

# Easy access to constrained peptidomimetics and 2,2-disubstituted azetidines by unexpected reactivity profile of $\alpha$ -lithiated N-Boc-azetidines

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## General

THF and Et<sub>2</sub>O was freshly distilled under a nitrogen atmosphere over Na/benzophenone. *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA) was distilled over finely powdered CaH<sub>2</sub>, hexyllithium was purchased as hexane solution and was filtered on celite before using and title established by titration method.<sup>1</sup> All the other chemicals were commercially available and used without further purification. Magnetic Resonance spectra were recorded using Varian 400 and 500 MHz, and Bruker 600 MHz spectrometers. For the <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400, 500, 600 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C NMR 100, 125, 150 MHz), CDCl<sub>3</sub>, methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub> and toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub> were used as the solvents.

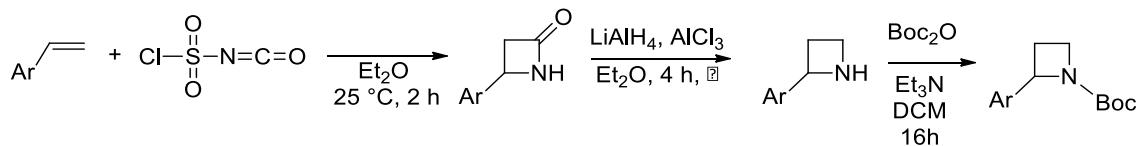
MS-ESI analyses were performed on LC/MSD trap system VL. Melting points were uncorrected. GC-MS spectrometry analyses were carried out on a gas chromatograph (dimethylsilicon capillary column, 30 m, 0.25 mm i.d.) equipped with a mass selective detector operating at 70 eV (EI). Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on precoated 0.25 mm thick plates of Kieselgel 60 F254; visualization was accomplished by UV light (254 nm) or by spraying a solution of 5 % (w/v) ammonium molybdate and 0.2 % (w/v) cerium(III) sulfate in 100 ml 17.6 % (w/v) aq. sulphuric acid and heating to 200 °C for some time until blue spots appear. Infra-red spectra of the compounds were recorded neat, as film, as KBr disc as indicated, by a Perkin-Elmer 283 spectrometer. For flash chromatography silica Gel 60, 0.04-0.063 mm particle size was used. CHN analyses were performed on a EuroEA 3000 analyzer. The high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) analyses were performed using a Bruker microTOF QII mass spectrometer equipped with an electrospray ion source (ESI) operated in positive ion mode. The sample solutions (CH<sub>3</sub>OH or CH<sub>3</sub>OH + 0.1%v/v HCOOH) were introduced by continuous infusion at a flow rate of 180 mL min<sup>-1</sup> with the aid of a syringe pump. The instrument was operated with end-plate offset and capillary voltages set to -500 V and -4500 V respectively. The nebulizer pressure was 0.4 bar (N<sub>2</sub>), and the drying gas (N<sub>2</sub>) flow rate was 4.0 L min<sup>-1</sup>. The capillary exit and skimmer 1 voltages were 90 V and 30 V, respectively. The drying gas temperature was set at 180 °C. The calibration was carried out with sodium formate: a solution made up of 10 µl of 98% formic acid, 10 µl of sodium hydroxide (1.0 M), 490 µl of *i*-propanol and 490 µl of deionized water. The software used for the simulations was Bruker Daltonics DataAnalysis (version 4.0). All reactions involving air-sensitive reagents were performed under argon in oven-dried glassware using syringe septum cap technique. Optical rotation [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> values were measured by using a polarimeter with 1 dm cell path length; the concentration (c) is expressed in g/100mL. Enantiomeric ratios were determined by chiral HPLC, by chiral Gas Chromatography (GC), following the condition reported.

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<sup>1</sup> Suffert, J. J. Org. Chem. **1989**, 54, 509-510.

## Synthesis of N-Boc-2-arylazetidines

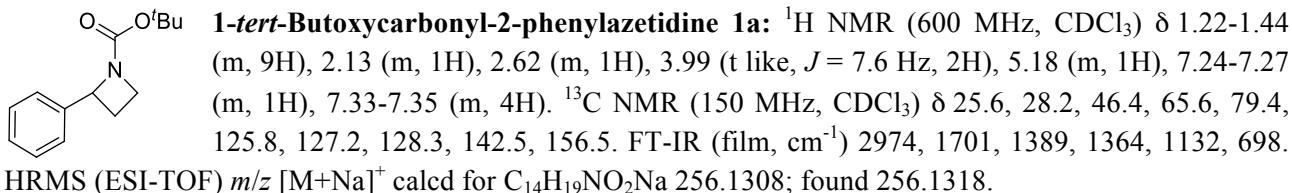
N-Boc-2-arylazetidines were prepared as shown in Scheme 1, following a reported procedure.<sup>2</sup> As example, the synthesis of azetidine **1a** is reported.



Scheme 1

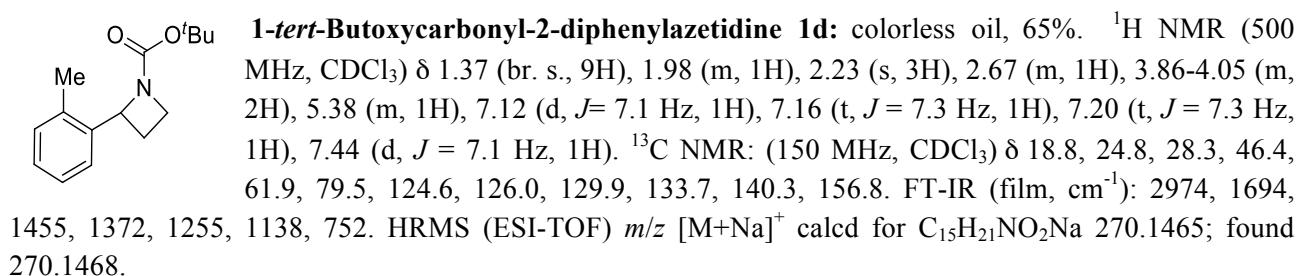
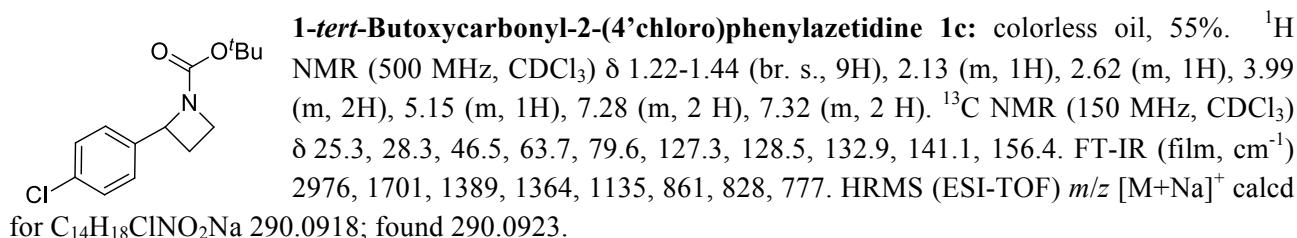
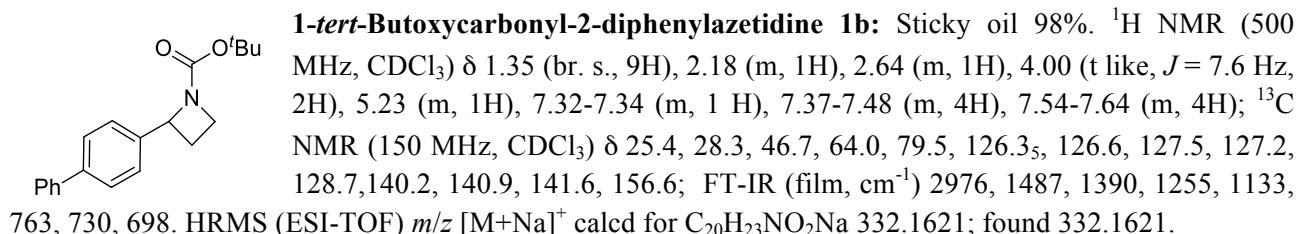
*N*-Chlorosulfonyl isocyanate (36 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added dropwise to styrene (30 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dry diethyl ether (15 mL), at room temperature under an inert atmosphere over 10 minutes. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h under a dry nitrogen atmosphere, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue obtained was taken up in diethyl ether (20 mL) and added dropwise over 10 minutes to a vigorously stirred solution of water (20 mL), sodium carbonate (99 mmol, 3.3 equiv), sodium sulphite (45 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and ice (20 g). The solution was stirred for 1 h and filtered under vacuum. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (5 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent evaporated under *vacuum* to yield the pure product (90 %). To 0.5 g (3.4 mmol) of 4-phenyl-2-azetidinone in 5 mL anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O under nitrogen at 0 °C lithium aluminum hydride was added portion-wise (259 mg, 6.8 mmol), and the mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, 20% aqueous sodium hydroxide (10 mL) was added and the mixture was filtered. The filtrate was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent the product was used in the next step without further purification. Di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (763 mg, 3.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of the azetidine (452 mg, 3.4 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.34 mL, 10.2 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (40 ml) and the mixture was stirred for 16 h. The water was added to the mixture and after extraction with Et<sub>2</sub>O, anhydification over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, evaporation of the solvent and purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 9:1) 657 mg (83% yield) of *N*-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-2-phenylazetidine **1a** were isolated as colorless oil.

<sup>2</sup> a) Hemming, K.; Khan, M. N.; Kondakal, V. V. R.; Pitard, A.; Qamar, M. I.; Rice C. R. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 126-129; b) Bergmann, H.-J.; Mayrhofer, R.; Otto, H.-H. *Arch. Parm.* **1986**, *319*, 203-216; c) Van Driessche, B.; Van Brabandt, W.; D'hooghe, M.; Dejaegher, Y.; De Kimpe, N. *Tetrahedron*, **2006**, *62*, 6882-6892.



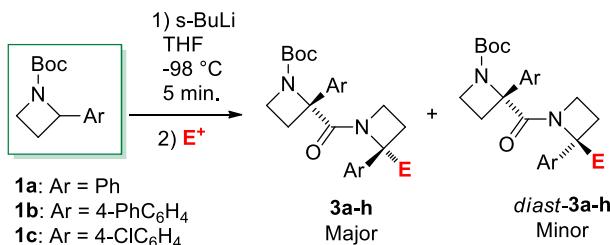
Enantioenriched azetidine (*R*)-**1a** was prepared using a commercially available  $\beta$ -amino acid following a reported procedure<sup>3</sup>

**(2*R*)-1-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-2-phenylazetidine (*R*)-1a:**  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +127$  ( $c = 1 \text{ CHCl}_3$ ). The enantiomeric ratio (*er* = 99.4:0.6) was determined by HPLC on a chiral stationary phase-(AD-H 0.46 x 25 cm, Daicel) using hexane:isopropanol (90:10), 1 mL/min 230 nm. For enantioenriched resulted  $t_1 = 4.612$  min (Area% 0.659),  $t_2 = 4.909$  min (Area% 99.341). See page S15

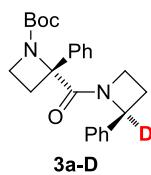


<sup>3</sup> M. F. Loewe, R. J. Cvetovich, G. G. Hazen, *Thetraedron Lett.*, **1991**, 32, 2299-2302

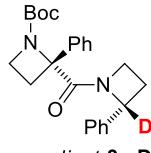
### General procedure for the preparation of dimers **3a-h** and *diast*-**3a-h**



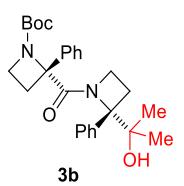
To a stirred solution of azetidine (0.5 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) cooled at -98 °C, a solution of *s*-BuLi (1.5 M in hexane, 1.5 mmol) was added dropwise. After stirring for 5 min. at -98 °C, the electrophile (0.65 mmol) neat if liquid and in 1.0 ml of solvent if solid was added to the resulting deep red solution and stirred for 30 min at this temperature. After the reaction was complete, as determined by GC or TLC, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) poured in a separatory funnel and extracted with AcOEt (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated in *vacuo*. Chromatography on silica gel (Hexane/AcOEt 8/2 or CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH) afforded the dimeric azetidines **3** and *diast*-**3**.



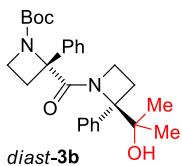
**3a-D:** Colourless oil, (56%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major). δ 1.63-1.57 (bs, 10H, 3 × CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu overlapping 1 × CHH), 1.96-1.85 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.09 (m, 1H), 2.61-2.70 (m, 1H), 3.25-3.14 (m, 1H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 4.35-4.22 (m, 2H, 2 × CHH), 7.22-7.11 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 25.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.9 (*t*Bu), 31.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 48.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 51.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 63.9 (t, *J* = 22 Hz, C-D), 74.1 (ArCCO), 80.1 (C-OtBu), 126.6, 126.8, 127.5, 127.6, 128.9, 143.6, 143.8, 157.8, 173.5. FT IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2917, 1698, 1640, 1365, 1245, 1192, 798, 697. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 416.2055; found 416.2059.



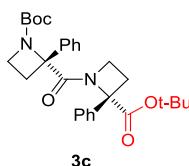
*diast*-**3a-D:** Colourless oil (24%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major). δ 1.65-1.50 (bs, 10H, 3 × CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu overlapping 1 × CHH), 2.06-1.90 (m, 2H), 2.88-2.72 (bs, 1H), 3.38-3.21 (bs, 1H), 3.77-3.62 (m, 1H), 4.21-4.05 (m, 2H), 7.72-7.08 (m, 10H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 26.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N), 28.9 (*t*Bu), 29.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 47.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 51.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 65.5 (bs, C-D), 74.7 (PhCCO), 79.8 (C-OtBu), 126.9, 127.5, 127.8, 128.9, 143.3, 156.3, 167.9. FT IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2917, 1698, 1640, 1365, 1245, 1192, 798, 697. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 416.2055; found 416.2078.



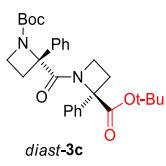
**3b:** White solid, 180 °C dec., (53%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 1.13 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 9H, 3 × CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu), 1.78 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>C(OH), 3H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.95 (like q, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (like q, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (like q, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (td, *J* = 9.6, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (td, *J* = 8.7, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (td, *J* = 9.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (like q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (s, OH, 1H), 6.98-7.08 (m, 3H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 23.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.0 (*t*Bu), 31.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 47.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 49.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 72.5, 74.4 (ArCCO), 79.5 (C-OtBu), 86.1, 125.5, 126.6, 126.9, 127.0, 127.8, 128.4, 142.1, 143.7, 155.8, 171.3. FT IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2917, 1705, 1621, 1245, 1196, 699. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na 473.2411; found 473.2414.



**diast-3b:** White solid, 205 °C dec. (22%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 9H, 3 × CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu), 1.59 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>C(OH), 3H), 2.39 (m, 1H), 2.69-2.55 (m, 2H), 3.03 (like q, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (like q, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.90 (m, 1H), 3.98 (like q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.27 (m, 6H), 7.64-7.54 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 22.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.2 (*t*Bu), 27.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 43.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 47.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 73.3, 74.0 (ArCHCO), 80.3 (C-OtBu), 84.8, 125.9, 127.0, 127.8, 127.9, 128.0, 136.7, 142.3, 156.7, 172.6. FT IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2917, 1705, 1621, 1245, 1196, 699. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na 473.2411; found 473.2423.

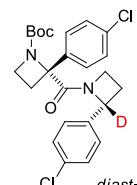


**3c:** Colourless oil, (33%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 1.63-1.34 (bs, 19H, 6 × CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu overlapping 1 × CHH), 1.96-1.80 (m, 1H), 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.75 (ddd, *J* = 11.2, 9.4, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.10-2.99 (m, 1H), 3.55 (m, 1H, CHH), 4.06-3.88 (m, 1H, CHH), 4.12 (like q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33-6.90 (m, 10H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 26.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.1 (2 × *t*Bu), 29.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 49.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 73.7 (ArCCO), 77.6, 80.1 (C-OtBu), 82.0, 126.3, 126.7, 126.8, 127.0, 127.3, 127.9, 128.1, 128.6, 130.2, 131.1, 138.4, 140.1, 142.0, 147.8, 155.4, 156.1, 169.8. FT IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2917, 1693, 1365, 1247, 1153, 699. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na 515.2516; found 515.2522.

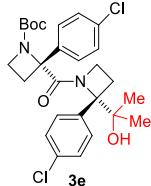


**diast-3c:** Colourless oil, (22%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 1.63-1.40 (bs, 18H, 6 × CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu), 2.11-1.84 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.81-2.52 (m, 1H), 3.23-2.89 (m, 1H), 3.65-3.41 (m, 1H), 3.93-3.70 (m, 1H), 4.30-3.97 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.15 (m, 10H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub>, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major) δ 28.3 (*t*Bu), 28.9 (*t*Bu), 30.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 47.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 50.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 74.6 (ArCCO), 75.2, 79.8.1 (C-OtBu), 81.6, 127.5, 127.9, 128.3, 128.6, 128.9, 141.4, 141.9, 156.4, 170.6. FT IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2917, 1693, 1365, 1247, 1155, 700. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na 515.2516; found 515.2525.

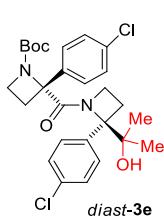
**3d:** Colourless oil, (52%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  1.61-1.42 (bs, 10H, 3  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu overlapping 1  $\times$  CHH), 1.79 (m, 1H), 2.06 (m, 1H), 2.55 (m, 1H), 3.10 (m, 1H), 3.70 (dd,  $J$  = 13.0, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (dd,  $J$  = 14.9, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dd,  $J$  = 15.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.17 (m, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  25.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.8 (*t*Bu), 31.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 48.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 51.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 63.2 (t,  $J$  = 23 Hz, C-D), 73.6 (ArCCO), 80.5 (C-OtBu), 128.3, 129.2, 133.6, 141.9, 157.7, 173.4. FT IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2973, 1698, 1644, 1366, 1257, 1154, 826, 730. HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>D<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 485.1338; found 485.1352.



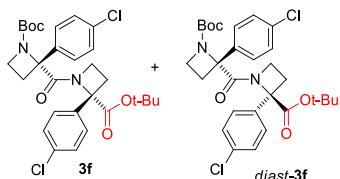
**diast-3d:** Colourless oil, (28%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  1.60-1.35 (bs, 10H, 3  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu overlapping 1  $\times$  CHH), 1.93-1.78 (bs, 2H), 2.76-2.62 (bs, 1H), 3.25-3.11 (bs, 1H), 3.65 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 4.02-3.91 (bs, 1H), 4.17-4.04 (bs, 1H), 7.45-7.08 (m, 8H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  26.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N), 28.7 (*t*Bu), 30.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 47.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 51.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 64.6 (bs, C-D), 74.0 (ArCCO), 80.2 (C-OtBu), 125.8, 128.3, 128.6, 129.5, 133.3, 133.8, 141.6, 156.5, 167.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>D<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 485.1338; found 485.1354.



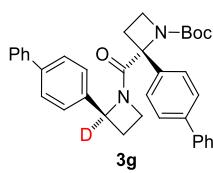
**3e:** Colourless oil, (56%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  1.04 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 9H, 3  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu), 1.74-1.69 (singlet CH<sub>3</sub>C(OH) overlapping multiplet CHHCH<sub>2</sub>, 4H), 1.82 (ddd,  $J$  = 9.11, 7.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (m, 1H), 2.52 (like q,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (td,  $J$  = 9.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (ddd,  $J$  = 9.0, 7.6, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (td,  $J$  = 9.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (like q,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (s, OH, 1H), 6.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  24.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.7 (*t*Bu), 31.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 47.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 50.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 73.1, 74.5 (ArCCO), 80.6 (C-OtBu), 86.4, 125.8, 127.7, 128.6, 129.6, 130.0, 133.6, 133.9, 141.1, 142.9, 156.4, 171.9. FT IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2973, 1687, 1614, 1378, 1245, 1154, 822, 771. HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>32</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na 541.1631; found 541.1645.



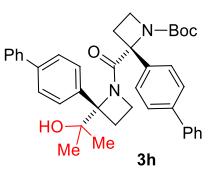
**diast-3e:** Colourless oil, (24%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  1.08 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 9H, 3  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub> *t*-Bu), 1.56 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>C(OH), 3H), 2.39 (m, 1H), 2.70-2.55 (m, 2H), 3.06 (like q,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (m, 1H), 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.87 (m, 1H), 3.96 (like q,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.53 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  23.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.7 (*t*Bu), 29.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 47.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>N, overlapping CD<sub>3</sub>OD signal), 70.8, 74.7 (ArCCO), 81.9 (C-OtBu), 85.8, 128.5, 129.6, 130.8, 134.4, 135.7, 136.8, 142.7, 157.9, 173.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>32</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na 541.1631; found 541.1640.



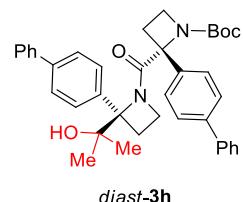
Complex mixture of rotamers (63%). See  $^1\text{H}$ , and HSQC-DEPT spectra (pag. S55) HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{34}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Na}$  583.1737; found 583.1749.



**3g-D:** Colourless oil, (77%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , mixture of rotamers, 2:1 ratio, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  1.71-1.57 (bs, 10H,  $3 \times \text{CH}_3$  t-Bu overlapping  $1 \times \text{CHH}$ ), 2.01 (like q,  $J = 15.9, 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.24 (m, 1H), 2.87 (m, 1H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.83 (dd,  $J = 13.0, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.44-4.33 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.21 (m, 7H), 7.66-7.47 (m, 11H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  25.3 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.9 (tBu), 31.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 48.2 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 51.7 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 63.8 (bs, C-D), 74.0 (ArCCO), 80.2 (C-OtBu), 127.2, 127.3, 127.7, 127.8, 129.3, 129.4, 140.6, 140.7, 140.9, 141.3, 141.9, 142.5, 142.7, 157.8, 173.5. FT IR (film,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2972, 1698, 1644, 1366, 1258, 1154, 765, 697. HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{35}\text{DN}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$  568.2681; found 568.2675.

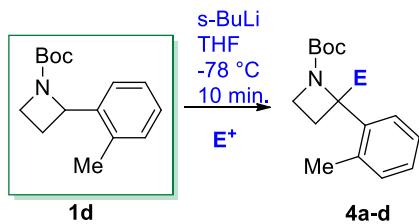


**3h:** Colourless oil, (59%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  1.09 (s, 3H), 1.54 (s, 9H,  $3 \times \text{CH}_3$  t-Bu), 1.61 (s, 3H), 2.32-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.41 (like q,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.77 (like q,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.38 (td,  $J = 9.5, 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.03-3.83 (m, 2H), 4.28 (like q,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.26 (s, OH, 1H), 7.68-7.28 (m, 18H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  23.9 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 26.3 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 28.3 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.4 (tBu), 31.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 47.2 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 49.5 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 72.8, 74.2 (ArCCO), 80.2 (C-OtBu), 85.8, 126.1, 126.2, 126.9, 127.1, 127.3, 128.0, 128.7, 128.8, 139.9, 140.2, 140.4, 140.8, 142.6, 155.9, 171.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{42}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}$  625.3037; found 625.3026.

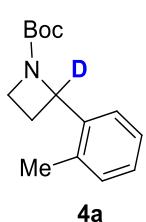


**diast-3h:** Colourless oil, (20%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  1.12 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 9H,  $3 \times \text{CH}_3$  t-Bu), 1.61 (s,  $\text{CH}_3\text{C(OH)}$ , 3H), 2.62-2.35 (m, 3H), 2.95 (m, 1H), 3.10 (m, 1H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.95 (m, 1H), 4.11 (m, 1H), 5.9 (bs, OH, 1H), 7.74-7.27 (m, 18H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , mixture of rotamers, selected data for the major)  $\delta$  23.5 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 26.0 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 26.5 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.3 (tBu), 28.5 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 44.1 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 47.7 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 73.2, 73.8 (ArCCO), 80.5 (C-OtBu), 85.1, 126.1, 127.0, 127.1, 128.1, 128.3, 128.8, 136.2, 140.1, 141.0, 141.6, 156.3, 172.1. FT IR (film,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2917, 1720, 1614, 1389, 1262, 1099, 727, 695. HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{42}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}$  625.3037; found 625.3036.

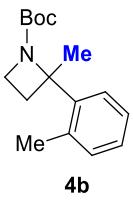
**General procedure for the lithiation/trapping sequence on N-Boc azetidine **1d**.**



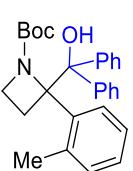
To a stirred solution of *N*-Boc-azetidine **1d** (0.5 mmol) in THF (4 mL) at -78 °C, a solution of *s*-BuLi (1.7 M in hexane, 0.65 mmol) was added dropwise. After 10 minutes at this temperature, a solution of the electrophile (0.55 mmol) was added dropwise and stirred continued for 30 minutes at -78 °C. After the reaction was complete, as determined by GC or TLC, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated in *vacuo*. Chromatography on silica gel afforded the  $\alpha$ -substituted azetidines **4**.



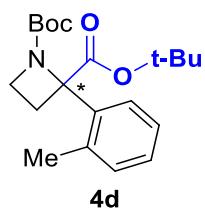
**tert-Butyl-2-(deuterio)-2-(o-tolyl)azetidine-1-carboxylate **4a**:** Colourless oil (94%). <sup>1</sup> H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$ : 1.37 (br. s., 9 H), 1.92 (br. s., 1 H), 2.25 (s, 3 H), 2.73 (m, 1 H), 3.92-4.05 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.18 (m, 2 H), 7.19-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J*= 7.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  18.8, 25.8, 28.6, 47.0, 63.0, 80.9, 127.0, 128.0, 129.8, 131.0, 141.4, 158.4. FT IR: cm<sup>-1</sup> 747, 858, 851, 1005, 1158, 1256, 1366, 1455, 1479, 1698, 2891, 2974, 3370. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>DNO<sub>2</sub>Na 271.1527; found 271.1537;



**tert-Butyl-2-(methyl)-2-(o-tolyl)azetidine-1-carboxylate **4b**:** Colourless oil, (96%). Mixture of rotamers. <sup>1</sup> H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.49 (br. s., 9H), 1.76-1.84 (m, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3 H), 2.41 (m, 2 H), 3.75 (br. s., 1H), 3.97 (m, 1H), 7.00-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.55 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, selected data):  $\delta$  25.6, 28.5, 28.7, 32.1, 43.6, 45.3, 60.5, 79.3, 80.1, 125.5, 125.9, 126.8, 131.5, 144.7, 156.7. FT IR: cm<sup>-1</sup> 725, 759, 859, 874, 1057, 1157, 1365, 1455, 1488, 1698, 2975, 3372. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na 284.1621; found 284.1621;

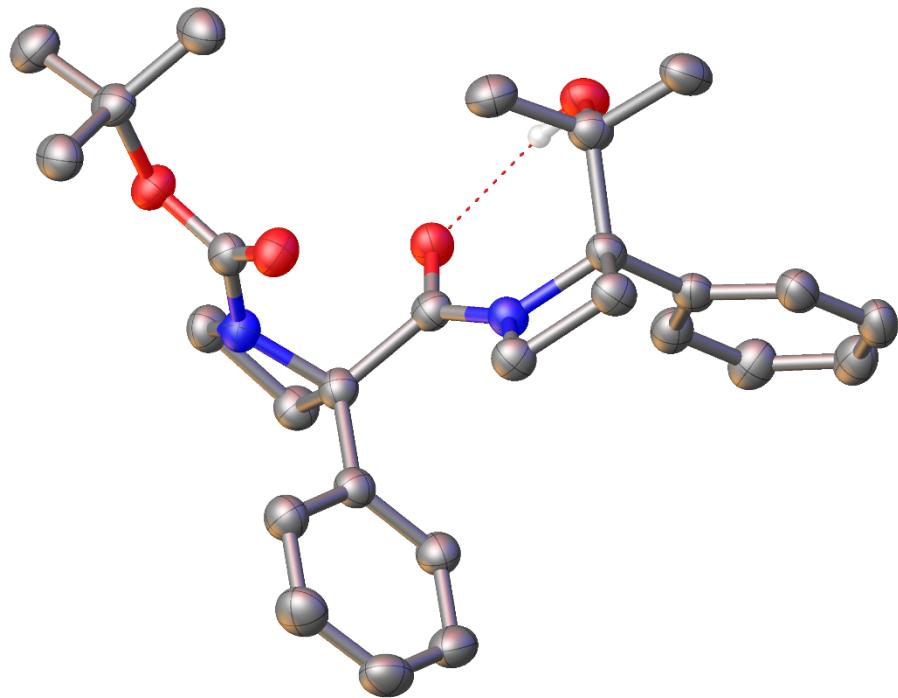


**tert-Butyl-2-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-2-(o-tolyl)azetidine-1-carboxylate **4c**:** Colourless oil, (75%). <sup>1</sup> H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ : 1.20 (s, 9 H), 1.37 (s, 3 H), 2.61-2.68 (m, 1 H), 3.24-3.34 (m, 1 H), 3.56-3.7 (m, 1 H), 3.79-3.85 (m, 1 H), 6.76 (s, 1H, OH), 6.90-7.40 (m, 10 H), 7.39-7.66 (m, 2 H), 7.70-7.78 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, selected data)  $\delta$ : 19.86, 28.5, 46.1, 80.3, 81.8, 126.7, 126.9, 126.9, 127.5, 127.7, 128.2, 131.3, 135.6, 142.9, 147.3, 156.7; FT IR: cm<sup>-1</sup> 701, 752, 853, 1162, 1252, 1395, 1447, 1493, 1661, 1709, 2975, 3057, 3338. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na 452.2196; found 452.2212;



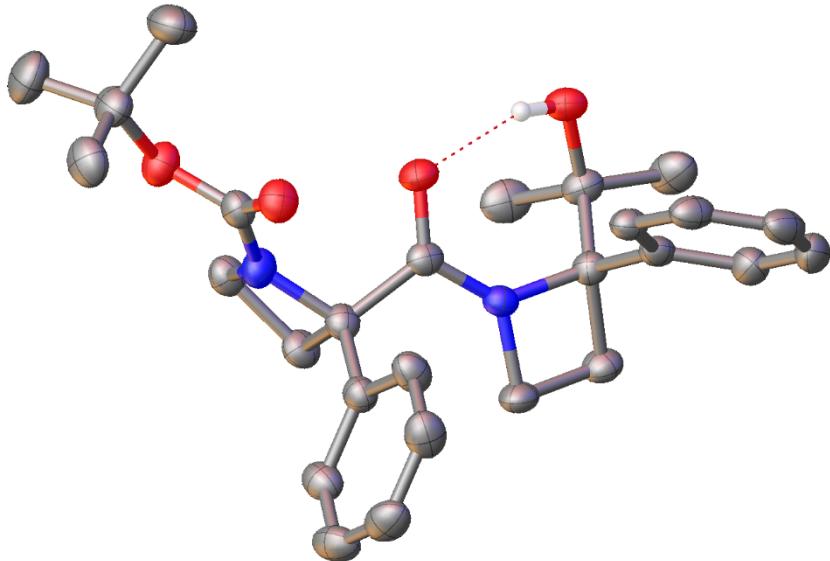
**di-*tert*-Butyl-2-(o-tolyl)azetidine-1,2-dicarboxylate 4d:** Colourless oil, (87%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.40-1.53 (br. s., 18H), 2.12 (s, 3 H), 2.27-2.36 (m, 1 H), 2.88 (br. s., 1 H), 3.80-3.85 (m, 1 H), 4.14-4.21 (m, 1 H), 7.01-7.26 (m, 3 H), 7.37-7.47 (m, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  selected data):  $\delta$  21.0, 27.4, 28.3, 47.4, 47.5, 74.6, 80.1, 81.8, 85.1, 124.9, 125.9, 127.2, 131.0, 134.6, 146.7, 155.9; 156.7. FT IR:  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  604, 755, 846, 970, 1116, 1372, 1256, 1372, 1456, 1477, 1717, 1809, 2932, 3413. HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_4\text{Na}$  370.1989; found 370.1993.

X-ray analysis for **3b** and *diast*-**3b**



**3b** most hydrogens removed for clarity and trying to show the stereocenter of the first azetidine in the same orientation as in *diast*-**3b** to highlight they are diastereomers

**Crystal Data** for  $C_{27}H_{34}N_2O_4$  ( $M = 450.56$  g/mol): colourless block  $0.25 \times 0.12 \times 0.09$ , monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$  (no. 14),  $a = 10.0556(2)$  Å,  $b = 23.0371(5)$  Å,  $c = 10.8204(3)$  Å,  $\beta = 106.221(3)^\circ$ ,  $V = 2406.78(10)$  Å $^3$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 150(2)$  K,  $\mu(\text{CuK}\alpha) = 0.667$  mm $^{-1}$ ,  $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.243$  g/cm $^3$ , 19755 reflections measured ( $7.676^\circ \leq 2\Theta \leq 159.864^\circ$ ), 5102 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0376$ ,  $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0296$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0406 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1136 (all data).



**diast**-**3b** most hydrogens removed for clarity and trying to show the stereocenter of the first azetidine

**Crystal Data** for  $C_{27}H_{34}N_2O_4$  ( $M = 450.56$  g/mol): colourless block  $0.14 \times 0.04 \times 0.04$ , monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$  (no. 14),  $a = 15.0493(5)$  Å,  $b = 6.6839(2)$  Å,  $c = 24.3241(10)$  Å,  $\beta = 100.495(4)^\circ$ ,  $V = 2405.77(15)$  Å $^3$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 180(2)$  K,  $\mu(\text{CuK}\alpha) = 0.667$  mm $^{-1}$ ,  $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.244$  g/cm $^3$ , 8764 reflections measured ( $7.58^\circ \leq 2\Theta \leq 156.16^\circ$ ), 4971 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0515$ ,  $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0780$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0503 ( $>2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1218 (all data).

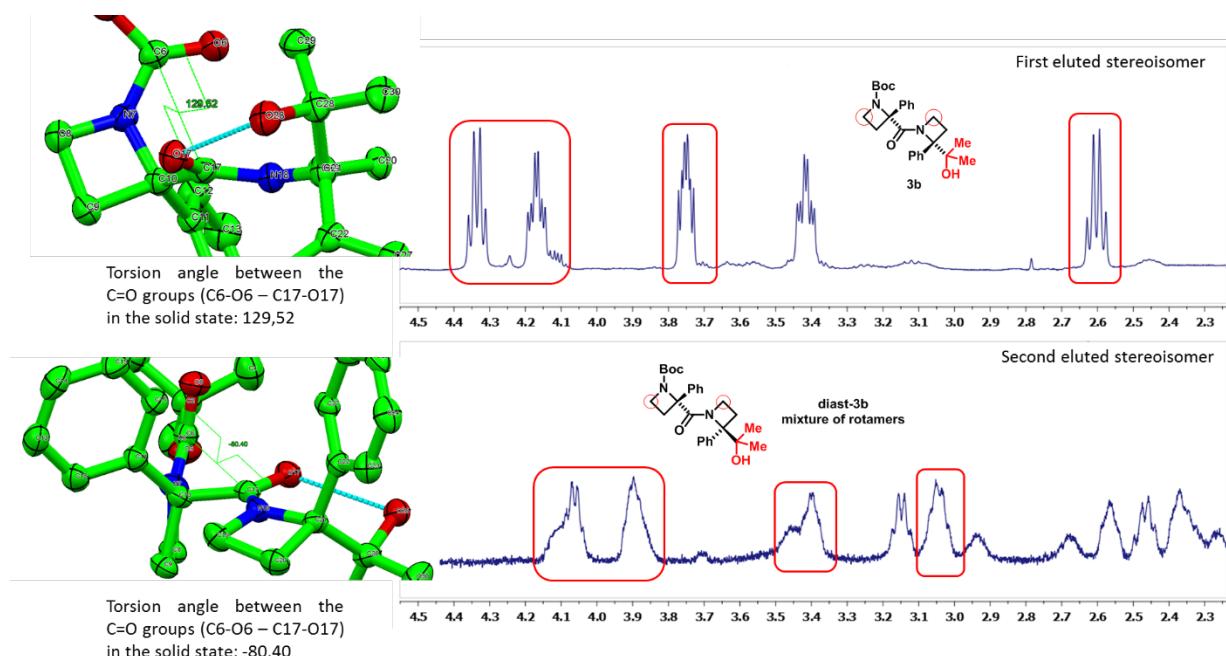
### Stereochemical assignment for dimers **3** and *d***iast-3**

The relative stereochemistry of dimers **3** and *d***iast-3** was assigned by analogy to **3b** and *d***iast-3b** used as reference compounds (X-ray available).

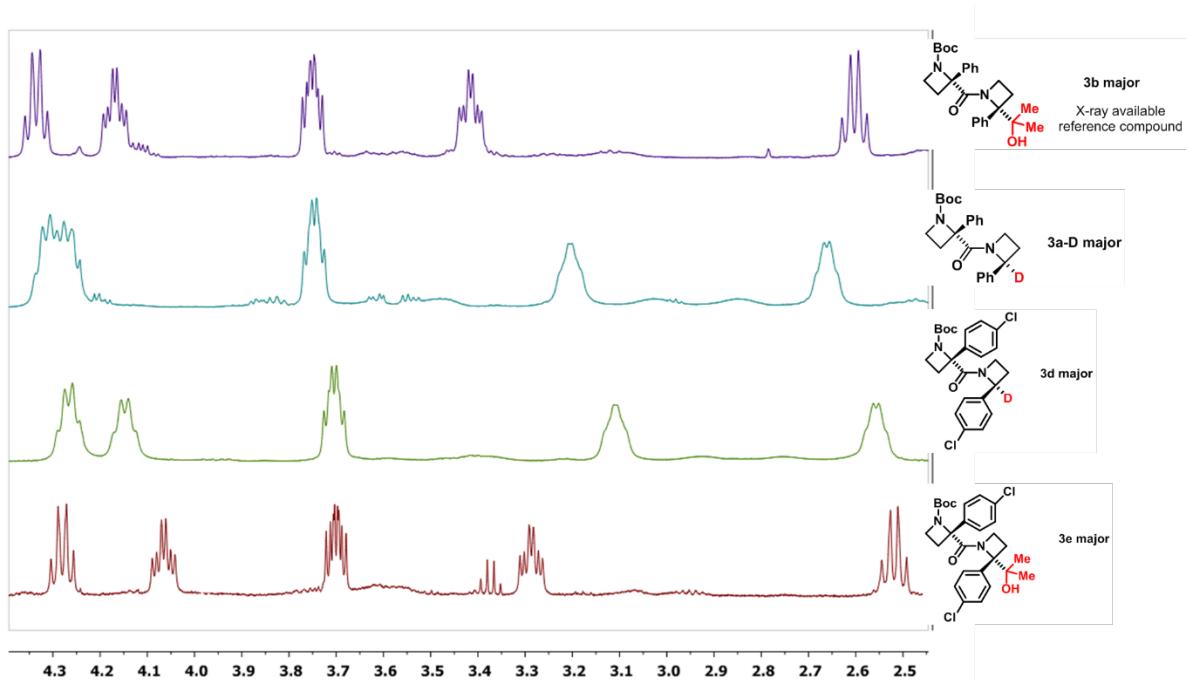
X-Ray analysis of **3b** displays, in the solid state, a torsional angle of -80.40° between the C=O groups. In contrast *d***iast-3b** discloses a torsional angle between the C=O groups of 129.52°. We believe that such preferential conformation, related to their stereochemistry, could be kept in solution and in all cases were such relative configuration is observed. In fact, as consequence of this stereochemical preference, it results a marked difference in the chemical shifts of the methylene protons  $\alpha$  to the nitrogen atoms for **3** and *d***iast-3** (Figure 1). By  $^1\text{H}$  NMR it was found that stereoisomer **3b** showed sharper and more deshielded signals. Stereoisomers *d***iast-3b** gave broadest and more shielded signals with respect to **3b** (Figure 1-3). In addition, in all the cases where stereoisomers **3** and *d***iast-3** were separable by chromatography, it resulted that the first eluted was **3** and second eluted *d***iast-3**. A difference in retention factors of 0.3 was always observed.

In line with the above considerations, we assumed that the first eluted (major stereoisomers **3**) have the (R\*,S\*) relative configuration, while the second eluted (minor stereoisomers *d***iast-3**) have the (R\*,R\*) relative configuration just as observed with reference compounds **3b** and *d***iast-3b**.

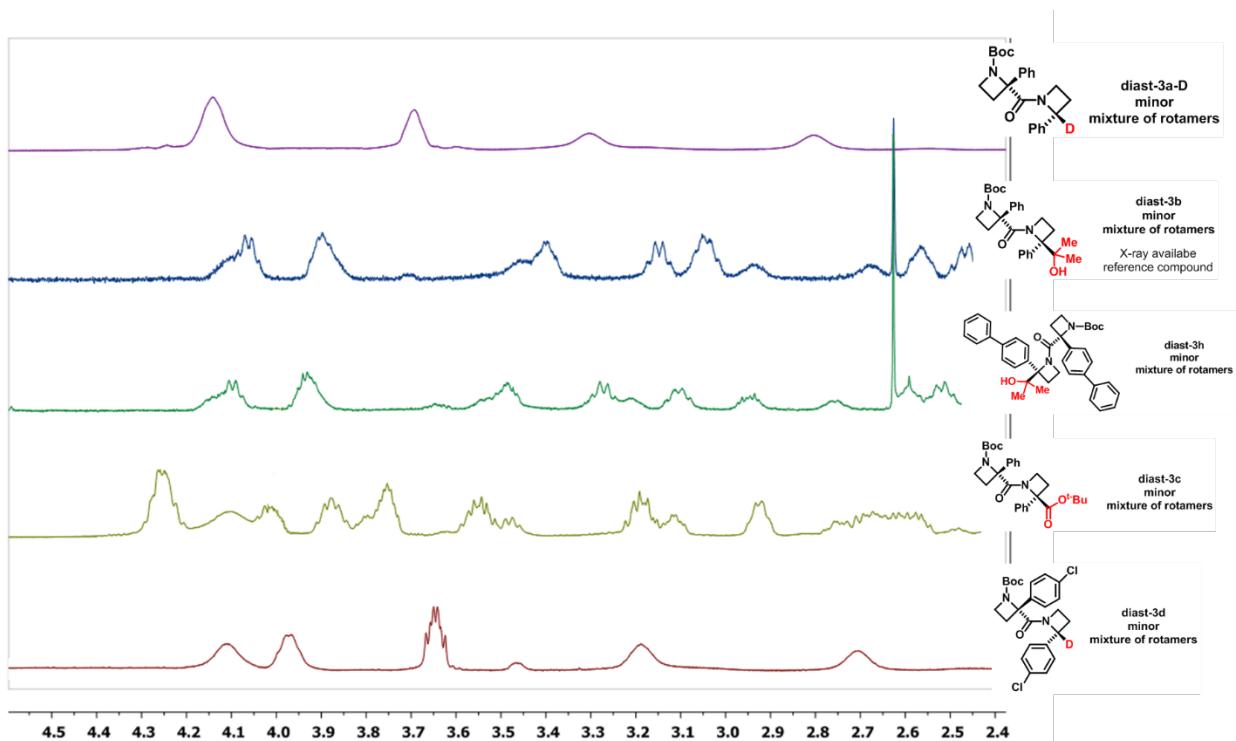
**Figure 1.** Comparison of torsional angles and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for **3b** and *d***iast-3b**.



**Figure 2.** Comparison of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for major stereoisomers **3** having ( $\text{R}^*, \text{S}^*$ ) relative configuration

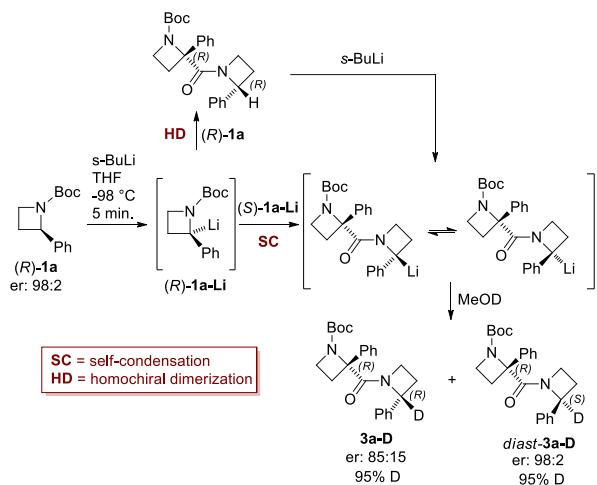


**Figure 2.** Comparison of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for major stereoisomers **3** having ( $\text{R}^*, \text{R}^*$ ) relative configuration

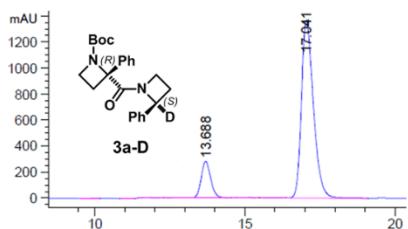


## HPLC Analysis of chiral dimers

Stereochemical investigation on the dimerization process. The Scheme below reports the investigated process.



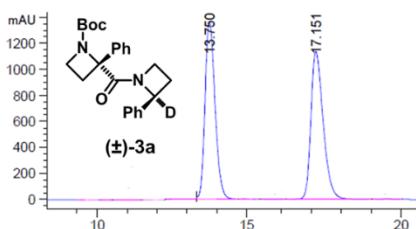
Sample Info : lux 1 Cellulose 0,5 ml/min hex:iPrOH=95:5



Signal 1: DAD1 A, Sig=220,4 Ref=off

| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area %  |
|--------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| 8      | 13.688        | VB   | 0.3355      | 6183.07422   | 282.32080    | 13.4165 |
| 11     | 17.041        | BB   | 0.4227      | 3.77885e4    | 1366.17981   | 81.9966 |

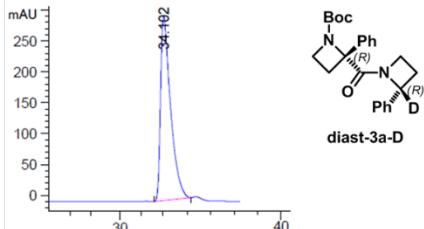
Sample Info : lux 1 Cellulose 0,5 ml/min hex:iPrOH=95:5



Signal 1: DAD1 A, Sig=220,4 Ref=off

| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area %  |
|--------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| 13     | 13.750        | VB   | 0.3611      | 4.01897e4    | 1729.38281   | 46.0552 |
| 16     | 17.151        | BB   | 0.4344      | 4.10876e4    | 1442.29810   | 47.0840 |

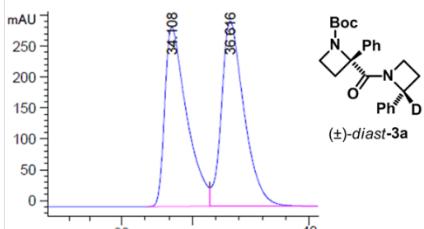
Sample Info : lux 1 Cellulose 0,4 ml/min hex:iPrOH=97:3



Signal 1: DAD1 A, Sig=220,4 Ref=off

| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area %  |
|--------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| 7      | 34.102        | BB   | 0.9539      | 1.95480e4    | 298.54388    | 95.5628 |

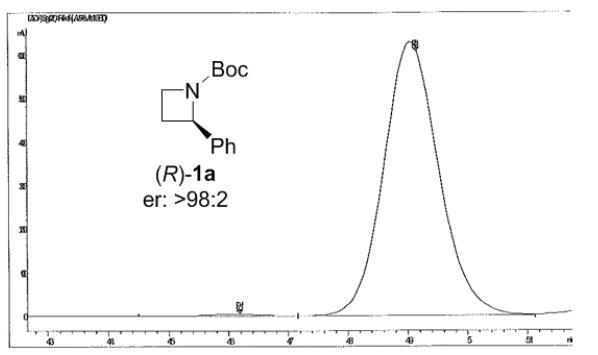
Sample Info : lux 1 Cellulose 0,4 ml/min hex:iPrOH=97:3



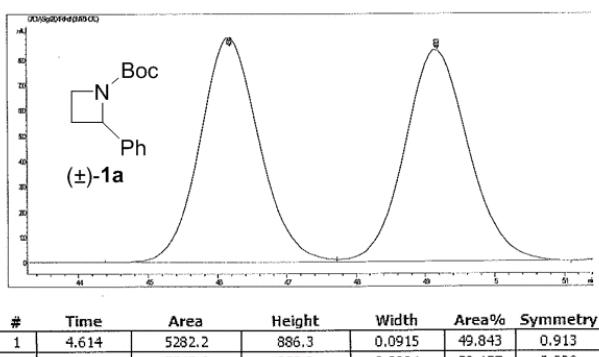
Signal 1: DAD1 A, Sig=220,4 Ref=off

| Peak # | RetTime [min] | Type | Width [min] | Area [mAU*s] | Height [mAU] | Area %  |
|--------|---------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| 4      | 34.108        | BV   | 0.9425      | 1.69018e4    | 257.93103    | 47.9638 |
| 5      | 36.616        | BV   | 0.9934      | 1.80781e4    | 266.49329    | 51.3018 |

### VAN 116 FR22-25 CHIRAL

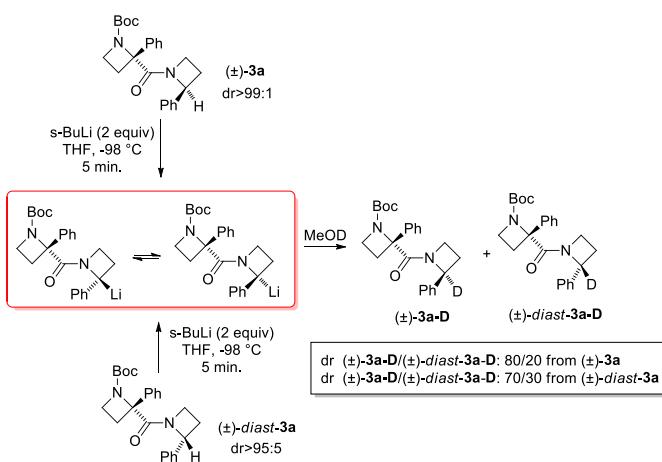


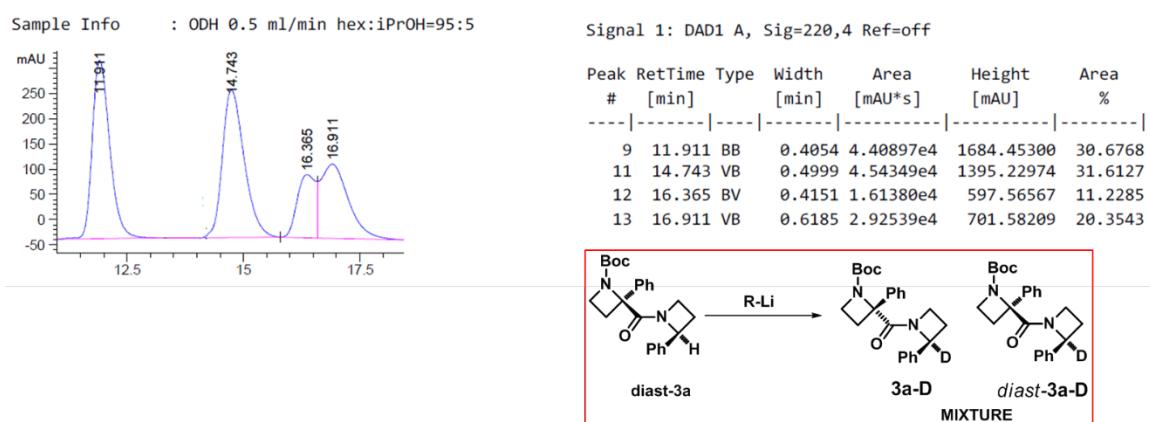
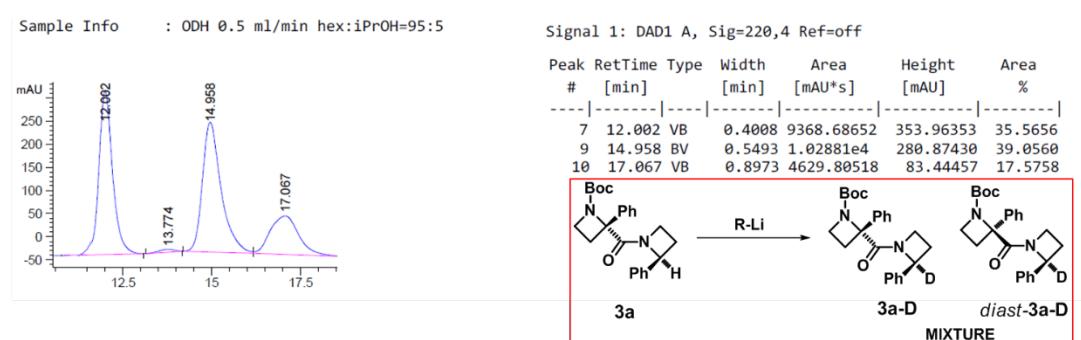
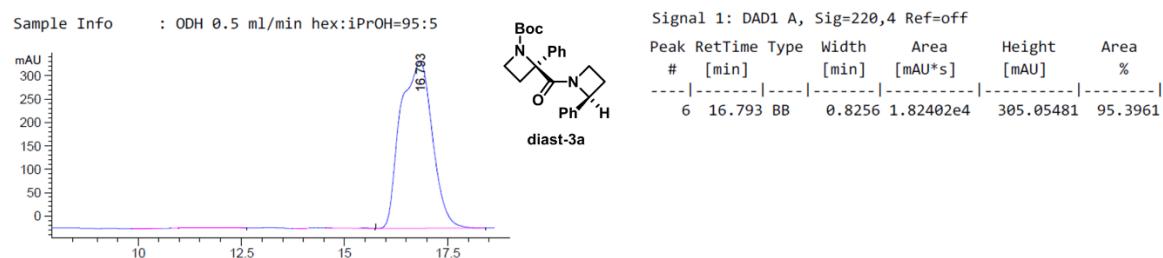
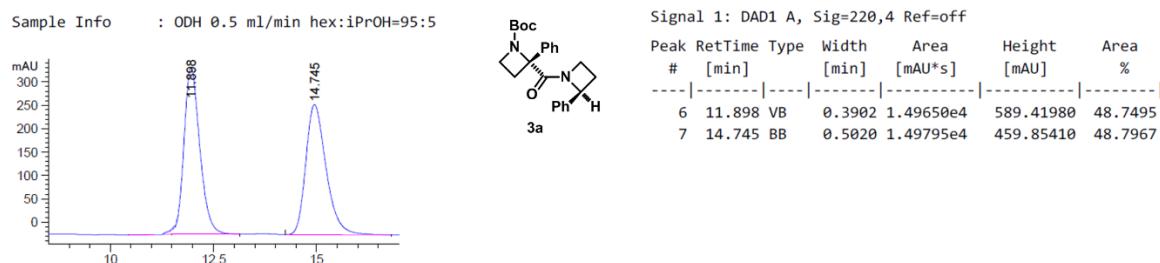
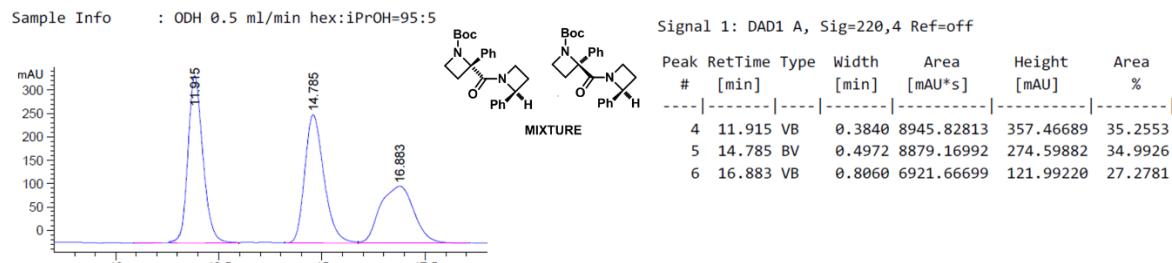
### RAC      NBOC



### Proving the equilibrium for lithiated dimers.

In order to analyze, by HPLC, the crude reaction mixture avoiding possible artifacts due to chromatographic separation, a method for separating the mixture of **3a** and *diast*-**3a** was developed. A chiral stationary phase was used even if the experiment was run on racemic samples.

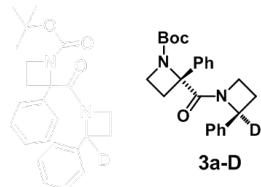
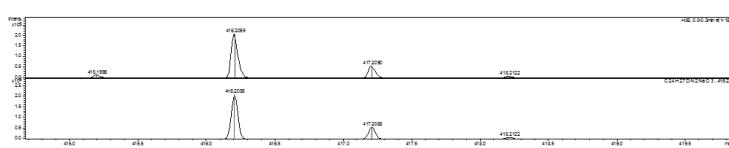




## Evaluation of deuterium content by HRMS in 3a-D and *diast*-3a-D.

HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 416.2055; found 416.2059.

Chemical Formula: C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>



Intensità sperimentali di C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na

| #          | m/z             | I             |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>329</b> | <b>415.1995</b> | <b>14059</b>  |
| 330        | 415.9794        | 770           |
| <b>331</b> | <b>416.2059</b> | <b>208740</b> |
| 332        | 416.7084        | 615           |
| 333        | 416.8899        | 603           |
| <b>334</b> | <b>417.2090</b> | <b>57446</b>  |
| 335        | 417.6275        | 262           |
| 336        | 417.7462        | 267           |
| 337        | 417.9576        | 251           |
| <b>338</b> | <b>418.2122</b> | <b>8412</b>   |

Intensità calcolate di C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na

| # | m/z      | I      |
|---|----------|--------|
| 1 | 416.2055 | 208740 |
| 2 | 417.2088 | 56613  |
| 3 | 418.2122 | 8664   |
| 4 | 419.2156 | 962    |

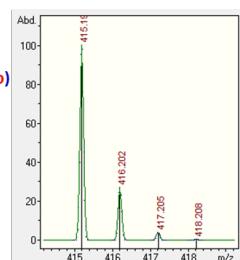
| # | m/z        | Abundance |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 1 | 416.205491 | 100.000   |
| 2 | 417.208710 | 27.121    |
| 3 | 418.211599 | 4.153     |
| 4 | 419.214345 | 0.462     |

### Deuterium content

$$\frac{208740 - 14059 \times 0.27133}{208740} \times 100 = \\ \cong 98,17\%$$

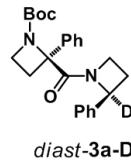
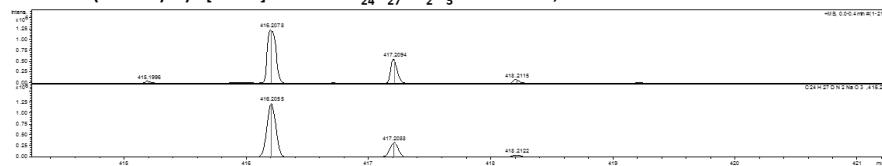
Intensità calcolate di C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na (non deuterato)

| # | m/z        | Abundance |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 1 | 415.199214 | 100.000   |
| 2 | 416.202435 | 27.133    |
| 3 | 417.205325 | 4.156     |
| 4 | 418.208072 | 0.462     |



Chemical Formula: C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

HRMS (ESI-TOF)  $m/z$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 416.2055; found 416.2078.



Intensità sperimentali di C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na

| #         | m/z             | I              |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>46</b> | <b>415.1996</b> | <b>45932</b>   |
| 47        | 415.7285        | 5053           |
| 48        | 415.9886        | 7250           |
| <b>49</b> | <b>416.2078</b> | <b>1223866</b> |
| 50        | 416.7098        | 5782           |
| 51        | 416.9126        | 5095           |
| <b>52</b> | <b>417.2094</b> | <b>570306</b>  |
| 53        | 417.5864        | 2144           |
| 54        | 417.7698        | 1945           |
| <b>55</b> | <b>418.2115</b> | <b>89495</b>   |

Intensità calcolate di C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>DN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na

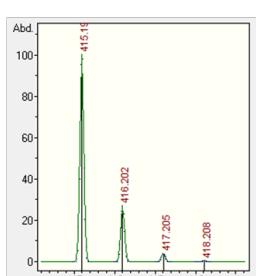
| # | m/z      | I       |
|---|----------|---------|
| 1 | 416.2055 | 1223866 |
| 2 | 417.2088 | 331928  |
| 3 | 418.2122 | 50799   |
| 4 | 419.2156 | 5643    |

| # | m/z        | Abundance |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 1 | 416.205491 | 100.000   |
| 2 | 417.208710 | 27.121    |
| 3 | 418.211599 | 4.153     |
| 4 | 419.214345 | 0.462     |

### Deuterium content

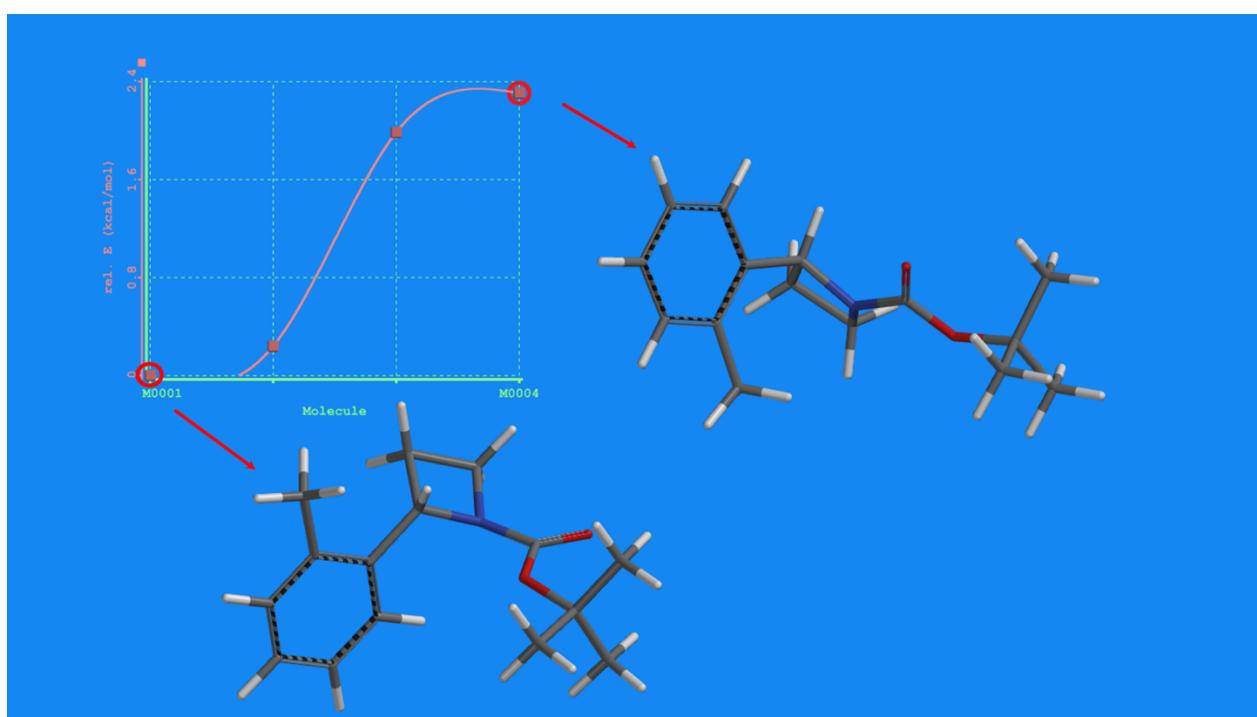
$$\frac{1223866 - 45932 \times 0.27133}{1223866} \times 100 = \\ \cong 98,98\%$$

| # | m/z        | Abundance |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 1 | 415.199214 | 100.000   |
| 2 | 416.202435 | 27.133    |
| 3 | 417.205325 | 4.156     |
| 4 | 418.208072 | 0.462     |

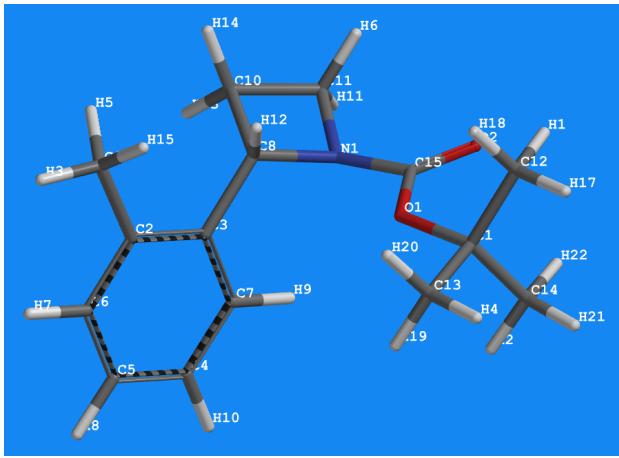


### Conformational analysis on azetidine **1d**

Conformational analysis on **1d** was performed at DFT level of theory using a B3LYP/6311++G\* functional using Spartan 08 package.<sup>4</sup> The equilibrium geometry of **1d** was subjected to conformational analysis and the more stable conformers included in a range of 4 kcal/mol were kept. The plot of the conformer energies as function of the aryl orientation is reported below. The most stable conformers (A and B) were subjected to further optimization. The conformer that set the ortho-methyl substituent syn to the  $\alpha$ -proton to be removed during the lithiation (conformer A), was found as the more stable.



<sup>4</sup> Wavefunction Inc. Irvine CA; Web: [www.wavefun.com](http://www.wavefun.com) Wavefunction Developers: B.J. Deppmeier, A.J. Driessens, T.S. Hehre, W.J. Hehre, J.A. Johnson, P.E. Klunzinger, J.M. Leonard, I.N. Pham W.J. Pietro, Jianguo Yu Q-Chem Developers: Y. Shao, L. Fusti-Molnar, Y. Jung, J. Kussmann, C. Ochsenfeld, S. T. Brown, A. T. B. Gilbert, L. V. Slipchenko, S. V. Levchenko, D. P. O'Neill, R. A. DiStasio Jr., R. C. Lochan, T. Wang, G. J. O. Beran, N. A. Besley, J. M., Herbert, C. Y. Lin, T. Van Voorhis, S. H. Chien, A. Sodt, R. P. Steele, V. A. Rassolov, P. E. Maslen, P. P. Korambath, R. D. Adamson, B. Austin, J. Baker, E. F. C. Byrd, H. Dachsel, R. J. Doerkens, A. Dreuw, B. D. Dunietz, A. D. Dutoi, T. R. Furlani, S. R. Gwaltney, A. Heyden, S. Hirata, C.-P. Hsu, G. Kedziora, R. Z. Khaliulin, P. Klunzinger, A. M. Lee, M. S. Lee, W. Liang, I. Lotan, N. Nair, B. Peters, E. I. Proynov, P. A. Pieniazek, Y. M. Rhee, J. Ritchie, E. Rosta, C. D. Sherrill, A. C. Simmonett, J. E. Subotnik, H. L. Woodcock III, W. Zhang, A. T. Bell, A. K. Chakraborty, D. M. Chipman, F. J. Keil, A. Warshel, W. J. Hehre, H. F. Schaefer III, J. Kong, A. I. Krylov, P. M. W. Gill, M. Head-Gordon,



### Conformer A of azetidine 1d

**E = -495525.74 kcal/mol**

GEOMETRY OPTIMIZATION IN DELOCALIZED INTERNAL COORDINATES \*\*

Searching for a Minimum

Optimization Cycle: 7

Coordinates (Angstroms)

ATOM X Y Z

1 C 2.796084 1.104778 -0.360131  
 2 C -2.796385 0.319392 -0.767347  
 3 C -2.519479 1.453359 1.789622  
 4 C -1.756913 -0.101269 0.087023  
 5 C -3.677999 1.304629 -0.314035  
 6 C -3.547556 1.872848 0.951543  
 7 C -1.632437 0.471056 1.354042  
 8 H -4.479212 1.634117 -0.968249  
 9 H -4.244678 2.637240 1.276761  
 10 H -0.825993 0.142052 1.998822  
 11 H -2.403642 1.888611 2.776030  
 12 C -0.815383 -1.194702 -0.363836  
 13 N 0.368746 -1.462504 0.482556  
 14 C -1.258381 -2.677392 -0.106190  
 15 C 0.088326 -2.899825 0.630606  
 16 H 0.810094 -3.526150 0.099391  
 17 H 0.025453 -3.233984 1.668151  
 18 H -0.523217 -1.027917 -1.405264  
 19 H -2.134963 -2.752884 0.535912  
 20 H -1.407844 -3.280094 -1.001187  
 21 C 3.798637 0.398199 -1.276262  
 22 H 4.161452 -0.525021 -0.826468  
 23 H 4.651779 1.057312 -1.460395  
 24 H 3.336945 0.167225 -2.240133  
 25 C 2.253566 2.371253 -1.022584  
 26 H 3.069483 3.075318 -1.203523  
 27 H 1.513269 2.853321 -0.380743  
 28 H 1.780492 2.134794 -1.978335  
 29 C 3.391845 1.426694 1.013094  
 30 H 2.633411 1.877528 1.658564  
 31 H 4.206988 2.145817 0.894082  
 32 H 3.783466 0.532591 1.496403

33 O 1.583154 0.277444 -0.206102  
 34 C 1.627860 -0.936228 0.387045  
 35 O 2.621939 -1.502862 0.799583  
 36 C -2.973209 -0.267269 -2.149153  
 37 H -3.843087 0.167823 -2.644456  
 38 H -3.118216 -1.351726 -2.119669  
 39 H -2.101508 -0.076286 -2.784349  
 Point Group: c1 Number of degrees of freedom: 111  
 Energy is -789.669862999  
 Hessian Updated using BFGS Update  
 internal optimization with constraints (0)  
 111 Hessian modes will be used to form the next step  
 Hessian Eigenvalues:  
 0.001326 0.001875 0.002253 0.003520 0.004205  
 0.004768  
 0.006416 0.012766 0.016438 0.019513 0.021384  
 0.022798  
 0.023687 0.025213 0.027175 0.030141 0.031977  
 0.032583  
 0.033716 0.035889 0.037227 0.038906 0.039978  
 0.042965  
 0.044710 0.046752 0.049940 0.051219 0.052445  
 0.053187  
 0.056004 0.057789 0.061432 0.061657 0.063636  
 0.066738  
 0.067477 0.074382 0.075635 0.078384 0.080186  
 0.100140  
 0.116431 0.121245 0.128172 0.129489 0.131879  
 0.133787  
 0.136564 0.139860 0.143902 0.148588 0.152632  
 0.155994  
 0.157061 0.161983 0.179376 0.188642 0.195572  
 0.197824  
 0.203008 0.213971 0.217186 0.226581 0.229869  
 0.236140  
 0.246957 0.248932 0.255682 0.271728 0.272213  
 0.290120  
 0.296354 0.297896 0.305588 0.309219 0.315753  
 0.319066  
 0.320476 0.321152 0.326264 0.327651 0.333313  
 0.337549  
 0.342134 0.347056 0.349335 0.355321 0.356676  
 0.364911  
 0.372305 0.373565 0.380927 0.386724 0.396153  
 0.409016  
 0.419729 0.427775 0.442396 0.477310 0.491688  
 0.507283  
 0.544214 0.553962 0.577702 0.644411 0.721520  
 0.820585  
 0.840074 1.350845 2.150482  
 Minimum Search - Taking Simple RFO Step  
 Searching for Lamda that Minimizes Along All modes  
 Value Taken Lamda = 0.00000000  
 Step Taken. Stepsize is 0.001782  
 Maximum Tolerance Cnvgd?  
 Gradient 0.000069 0.000300 YES  
 Displacement 0.000788 0.001200 YES  
 Energy change 0.000002 0.000001 NO

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\* OPTIMIZATION CONVERGED \*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

- Entering anlman on Thu Jul 09 18:15:51 2015 -

Analysis of SCF Wavefunction  
Ground-State Mulliken Net Atomic Charges  
Atom Charge (a.u.)

1 C -0.227850  
2 C 0.126059  
3 C -0.182062  
4 C 0.077322  
5 C -0.040519  
6 C -0.162851  
7 C -0.063921  
8 H 0.111406  
9 H 0.121774  
10 H 0.117706  
11 H 0.121698  
12 C -0.089506  
13 N -0.030341  
14 C -0.514663  
15 C -0.165589  
16 H 0.153947  
17 H 0.164889  
18 H 0.145902  
19 H 0.163820  
20 H 0.157894  
21 C -0.379872  
22 H 0.186286  
23 H 0.139045  
24 H 0.142303  
25 C -0.440392  
26 H 0.145792  
27 H 0.162046  
28 H 0.151878  
29 C -0.334696  
30 H 0.146054  
31 H 0.138351  
32 H 0.184356  
33 O 0.075891  
34 C 0.073345  
35 O -0.287030  
36 C -0.536730  
37 H 0.142780  
38 H 0.151596  
39 H 0.153882

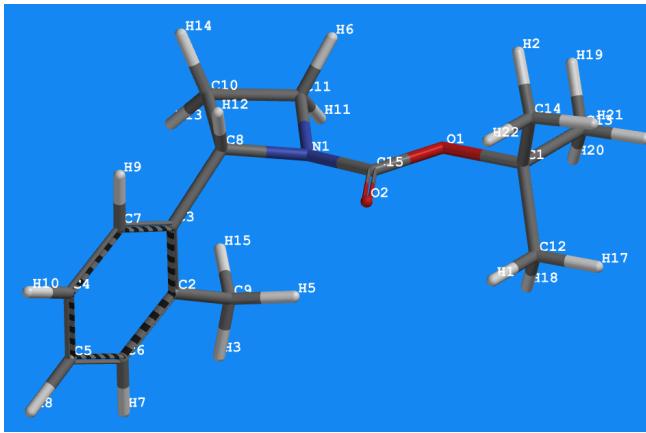
-----  
Sum of atomic charges = 0.000000

-----  
Cartesian Multipole Moments

Charge (ESU x 10^10)  
0.0000  
Dipole Moment (Debye)  
X -1.7384 Y 0.5494 Z -1.7676

Tot 2.5393  
Quadrupole Moments (Debye-Ang)  
XX -111.3166 XY 7.5320 YY -106.1411  
XZ -1.5781 YZ 3.6695 ZZ -106.8835  
Traceless Quadrupole Moments (Debye-Ang)  
QXX -9.6087 QYY 5.9180 QZZ 3.6908  
QXY 22.5959 QXZ -4.7342 QYZ 11.0085  
Octapole Moments (Debye-Ang^2)  
XXX 14.4926 XXY 39.3317 XYY -4.6625  
YYY -21.3797 XXZ -24.1241 XYZ 0.8539  
YYZ 0.5641 XZZ -0.5972 YZZ 1.2441  
ZZZ 0.7621  
Traceless Octapole Moments (Debye-Ang^2)  
XXX 134.2926 YYY -493.4603 ZZZ 216.6132  
XXY 532.3868 XXZ -293.4684 XYY -97.6361  
XYZ 12.8083 XZZ -36.6565 YYZ 76.8552  
YZZ -38.9265  
Hexadecapole Moments (Debye-Ang^3)  
XXXX -4318.6609 XXXY 8.6058 XXYY -988.8526  
XXYY 9.7903 YYYY -1714.6108 XXXZ 42.7050  
XXYZ 22.6483 XYYZ -21.5425 YYYZ 13.4267  
XXZZ -877.8699 XYZZ -12.4851 YYZZ -430.8051  
XZZZ 25.4487 YZZZ 13.7543 ZZZZ -894.9035  
Traceless Hexadecapole Moments (Debye-Ang^3)  
XXXX -483.9667 XXXY 637.6194 XXXZ 2386.5236  
XXYY 1395.5662 XXYZ 1641.9461 XXZZ -911.5995  
XXYY 761.9851 XYYZ -2961.1340 XYZZ -1399.6045  
XZZZ 574.6103 YYYY -1659.0408 YYYZ -798.5718  
YYZZ 263.4746 YZZZ -843.3743 ZZZZ 648.1249

-----  
Total job time: 7795.16s(wall), 7721.91s(cpu)



### Conformer B of azetidine 1d

E = -495523.31 kcal/mol

Cartesian Hessian Update

Hessian Updated using BFGS Update

\*\* GEOMETRY OPTIMIZATION IN DELOCALIZED INTERNAL COORDINATES \*\*

Searching for a Minimum

Optimization Cycle: 9

Coordinates (Angstroms)

ATOM X Y Z

1 C -3.568295 0.542836 -0.080385  
 2 C 2.559564 0.107814 -0.952026  
 3 C 4.160755 1.088828 1.154617  
 4 C 2.218530 -0.177829 0.388939  
 5 C 3.699803 0.882023 -1.194401  
 6 C 4.500033 1.369009 -0.163947  
 7 C 3.024654 0.328261 1.414887  
 8 H 3.964050 1.109506 -2.222332  
 9 H 5.375548 1.966132 -0.393657  
 10 H 2.746478 0.126809 2.444587  
 11 H 4.763314 1.465232 1.973479  
 12 C 1.049266 -1.042102 0.811878  
 13 N -0.247354 -0.900365 0.115612  
 14 C 1.024231 -2.556938 0.410411  
 15 C -0.414147 -2.342594 -0.131267  
 16 H -1.205802 -2.792166 0.474549  
 17 H -0.582430 -2.597481 -1.180219  
 18 H 0.914201 -0.915712 1.890840  
 19 H 1.754763 -2.819016 -0.353340  
 20 H 1.117290 -3.248857 1.246314  
 21 C -3.290315 1.818750 -0.879735  
 22 H -2.511246 2.416394 -0.408757  
 23 H -4.203827 2.416726 -0.939217  
 24 H -2.981038 1.569918 -1.898439  
 25 C -4.644561 -0.302054 -0.763517  
 26 H -5.580000 0.259967 -0.822353  
 27 H -4.828585 -1.220556 -0.201413  
 28 H -4.337081 -0.571347 -1.776346  
 29 C -3.955860 0.840471 1.370483  
 30 H -4.101758 -0.091202 1.923563

31 H -4.897985 1.395729 1.385762  
 32 H -3.191213 1.433342 1.869609  
 33 O -2.388328 -0.344032 -0.124456  
 34 C -1.190692 0.050418 0.375621  
 35 O -0.961548 1.094543 0.954366  
 36 C 1.748054 -0.362324 -2.139274  
 37 H 2.222742 -0.041940 -3.068931  
 38 H 0.733878 0.040630 -2.115832  
 39 H 1.658999 -1.451492 -2.178343

Point Group: c1 Number of degrees of freedom: 111

Energy is -789.665994581

Hessian Updated using BFGS Update

internal optimization with constraints (0)

111 Hessian modes will be used to form the next step

Hessian Eigenvalues:

|          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 0.001992 | 0.002596 | 0.003061 | 0.004259 | 0.005639 |
| 0.007280 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.008186 | 0.010211 | 0.021113 | 0.022429 | 0.024630 |
| 0.025918 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.027786 | 0.029882 | 0.030789 | 0.033049 | 0.033811 |
| 0.035225 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.036601 | 0.037489 | 0.038748 | 0.040178 | 0.040765 |
| 0.041103 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.041971 | 0.042346 | 0.044427 | 0.046227 | 0.046481 |
| 0.048183 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.049625 | 0.053251 | 0.053768 | 0.055108 | 0.060976 |
| 0.063750 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.065495 | 0.070840 | 0.074039 | 0.075028 | 0.079483 |
| 0.099840 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.117103 | 0.123732 | 0.126656 | 0.128331 | 0.129477 |
| 0.129886 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.131671 | 0.134128 | 0.139204 | 0.139886 | 0.144127 |
| 0.146533 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.149309 | 0.154155 | 0.157312 | 0.161407 | 0.165047 |
| 0.172404 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.181435 | 0.187337 | 0.195030 | 0.198304 | 0.211462 |
| 0.212502 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.218604 | 0.221078 | 0.228497 | 0.229317 | 0.246756 |
| 0.250897 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.256380 | 0.267595 | 0.271876 | 0.277691 | 0.285521 |
| 0.286014 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.292014 | 0.294572 | 0.296388 | 0.299935 | 0.305045 |
| 0.306561 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.309463 | 0.313223 | 0.317180 | 0.323169 | 0.326624 |
| 0.339994 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.342381 | 0.349717 | 0.353413 | 0.361143 | 0.364342 |
| 0.383455 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.395169 | 0.397062 | 0.421184 | 0.430423 | 0.451084 |
| 0.465190 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.476331 | 0.504138 | 0.512599 | 0.529136 | 0.557748 |
| 0.573274 |          |          |          |          |
| 0.645873 | 0.956246 | 1.001807 |          |          |

Minimum Search - Taking Simple RFO Step

Searching for Lamda that Minimizes Along All modes

Value Taken Lamda = -0.0000137

Step Taken. Stepsize is 0.014683

Maximum Tolerance Cnvgd?

Gradient 0.000241 0.000300 YES

Displacement 0.007823 0.001200 NO  
 Energy change 0.000000 0.000001 YES  
 \*\*\*\*  
**\*\* OPTIMIZATION CONVERGED \*\***  
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- Entering anlman on Fri Jul 10 13:35:29 2015 -

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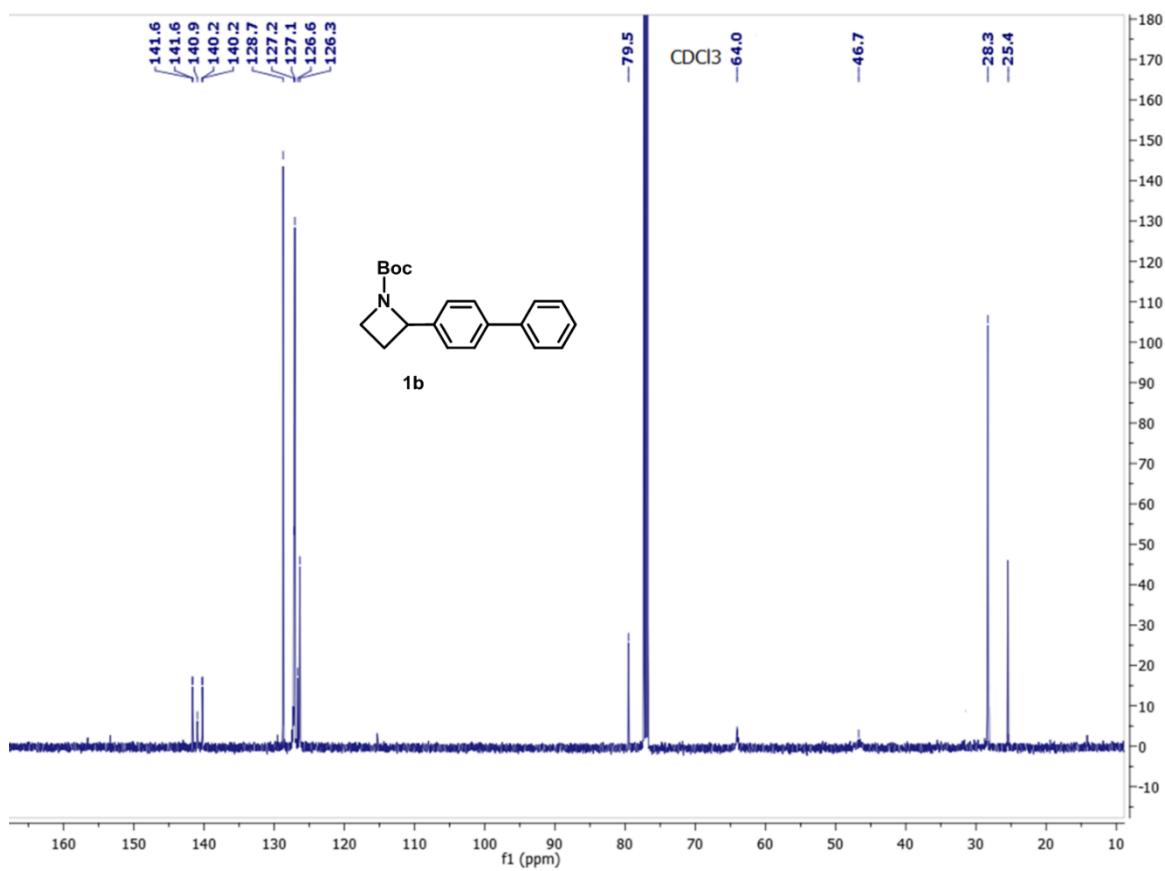
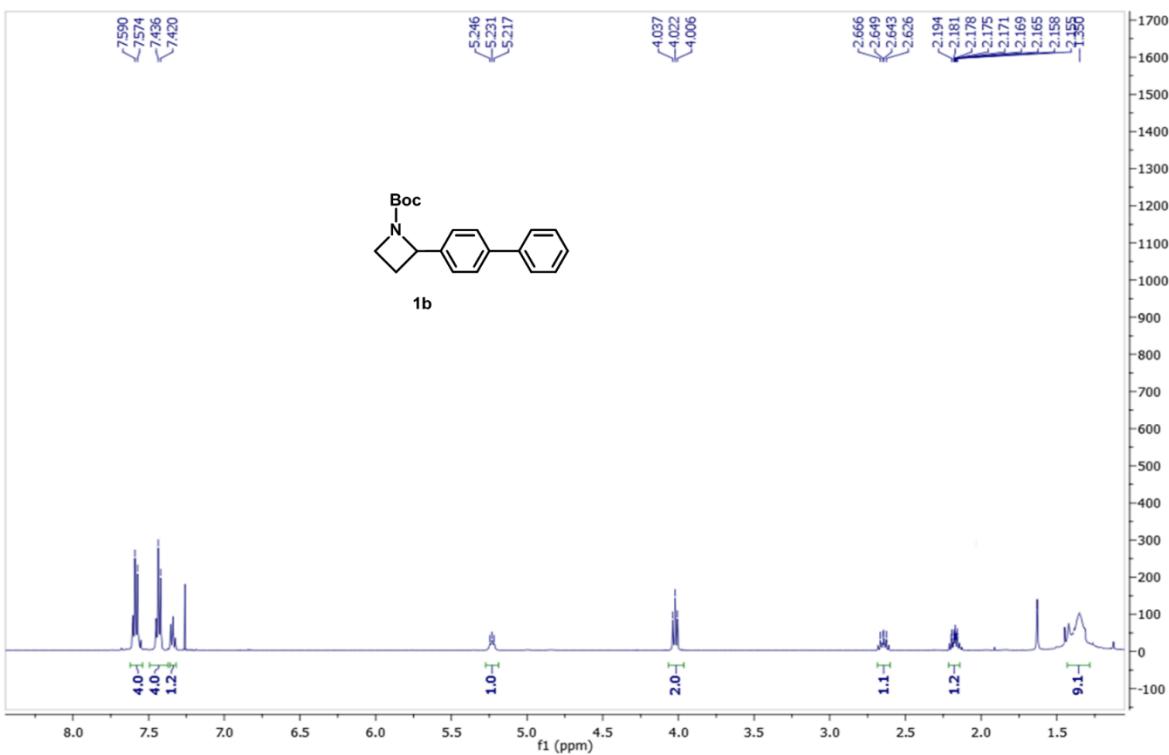
Analysis of SCF Wavefunction  
 Ground-State Mulliken Net Atomic Charges  
 Atom Charge (a.u.)

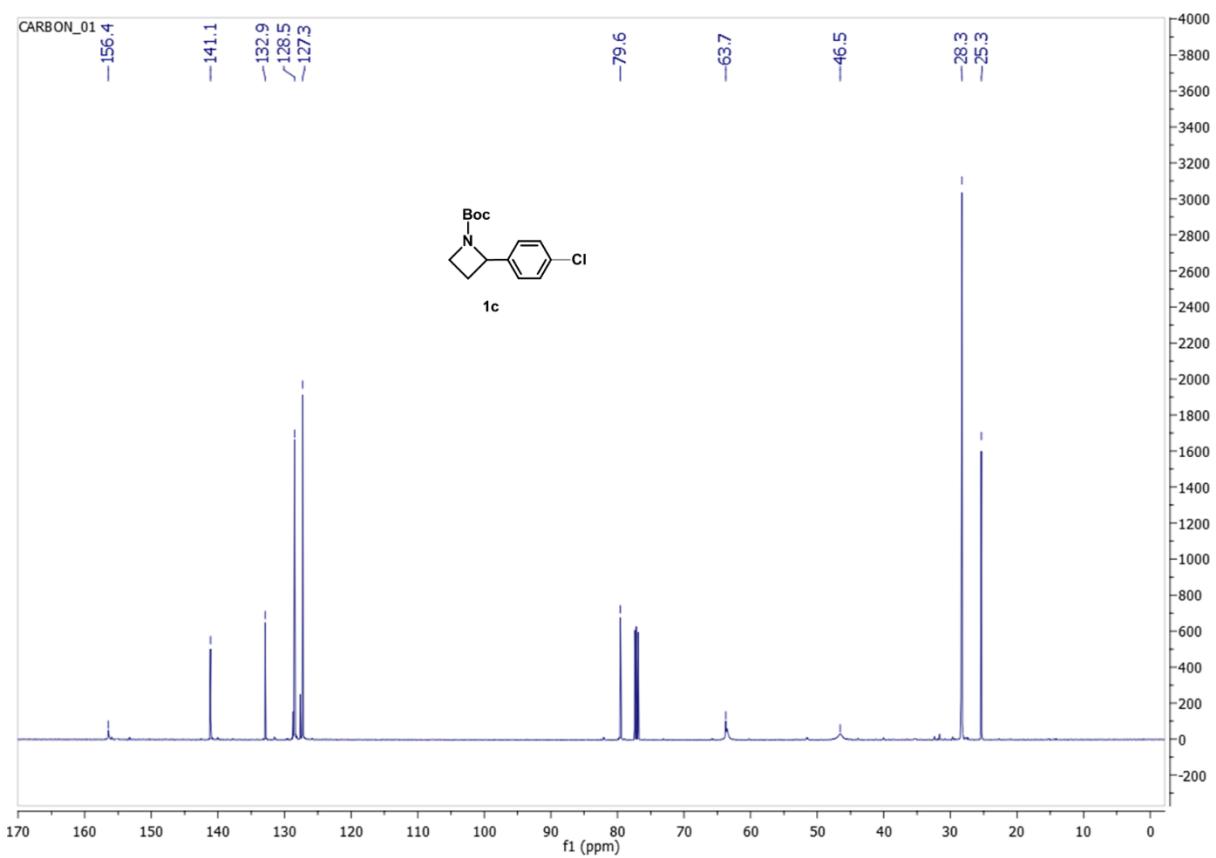
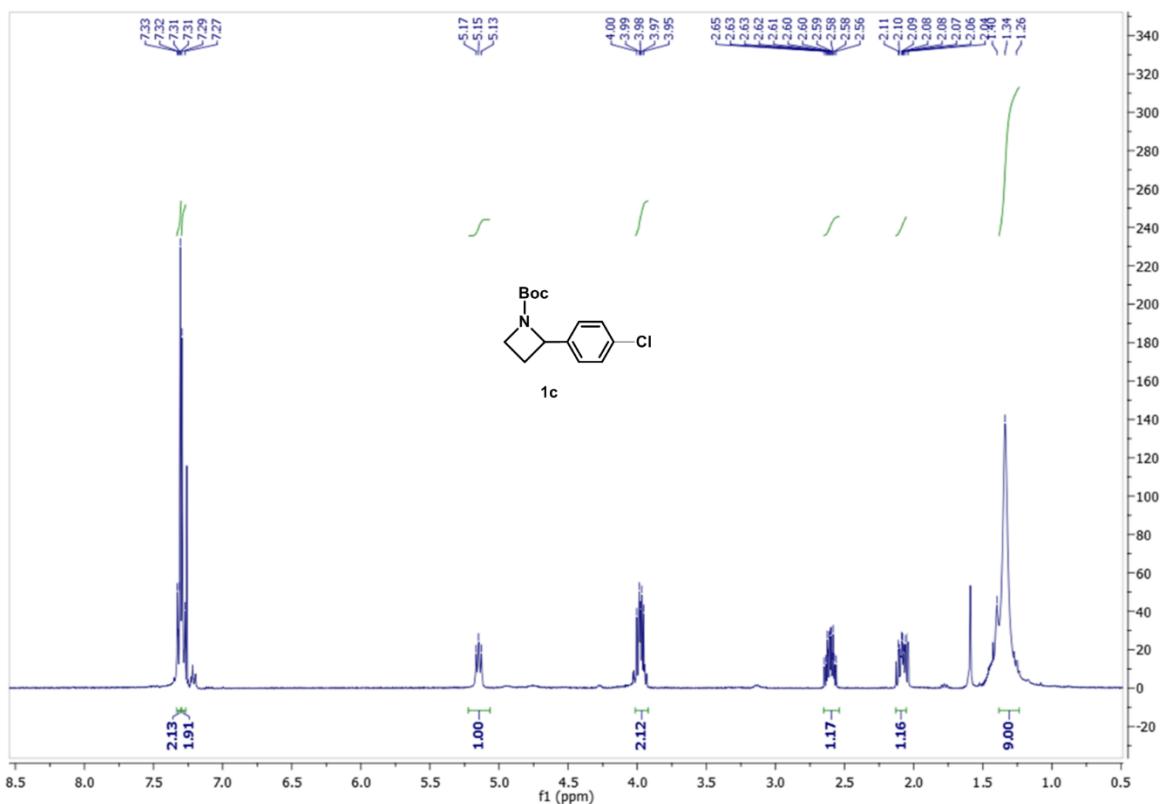
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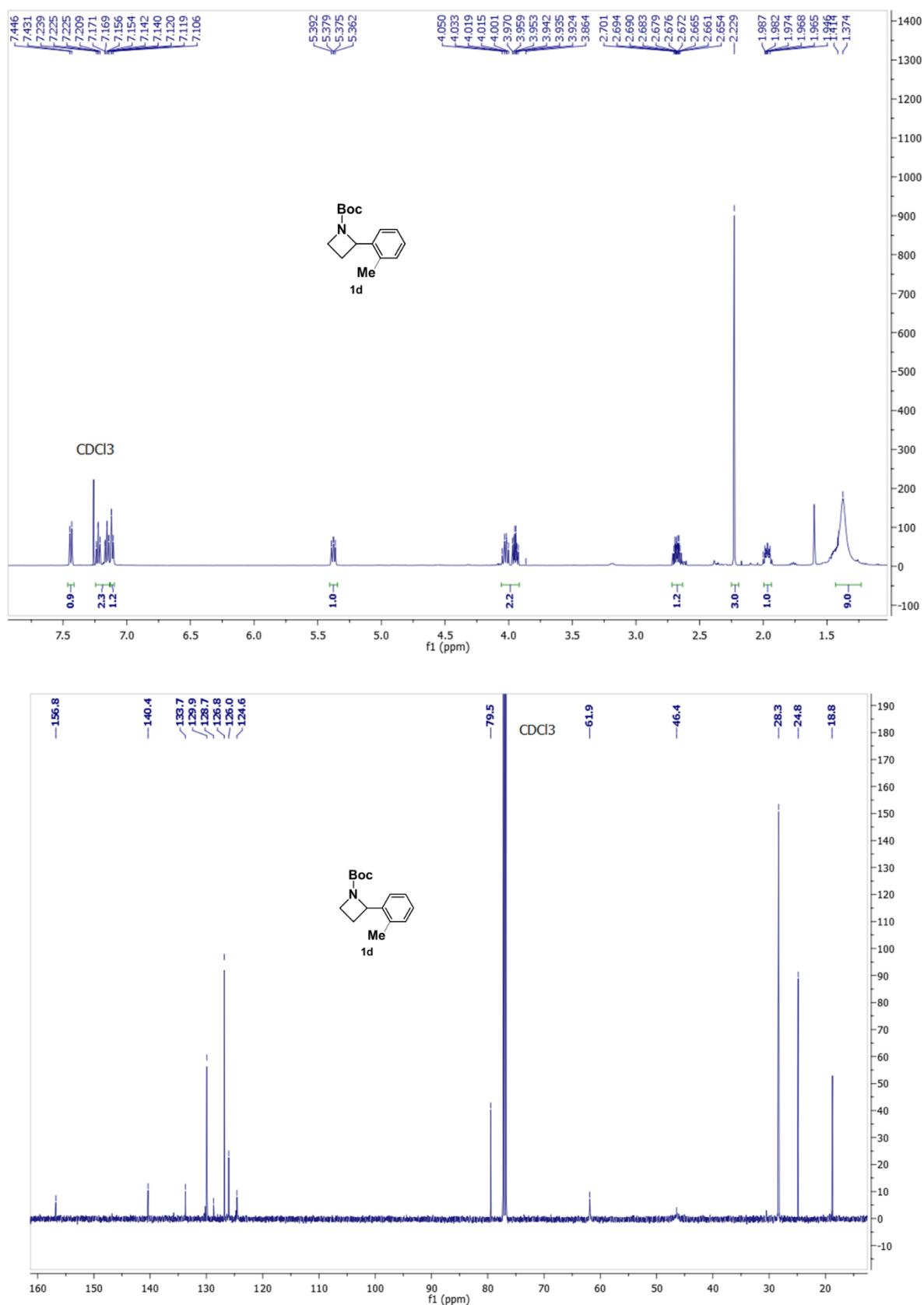
|      |           |  |           |
|------|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1 C  | -0.236699 | 35 O   | -0.267436 |
| 2 C  | 0.227137  | 36 C   | -0.493384 |
| 3 C  | -0.193005 | 37 H   | 0.138218  |
| 4 C  | 0.370349  | 38 H   | 0.171087  |
| 5 C  | -0.113454 | 39 H   | 0.140007  |
| 6 C  | -0.304389 | <hr/>  |           |
| 7 C  | -0.234705 | Sum of atomic charges = 0.000000             |           |
| 8 H  | 0.110618  | <hr/>  |           |
| 9 H  | 0.122367  | Cartesian Multipole Moments                  |           |
| 10 H | 0.103796  | <hr/>  |           |
| 11 H | 0.121495  | Charge (ESU x 10^10)                         |           |
| 12 C | 0.000249  | 0.0000                                       |           |
| 13 N | -0.054752 | Dipole Moment (Debye)                        |           |
| 14 C | -0.476845 | X -0.7794 Y -2.2674 Z -0.7767                |           |
| 15 C | -0.183270 | Tot 2.5203                                   |           |
| 16 H | 0.150933  | Quadrupole Moments (Debye-Ang)               |           |
| 17 H | 0.158816  | XX -101.4756 XY 0.6806 YY -108.8946          |           |
| 18 H | 0.119722  | XZ 0.6384 YZ -3.4132 ZZ -106.1085            |           |
| 19 H | 0.156542  | Traceless Quadrupole Moments (Debye-Ang)     |           |
| 20 H | 0.155545  | QXX 12.0520 QYY -10.2052 QZZ -1.8468         |           |
| 21 C | -0.333685 | QXY 2.0418 QXZ 1.9152 QYZ -10.2397           |           |
| 22 H | 0.186206  | Octapole Moments (Debye-Ang^2)               |           |
| 23 H | 0.137949  | XXX -53.4060 XXY 35.3518 XYY -7.8279         |           |
| 24 H | 0.144497  | YYY -17.0445 XXZ 0.8963 XYZ 3.0129           |           |
| 25 C | -0.450390 | YYZ -1.0219 XZZ 6.8604 YZZ -2.8933           |           |
| 26 H | 0.145988  | ZZZ 0.6357                                   |           |
| 27 H | 0.152547  | Traceless Octapole Moments (Debye-Ang^2)     |           |
| 28 H | 0.154991  | XXX -311.7284 YYY -394.3935 ZZZ 4.9443       |           |
| 29 C | -0.324262 | XXY 484.0347 XXZ 11.9147 XYY 45.7023         |           |
| 30 H | 0.142428  | XYZ 45.1928 XZZ 266.0261 YYZ -16.8590        |           |
| 31 H | 0.137128  | YZZ -89.6413                                 |           |
| 32 H | 0.184895  | Hexadecapole Moments (Debye-Ang^3)           |           |
| 33 O | 0.084031  | XXXX -5606.2855 XXXY 80.1150 XXYY -1126.0099 |           |
| 34 C | -0.051266 | YYYY -11.3541 YYYY -1142.6614 XXXZ 4.0130    |           |
|      |           | XXYZ -5.0274 XYYZ -2.8632 YYYZ -10.4499      |           |
|      |           | XXZZ -1075.1957 XYZZ 18.7832 YYZZ -334.5703  |           |
|      |           | XZZZ 9.4688 YZZZ -10.0984 ZZZZ -847.7536     |           |
|      |           | Traceless Hexadecapole Moments (Debye-Ang^3) |           |
|      |           | XXXX -0.0478 XXXY 4472.5923 XXXZ -56.4686    |           |
|      |           | XXYY -74.8071 XYYZ -145.7215 XXZZ 74.8549    |           |
|      |           | YYYY -5131.6637 XYYZ -459.9178 XYZZ 659.0714 |           |
|      |           | XZZZ 516.3864 YYYY 298.0277 YYYZ 49.2422     |           |
|      |           | YYZZ -223.2206 YZZZ 96.4793 ZZZZ 148.3657    |           |

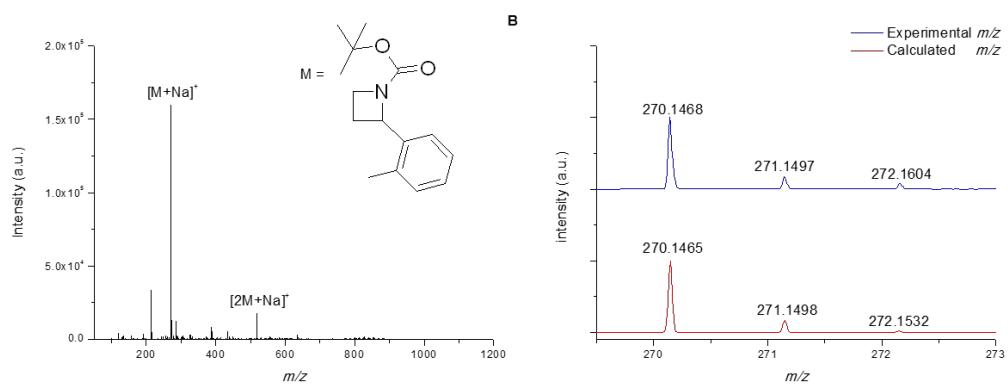
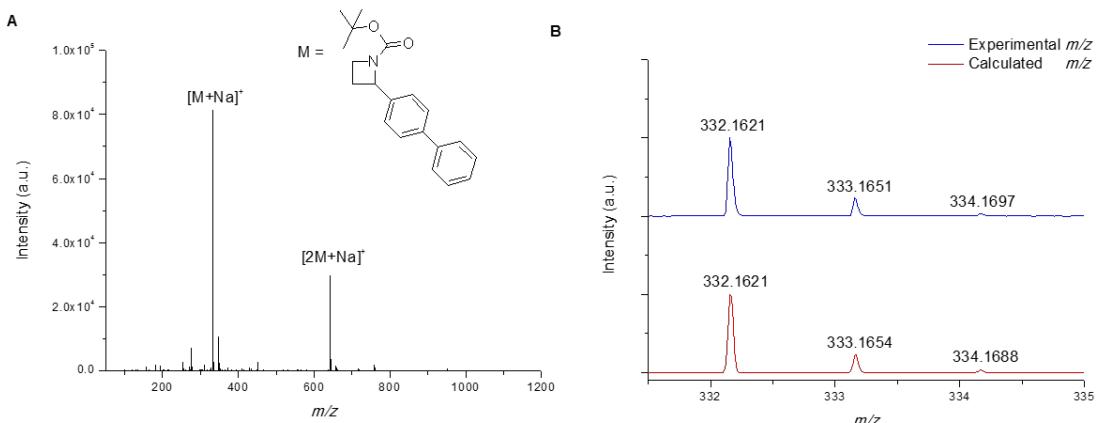
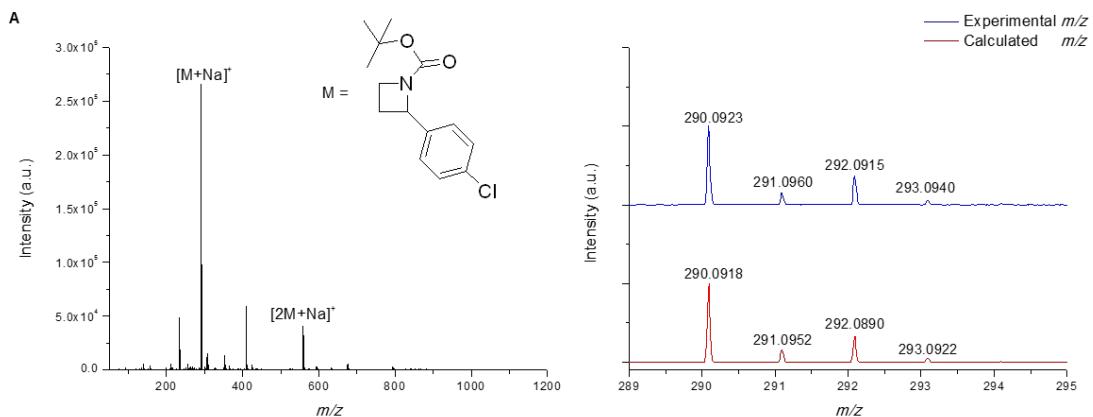
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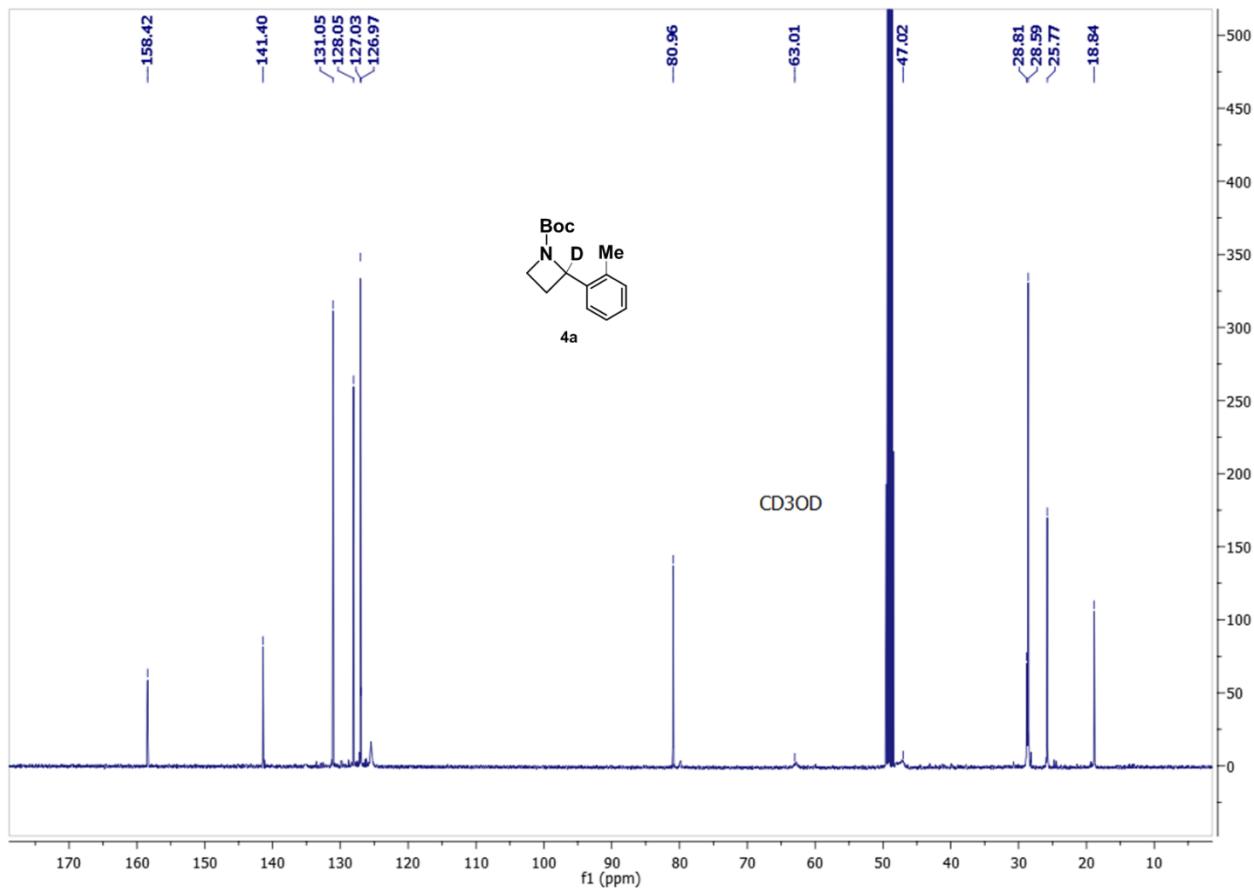
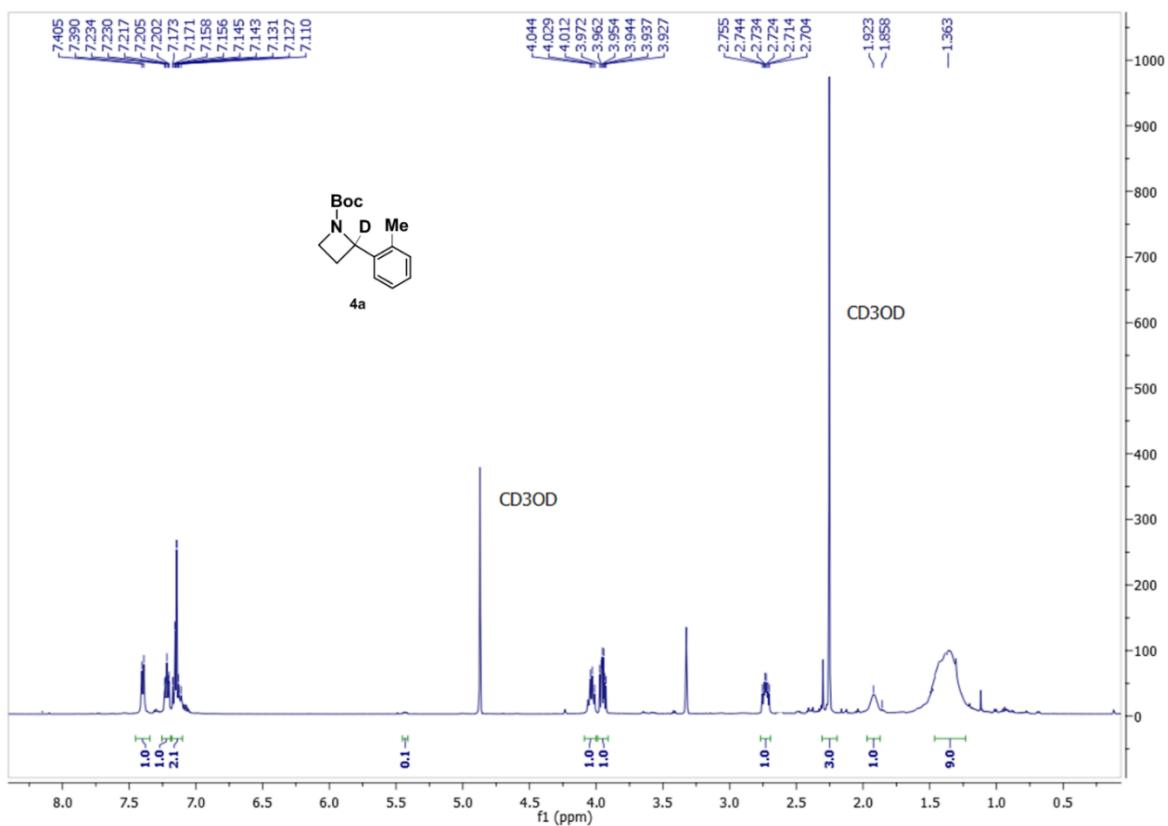
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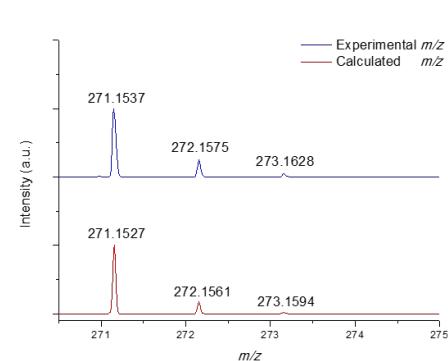
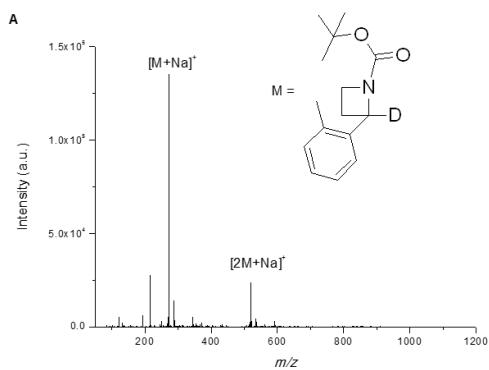
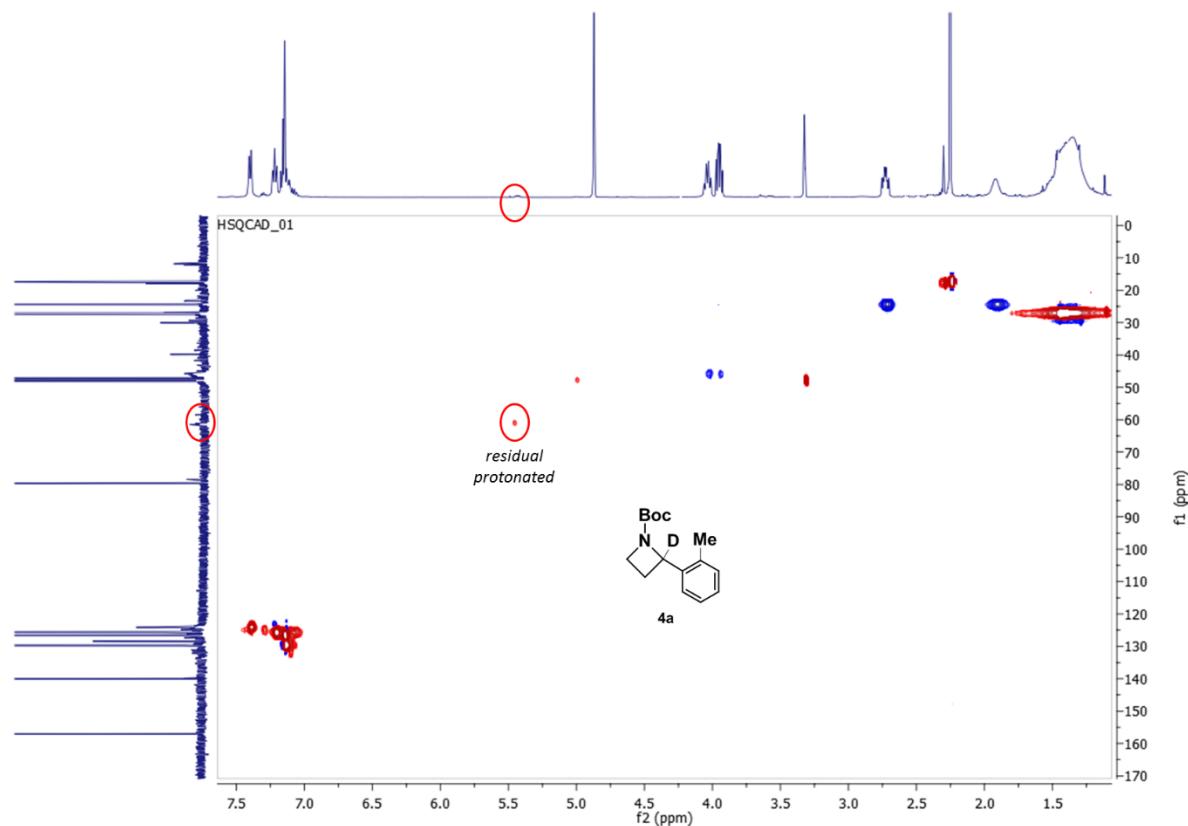


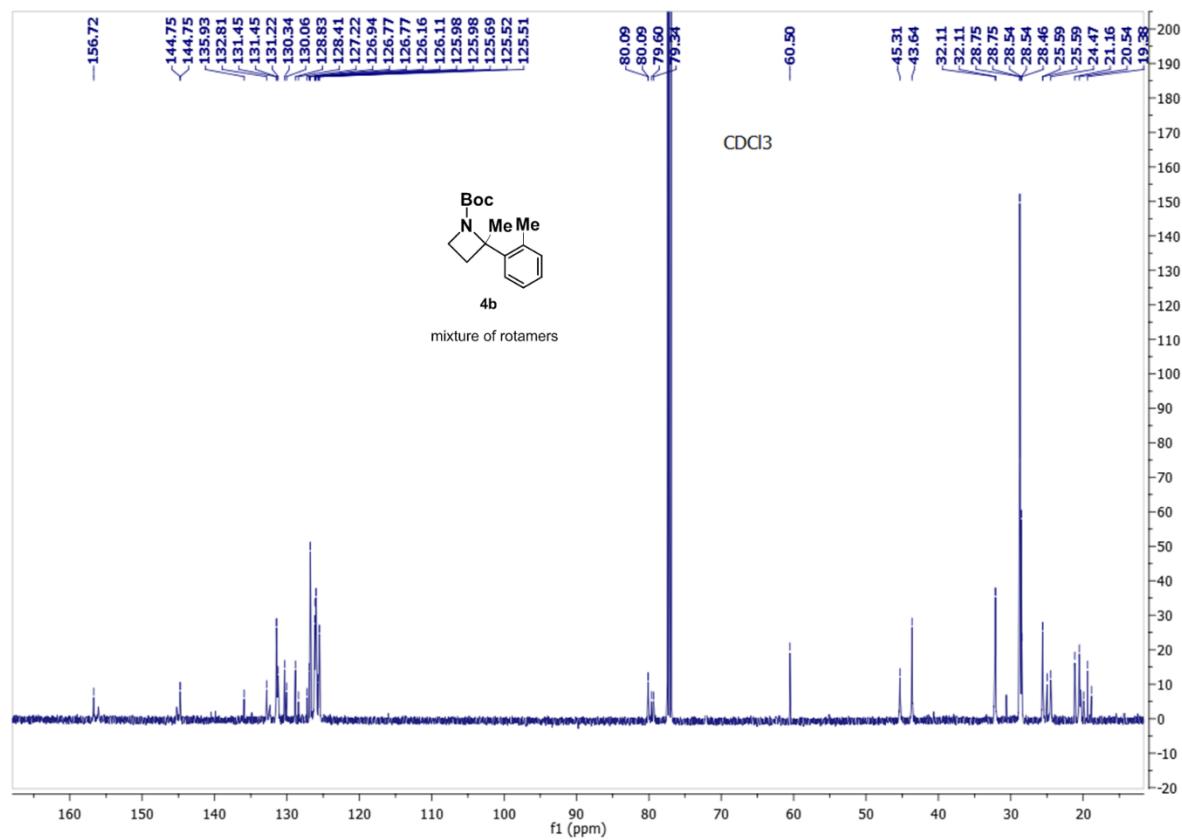
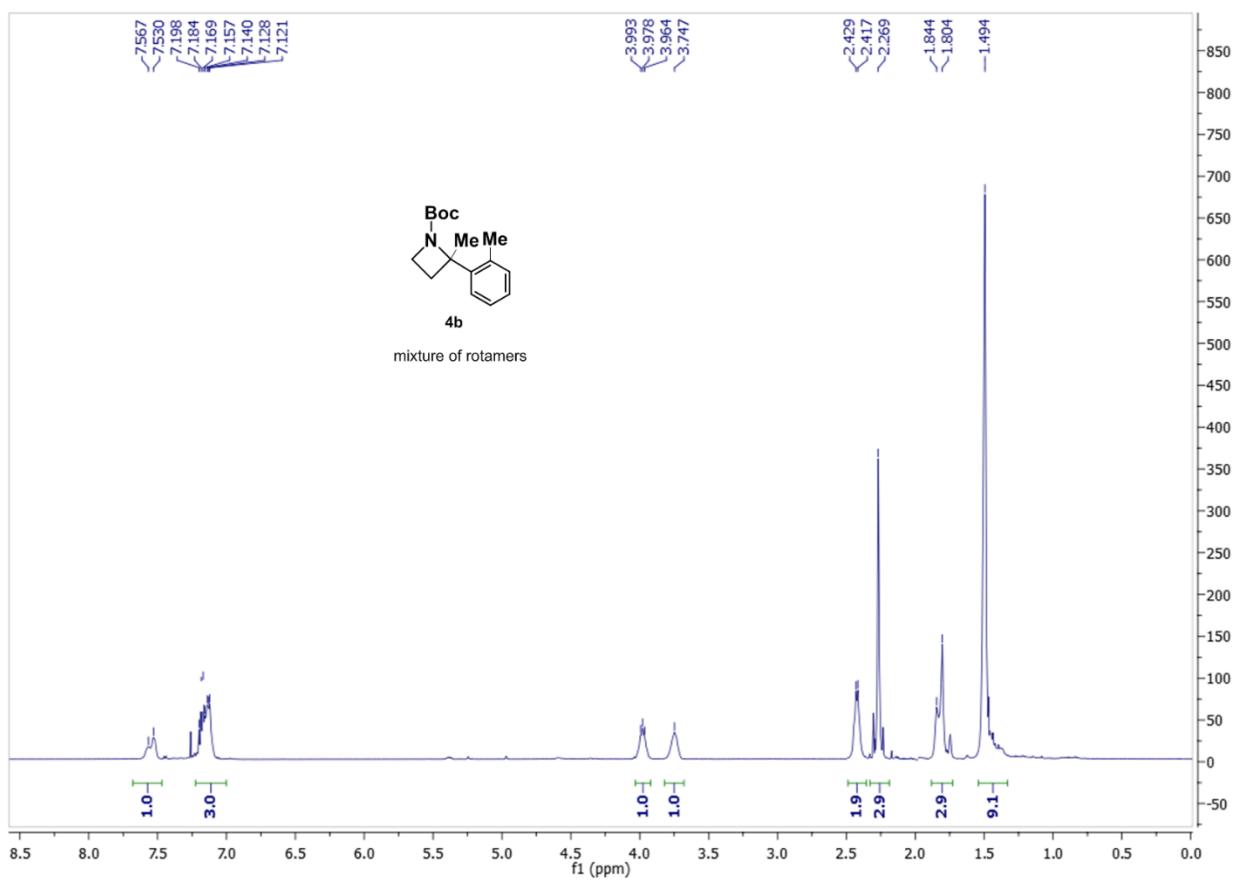


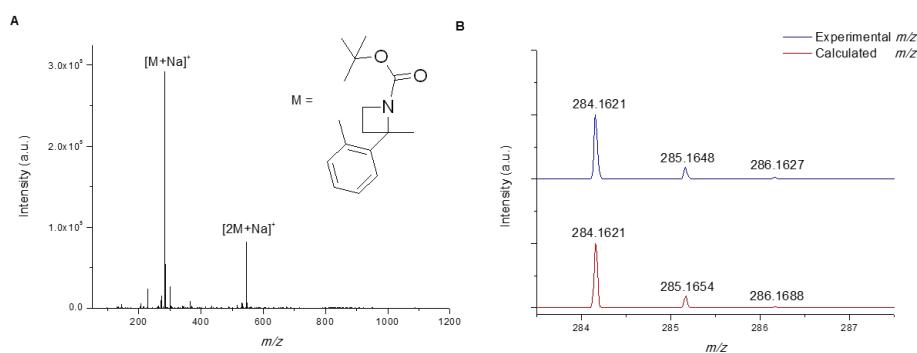
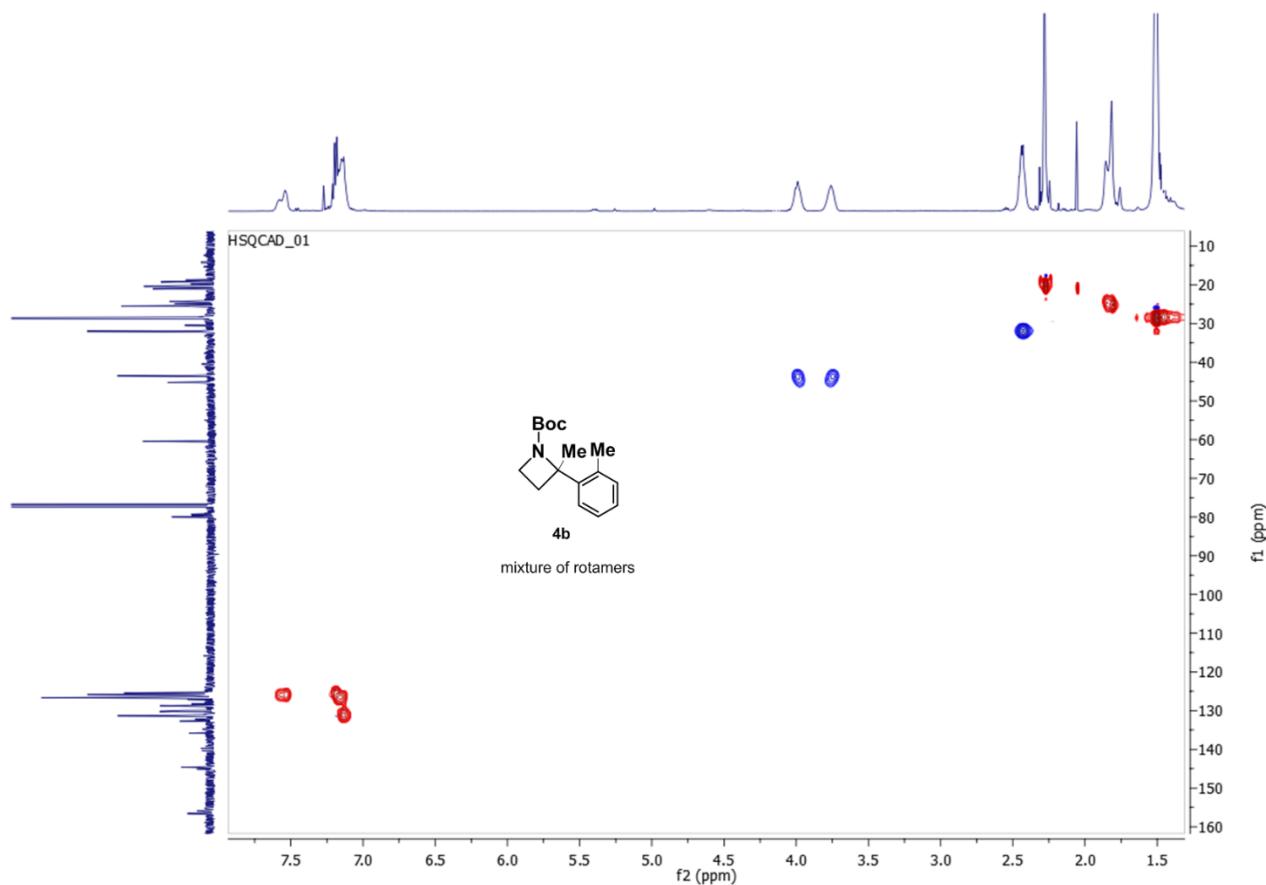


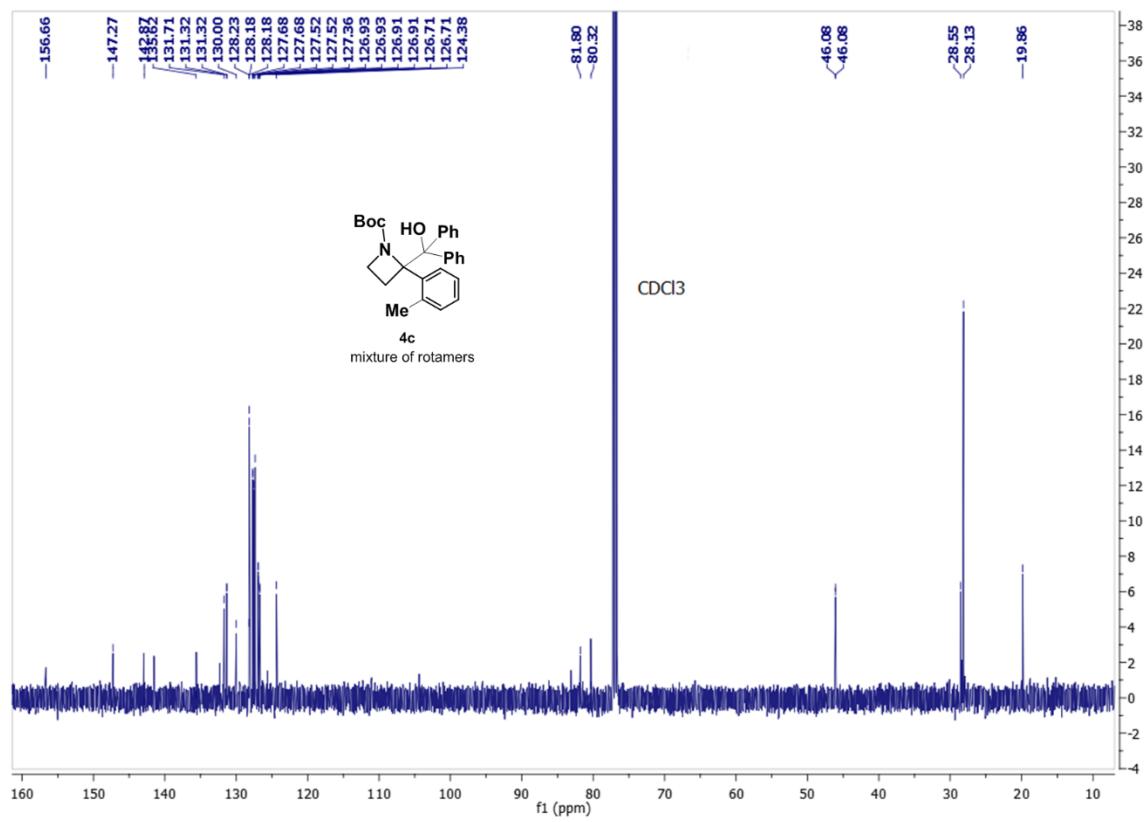
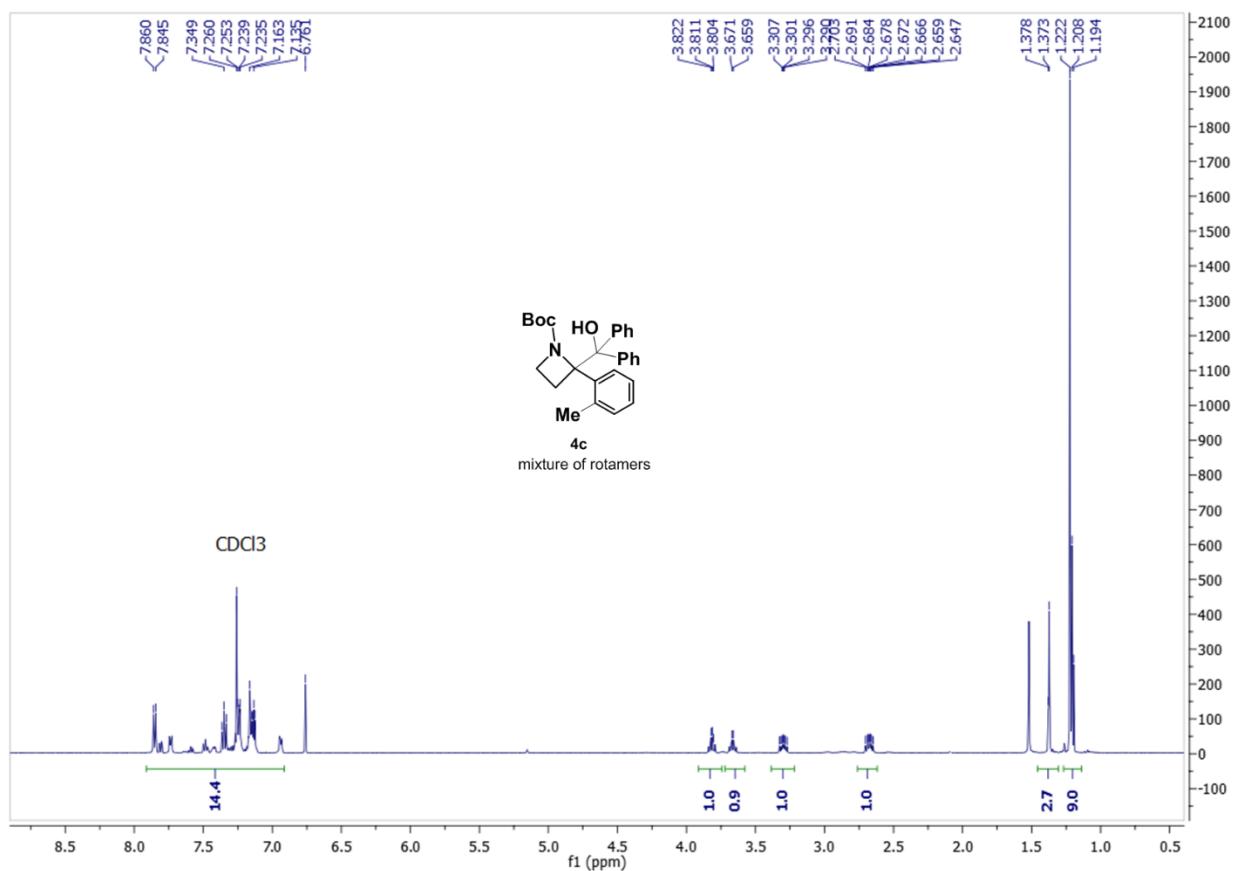


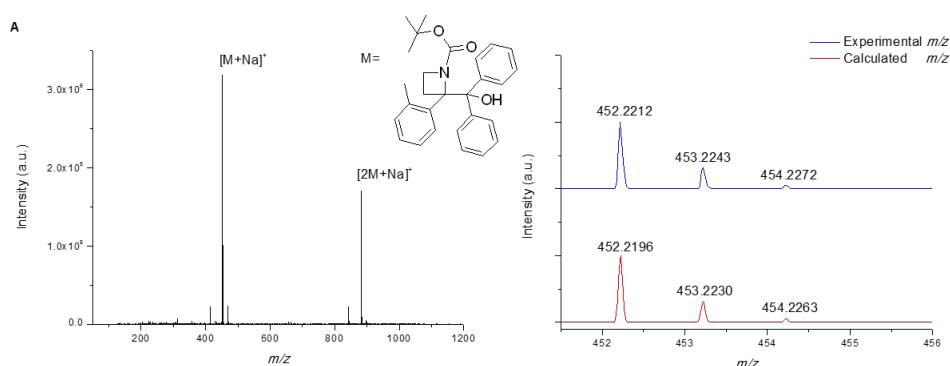
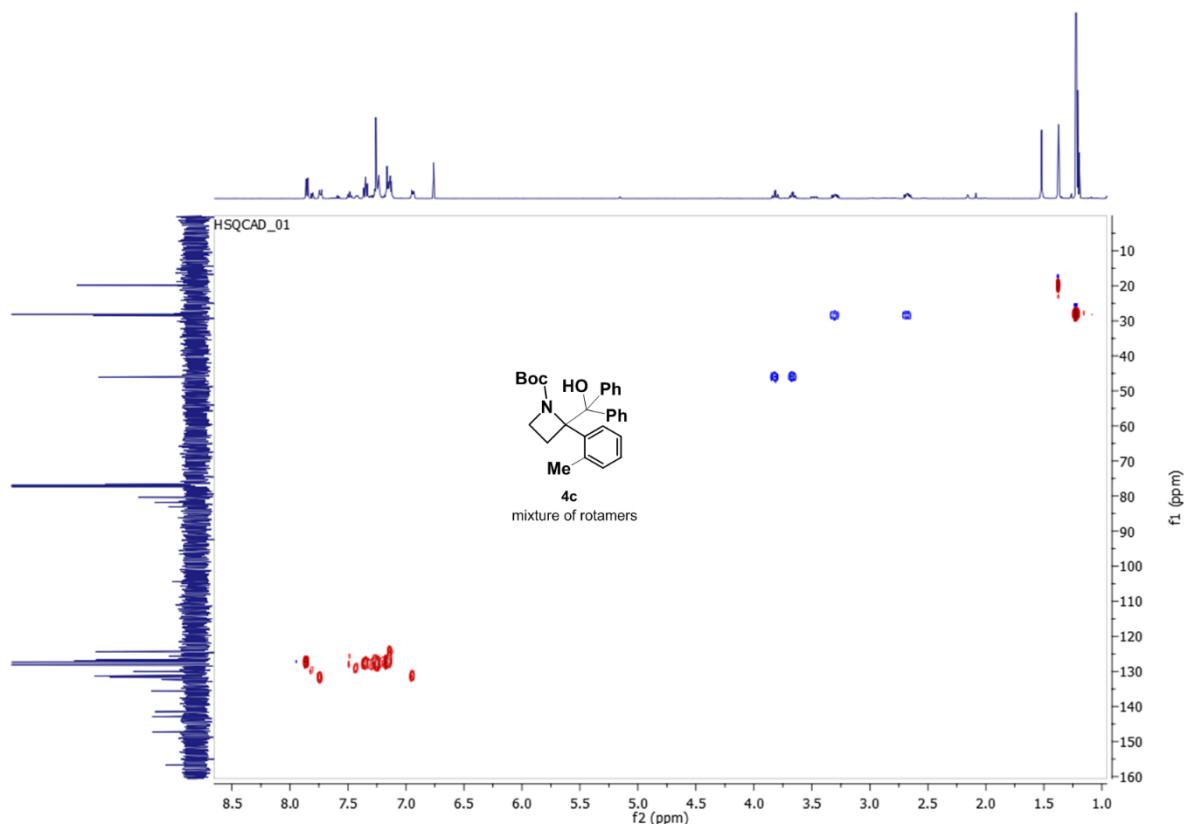


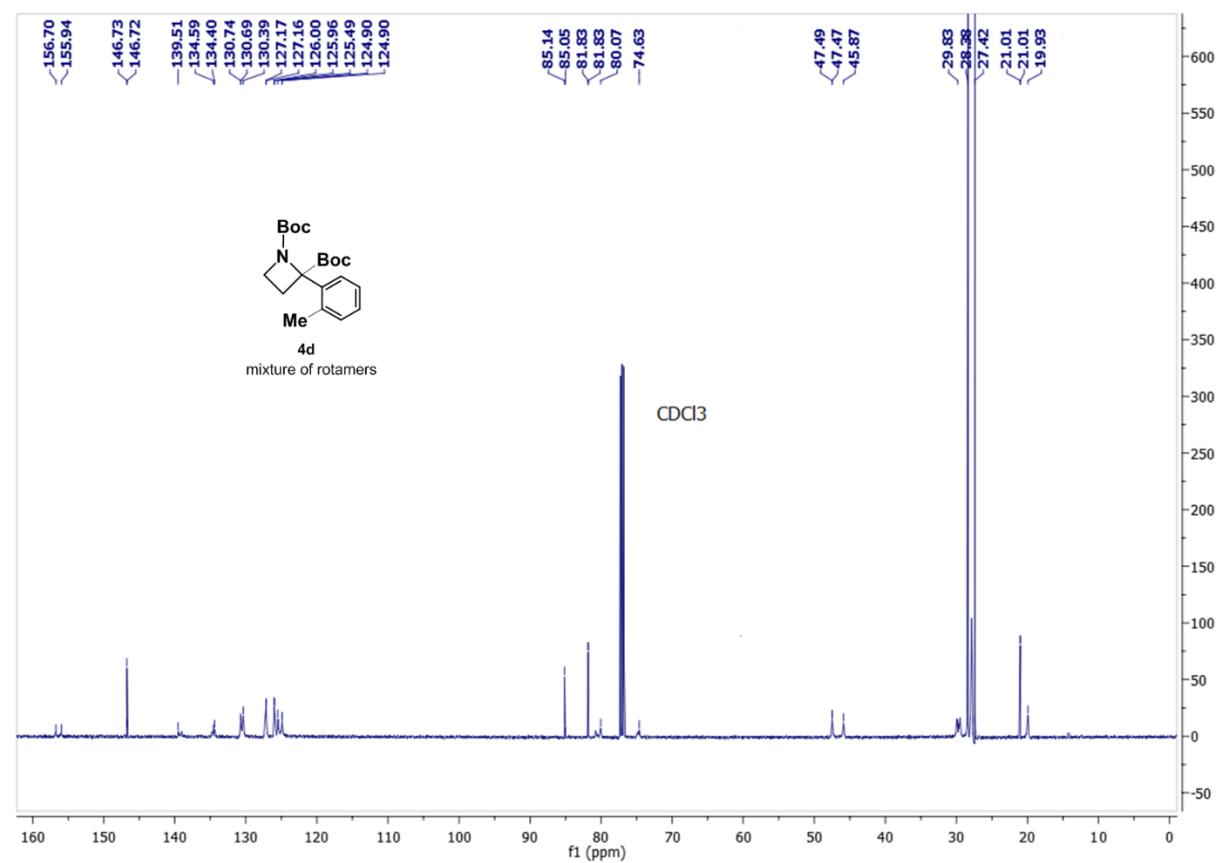
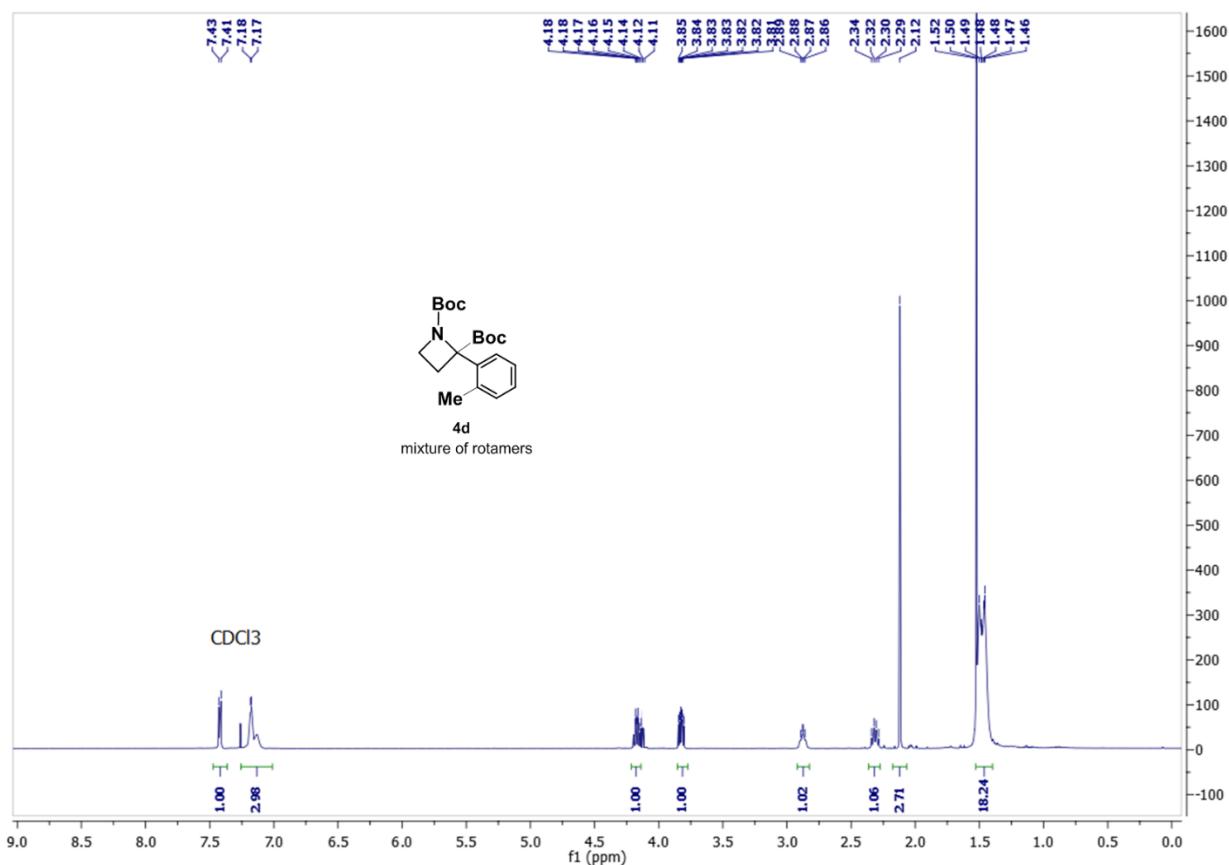


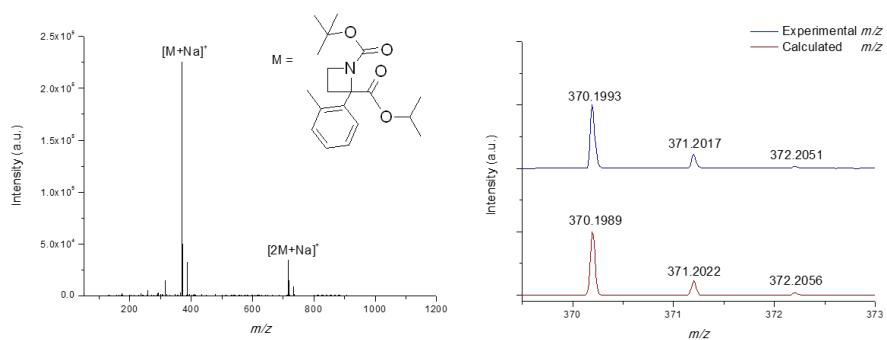
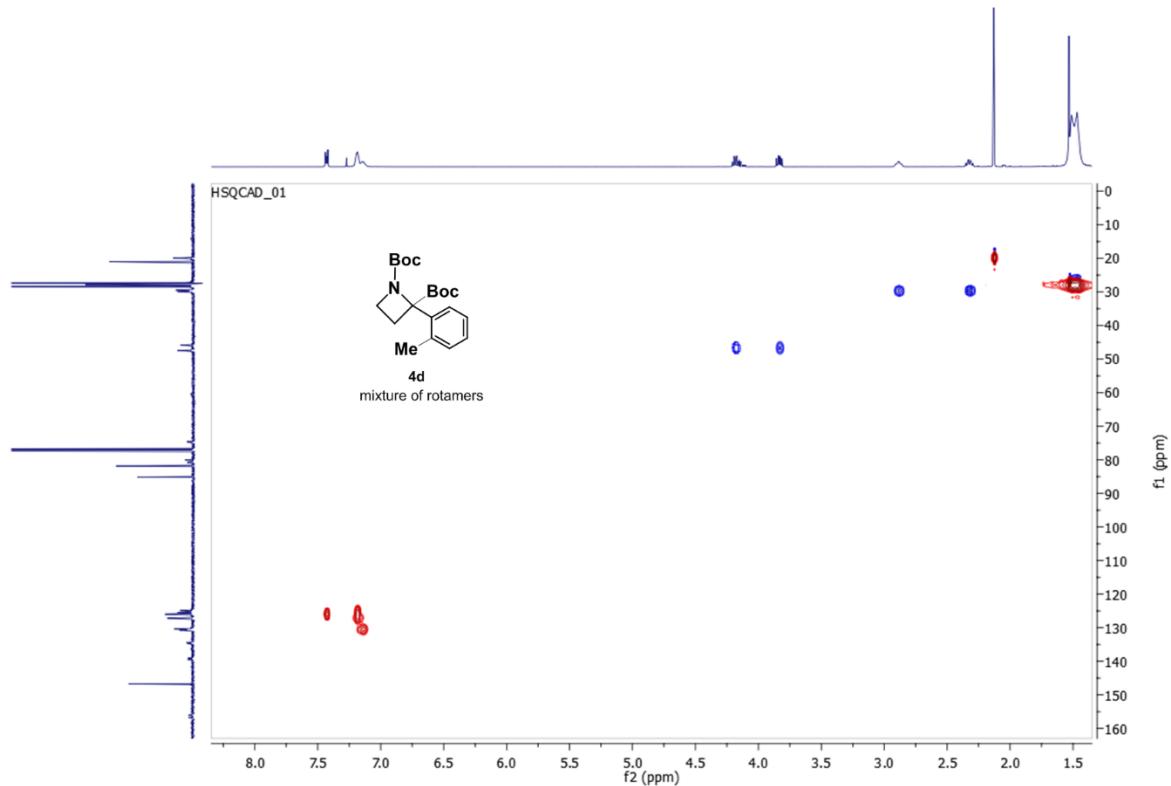




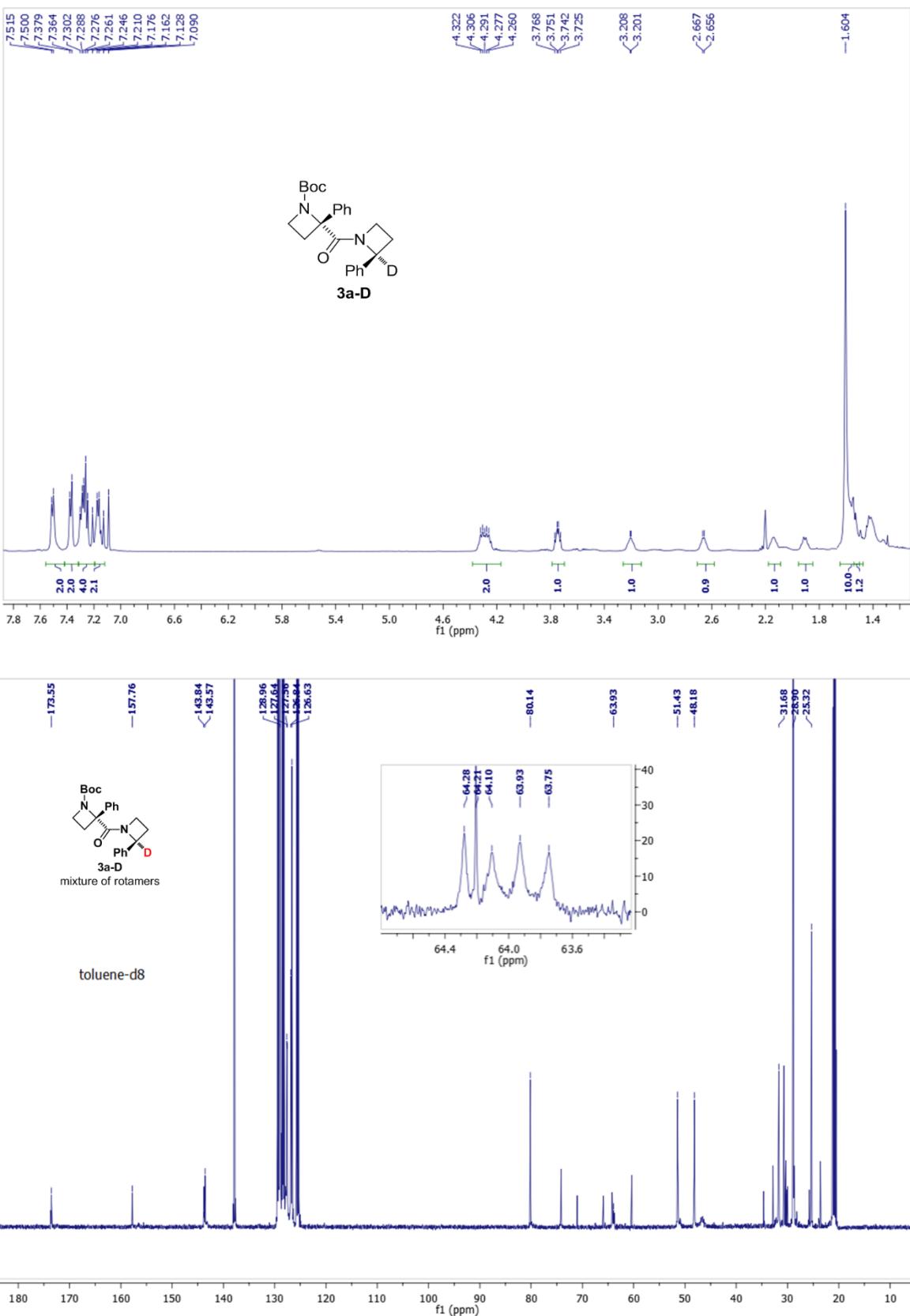


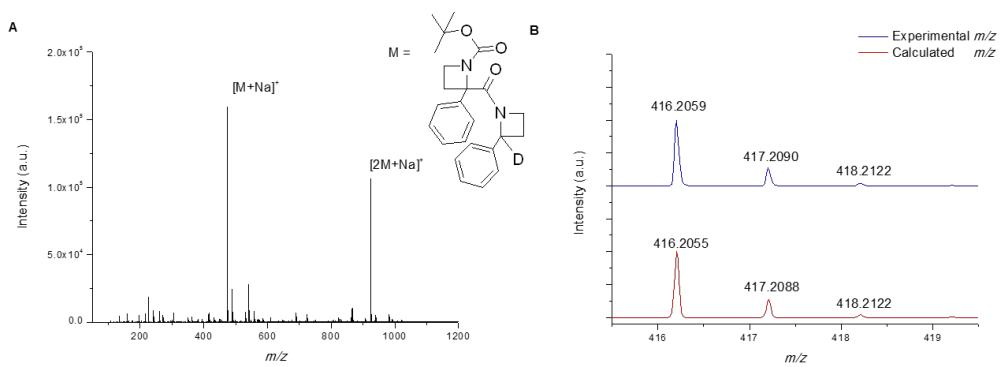
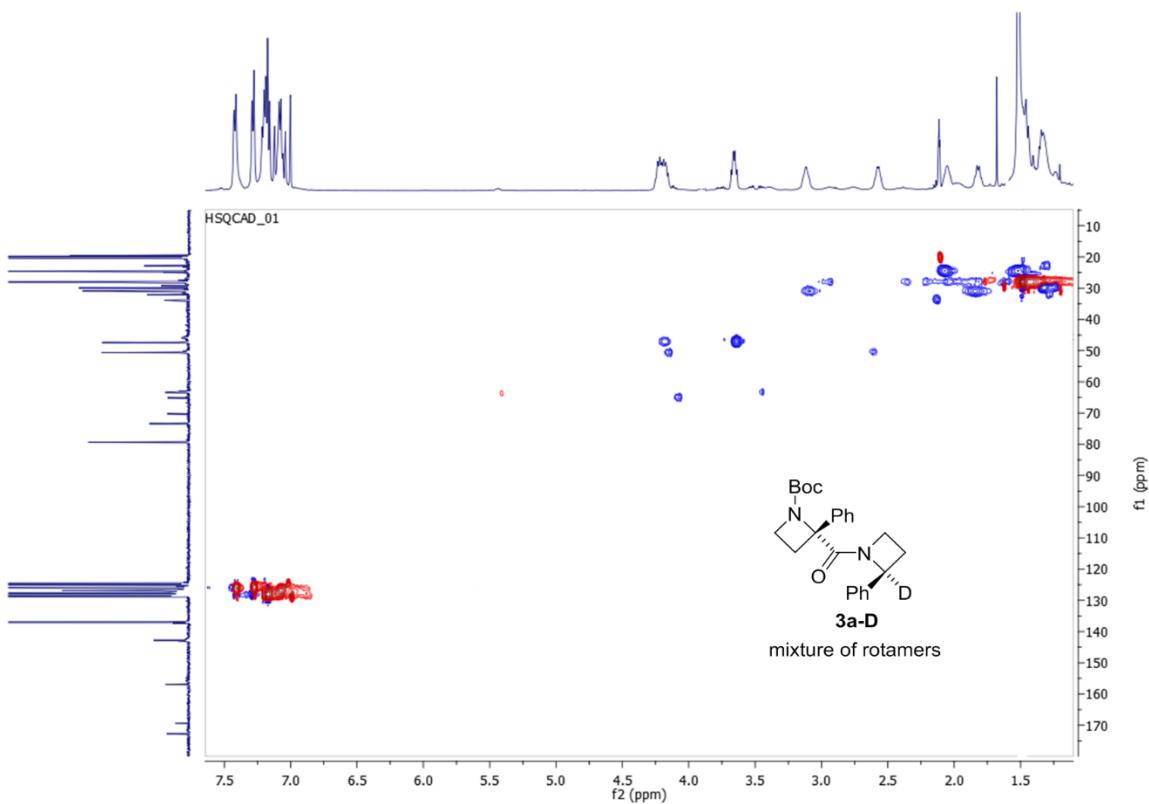


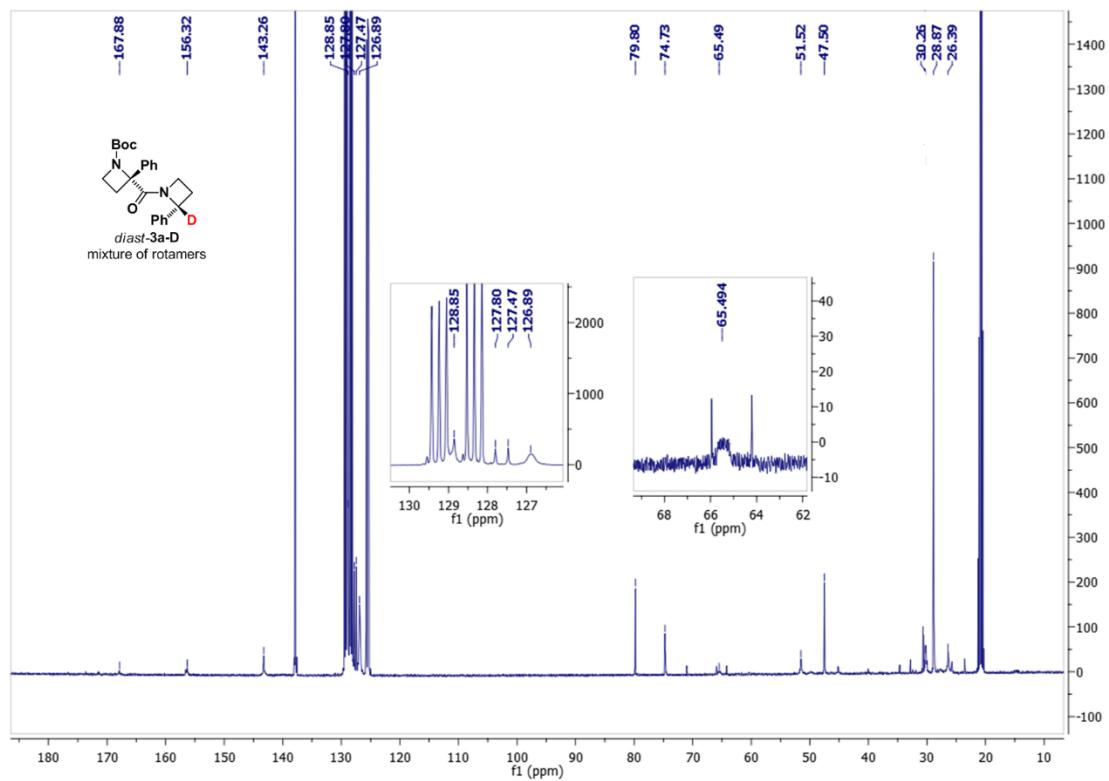
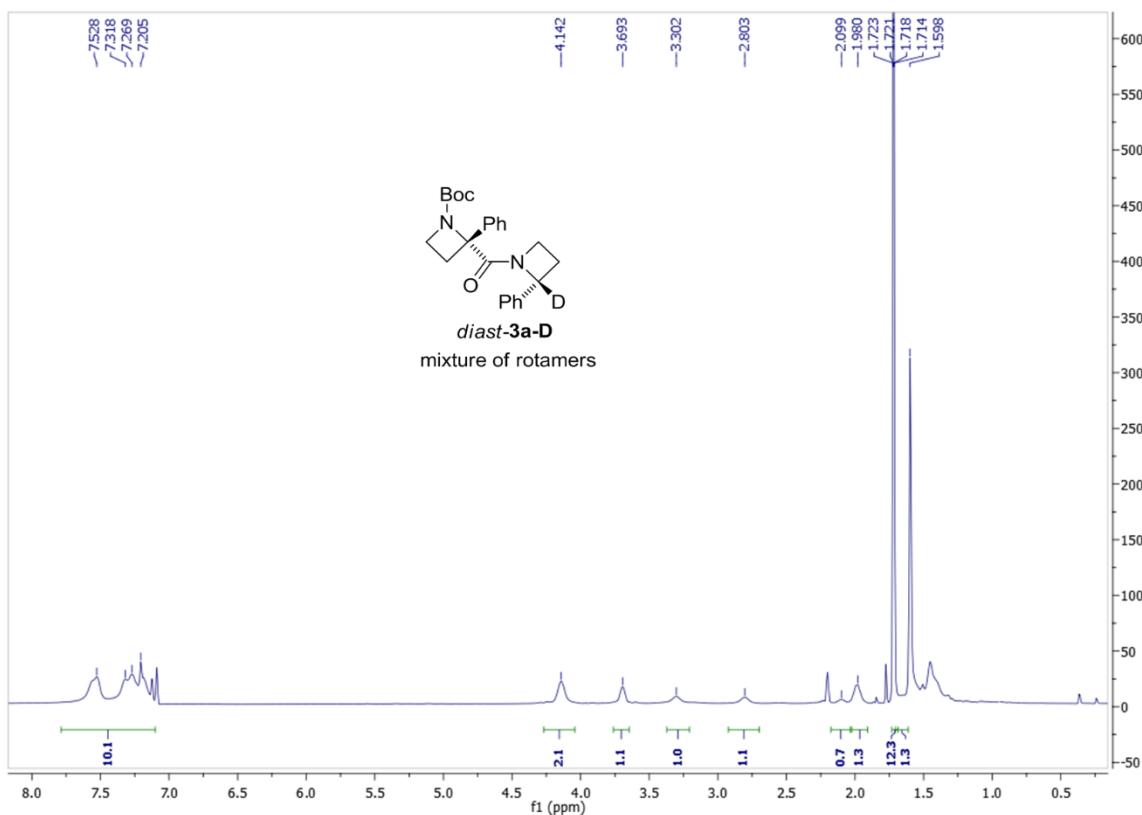


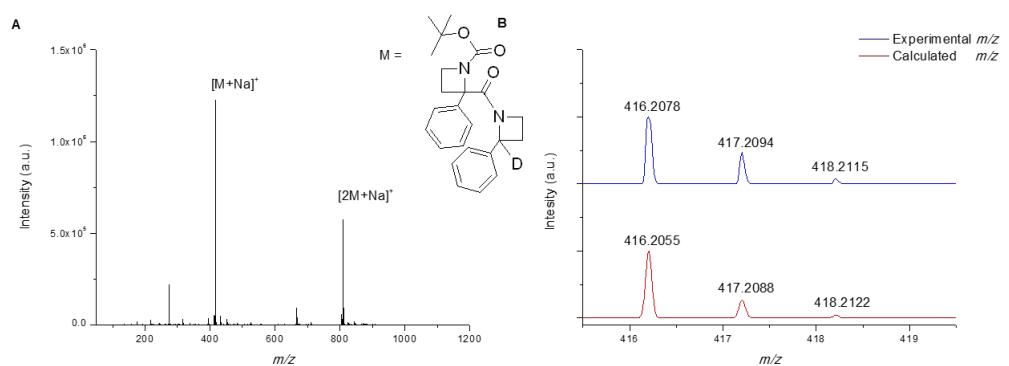
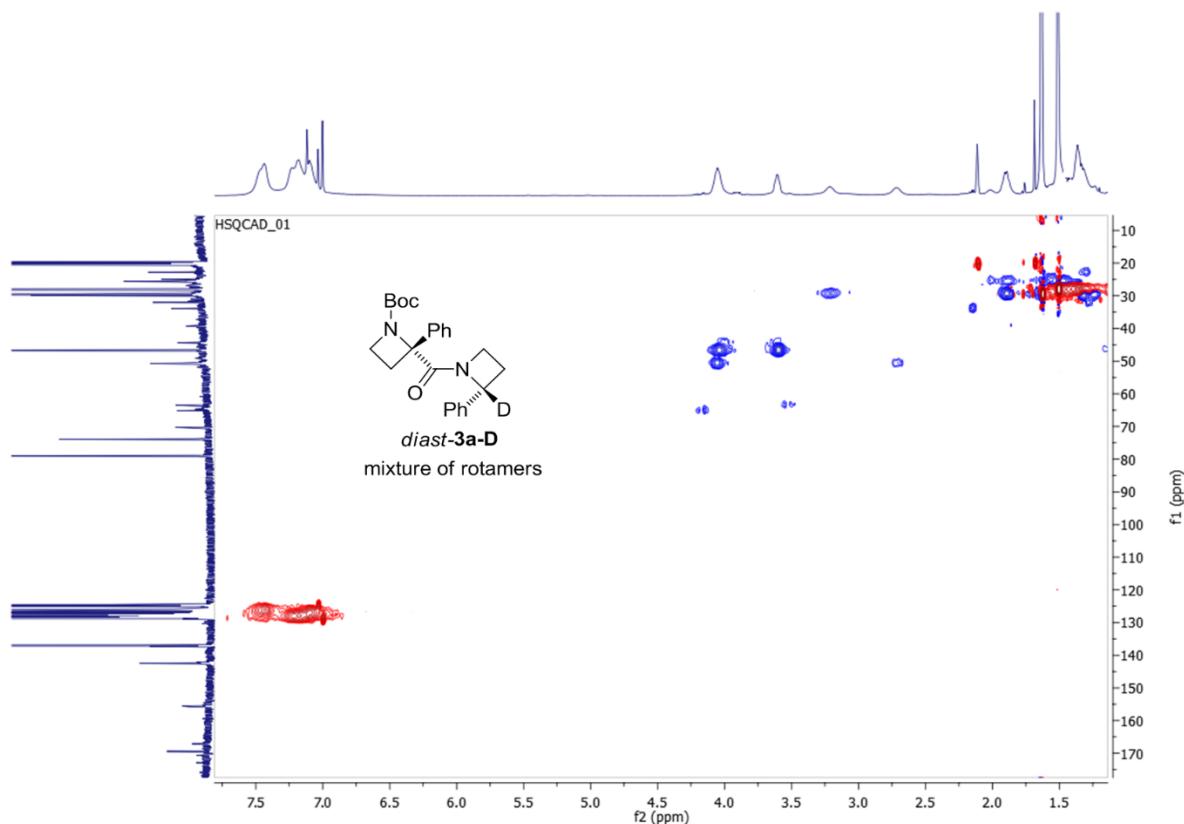


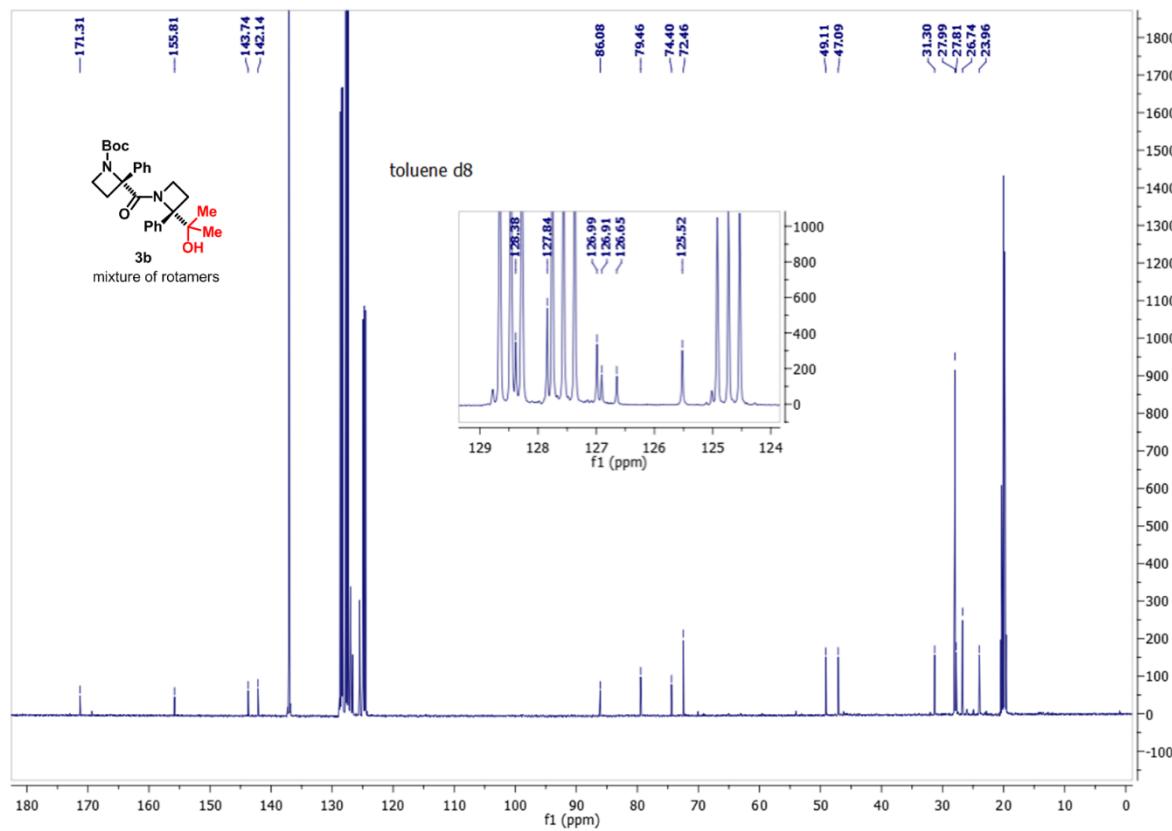
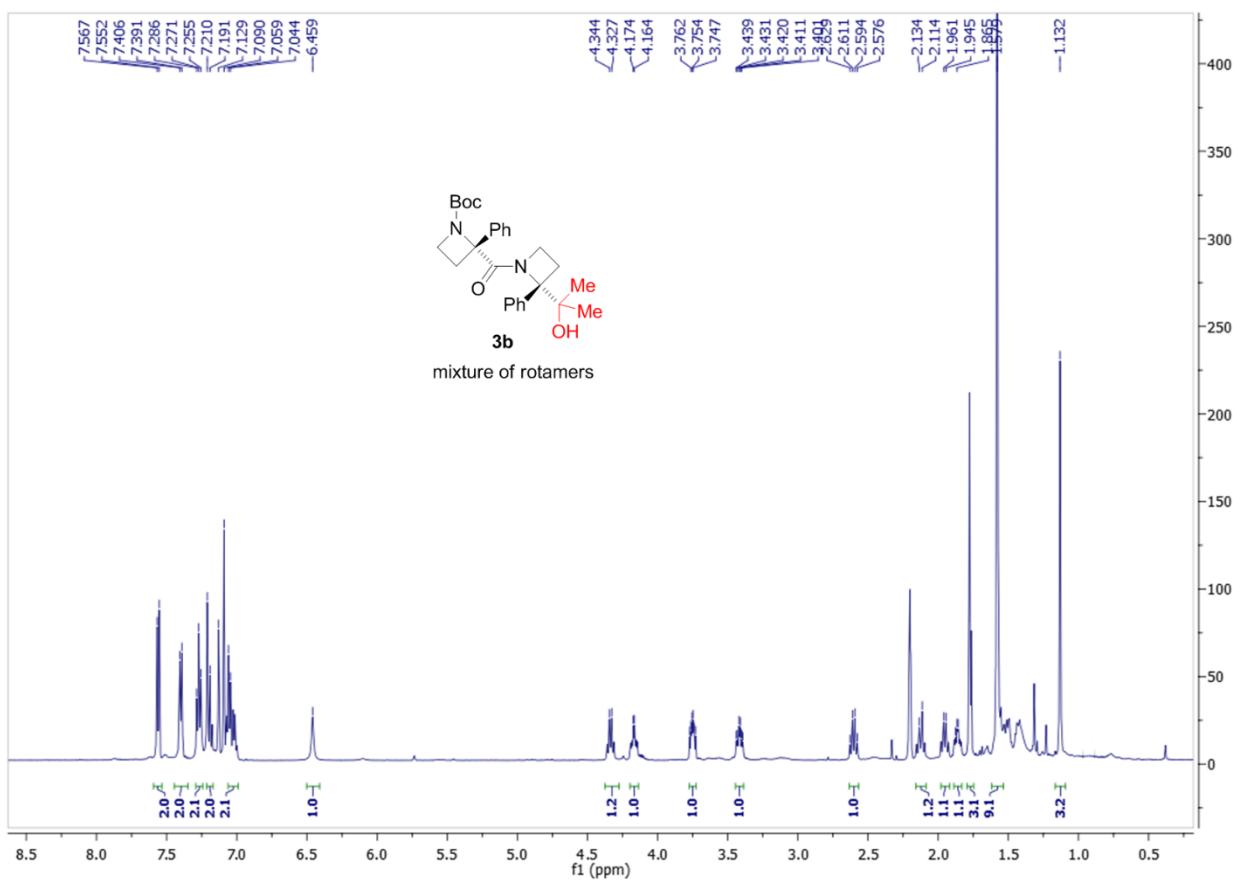
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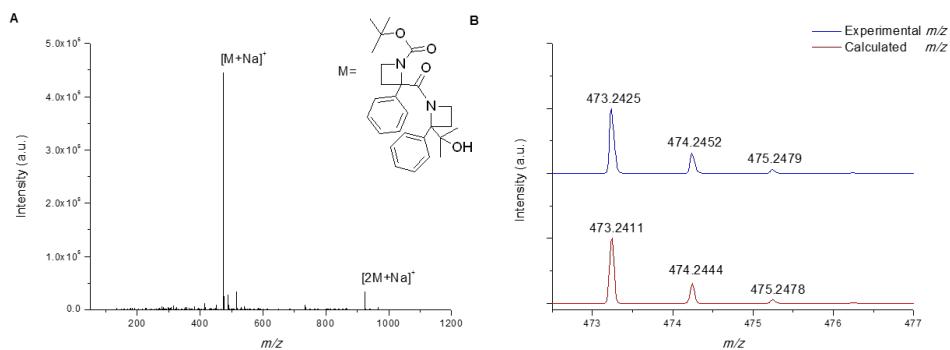
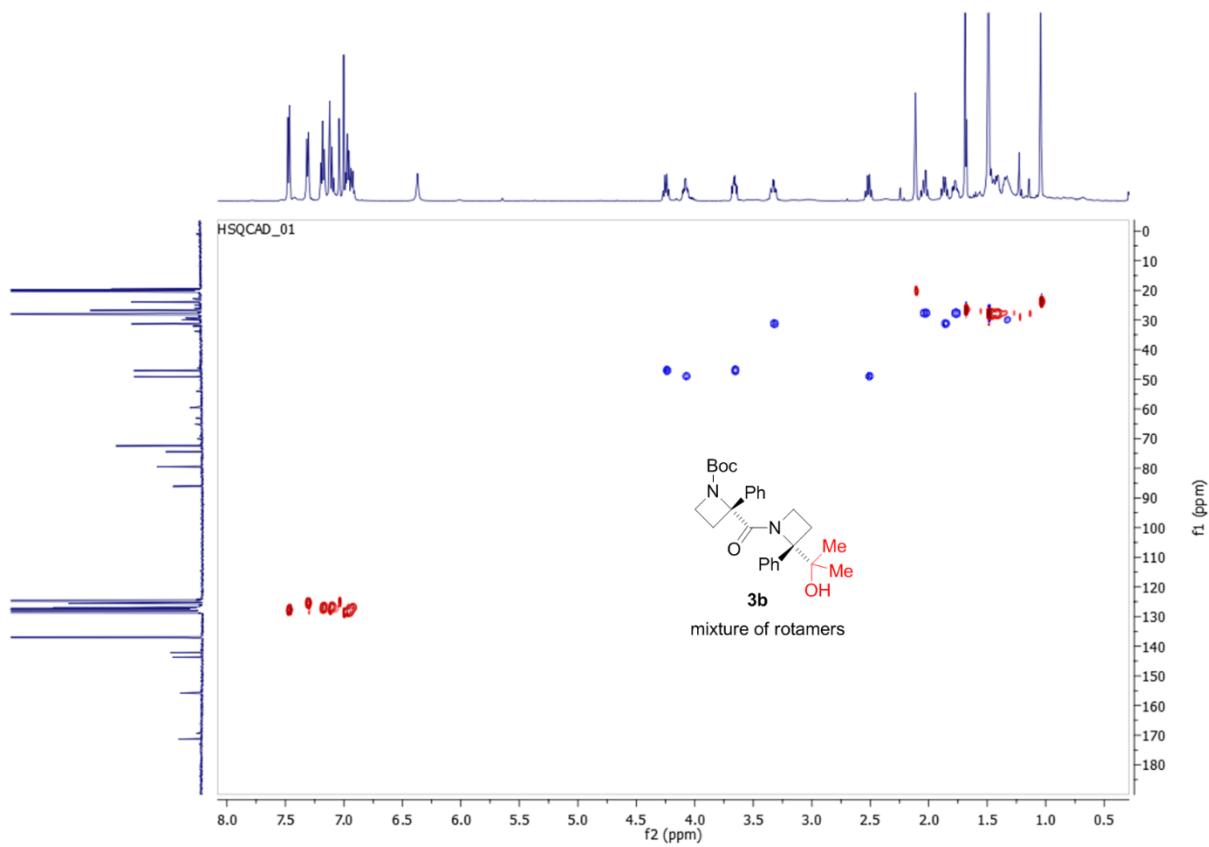


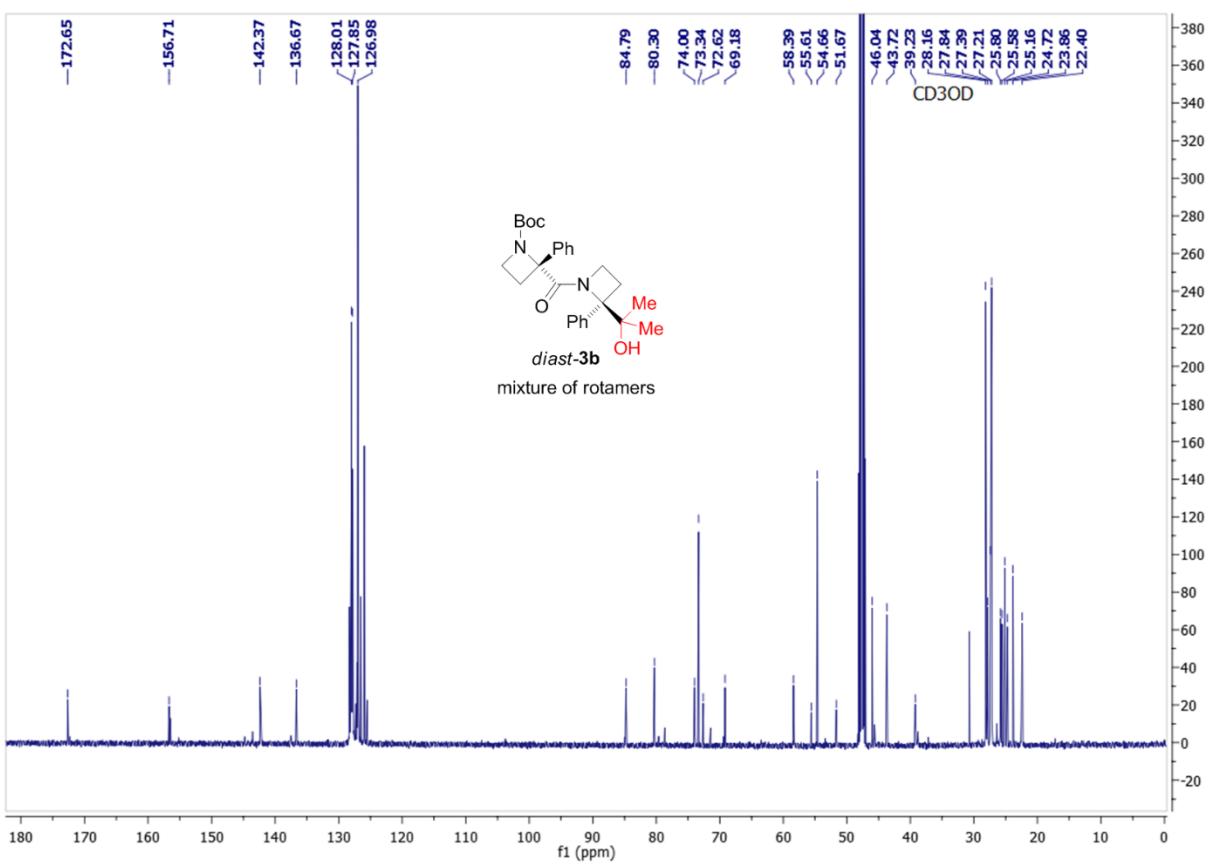
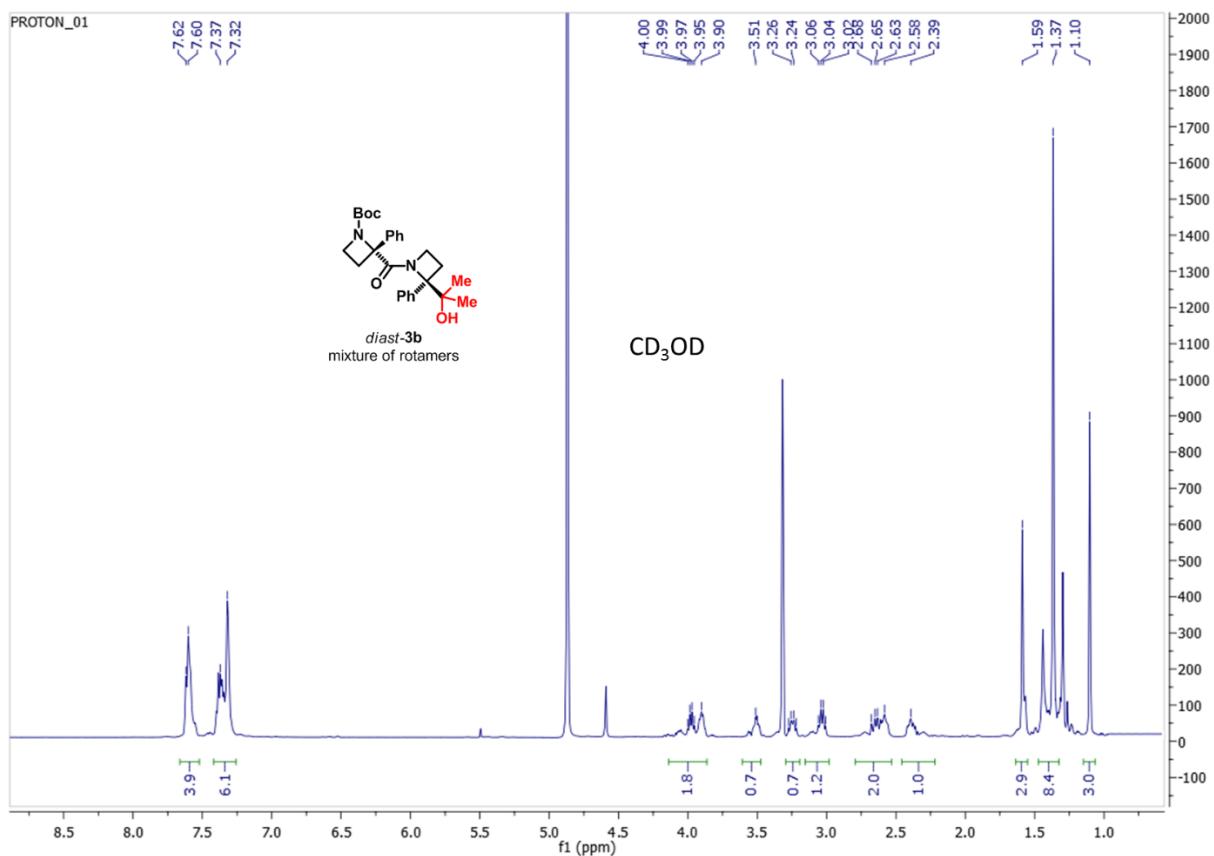


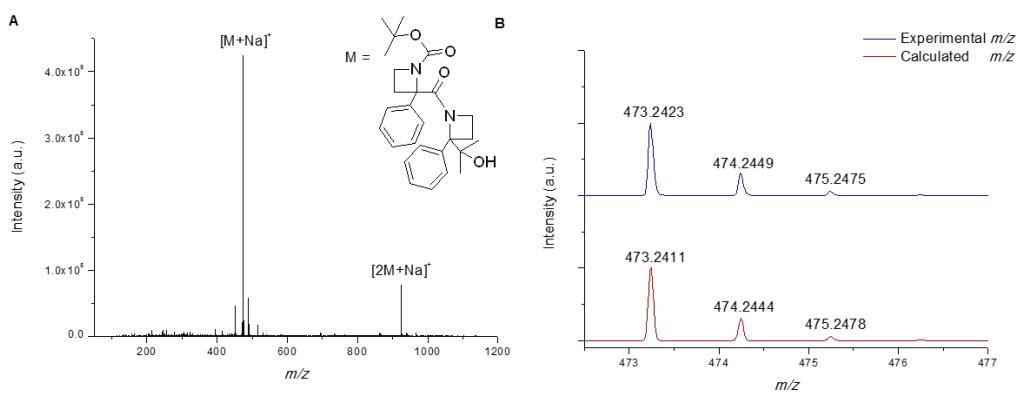
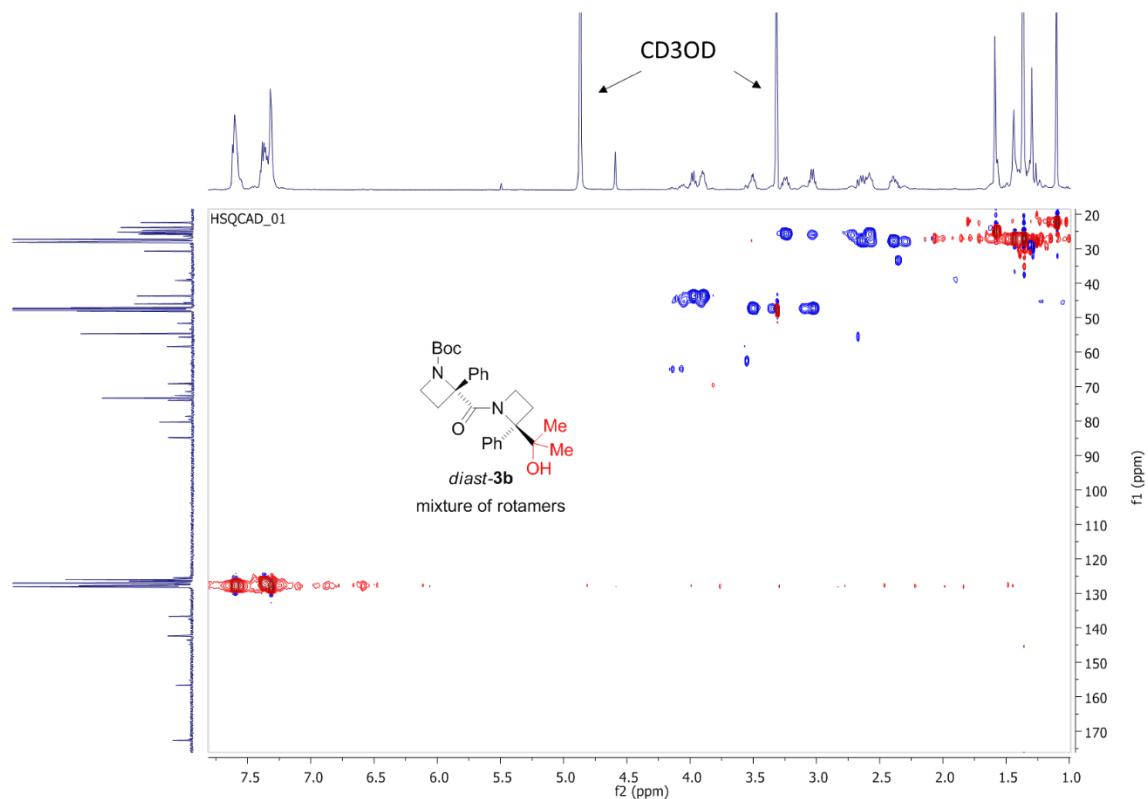


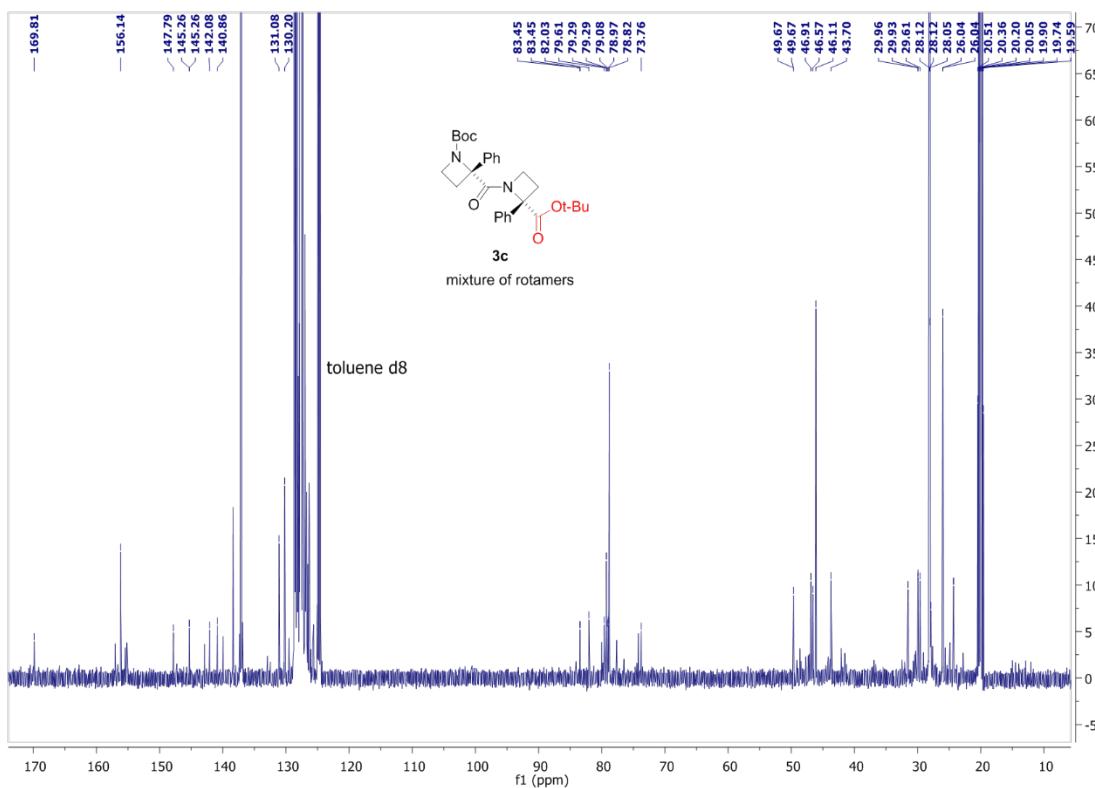
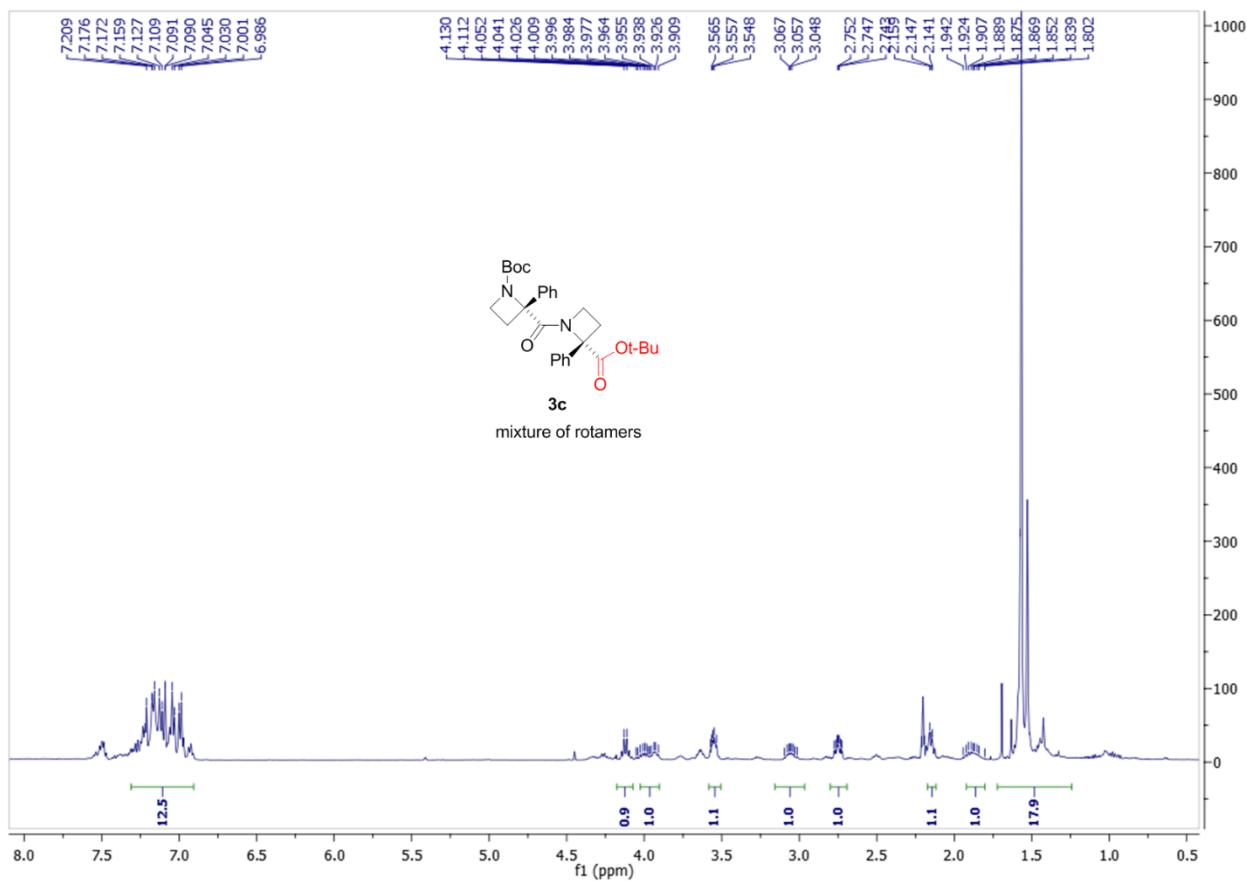


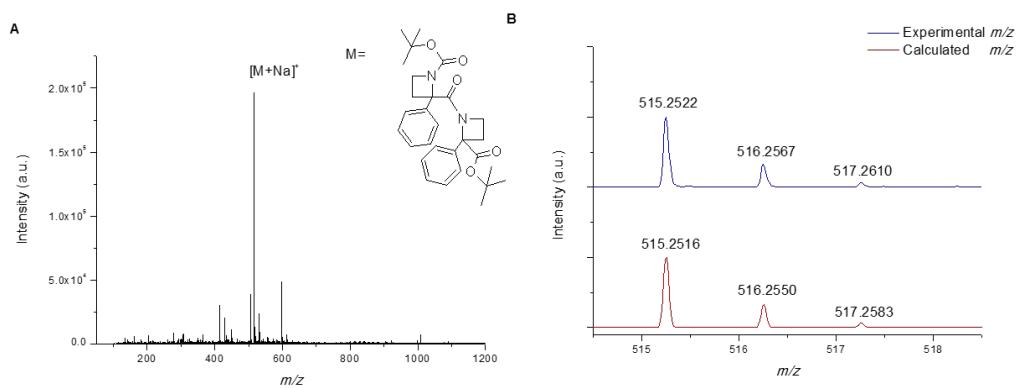
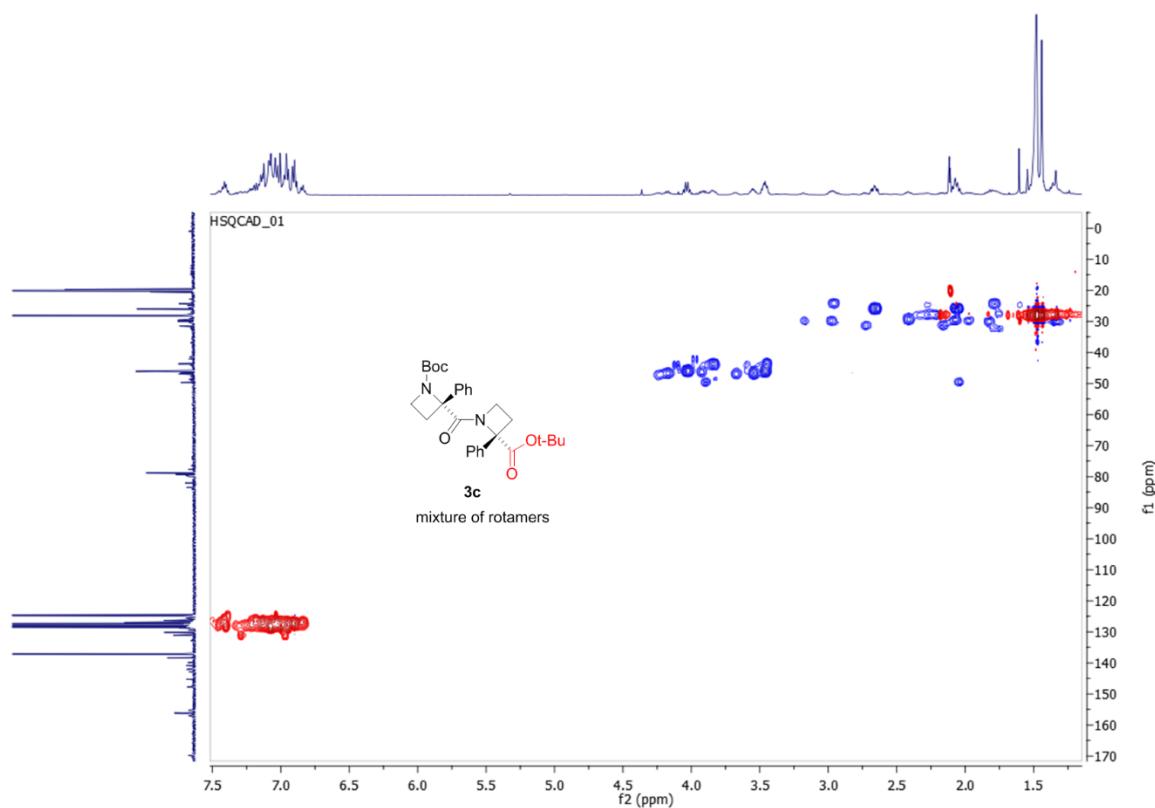


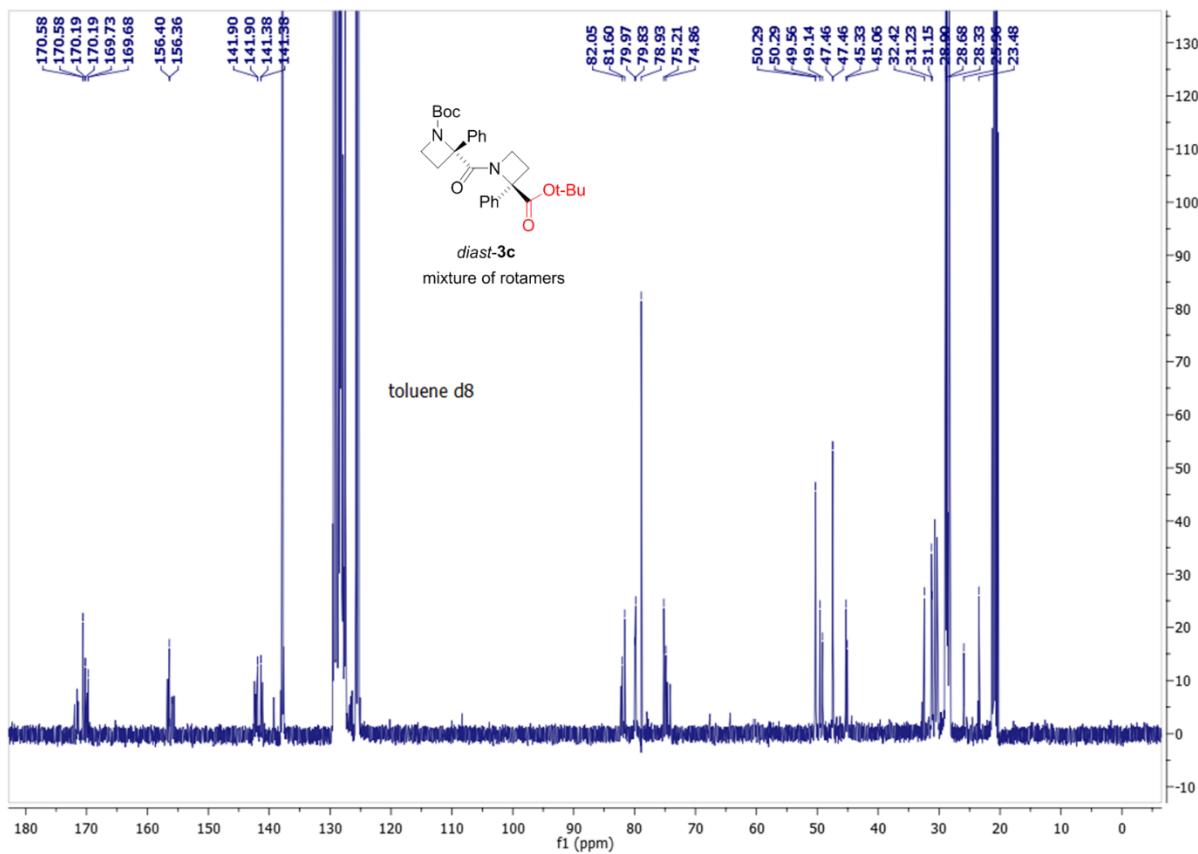
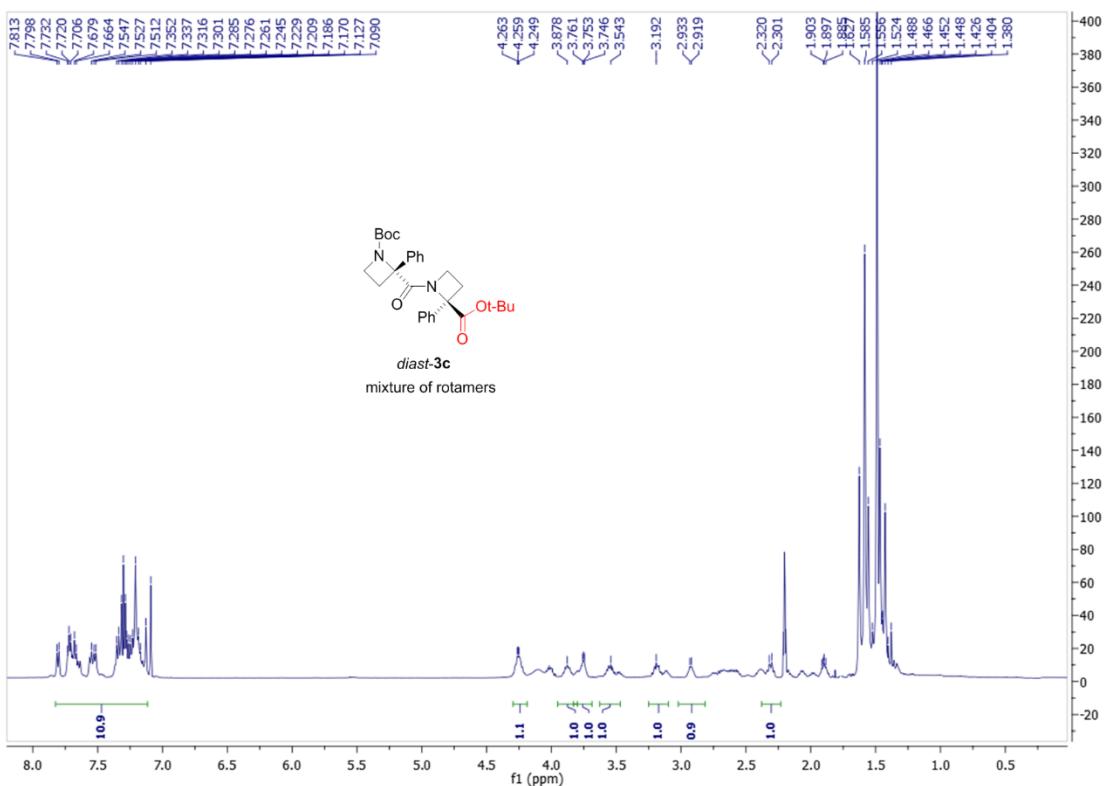


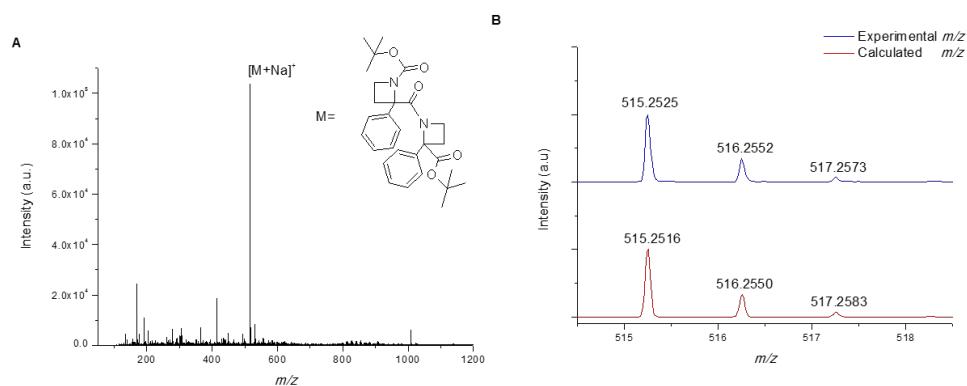
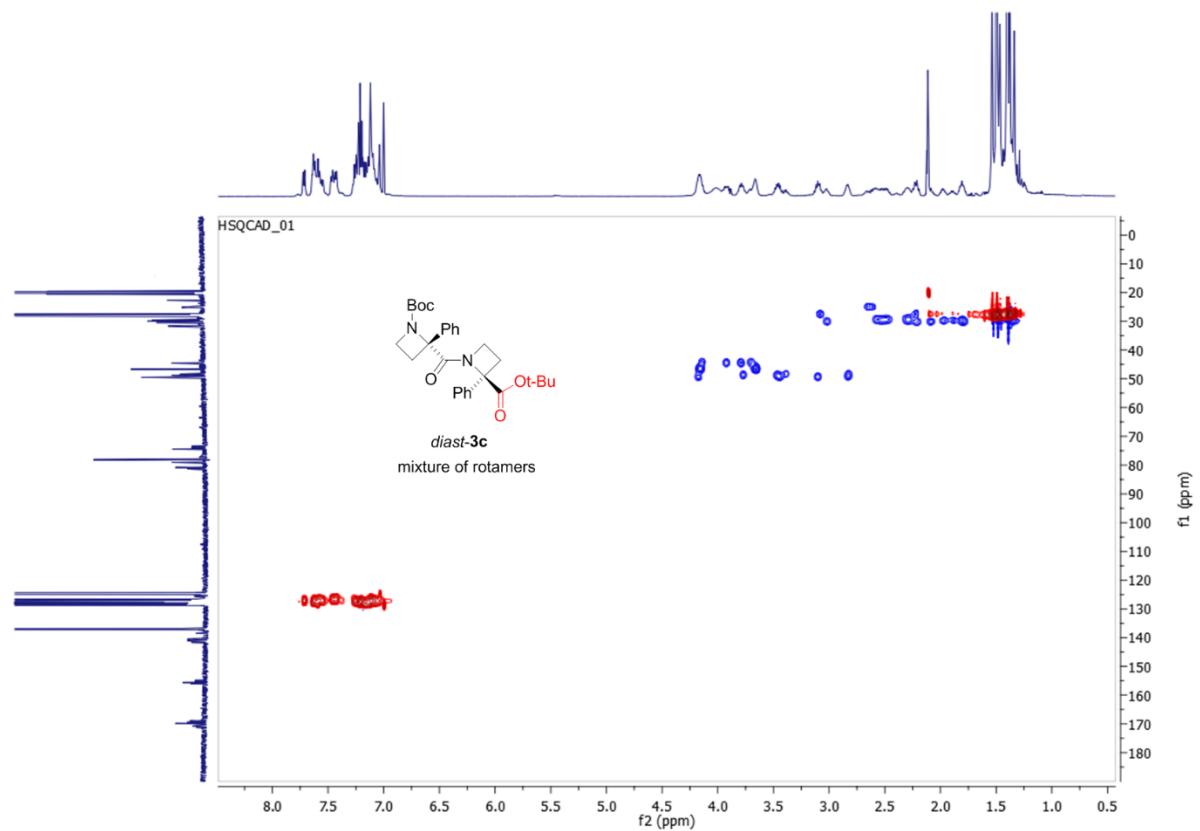


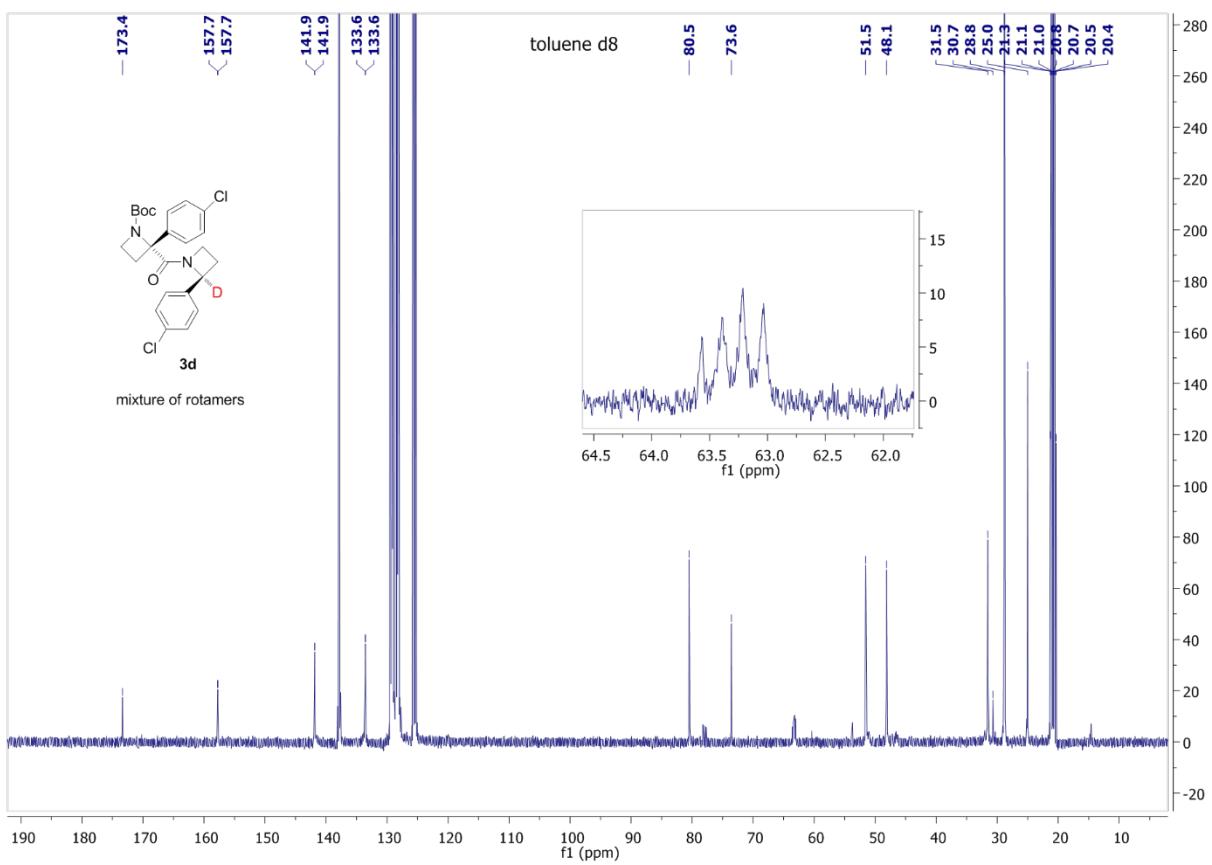
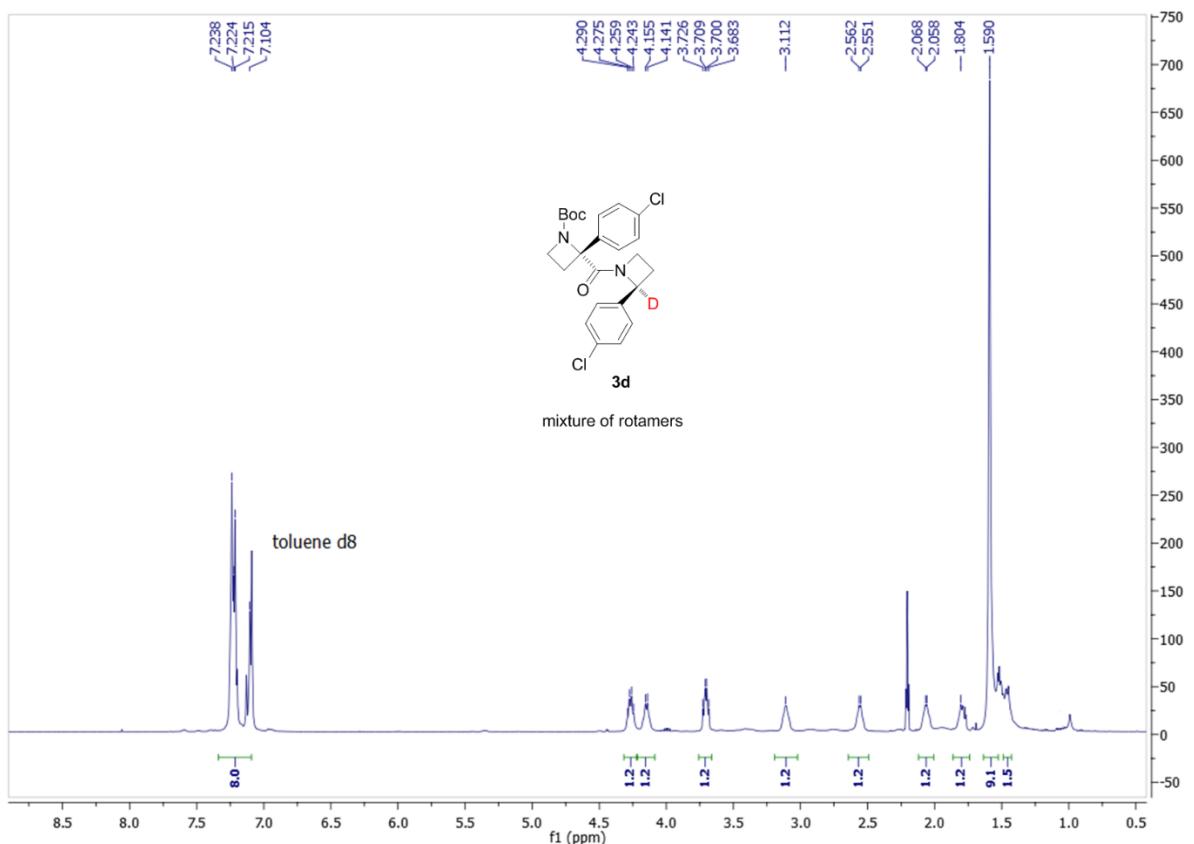


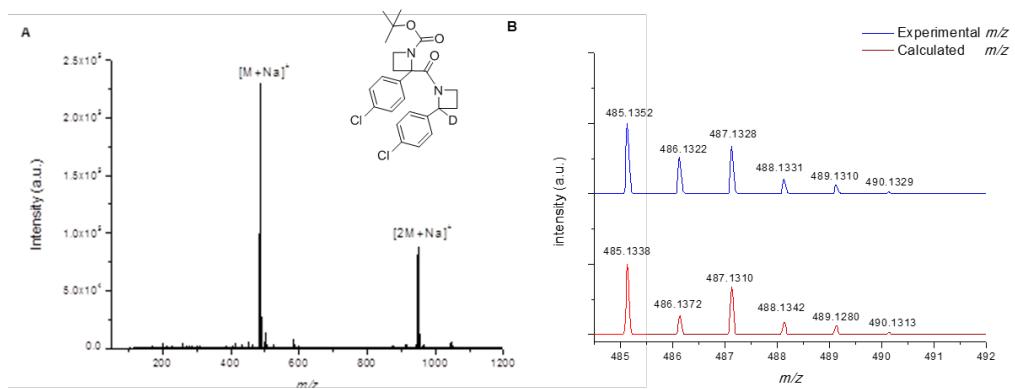
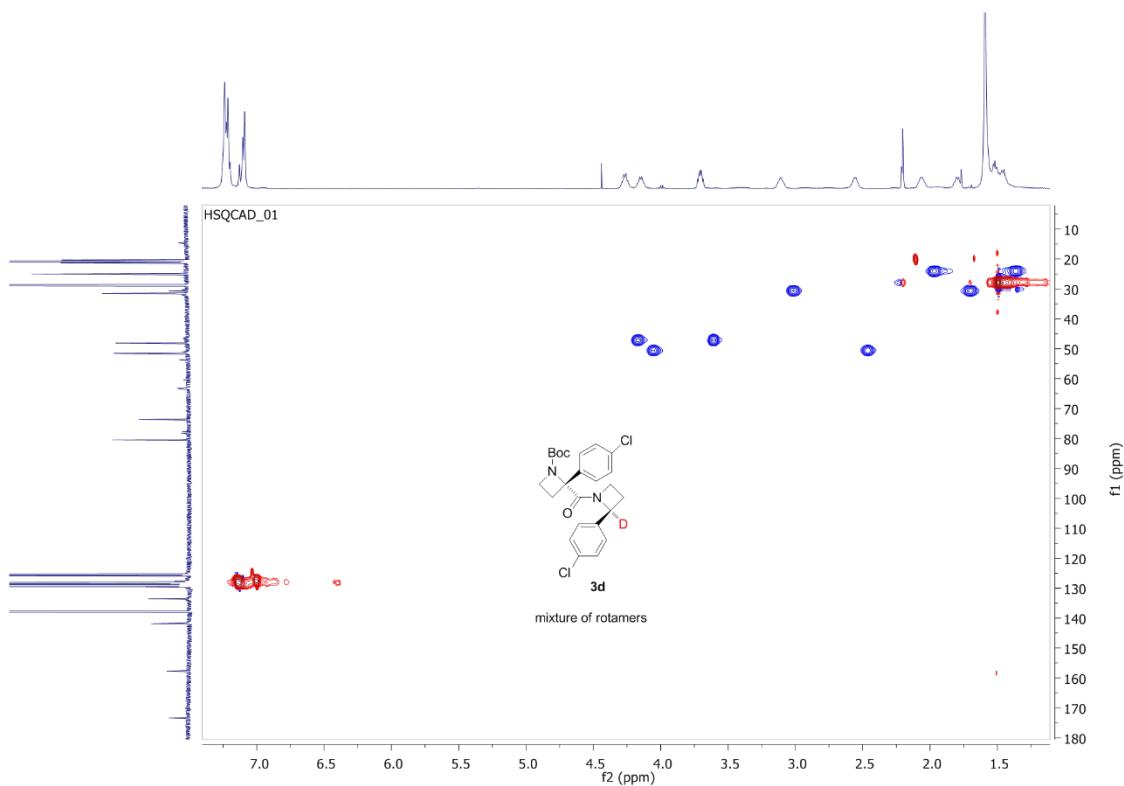


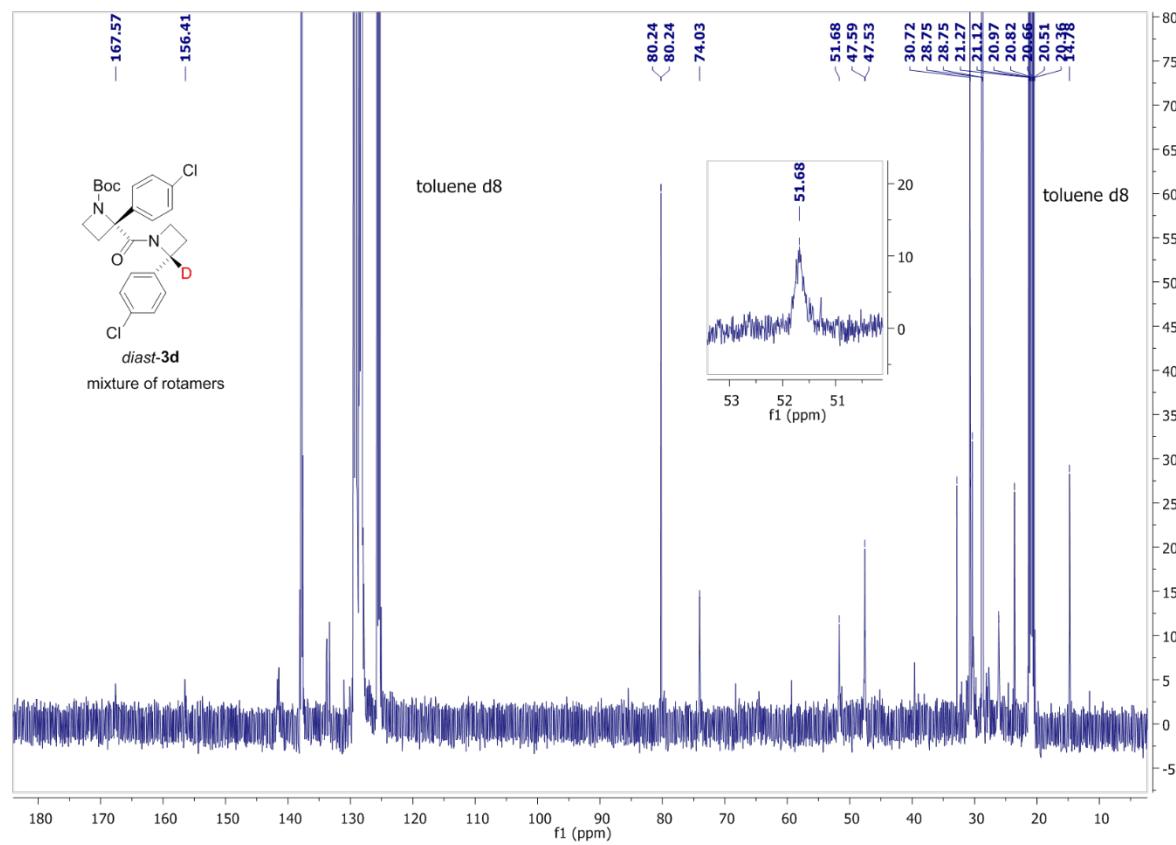
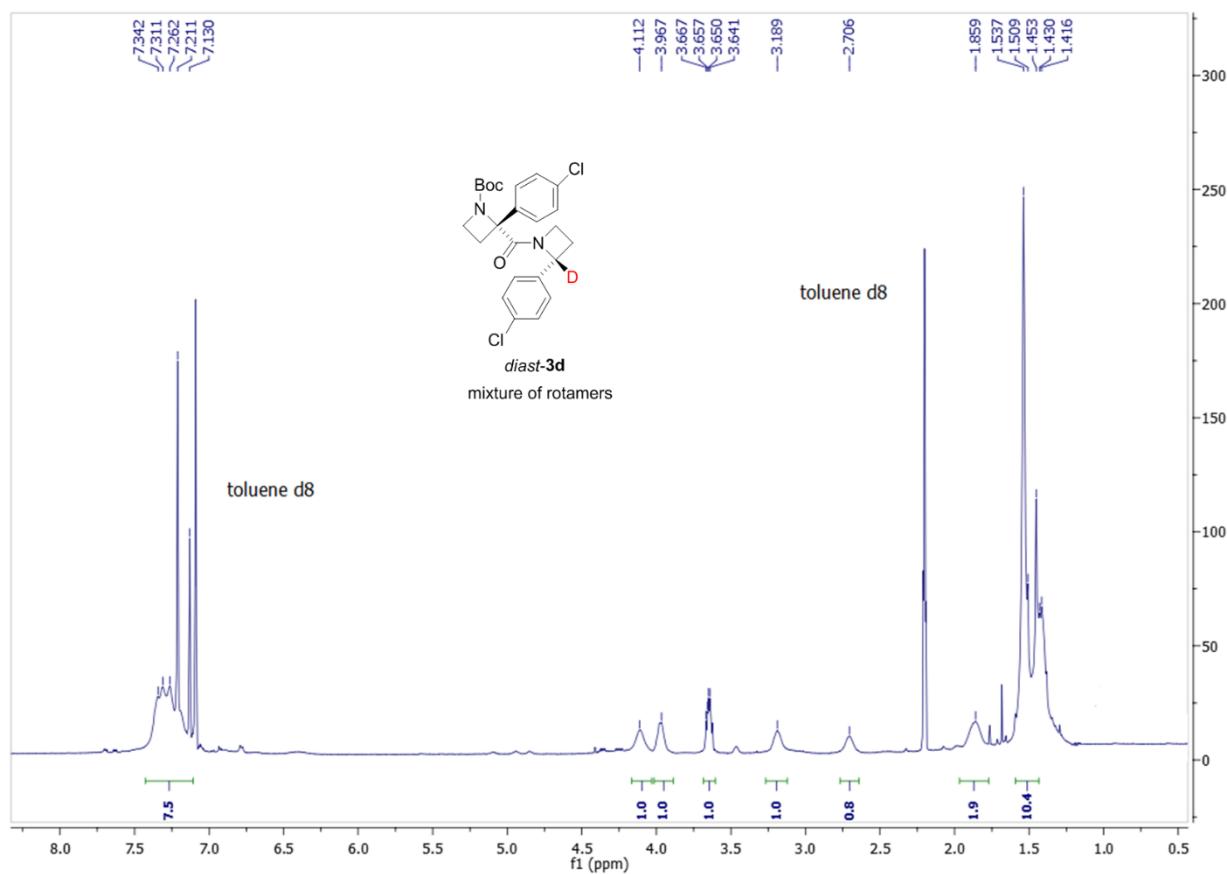


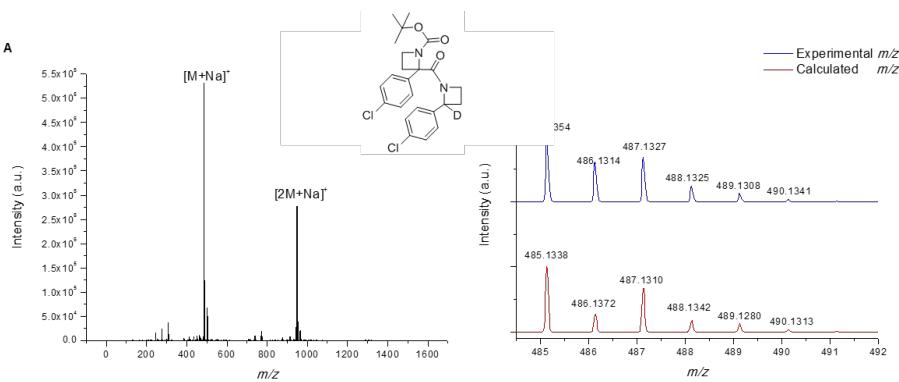
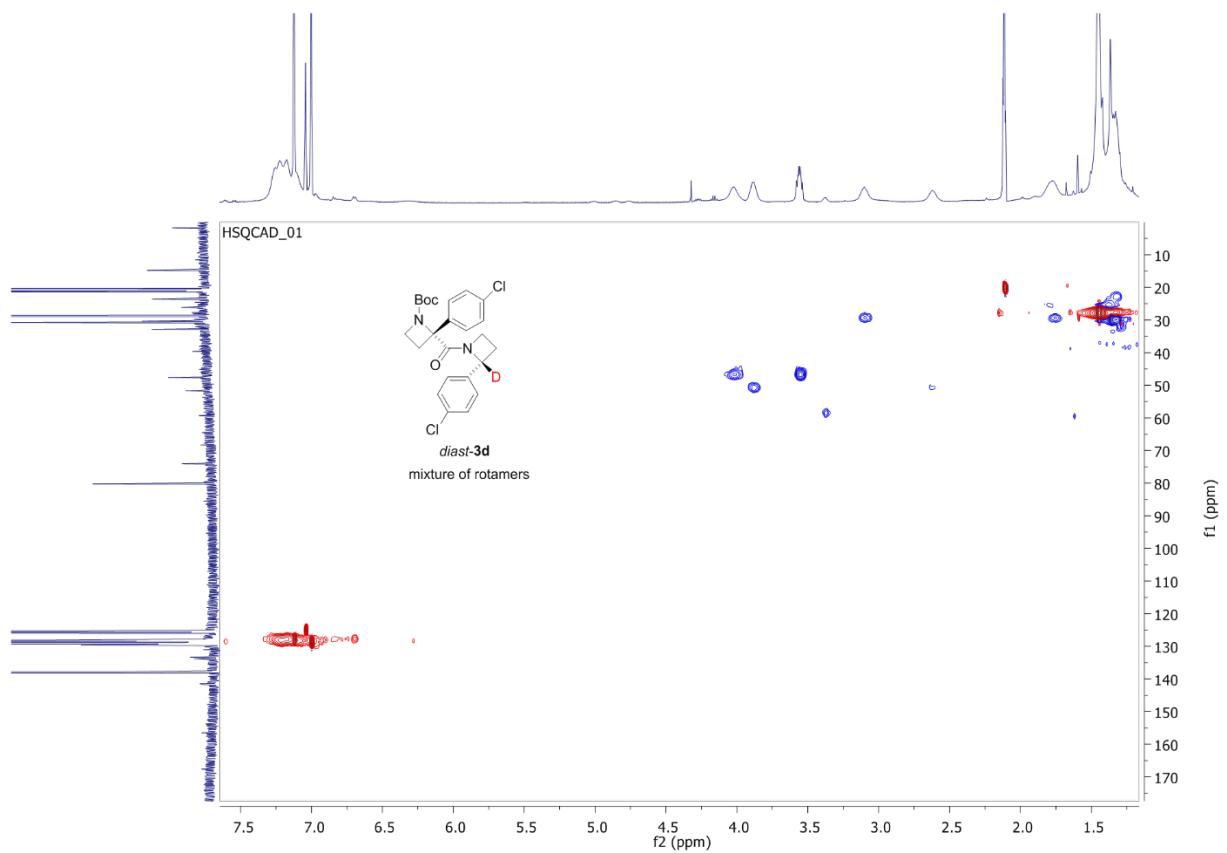


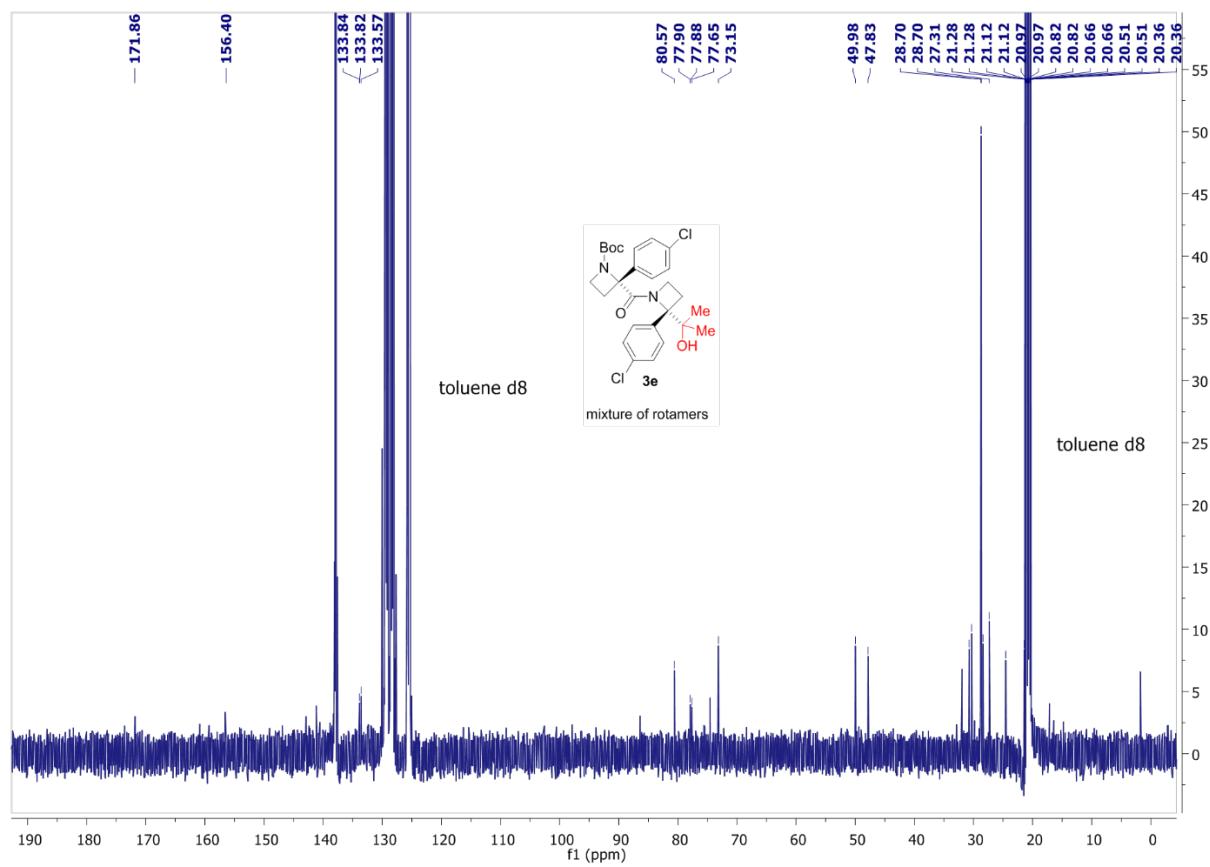
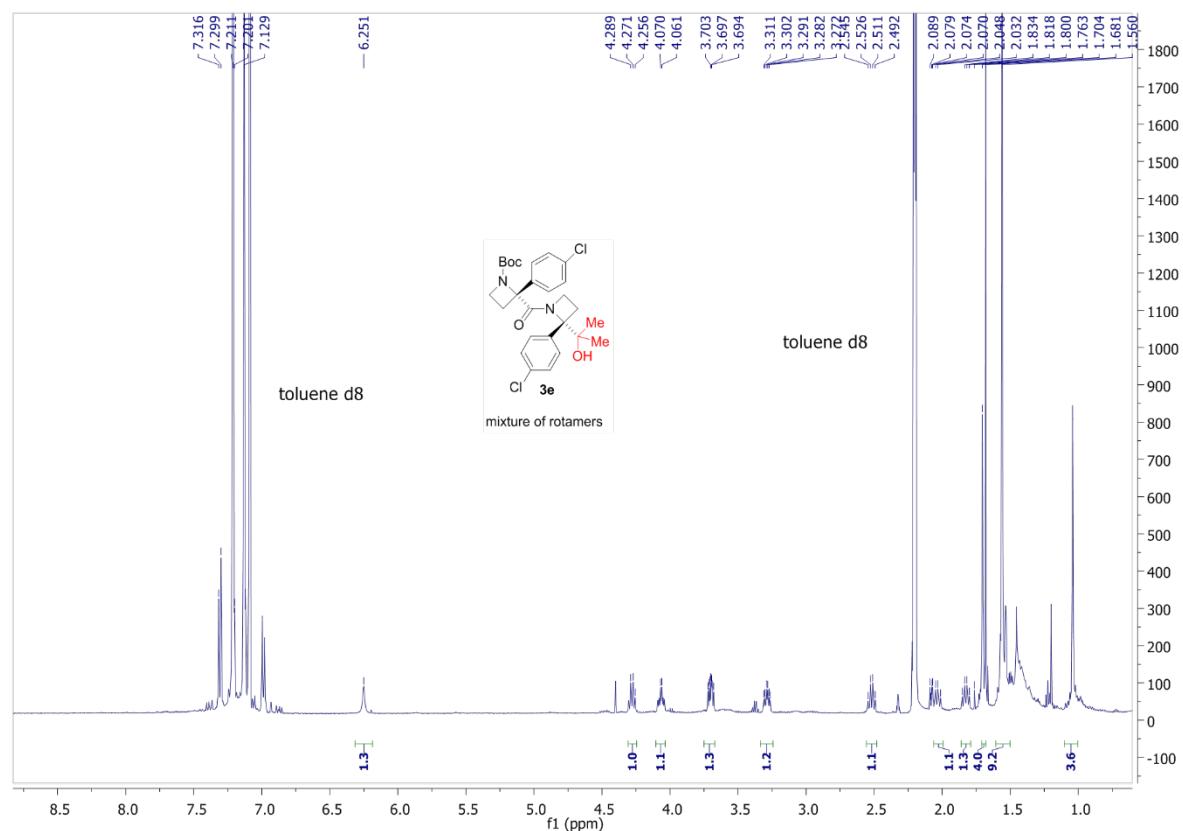


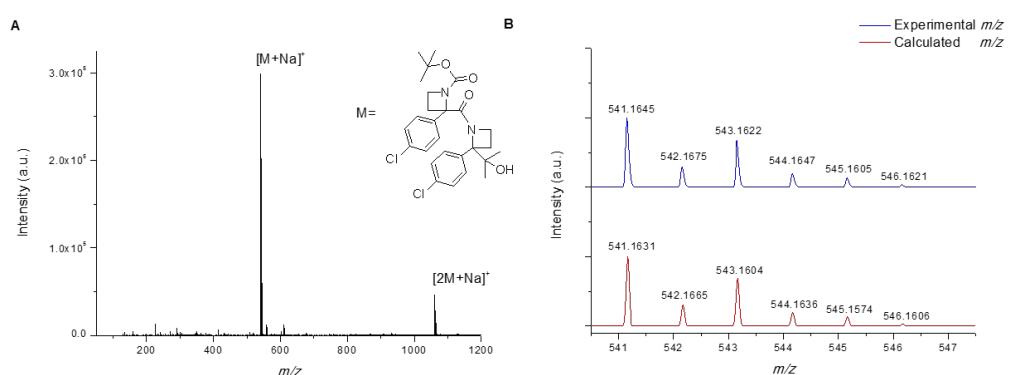
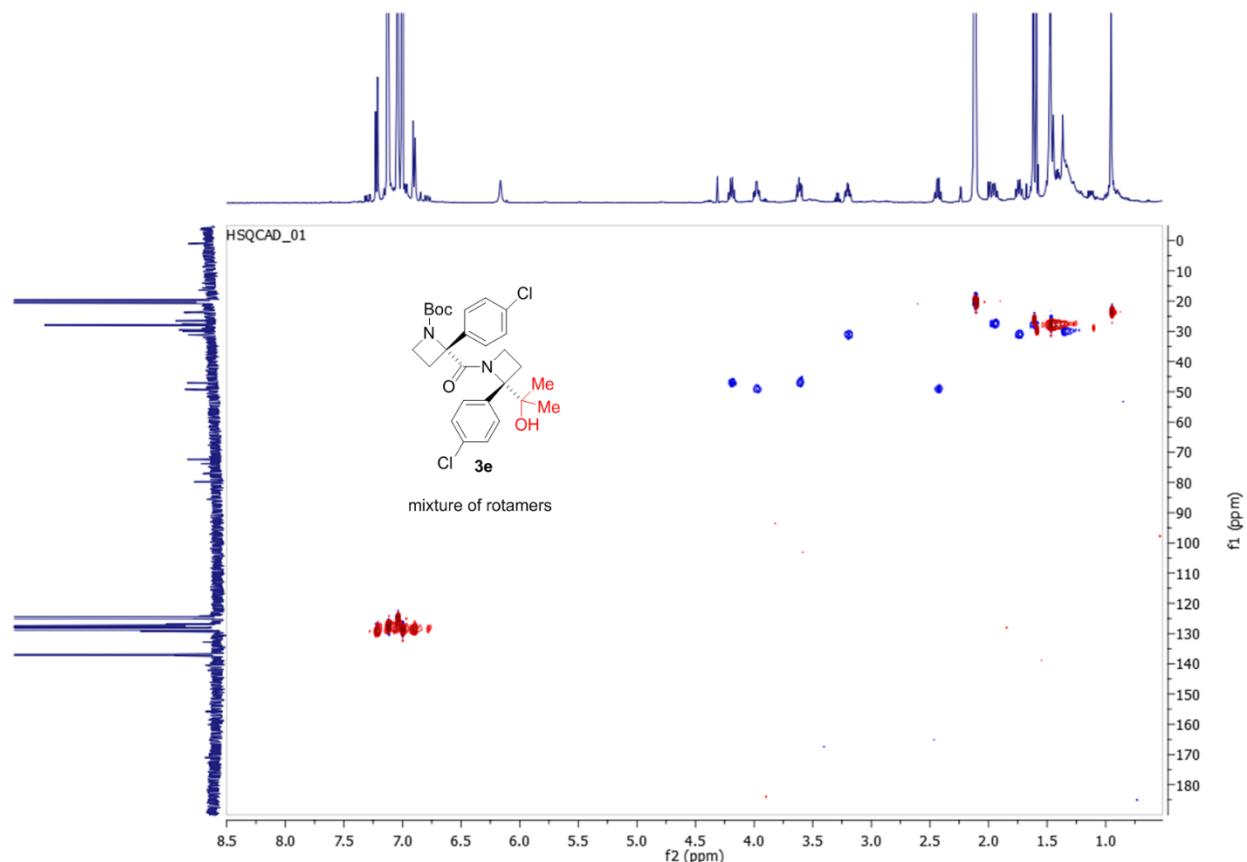


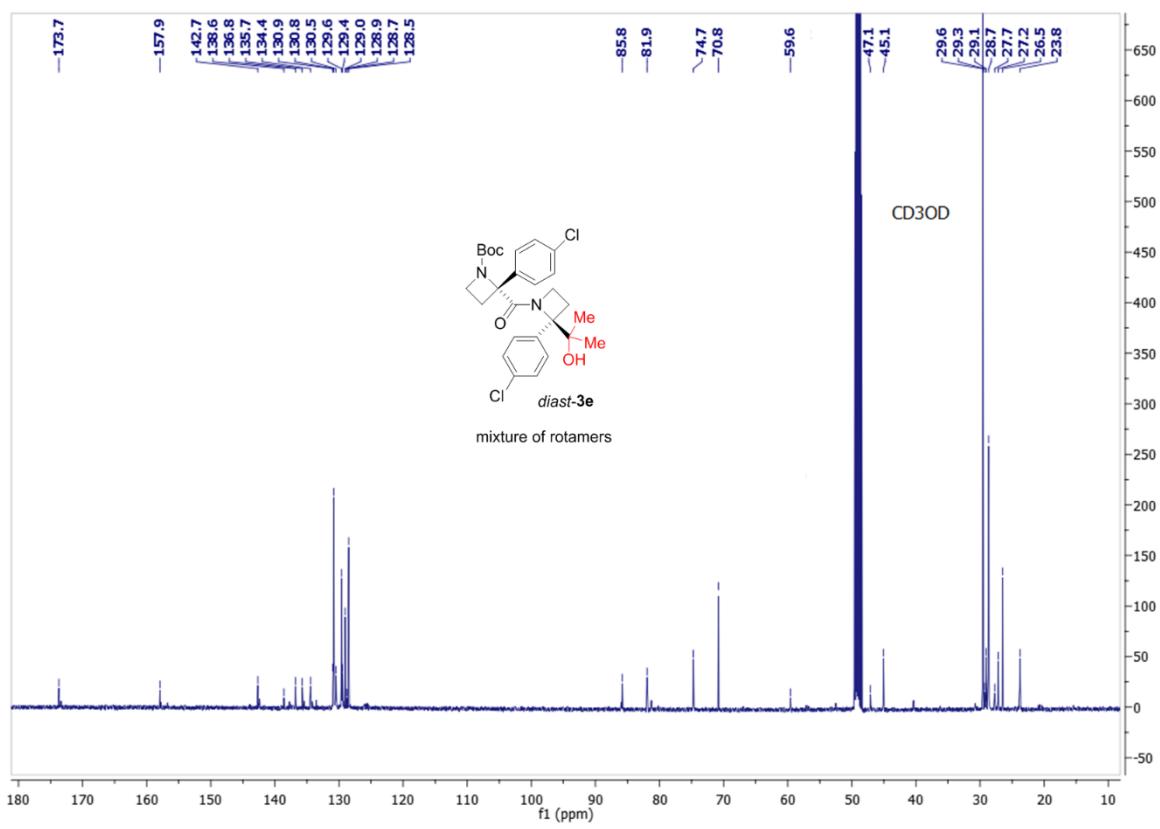
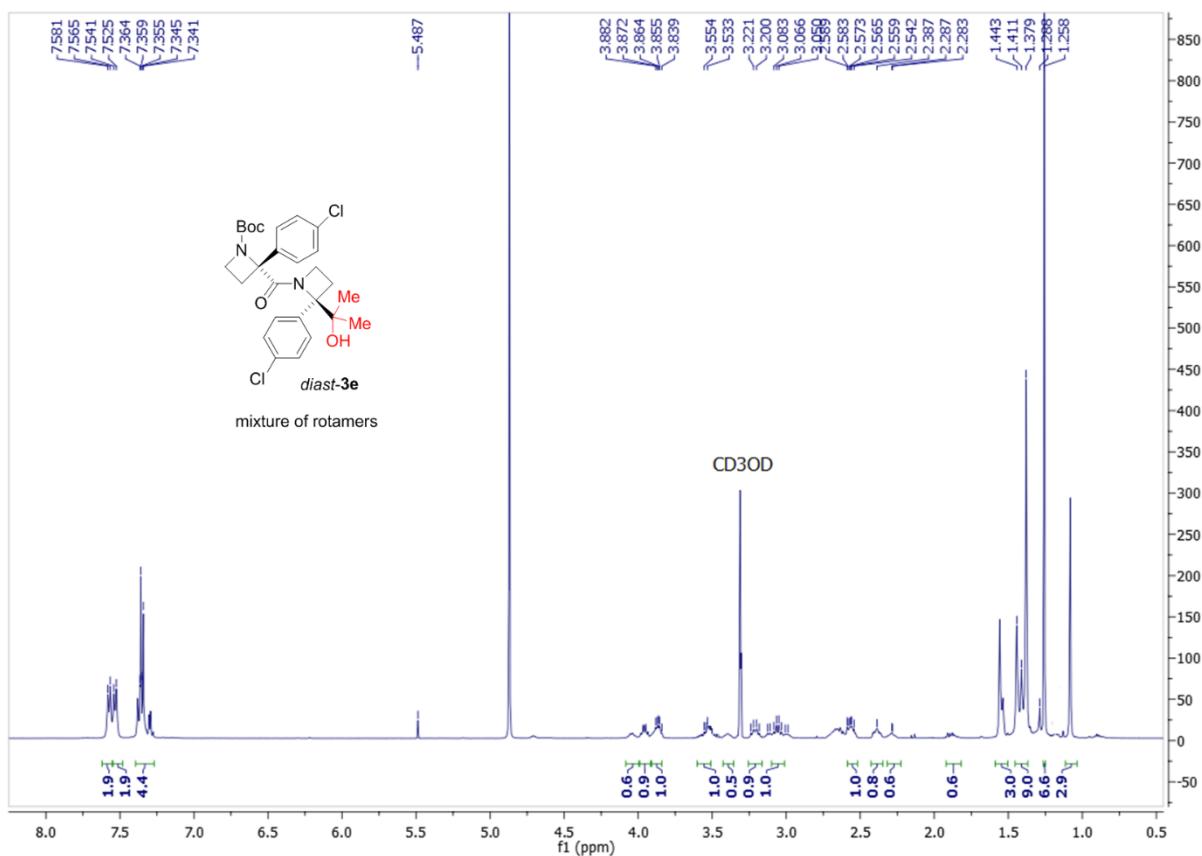


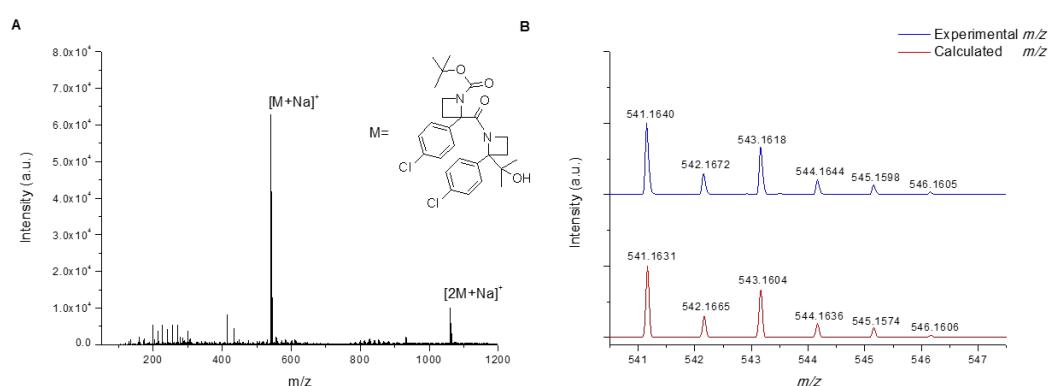
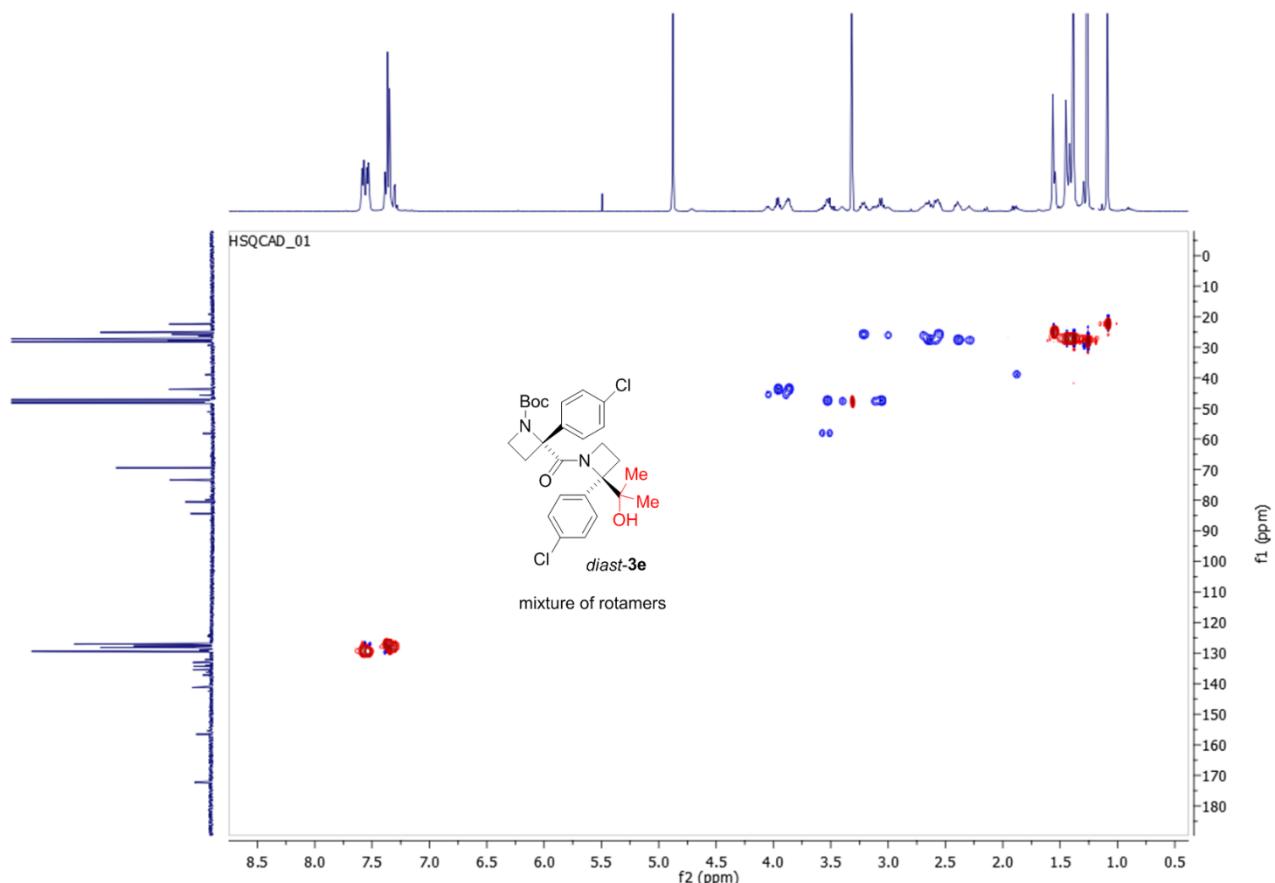


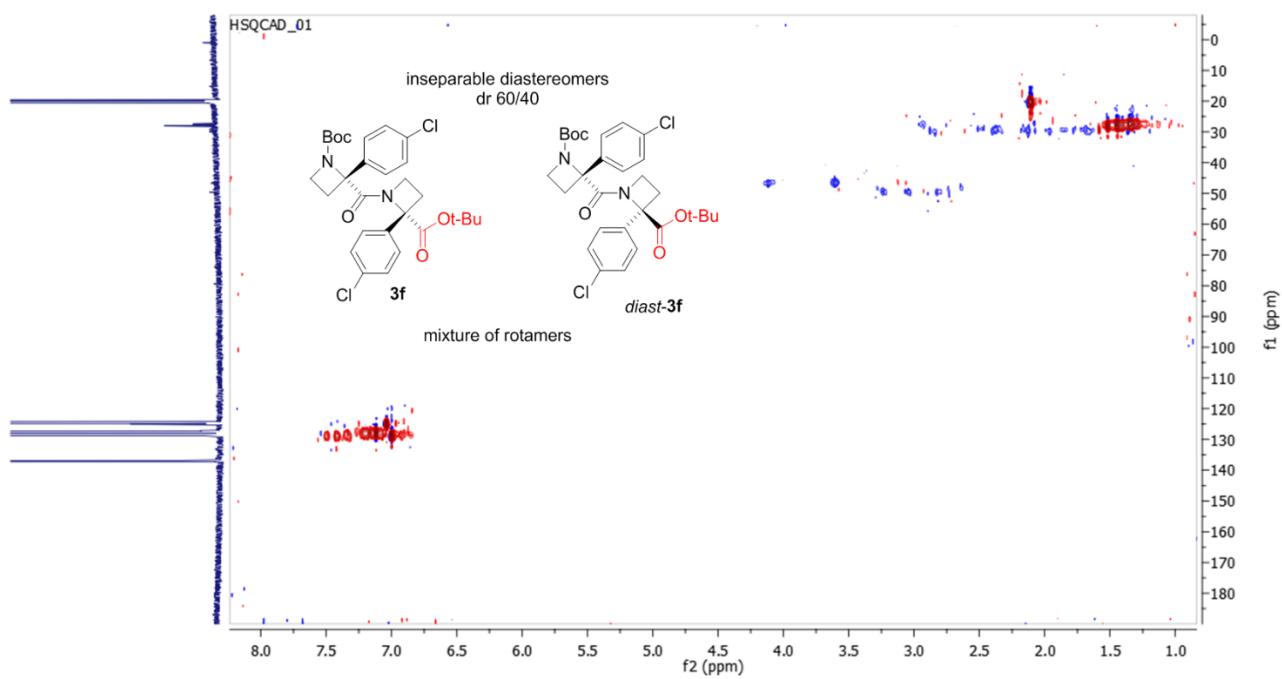
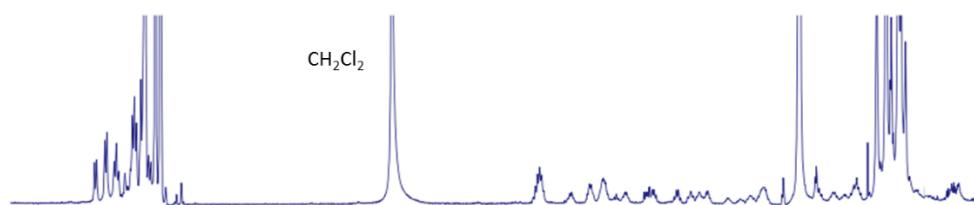
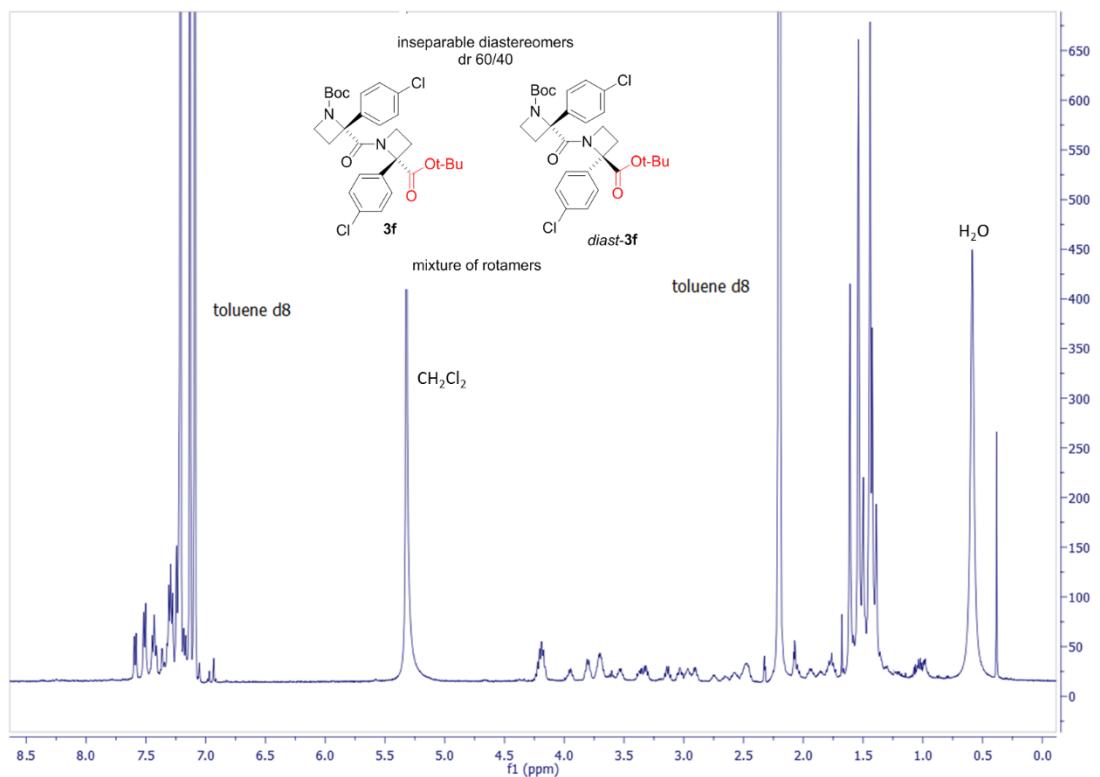


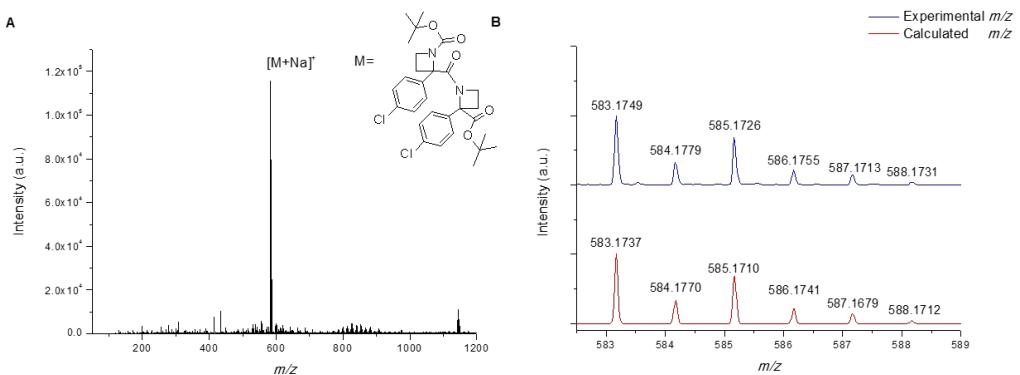






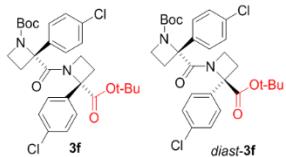






Analysis of the diasteromeric mixture of **3f** and *diast*-**3f** by HPLC using a chiral stationary phase (AD-H 0.46 x 25 cm, Daicel). The four enantiomers were detected.

Acq. Method : C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\GINO\1D CON D RAC.D\CHIRAL1.M  
 Last changed : 4/2/2015 10:25:39 AM by SYSTEM  
 (modified after loading)  
 Analysis Method : C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\GINO\CAP 9 BIS CORRETTO.M  
 Last changed : 7/23/2015 6:41:11 PM by SYSTEM  
 Sample Info : ADH 0.5ml/min 95:5=Hex:IPrO



Additional Info : Peak(s) manually integrated

