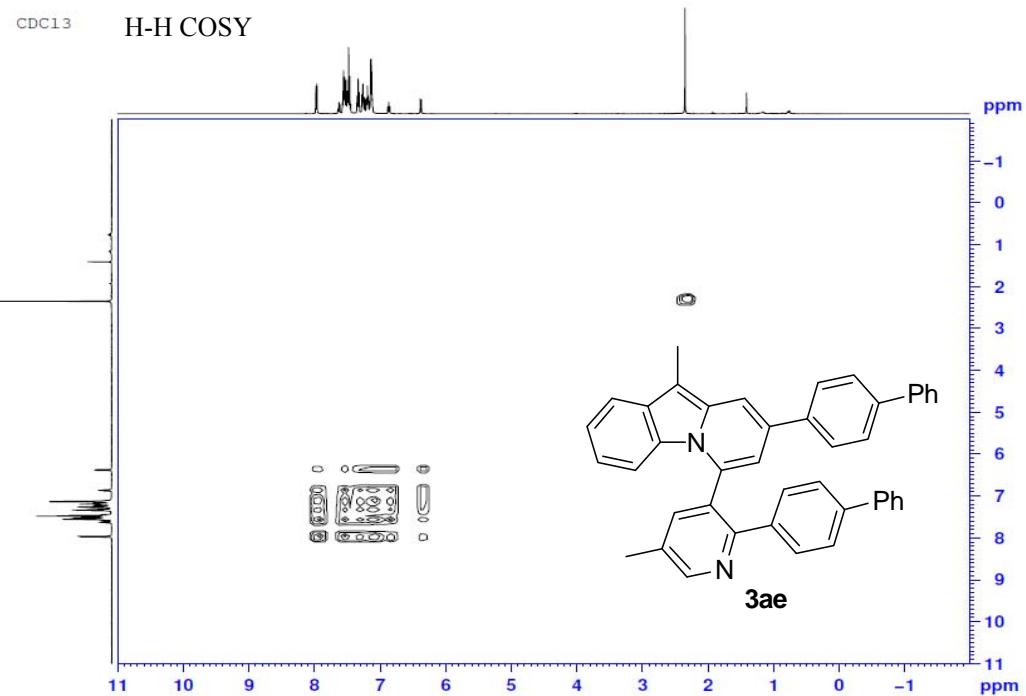


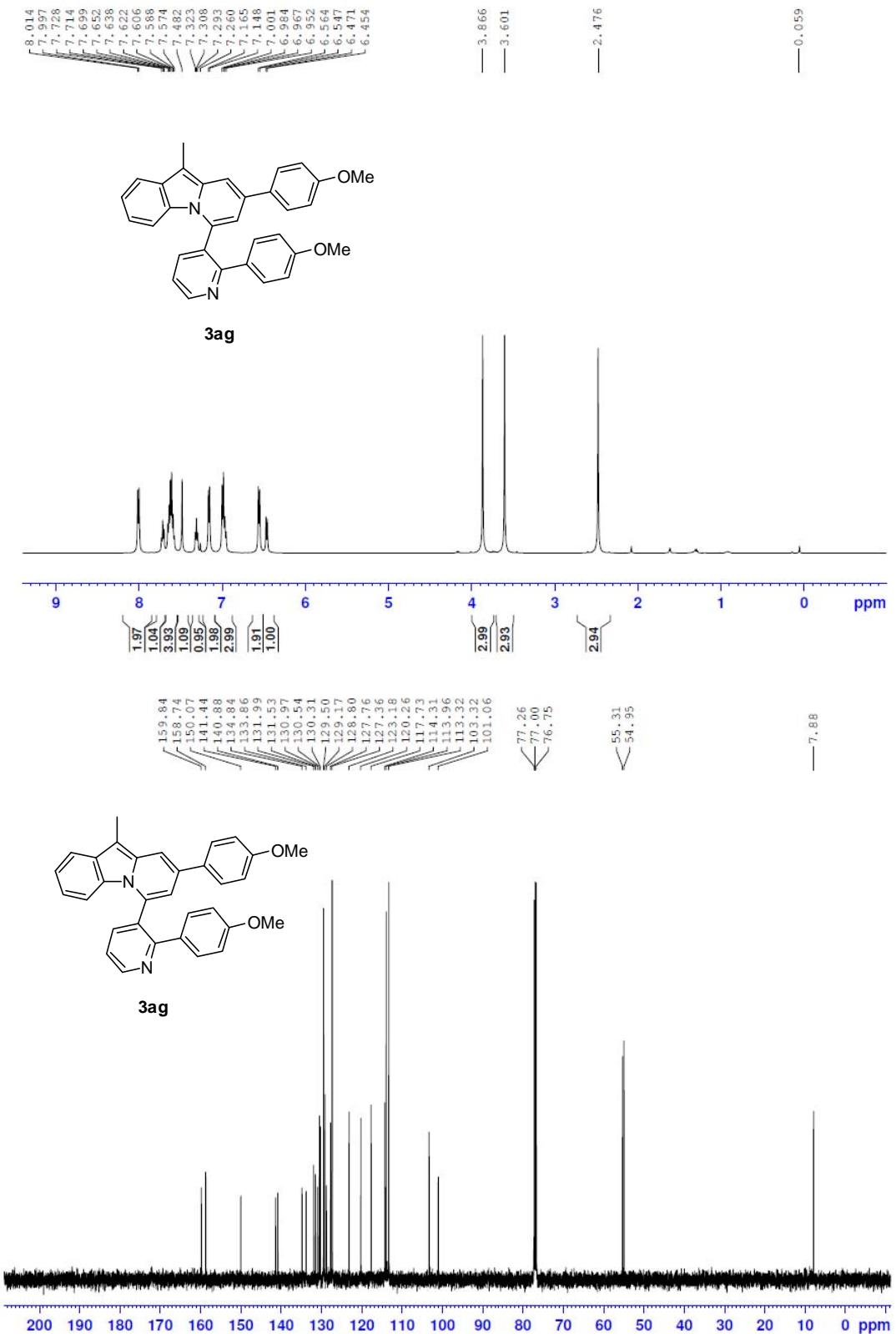


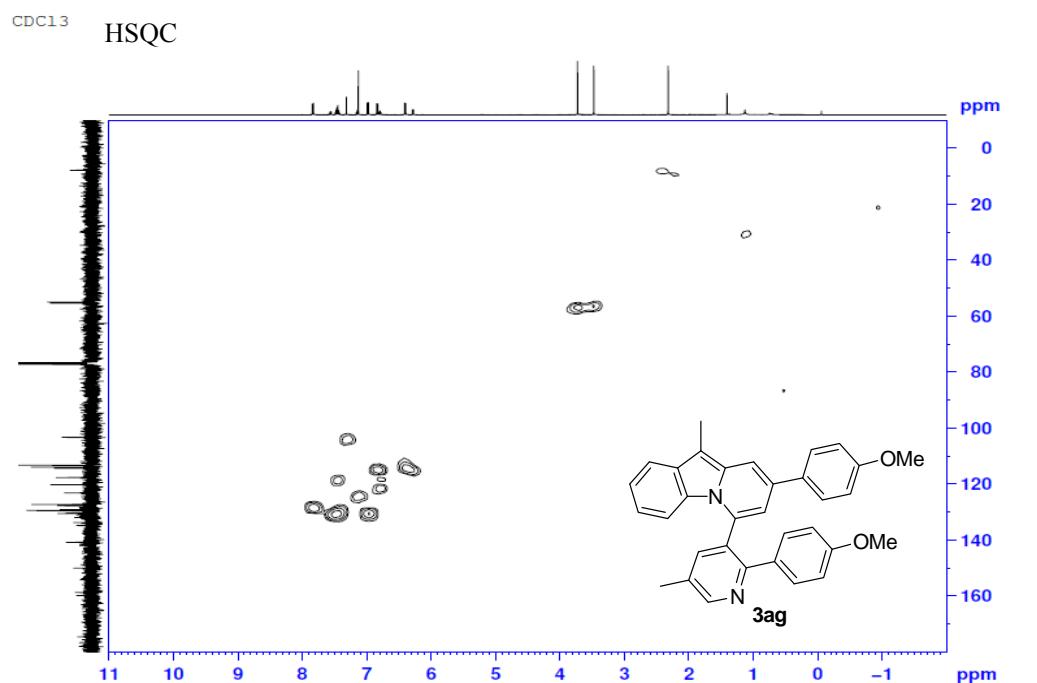
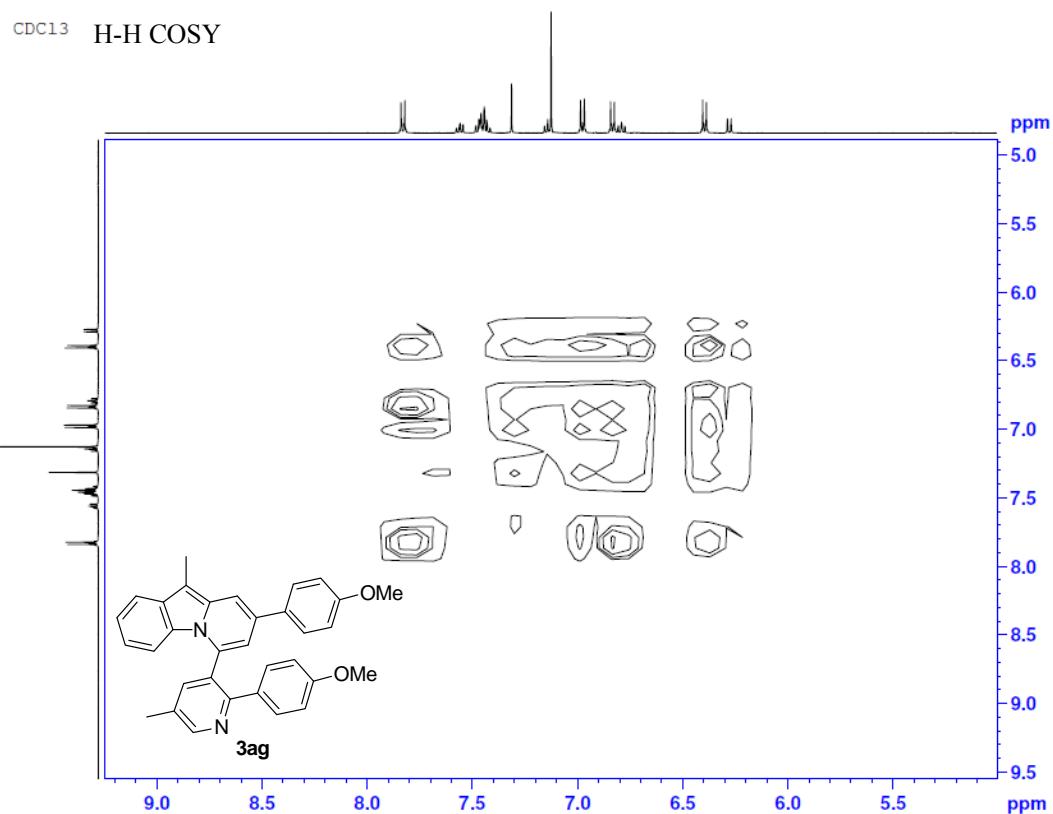


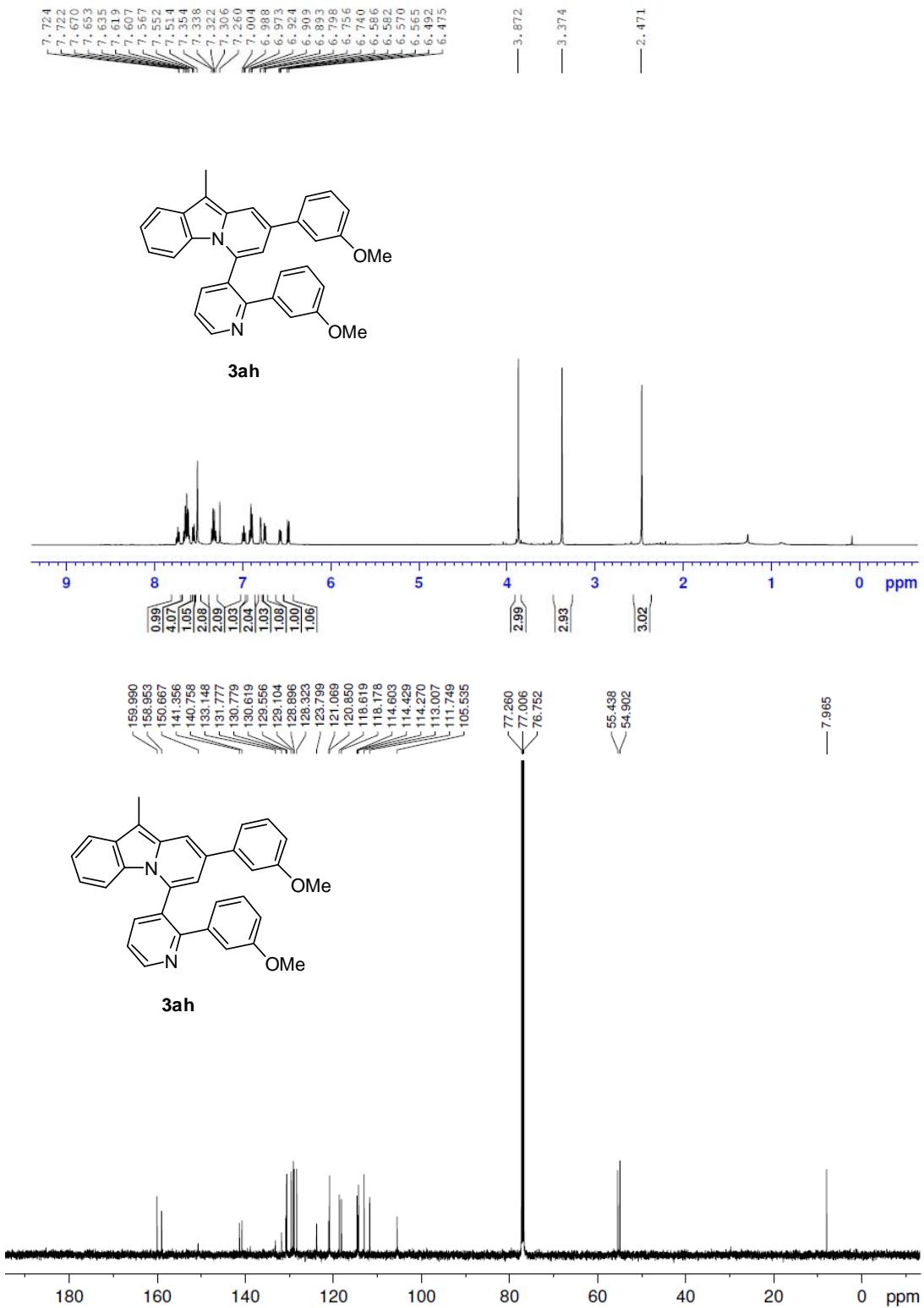


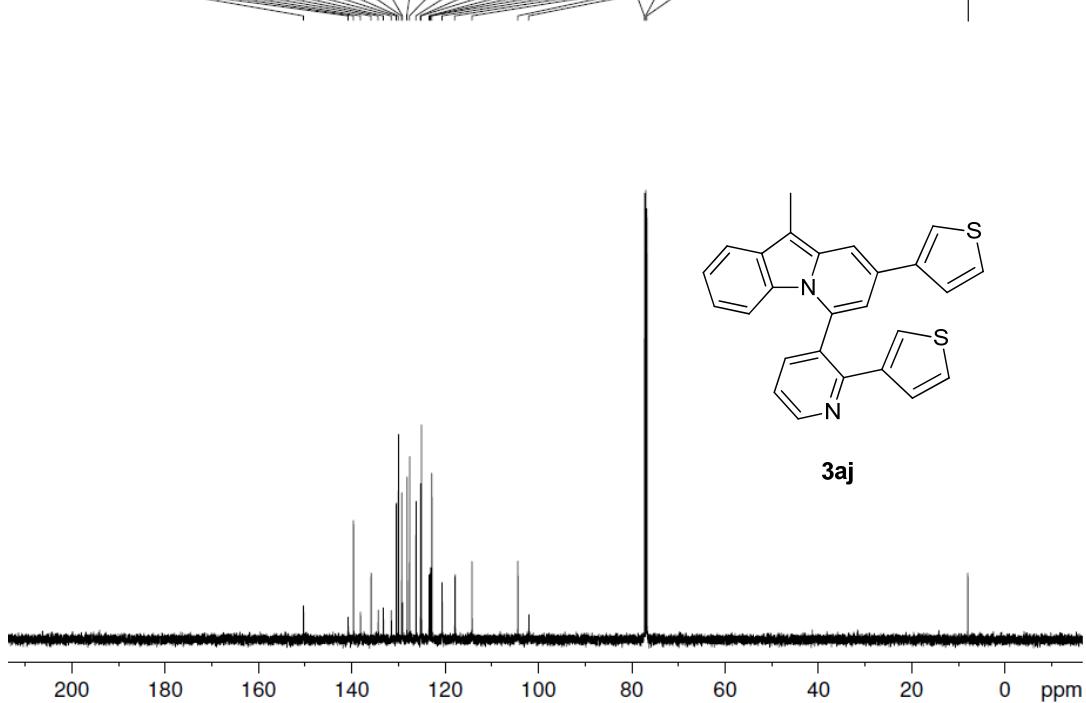
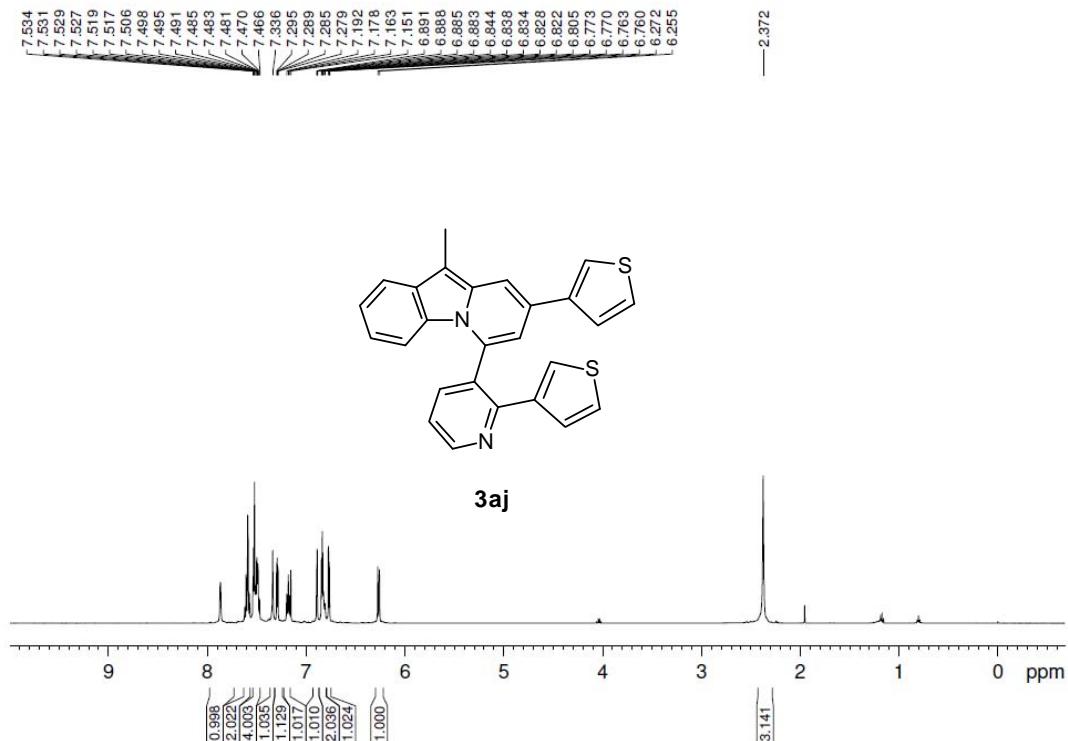


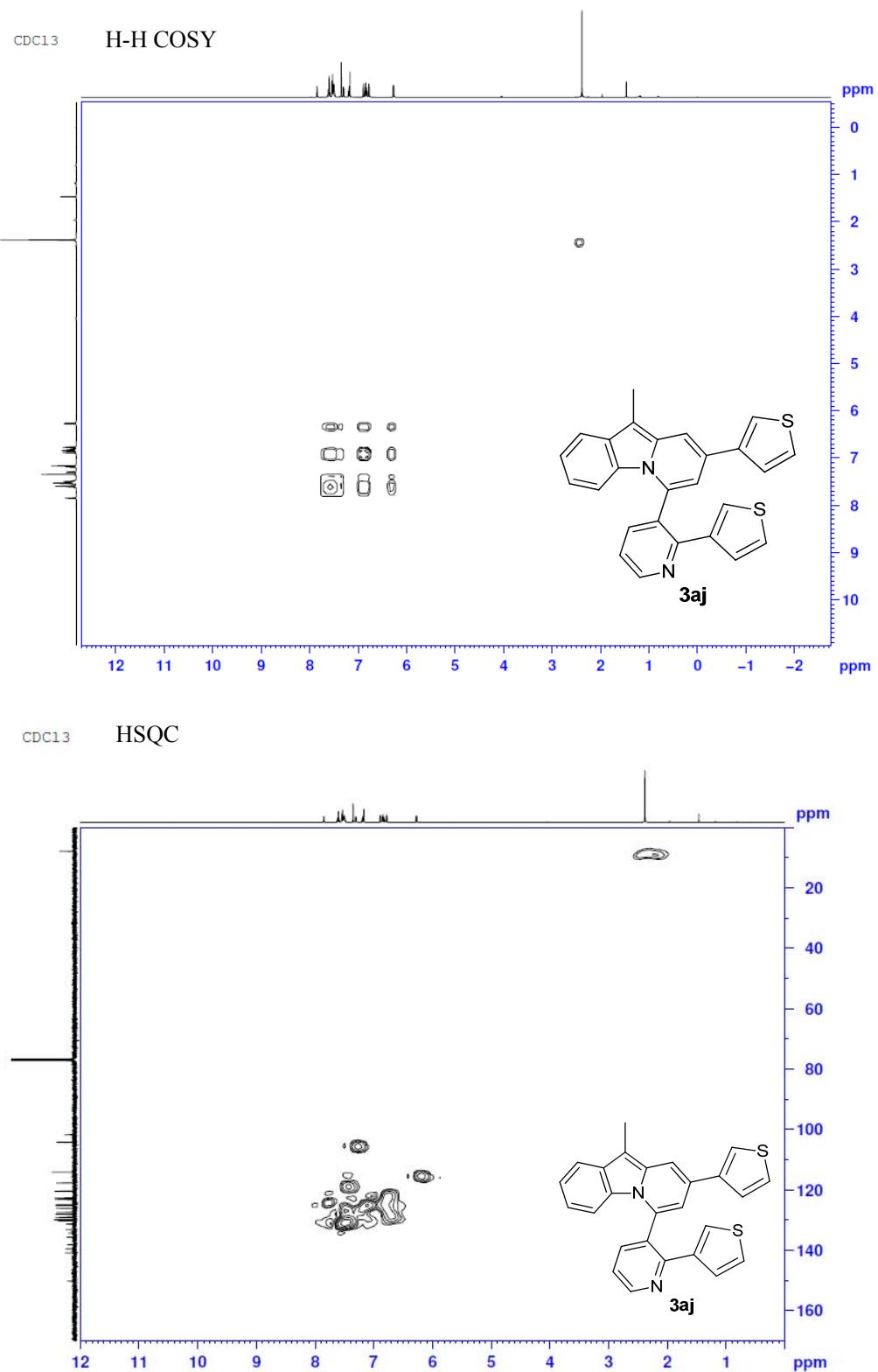


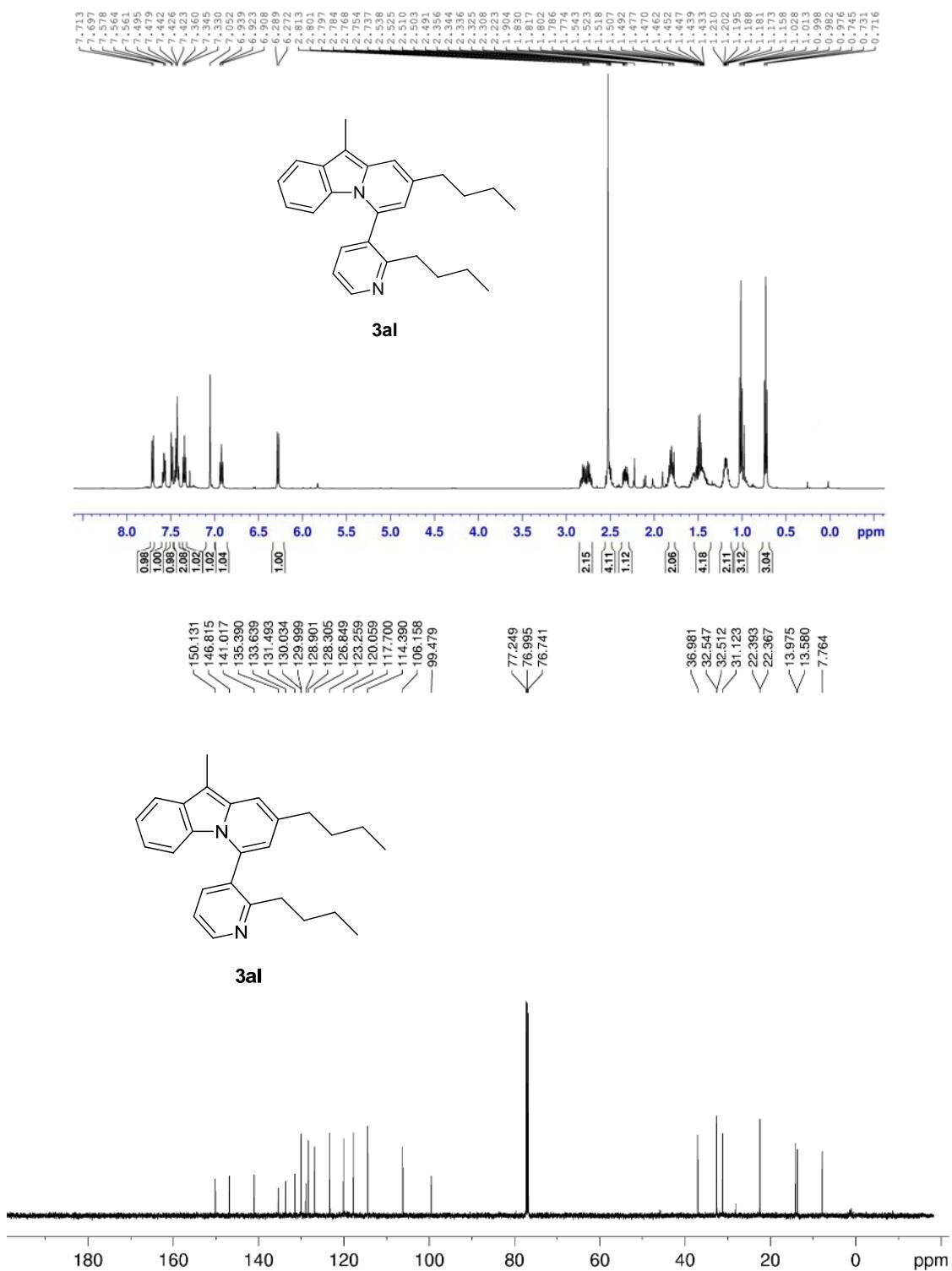


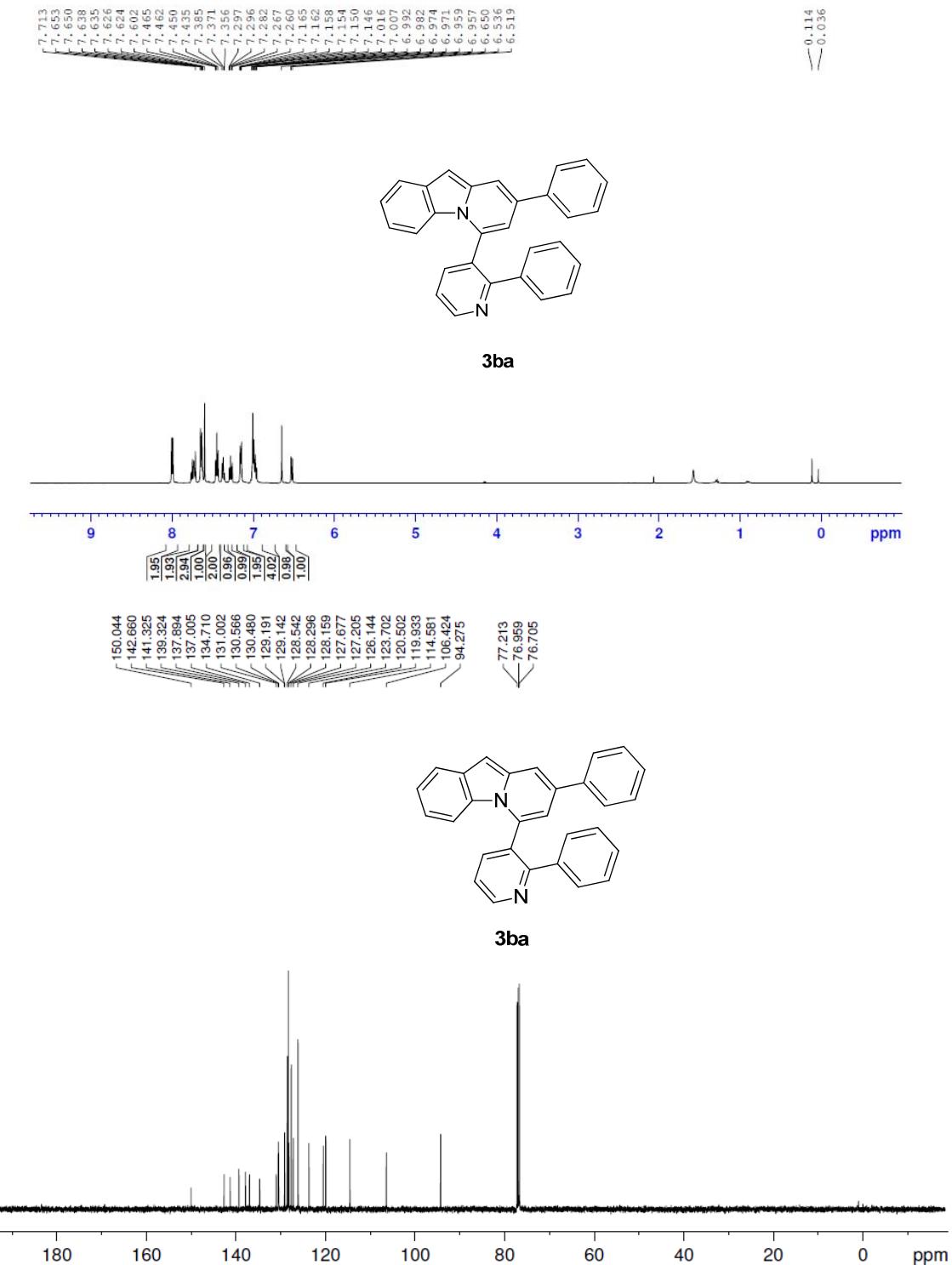


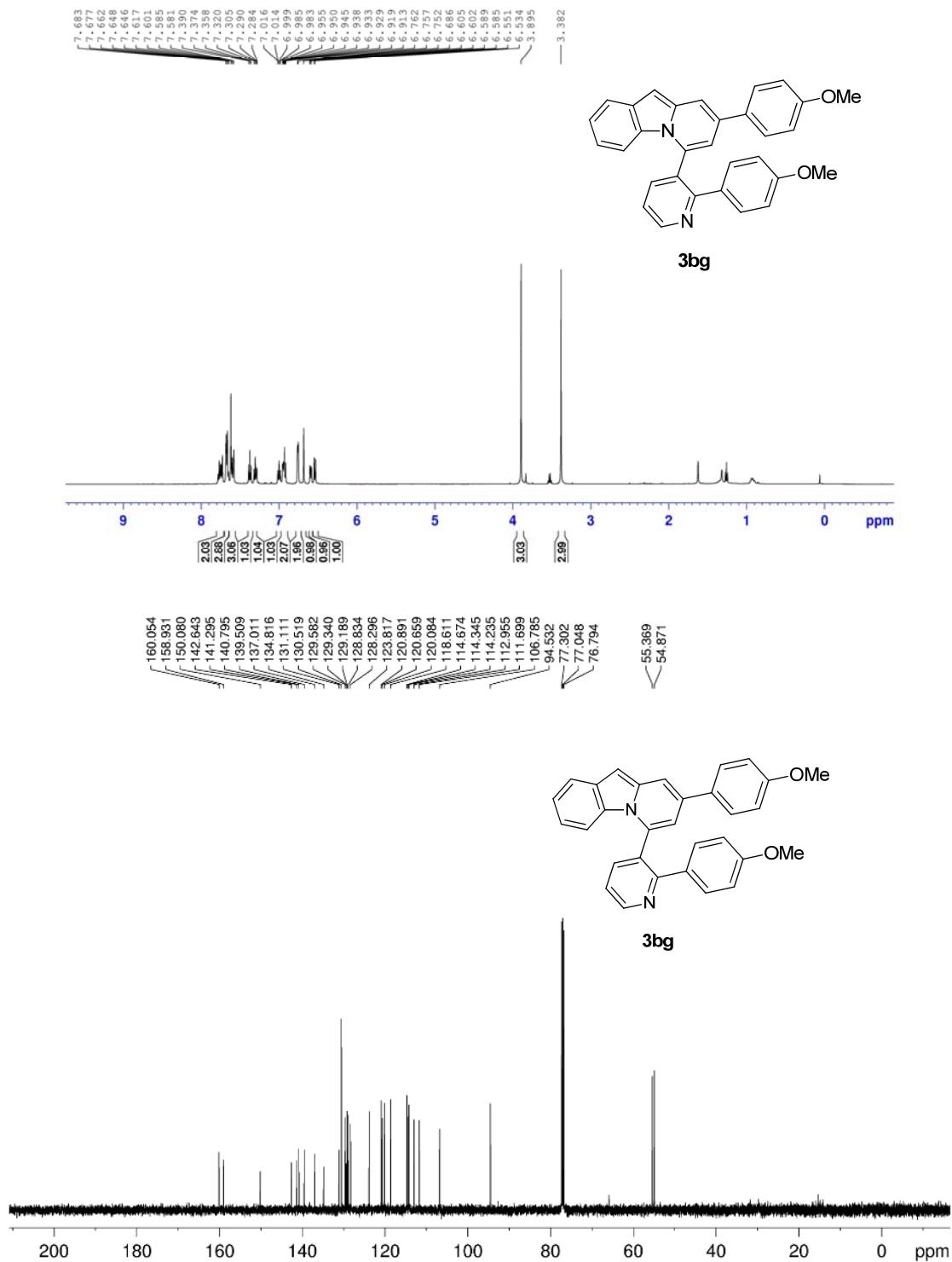


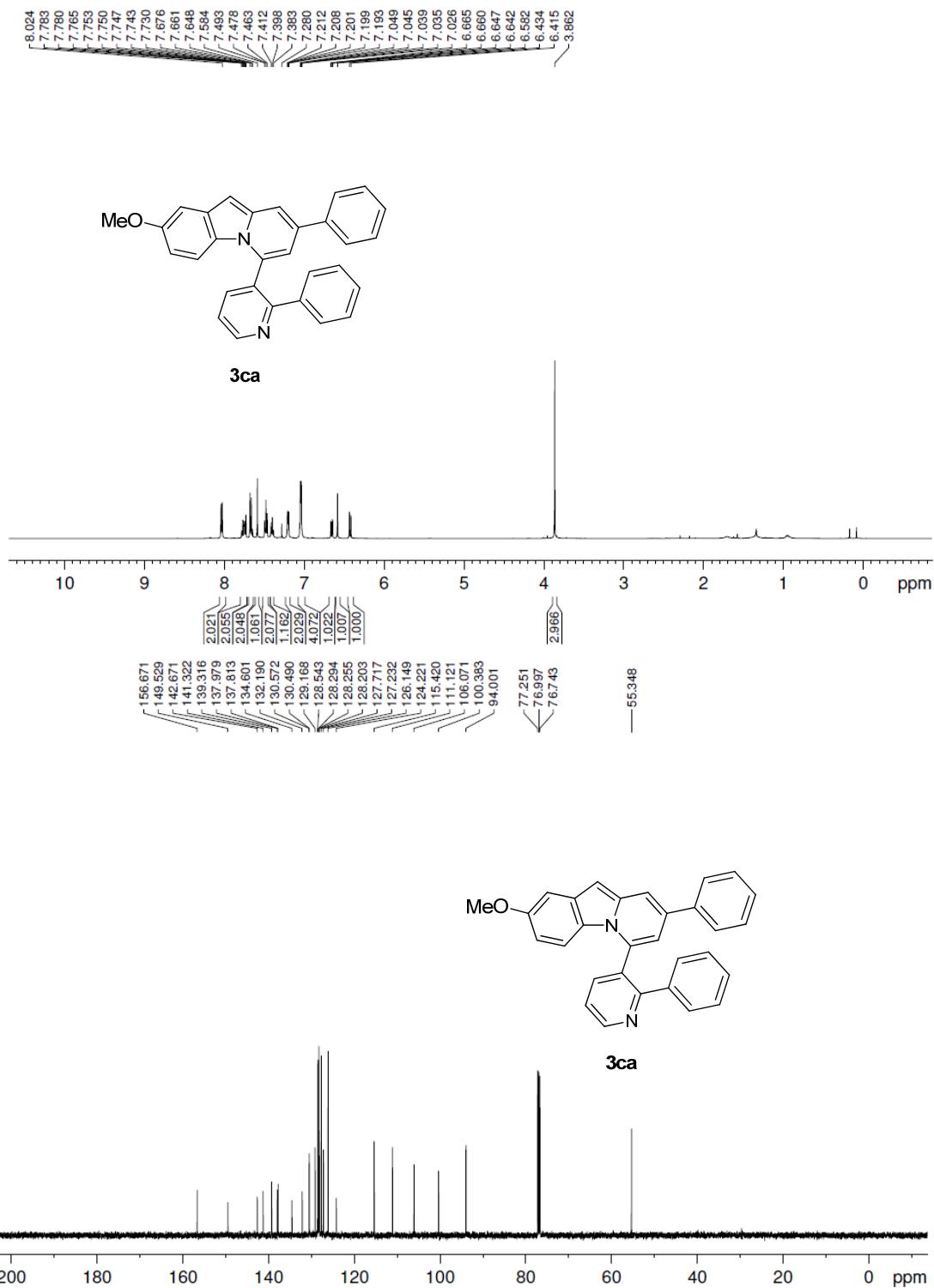


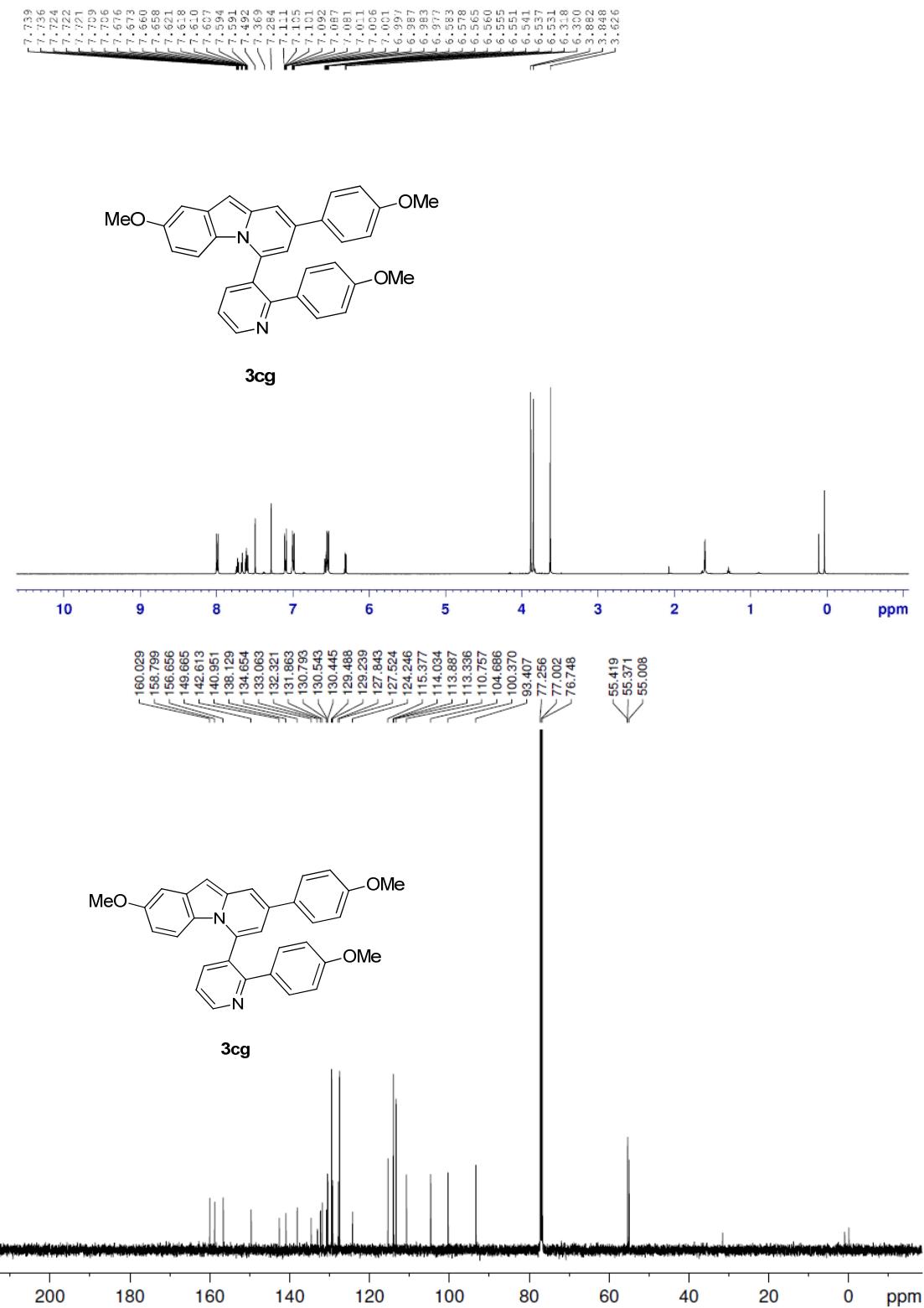


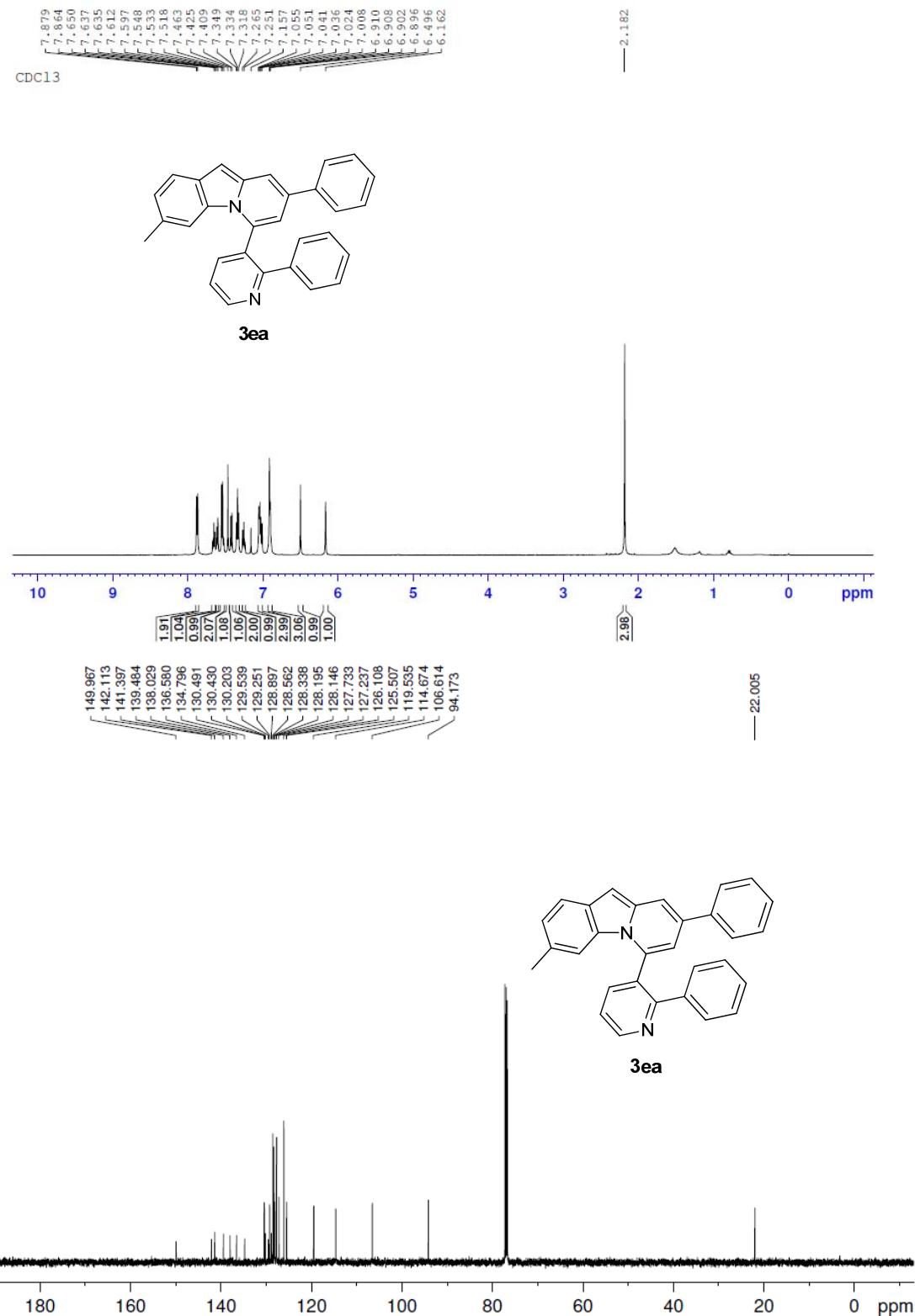


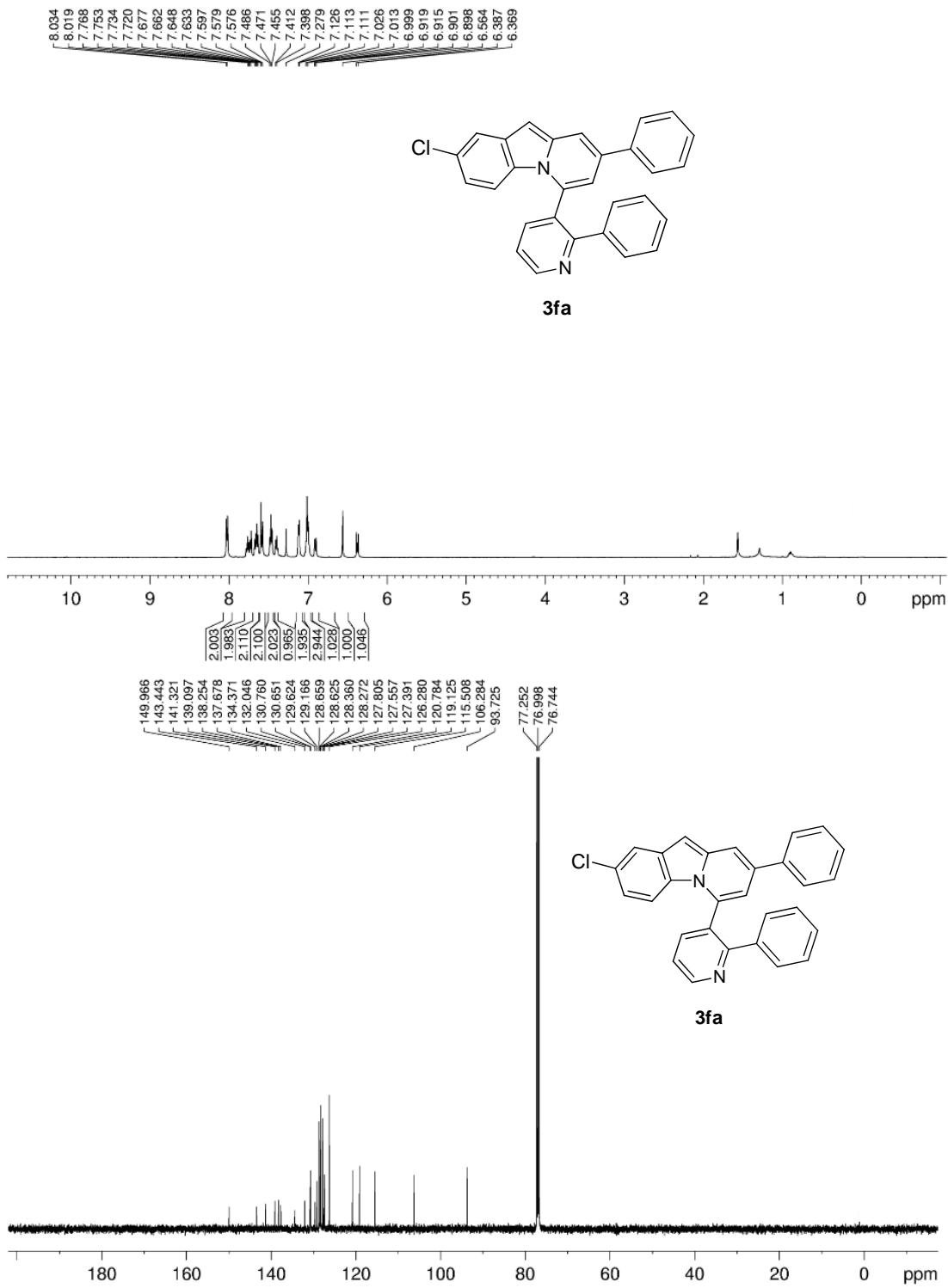


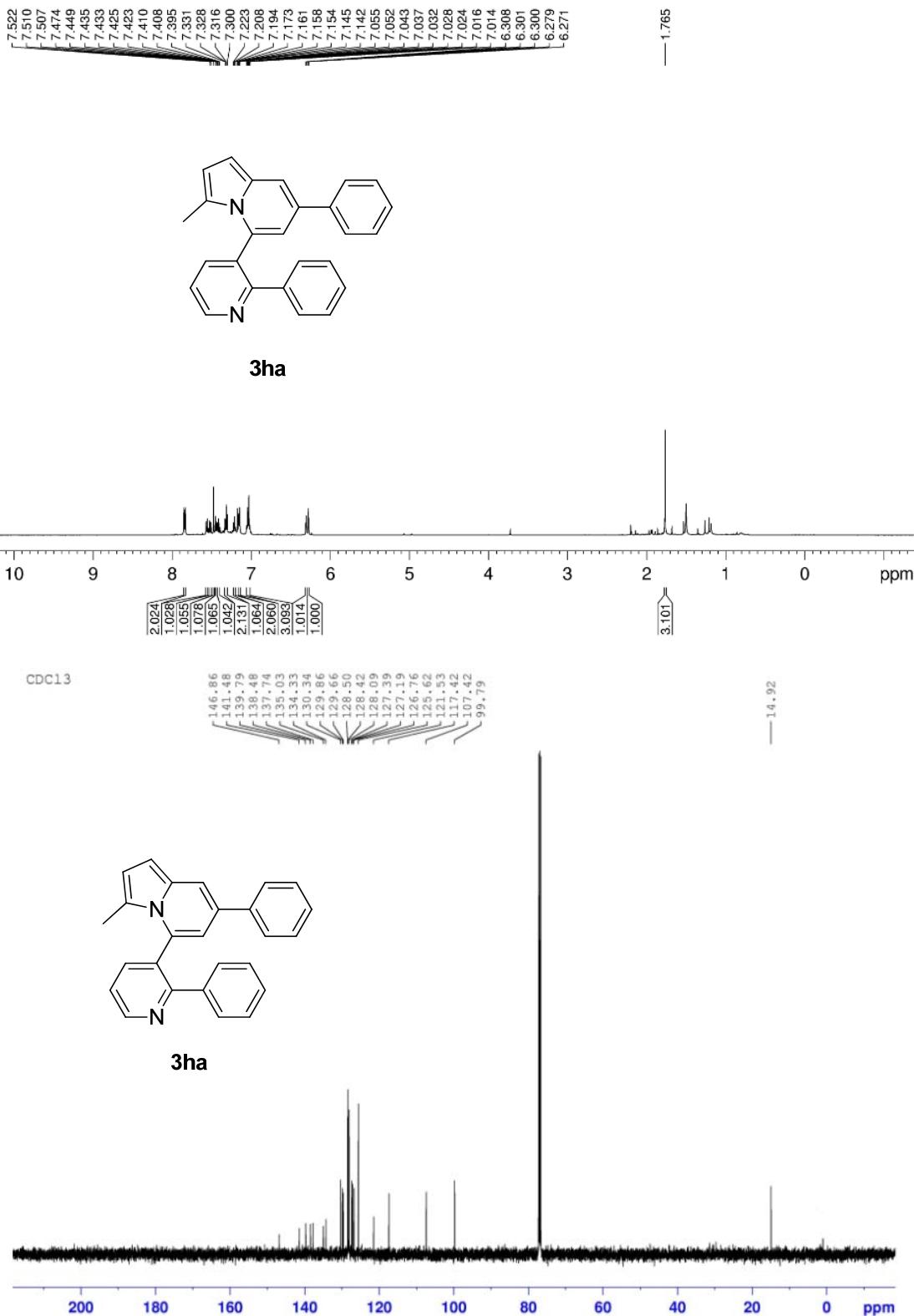


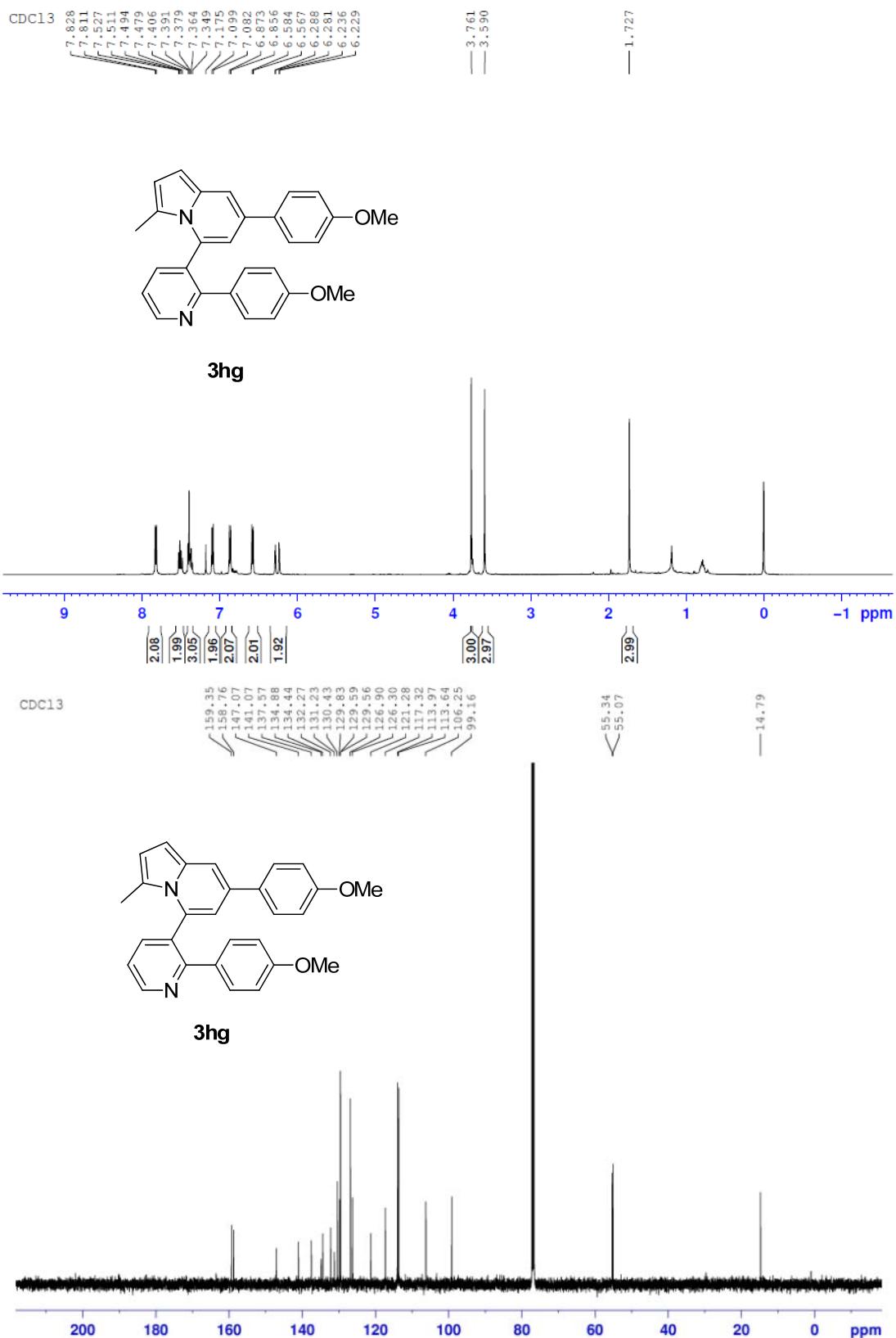


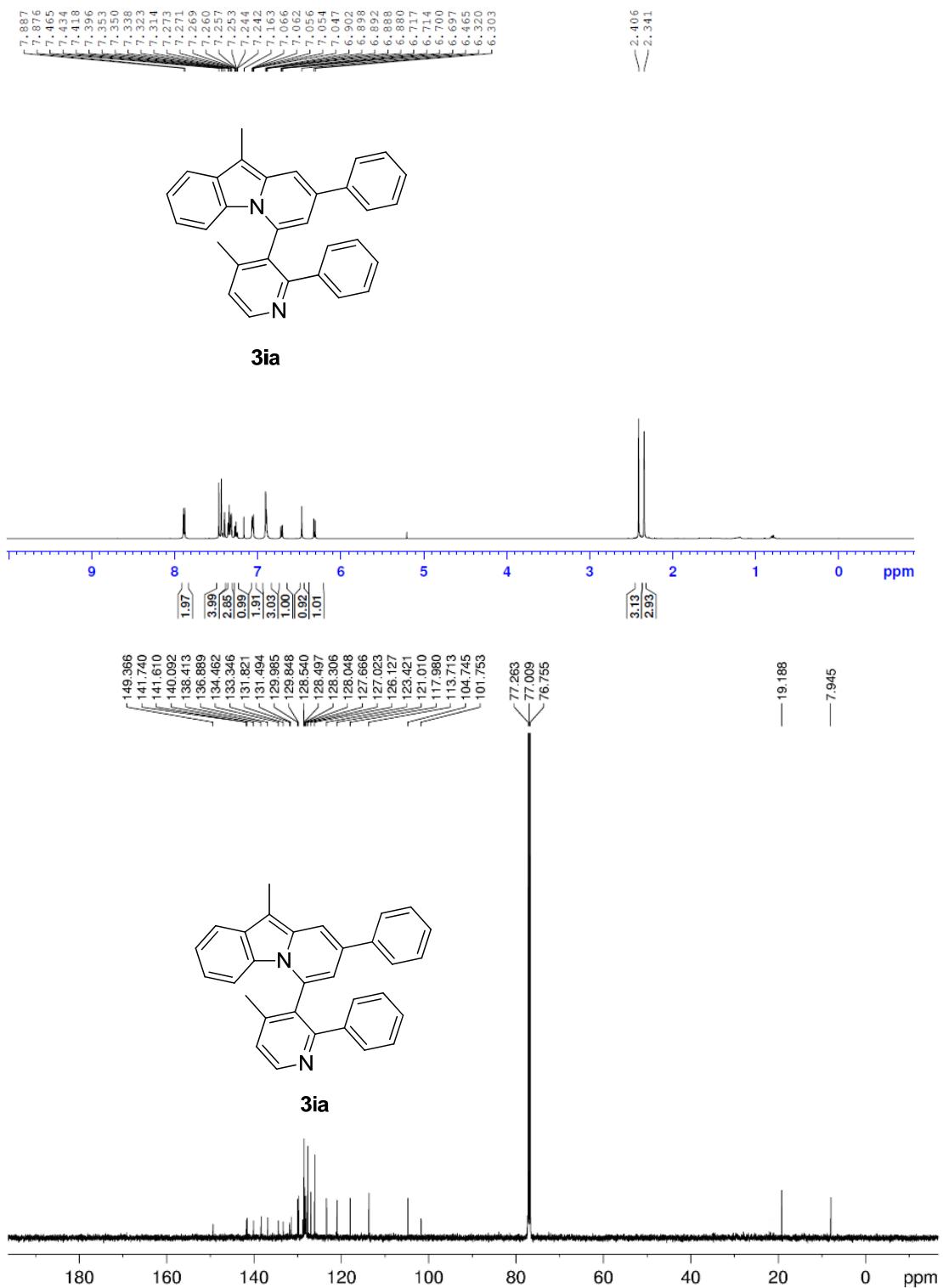


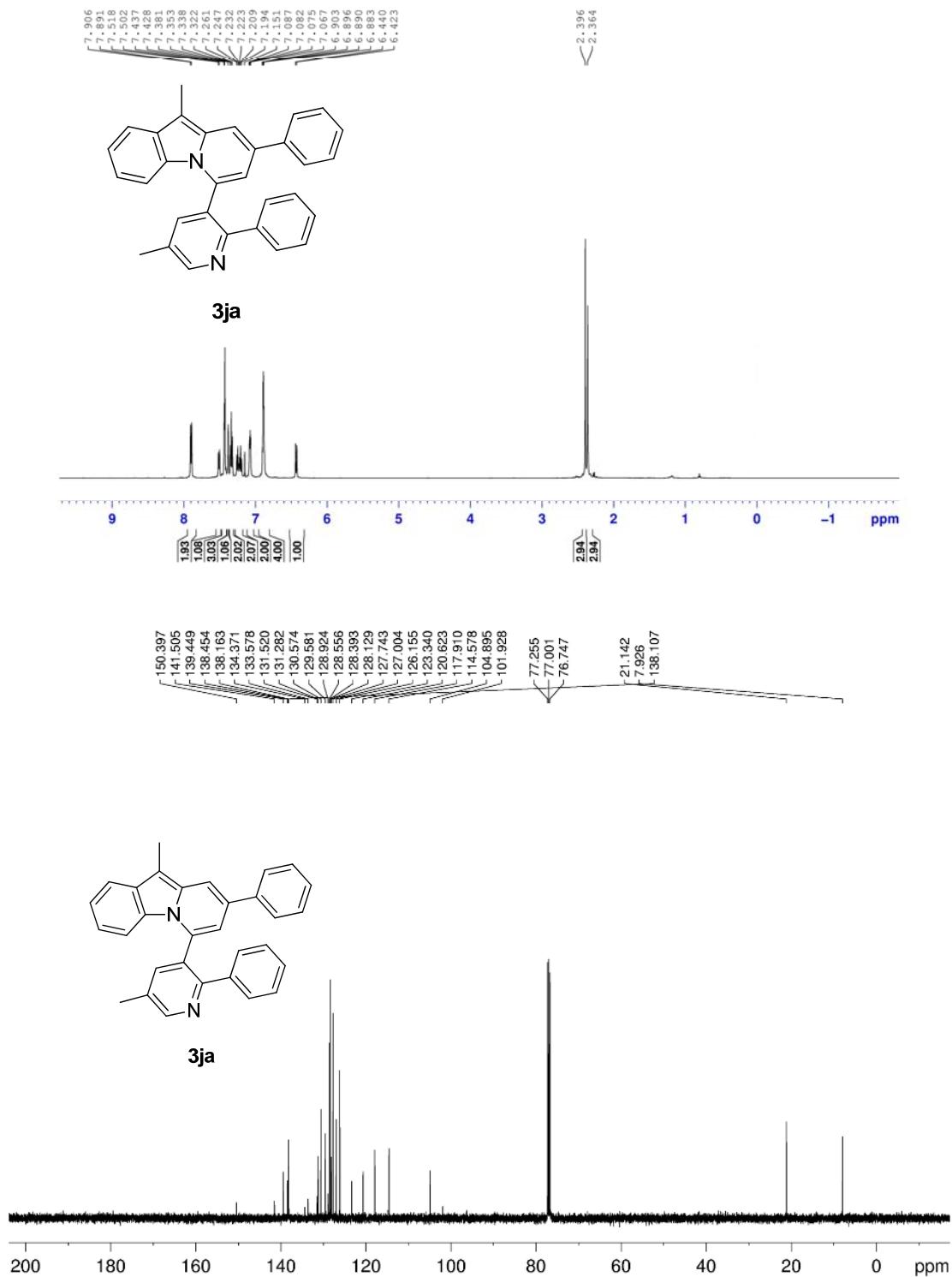


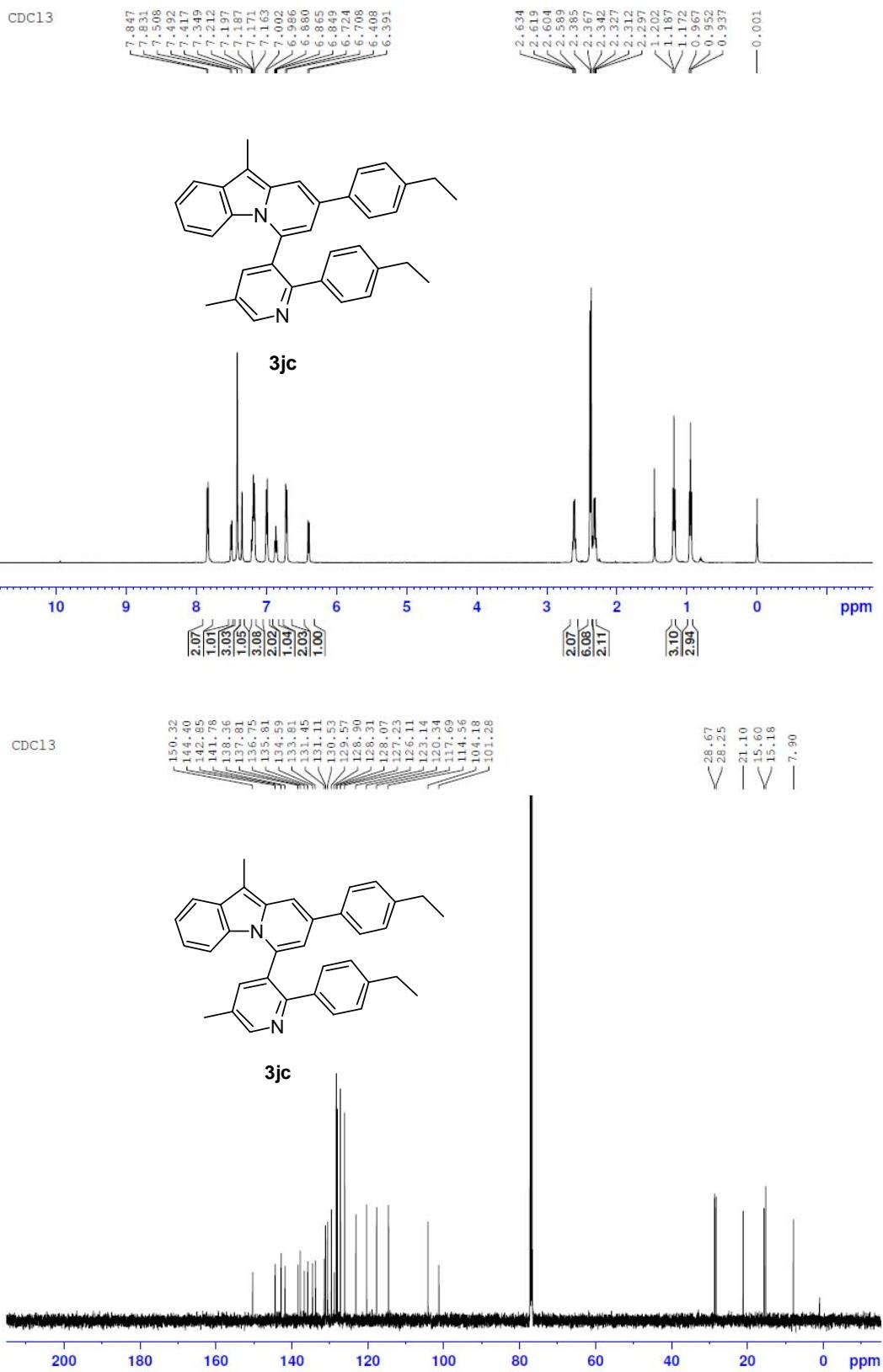


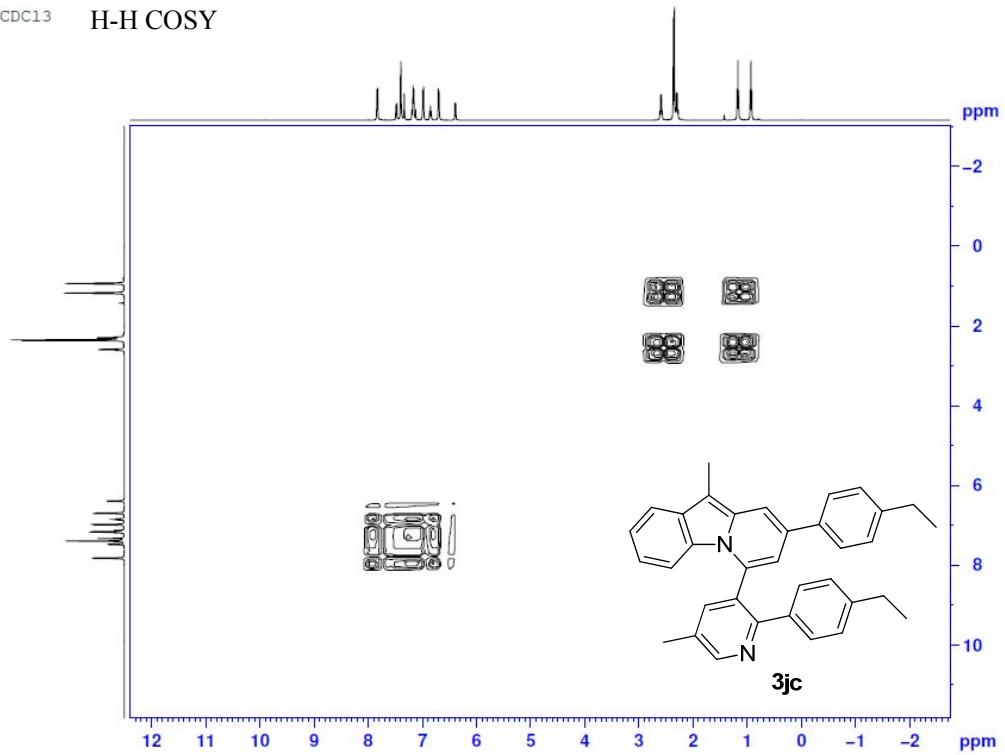
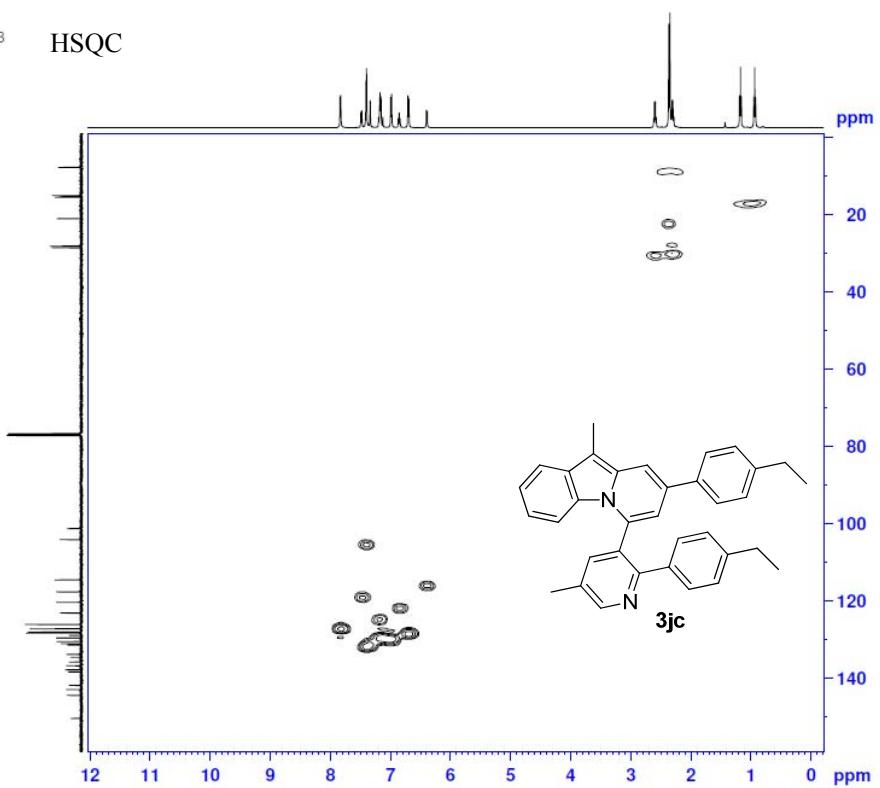


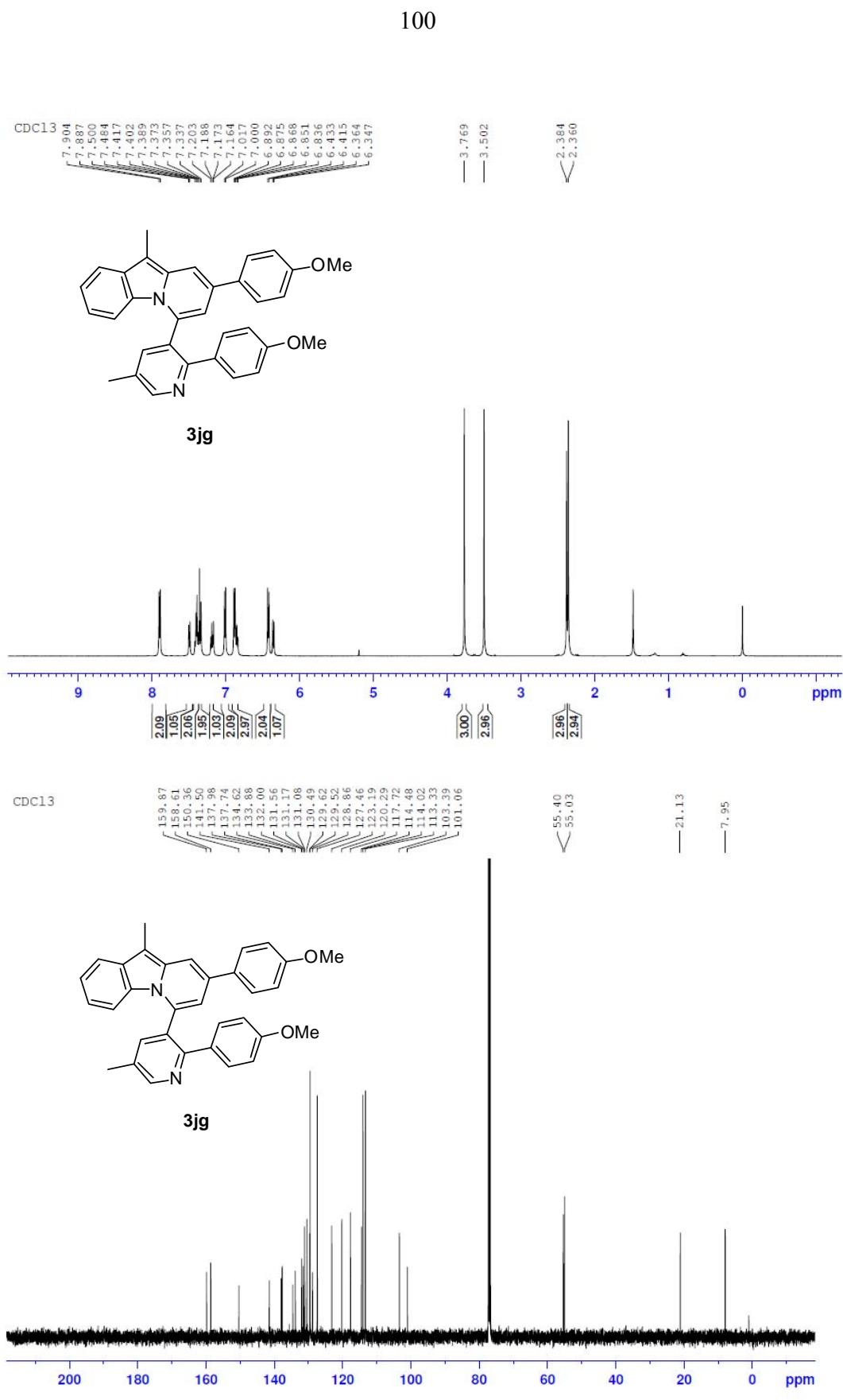


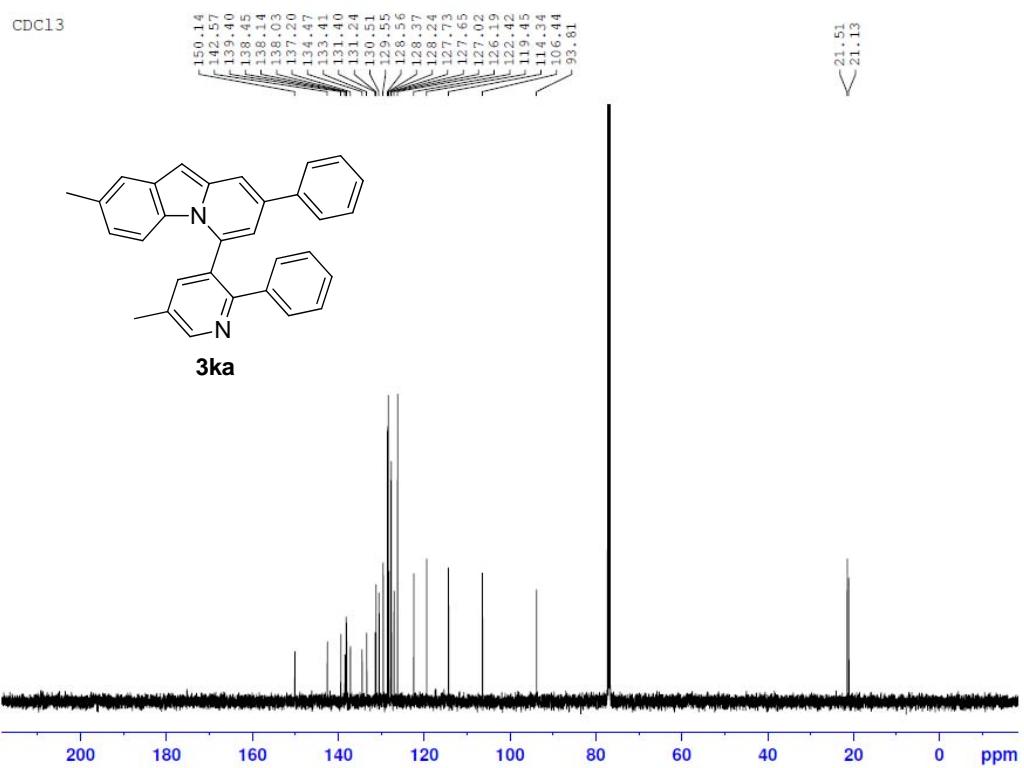
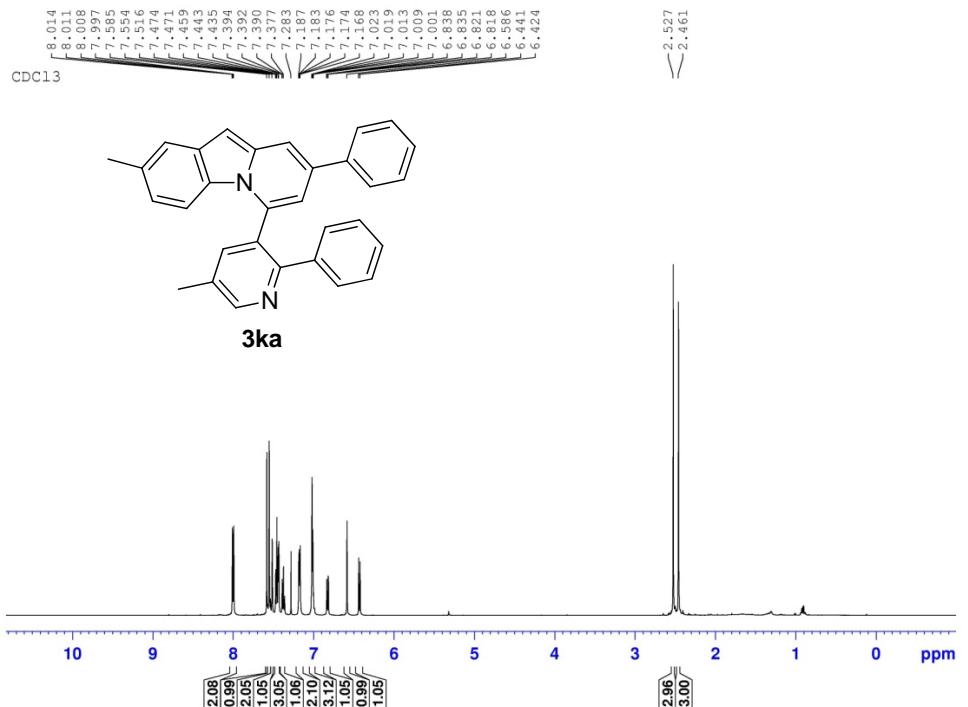


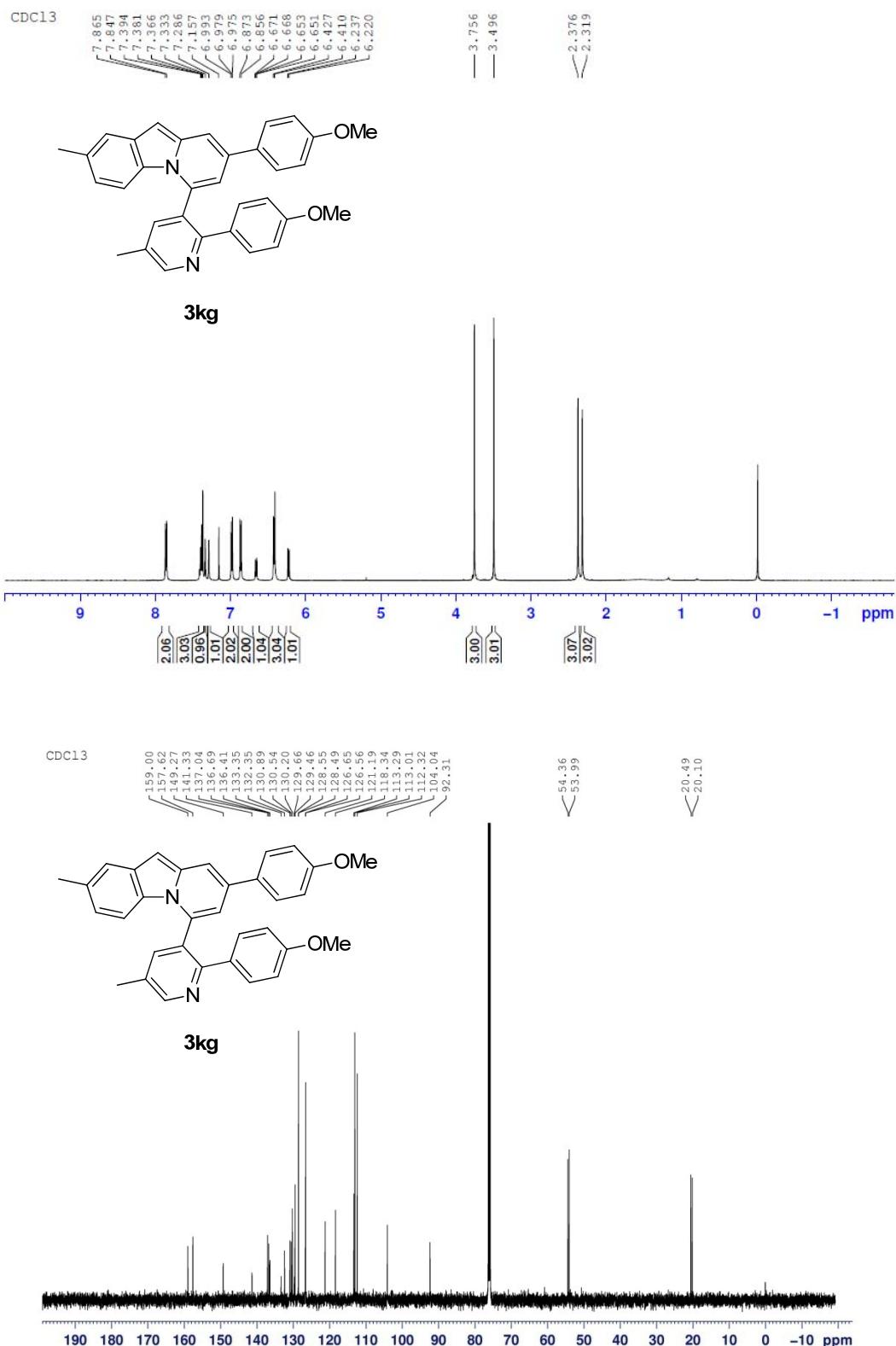


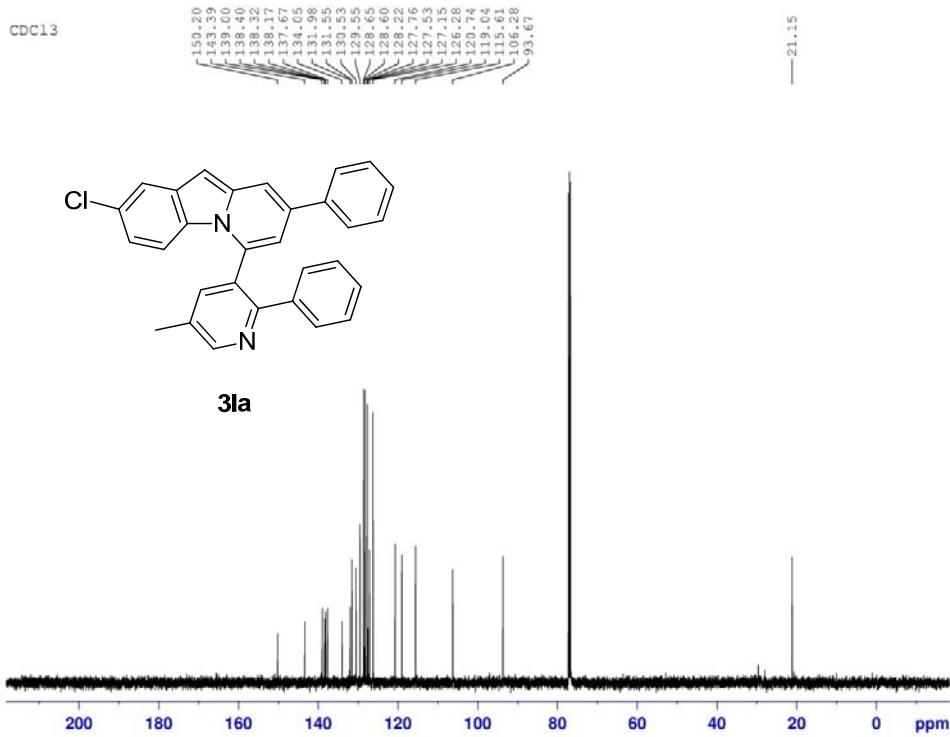
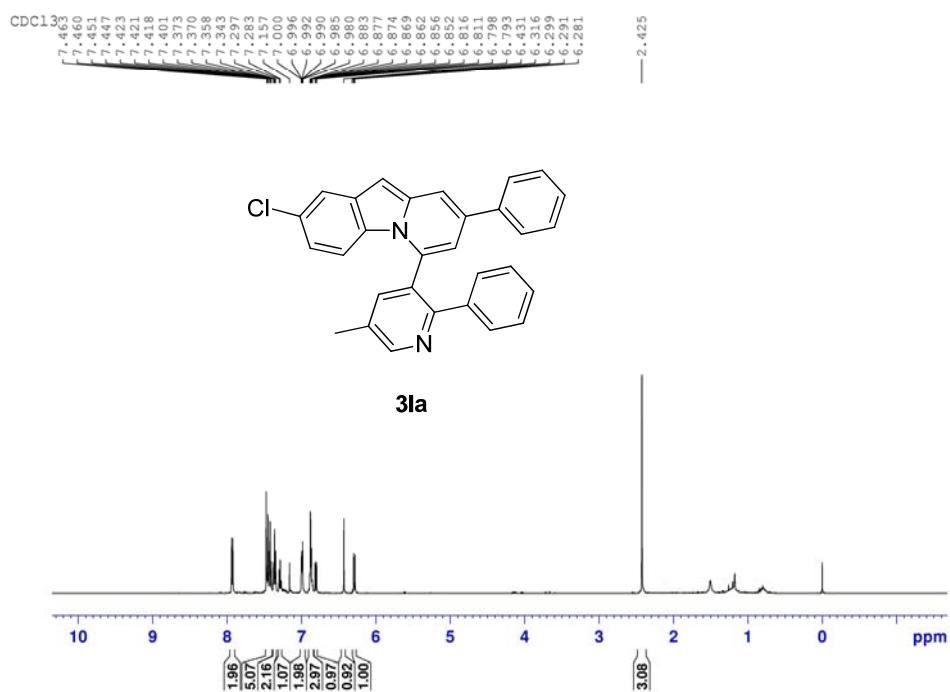


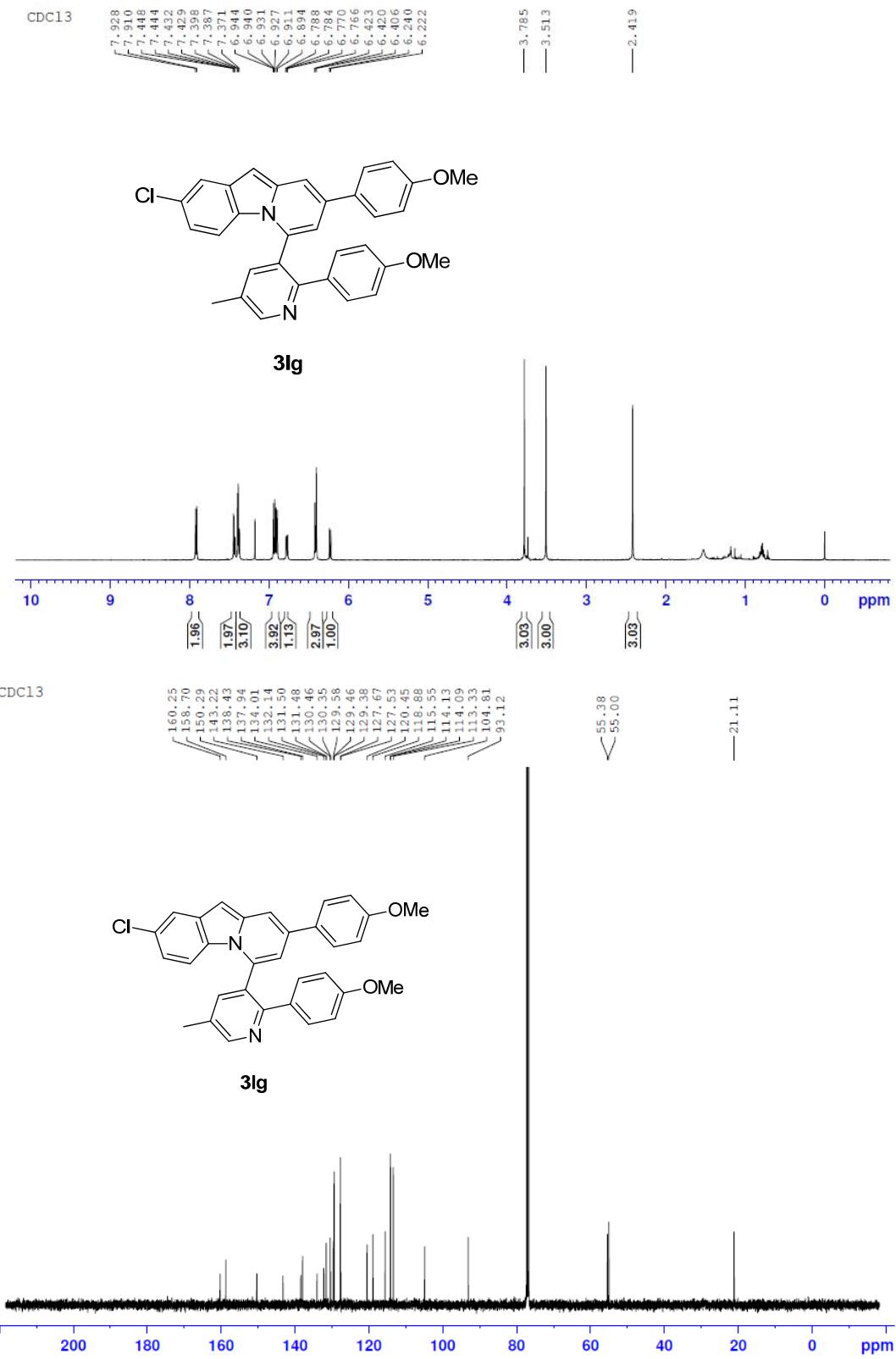
CDC₁₃ H-H COSYCDC₁₃ HSQC



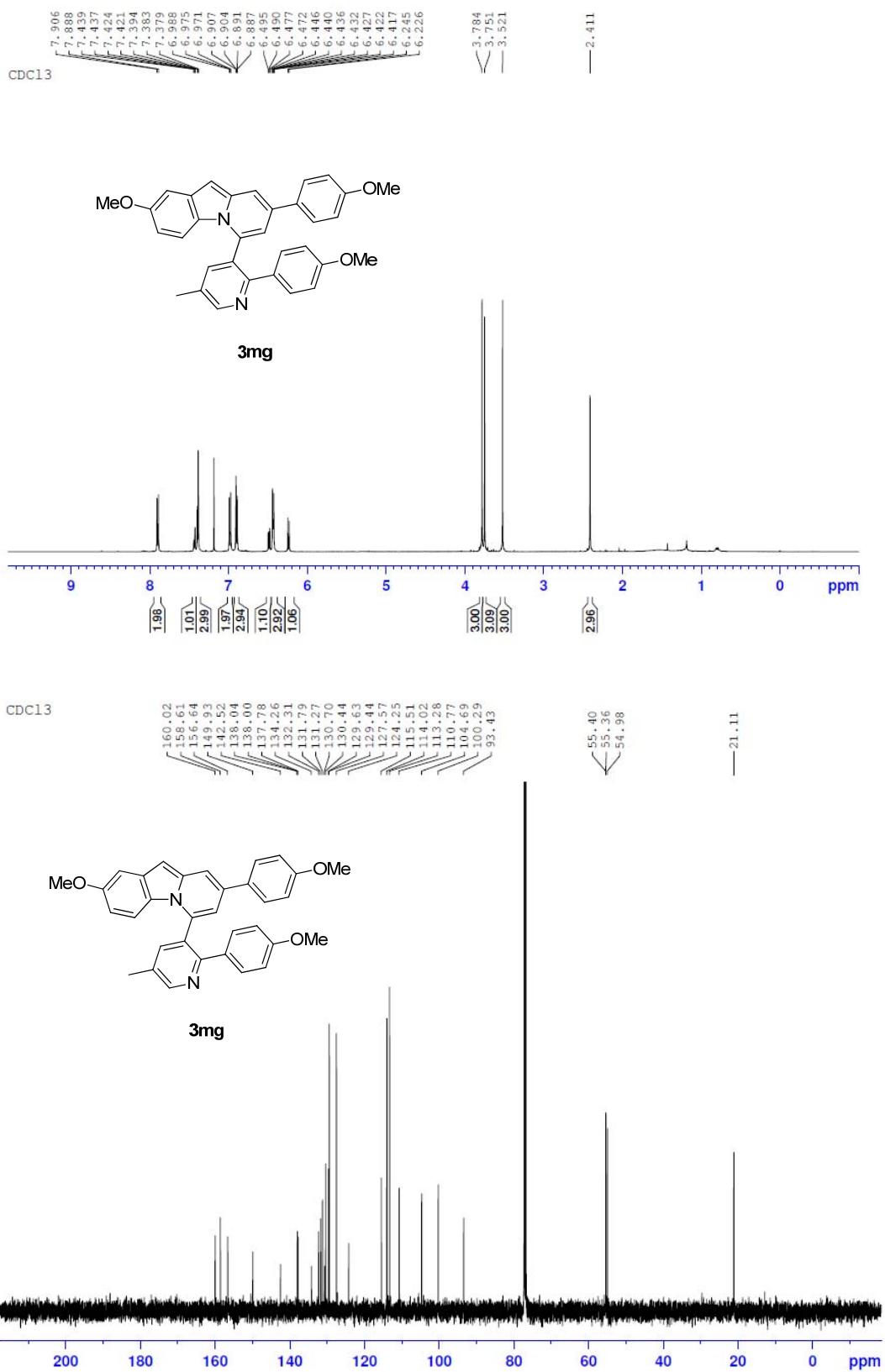




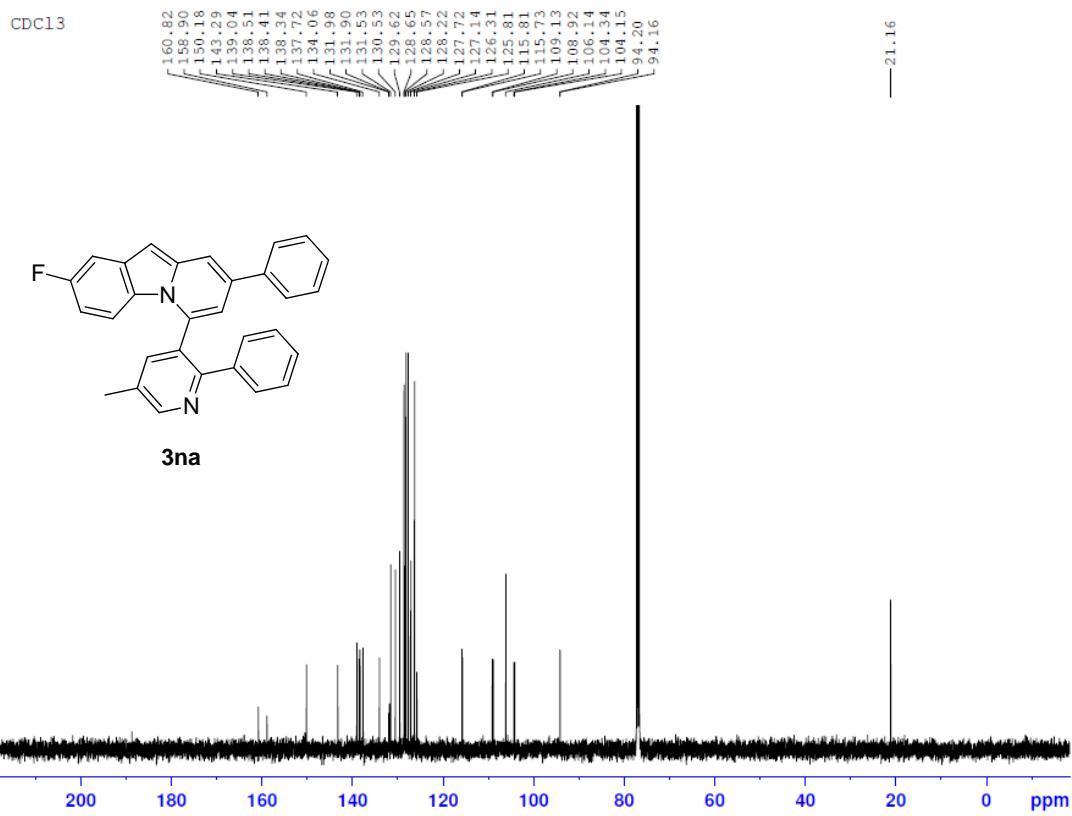
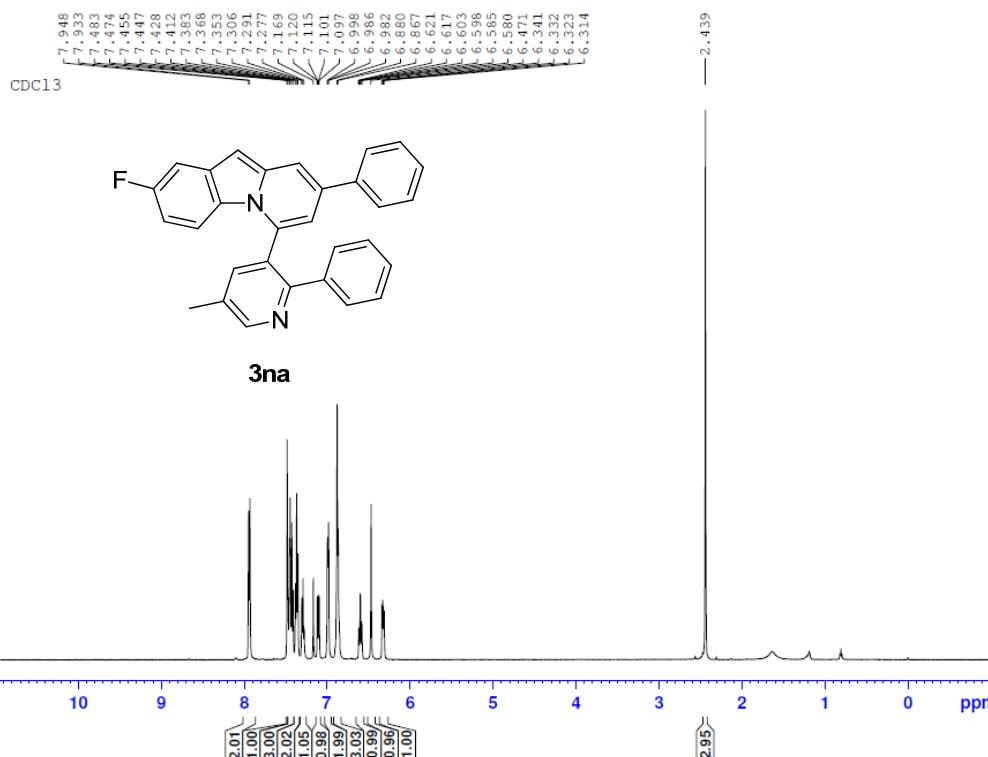




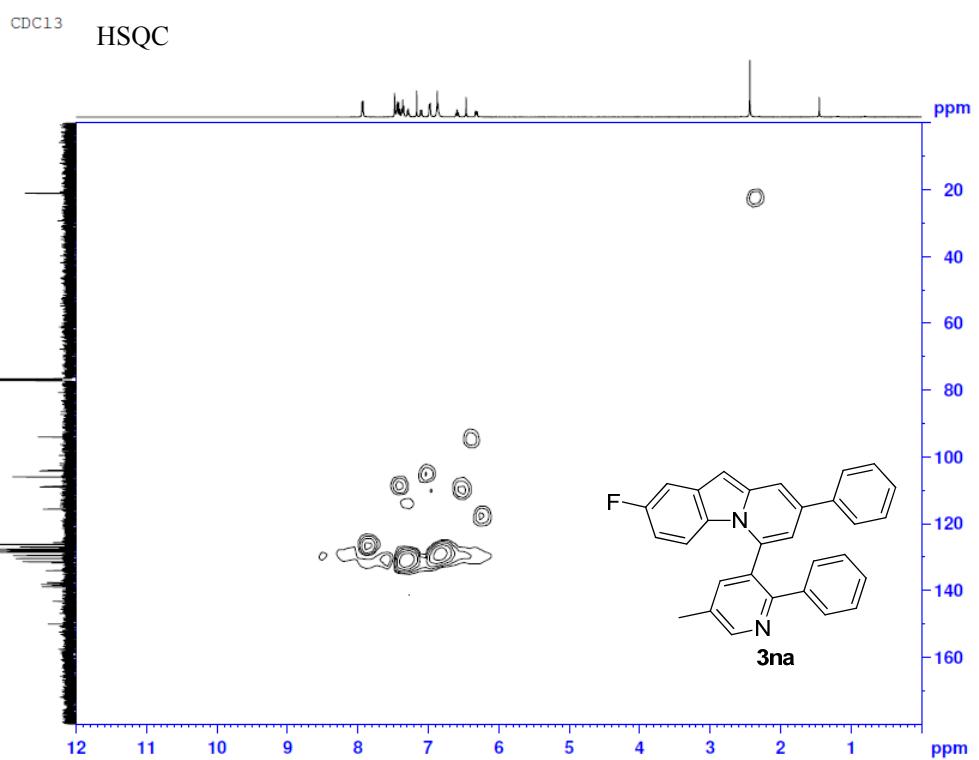
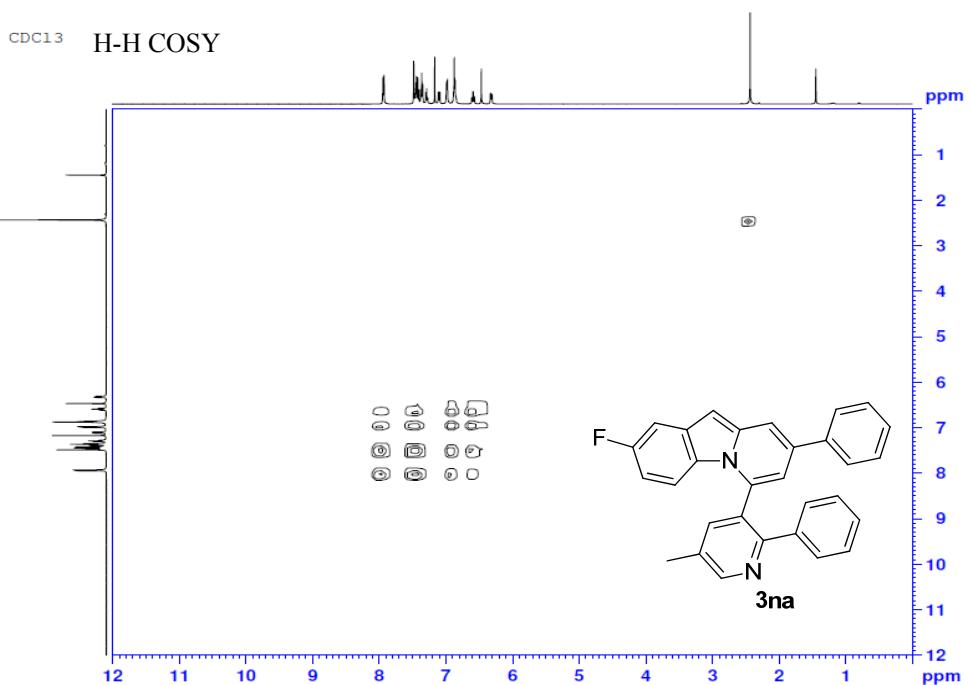
105

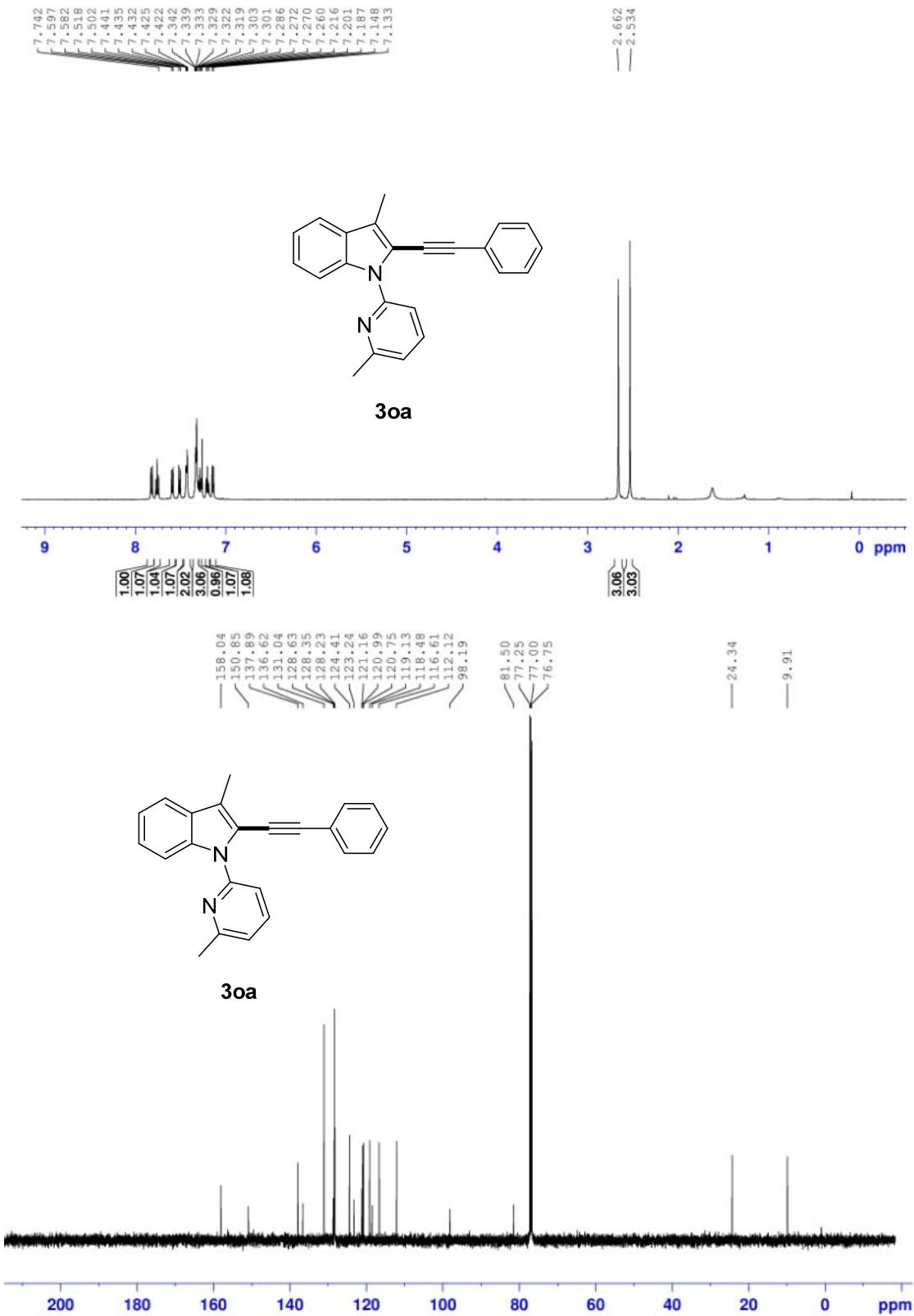


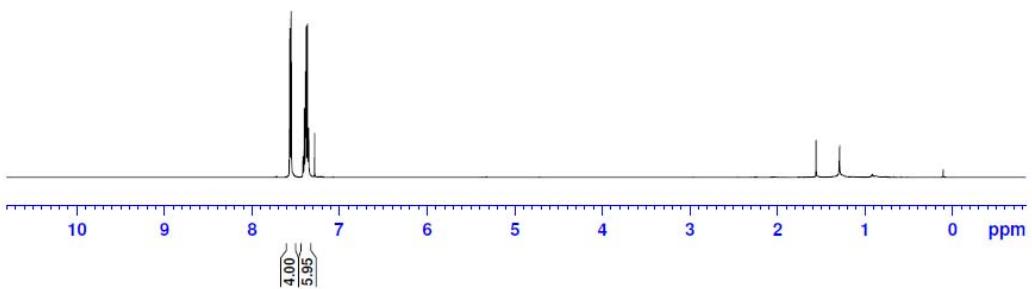
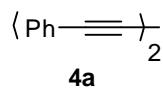
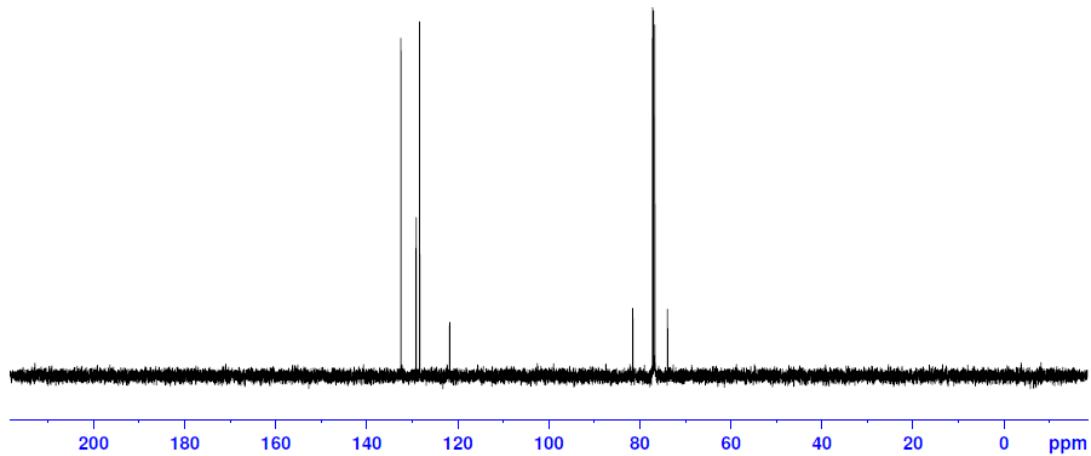
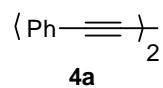
106



106





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