

Electronic Supplementary Information

Ruthenium pincer-catalyzed synthesis of substituted γ -butyrolactones using hydrogen autotransfer methodology

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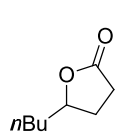
Table of Contents

– General information	S2
– General procedures and analytical data of synthesized γ -butyrolactones (3-6)	S2–S6
– ^1H and ^{13}C NMR copies	S7-S19

General information: Unless otherwise is stated, all reactions were conducted under an argon atmosphere with exclusion of moisture from reagents and glassware using standard techniques for manipulation air sensitive compounds. Reaction temperatures refer to external bath temperatures. TLC was effected on silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ (layer thickness 0.2 mm) and components were located by observation under UV light and/or by treating the plates with a phosphomolybdic acid, or *p*-anisaldehyde reagent followed by heating. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (230–400 mesh) using 20% ethyl acetate/heptane as eluent. NMR spectra were performed in a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer using the residual solvent signal as internal standard [chloroform: 7.26 ppm (¹H), 77.0 ppm (¹³C)]. All measurements were carried out at room temperature unless otherwise stated, and DEPT was used to assign carbon types. Mass spectra were in general recorded on a MAT 95XP or a HP 5973N mass selective detector. Gas chromatography was performed on a HP 6890N chromatograph with a HP5 column. Infrared spectra were taken on a Bruker Alpha with ATR (“attenuated total reflectance”). Unless otherwise statement, commercial reagents were used as received without purification.

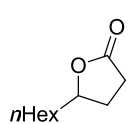
General procedure for the ruthenium pincer-catalyzed synthesis of γ -butyrolactones using borrowing-hydrogen methodology: In a glass pressure tube (25 mL) under an argon atmosphere, [Ru-MACHO-BH] (11.8 mg, 0.02 mmol), K₂CO₃ (13.8 mg, 0.10 mmol), 1,2-diol (**1a-i**, 1.0 mmol) and corresponding malonate (**2**, **4a-d** or **5a-c**, 2.0 mmol) were dissolved in *t*-amyl alcohol (1 mL). Next the pressure tube was closed and the resulting mixture was stirred at 150 °C in an oil bath for 18 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the crude was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with 20% ethyl acetate/heptane to afford, after concentration and high-vacuum drying, the corresponding γ -butyrolactones (**3a-i**, **6a-c**) in the reported yields.

Analytical data of all synthesized γ -butyrolactones (3a-i**, **6a-c**):**

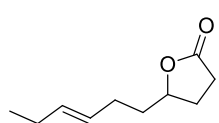


5-butylidihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3a**)**^[1]: Following the general procedure, **3a** was obtained as a colorless oil (86.7 mg, 0.61 mmol, 61%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 0.90-1.97 (t, , *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.29-1.48 (m, 4H), 1.54-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.90 (m, 1H), 2.16-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.51 (ddd, *J* = 1.8, 6.8, 9.1 Hz, 2H), 4.44-4.51 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 14.0 (CH₃), 22.5 (CH₂), 27.4 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 29.0 (CH₂), 35.4 (CH₂), 81.1 (CH), 177.4 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2956, 2932, 2862, 1767, 1460, 1421, 1350, 1168, 1125, 1012 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): *m/z* (%): 142 (4) [M⁺], 127 (1) [M⁺-CH₃], 85 (100) [M⁺-C₄H₉]; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m/z*: calcd for C₈H₁₄O₂: 143.1067 [M+H]⁺; found: 143.1069.

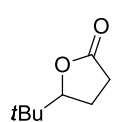
[1] Sigma-Aldrich Co., Ref. W279617. CAS# [104-50-7].



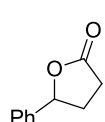
5-hexyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3b)^[2]: Following the general procedure, **3b** was obtained as a colorless oil (88.5 mg, 0.52 mmol, 52%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.23-1.49 (m, 8H), 1.52-1.64 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.78 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.89 (m, 1H), 2.27-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.55 (m, 2H), 4.43-4.52 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 14.2 (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 29.0 (CH₂), 29.1 (CH₂), 31.8 (CH₂), 35.7 (CH₂), 81.2 (CH), 177.4 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2929, 2858, 1771, 1459, 1373, 1351, 1178, 911 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 170 (1) [M⁺], 141 (2) [M⁺-C₂H₅], 128 (11) [M⁺-C₃H₆], 85 (100) [M⁺-C₆H₁₃]; HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z : calcd for C₁₀H₁₈O₂: 171.1379 [M+H]⁺; found: 171.1378.



(E)-5-(hex-3-en-1-yl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3c)^[3]: Following the general procedure, **3c** was obtained as a colorless oil (94.2 mg, 0.56 mmol, 56%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.36-1.65 (m, 6H), 1.68-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.80-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.96-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.26-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.47-2.55 (m, 2H), 4.48 (ddtd, J = 2.9, 5.1, 6.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.33-5.51 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 18.0 (CH₃), 25.2 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH₂), 29.0 (CH₂), 32.2 (CH₂), 35.1 (CH₂), 81.0 (CH), 125.7 (CH), 130.6 (CH), 177.4 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2933, 2859, 1768, 1458, 1350, 1174, 967, 913 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 168 (5) [M⁺], 140 (7) [M⁺-CO], 85 (42) [M⁺-C₆H₁₁], 68 (100); HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z : calcd for C₁₀H₁₆O₂: 169.1223 [M+H]⁺; found: 169.1220.



5-(tert-butyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3d)^[4]: Following the general procedure, **3d** was obtained as a colorless oil (76.8 mg, 0.54 mmol, 54%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 0.95 (s, 9H), 1.94-2.05 (m, 1H), 2.07-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.51-2.55 (m, 2H), 4.19 (dd, J = 6.8, 8.9 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 23.1 (CH₂), 25.0 (3 x CH₃), 29.5 (CH₂), 34.0 (CH₂), 88.4 (CH), 177.6 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2958, 2872, 1769, 1479, 1367, 1343, 1177, 1005, 986 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 142 (1) [M⁺], 127 (8) [M⁺-CH₃], 114 (5) [M⁺-CO], 85 (100) [M⁺-C₄H₉]; HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z : calcd for C₈H₁₄O₂: 143.1067 [M+H]⁺; found: 143.1063.



5-phenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3e)^[5]: Following the general procedure, **3e** was obtained as a white solid (35.7 mg, 0.22 mmol, 22%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 2.13-2.26 (m, 1H), 2.62-2.71 (m, 3H), 5.51 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.41 (m, 5H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 29.0 (CH₂), 31.1 (CH₂), 81.3 (CH), 125.4 (2 x CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.9 (2 x CH), 139.5 (C), 177.0 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2987, 2959, 2929, 1760, 1495,

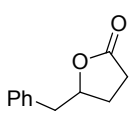
[2] Sigma-Aldrich Co., Ref. W236004. CAS# [706-14-9].

[3] D. J. Gavin and N. W. A. Geraghty, *Synthetic Commun.*, 1994, **24**, 1351.

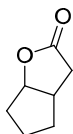
[4] E. O. Martins and J. L. Gleason, *Org. Lett.*, 1999, **1**, 1643.

[5] Sigma-Aldrich Co., Ref. 176451. CAS# [1008-76-0].

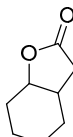
1454, 1417, 1328, 1313, 1297 cm^{-1} ; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 162 (100) [M^+], 117 (52), 107 (50), 85 (2) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$]; HRMS (EI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$: 162.0675 [M^+]; found: 162.0671.



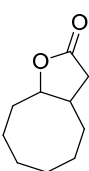
5-benzylidihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3f)^[6]: Following the general procedure, **3f** was obtained as a colorless oil (100.4 mg, 0.57 mmol, 57%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.91-2.02 (m, 1H), 2.21-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.34-2.51 (m, 2H), 2.93 (dd, J = 6.3, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, J = 6.1, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dq, J = 6.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.34 (m, 5H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 27.3 (CH_2), 28.8 (CH_2), 41.5 (CH_2), 80.9 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 128.8 (2 x CH), 129.6 (2 x CH), 136.0 (C), 177.1 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 3062, 3028, 2943, 1763, 1497, 1454, 1352, 1285, 1171 cm^{-1} ; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 176 (47) [M^+], 148 (2) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{CO}$], 85 (100) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_7\text{H}_7$]; HRMS (EI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$: 176.0832 [M^+]; found: 176.0831.



Hexahydro-2H-cyclopenta[b]furan-2-one (3g)^[7]: Following the general procedure, **3g** was obtained as a colorless oil (65.6 mg, 0.52 mmol, 52%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.49-1.56 (m, 1H), 1.61-1.90 (m, 4H), 1.99-2.07 (m, 1H), 2.28 (dd, J = 2.0, 17.5 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (dd, J = 1.0, 17.7 Hz, 1H), 2.82-2.91 (m, 1H), 4.99 (ddd, J = 1.6, 4.9, 6.5 Hz, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 23.6 (CH_2), 33.7 (CH_2), 33.8 (CH_2), 36.2 (CH_2), 38.1 (CH), 86.5 (CH), 177.9 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2959, 2872, 1761, 1418, 1355, 1172, 1097, 1026, 982 cm^{-1} ; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 126 (11) [M^+], 98 (56) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_2\text{H}_4$], 84 (12) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_3\text{H}_6$], 67 (100); HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$: 127.0754 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]⁺; found: 127.0753.



Hexahydrobenzofuran-2(3H)-one (3h)^[8]: Following the general procedure, **3h** was obtained as a colorless oil (88.3 mg, 0.63 mmol, 63%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.21-1.31 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.58-1.75 (m, 3H), 2.02-2.09 (m, 1H), 2.24 (dd, J = 2.7, 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.33-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.60 (dd, J = 6.9, 16.7 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (q, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 20.0 (CH_2), 22.9 (CH_2), 27.2 (CH_2), 27.9 (CH_2), 35.0 (CH), 37.6 (CH_2), 79.2 (CH), 177.7 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2931, 2857, 1769, 1447, 1422, 1347, 1224, 1170, 1140 cm^{-1} ; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 140 (6) [M^+], 112 (7) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_2\text{H}_4$], 96 (27) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{CO}_2$], 81 (100); HRMS (EI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$: 141.0910 [M^+]; found: 141.0909.



Octahydrocycloocta[b]furan-2(3H)-one (3i)^[9]: Following the general procedure, **3i** was obtained as a colorless oil (90.8 mg, 0.54 mmol, 54%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.19-2.08 (m, 11H), 2.18-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.23 (dd, J = 7.3, 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.60 (m, 1H), 2.62 (dd, J = 8.2, 16.6 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (pd, J = 3.1, 7.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR

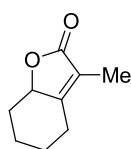
[6] C. Shu, M.-Q. Liu, Y.-Z. Sun and L.-W. Ye, *Org. Lett.*, 2012, **14**, 4958.

[7] J. D. Nguyen, E. M. D'Amato, J. M. R. Narayanam and C. R. J. Stephenson, *Nature Chem.*, 2012, **4**, 854.

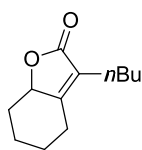
[8] N. Sasakura, K. Nakano, Y. Ichikawa and H. Kotsuki, *RSC Adv.*, 2012, **2**, 6135.

[9] C. Bolm and G. Schlingloff, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1995, 1247.

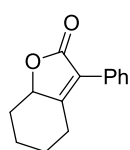
(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 25.0 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 27.0 (CH₂), 27.1 (CH₂), 28.5 (CH₂), 36.5 (CH₂), 39.1 (CH), 81.2 (CH), 176.2 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2921, 2857, 1796, 1770, 1467, 1447, 1362, 1346, 1175, 1047 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 168 (17) [M⁺], 98 (100) [M⁺-C₅H₁₀], 84 (37) [M⁺-C₆H₁₂]; HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z : calcd for C₁₀H₁₆O₂: 169.1223 [M+H]⁺; found: 169.1221.



3-Methyl-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydrobenzofuran-2(4H)-one (6a)^[10]: Following the general procedure, **6a** was obtained as a colorless oil (83.7 mg, 0.55 mmol, 55%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.14-1.32 (m, 2H), 1.39-1.51 (m, 1H), 1.80 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.86-1.92 (m, 1H), 1.95-2.03 (m, 1H), 2.14 (dddt, J = 1.3, 5.8, 13.0, 14.3 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (dddt, J = 1.6, 3.2, 6.3, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (ddt, J = 2.0, 4.2, 14.1 Hz, 1H), 4.53-4.61 (dd, J = 6.4, 11.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.3 (CH₃), 22.9 (CH₂), 26.4 (2 x CH₂), 34.3 (CH₂), 80.3 (CH), 119.6 (C), 162.6 (C), 175.0 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 3486, 2939, 2862, 1739, 1678, 1448, 1350, 1305, 1090, 1033, 1021 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 152 (100) [M⁺], 137 (2) [M⁺-CH₃], 124 (39) [M⁺-C₂H₄], 95 (95) [M⁺-C₄H₈]; HRMS (EI): m/z : calcd for C₉H₁₂O₂: 152.0832 [M⁺]⁺; found: 152.0829.



3-Butyl-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydrobenzofuran-2(4H)-one (6b): Following the general procedure, **6b** was obtained as a colorless oil (97.1 mg, 0.50 mmol, 50%). A mixture of tautomers was observed by NMR, with the following signals for the major conformation: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 0.90 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.24-1.41 (m, 6H), 1.56-1.75 (m, 4H), 1.84-1.95 (m, 1H), 2.00-2.08 (m, 1H), 2.33 (td, J = 4.3, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (qdd, J = 1.5, 3.7, 7.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 3467, 2934, 2861, 1728, 1450, 1369, 1227, 1173, 1111, 1075, 1017 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 194 (86) [M⁺], 179 (6) [M⁺-CH₃], 165 (41) [M⁺-C₂H₅], 152 (100), 137 (34) [M⁺-C₄H₉]; HRMS (EI): m/z : calcd for C₁₂H₁₈O₂: 194.1301 [M⁺]; found: 194.1298.

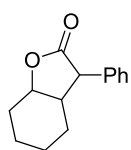


3-Phenyl-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydrobenzofuran-2(4H)-one (6c)^[11]: Following the general procedure, **6c** was obtained as a colorless oil (64.3 mg, 0.30 mmol, 30%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.23-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.59 (m, 1H), 1.93-2.05 (m, 2H), 2.33 (td, J = 5.6, 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (ddtd, J = 1.7, 3.0, 6.3, 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (ddt, J = 2.0, 4.3, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (dd, J = 6.2, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.51 (m, 5H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 22.8 (CH₂), 26.6 (CH₂), 27.0 (CH₂), 34.5 (CH₂), 80.0 (CH), 123.7 (C), 128.5 (CH), 128.7 (2 x CH), 129.0 (2 x CH), 130.0 (C), 164.1 (C), 172.7 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2960, 2936, 2859, 1732, 1659, 1493, 1444, 1260, 1092, 1038 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): m/z (%): 214 (100)

[10] K. Matsuo and M. Shindo, *Org. Lett.*, 2010, **12**, 5346.

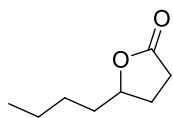
[11] J. Barluenga, M. G. Suero, I. Pérez-Sánchez and J. Flórez, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2008, **130**, 2708.

[M⁺], 185 (87) [M⁺-C₂H₄], 157 (22) [M⁺-C₄H₈]; HRMS (EI): *m/z*: calcd for C₁₄H₁₄O₂: 214.0988 [M⁺]; found: 214.0985.

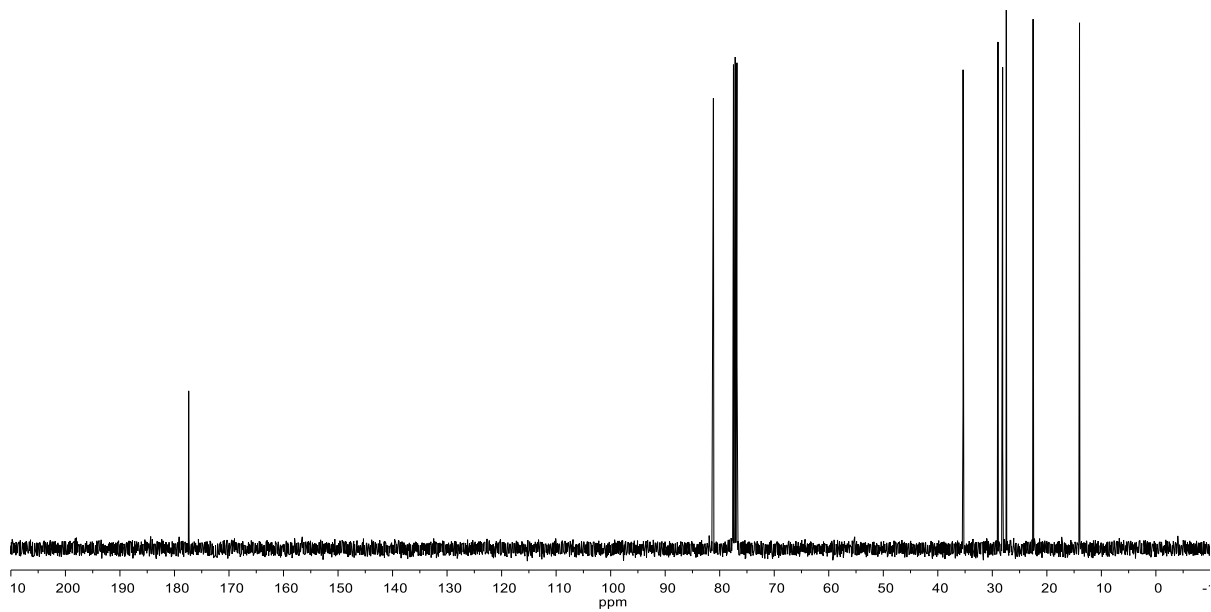
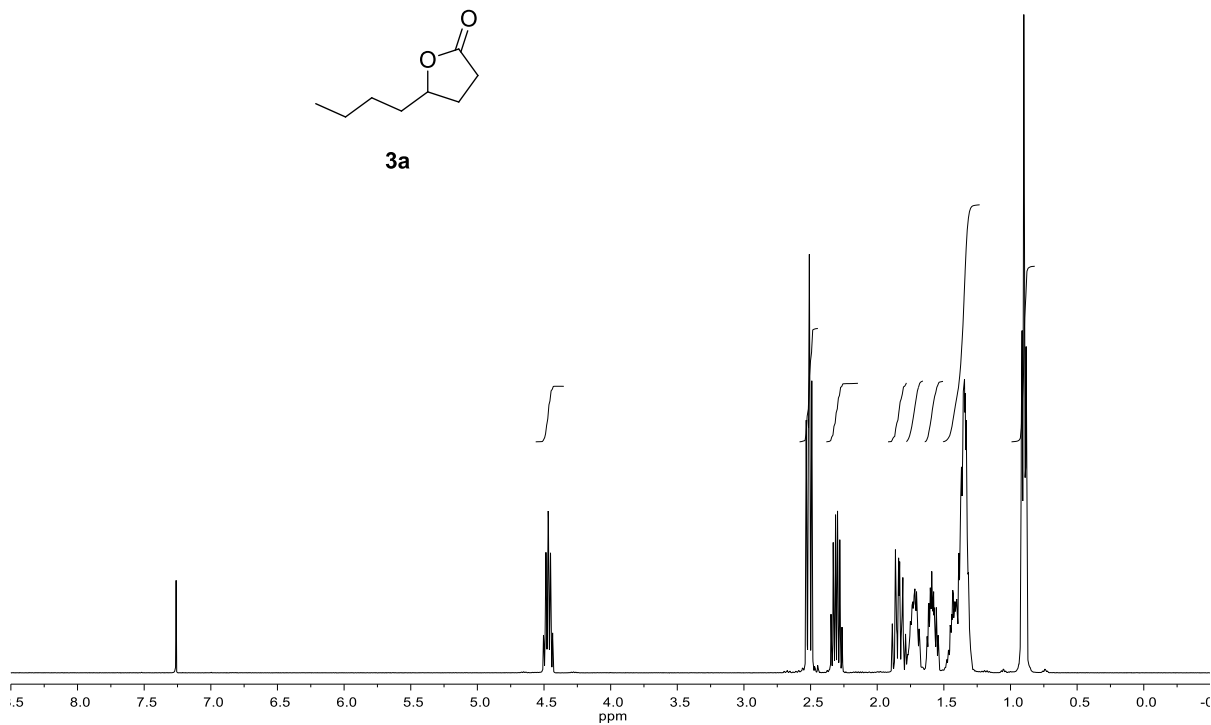


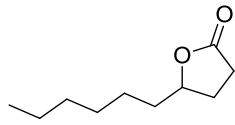
3-Phenylhexahydrobenzofuran-2(3H)-one (6c')^[12]: Following the general procedure, **6c'** was obtained as a colorless oil (121.1 mg, 0.56 mmol, 56%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.32-1.43 (m, 1H), 1.47-1.62 (m, 3H), 1.66-1.77 (m, 3H), 1.94-2.01 (m, 1H), 2.62 (dq, *J* = 5.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (dt, *J* = 5.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.39 (m, 5H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 21.3 (CH₂), 21.6 (CH₂), 25.7 (CH₂), 28.7 (CH₂), 43.6 (CH), 50.9 (CH), 77.4 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 128.4 (2 x CH), 129.0 (2 x CH), 135.0 (C), 177.6 (C) ppm; IR (ATR): ν = 2933, 2859, 1763, 1734, 1497, 1451, 1372, 1241, 1157, 1118 cm⁻¹; GCMS (EI): *m/z* (%): 216 (3) [M⁺], 188 (1) [M⁺-C₂H₄], 172 (100); HRMS (EI): *m/z*: calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₂: 216.1145 [M⁺]; found: 216.1144.

[12] T. H. Black, W. J. DuBay III and P. S. Tully, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1988, **53**, 5922.

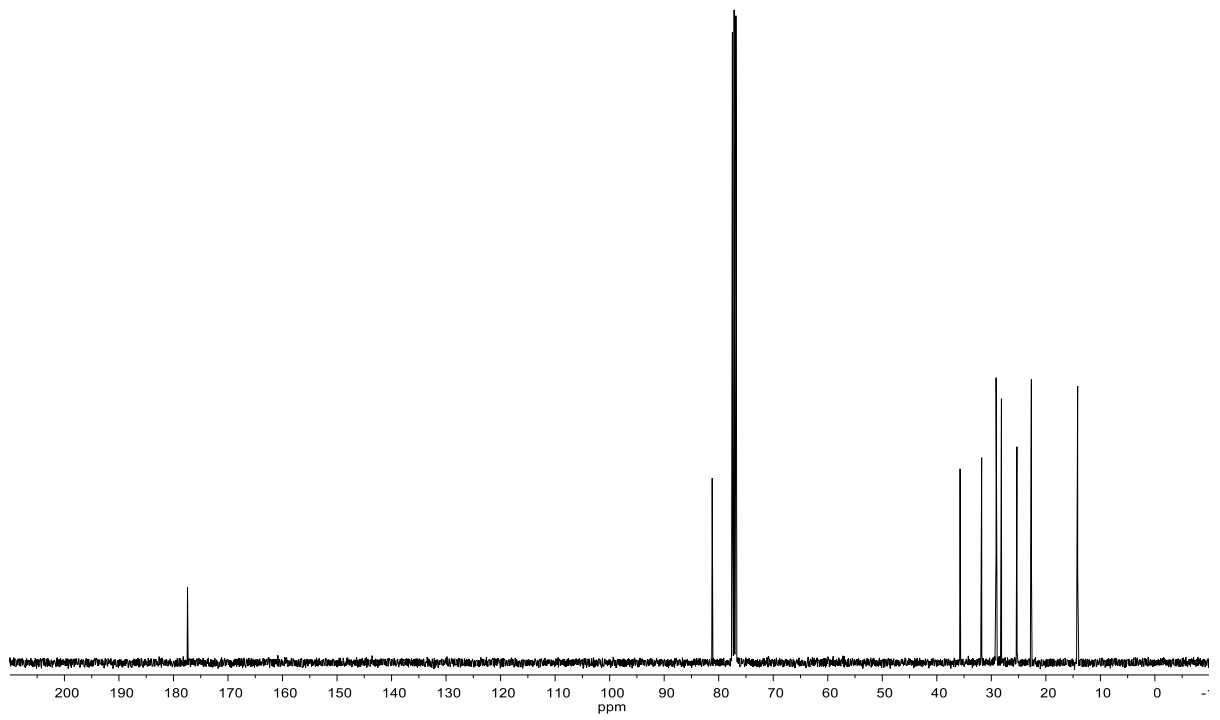
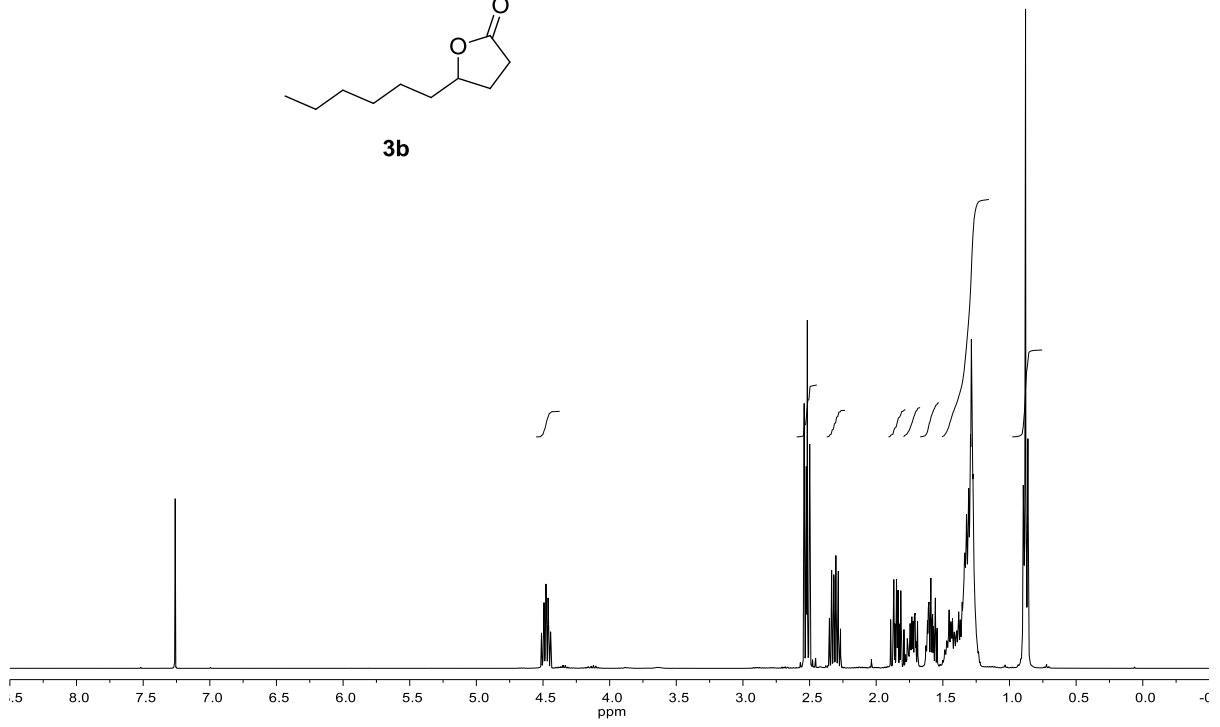


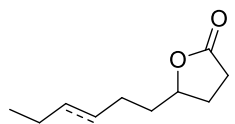
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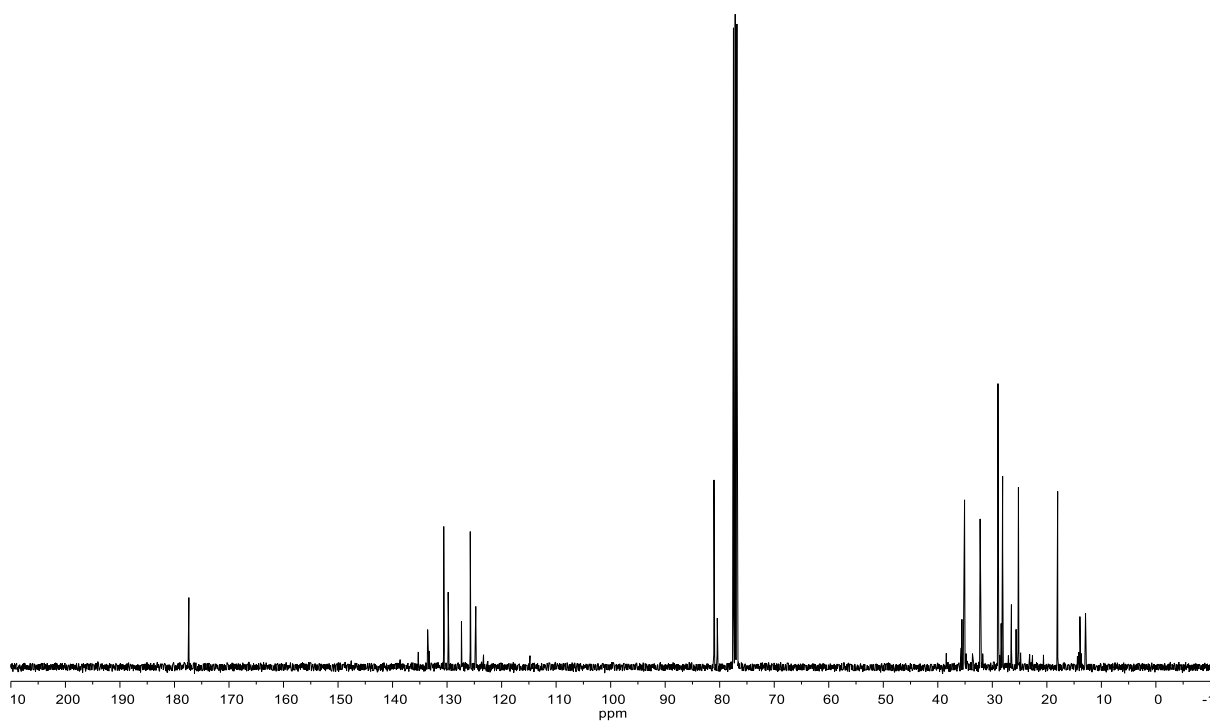
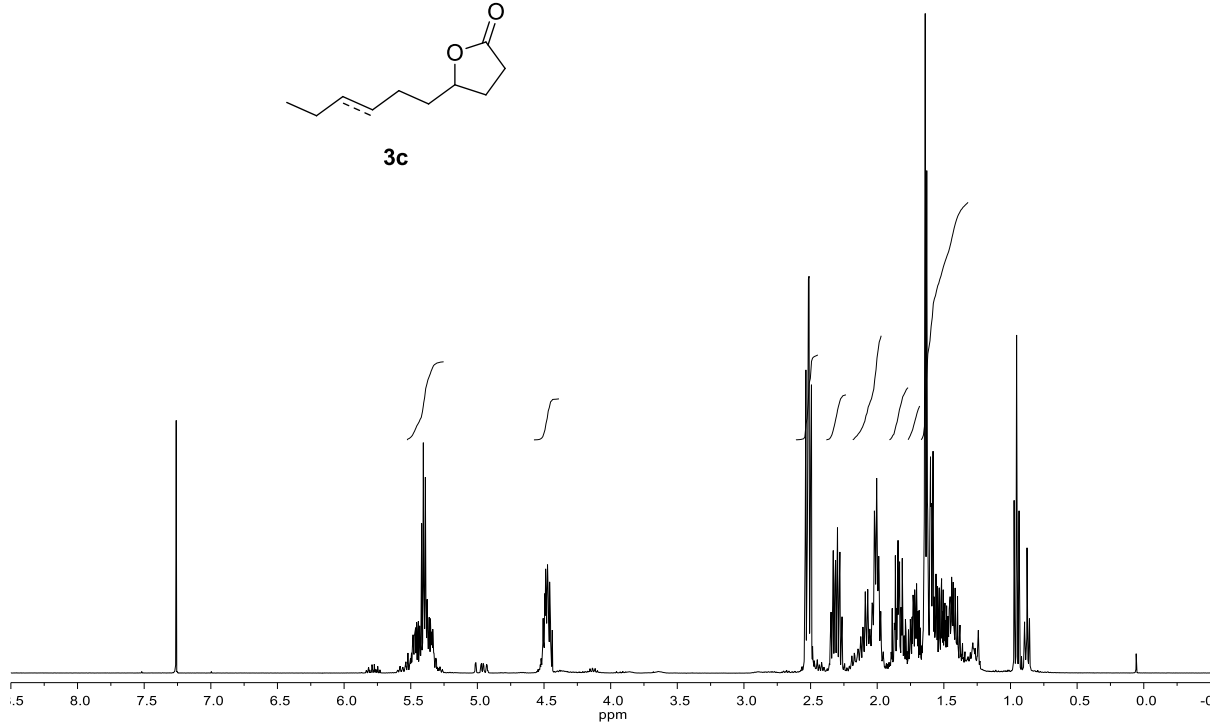


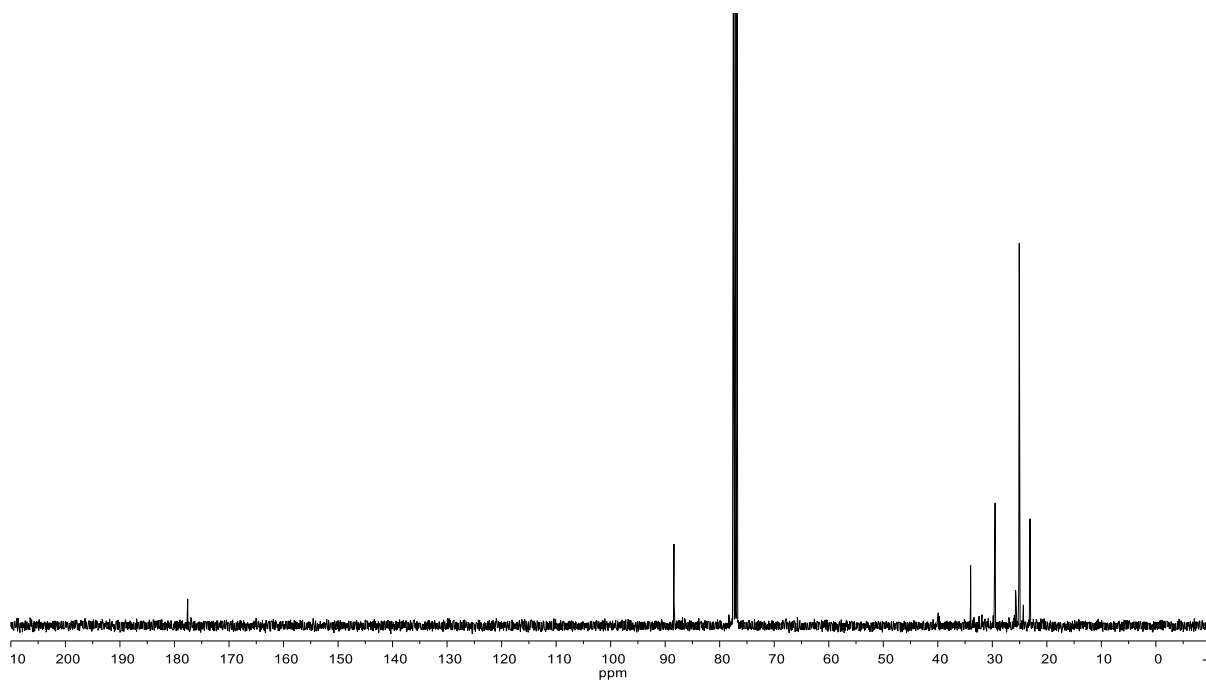
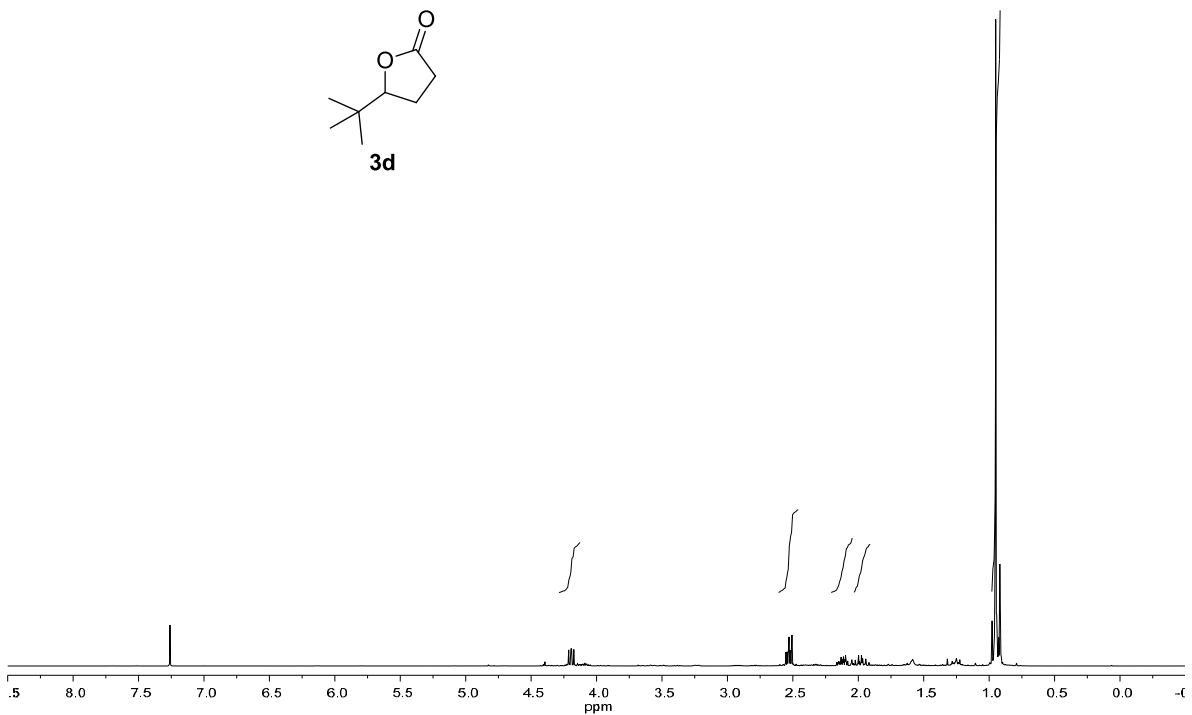
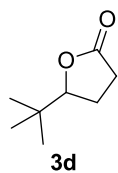
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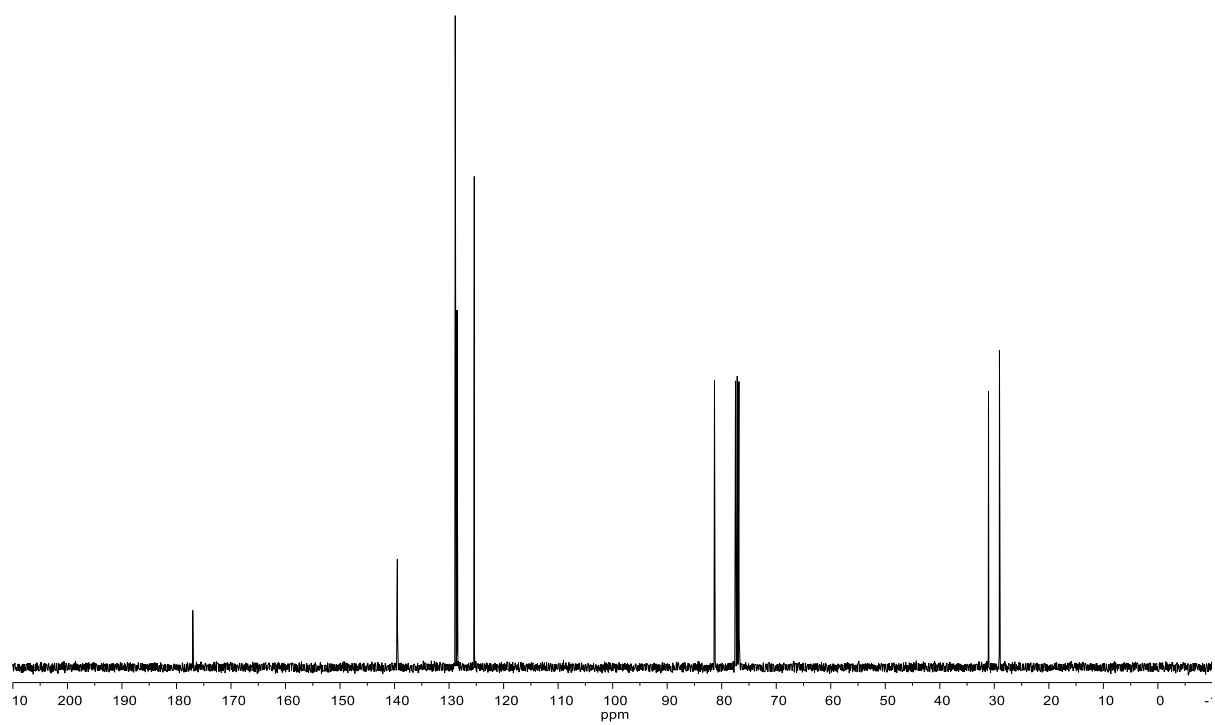
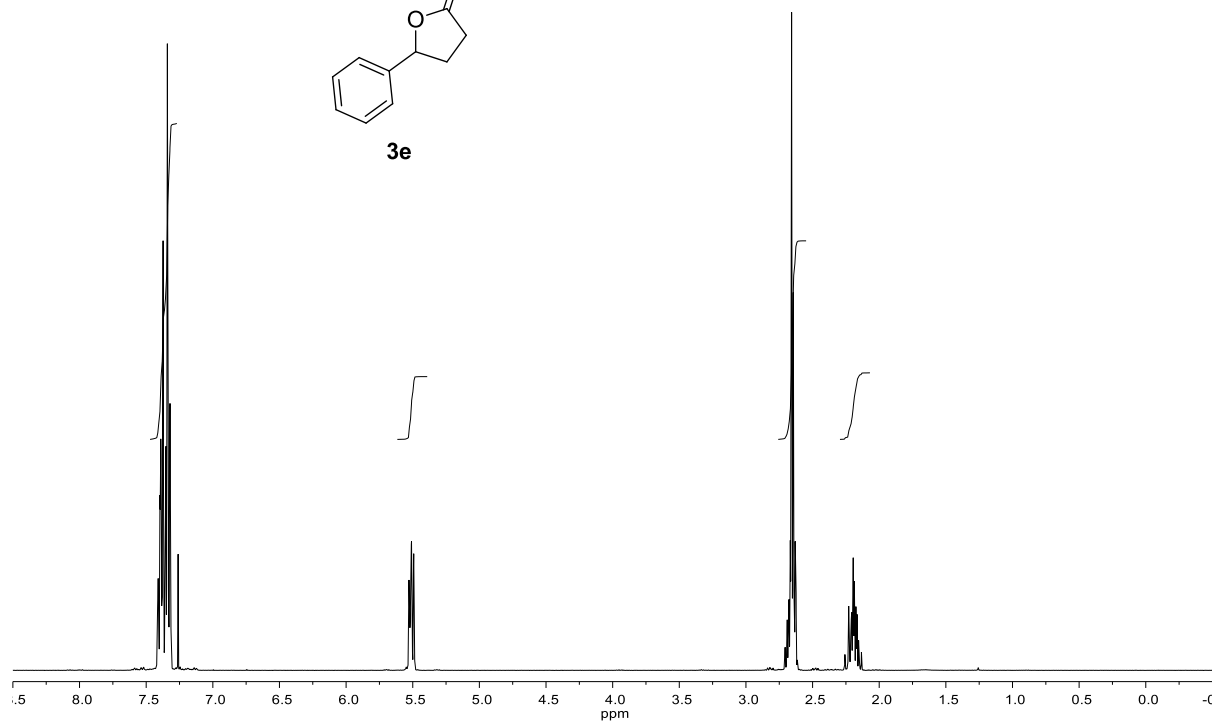
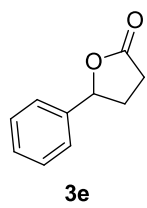


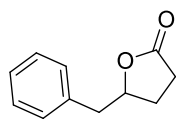


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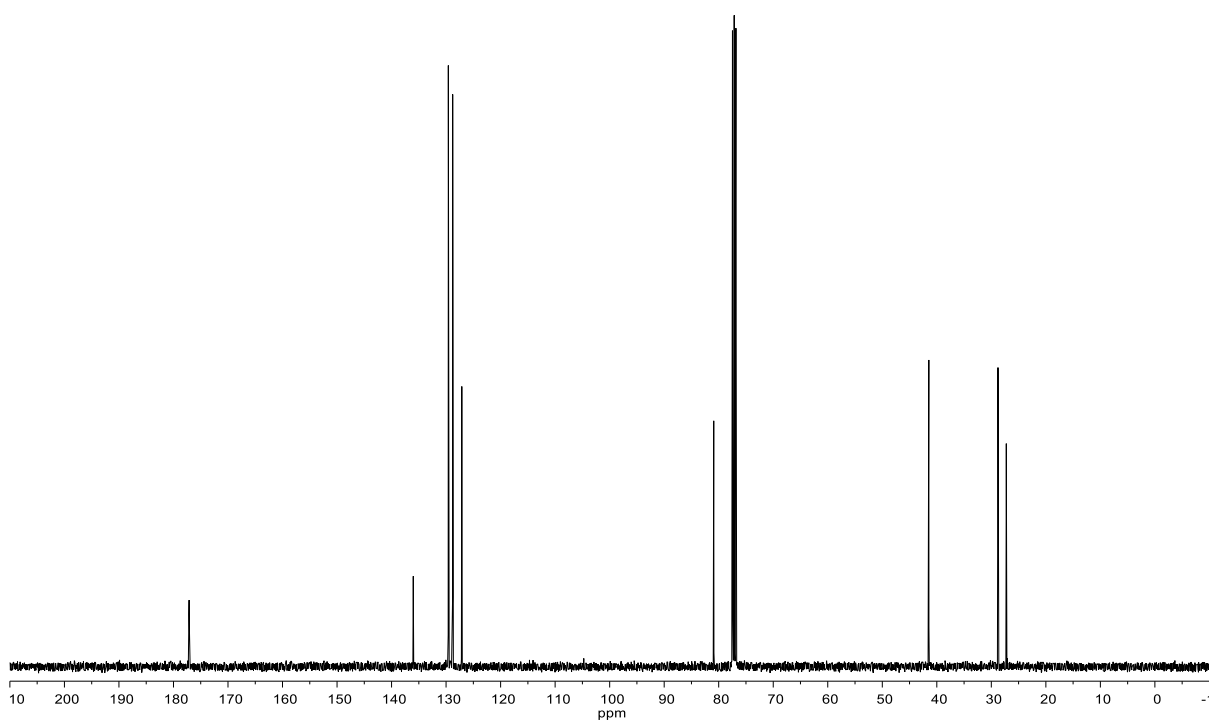
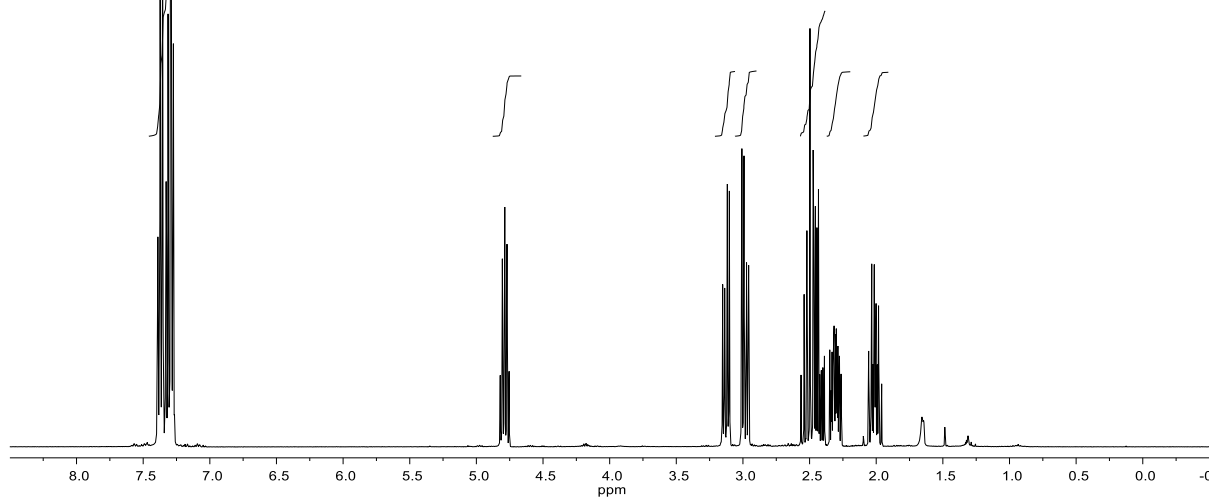


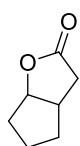




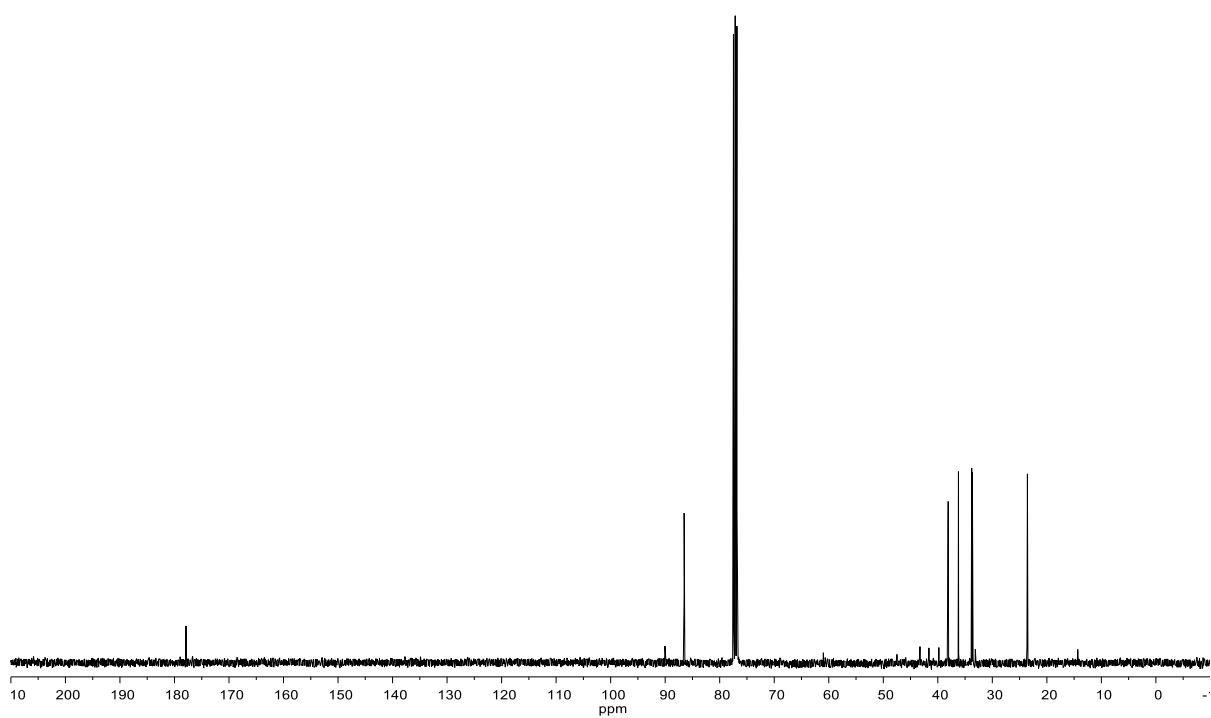
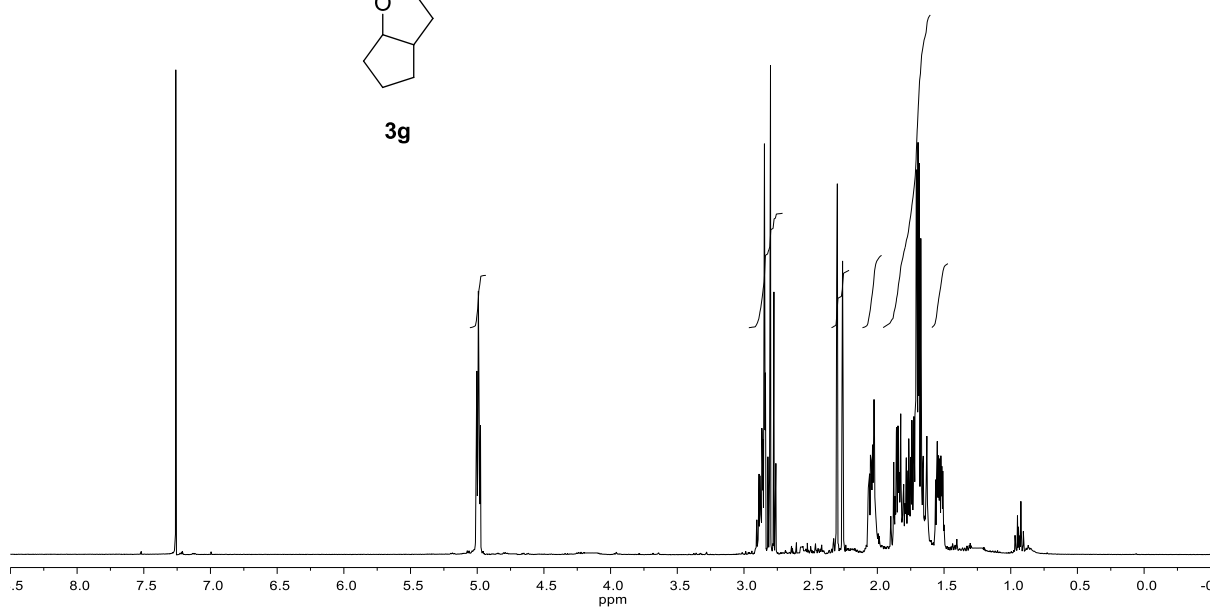


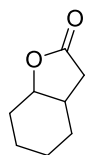
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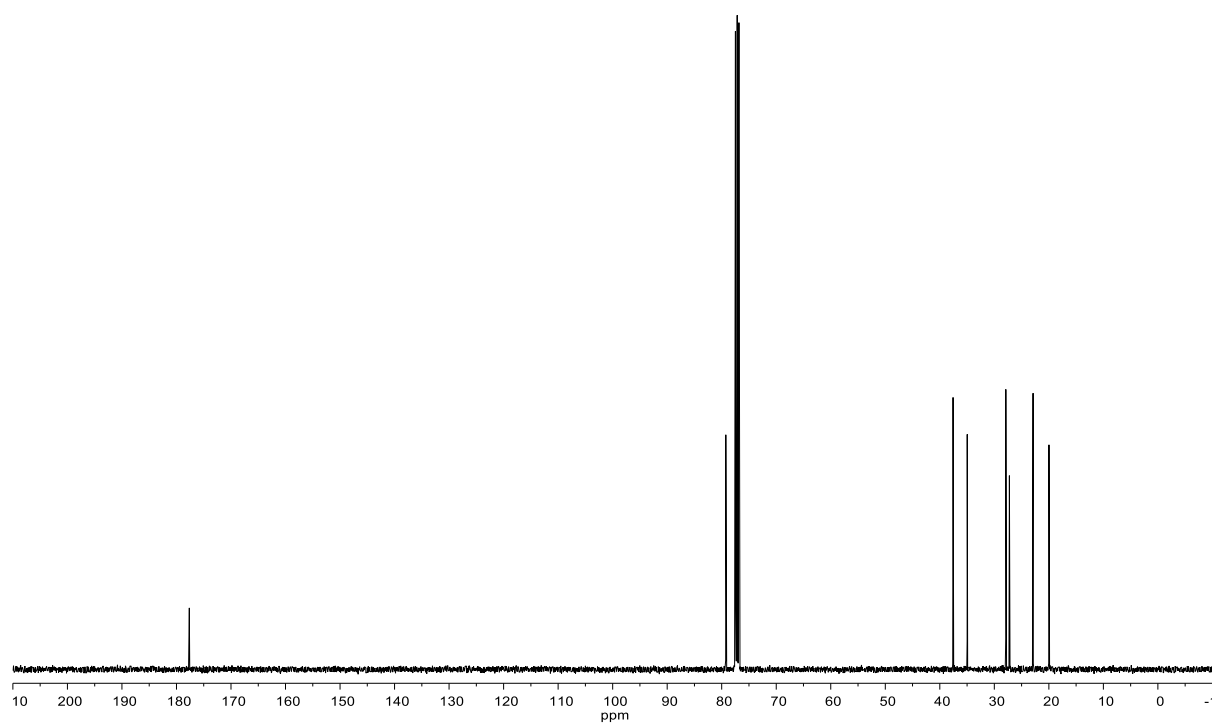
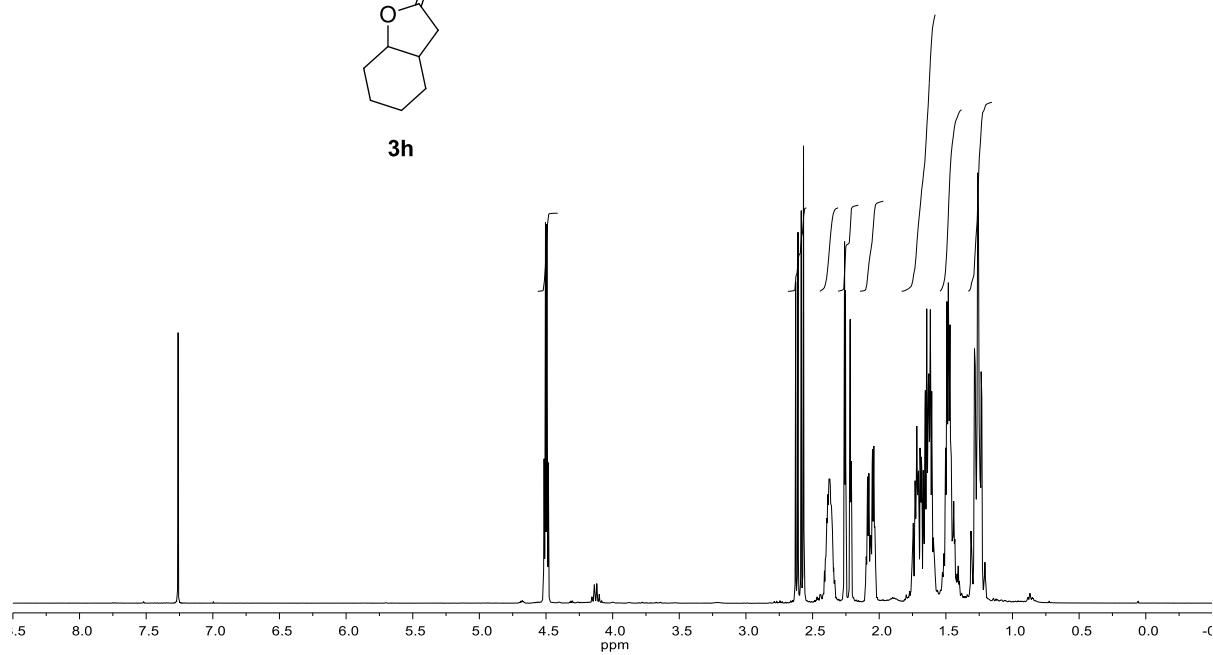


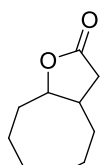
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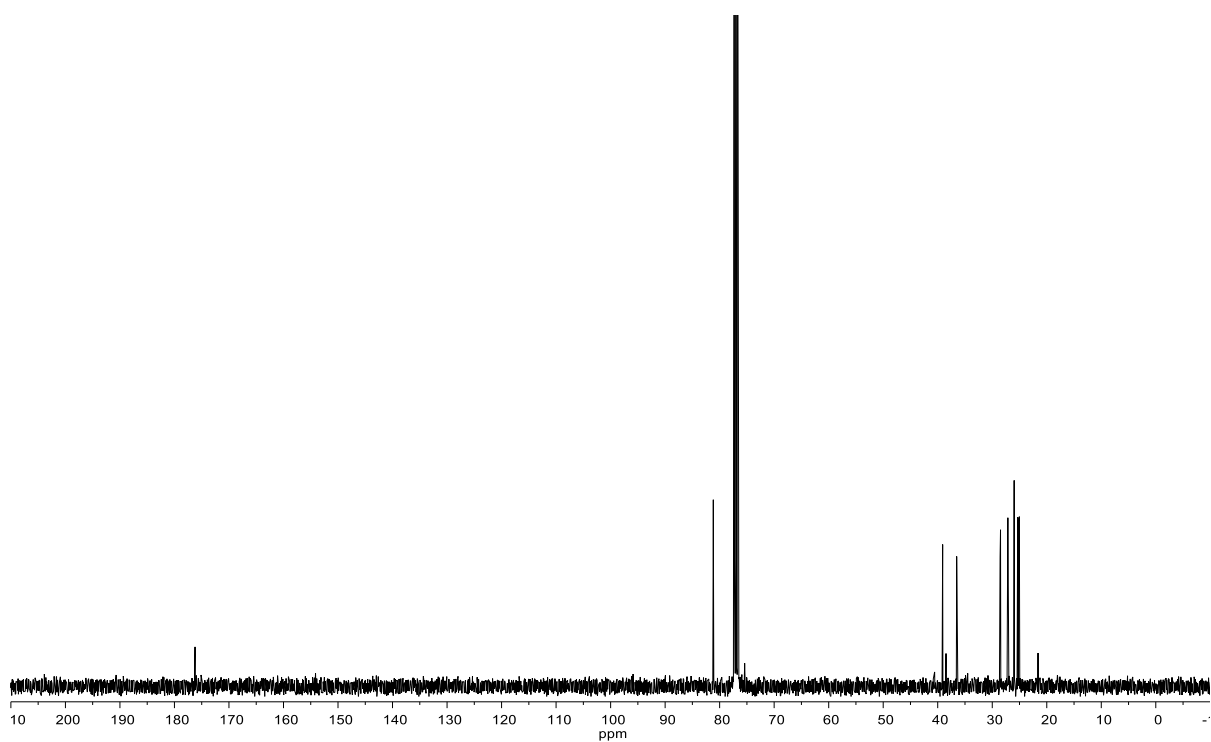
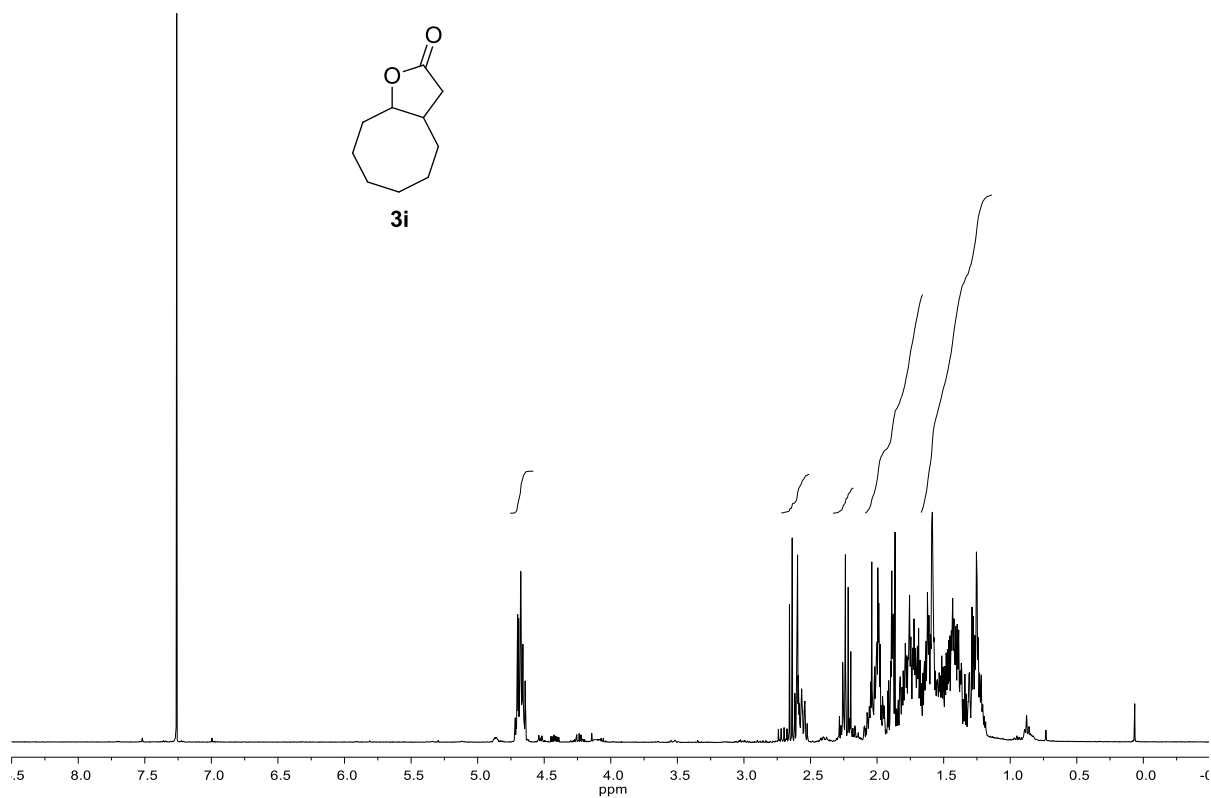


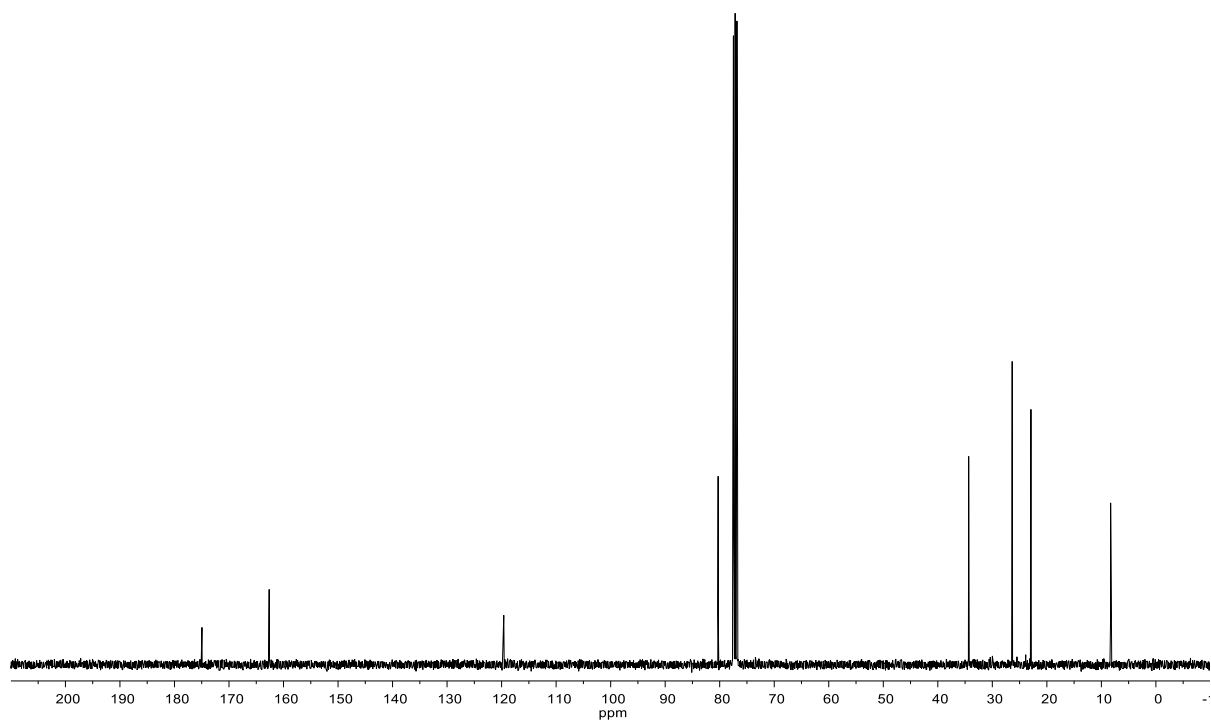
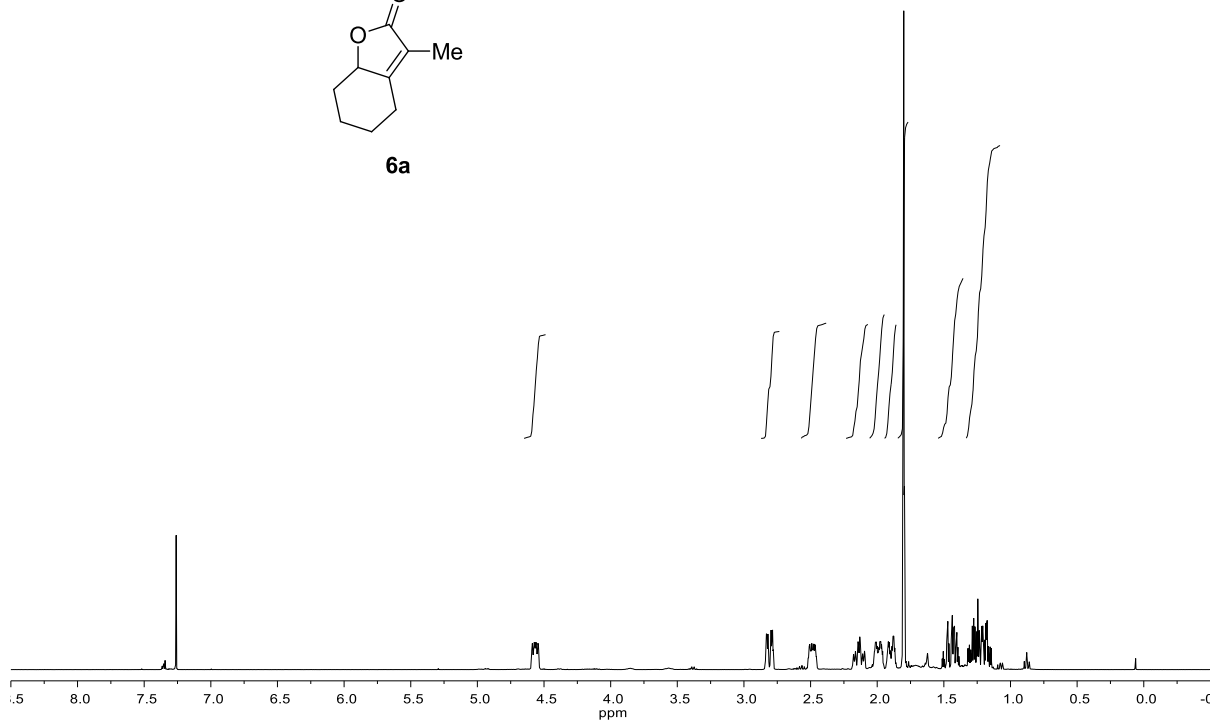
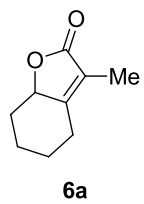
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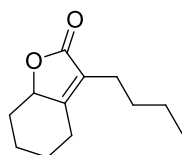




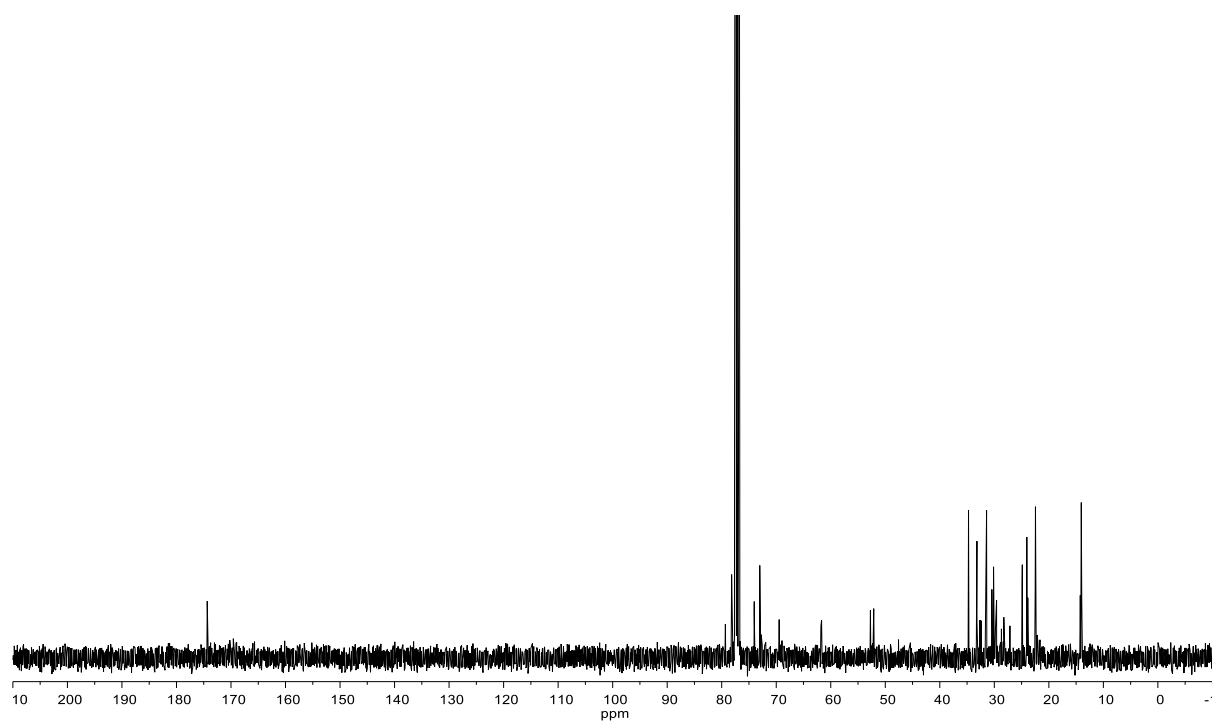
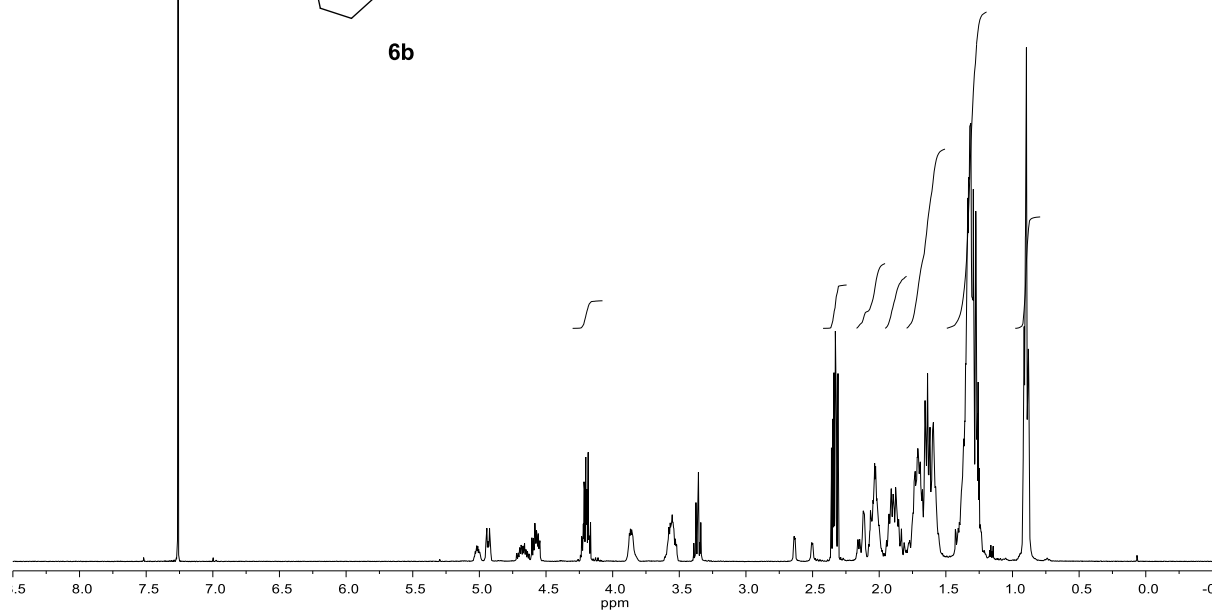
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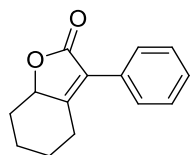




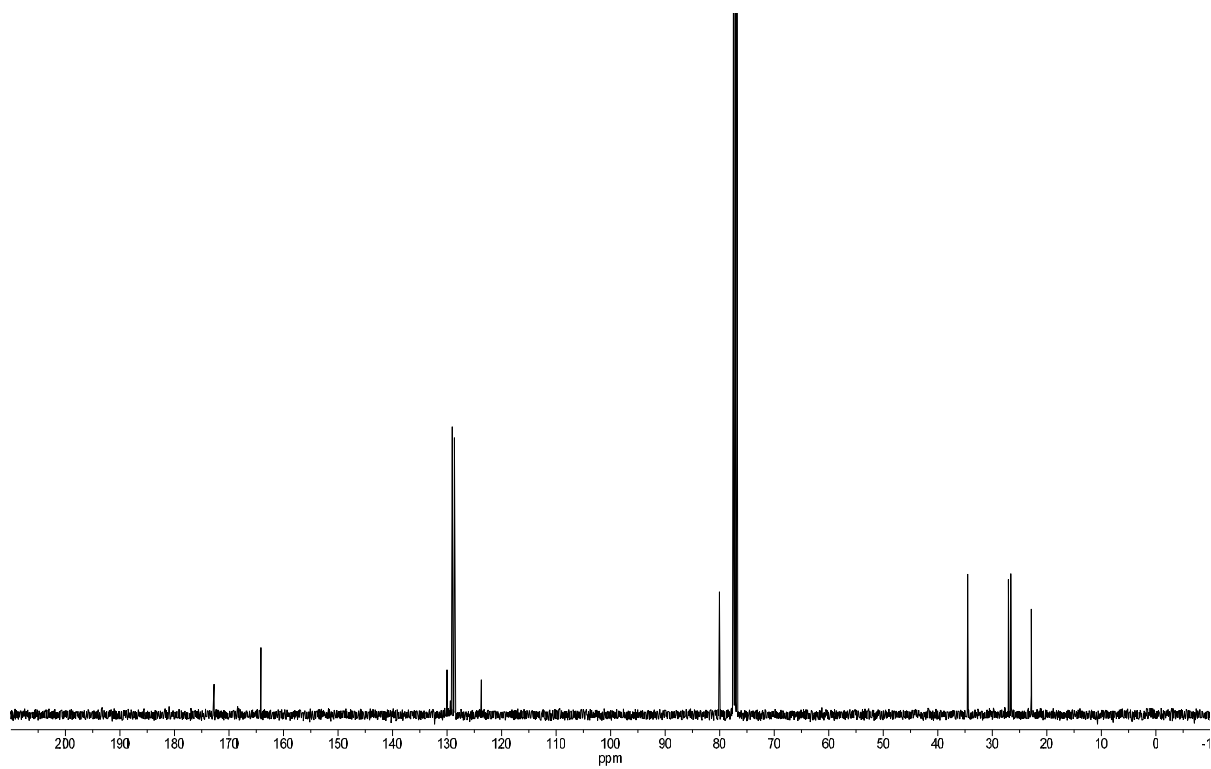
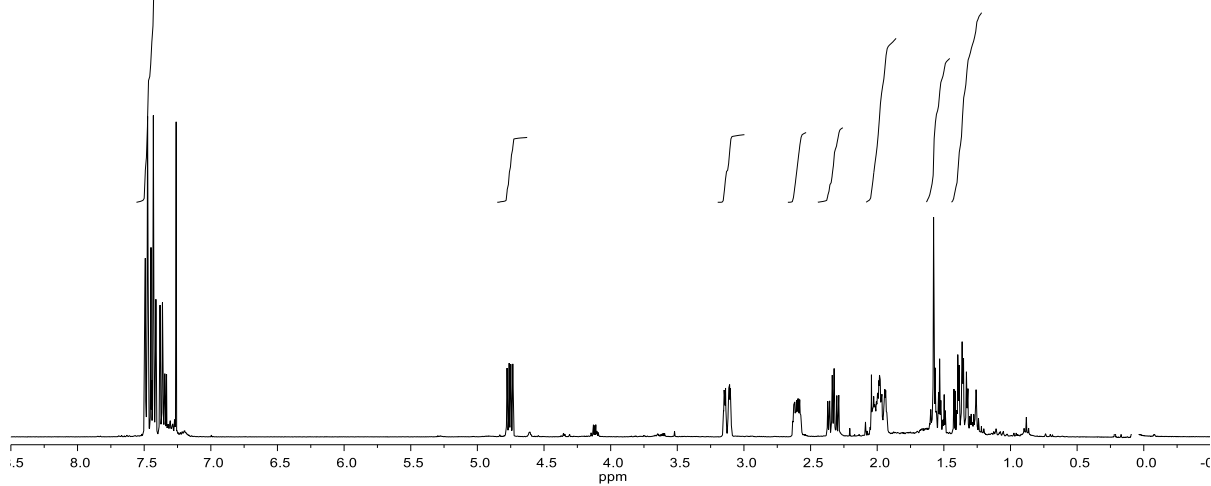


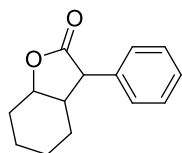
6b





6c





6c'

