

## Supporting Information

### Isotetronic Acids from an Oxidative Cyclization

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## **Experimental Section**

### **General Information**

Reactions were performed with anhydrous pyridine distilled over KOH. Sealed reaction tubes were purchased from Synthware and oven-dried before using. Air was not excluded from the reaction.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity Inova 500 MHz spectrometer at 500 MHz ( $^1\text{H}$ ) and 126 MHz ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ), respectively. Two of the  $^1\text{H}$  spectra were collected with an Agilent DD2 300 MHz NMR spectrometer (300MHz,  $^1\text{H}$ ) as indicated in the characterization data. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million ( $\delta$ ) and are referenced to the solvent, i.e. 7.26/77.0 for  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . Multiplicities are indicated as br (broadened), s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), hept (heptet), or m (multiplet). Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz).

Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Silicycle glass plates, UV 254, 250  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness, particle size 5–17  $\mu\text{m}$ , pore size 60 Å. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel, 200–400 mesh or premium silica gel, 60 Å, 40 – 75  $\mu\text{m}$ . Purity and homogeneity of all materials was determined from TLC,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR.

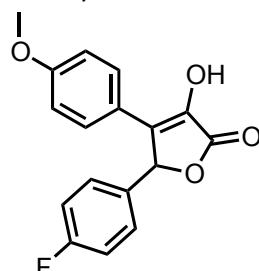
High resolution mass spectra were collected on an Agilent 6210 LC/MSD-TOF system (ESIMS).

## General Procedure for the Oxidative Cyclization

Unless specifically indicated, reactions were conducted on a 300 mg scale based on ketone.

Ketones were synthesized using conventional aldol condensation methods.<sup>1</sup>

Ketone (1 eq.) and  $\text{SeO}_2$  (2.2 eq.) were mixed with 5 mL distilled pyridine in a sealed tube. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 110°C for 5 min. After 5 min, the reaction temperature was lowered to 90°C and maintained for 12 h. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with 50 mL EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with 1M HCl (2 x 100 mL) and brine (1 x 50 mL) before being dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified on silica gel to give isotetronic acids. For the less polar **4-9**, 30% EtOAc/Hexanes was suitable for the mobile phase. For more polar products **10-15**, 60% EtOAc/Hexanes was used in the purification. Very non-polar **17a-b** were purified with 5% EtOAc/Hexanes, **19**, **21** and **24** were purified with 30% EtOAc/Hexanes. Yields and characterization data are indicated below for each product.



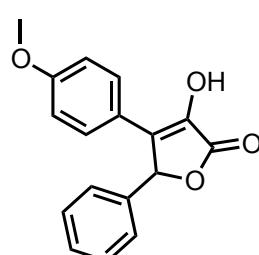
**5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)furan-2(5H)-one (4)**

Yield: 67%, yellow solid. MP: 180.2-183.0°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.50 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd,  $J = 8.6, 5.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 169.81, (164.37, 162.39, d) 160.09, 136.00, 131.47 (d), 130.11 (d), 129.47, 127.88, 122.24, 116.18 (d), 114.20, 80.69, 55.25.

ESIMS: calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{FNaO}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ) 323.0696, found 323.0695.



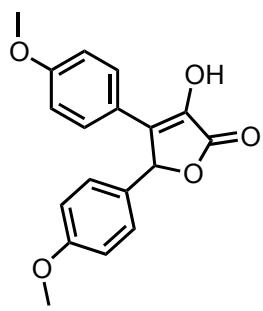
**3-hydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenylfuran-2(5H)-one (5)<sup>2</sup>**

Yield: 55%, white solid. MP: 155.7-158.0°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.53 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 - 7.32 (m, 5H), 6.84 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.17 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 170.06, 159.99, 135.96, 135.50, 129.74, 129.49, 129.09, 128.22, 128.17, 122.45, 114.13, 81.59, 55.23.

ESIMS: calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ) 305.0790, found 305.0799.



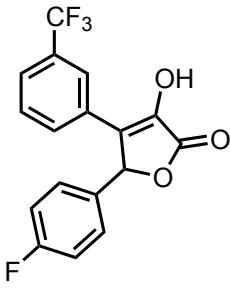
**3-hydroxy-4,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)furan-2(5H)-one (6)<sup>2</sup>**

Yield: 61%, yellow solid. MP: 166.6-168.1°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 170.42, 160.55, 159.90, 136.22, 129.64, 129.54, 128.34, 127.52, 122.65, 114.44, 114.06, 81.45, 55.26, 55.21.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 335.0895, found 335.0891.



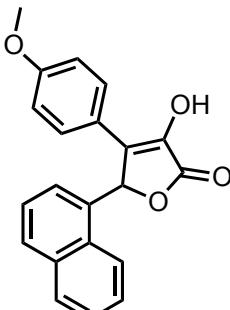
**5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxy-4-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)furan-2(5H)-one (7)**

Yield: 75%, white solid. MP: 204.8-206.0°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.24 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 169.39, (164.52, 162.53, d), 138.86, 131.22 (q), 130.51, 130.10, 130.03, 129.18, 125.94, 125.55 (q), 124.69, 122.52, 124.56 (q), 116.41 (d), 80.75.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>8</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (2M+2Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup>) 721.0849, found 721.0842.



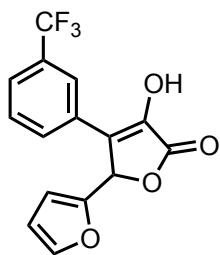
**3-hydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-(naphthalen-1-yl)furan-2(5H)-one (8)**

Yield: 56%, white solid. MP: 206.5-208.2°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-d): 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.00 - 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.75 - 7.48 (m, 4H), 7.39 - 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, Chloroform-d): 170.14, 160.03, 136.54, 133.93, 132.15, 131.15, 130.39, 129.66, 129.04, 128.02, 127.21, 126.70, 126.23, 125.34, 122.99, 122.88, 114.16, 77.33, 55.26.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 355.0946, found 355.0955.



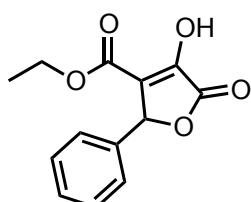
**4-hydroxy-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-[2,2'-bifuran]-5(2H)-one (9)**

Yield: 73%, white solid. MP: 151.7-152.5°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 169.61, 147.42, 144.29, 139.09, 131.16(q), 130.53, 130.25, 129.16, 125.50(q), (124.77, 122.61, d), 124.15(q), 124.03, 112.07, 110.97, 73.97.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 333.0351, found 333.0347.



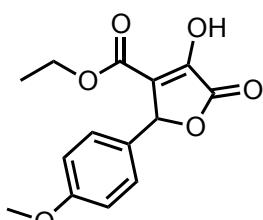
**ethyl 4-hydroxy-5-oxo-2-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate (10)<sup>3</sup>**

Yield: 60%, white solid. MP: 105.3-106.8°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.44 - 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.31 - 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 165.85, 164.38, 152.15, 134.26, 129.55, 128.65, 127.22, 118.76, 79.37, 61.81, 13.79.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 271.0582, found 271.0573.



**ethyl 4-hydroxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-oxo-2,5-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate (11)<sup>3</sup>**

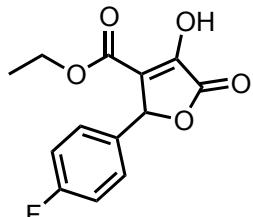
Yield: 66%, white solid. MP: 100.1-101.7°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

(Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 165.76, 164.45, 160.52, 152.07, 128.66, 126.06, 118.77, 114.08, 79.24, 61.84, 55.32, 13.87.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>6</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 301.0688, found 301.0688.



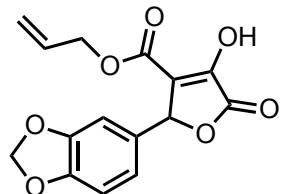
**ethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-hydroxy-5-oxo-2,5-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate (12)**

Yield: 63%, white solid. MP: 123.5-124.4°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.26 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 4.22 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 165.58, 164.28, 163.35 (d), 152.45, 130.20, 129.16 (d), 126.74, 115.78 (d), 78.59, 61.89, 13.85.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FNaO<sub>5</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 289.0488, found 289.0491.



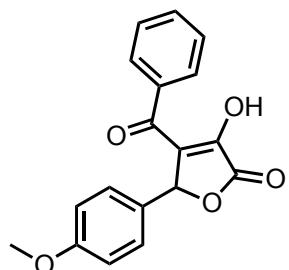
**allyl 2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-hydroxy-5-oxo-2,5-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate (13)**

Yield: 58%, yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 6.85 - 6.77 (m, 2H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 2H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 5.78 (ddt, *J* = 17.1, 10.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 165.51, 163.99, 152.39, 148.78, 148.08, 130.44, 127.68, 121.88, 119.25, 118.19, 108.37, 107.13, 101.49, 79.31, 66.02.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 327.0481, found 327.0487.



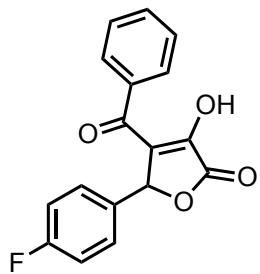
**4-benzoyl-3-hydroxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)furan-2(5H)-one (14)<sup>4</sup>**

Yield: 73%, white solid. MP: 200.6-202.0°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.70 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 - 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.39 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, cdcl<sub>3</sub>): 190.98, 166.86, 160.56, 152.23, 136.07, 133.71, 129.07, 128.61, 128.58, 125.99, 123.47, 114.33, 81.17, 55.24.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 333.0739, found 333.0740.



**4-benzoyl-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxyfuran-2(5H)-one (15)<sup>5</sup>**

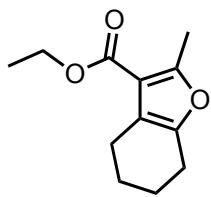
Yield: 70%, white solid. MP: 204.0-205.3°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.71 - 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.57 - 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.26 - 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 190.72, 166.84, (164.28, 162.29, d), 151.18, 136.08, 133.84, 129.77 (d), 129.45, 128.66, 128.53, 123.68 (d), 116.06 (d), 80.53.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FNaO<sub>4</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 321.0539, found 321.0546.

**17a is a known compound, the spectroscopic data matches literature.<sup>6</sup>**



**ethyl 2-methyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzofuran-3-carboxylate (17b)**

The reaction was done with 200mg of ketone. Yield: 36%, yellow oil.

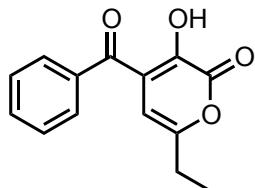
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 4.26 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (tt, *J* = 6.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 2.55 - 2.48 (m, 5H, tt & s overlap), 1.84 - 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.73 - 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 165.01, 157.51, 149.07, 117.30, 112.79, 59.62, 22.87, 22.82, 22.70, 22.26, 14.35, 13.96.

ESIMS: calculated for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 231.0997, found 231.0991.

Structure was assigned based on HSQC and HMBC spectra. The assignment can be found along with the HSQC & HMBC spectra in this SI.

This is a known compound, no spectra were reported in the literature.<sup>7</sup>



**4-benzoyl-6-ethyl-3-hydroxy-2*H*-pyran-2-one (19)**

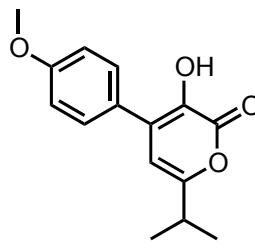
Yield: 49%, yellow oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.89 - 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.74 - 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.57 (m, 2H), 6.45 (t,  $J = 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.80 (q,  $J = 7.6$ , 2H), 1.31 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 194.46, 161.94, 157.21, 146.37, 136.74, 134.19, 129.60, 128.82, 127.38, 109.35, 21.39, 11.63.

LC-ESIMS: calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 245.0814, found 245.0816.

Assignment based on HMBC is included.



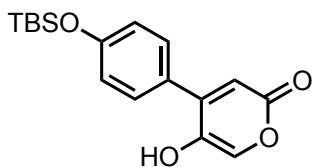
**3-hydroxy-6-isopropyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2*H*-pyran-2-one (21)**

Yield: 38%, yellow oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.56 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.13 - 2.97 (m, 1H), 1.31 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 165.84, 163.29, 159.56, 130.65, 128.90, 124.38, 114.07, 113.43, 108.59, 55.27, 28.10, 20.86.

ESIMS: calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 261.1127, found 261.1144.



**4-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)phenyl-5-hydroxy-2*H*-pyran-2-one (24)**

The reaction was done with 8 eq. of  $\text{SeO}_2$ . Yield: 13%, light yellow oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): 7.60 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.00 (s, 9H), 0.23 (s, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): 162.65, 156.14, 145.88, 137.50, 136.50, 130.68, 124.09, 119.67, 114.74, 25.63, 18.19, -4.38.

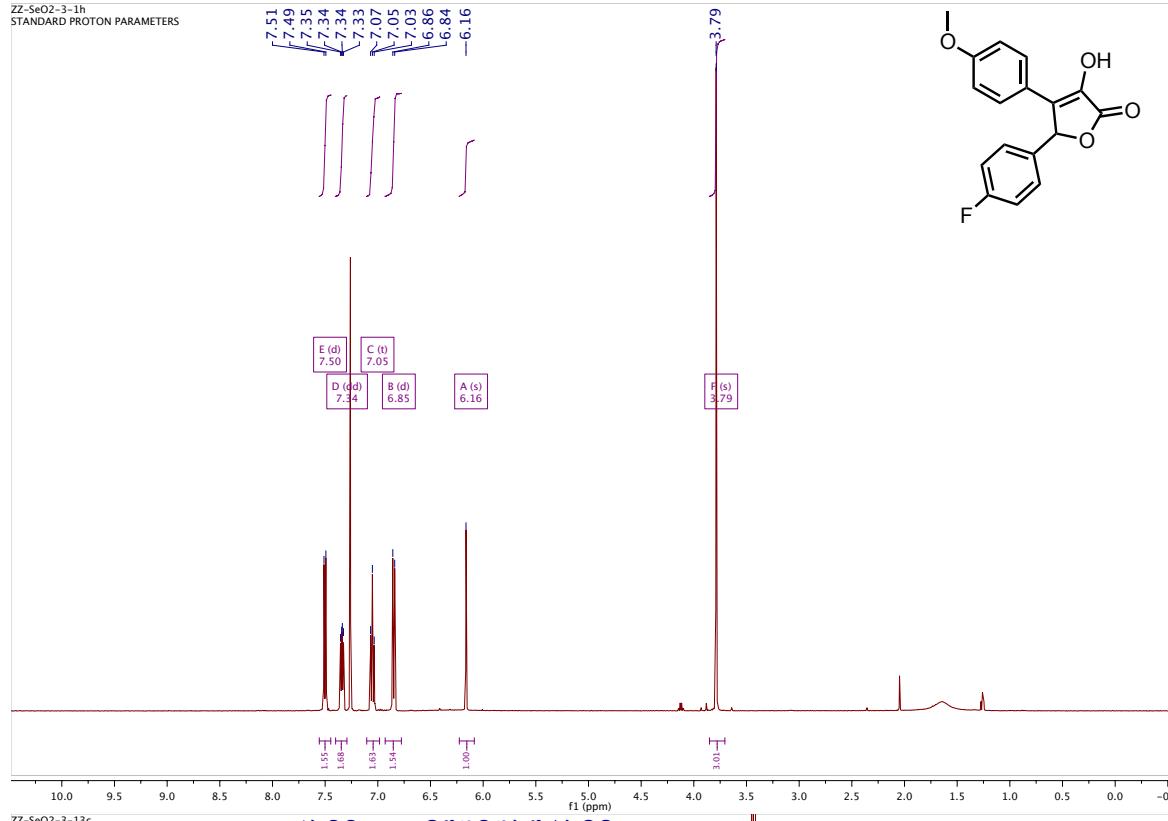
LC-ESIMS: calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_4\text{Si}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ) 319.1366, found 319.1343.

Assignment based on HSQC and HMBC is included.

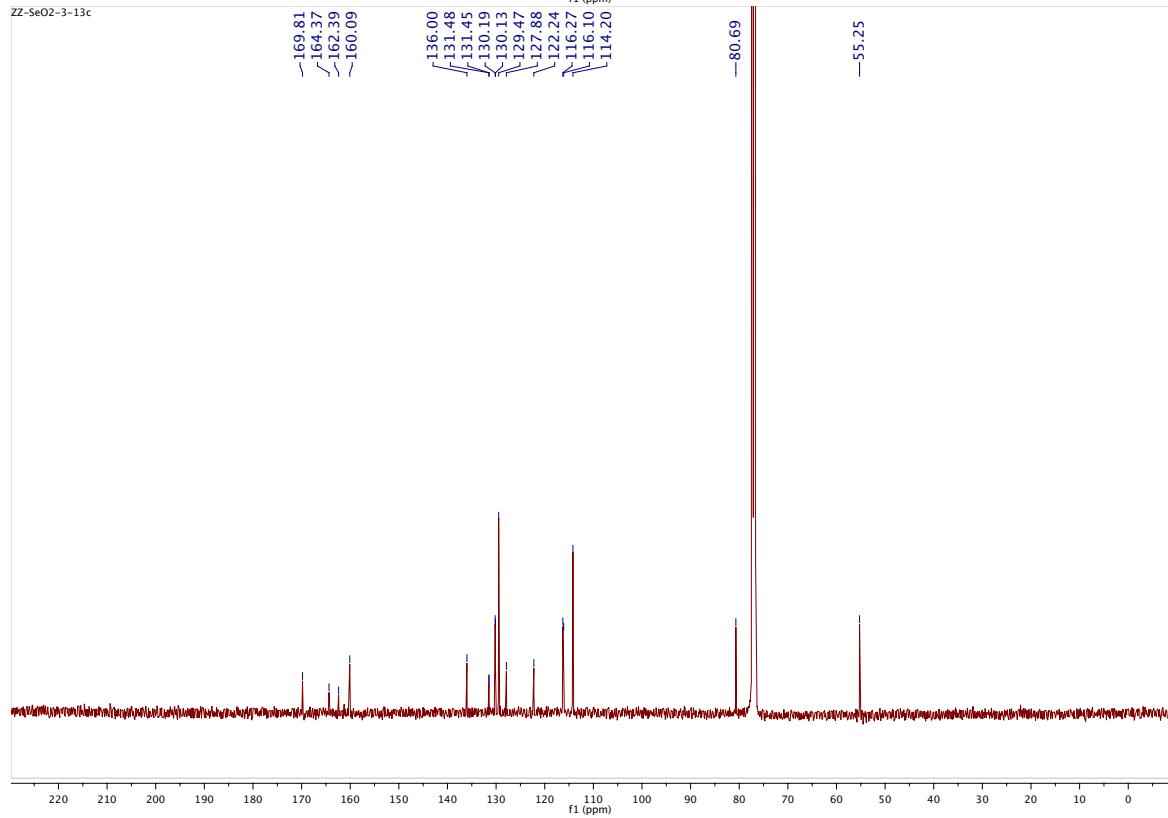
## Notes and references

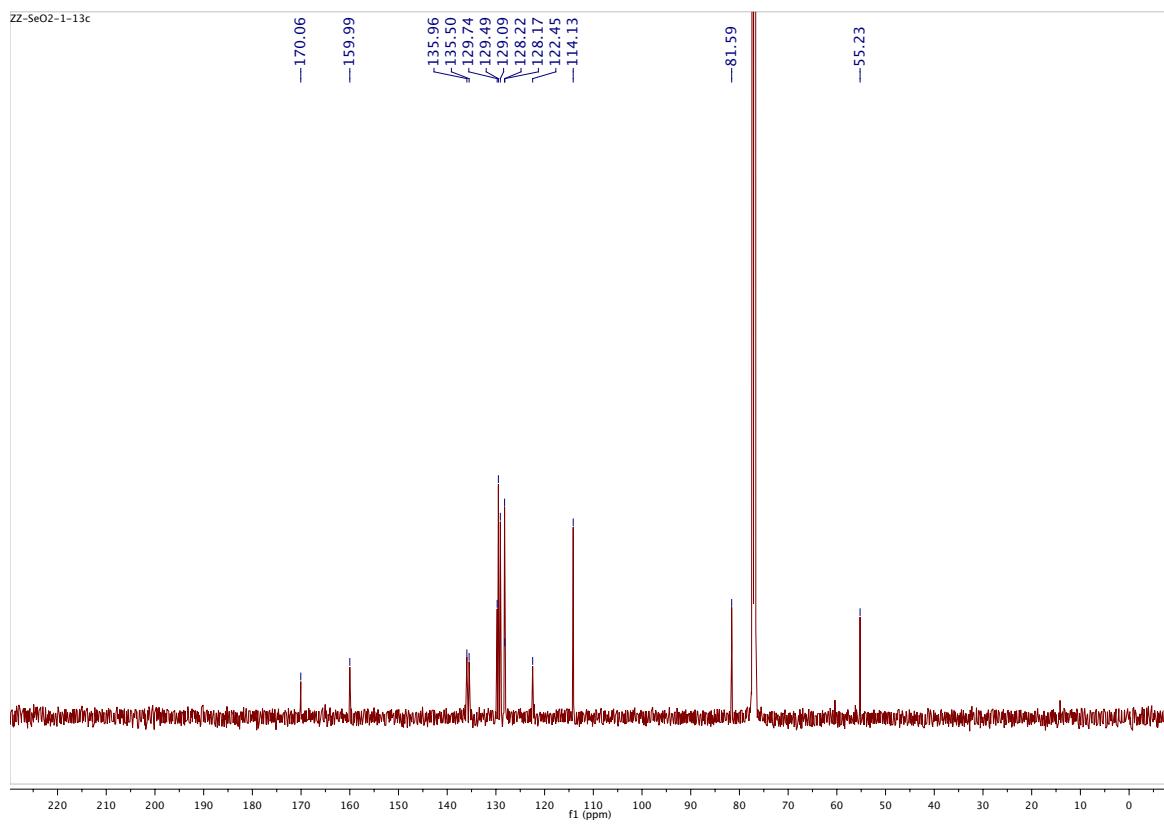
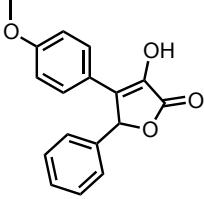
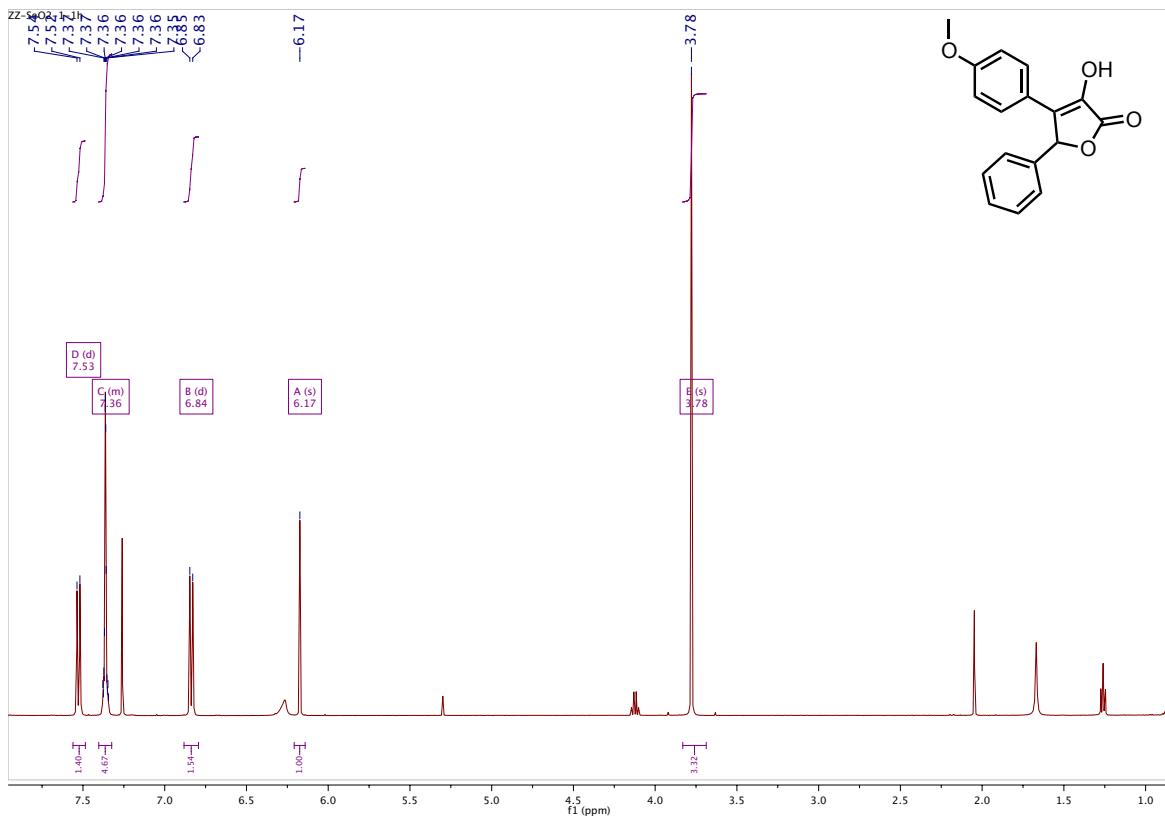
1. Starting materials for **4–9** and ketone **20** were synthesized using conventional piperidine-catalyzed aldol reaction.  
(a) Ramachandran, S. and M. S. Newman, *Org. Synth., Coll. Vol. 5*, 1973, 486–489. (b) R. B. Woodward, F. Sondheimer, D. Taub, K. Heusler and W. M. McLamore, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1952, **74**, 4223–4251.  
Starting materials for **10–15** and ketone **18** were synthesized according to:  
G. Cardillo, S. Fabbroni, L. Gentilucci, M. Gianotti and A. Tolomelli, *Synthetic Commun.*, 2003, **33**, 1587–1594.  
Ketones **16a** and **16b** were synthesized according to:  
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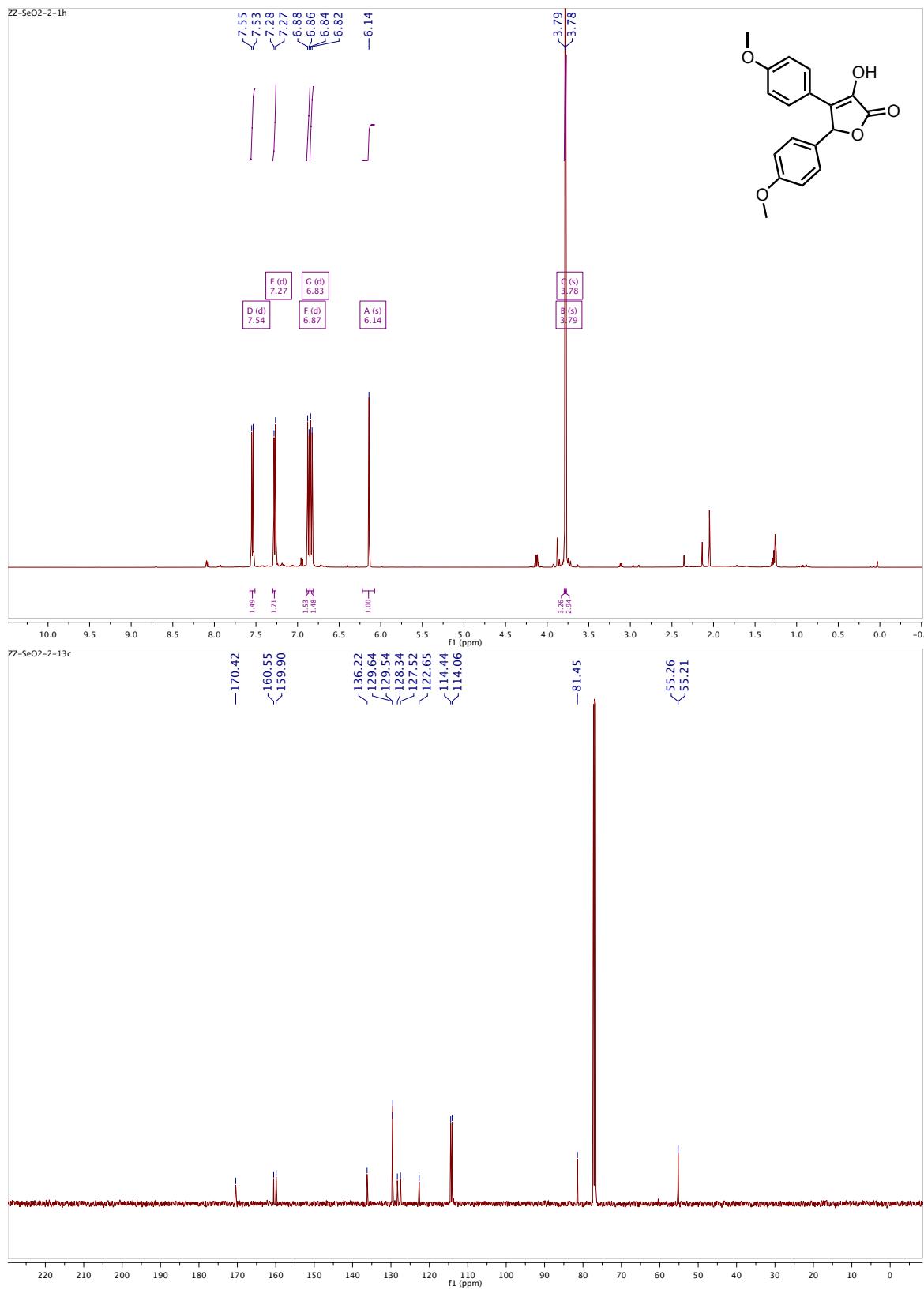
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STANDARD PROTON PARAMETERS

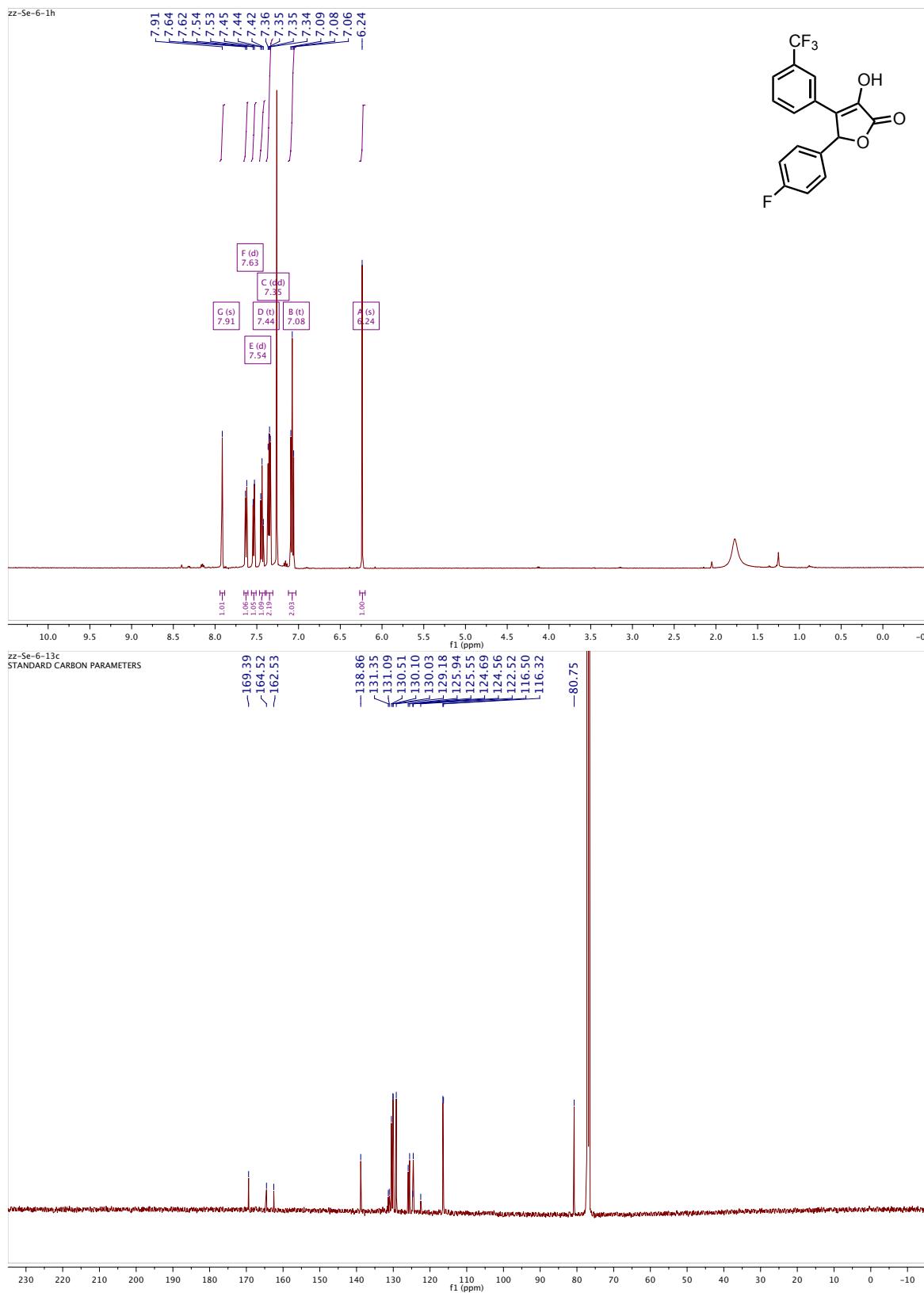


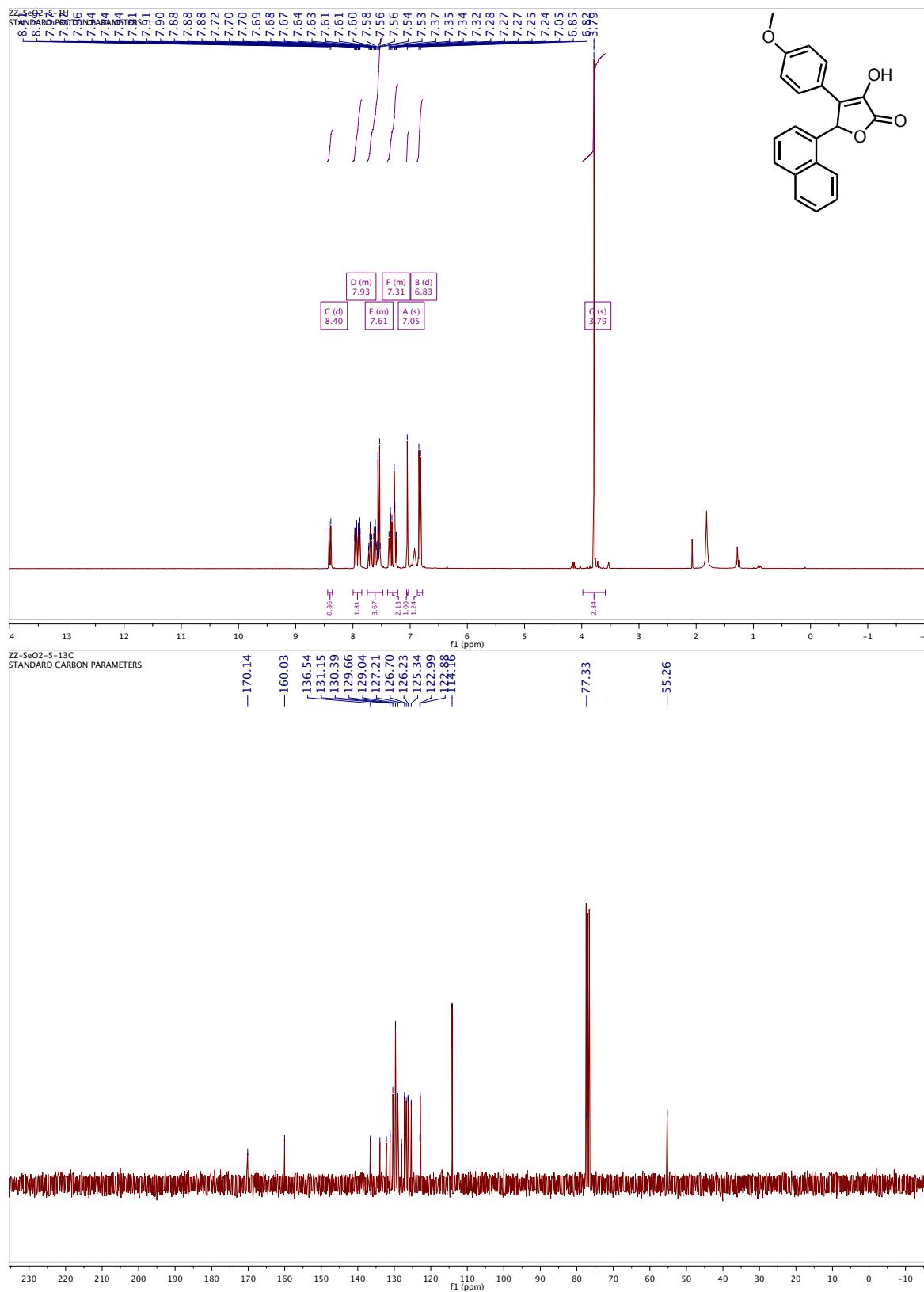
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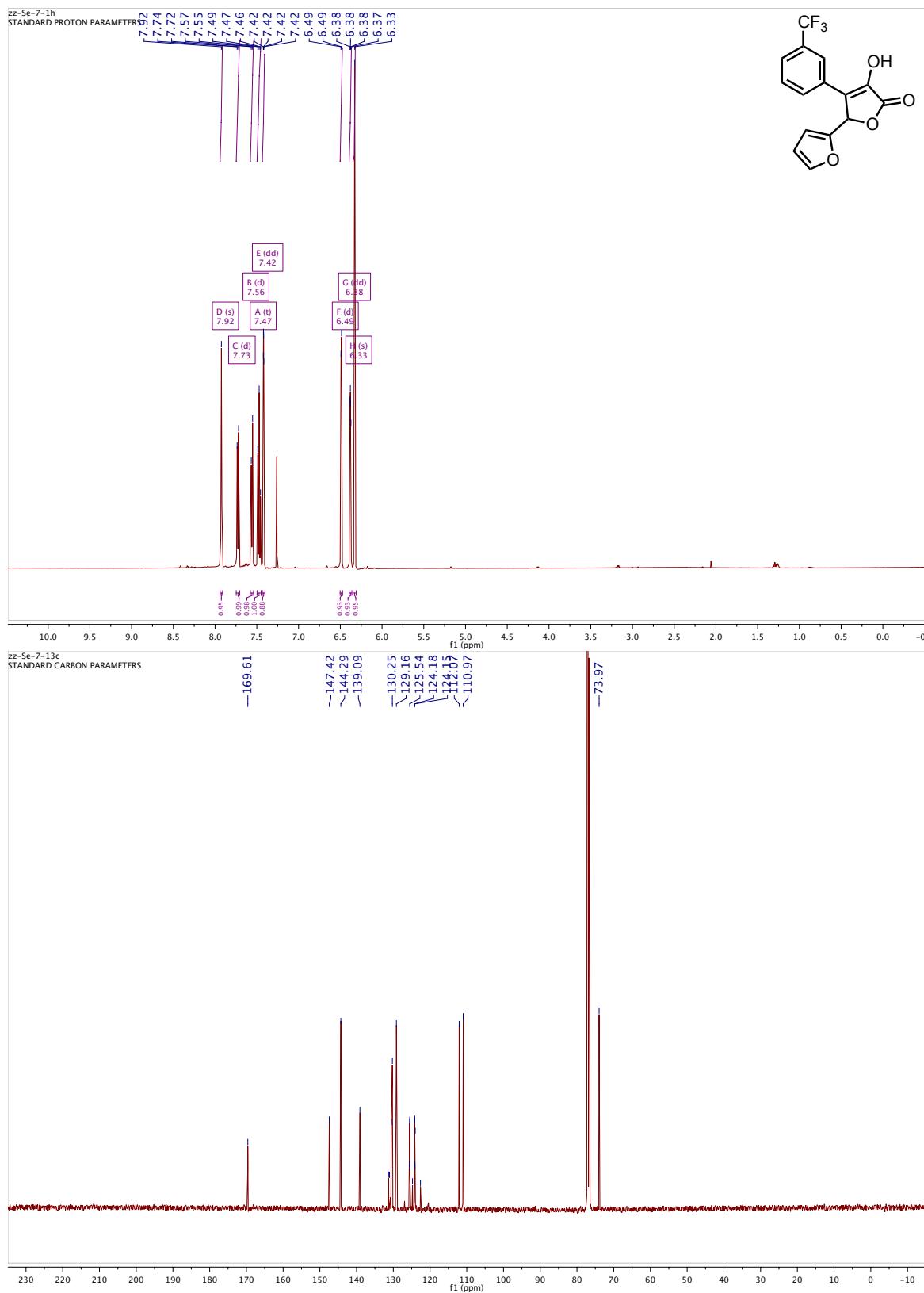


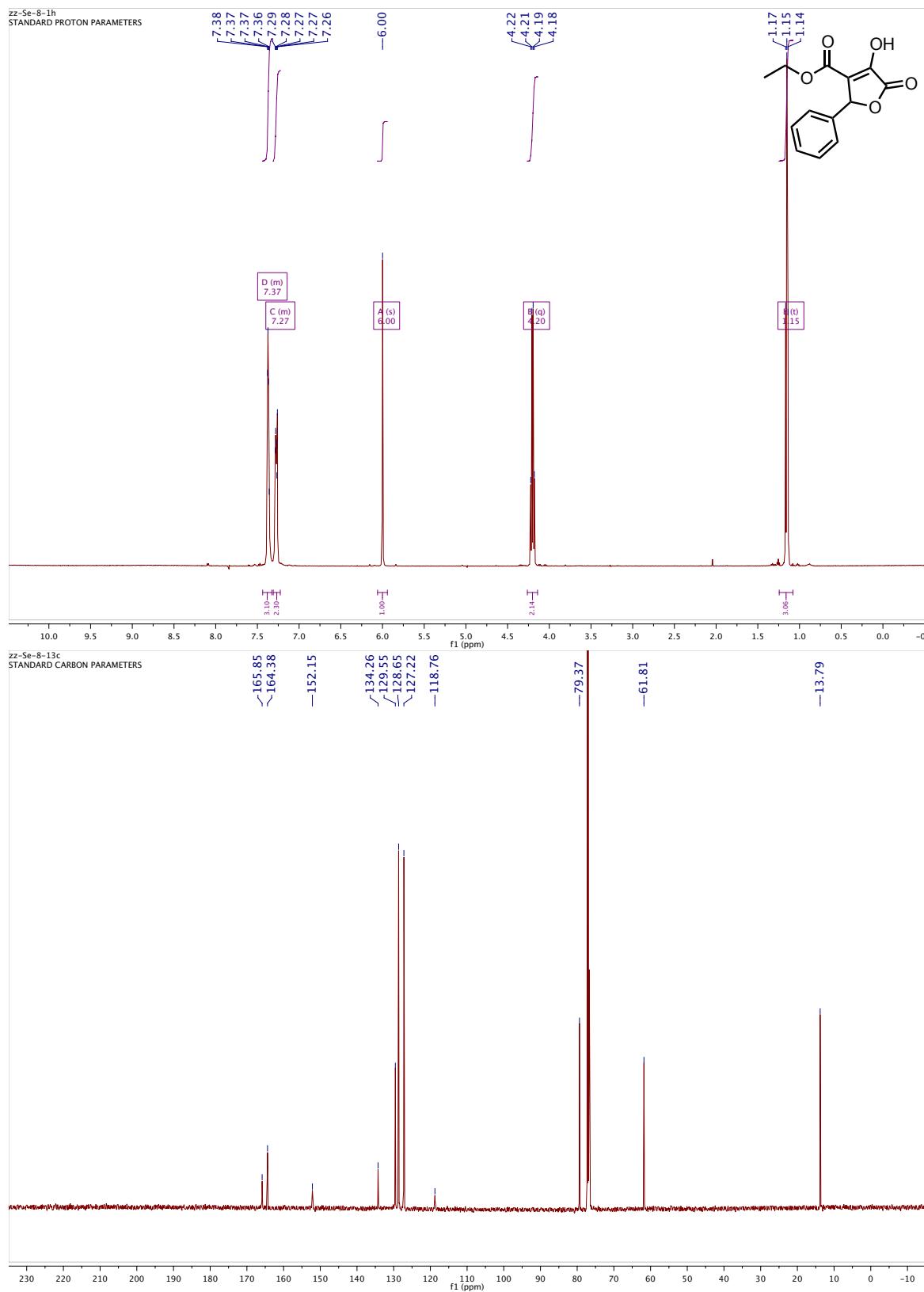


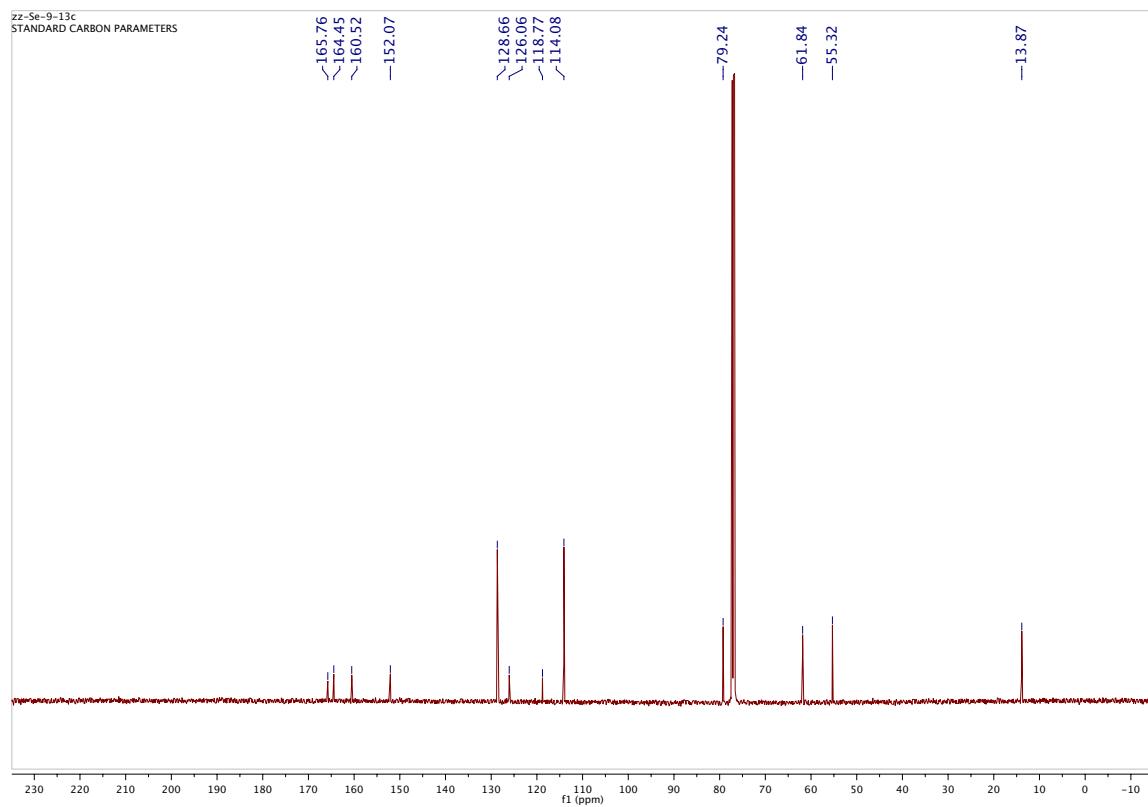
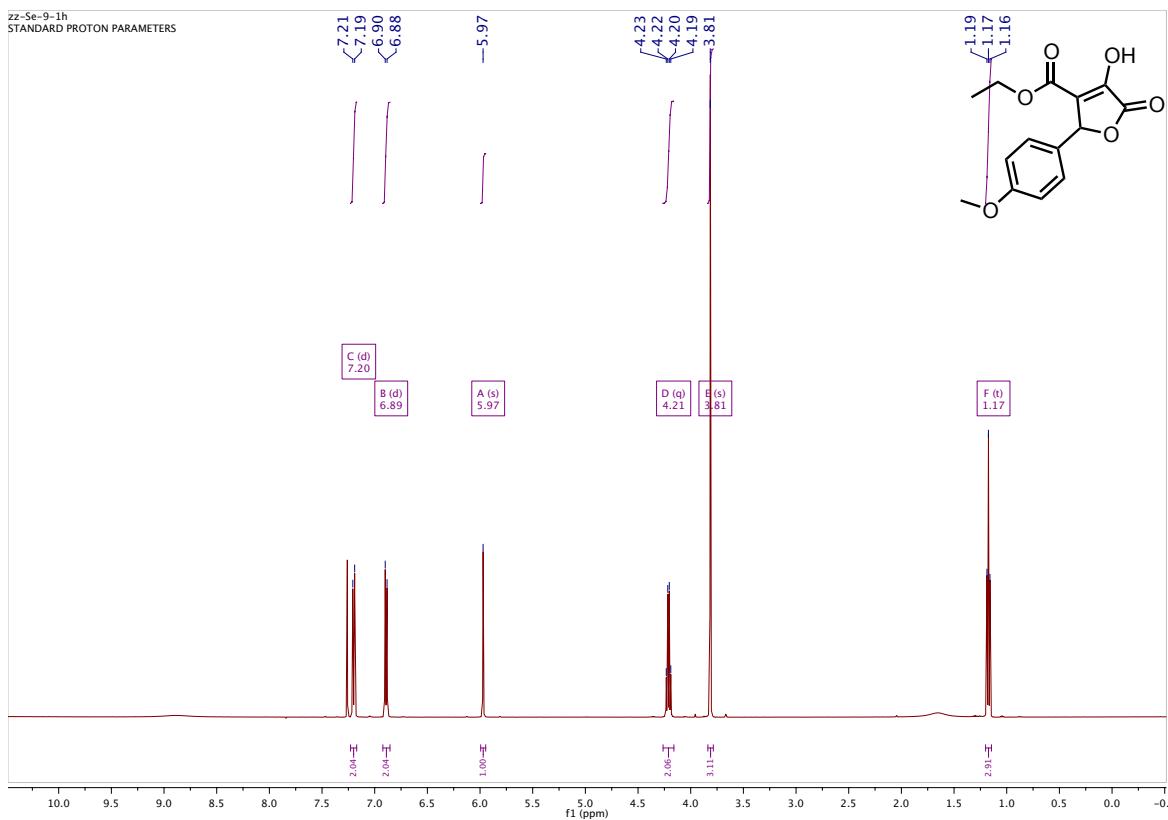


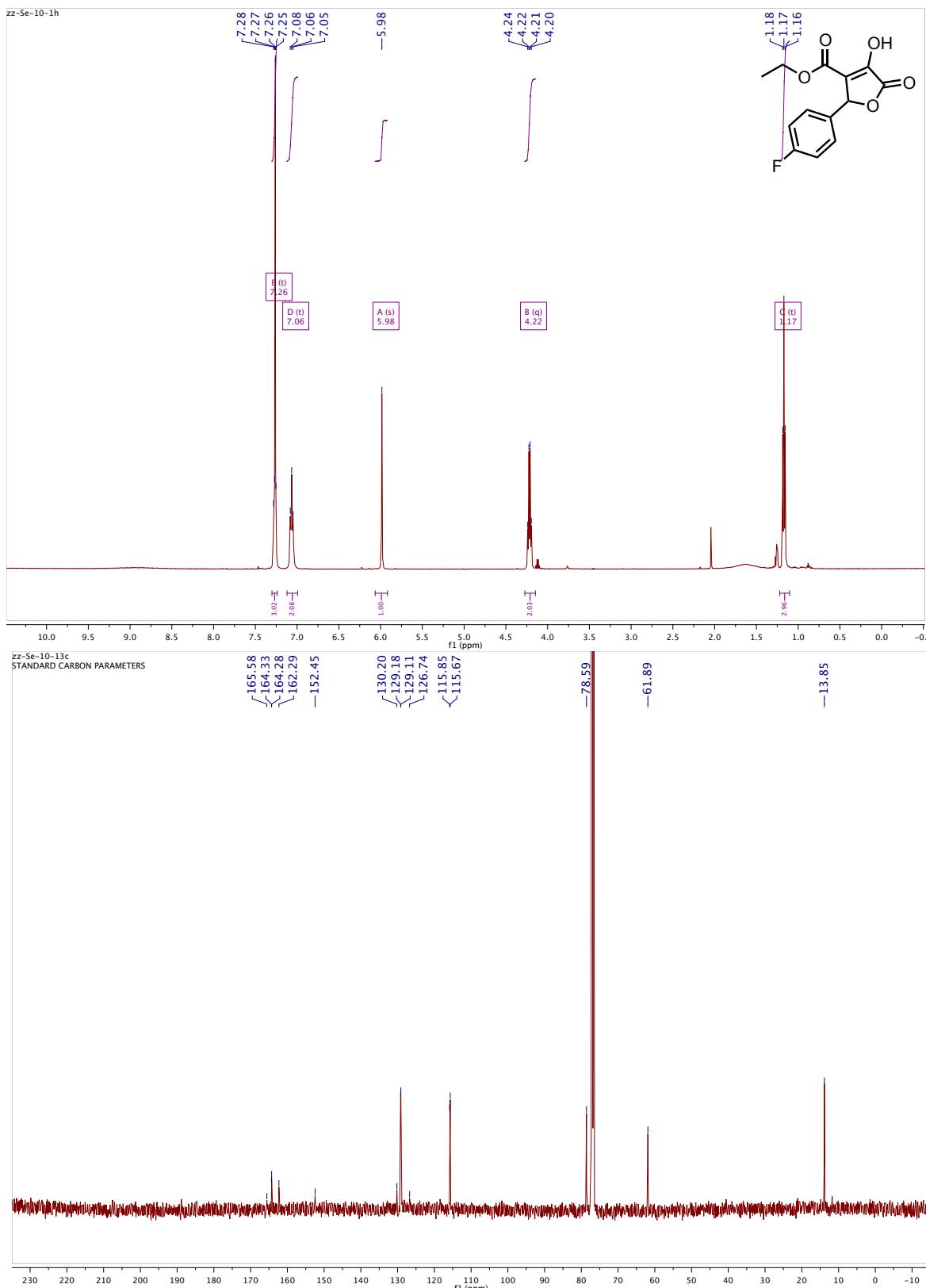


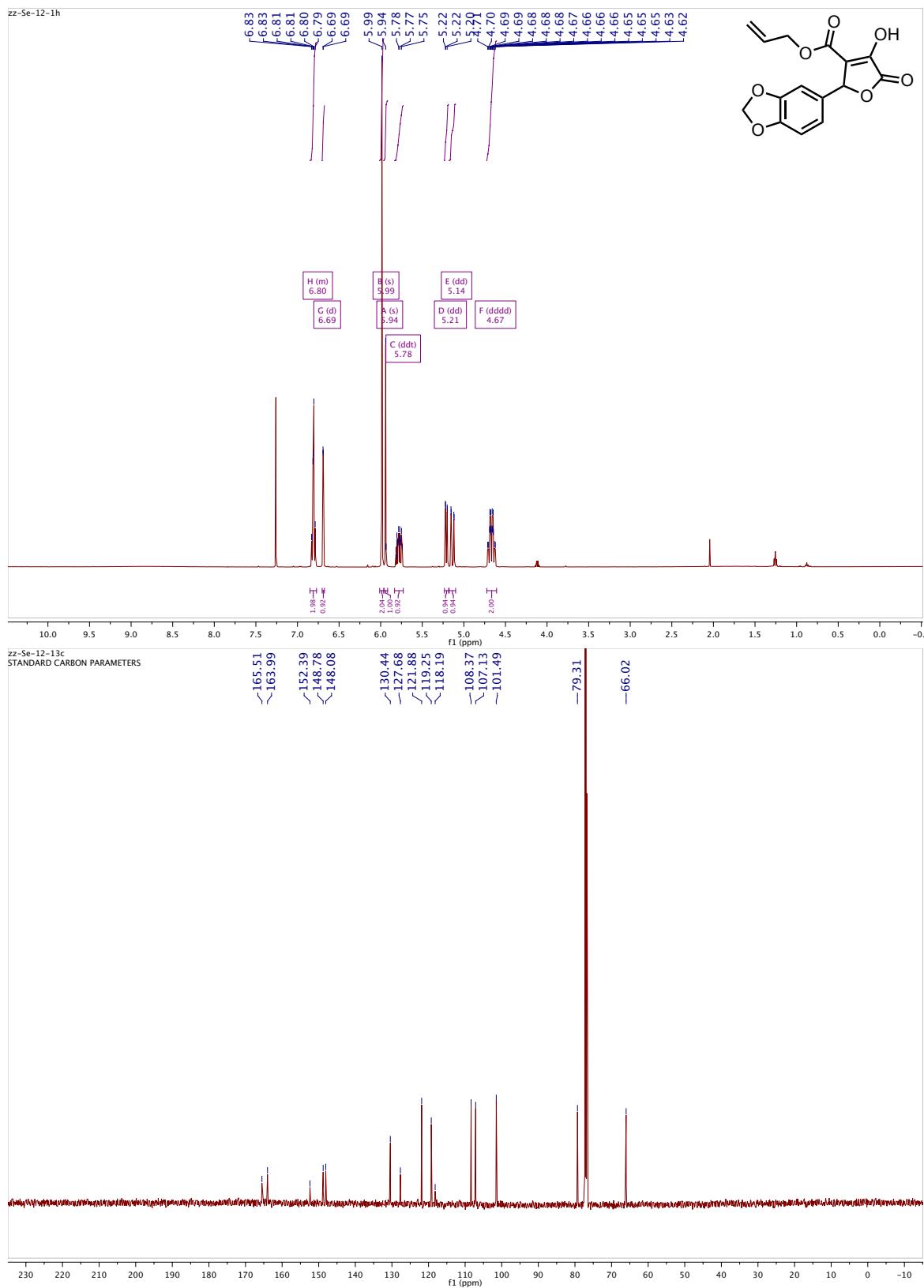


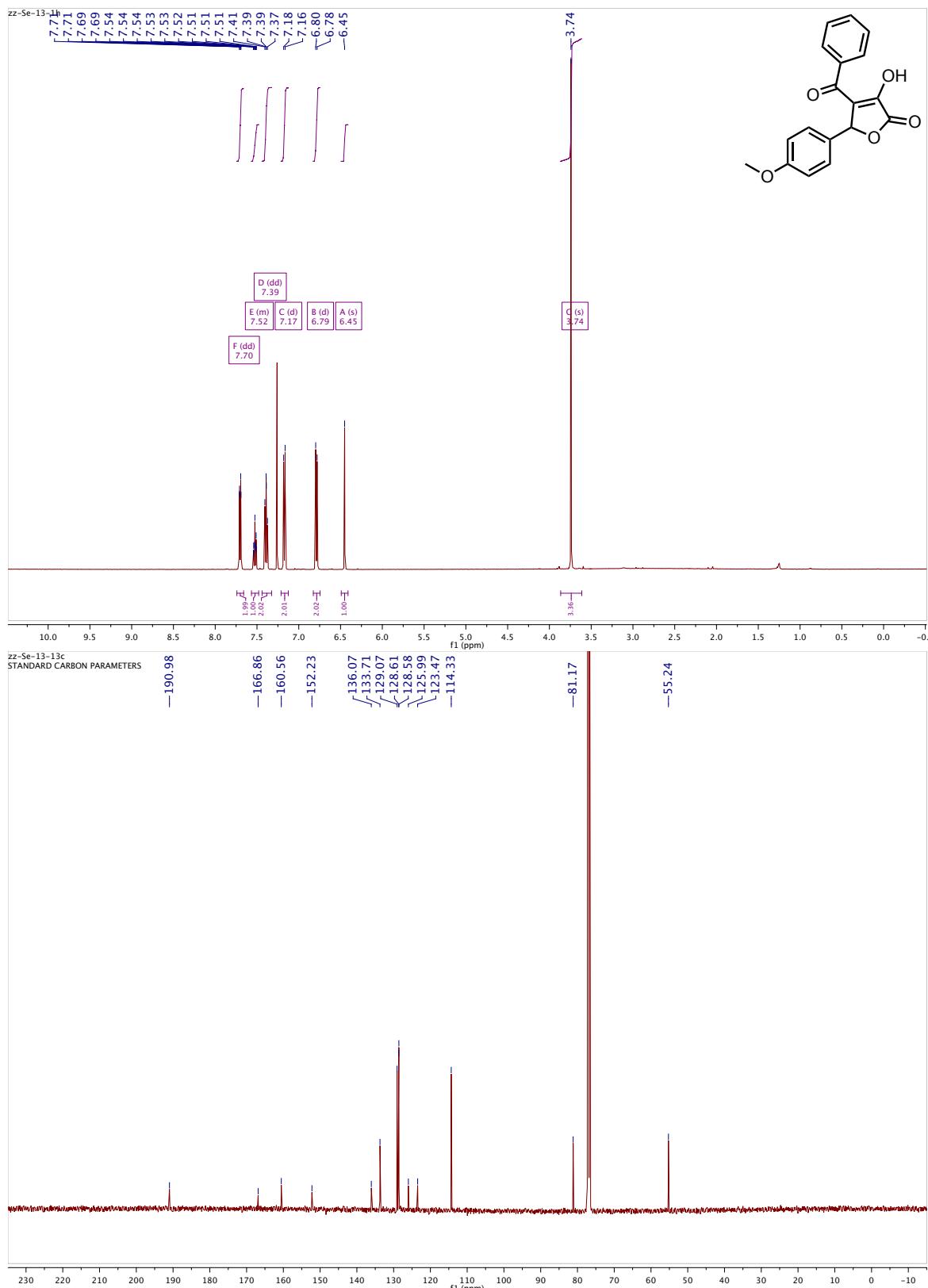


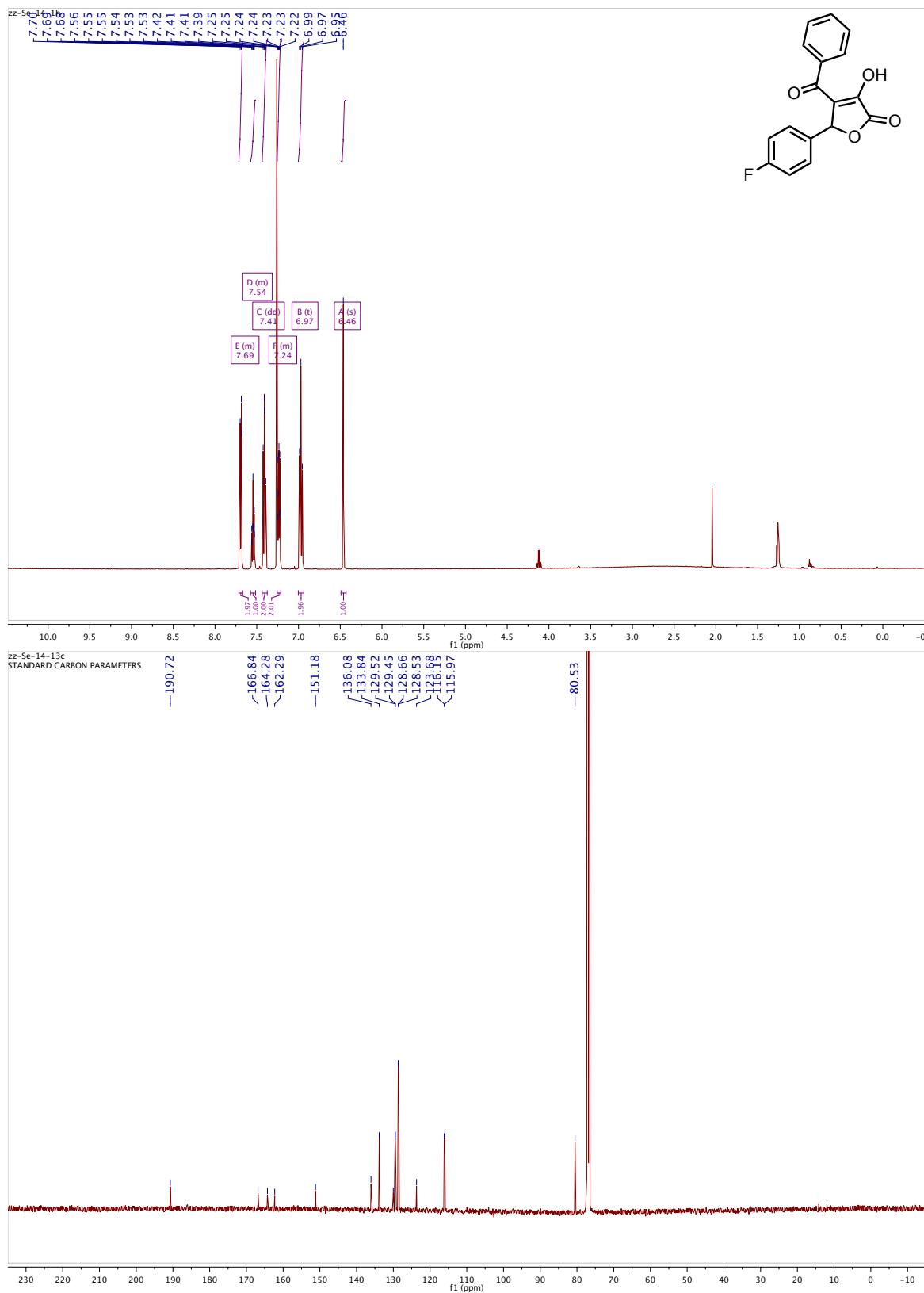


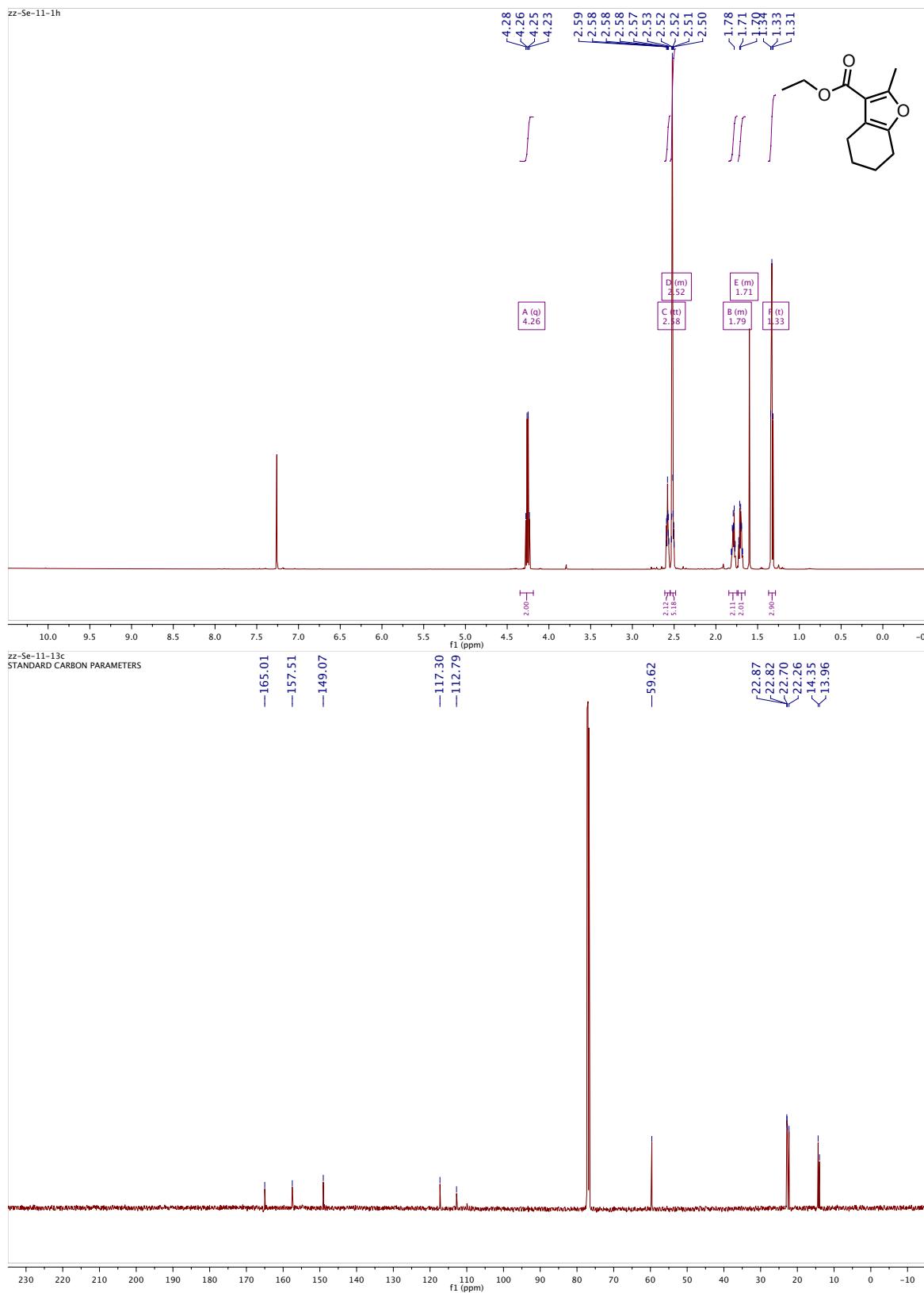


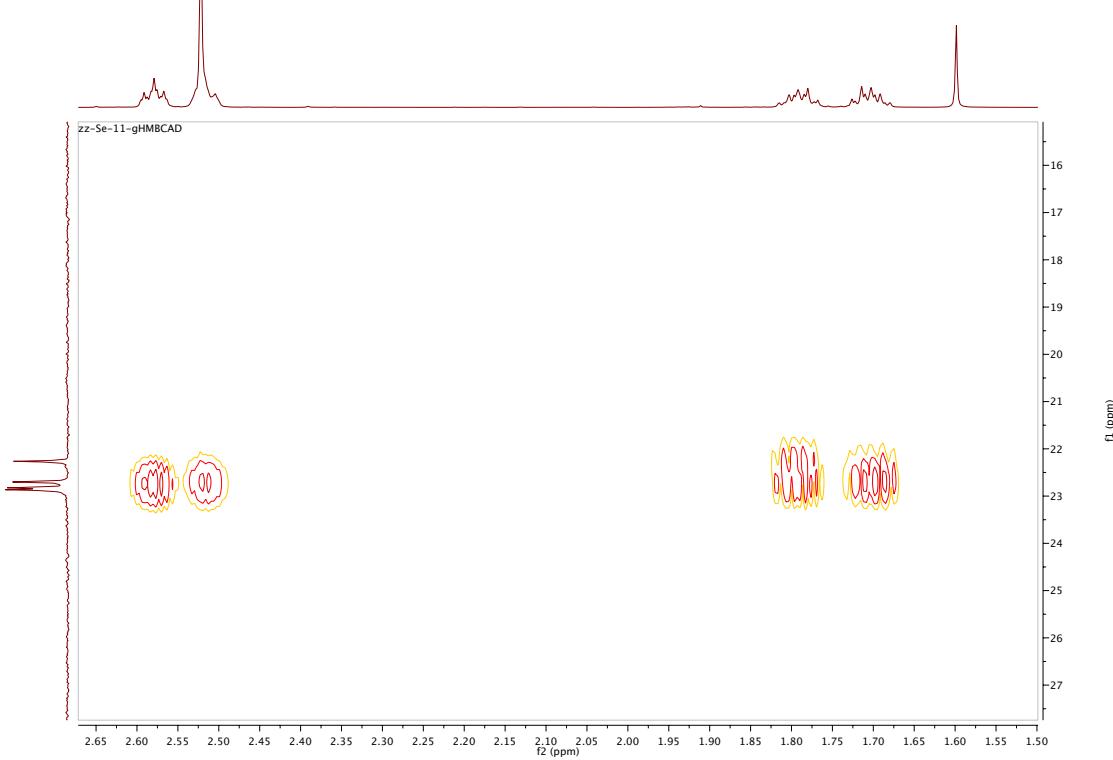
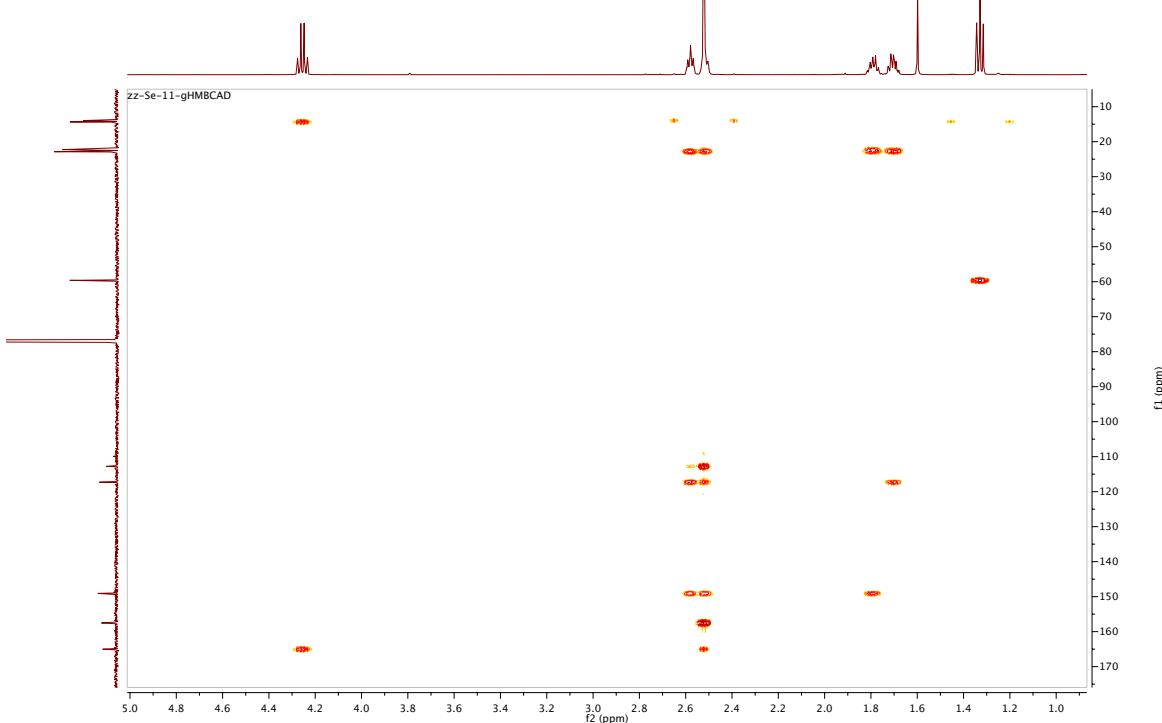
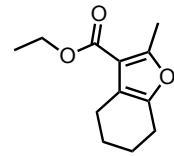


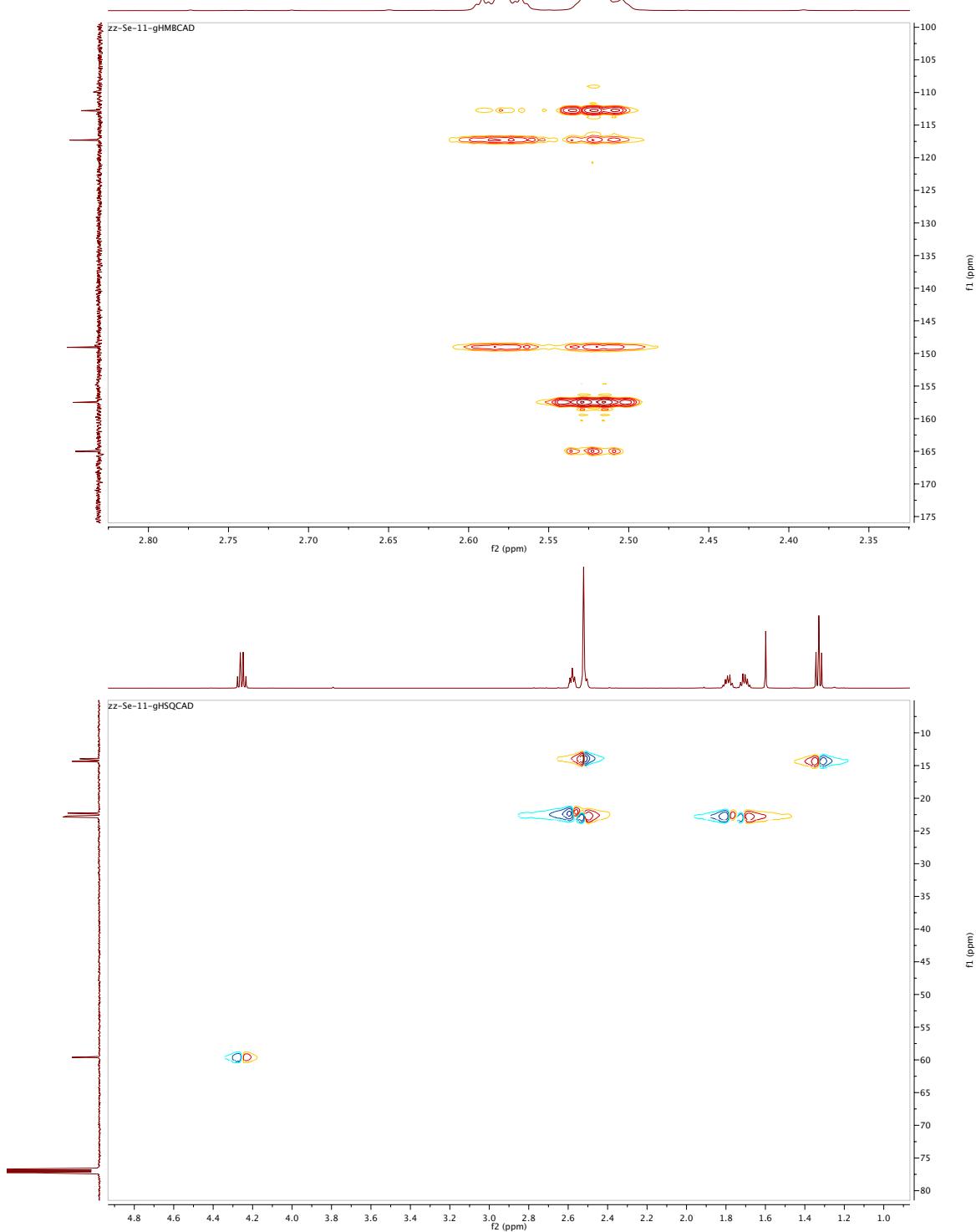
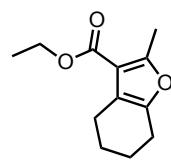


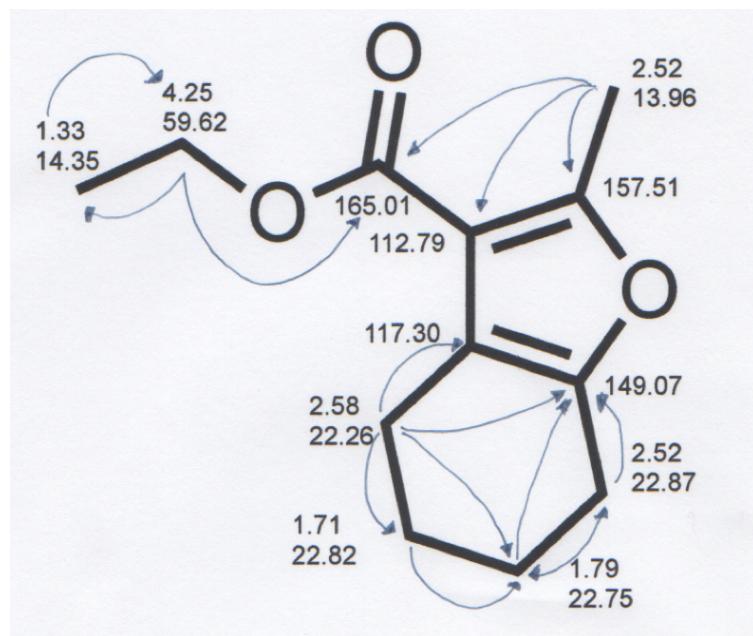
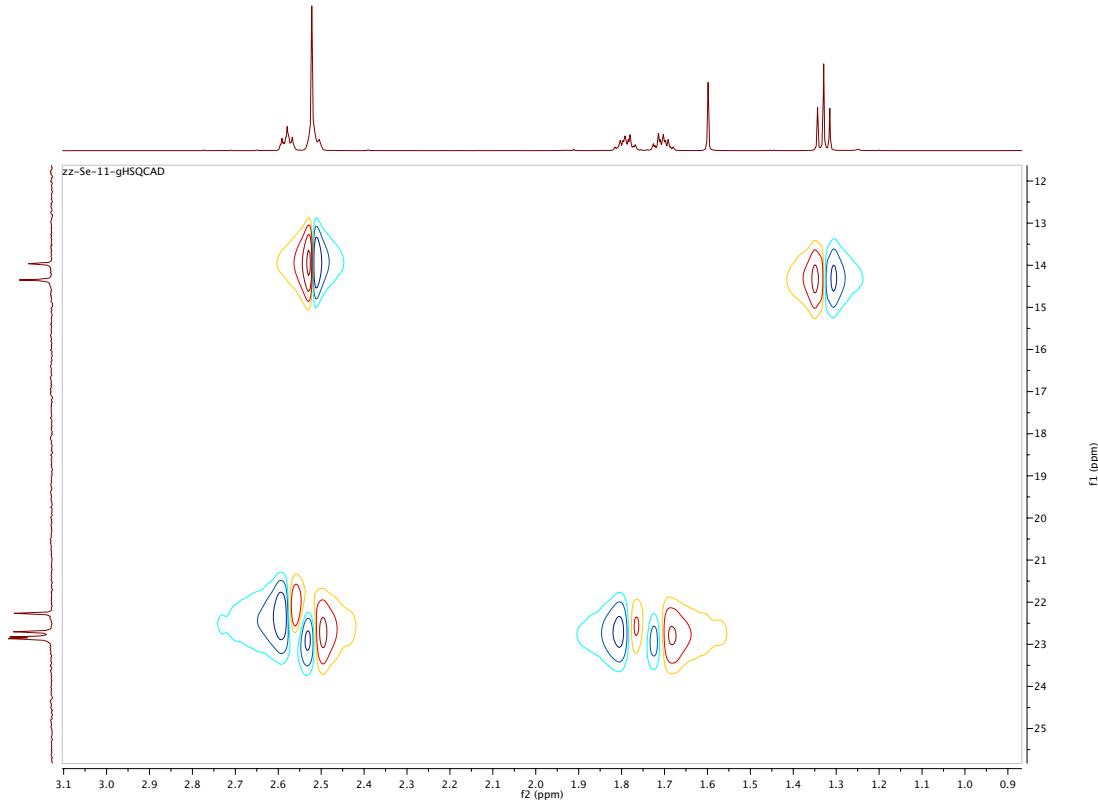


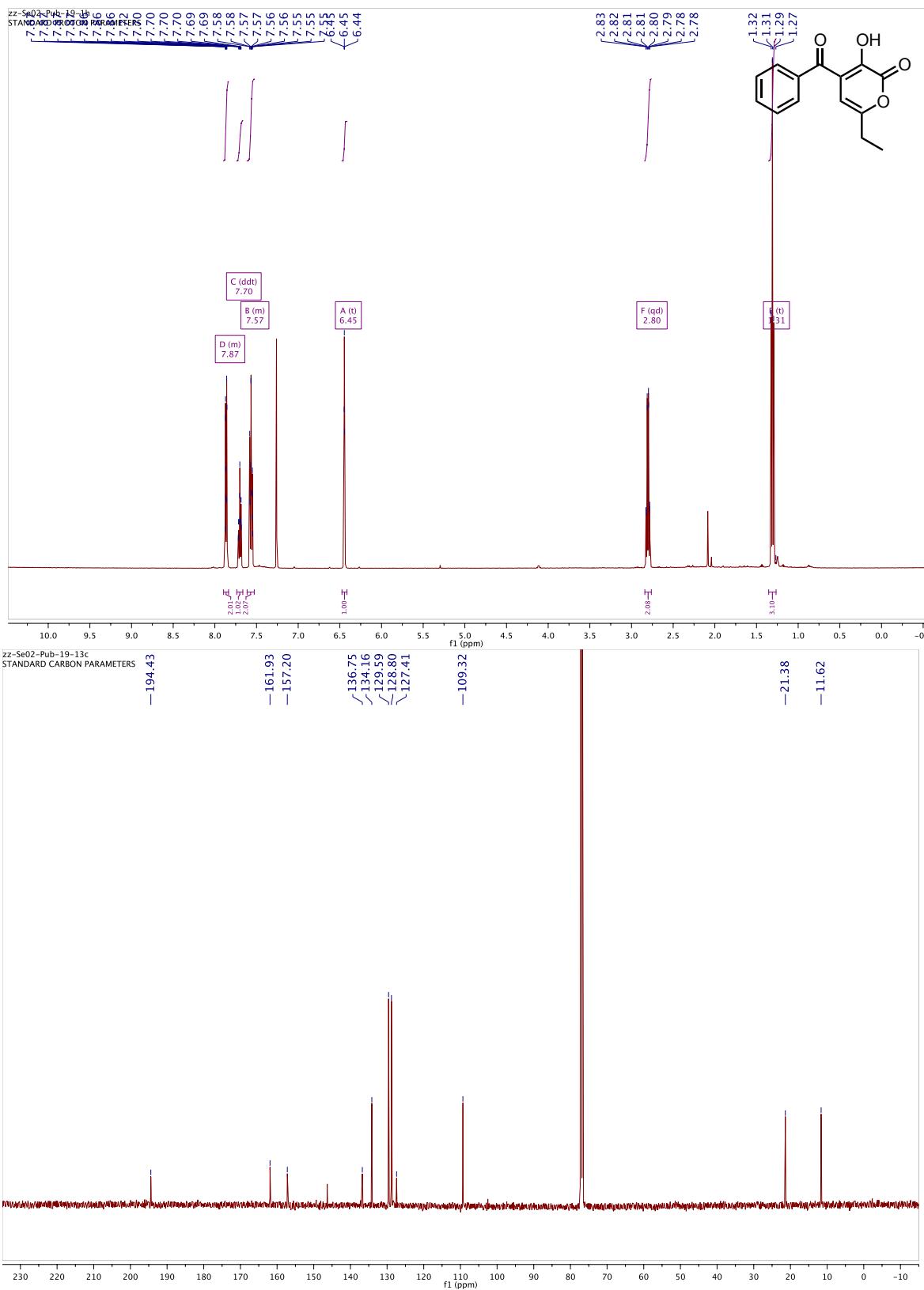


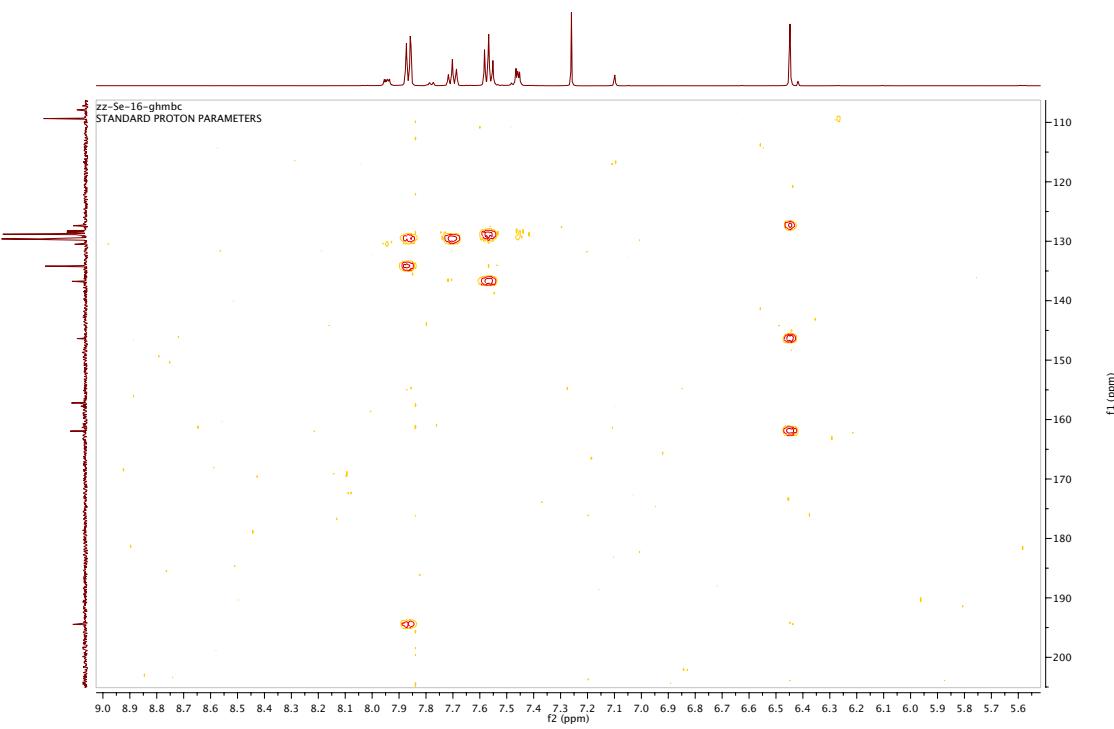
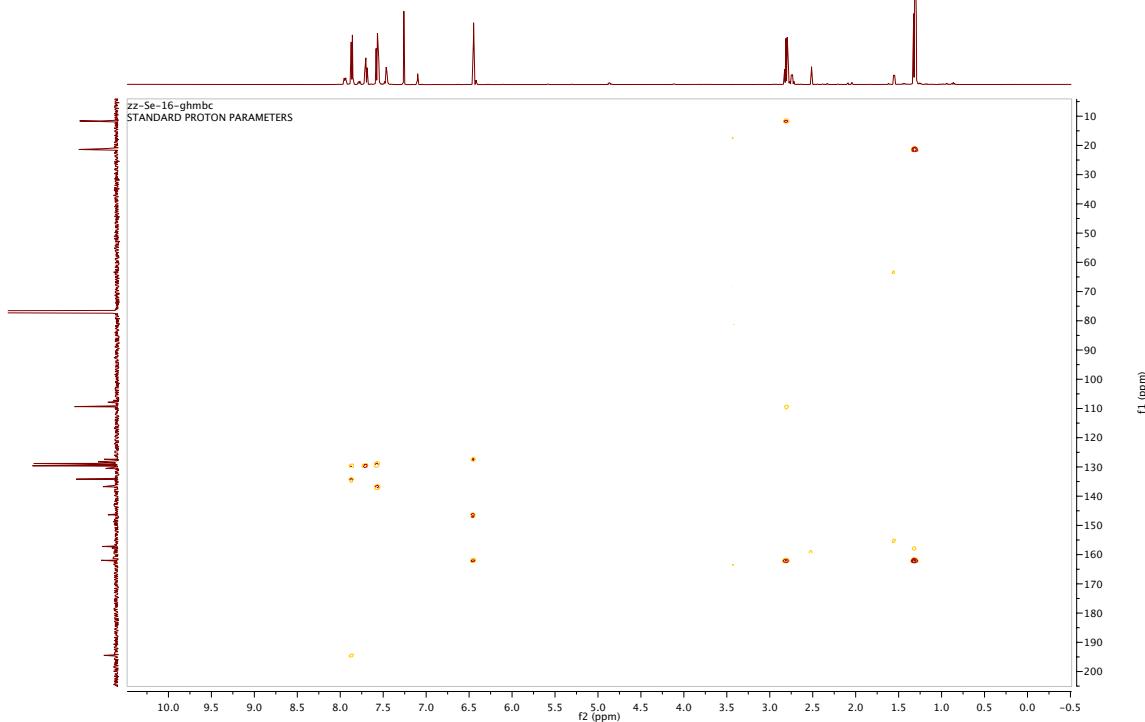
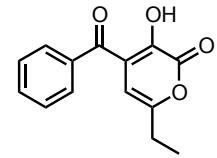


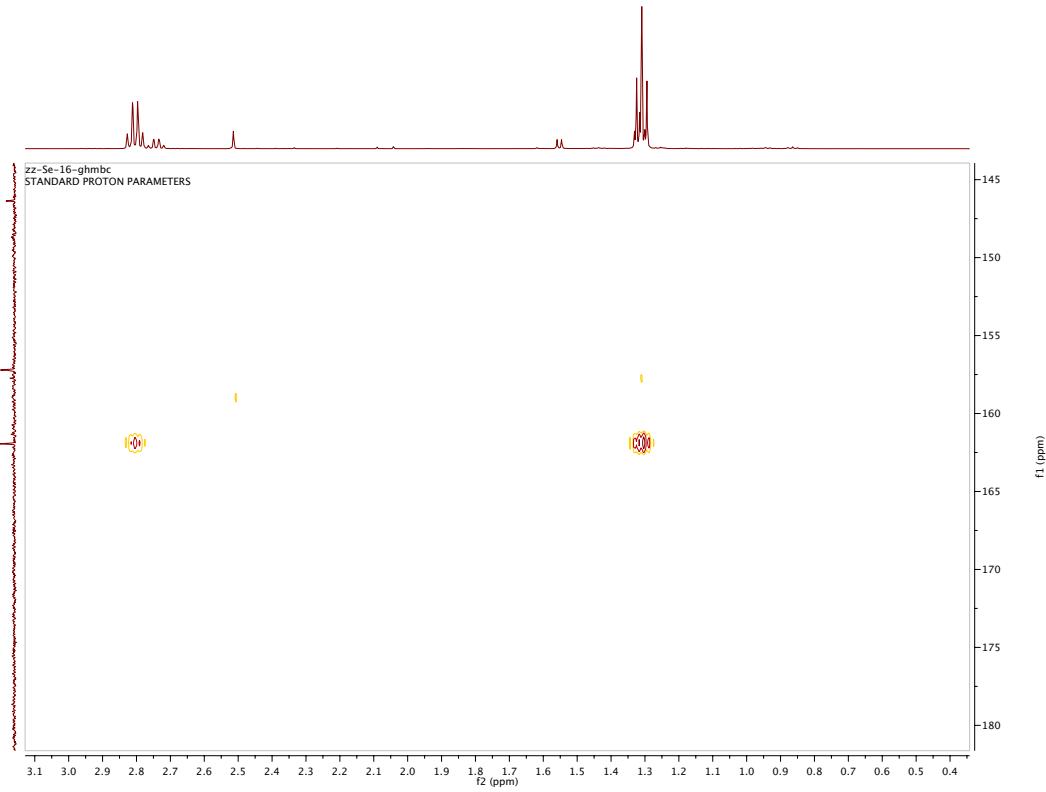
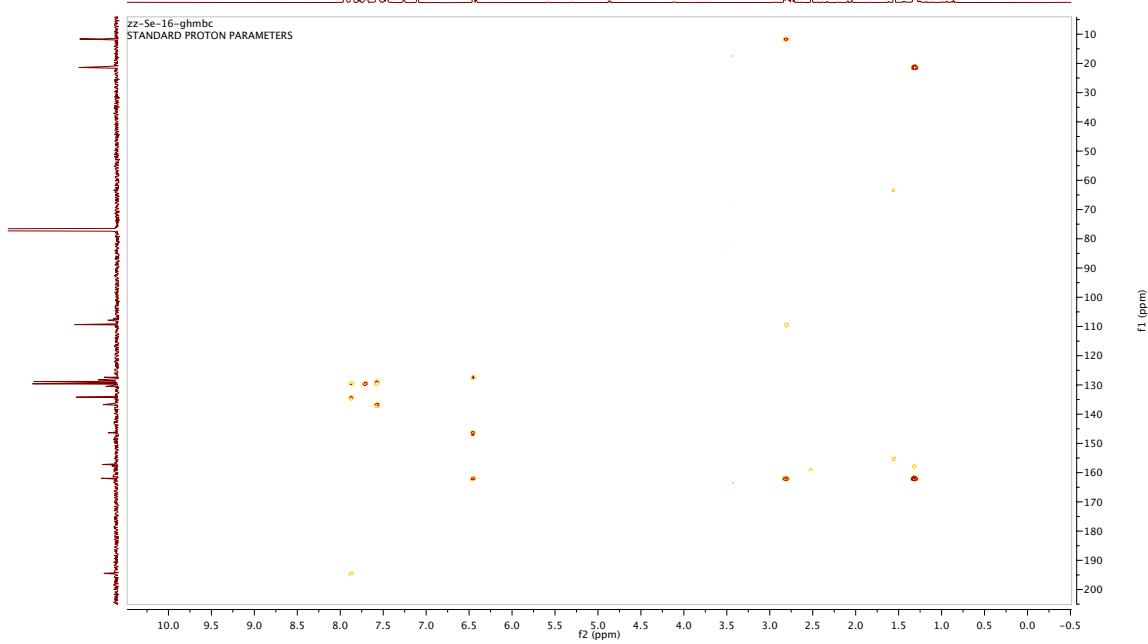
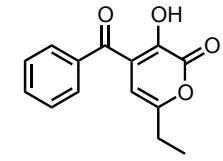


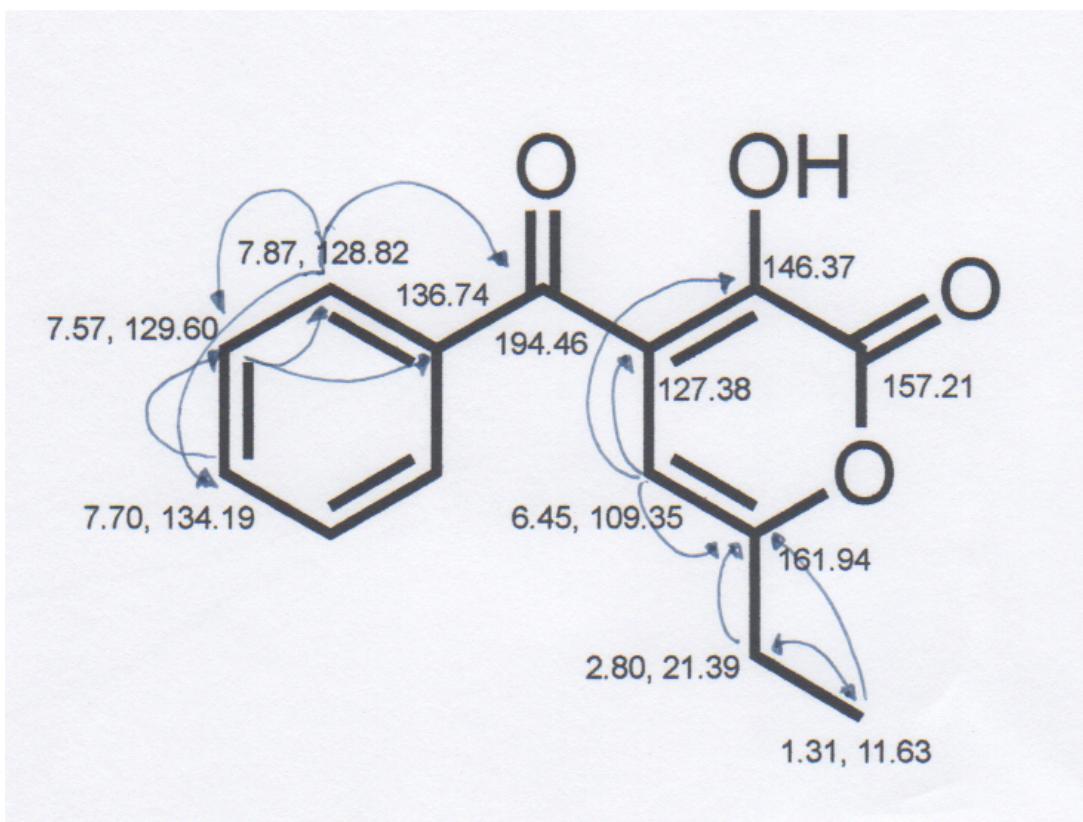


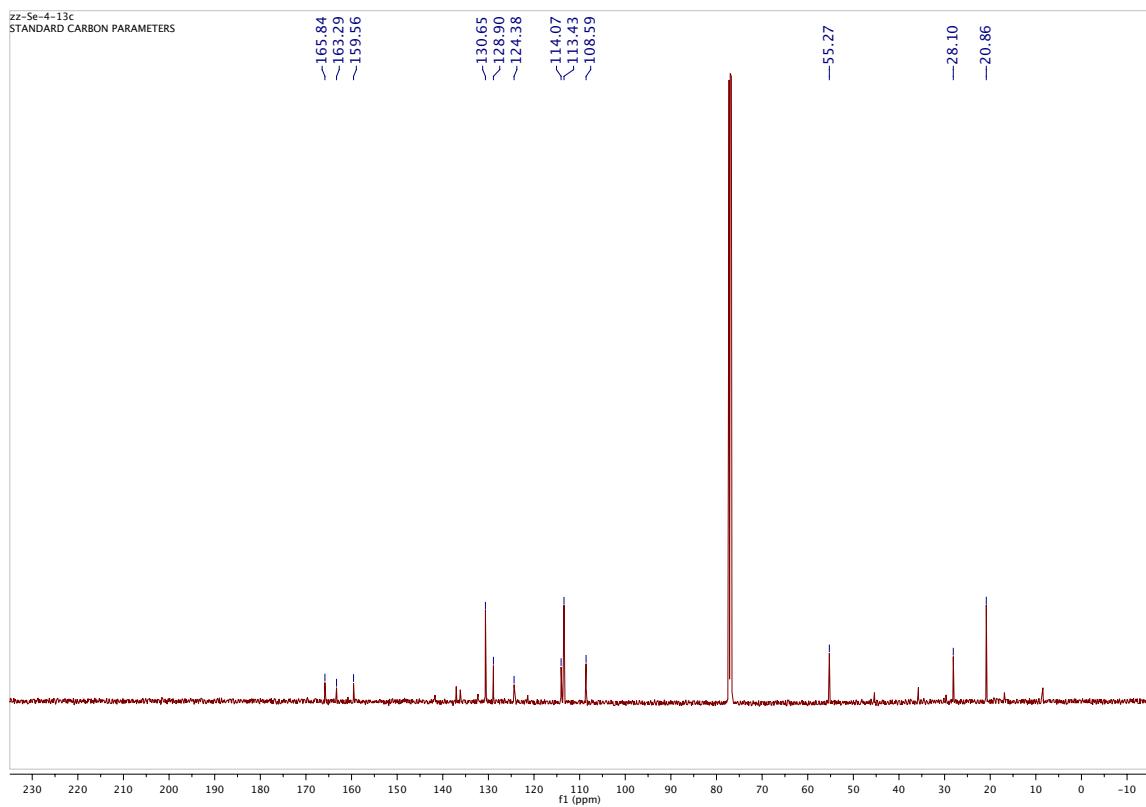
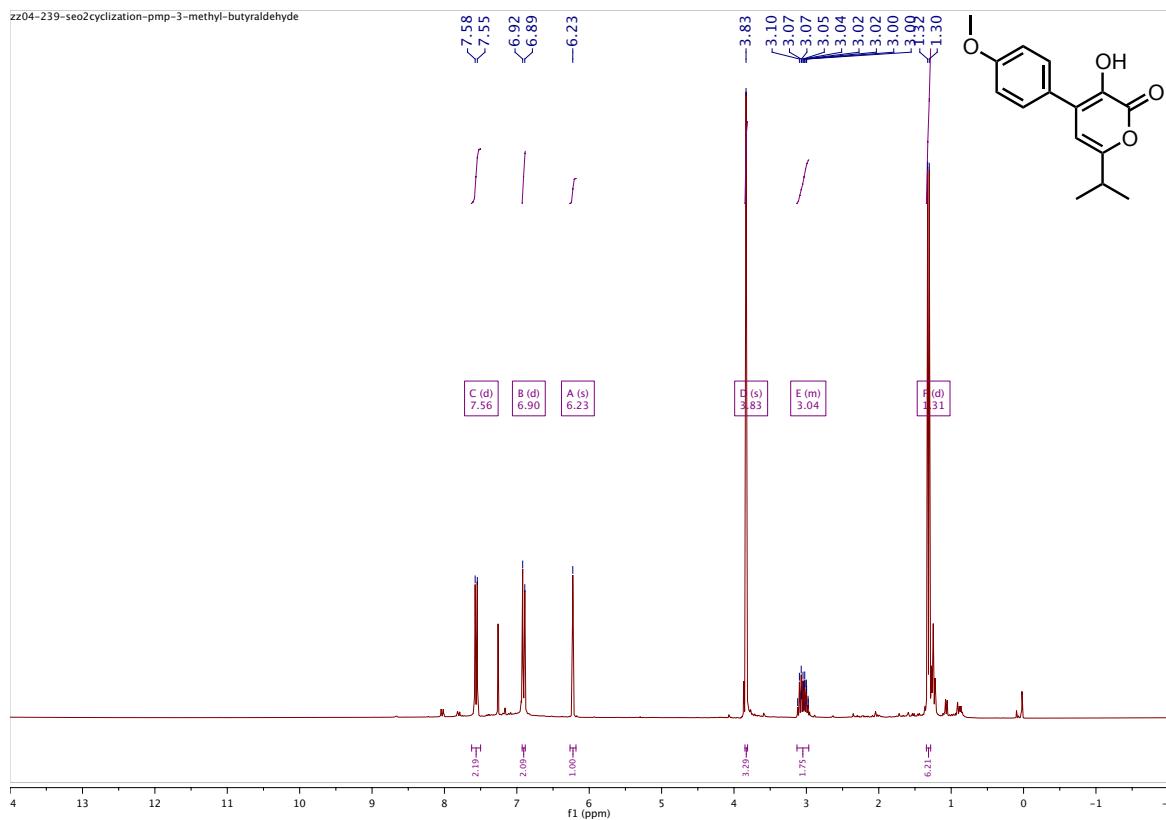


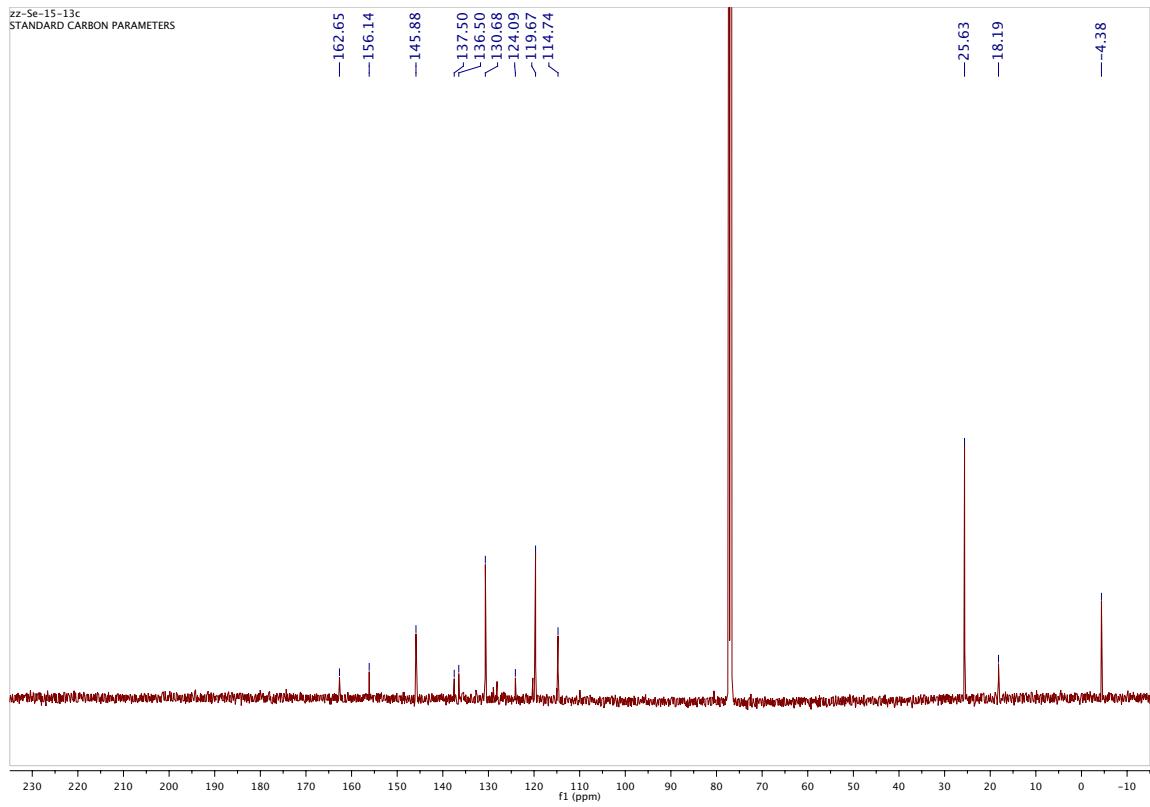
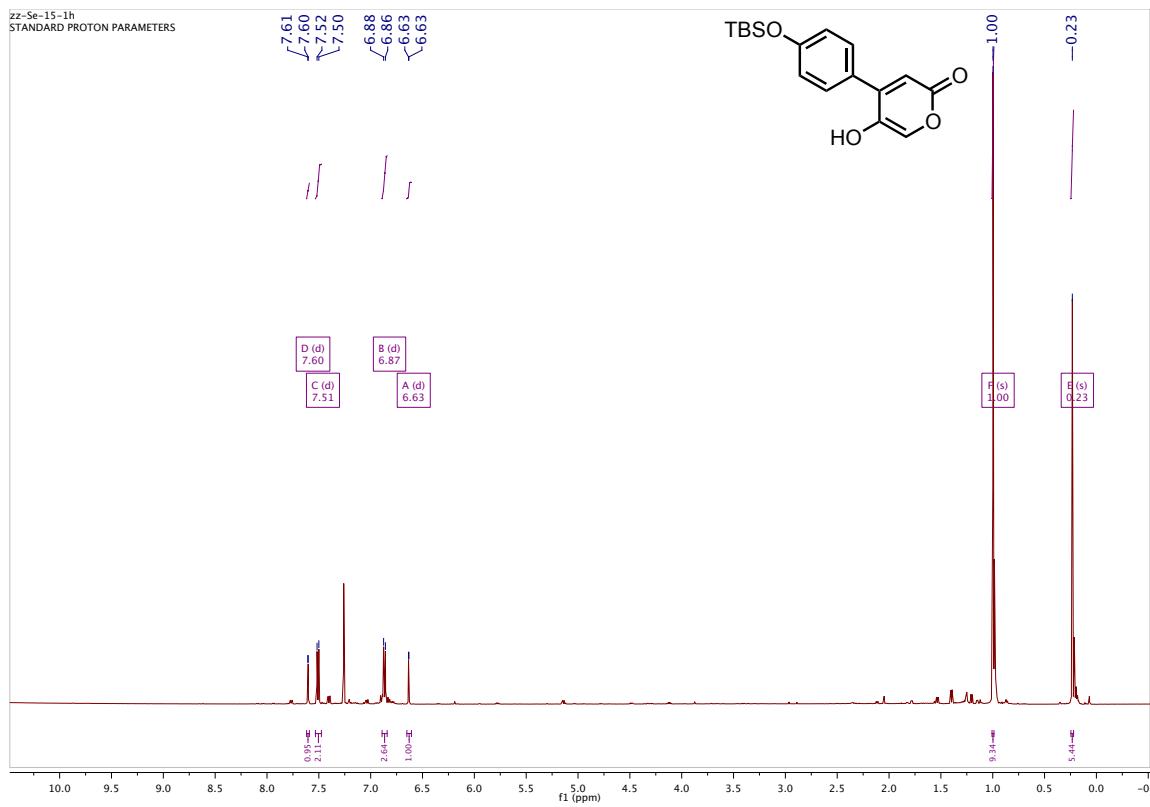


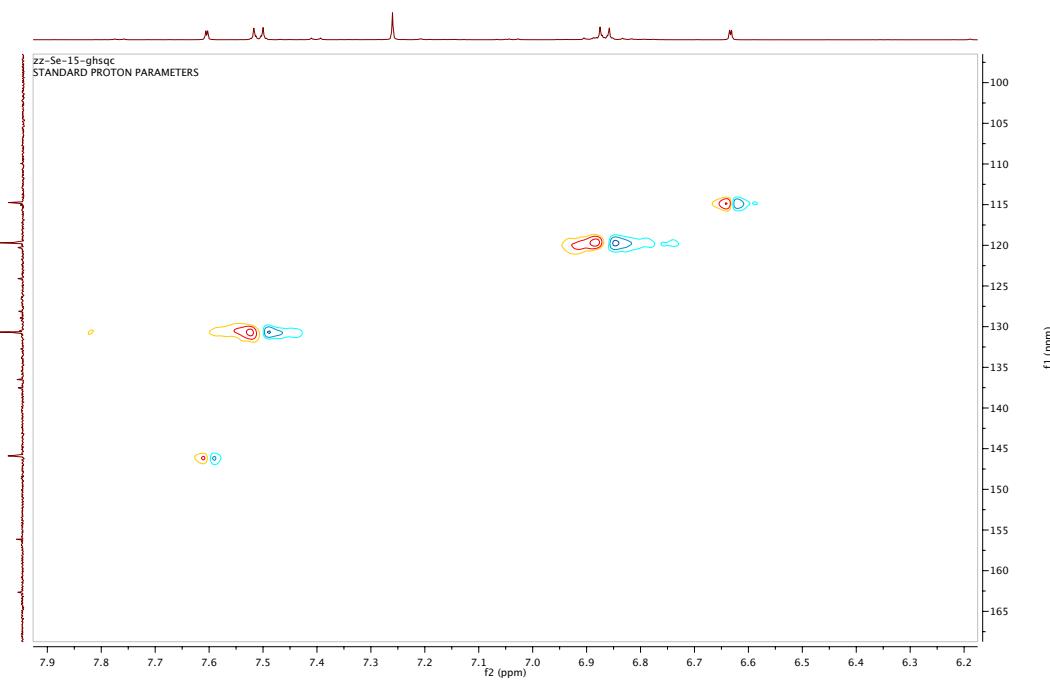
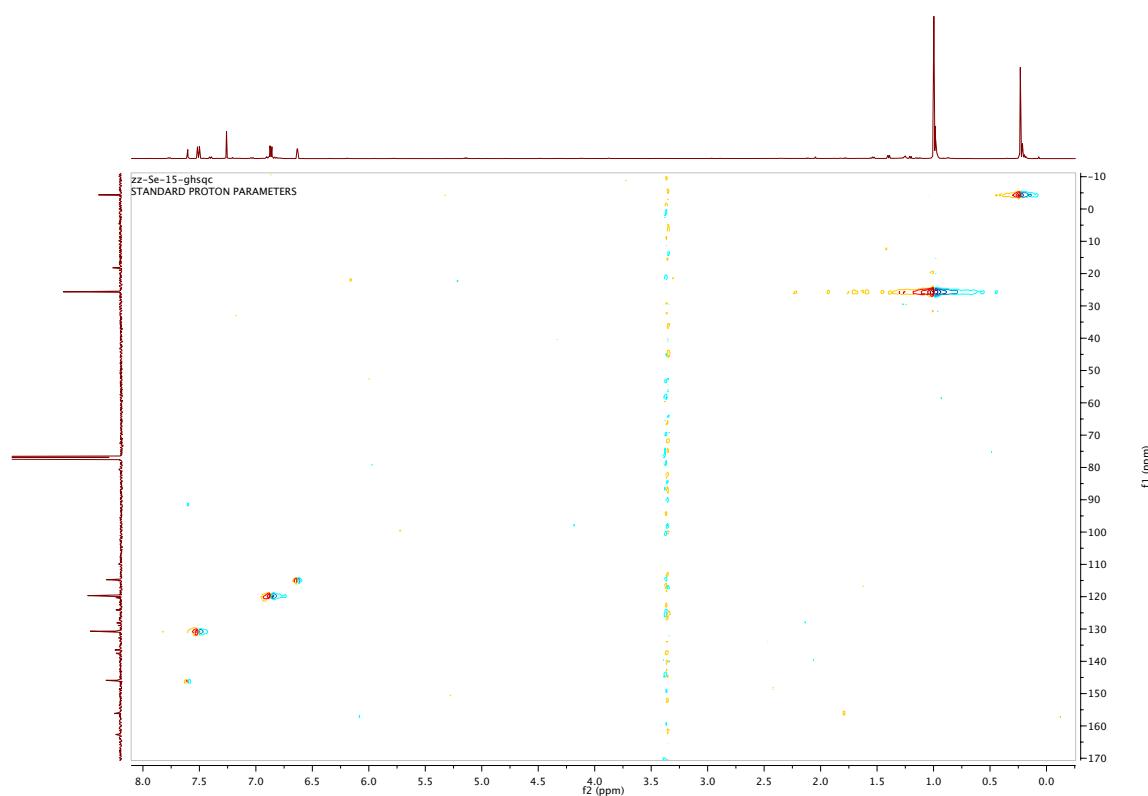
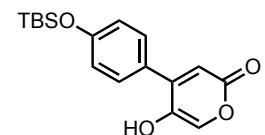


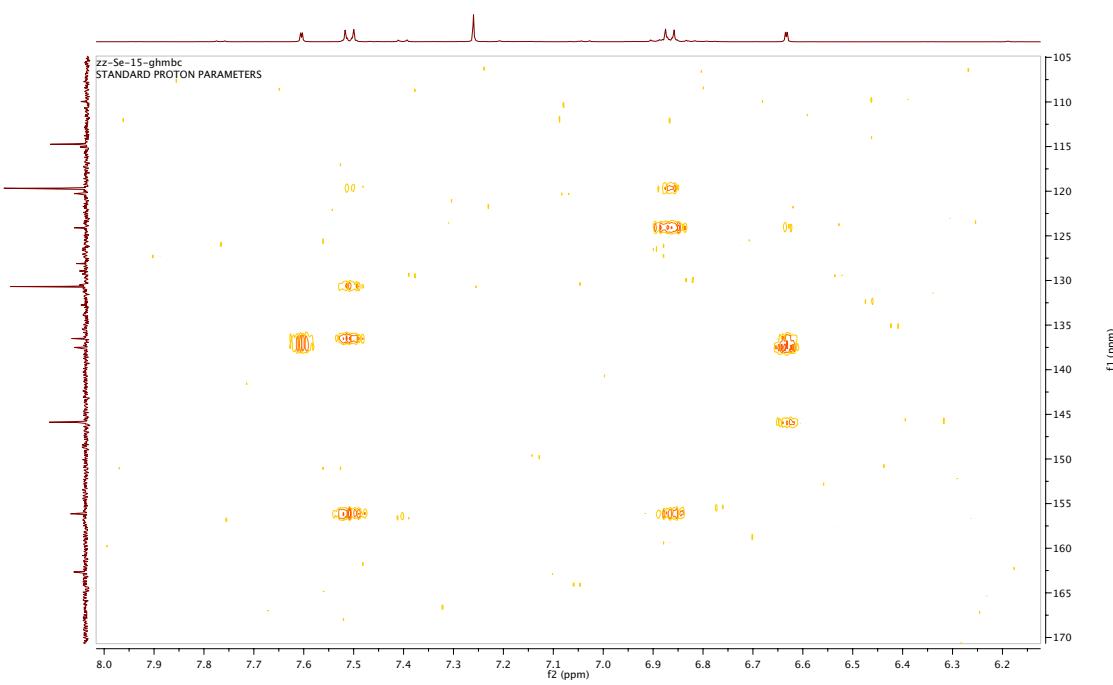
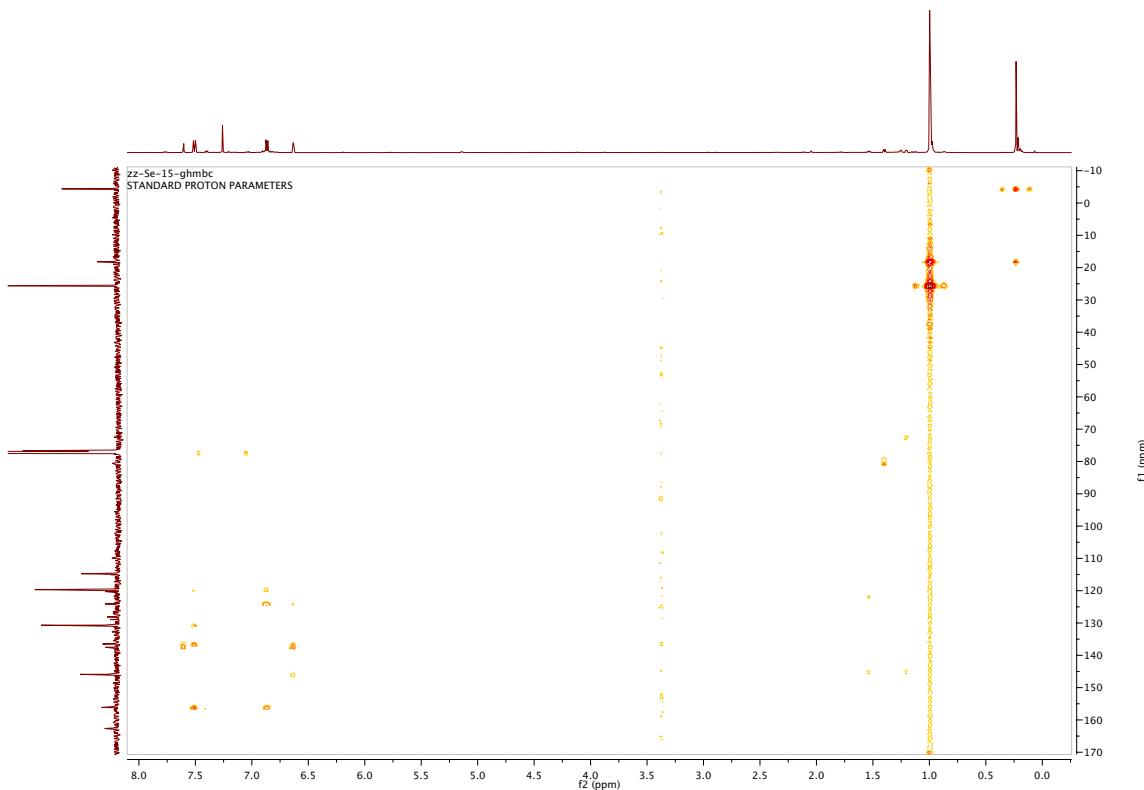
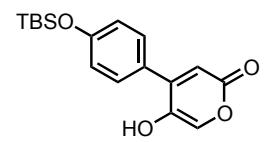


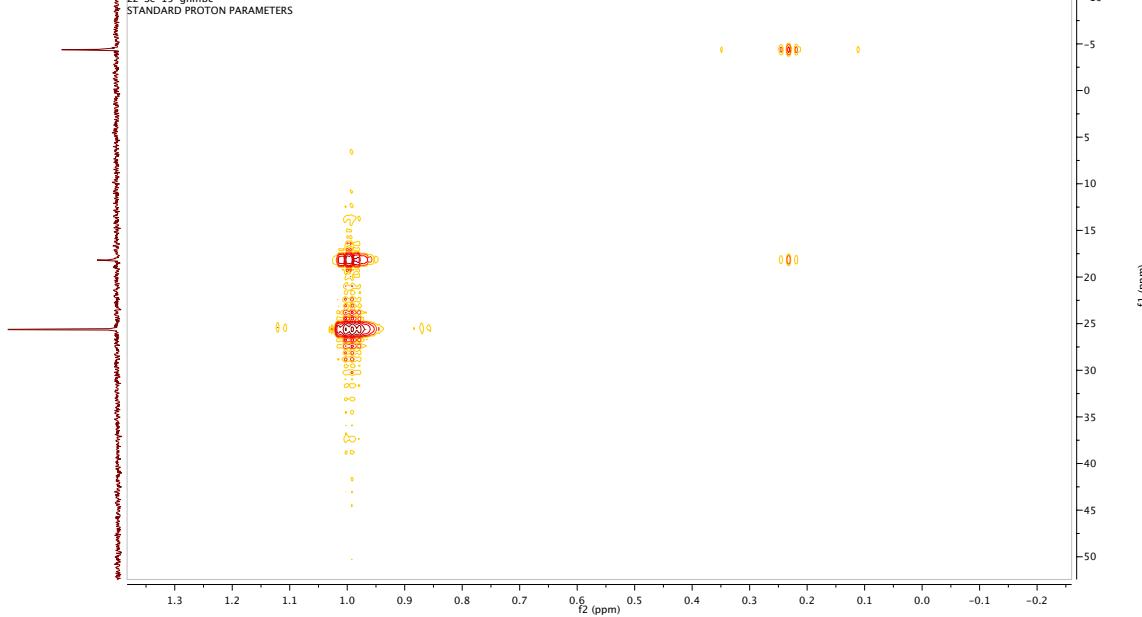
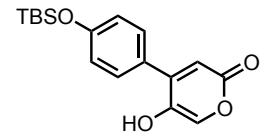










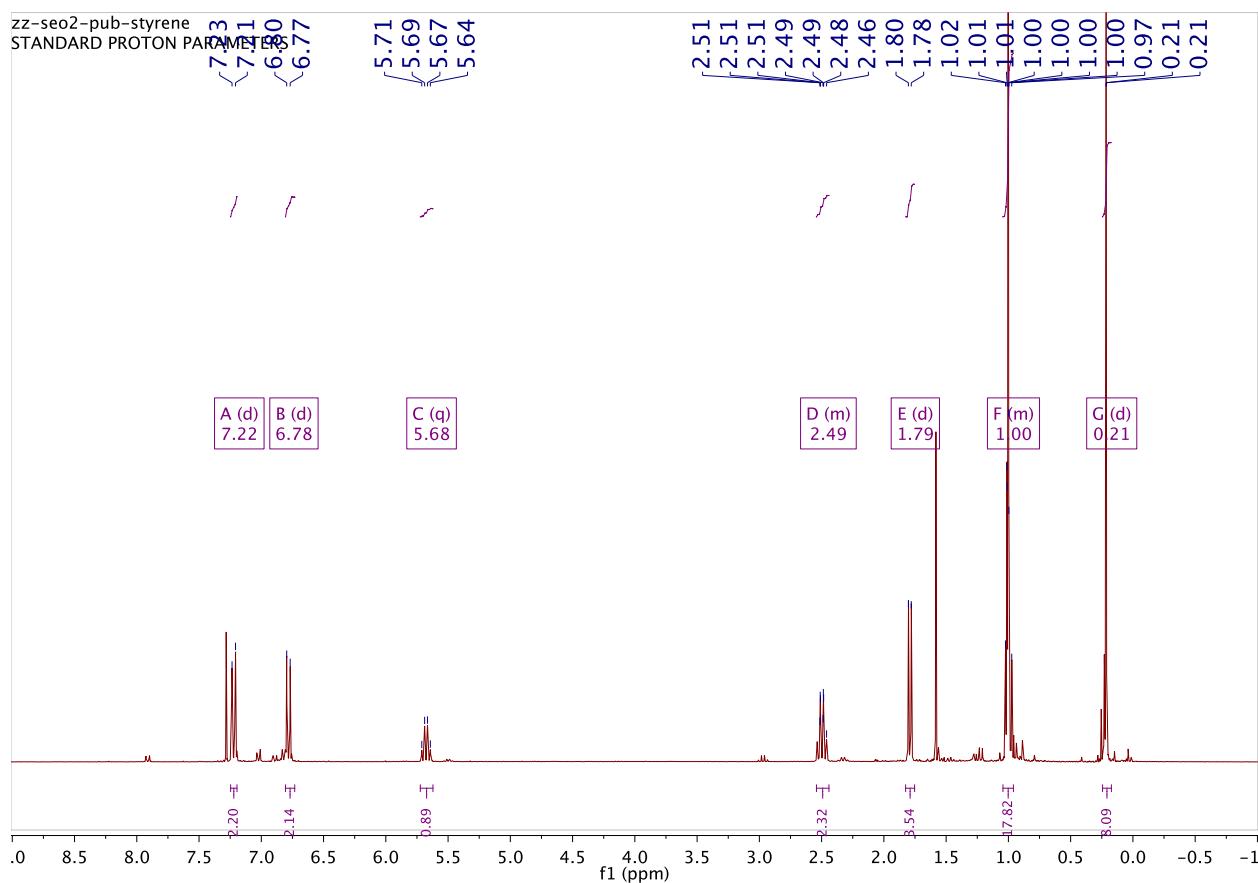


Based on comments from the referees, we decided to perform the following reactions to validate our hypotheses concerning eq (6)

Compound **22** (180 mg, 0.61 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in 5 mL DCM and to this solution was added iPr<sub>2</sub>NEt (197 mg, 1.53 mmol 2.5 eq.) and MeSO<sub>2</sub>Cl (140 mg, 1.22 mmol, 2.0 eq.) at room temperature. After 14 h, the reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The mixture was extracted with DCM (15 mL x 3) and the combined organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> before being concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (2% EtOAc in Hexanes) to yield **23** (108 mg, 64% yield), which was then treated with 4 eq. of SeO<sub>2</sub> according to the general procedure described on page 3 of this document to give 34 mg of **24** (30% yield). The overall yield of **24** was 19%, whereas the one pot procedure gave product in 13% yield.

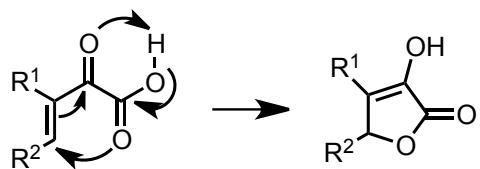
It is our opinion that these results validate our hypotheses.

The <sup>1</sup>H spectrum of **23** is attached below. It appears to have high diastereomeric purity.



## Mechanistic Hypothesis

Oxa-Michael Addition with Simultaneous Proton Transfer



Oxa-Nazarov Mechanism

