

Supporting information for

Efficient pyrido[1,2-*a*]benzimidazole formation from 2-aminopyridines and cyclohexanones under metal-free conditions

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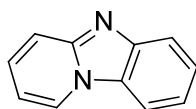
General information:

All experiments were carried out under an atmosphere of oxygen. Flash column chromatography was performed over silica gel 48-75 μm . ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker-AV (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) instrument internally referenced to SiMe_4 , chloroform signals. MS analyses were performed on Agilent 5975 GC-MS instrument (EI). The new compounds were characterized by ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, MS and HRMS. The structures of known compounds were further corroborated by comparing their ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and MS data with those of literature. All reagents were used as received from commercial sources without further purification.

General procedure (3a):

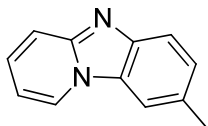
A 10 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with I_2 (50.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol). The reaction vessel was purged with oxygen for three times and was added cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μL , 0.3 mmol), 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane (0.9 mL) by syringe. The sealed vessel was stirred at 160 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (5 mL) and washed with saturated sodium hydroxide solution. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate for three times. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate, and evaporated under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to give **3a** as white solid; yield: 29.6 mg (88%), mp 130-132 $^\circ\text{C}$.

Benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3a**, CAS: 245-47-6)^[1]



^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.46 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 2H), 6.85 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.3, 144.3, 129.2, 128.5, 125.5, 125.1, 120.9, 119.7, 117.8, 110.3, 110.1; MS (EI) m/z (%) 168 (100), 140, 114, 84, 51.

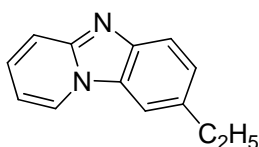
8-Methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3b**)^[2]



The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 4-methylcyclohexanone (**2b**, 36.8 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 32.4 mg, 89% yield of **3b** as white solid, mp 73-74 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.38 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 2H), 6.81 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 147.9, 142.3, 130.8, 128.5, 128.47, 127.2, 124.7, 119.1, 117.6, 109.9, 109.8, 21.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 182 (100), 154, 91, 78, 51.

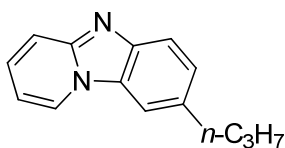
8-Ethylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine (**3c**)



The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 4-ethylcyclohexanone (**2c**, 42.3 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 34.1 mg, 87% yield of **3c** as white solid, mp 38-39 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.42 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 2H), 6.83 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.89 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.1, 142.5, 137.6, 128.7, 128.6, 126.3, 124.9, 119.3, 117.7, 109.9, 108.7, 29.1, 16.1; MS (EI) m/z (%) 196, 181 (100), 90, 78, 51; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 197.1073, found 197.1071.

8-Propylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine (**3d**)

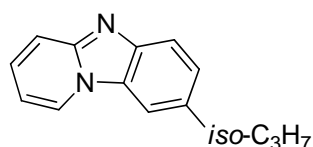


The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and

4-propylcyclohexanone (**2d**, 46.2 μL , 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 35.3 mg, 84% yield of **3d** as pale yellow liquid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.41 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 2H), 6.82 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.82 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.80-1.71 (m, 2H), 0.99 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.1, 142.6, 135.9, 128.6, 128.5, 126.7, 124.8, 119.2, 117.7, 109.8, 109.3, 38.2, 30.0, 13.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 210, 195 (100), 168, 78, 51; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 211.1230, found 211.1228.

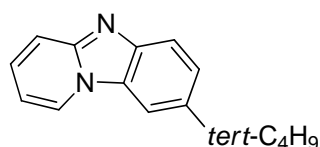
8-(*Iso-propyl*)benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3e**)



The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 4-isopropylcyclohexanone (**2e**, 46.5 μL , 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 34.9 mg, 83% yield of **3e** as white solid, mp 91-92 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.45 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 2H), 6.84 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.19-3.12 (m, 1H), 1.37 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.2, 142.7, 142.4, 128.7, 128.6, 125.1, 124.9, 119.4, 117.8, 109.9, 107.2, 34.3, 24.4; MS (EI) m/z (%) 210, 195 (100), 181, 78, 51; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 211.1230, found 211.1228.

8-(*Tert-butyl*)Benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3f**, CAS: 1243272-97-0)^[3]

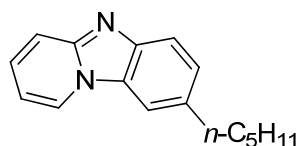


The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 4-(*tert-butyl*)cyclohexanone (**2f**, 51.9 μL , 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 37.2 mg, 83%

yield of **3f** as white solid, mp 90-92 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.47 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.88-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 148.5, 144.8, 142.5, 128.7, 128.6, 125.0, 124.1, 119.2, 117.9, 110.0, 106.3, 35.1, 31.8; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 224, 209 (100), 168, 78, 51.

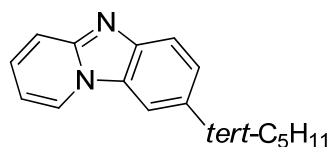
8-Pentylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3g**)



The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 4-pentylcyclohexanone (**2g**, 56.7 μL, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 40.9 mg, 86% yield of **3g** as pale yellow liquid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.41 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 2H), 6.81 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.74-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.38-1.36 (m, 4H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 148.1, 142.6, 136.2, 128.6, 128.5, 126.7, 124.9, 119.2, 117.7, 109.8, 109.3, 36.1, 31.7, 31.3, 22.4, 13.9; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 238, 209 (100), 193, 168, 51; HRMS calcd. for: C₁₄H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺ 239.1543, found 239.1540.

8-(*Tert*-pentyl)Benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3h**)

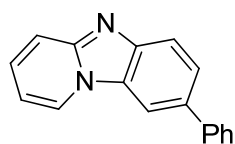


The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 4-(*tert*-pentyl)cyclohexanone (**2h**, 55.7 μL, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 40.5 mg, 85% yield of **3h** as white solid, mp 91-92 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.47 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (s,

1H), 7.67 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.77 (q, $J = 7.06$ Hz, 2H), 1.42 (s, 6H), 0.7 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.3, 142.8, 142.3, 128.5, 128.4, 124.9, 124.3, 119.0, 117.7, 109.8, 107.1, 38.1, 37.0, 28.8, 9.1; MS (EI) m/z (%) 238, 209 (100), 181, 78, 51; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 239.1543, found 239.1540.

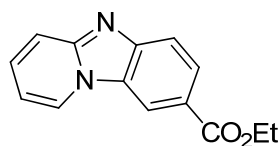
8-Phenylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3i**)



The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 4-phenylcyclohexanone (**2i**, 52.3 mg, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 42.9 mg, 88% yield of **3i** as white solid, mp 55-56 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.50 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.74-7.69 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.36 (m, 4H), 6.88 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.7, 143.6, 141.1, 134.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 127.2, 126.8, 125.3, 125.0, 119.7, 117.7, 110.2, 108.5; MS (EI) m/z (%) 244 (100), 207, 122, 78, 51; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 245.1073, found 245.1070.

Ethyl benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine-8-carboxylate (**3j**, CAS: 1312175-23-7)^[1]

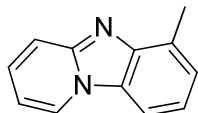


The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and ethyl 4-oxocyclohexanecarboxylate (**2j**, 47.8 μL , 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 39.8 mg, 83% yield of **3j** as white solid, mp 136-137 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.69 (s, 1H), 8.58 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz,

1H), 4.46 (q, $J = 7.06$ Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 166.5, 150.2, 147.4, 130.6, 128.1, 126.5, 125.4, 122.6, 118.9, 117.8, 112.7, 110.9, 60.8, 14.2; MS (EI) m/z (%) 240, 195 (100), 167, 140, 51.

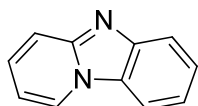
6-Methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3k**)^[3]



The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 2-methylcyclohexanone (**2k**, 36.1 μL , 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 23.3 mg, 64% yield of **3k** as white solid, mp 137-139 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.42 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 147.8, 143.7, 129.7, 128.9, 128.0, 125.5, 125.1, 120.9, 117.9, 110.1, 107.7, 17.1; MS (EI) m/z (%) 182 (100), 127, 91, 78, 51.

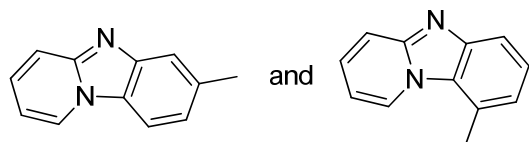
Benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3a**, CAS: 245-47-6)^[1]



The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 2-chlorocyclohexanone (**2l**, 34.3 μL , 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 25.5 mg, 76% yield of **3a** as white solid, mp 130-132 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.46 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 2H), 6.85 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.3, 144.3, 129.2, 128.5, 125.5, 125.1, 120.9, 119.7, 117.8, 110.3, 110.1; MS (EI) m/z (%) 168 (100), 140, 114, 84, 51.

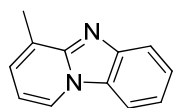
7-Methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine and 9-methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3m**, CAS: 1243272-98-1 and **3m'**, CAS: 474537-07-0)^[2, 4]



The reaction was conducted with pyridin-2-amine (**1a**, 19.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 3-methylcyclohexanone (**2m**, 36.9 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 32.0 mg, 88% yield of **3m** and **3m'** as white solid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.78 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 0.6H), 8.41 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 0.4H), 7.81-7.67 (m, 2.4H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 1.6H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.4H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.6H), 6.85-6.79 (m, 1H), 2.92 (s, 1.8H), 2.57 (s, 1.2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.5, 144.6, 135.6, 128.9, 128.87, 128.5, 128.47, 127.4, 125.2, 125.0, 123.2, 122.6, 119.3, 117.9, 117.7, 117.5, 110.1, 110.06, 110.0, 109.96, 109.8, 109.78, 21.9, 19.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 182 (100), 154, 91, 78, 51.

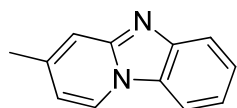
4-Methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3n**, CAS: 23275-60-7)^[2]



The reaction was conducted with 3-methylpyridin-2-amine (**1b**, 20.4 μ L, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 29.1 mg, 80% yield of **3n** as white solid, mp 118-120 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.32 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.9, 144.0, 129.02, 129.0, 127.5, 125.3, 122.7, 120.8, 119.7, 110.4, 110.2, 17.4; MS (EI) m/z (%) 182 (100), 129, 91, 77, 51.

3-Methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3o**, CAS: 72570-64-0)^[3]

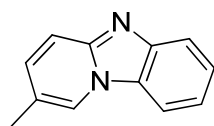


The reaction was conducted with 4-methylpyridin-2-amine (**1c**, 21.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and

cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 30.2 mg, 83% yield of **3o** as white solid, mp 162-164 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.32 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 148.8, 144.4, 140.6, 128.4, 125.2, 124.0, 120.3, 119.3, 115.6, 112.9, 110.0, 21.7; MS (EI) m/z (%) 182 (100), 129, 91, 77, 51.

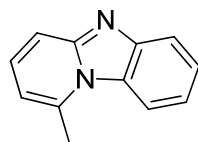
2-Methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3p**, CAS: 88474-34-4)^[2]



The reaction was conducted with 5-methylpyridin-2-amine (**1d**, 21.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 30.9 mg, 85% yield of **3p** as white solid, mp 144-145 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 147.5, 144.4, 132.5, 128.4, 125.1, 122.4, 120.6, 119.7, 119.6, 117.0, 110.2, 17.9; MS (EI) m/z (%) 182 (100), 129, 91, 77, 51.

1-Methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3q**)^[2]

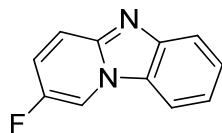


The reaction was conducted with 6-methylpyridin-2-amine (**1e**, 21.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 28.4 mg, 78% yield of **3q** as white solid, mp 96-98 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 2H), 6.62 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H); ^{13}C

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 149.6, 144.9, 139.0, 129.9, 129.3, 125.1, 120.6, 119.6, 115.2, 114.7, 110.8, 21.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 182 (100), 154, 91, 78, 51.

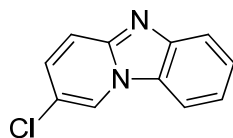
2-Fluorobenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3r, CAS: 1445436-70-3)^[5]



The reaction was conducted with 5-fluoropyridin-2-amine (**1f**, 22.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to provide 29.8 mg, 80% yield of **3r** as pale yellow solid, mp 200-201 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 151.5 (d, *J* = 235.8 Hz), 145.9, 145.1, 129.17 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 125.7, 121.7 (d, *J* = 25.9 Hz), 121.4, 120.3, 118.5 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 111.5 (d, *J* = 39.4 Hz), 110.4; MS (EI) m/z (%) 186 (100), 158, 93, 76, 51; HRMS calcd. for: C₁₁H₈N₂F [M+H]⁺ 187.0666, found 187.0665.

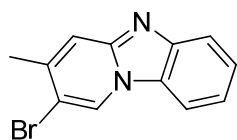
2-Chlorobenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3s)^[6]



The reaction was conducted with 5-chloropyridin-2-amine (**1g**, 25.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to provide 35.5 mg, 88% yield of **3s** as pale yellow solid, mp 202-204 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.50 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 146.4, 144.6, 130.6, 128.4, 126.0, 123.0, 121.7, 120.2, 118.3, 118.2, 110.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 202 (100), 182, 167, 76, 51.

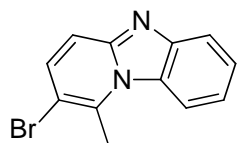
2-Bromo-3-methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3t**)



The reaction was conducted with 5-bromo-4-methylpyridin-2-amine (**1h**, 37.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to provide 42.6 mg, 82% yield of **3t** as pale yellow solid, mp 210-212 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.61 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 147.5, 144.7, 140.1, 128.1, 125.8, 125.2, 121.1, 119.9, 116.6, 110.2, 108.6, 23.1; MS (EI) m/z (%) 260 (100), 207, 181, 77, 51; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{Br}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 261.0022, found 261.0020.

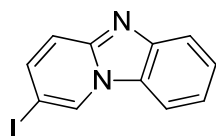
2-Bromo-1-methylbenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3u**)



The reaction was conducted with 5-bromo-6-methylpyridin-2-amine (**1i**, 37.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to provide 40.6 mg, 78% yield of **3u** as pale yellow solid, mp 157-158 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 147.9, 144.9, 137.1, 133.1, 130.1, 125.2, 121.1, 119.8, 115.8, 114.7, 105.9, 20.4; MS (EI) m/z (%) 260 (100), 207, 181, 77, 51; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{Br}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 261.0022, found 261.0020.

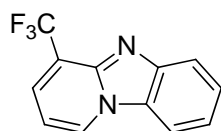
2-Iodobenzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3v**)



The reaction was conducted with 5-iodopyridin-2-amine (**1j**, 44.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to provide 45.3 mg, 77% yield of **3v** as pale yellow solid, mp 188-189 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.69 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 146.6, 144.2, 136.8, 130.3, 127.9, 126.1, 121.7, 120.1, 119.1, 110.3, 71.8; MS (EI) m/z (%) 294 (100), 207, 167, 140, 51. HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{I}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 294.9727, found 294.9722.

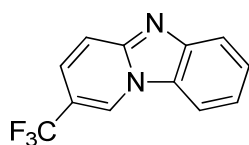
4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3w**)



The reaction was conducted with 3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-amine (**1k**, 32.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to provide 41.5 mg, 88% yield of **3w** as pale yellow solid, mp 124-125 $^{\circ}$ C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.61 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 144.3, 143.4, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9 (q, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 126.4, 122.7 (q, $J = 270.4$ Hz), 122.1, 120.5, 118.9 (q, $J = 33.5$ Hz), 110.4, 108.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 236 (100), 167, 118, 93, 51; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{F}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 237.0634, found 237.0632.

2-(Trifluoromethyl)benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3x**, CAS: 1445436-74-7)^[5]

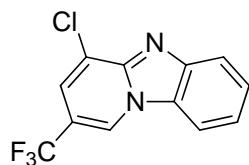


The reaction was conducted with 5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-amine (**1l**, 32.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μ L, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column

chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to provide 42.5 mg, 90% yield of **3x** as pale yellow solid, mp 184-186 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.82 (s, 1H), 8.00-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 147.4, 144.8, 128.5, 126.5, 124.6 (q, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 124.4 (q, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 123.4 (q, *J* = 269.1 Hz), 122.1, 120.3, 118.5, 114.3 (q, *J* = 34.2 Hz), 110.3; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 236 (100), 167, 118, 93, 51.

4-Chloro-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (**3y**)



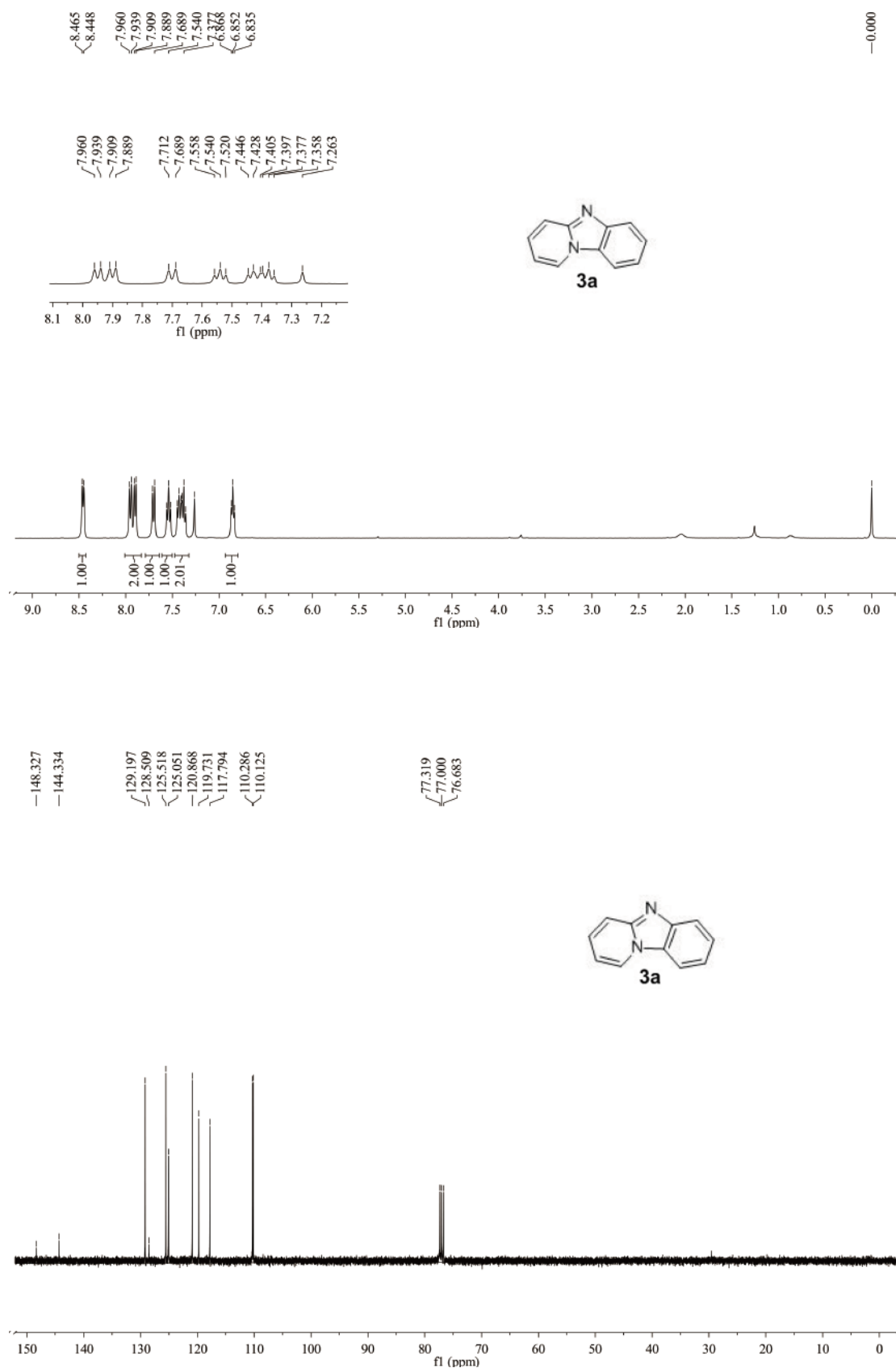
The reaction was conducted with 3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-amine (**1m**, 39.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**2a**, 31.2 μL, 0.3 mmol). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 9:1) to provide 49.7 mg, 92% yield of **3y** as pale yellow solid, mp 172-173 °C.

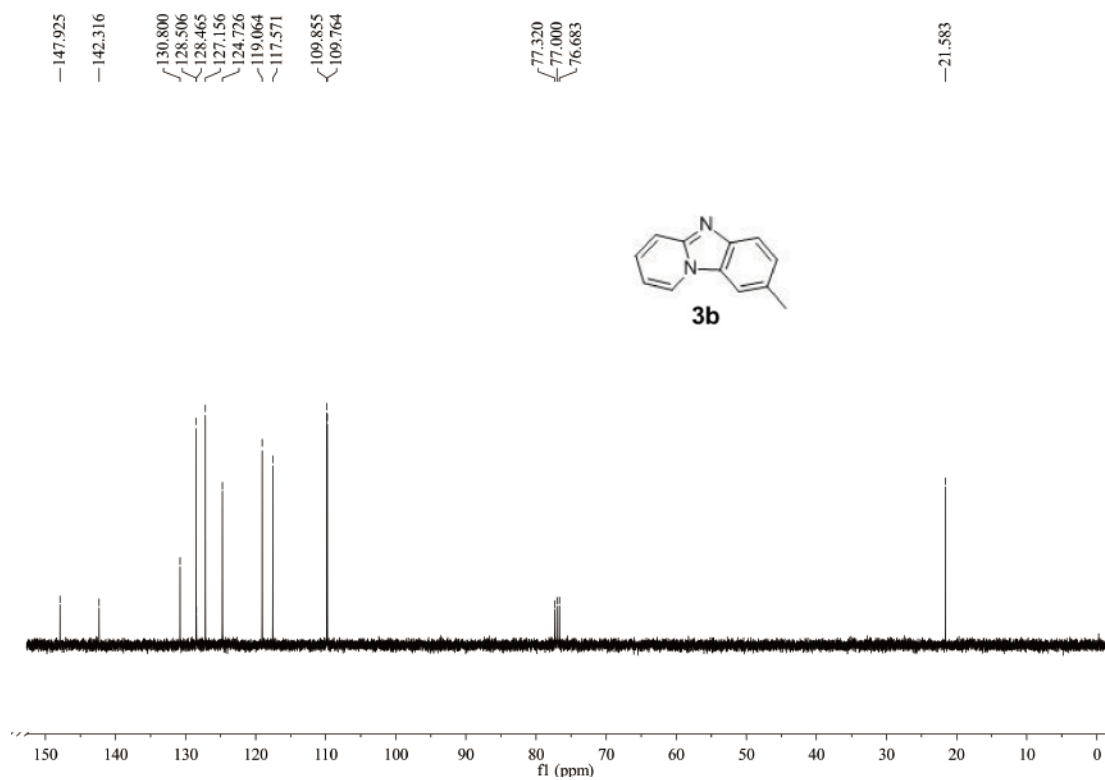
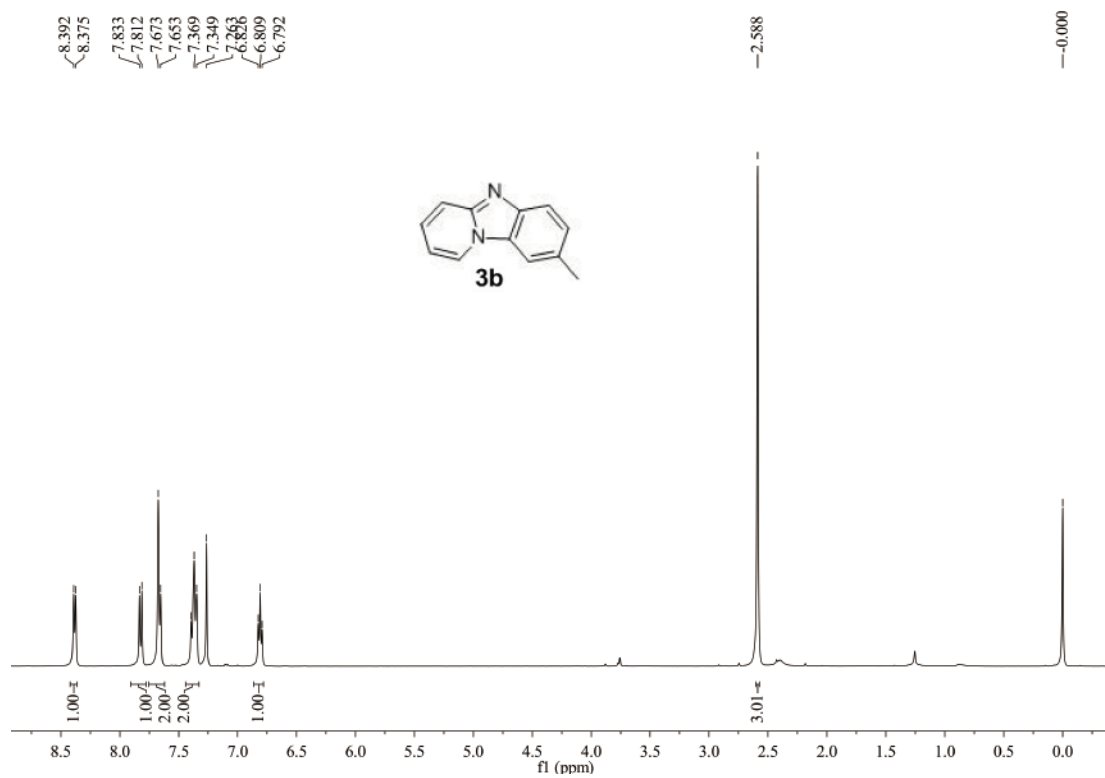
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 144.8, 144.3, 129.4, 126.9, 124.4, 123.2 (q, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 123.0, 122.9 (q, *J* = 5 Hz), 122.8 (q, *J* = 269.3 Hz), 120.9, 114.1 (q, *J* = 34.8 Hz), 110.6; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 270 (100), 235, 135, 75, 51; HRMS calcd. for: C₁₂H₇N₂ClF₃ [M+H]⁺ 271.0244, found 271.0242.

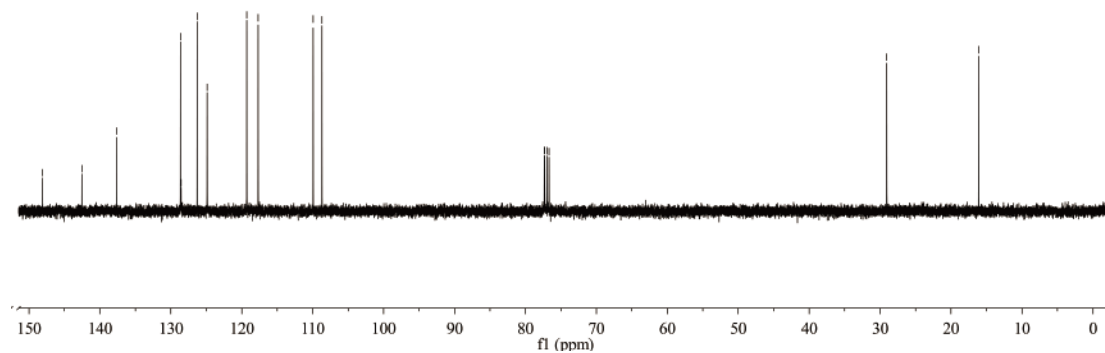
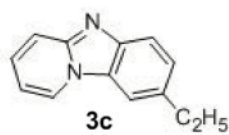
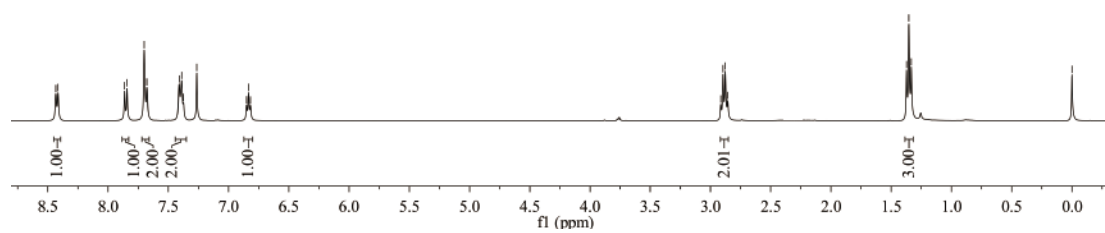
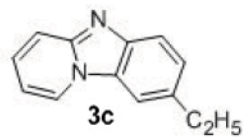
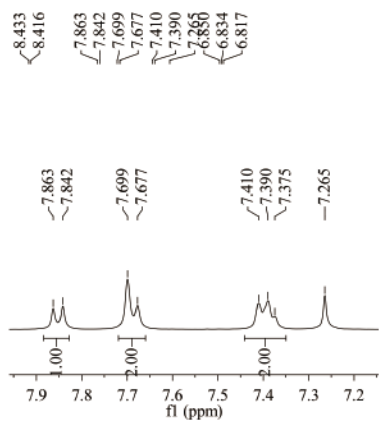
References

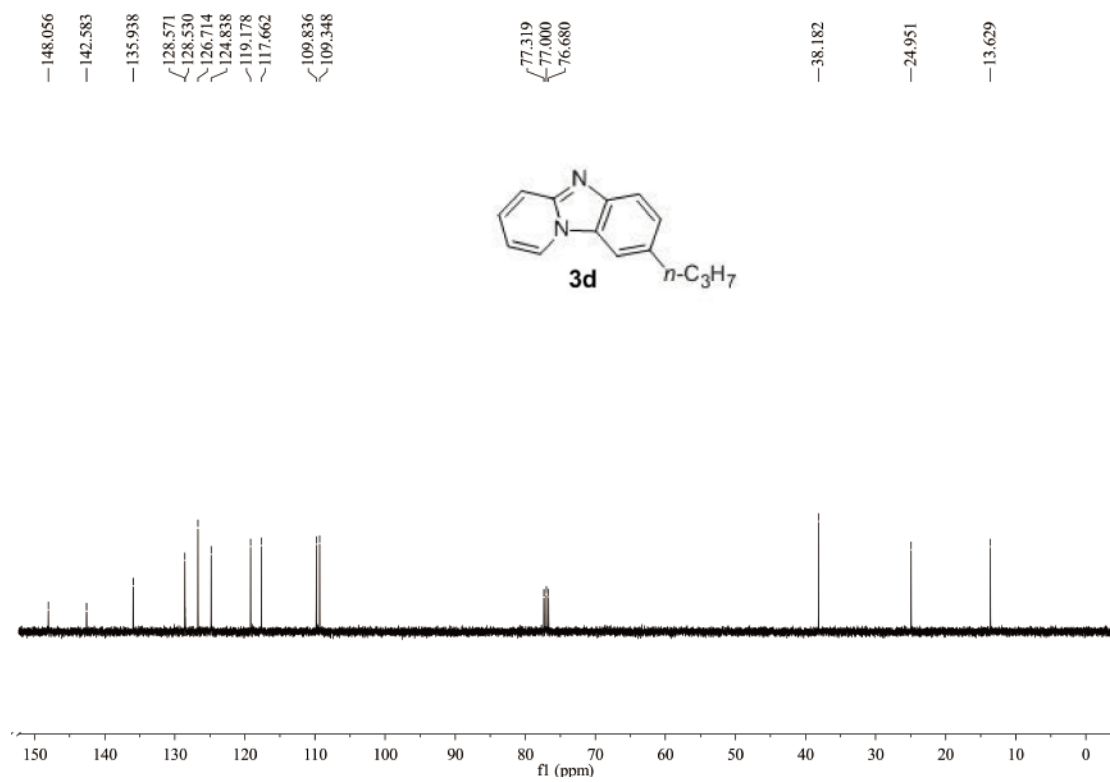
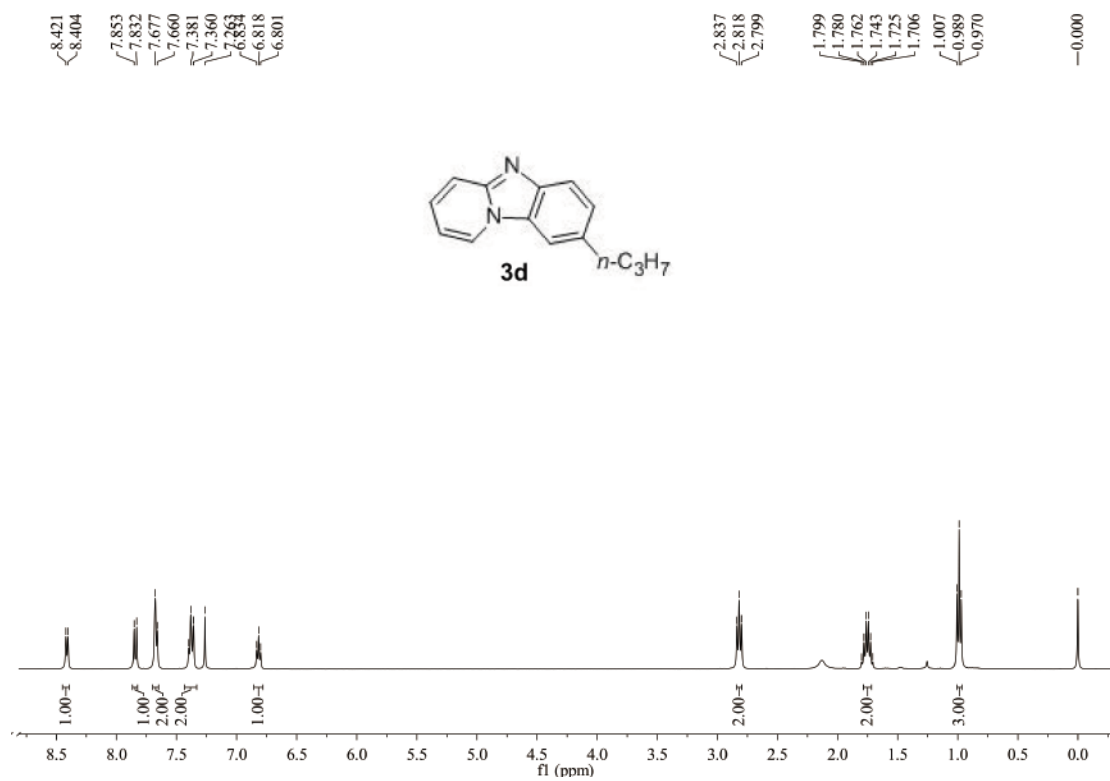
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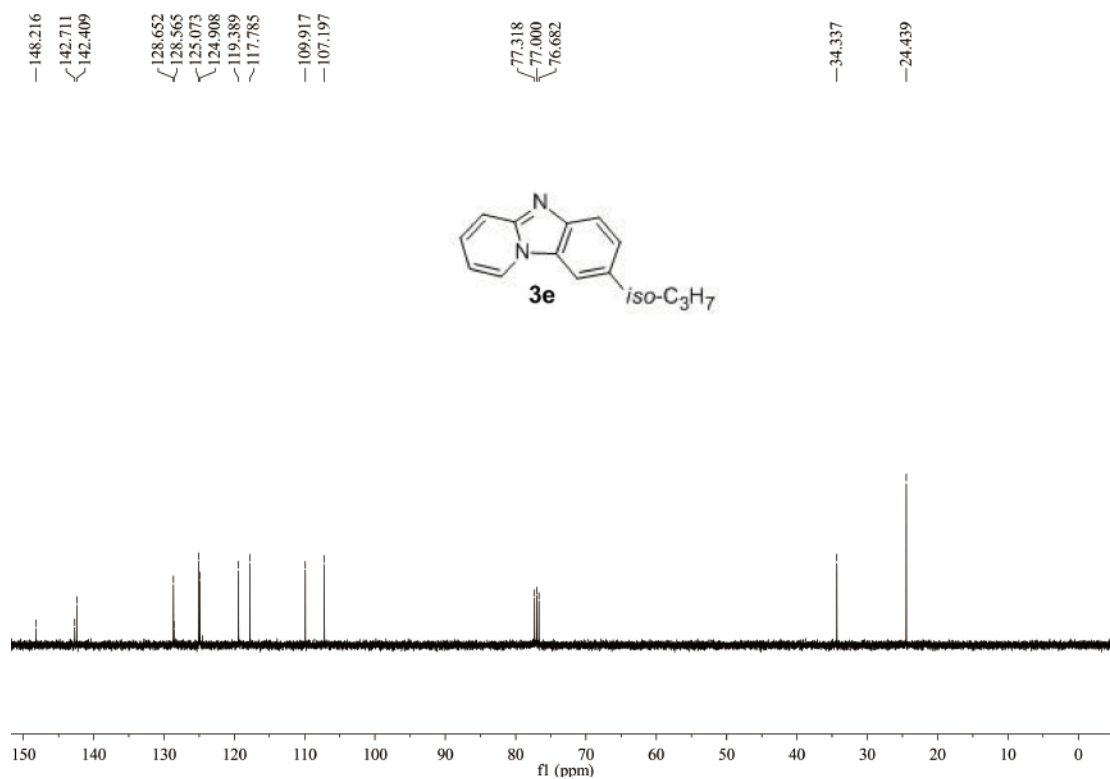
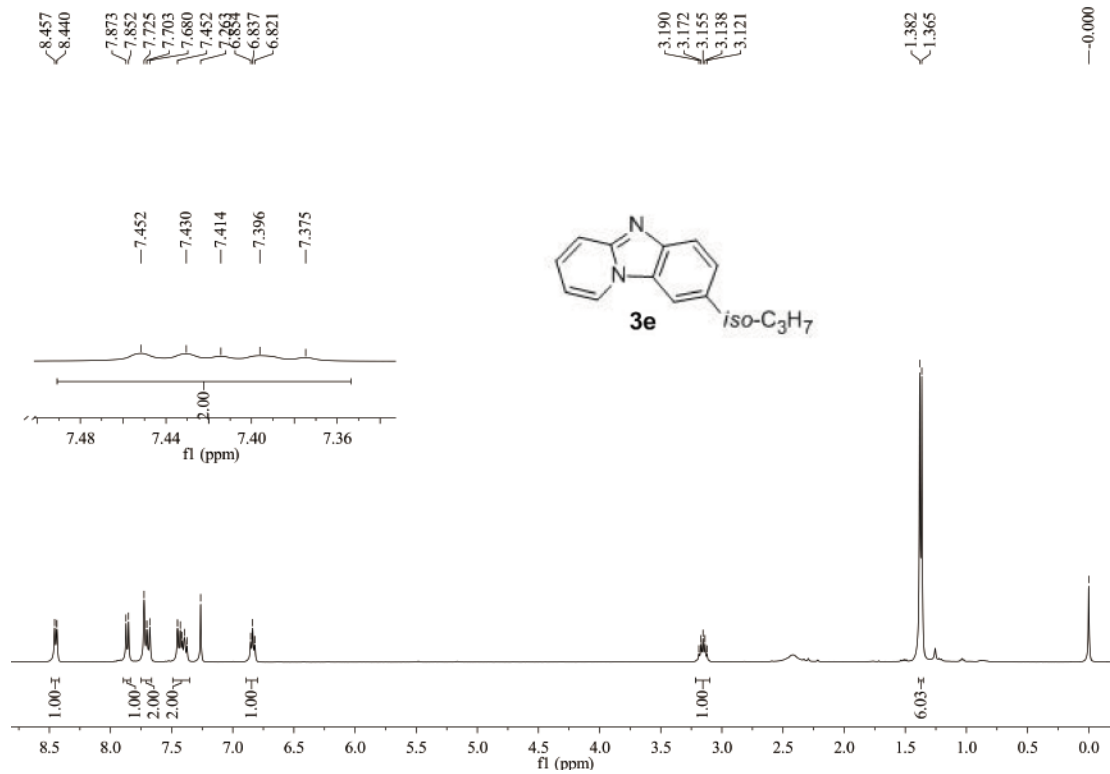
^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

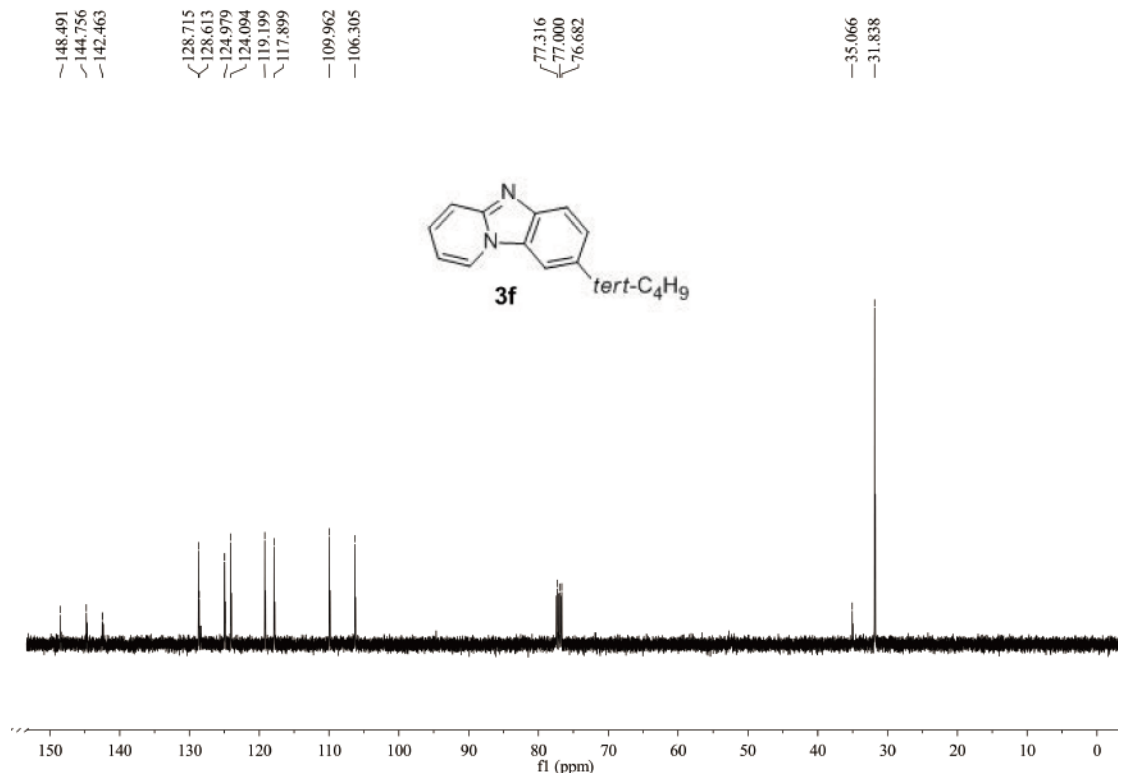
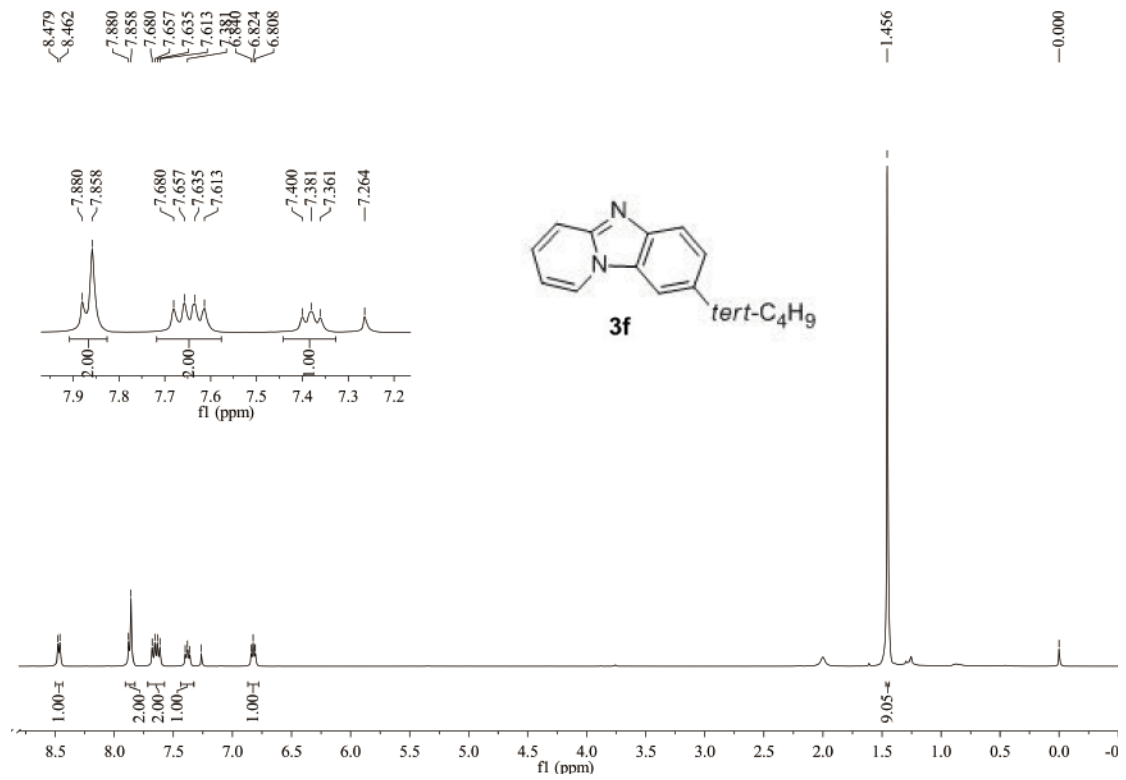


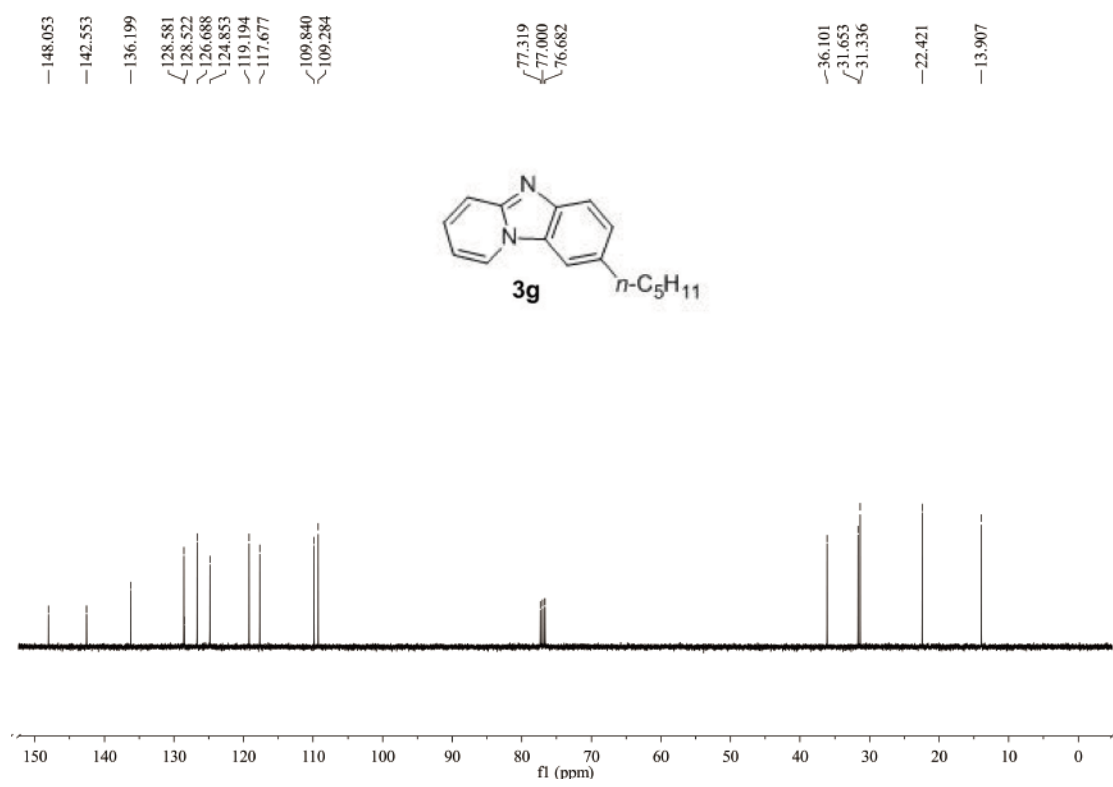
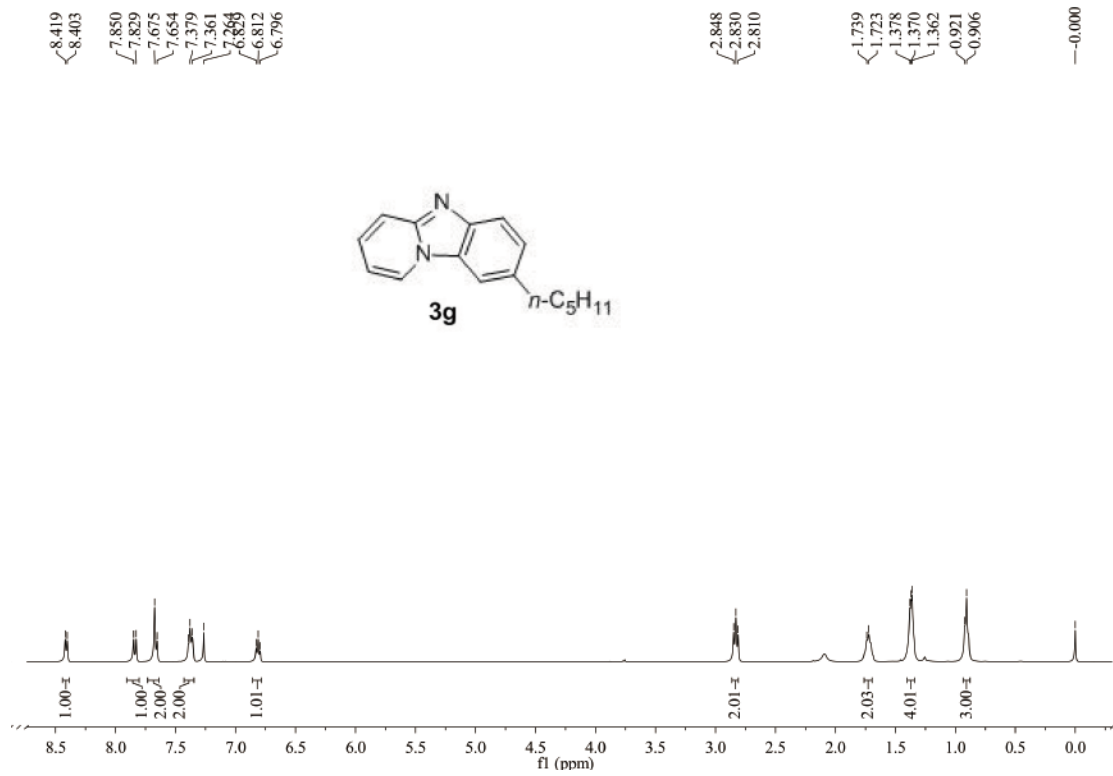


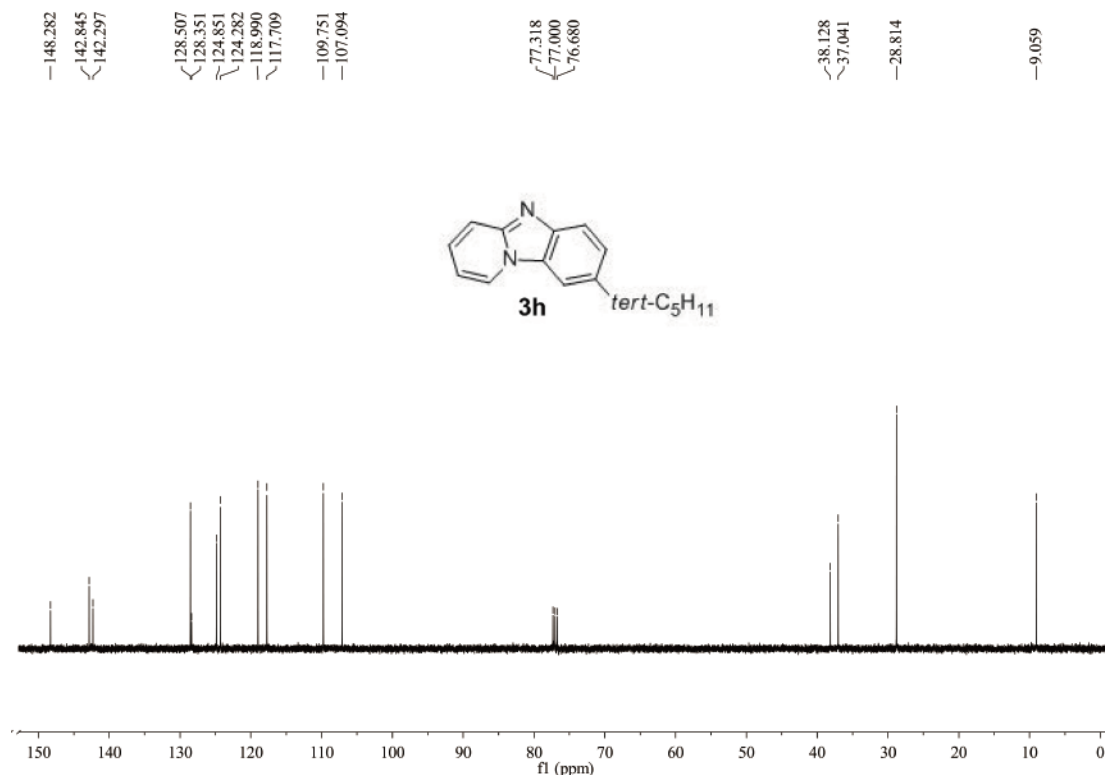
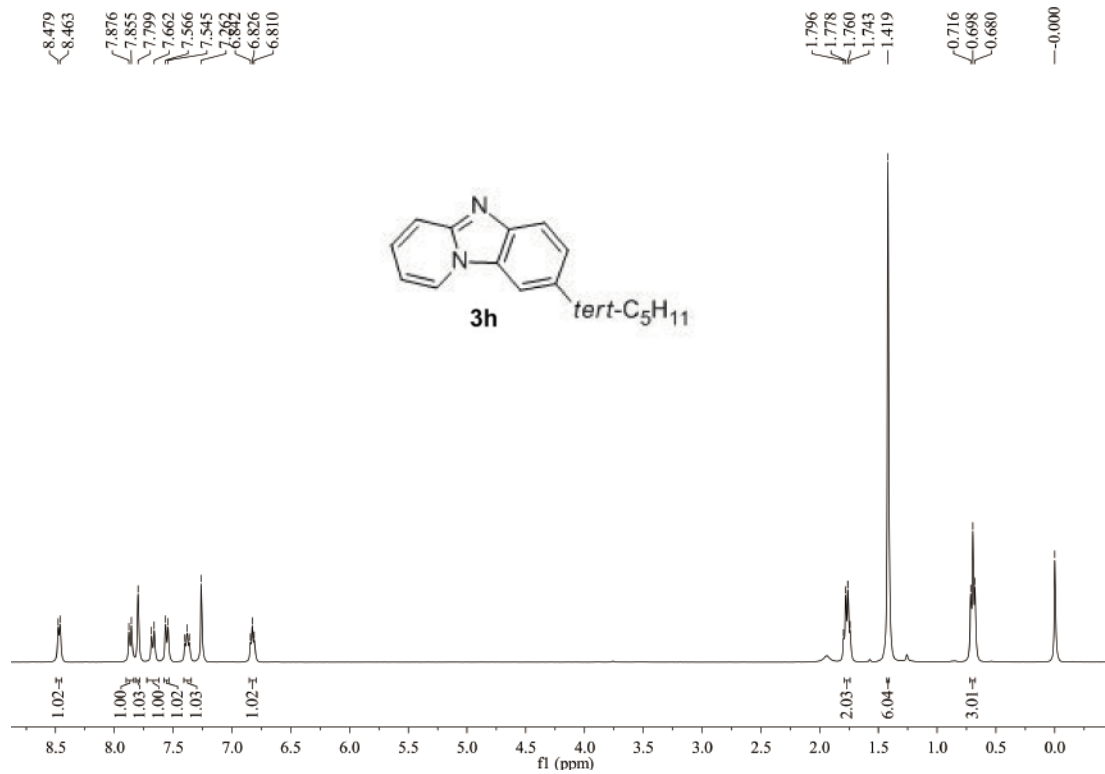


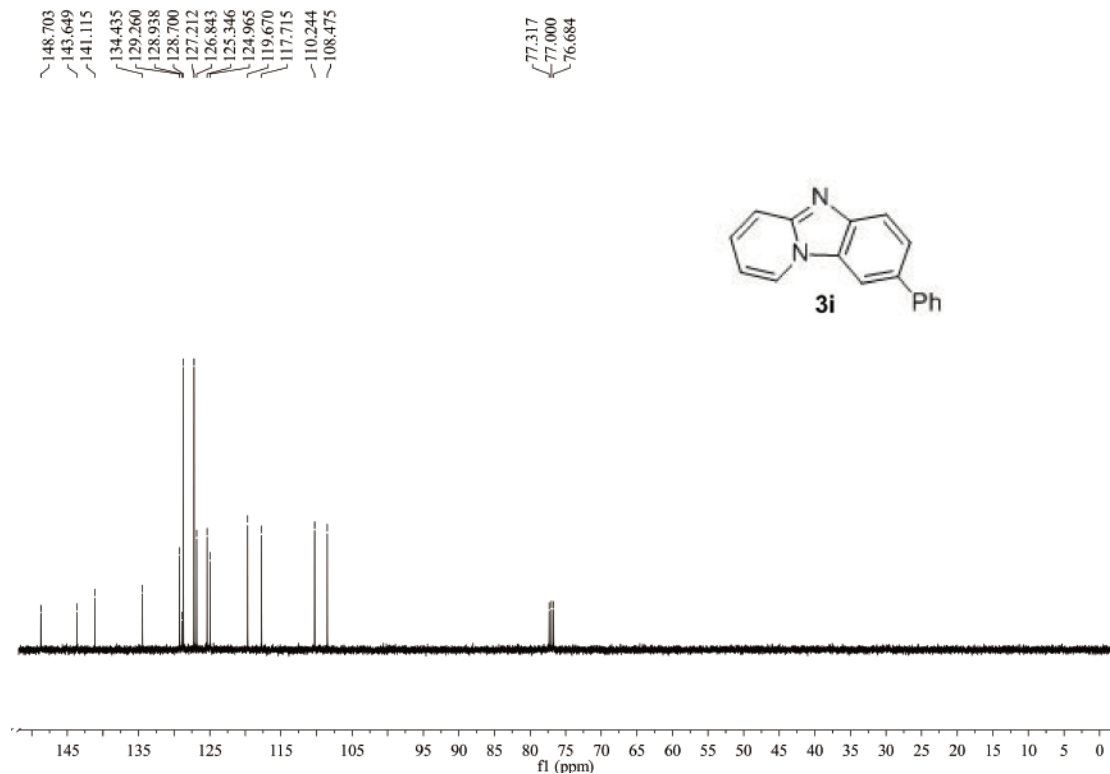
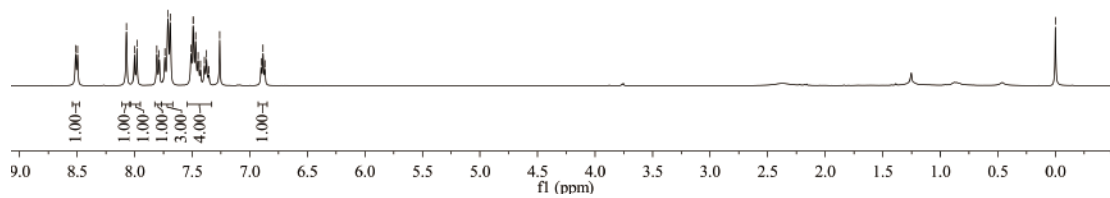
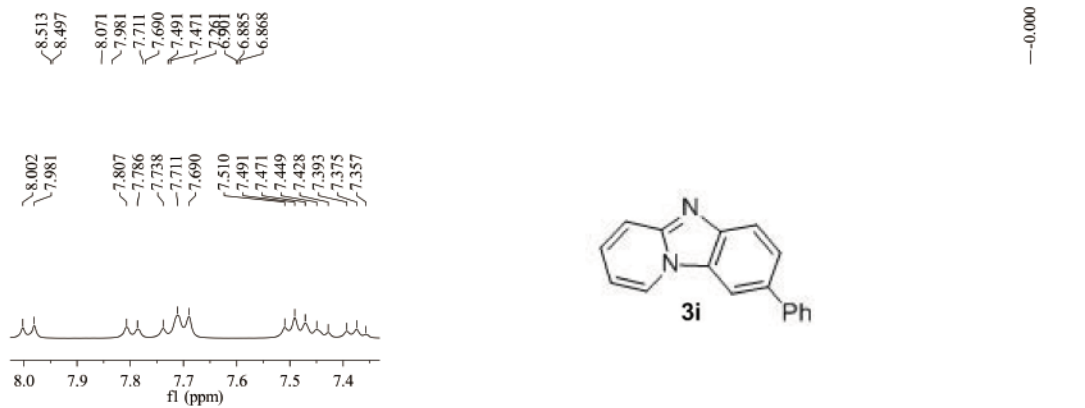


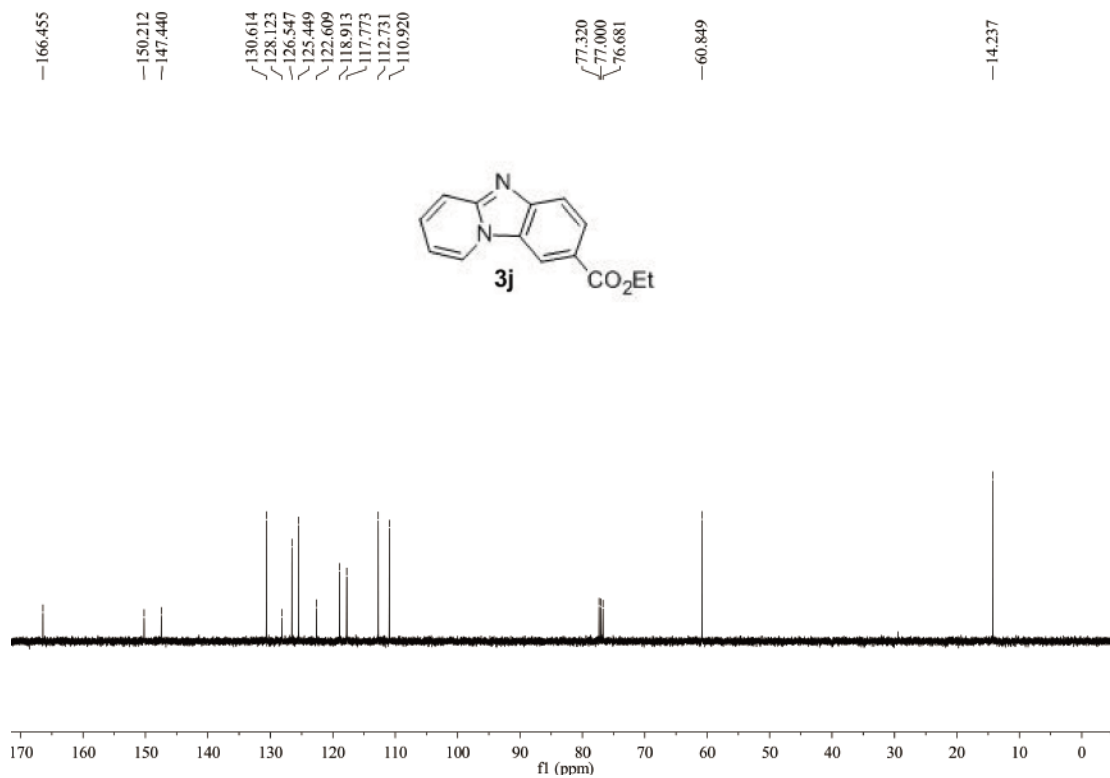
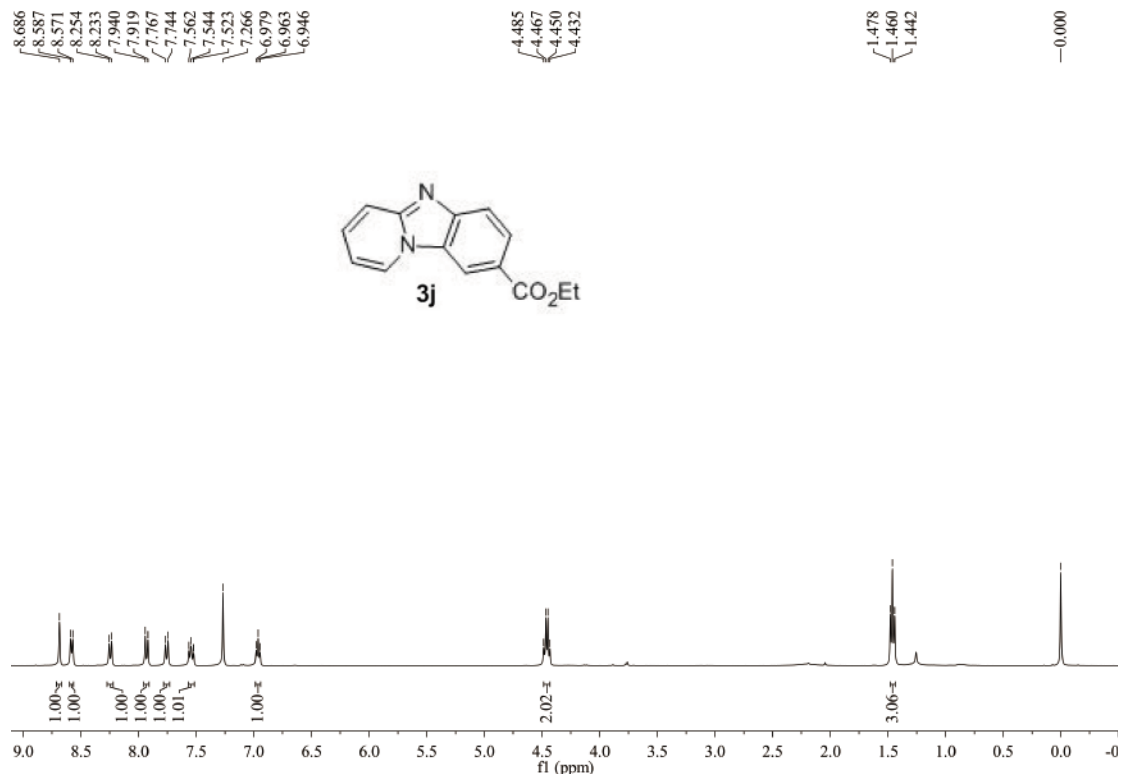


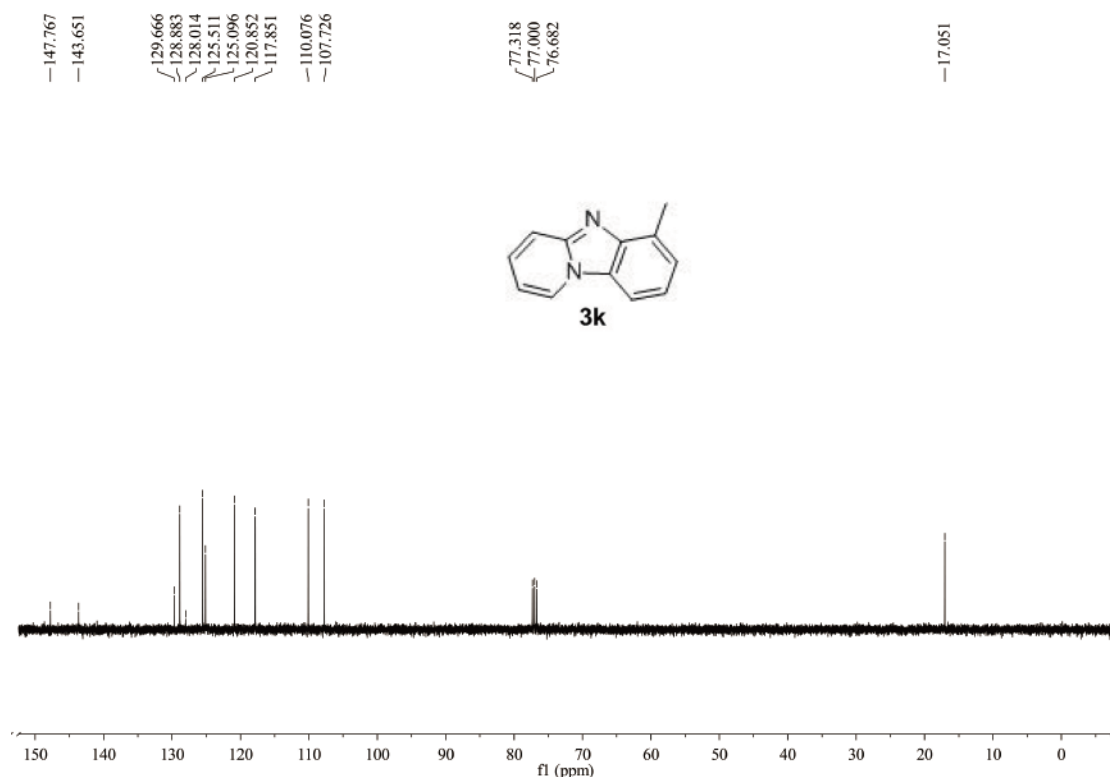
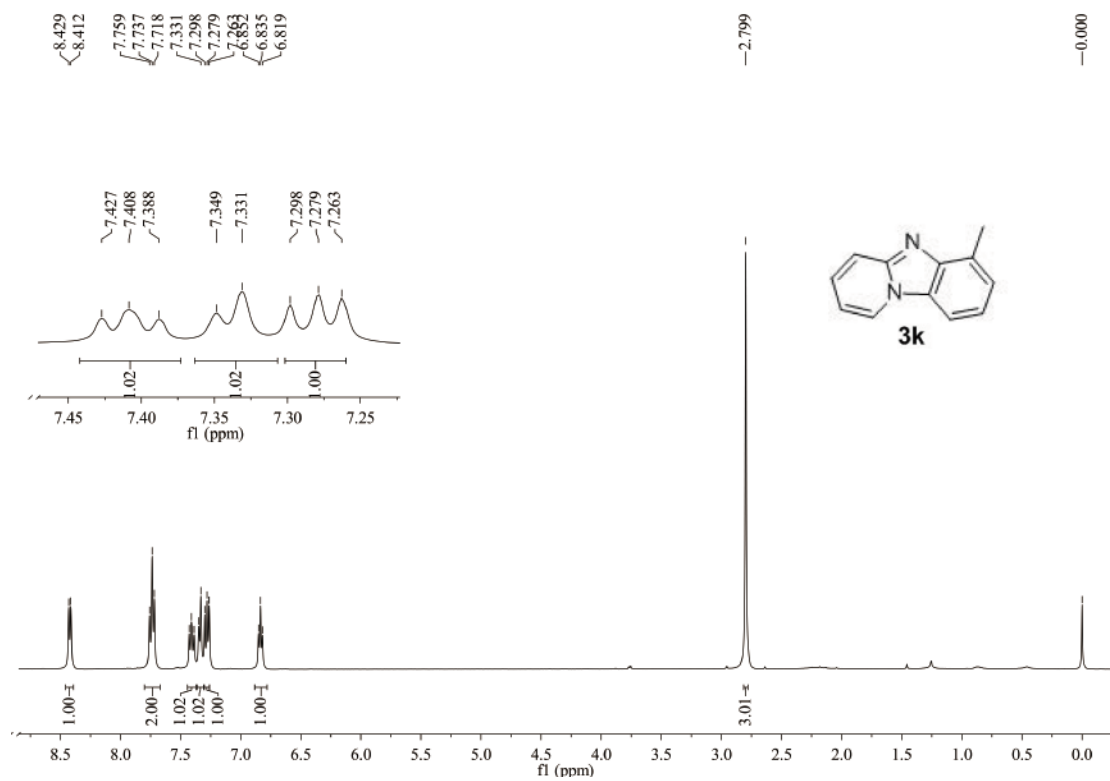


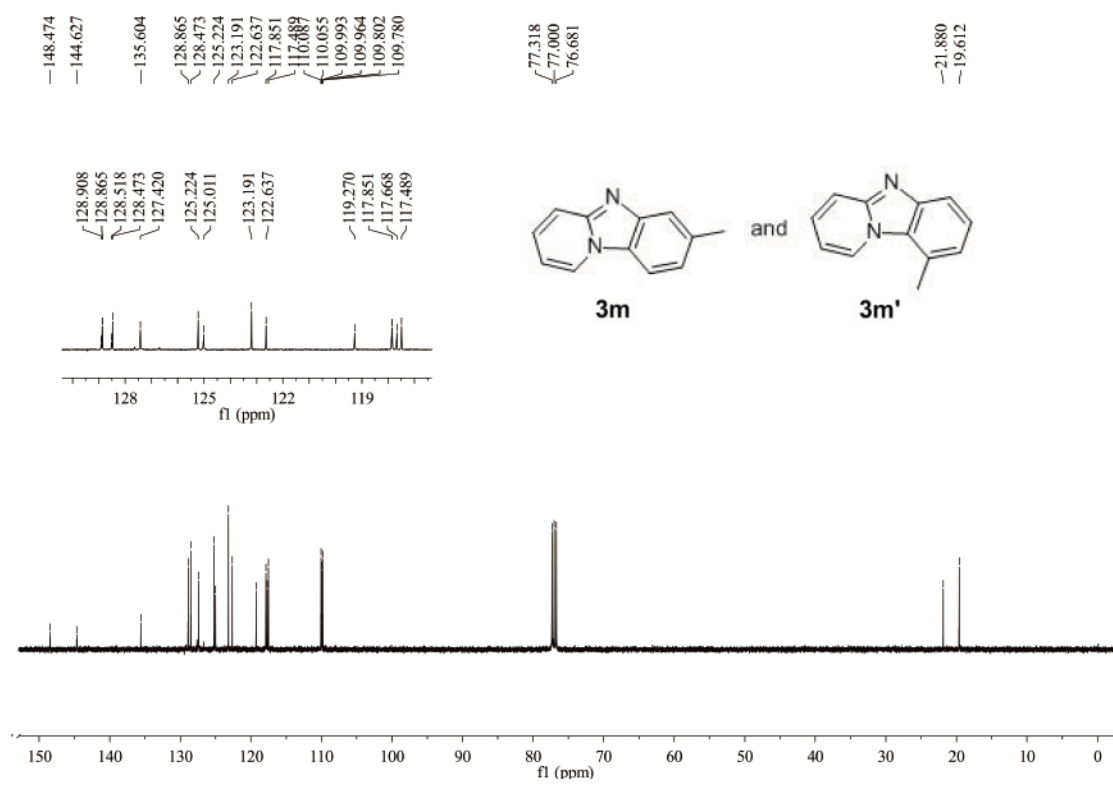
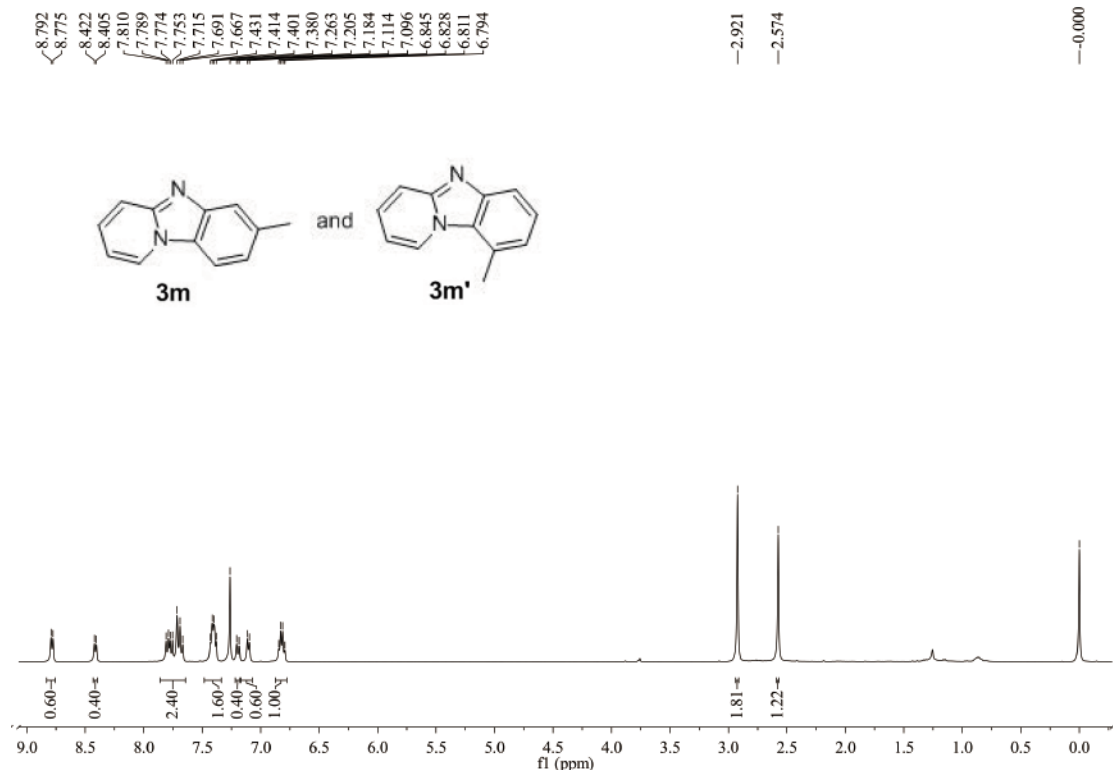


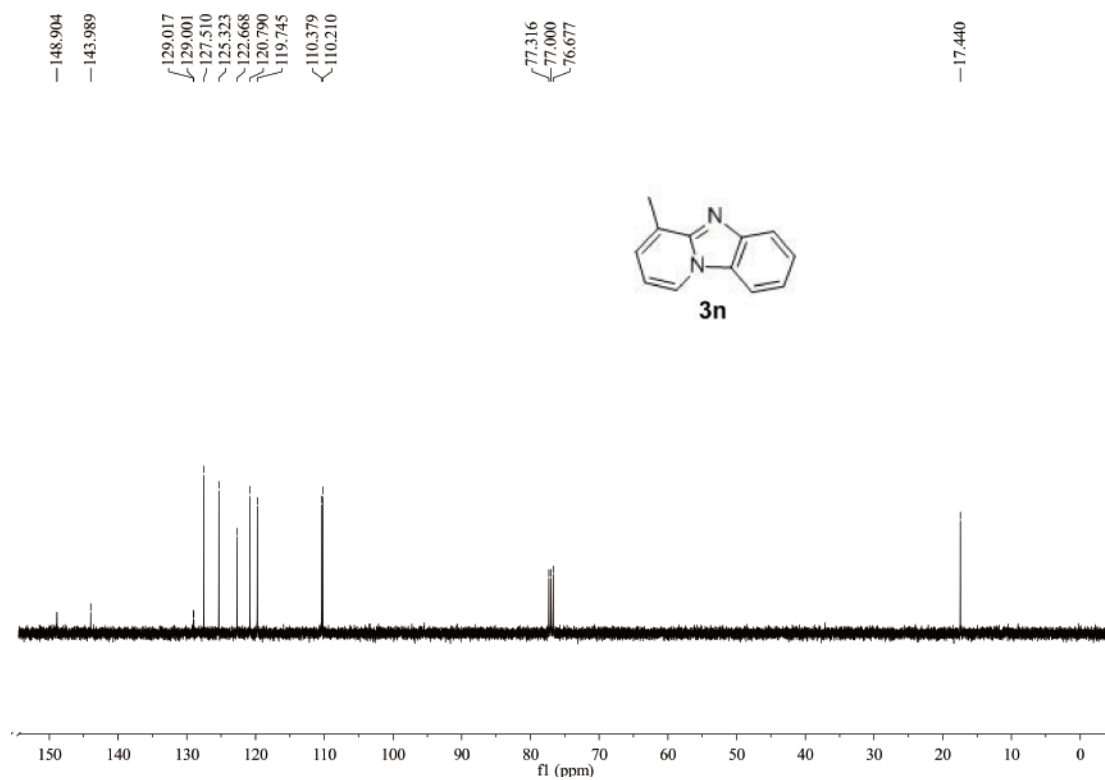
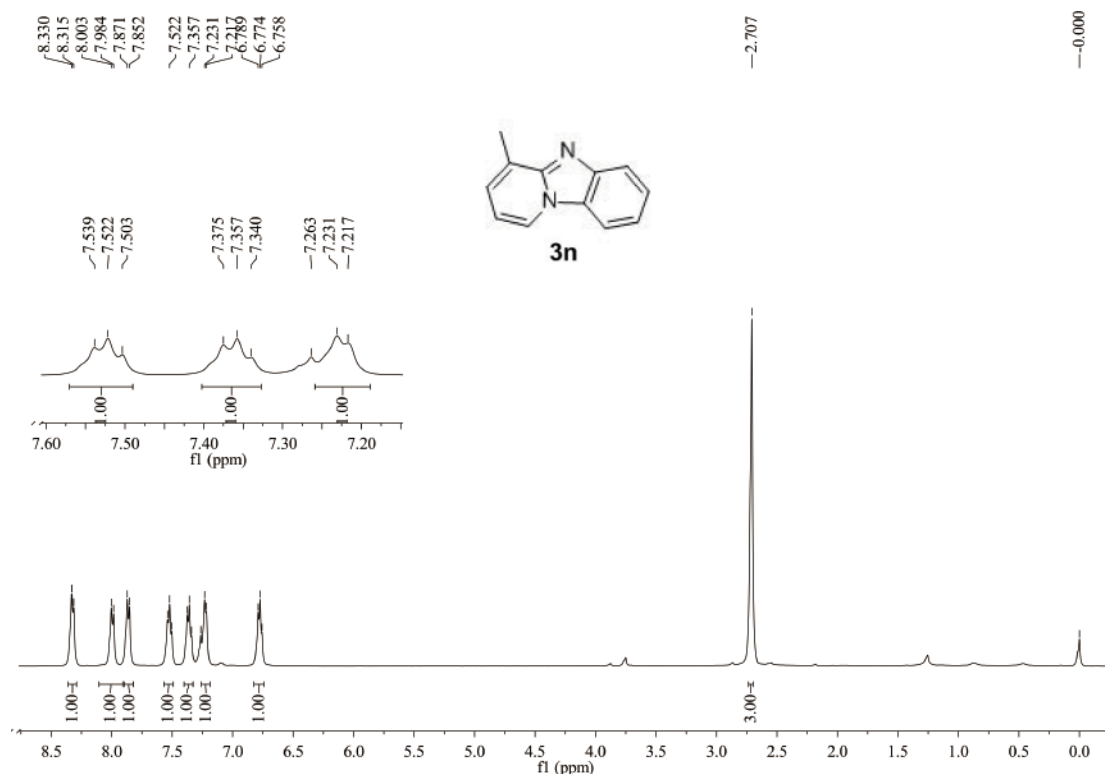


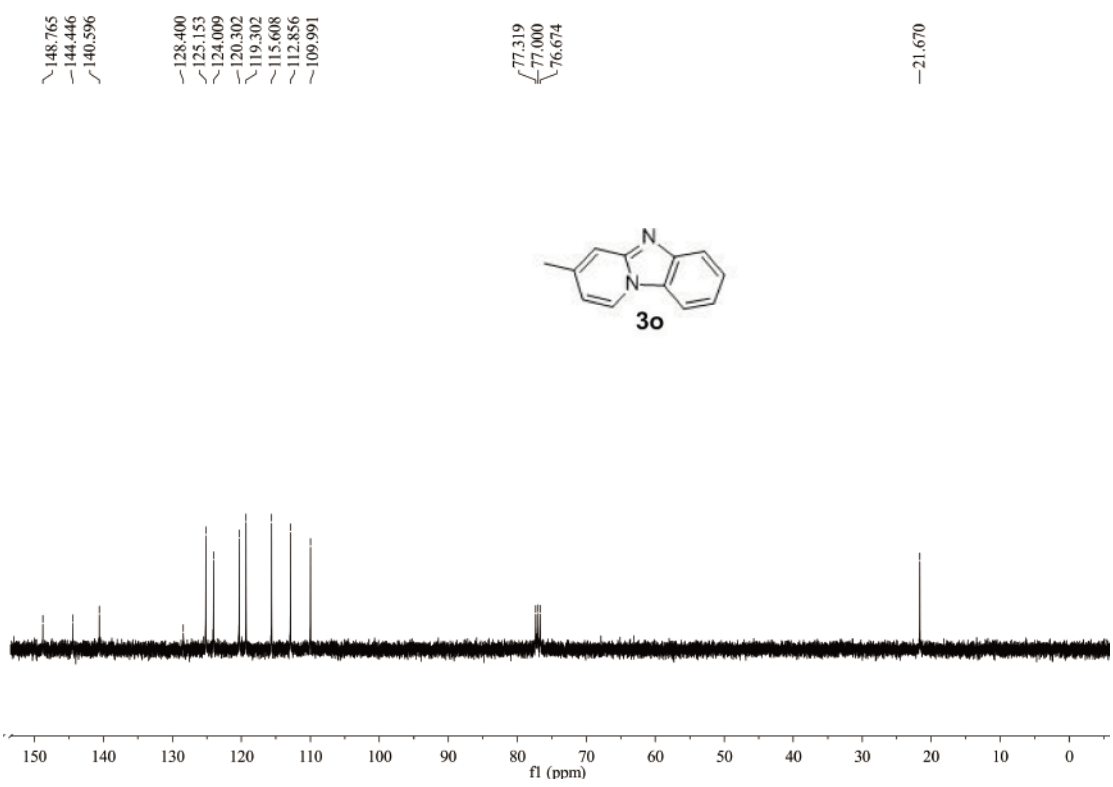
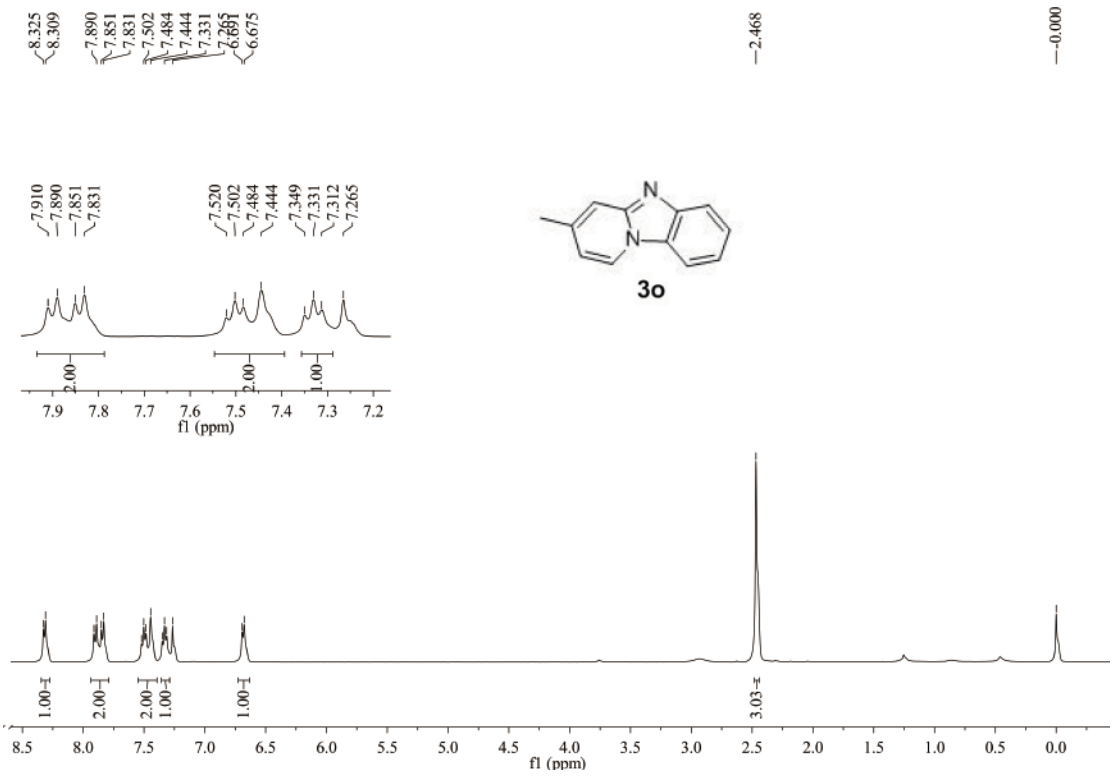


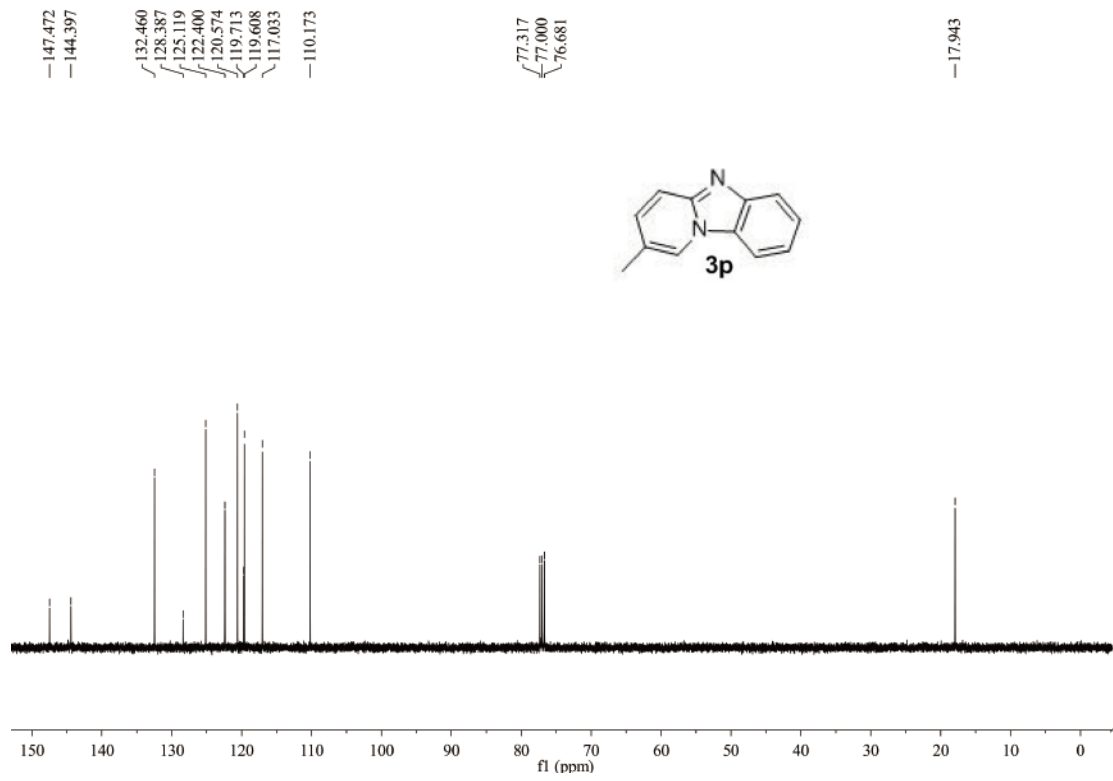
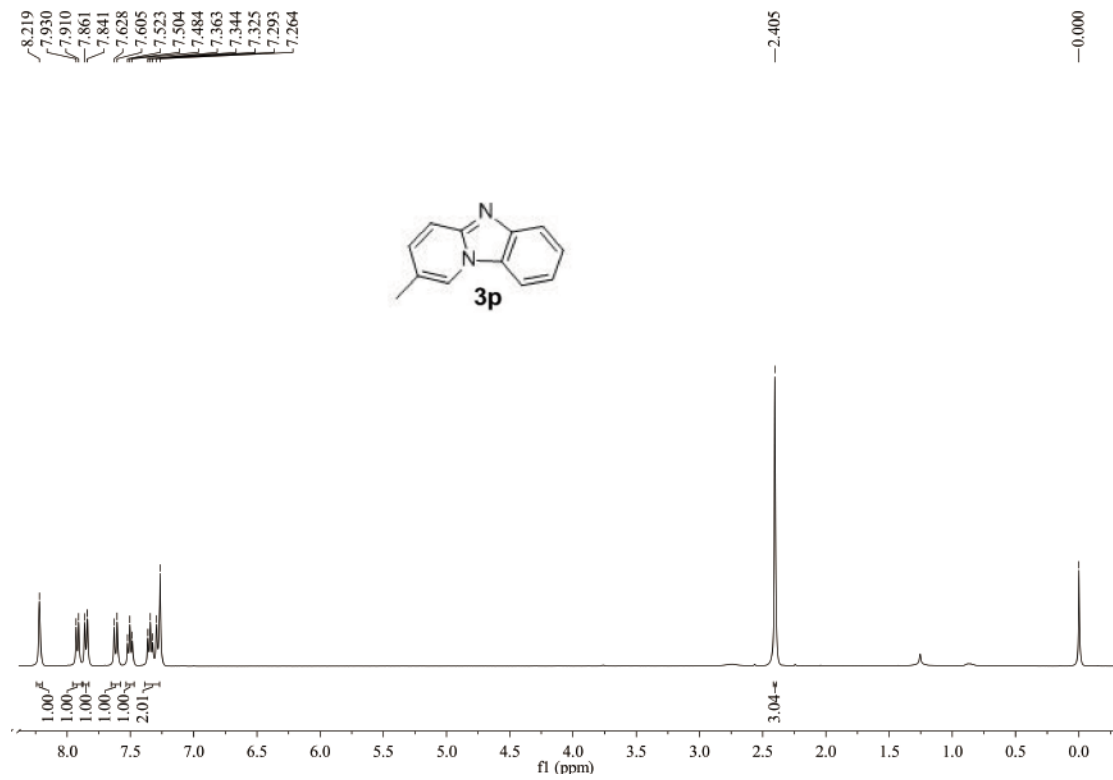


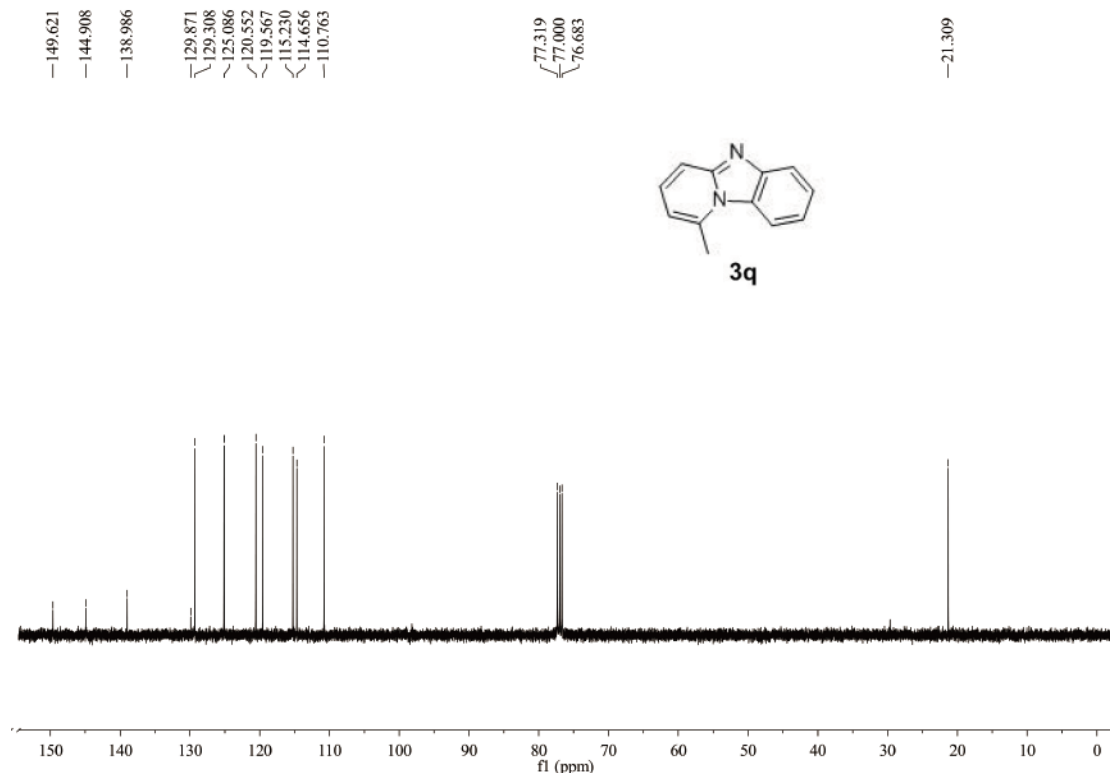
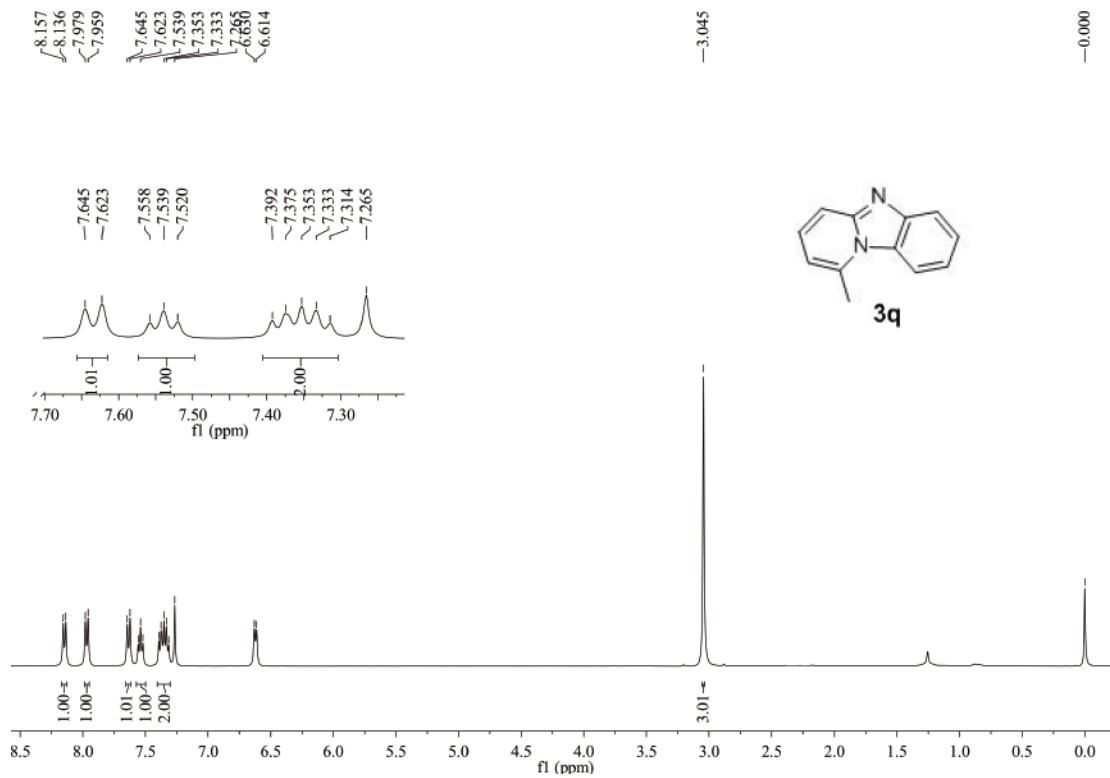


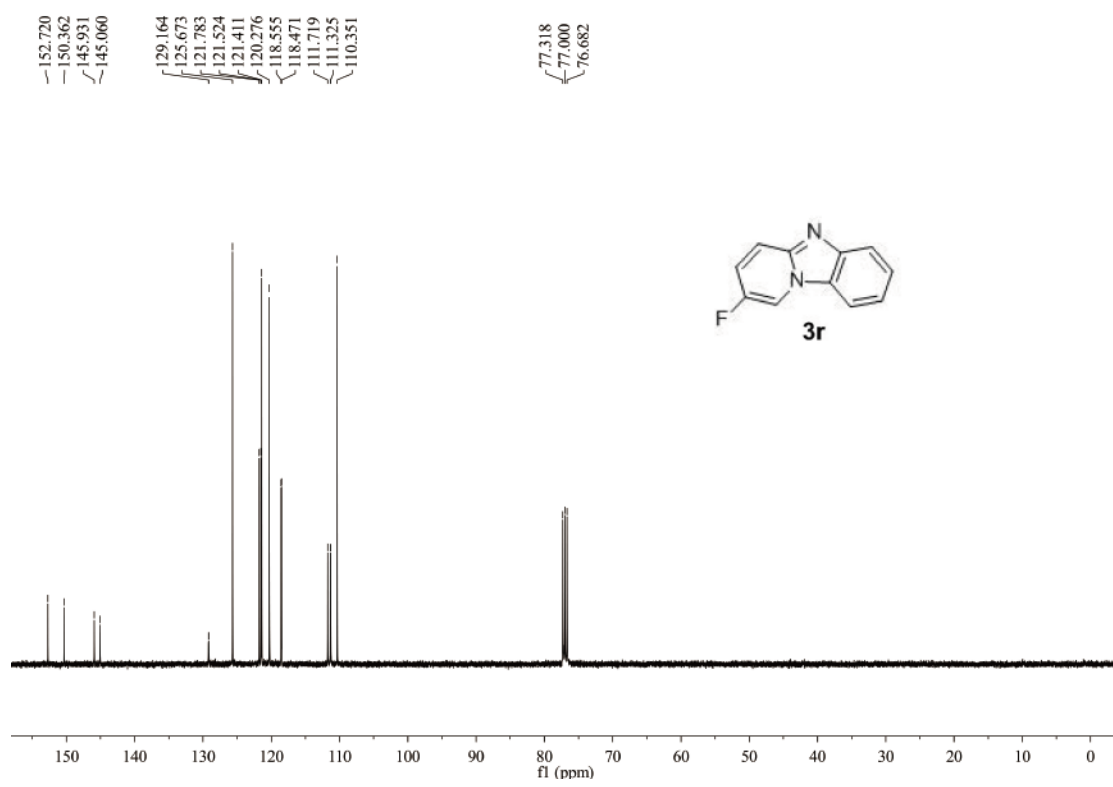
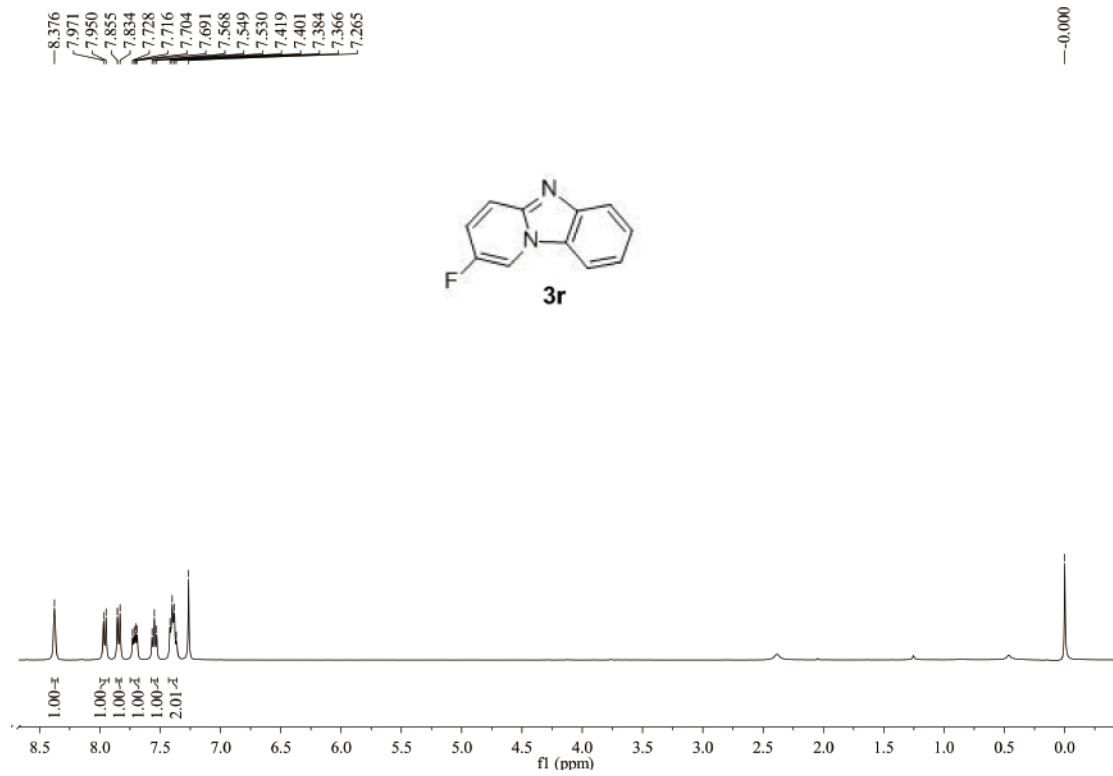


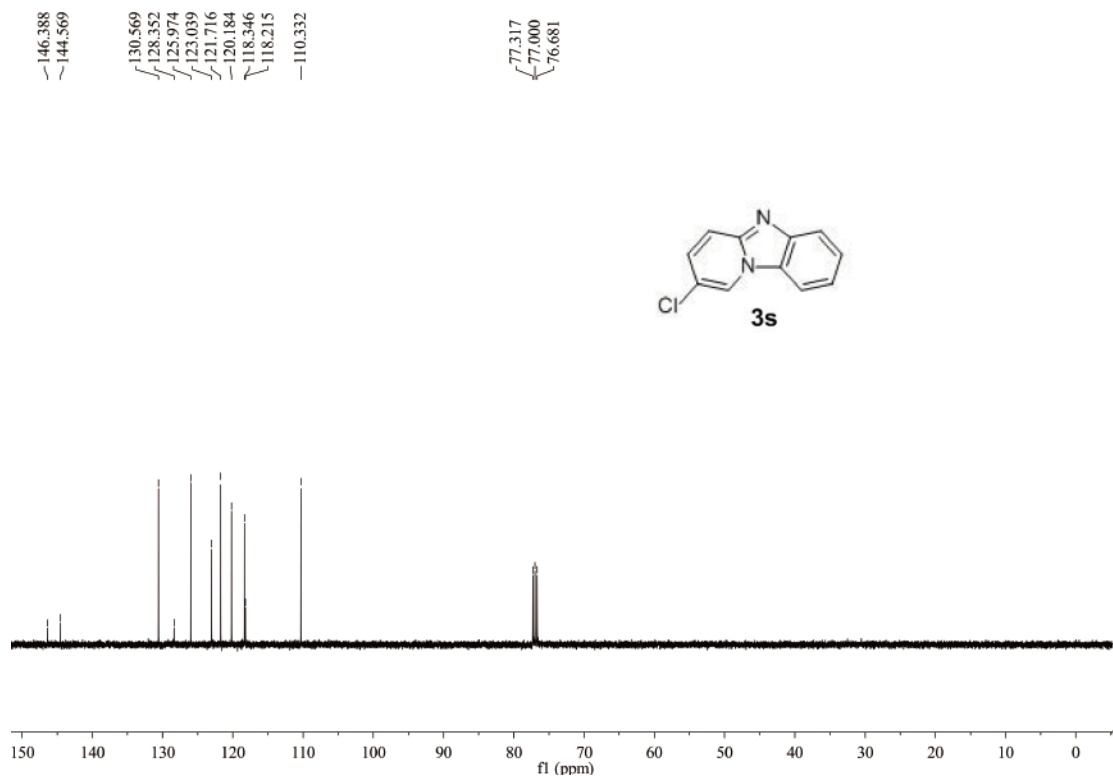
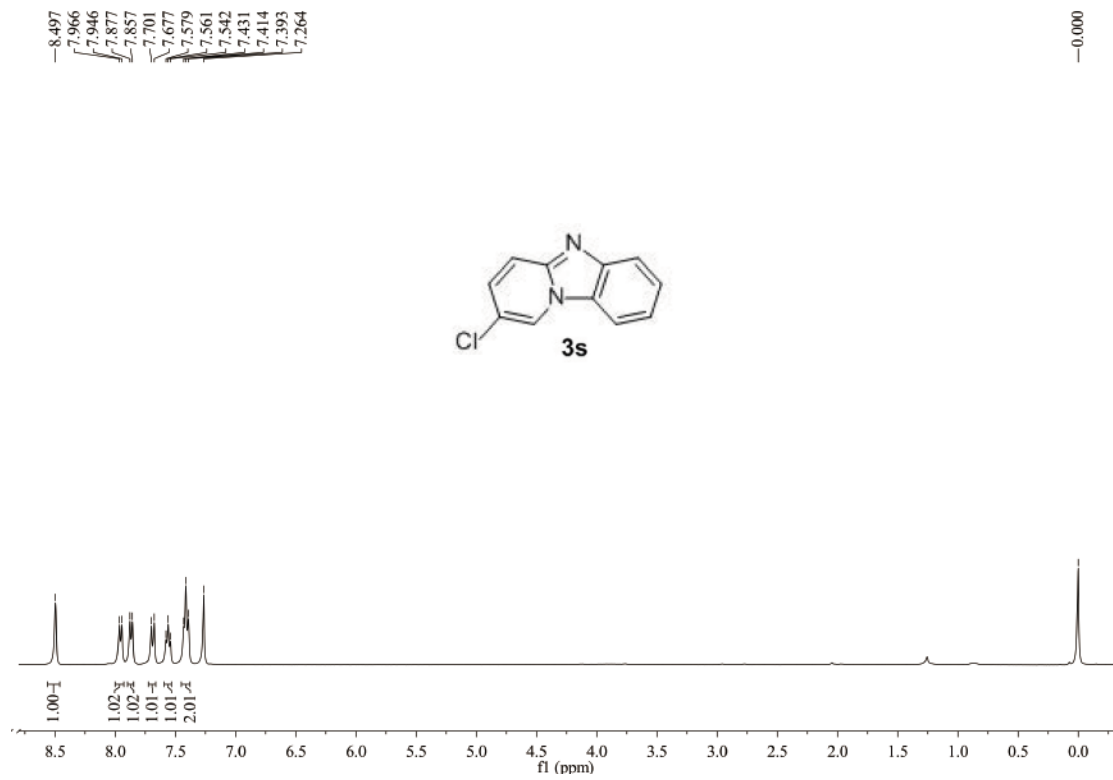


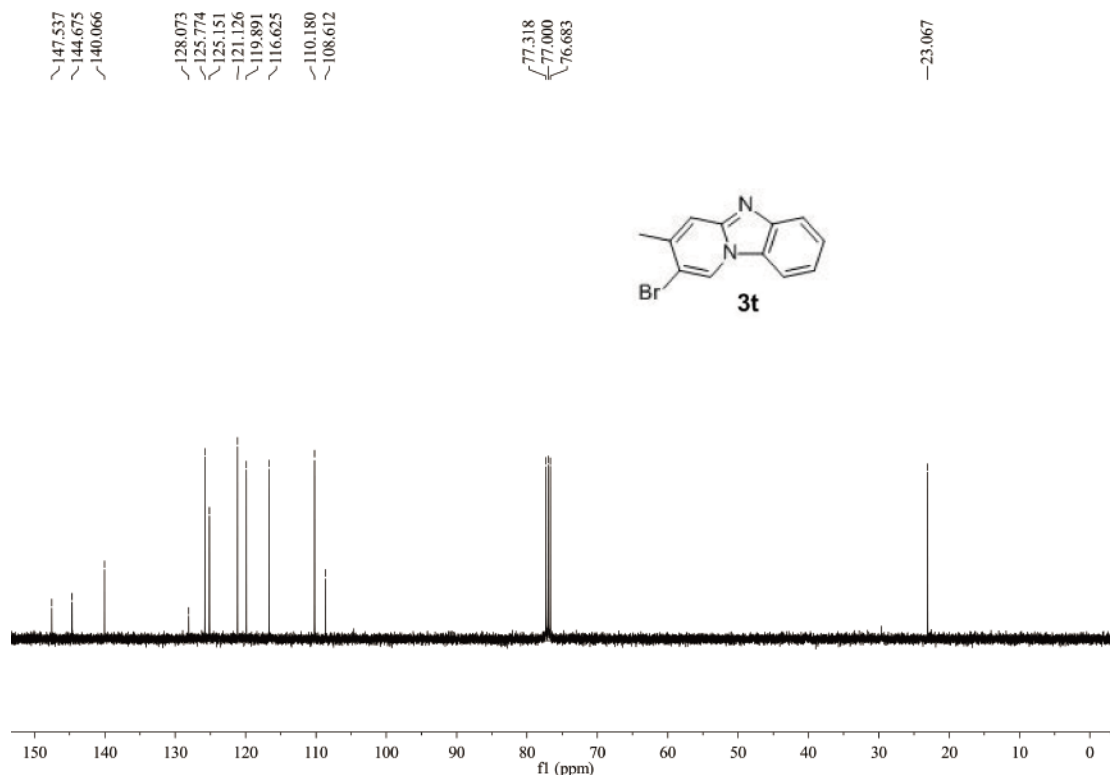
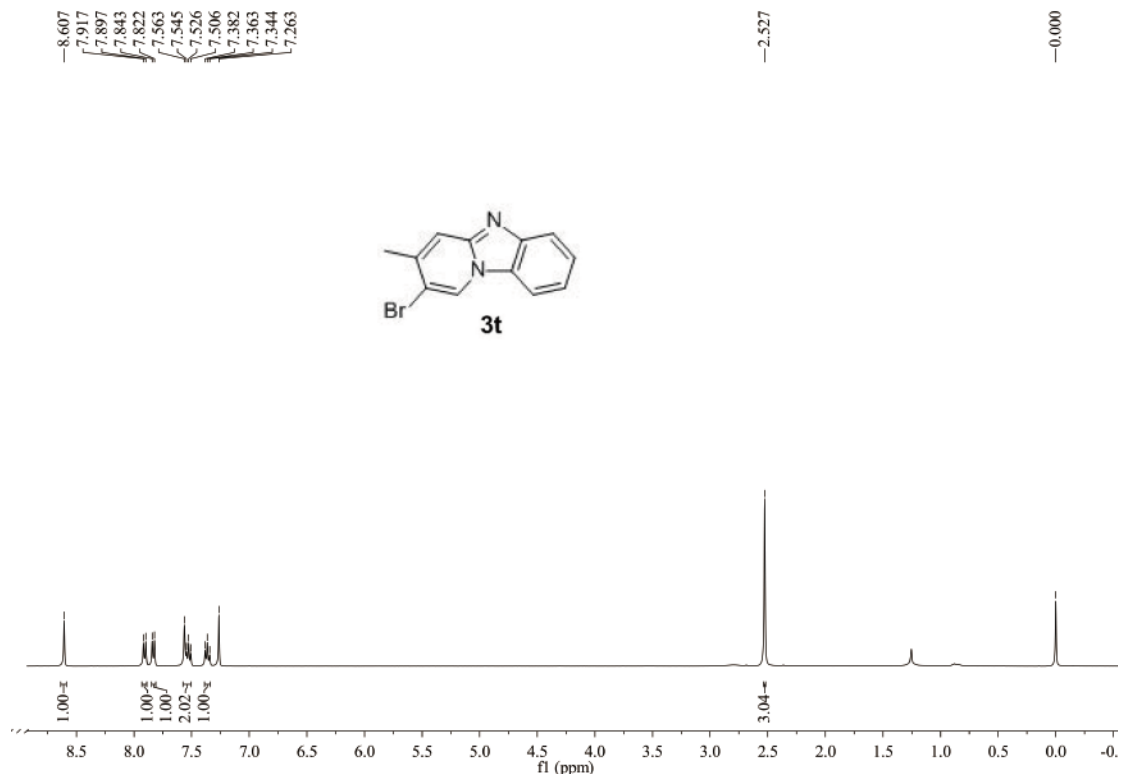


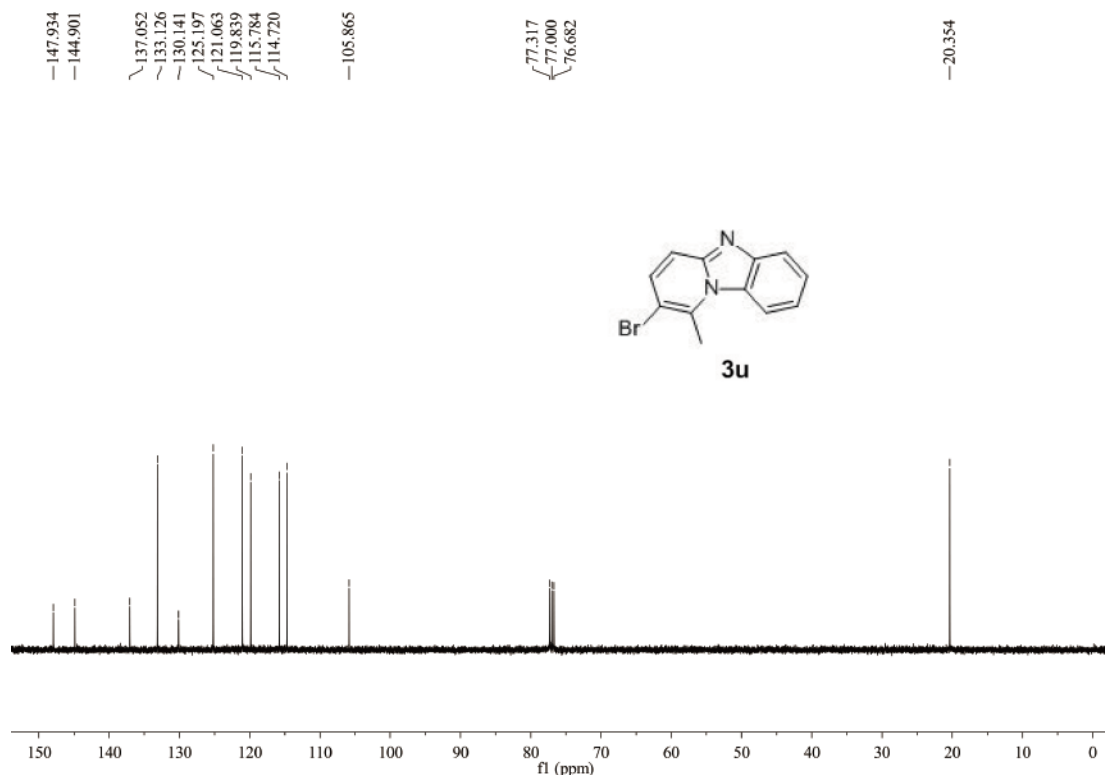
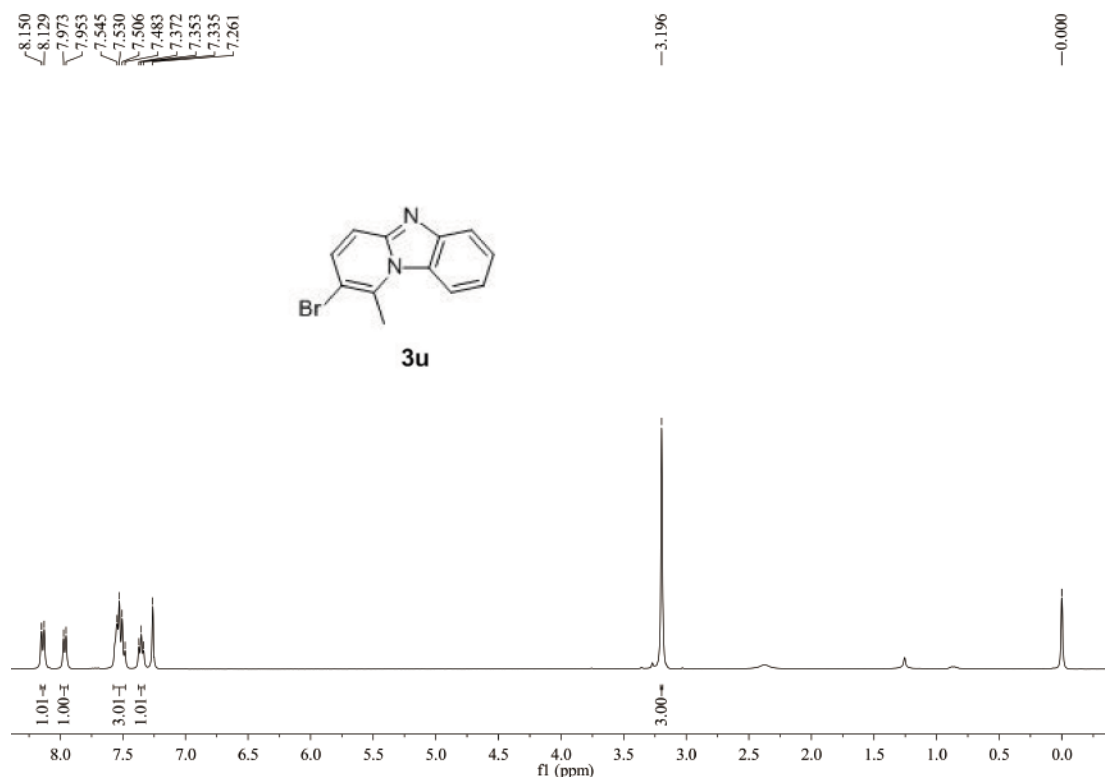


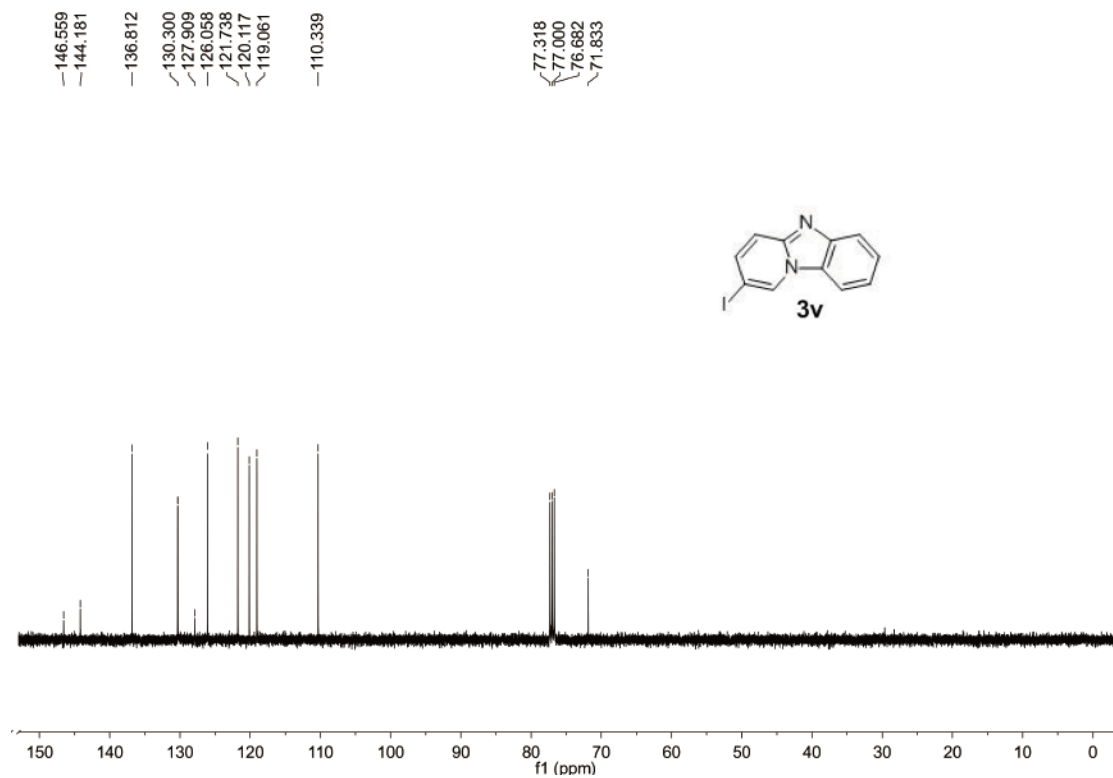
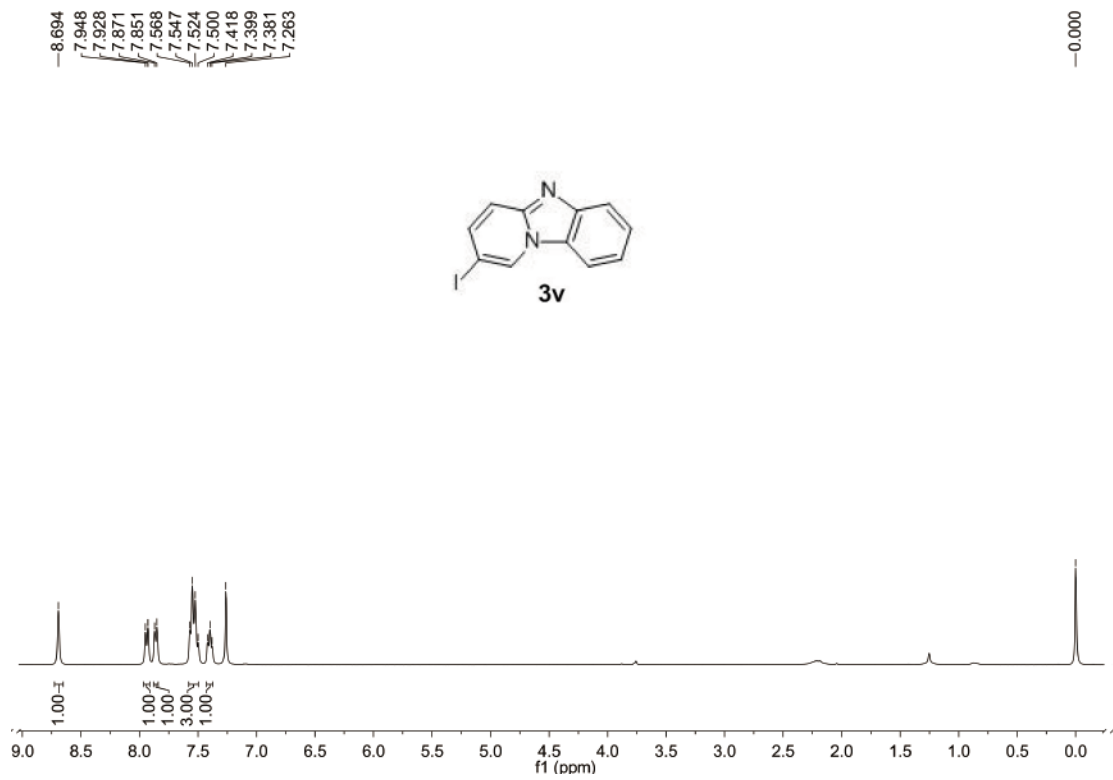


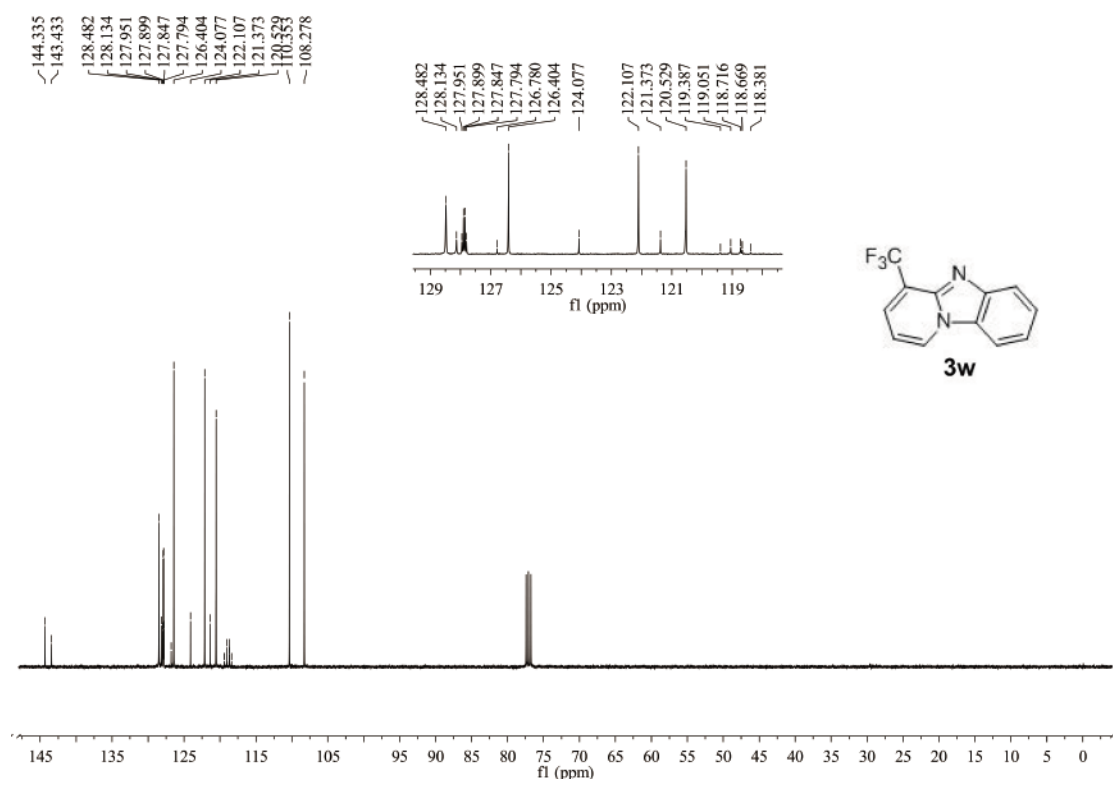
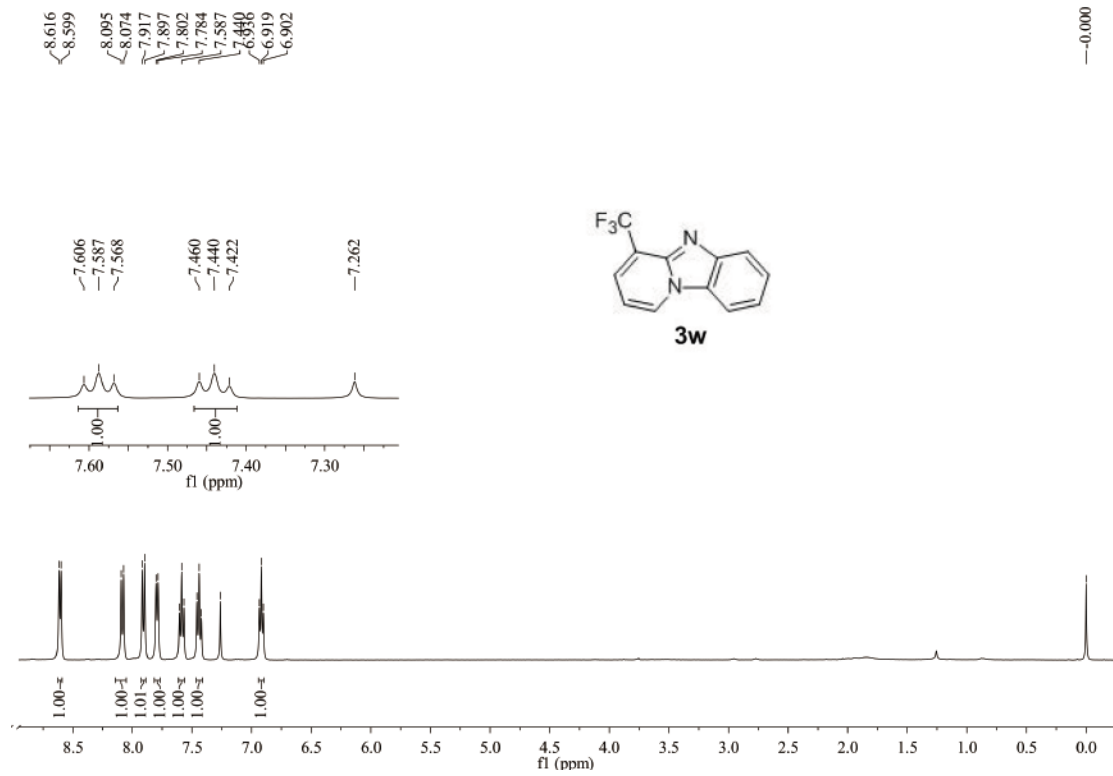


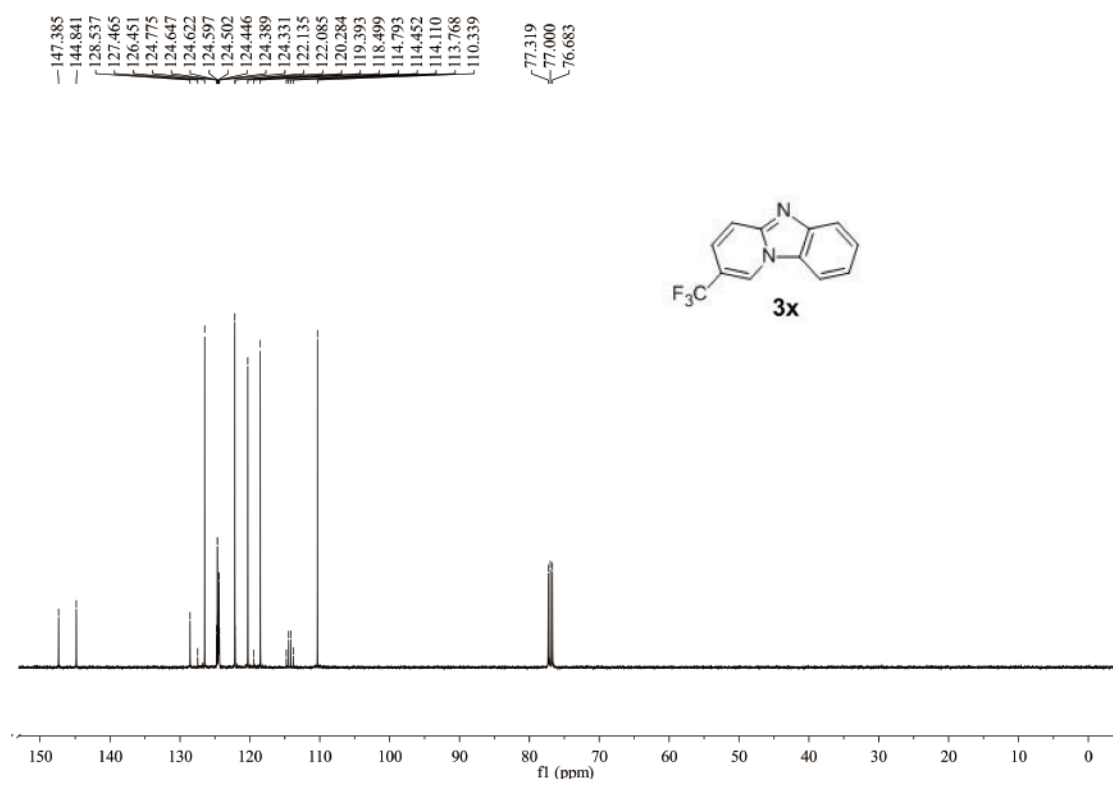
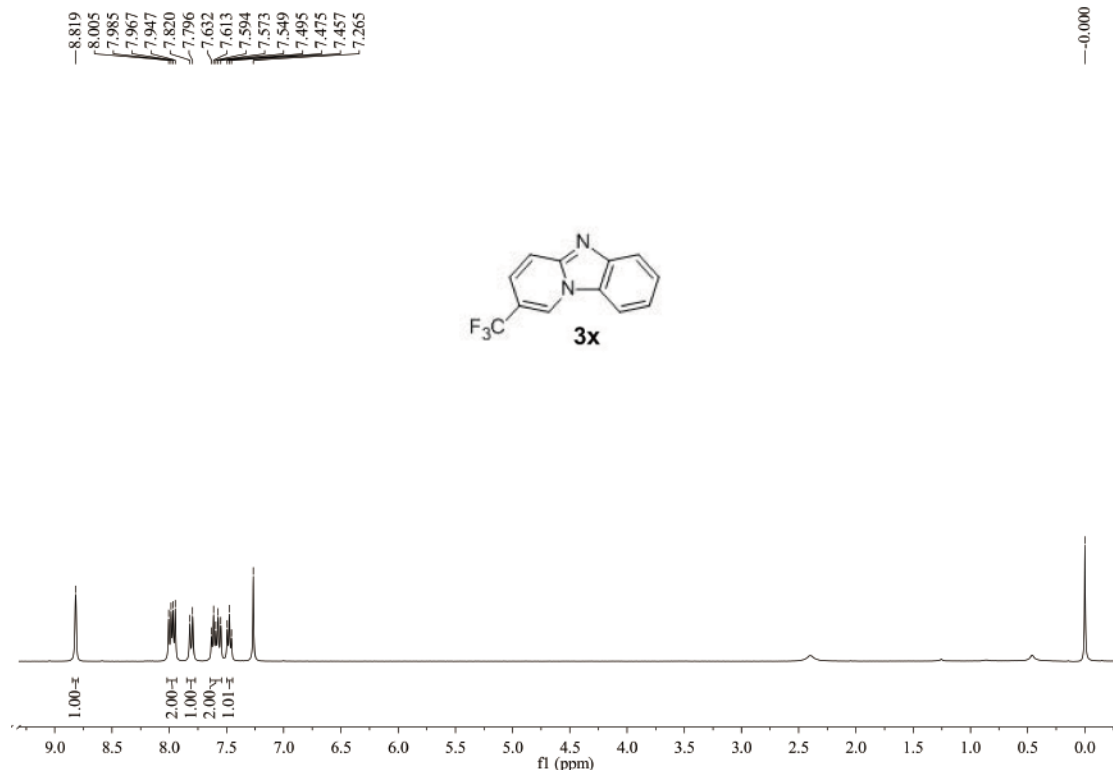






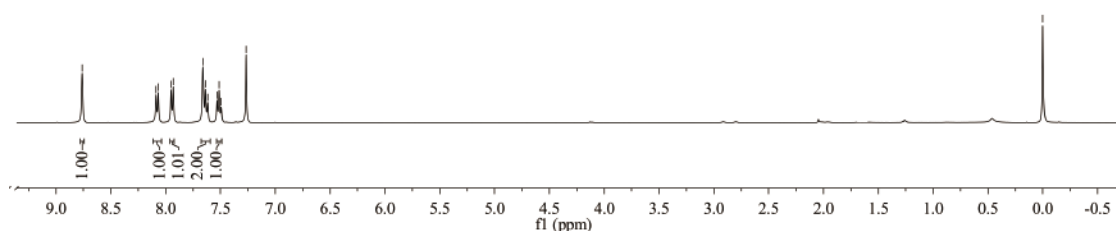
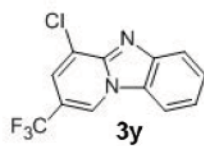






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