

## Supporting Information

For

### Reductive Alkylation of Active Methylene Compounds with Carbonyl Derivatives, Calcium Hydride and a Heterogeneous Catalyst

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#### 1. General information

All reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used as received.  $\text{CaH}_2$  90-95% 2 mm & down (ref: 19106) was purchased from Alfa Aesar®.  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  99.9% (metal basis, ref 202126-100g) and Ni 65 wt. % silica/alumina (190  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , ref: 208779-100g) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich®. 5% Pt/ $\text{SiO}_2$  (Escat 2351), 5% Pt/C (ref: 78-1600), 5% Pd/C (Escat 1431), 5% Pd/ $\text{SiO}_2$  (Escat 1351), 5% Pd/alumina (ref: 46-1950), 5% Ru/C (ref: 44-4050), 5% Ru/alumina (ref: 44-3910) and Nickel, 64% powder on silica, reduced and stabilised (Ni-5249P, ref: 28-1900) were purchased from Strem Chemicals, Inc.. 5% Pt/alumina and 5% Rh/C (ref: 19.544.47, lot 7002311) were purchased from Janssen Chimica. Solvents were used as AcroSeal®.

The complete references of the used sealed tubes are: ACE pressure tubes, #15 Ace-Thred, order code (8648-03), length (10.2 cm), body O.D. (25.4 mm), capacity (15 mL), pressure rating (150 PSI or 10.3 bar). The pressure tube was closed by a back seal PTFE plug 5845 with a 210 O-ring for #15 Ace-Thred in FETFE™ or silicone.

All reactions were performed under the inert atmosphere of argon. Silica gel (40–63 micron) was used for column chromatography. Thin layer chromatography was performed on pre-

coated silica gel 60–F 254 plates. UV light and mainly  $\text{KMnO}_4$  were used for analysis of the TLC plates.

All compounds were characterised by spectroscopic data. The nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker ALS 300 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75 MHz), a DRX 300 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75 MHz) or a Bruker DRX 400 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 400 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 100 MHz) spectrometer, in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  or  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  at 293K. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) and are calibrated on residual solvent peaks:  $\text{CDCl}_3$  7.26 ppm in  $^1\text{H}$  and 77.16 ppm in  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  3.31 ppm in  $^1\text{H}$  and 49.00 ppm in  $^{13}\text{C}$  or  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  2.50 ppm in  $^1\text{H}$  and 39.52 ppm in  $^{13}\text{C}$ .<sup>1</sup> Spin-spin coupling constants ( $J$ ) are given in Hz. The peak patterns are indicated as follows: (s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet, and br. for broad).

IR spectra were recorded on a Spectro Nicolet IS10 Smart ITR with an ATR diamond. Melting points were recorded on a Heizbank system Kofler Type WME (Wagner & Munz).

High-Resolution Mass Spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a MicroTOFQ II - Bruker Daltonics spectrometer with an Electrospray Ionization (ESI) ion source.

GC-MS analyses were performed on a DSQ-ThermoFinnigan spectrometer equipped with a quadrupole analyzer and a DB-5MS capillary column (30.0 m  $\times$  0.25mm  $\times$  0.25 $\mu\text{m}$ ). The carrier gas was helium, at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Column temperature was initially 70 °C for 2 min, then was gradually increased to 310 °C at 15 °C/min and finally kept at 310 °C for 10 min. The injector temperature was 220 °C and the transfer line temperature was 280 °C.

GC analyses were performed on a Shimadzu Gas Chromatograph GC-2025 equipped with a ZB-5-MS column (30.0 m  $\times$  0.25mm  $\times$  0.25 $\mu\text{m}$ ). The carrier gas was  $\text{N}_2$  at a flow rate of 1.27 mL/min. Column temperature was initially 70 °C for 2 min, then was gradually increased to 280 °C at 15 °C/min and finally kept at 280 °C for 15 min. The injector temperature was 250 °C and for detection a FID was used at 280 °C.

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<sup>1</sup> H. E. Gottlieb, V. Kotlyar, A. Nudelman, *J. Org. Chem.* **1997**, 62, 7512-7515.

## 2. General procedure

### General procedure A: reductive alkylation of methylcyanoacetate with Pt/SiO<sub>2</sub>

In a sealed tube was introduced dodecane (68 mg, 0.40 mmol, 10 mol%), an aldehyde or a ketone (4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.), methylcyanoacetate (0.428 mL, 4.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and toluene (2 mL, [S] = 2 M). The reaction vessel was flashed with argon, followed by the addition of Pt/SiO<sub>2</sub> 5% (155 mg, 0.04 mmol, 1 mol%) and CaH<sub>2</sub> 90% (110 mg, 2.35 mmol, 59 mol%). After the addition of CaH<sub>2</sub>, the tube was sealed and introduced in a preheated oil bath at 60 °C. The reaction was stirred at 700 rpm for 15 hours. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, suspended in dichloromethane and filtered on Millipore. The filtrate was added to a 250 mL volumetric flask and diluted to 250 mL. A sample of the solution was injected in GC. From the relative area of the product and dodecane, the conversion to the monoalkylated methylcyanoacetate was calculated. Purification was carried out by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate.

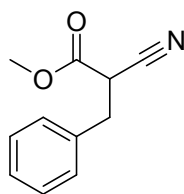
### General procedure B: reductive alkylation of methylcyanoacetate with Pd/C

In a sealed tube was introduced dodecane (68 mg, 0.40 mmol, 10 mol%), an aldehyde or a ketone (4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.), methylcyanoacetate (0.396 mg, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and toluene (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). The reaction vessel was flashed with argon, followed by the addition of Pd/C 5% (85 mg, 0.04 mmol, 1 mol%) and CaH<sub>2</sub> 90% (110 mg, 2.35 mmol, 59 mol%). After the addition of CaH<sub>2</sub>, the tube was rapidly sealed and introduced in a preheated oil bath at 60 °C. The reaction was stirred at 700 rpm for 15 hours. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, suspended in dichloromethane and filtered through Millipore. The analysis and purification were carried out in a similar manner than General procedure A.

### General procedure C:

In a sealed tube was introduced dodecane (70.0 mg, 0.40 mmol, 10 mol%), an aldehyde or a ketone (4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.), dimethylmalonate (528 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) or dimedone (561 mg, 4 mmol, 1 equiv.) or 1,3-dimethylbarbituric acid (624 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). The reaction was flashed with argon, followed by the addition of Pd/C 5% (85 mg, 0.04 mmol, 1 mol%), CaH<sub>2</sub> 90% (110 mg, 2.35 mmol, 59 mol%) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (130 mg, 0.4 mmol, 10 mol%). After the addition of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, the tube was sealed and introduced in a preheated oil bath at 100 °C. The reaction was stirred at 1200 rpm for 15 hours. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, suspended in dichloromethane or ethyl acetate or a mixture of thereof and filtered on a pad of celite. The analysis and purification were carried out in a similar manner than General procedure A.

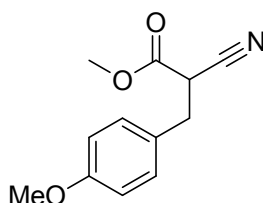
### 3. Characterisation



Chemical Formula:  
 $C_{11}H_{11}NO_2$   
Molecular Weight: 189,21

#### Methyl 2-cyano-3-phenylpropionate [57519-78-5] (4b)<sup>2</sup>

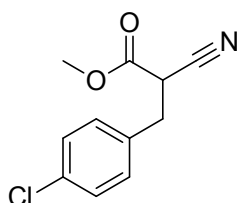
Colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  7.39–7.25 (m, 5 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 3.80 (s, 3 H,  $CO_2CH_3$ ), 3.74 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 5.8 Hz, 1 H,  $CH-CO_2CH_3$ ), 3.29 (dd,  $J$  = 13.9, 5.8 Hz, 1 H, Ph- $CH$ ), 3.19 (dd,  $J$  = 13.9, 8.4 Hz, 1 H, Ph- $CH$ ) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  166.1 ( $C_q$ , O-C=O), 135.3 ( $C_q$ ,  $C_{Ar}$ ), 129.1 (2 CH,  $C_{Ar}$ ), 128.9 (2 CH,  $C_{Ar}$ ), 127.9 (CH,  $C_{Ar}$ ), 116.1 ( $C_q$ , CN), 53.6 ( $CH_3$ ), 39.6 (CH), 35.8 ( $CH_2$ ) ppm. **GC:** retention time: 10.3 min. **IR (neat):**  $\nu$  max = 3031, 2955, 2251, 1744, 1604, 1497, 1455, 1436, 1342, 1264, 1210, 1081, 1028, 748, 699  $cm^{-1}$ . **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for  $C_{11}H_{11}NNaO_2$  [ $M+Na$ ]<sup>+</sup> 212.0682, found 212.0681.



Chemical Formula:  $C_{12}H_{13}NO_3$   
Molecular Weight: 219,24

#### Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate [75140-48-6] (6b)<sup>2</sup>

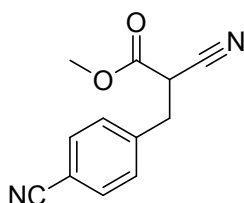
**6b** was obtained following the general procedure B starting from 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (545 mg, 4.0 mmol) and methylcyanoacetate (396 mg, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M) with Pd/C 5% (170 mg, 2 mol%) and  $Cs_2CO_3$  (10 mol%). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (476 mg, 54%) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  7.19 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 6.87 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 3.80 (s, 3 H,  $CH_3$ ), 3.79 (s, 3 H,  $CH_3$ ), 3.70 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3, 5.8 Hz, 1 H, CH), 3.26–3.11 (m, 2 H,  $CH_2$ ) ppm. **IR (neat):**  $\nu$  max = 3020, 2956, 1744, 1612, 1584, 1513, 1437, 1299, 1246, 1178, 1112, 1029, 834, 810, 785, 707  $cm^{-1}$ . **GC:** retention time: 12.23 min.



Chemical Formula:  
 $C_{11}H_{10}ClNO_2$   
Molecular Weight: 223,66

#### Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-chlorophenyl)propionate [189697-36-7] (8b)<sup>2</sup>

**8b** was obtained following the general procedure A starting from 4-chlorobenzaldehyde (560 mg, 4.0 mmol), methylcyanoacetate (0.428 mL, 4.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and toluene (2 mL, [S] = 2 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (550 mg, 61%). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  7.32 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 7.21 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 3.80 (s, 3 H,  $CH_3$ ), 3.72 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 5.8 Hz, 1 H, CH), 3.29–3.14 (m, 2 H,  $CH_2$ ) ppm. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for  $C_{11}H_{10}NClNaO_2$  [ $M+Na$ ]<sup>+</sup> 246.0292 found 246.0288. **GC:** retention time: 12.02 min.



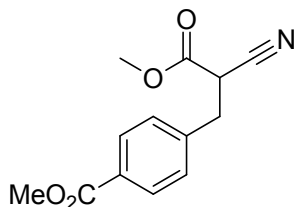
Chemical Formula:  $C_{12}H_{10}N_2O_2$   
Molecular Weight: 214,22

#### Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-cyanophenyl)propanoate [676272-25-6] (10b)<sup>3</sup>

**10b** was obtained following the general procedure B starting from 4-cyanobenzaldehyde (524 mg, 4.0 mmol) and methylcyanoacetate (396 mg, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (617 mg, GC purity 91%, 65% yield corrected) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  7.67 (d,  $J$  =

<sup>2</sup> S. Nakamura, H. Sugimoto, T. Ohwada, *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 4219–4224.

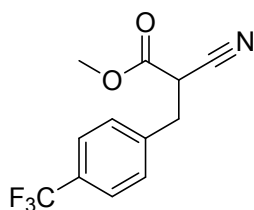
8.5 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 7.40 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 3.81 (s, 3 H,  $CO_2CH_3$ ), 3.80–3.76 (m, 1 H,  $CH$ ), 3.37–3.22 (m, 2 H,  $CH_2$ ) ppm.  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.4 (C,  $CO_2Me$ ), 140.6 (C), 132.6 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 118.4 (C), 115.6 (C, CN), 111.7 (C), 53.7 ( $CH_3$ ), 38.7 (CH), 35.2 ( $CH_2$ ) ppm. IR (neat):  $\nu$  max = 3030, 2957, 2228 (CN), 1744 ( $CO_2Me$ ), 1610, 1506, 1436, 1415, 1345, 1265, 1214, 1179, 1114, 1020, 855, 815, 783  $cm^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI +): calcd for  $C_{12}H_{11}N_2O_2$   $[M+H]^+$  215.0815 found 215.0812. GC: retention time: 12.96 min.



Chemical Formula:  $C_{13}H_{13}NO_4$   
Molecular Weight: 247,25

#### Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-methylbenzoate)propanoate (12b)

**12b** was obtained following the general procedure B starting from methyl 4-formylbenzoate (656 mg, 4.0 mmol) and methylcyanoacetate (396 mg, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (3 mL,  $[S]$  = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (690 mg, 70%) as a white solid. MP: 71 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 3.89 (s, 3 H,  $CO_2CH_3$ ), 3.80–3.76 (m, 4 H,  $CO_2CH_3$  +  $CH$ ), 3.35–3.19 (m, 2 H,  $CH_2$ ) ppm.  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  168.7 (C,  $CO_2Me$ ), 165.8 (C,  $CO_2Me$ ), 140.4 (C), 130.2 (CH), 129.8 (C), 129.2 (CH), 115.8 (C, CN), 53.7 ( $CH_3$ ), 52.2 ( $CH_3$ ), 39.0 (CH), 35.5 ( $CH_2$ ) ppm. IR (neat):  $\nu$  max = 3030, 2963, 2901, 2251 (CN), 1733( $CO_2Me$ ), 1717 ( $CO_2Me$ ), 1610, 1511, 1439, 1416, 1324, 1297, 1270, 1175, 1099, 1020, 968, 953, 893, 883, 810, 765, 705, 638  $cm^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI +): calcd for  $C_{13}H_{13}NNaO_4$   $[M+Na]^+$  270.0737 found 270.0731. GC: retention time: 13.51 min.



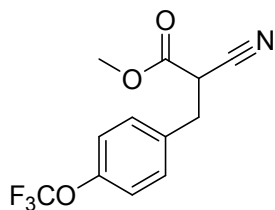
Chemical Formula:  
 $C_{12}H_{10}F_3NO_2$   
Molecular Weight: 257,21

#### Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)propionate [676272-24-5] (14b)<sup>4</sup>

**14b** was obtained following the general procedure B starting from 4-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde (706 mg, 4.06 mmol) and methylcyanoacetate (477 mg, 4.82 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in toluene (3 mL,  $[S]$  = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (810 mg, 78%) as a colorless oil.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.62 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 7.41 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_{Ar}$ ), 3.81 (s, 3 H,  $CO_2CH_3$ ), 3.80–3.75 (m, 1 H,  $CH$ ), 3.38–3.23 (m, 2 H,  $CH_2$ ) ppm.  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.7 (C,  $CO_2Me$ ), 139.3 (C), 130.2 (q,  $J$  = 32.5 Hz, C), 129.6 (CH), 125.9 (q,  $J$  = 3.7 Hz, CH), 124.1 (q,  $J$  = 271.8 Hz, C), 115.8 (C, CN), 53.8 ( $CH_3$ ), 39.1 (CH), 35.3 ( $CH_2$ ) ppm. HRMS (ESI +): calcd for  $C_{12}H_{10}F_3NNaO_2$   $[M+Na]^+$  280.0556 found 280.0565. GC: retention time: 10.27 min.

<sup>3</sup> X. Yang, T. Fox, H. Berke, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2012**, *10*, 852-860.

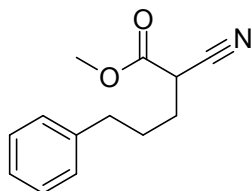
<sup>4</sup> S. Nakamura, H. Sugimoto, T. Ohwada, *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 4219-4224.



Chemical Formula:  
 $C_{12}H_{10}F_3NO_3$   
 Molecular Weight: 273,21

#### Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)propionate (16b)

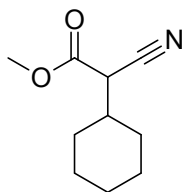
**16b** was obtained following the general procedure B starting from 4-trifluoromethoxybenzaldehyde (760 mg, 4.00 mmol) and methylcyanoacetate (396 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (519 mg, 47%) of the desired product as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 3.81 (s, 3 H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.76–3.71 (m, 1 H, *CH*), 3.32–3.17 (m, 2 H, *CH<sub>2</sub>*) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 165.8 (C, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 148.9 (q, *J* = 1.8 Hz, C), 134.0 (C), 130.7 (CH), 121.4 (CH), 120.5 (q, *J* = 257.2 Hz, C), 115.9 (C, CN), 53.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 39.3 (CH), 34.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 3030, 2959, 2225 (CN), 1748 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1717 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1510, 1438, 1252, 1198, 1156, 1108, 1020, 921, 857, 815, 673 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 296.0505 found 296.0507. **GC:** retention time: 10.25 min.



Chemical Formula: C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>  
 Molecular Weight: 217,26

#### Methyl 2-cyano-5-phenylpentanoate [1025483-41-3] (18b)<sup>2</sup>

**18b** was obtained following the general procedure B starting from 3-phenylpropionaldehyde (536 mg, 4.00 mmol) and methylcyanoacetate (396 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (720 mg, 83%) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 7.32–7.27 (m, 2 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 7.23–7.16 (m, 3 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 3.81 (s, 3 H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.51 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1 H, *CH*), 2.69 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2 H, *CH<sub>2</sub>*), 2.02–1.92 (m, 2 H), 1.90–1.78 (m, 2 H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 166.5 (C, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 140.8 (C), 128.5 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 116.4 (C, CN), 53.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 37.2 (CH), 34.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 3027, 2935, 2864, 2250 (CN), 1745 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1603, 1496, 1453, 1436, 1256, 1208, 1177, 1087, 1001, 916, 749, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 240.0995 found 240.0994. **GC:** retention time: 12.03 min.

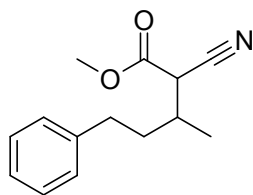


Chemical Formula:  
 $C_{10}H_{15}NO_2$   
 Molecular Weight: 181,23

#### Cyano(cyclohexyl)acetic acid methyl ester [80627-89-0] (20b)<sup>5</sup>

**20b** was obtained following the general procedure B starting from cyclohexanone (393 mg, 4.01 mmol) and methylcyanoacetate (412 mg, 4.16 mmol, 1.04 equiv.) in toluene (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (465 mg, 64%) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 3.81 (s, 3 H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.39 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1 H, CN-CH), 2.11–1.99 (m, 1 H, *CH*), 1.84–1.67 (m, 5 H), 1.36–1.14 (m, 5 H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 166.2 (C, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 115.5 (C, CN), 53.1 (CH or CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.2 (CH or CH<sub>3</sub>), 38.6 (CH or CH<sub>3</sub>), 30.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 2929, 2855, 2250 (CN), 1744 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1449, 1436, 1253, 1204, 1166, 1013, 899 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 204.0995 found 204.0995. **GC:** retention time: 9.46 min.

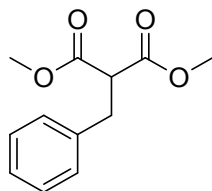
<sup>5</sup> D. B. Ramachary, M. Kishor, Y. Vijayendar Reddy, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, 975-993.



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>  
Molecular Weight: 231,29

#### Methyl 2-cyano-3-methyl-5-phenylpentanoate [1629235-94-4] and [1629235-95-5] (22b)<sup>6</sup>

**22b** was obtained following the general procedure B starting from 4-phenyl-butan-2-one (593 mg, 4.00 mmol) and methylcyanoacetate (396 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) in toluene (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers (dia1 and dia2) of the title product (44 mg, 5%) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 7.32–7.27 (m, 4.63 H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>, 2 H dia1 + 2 H dia2), 7.23–7.16 (m, 7.25 H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>, 3 H dia1 + 3 H dia2), 3.81 (s, 4.26 H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, 3 H dia1), 3.79 (s, 3 H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, 3 H dia2), 3.57 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1.46 H, CN-CH, 1 H dia1), 3.57 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1.00 H, CN-CH, 1 H dia2), 2.81–2.52 (m, 5 H, CH<sub>2</sub>, 2 H dia1 + 2 H dia2), 2.36–2.22 (m, 2.52 H, CH, 1 H dia1 + 1 H dia2), 1.90–1.63 (m, 5.26 H, CH<sub>2</sub>, 2 H dia1 + 2 H dia2), 1.18 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>, 3 H dia2), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 4.46 H, CH<sub>3</sub>, 3 H dia1) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 166.6 (C, CO<sub>2</sub>Me, dia1), 166.3 (C, CO<sub>2</sub>Me, dia2), 141.1 (C, dia2), 140.9 (C, dia1), 128.7 (CH, dia1), 128.6 (CH, dia2), 128.4 (CH, dia1 + dia2), 126.35 (CH, dia1), 126.28 (CH, dia2), 115.7 (C, CN, dia2), 115.2 (C, CN, dia1), 53.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>Me, dia1), 53.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>Me, dia2), 44.4 (CH, dia2), 43.7 (CH, dia1), 36.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>, dia1), 34.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>, dia2), 34.21 (CH, dia2), 34.17 (CH, dia1), 33.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>, dia1), 33.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>, dia2), 17.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>, CH-CH<sub>3</sub>, dia2), 16.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>, CH-CH<sub>3</sub>, dia1) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 3027, 2928, 2225 (CN), 1744 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1602 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1496, 1454, 1436, 1387, 1254, 1203, 1176, 1009, 912, 747, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 232.1332 found 232.1331. **GC:** retention time: 12.27 min. **GC/MS:** retention time: 11.68 min.



Chemical Formula:  
C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>  
Molecular Weight: 222,24

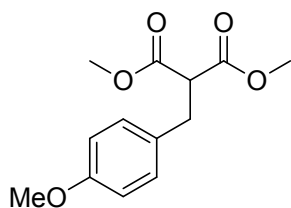
#### Dimethyl benzylmalonate [49769-78-0] (28b)<sup>7</sup>

**28b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from dodecane (70.4 mg, 0.41 mmol, 10 mol%), benzaldehyde (426 mg, 4.02 mmol, 1 equiv.), dimethylmalonate (533 mg, 4.04 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (2 mL, [S] = 2 M). From the relative area of the product and dodecane, the conversion to dimethyl benzylmalonate was calculated to be 79%. Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate: 100/0 to 95/5 afforded the title compound (634 mg, 71%) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 7.28–7.18 (m, 5 H, 5 CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 3.70 (s, 6 H, 2 CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.68 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1 H, CH), 3.22 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2 H, Ph-CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 169.3 (C<sub>q</sub>, 2 O-C=O), 138.7 (C<sub>q</sub>, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 128.8 (2 CH), 128.6 (2 CH), 126.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 53.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.5 (CH), 34.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **GC:** retention time: 10.7 min. **IR (neat):** ν max = 3064, 3030, 2954, 2924, 2849, 1732, 1604, 1496, 1455, 1435, 1343, 1275, 1220, 1147, 1024, 751, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 245.0784, found 245.0784.

<sup>6</sup> C. Hayashi, T. Hayashi, S. Kikuchi, T. Yamada, *Chem. Lett.* **2014**, 43, 565–567.

A. Wetzl, S. Wockel, M. Schelwies, M. K. Brinks, F. Rominger, P. Hofmann, M. Limbach, *Org. Lett.* **2013**, 15, 266–269.

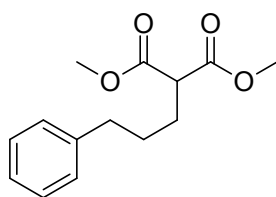
<sup>7</sup> Q. Xu, B. Cheng, X. Ye, H. Zhai, *Org. Lett.* **2009**, 11, 4136–4138.



Chemical Formula: C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  
Molecular Weight: 252,26

#### Dimethyl 2-(4'-methoxybenzyl)malonate [15378-09-3] (29b)<sup>8</sup>

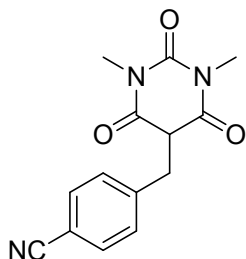
**29b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (544 mg, 4.00 mmol), dimethylmalonate (528 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (531 mg, 53%) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 3.75 (s, 3 H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.68 (s, 6 H, 2 CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.62 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, CH), 3.14 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 169.3 (C, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 158.5 (C), 129.8 (CH), 129.7 (C), 113.9 (CH), 55.2 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 53.9 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 52.6 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 34.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 3030, 2954, 1731 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1612, 1512, 1435, 1343, 1244, 1176, 1110, 1029, 822, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **GC:** retention time: 12.54 min. **GC/MS:** retention time: 11.83 min.



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>  
Molecular Weight: 250,29

#### 2-(3-phenylpropyl)-malonic acid dimethyl ester [3708-34-7] (31b)<sup>9</sup>

**31b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from 3-phenylpropionaldehyde (543 mg, 4.05 mmol), dimethylmalonate (528 mg, 4.00 mmol) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (461 mg, 46%) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 7.31-7.15 (m, 5 H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 3.73 (s, 6 H, 2 CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, CH), 2.64 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.99-1.91 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.69-1.59 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 169.8 (C, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 141.6 (C), 128.4 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 52.5 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 51.6 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 35.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 3026, 2953, 2861, 1732 (CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 1603, 1496, 1453, 1435, 1343, 1197, 1144, 1056, 1003, 914, 806, 748, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 273.1097 found 273.1104. **GC:** retention time: 12.42 min.



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
Molecular Weight: 271,27

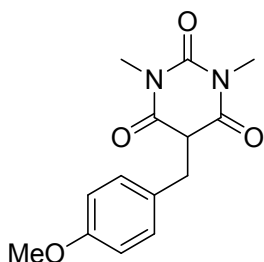
#### 5-(4-Cyanobenzyl)-1,3-dimethyl-hexahydropyrimidin-2,4,6-trione [81762-45-0] (32b)<sup>10</sup>

**32b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from 4-cyanobenzaldehyde (524 mg, 4.00 mmol), 1,3-dimethylbarbituric acid (624 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (609 mg, 56%) as a white solid. **MP:** 132 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 3.81 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1 H, CH), 3.54 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.19 (s, 6 H, 2 CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 167.4 (C), 150.9 (C), 141.8 (C), 132.3 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 118.5 (C), 111.4 (C), 50.1 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 35.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.5 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 3408, 2952, 2226, 1744, 1667, 1609, 1502, 1442, 1416, 1378, 1303, 1283, 1193, 1116, 1097, 10005, 878, 819, 755 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 272.1030 found 272.1022. **GC:** retention time: 15.52 min.

<sup>8</sup> A. R. Mohite R. G. Bhat, *Org. Lett.* **2013**, *15*, 4564-4567.

<sup>9</sup> D. B. Ramachary, C. Venkaiah, Y. Vijayendar Reddy, M. Kishor, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2009**, *7*, 2053-2062.

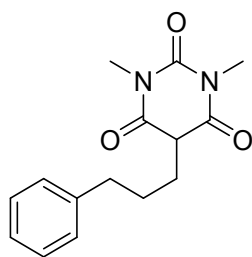
<sup>10</sup> K. Rehse, W.-D. Kapp, *Arch. Pharm. (Weinheim, Ger.)* **1982**, *315*, 346-353.



Chemical Formula:  $C_{14}H_{16}N_2O_4$   
Molecular Weight: 276,29

#### 5-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6-trione [114656-99-4] (33b)<sup>11</sup>

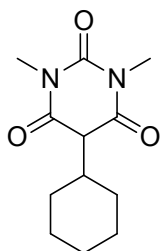
**33b** was obtained following the general procedure C from 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (545 mg, 4.00 mmol), 1,3-dimethylbarbituric acid (624 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (279 mg, 25%) as a white solid. **MP:** 116 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 3.74-3.70 (m, 4 H, *OCH<sub>3</sub>* + *CH*), 3.39 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, *CH<sub>2</sub>*), 3.11 (s, 6 H, 2 *CH<sub>3</sub>*) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 168.5 (C), 159.1 (C), 151.1 (C), 130.1 (CH), 127.1 (C), 114.0 (CH), 55.2 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 50.9 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 37.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.3 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 2956, 2937, 2843, 1742, 1656, 1612, 1514, 1460, 1437, 1420, 1282, 1246, 1179, 1150, 1030, 1004, 936, 863, 814, 762, 724, 611 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for  $C_{14}H_{16}N_2NaO_4$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 299.1002 found 299.1003. **GC:** retention time: 14.81 min.



Chemical Formula:  $C_{15}H_{18}N_2O_3$   
Molecular Weight: 274,32

#### 1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrimidine-2,4,6-trione [82657-34-9] (34b)<sup>12</sup>

**34b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from 3-phenylpropionaldehyde (536 mg, 4.00 mmol), 1,3-dimethylbarbituric acid (624 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (722 mg, 66%) as a colorless oil. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 7.29-7.24 (m, 2 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 7.20-7.13 (m, 3 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 3.48 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1 H, *CH*), 3.28 (s, 6 H, 2 *CH<sub>3</sub>*), 2.62 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H, *CH<sub>2</sub>*), 2.2-2.13 (m, 2 H, *CH<sub>2</sub>*), 1.68-1.57 (m, 2 H, *CH<sub>2</sub>*) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 168.6 (C), 151.6 (C), 141.2 (C), 128.5 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 48.9 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 35.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.6 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 28.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 3030, 2934, 1670, 1603, 1450, 1419, 1374, 1320, 1282, 1113, 1078, 1047, 997, 752, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for  $C_{15}H_{19}N_2O_3$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 275.1390 found 275.1394. **GC:** retention time: 15.26 min.



Chemical Formula:  
 $C_{12}H_{18}N_2O_3$   
Molecular Weight: 238,28

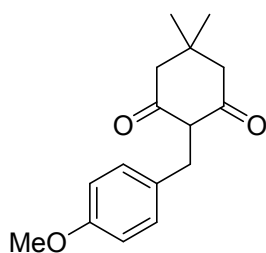
#### 5-cyclohexyl-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6-trione [7391-65-3] (35b)<sup>5</sup>

**35b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from cyclohexanone (393 mg, 4.00 mmol), 1,3-dimethylbarbituric acid (624 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (739 mg, 78%) as a white solid. **MP:** 147 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 3.33 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1 H, *CH-C(=O)-N*), 3.30 (s, 6 H, 2 *CH<sub>3</sub>*), 2.26-2.15 (m, 1 H, *CH*), 1.77-1.74 (m, 2 H), 1.67-1.61 (m, 3 H), 1.33-1.18 (m, 4 H), 1.12-1.09 (m, 1 H, *CH*) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ 168.6 (C), 152.0 (C), 55.6 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 44.1 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 30.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.3 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 26.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat):** ν max = 2945, 2908, 2852, 1656, 1460, 1439, 1413, 1362, 1320, 1284, 1261, 1219, 1145, 1113, 1020, 989, 921, 807, 762, 665, 628 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +):** calcd for  $C_{12}H_{19}N_2O_3$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 239.1390 found

<sup>11</sup> K. Tanaka, X. Chen, F. Yoneda, *Tetrahedron* **1988**, *44*, 3241-3249.

<sup>12</sup> B. S. Jursic, E. D. Stevens, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2003**, *44*, 2203-2210.

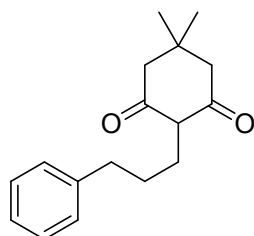
239.1395. **GC**: retention time: 12.90 min.



Chemical Formula:  $C_{16}H_{20}O_3$   
Molecular Weight: 260,33

### 2-[(4-Methoxyphenyl)methyl]-5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione [33802-37-8] (37b)

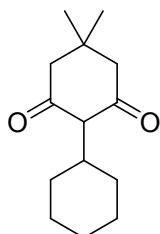
**37b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (545 mg, 4.00 mmol), dimedone (560 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.), CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M) and Pd/C (2 mol%). Extraction under acidic conditions (HCl (1 M) until pH = 2) afforded the title compound (624 mg, 60%) as a white solid. **MP**: 190 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 3.72 (s, 3 H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.50 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.30 (s, 4 H, 2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.04 (s, 6 H, 2 CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 159.0 (C), 135.1 (C), 130.3 (CH), 115.8 (C), 114.3 (CH), 55.6 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 33.0 (C), 28.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat)**: ν max = 3030, 2959, 1581, 1549, 1509, 1468, 1370, 1344, 1301, 1243, 1213, 1194, 1174, 1149, 1105, 1032, 922, 885, 871, 771, 631, 599 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI +)**: calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 283.1305 found 283.1302. **GC**: retention time: 14.90 min.



Chemical Formula:  $C_{17}H_{22}O_2$   
Molecular Weight: 258,36

### 2-[(3'-phenylpropyl)-5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione (38b)

**38b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from 3-phenylpropionaldehyde (536 mg, 4.00 mmol), dimedone (560 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (552 mg, 54%) as a white solid. **MP**: 149 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.29-7.10 (m, 5 H, *CH<sub>Ar</sub>*), 3.81 (br. s, 1 H, OH), 2.73 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.59 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.39 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.92-1.86 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.65-1.60 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.15 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.76 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 206.0 (C), 141.0 (C), 128.5 (2 CH), 128.4 (2 CH), 128.2 (1 CH), 89.3 (C), 50.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.5 (C), 30.6 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 26.3 (CH<sub>3</sub> or CH), 24.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **IR (neat)**: ν max = 3408 (OH, H-bonded), 3060, 3030, 2958, 2871, 1729 (C=O, ketone), 1696 (C=O, unsaturated ketone), 1602, 1496, 1460, 1422, 1371, 1324, 1246, 1232, 1202, 1158, 1133, 1083, 1069, 1039, 1030, 982, 957, 907, 745, 699, 637, 613, 567 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **GC**: retention time: 14.69 min.



Chemical Formula:  
 $C_{14}H_{22}O_2$   
Molecular Weight: 222,32

### 2-[(cyclohexyl)-5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione (39b)

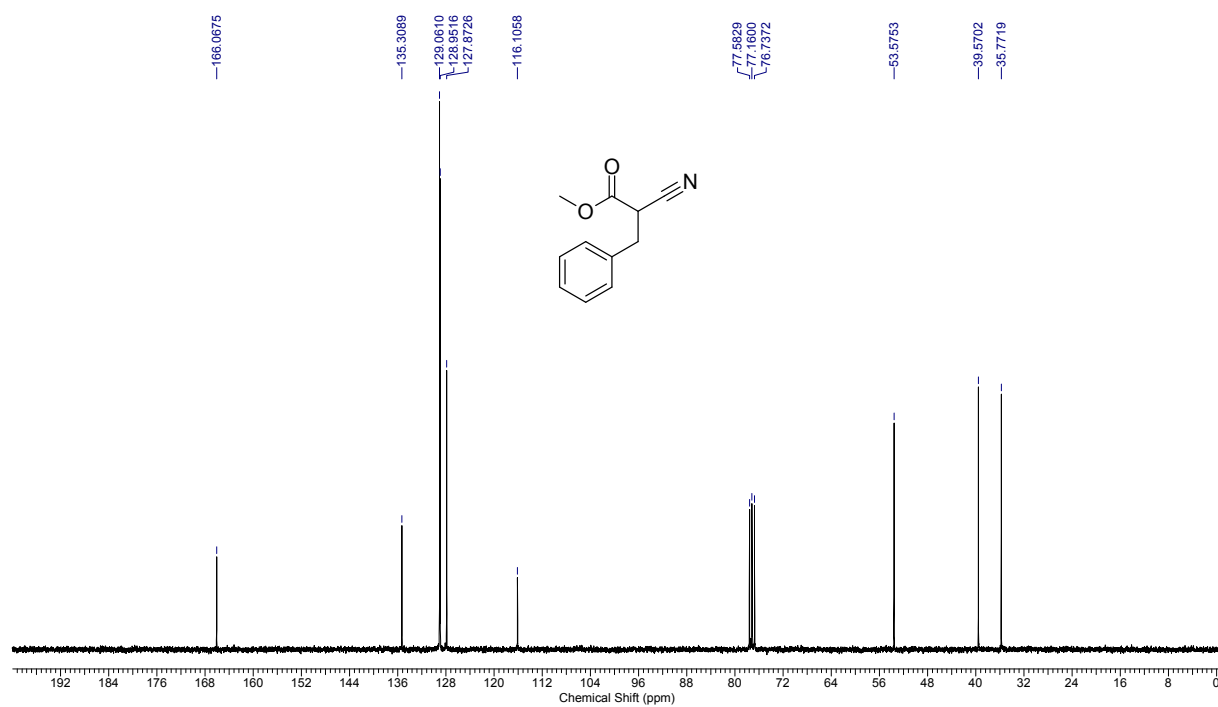
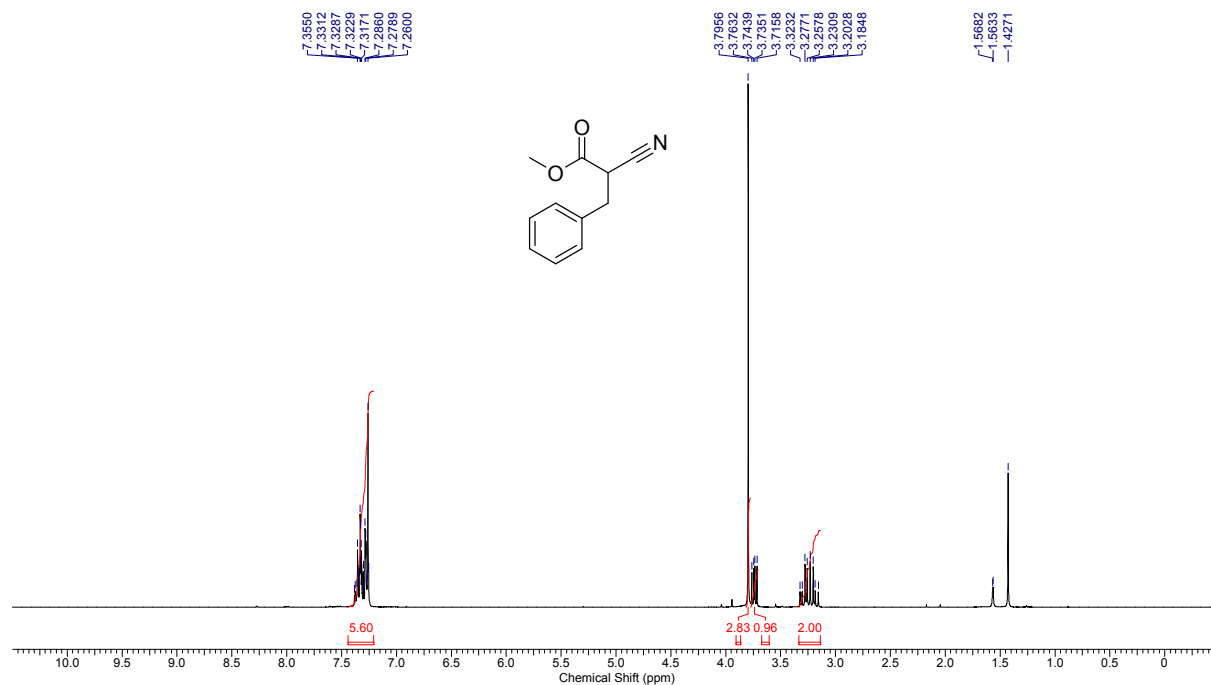
**39b** was obtained following the general procedure C starting from cyclohexanone (393 mg, 4.00 mmol), dimedone (561 mg, 4.00 mmol, 1 equiv.) and CPME (3 mL, [S] = 1.3 M). Purification by flash column chromatography using a gradient of cyclohexane/ethyl acetate afforded the title compound (550 mg, 62%) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.27 (s, 1 H), 2.76 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.50 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.02 (tt, *J* = 11.9, 3.4 Hz, 1 H, CH), 1.79-1.76 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.63-1.60 (m, 1 H, CH), 1.48-1.44 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.34-1.25 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.20 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.16-1.09 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.88 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 200.1 (C), 101.7 (C), 52.7 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.7 (CH), 30.7 (C), 30.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>)

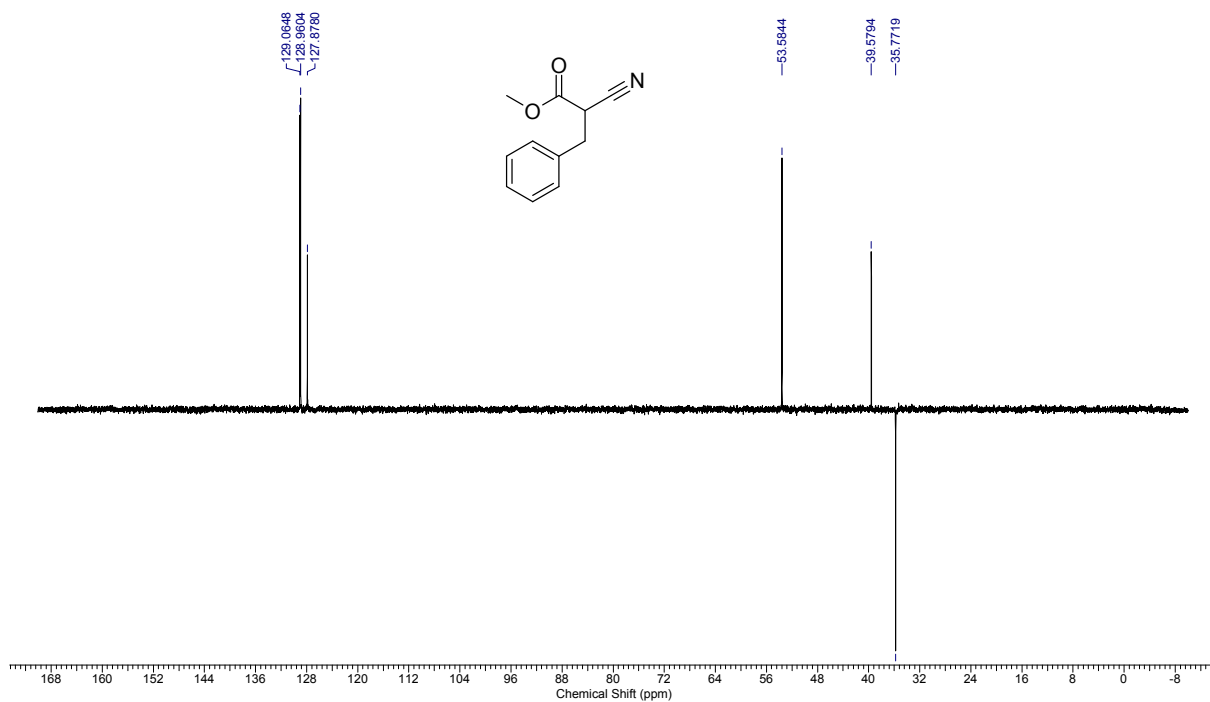
<sup>13</sup> M. Sekiya, K. Suzuki, *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **1971**, *19*, 1540-1545.

ppm. **EI-MS** m/z (%): 222 (20, M<sup>+</sup>), 141 (100), 95 (60), 83 (21), 67 (80), 55 (14). **GC**: retention time: 11.89 min. **GC/MS**: retention time: 11.28 min.

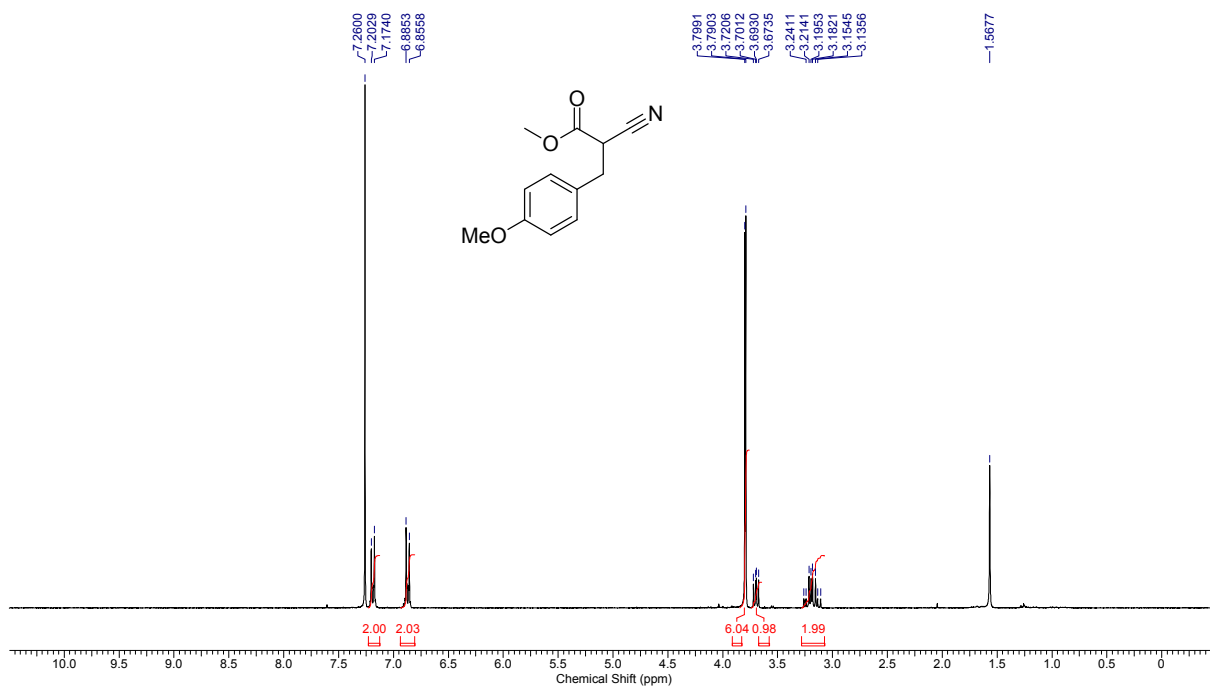
## 4. Spectra

### Methyl 2-cyano-3-phenylpropionate [57519-78-5] (4b)

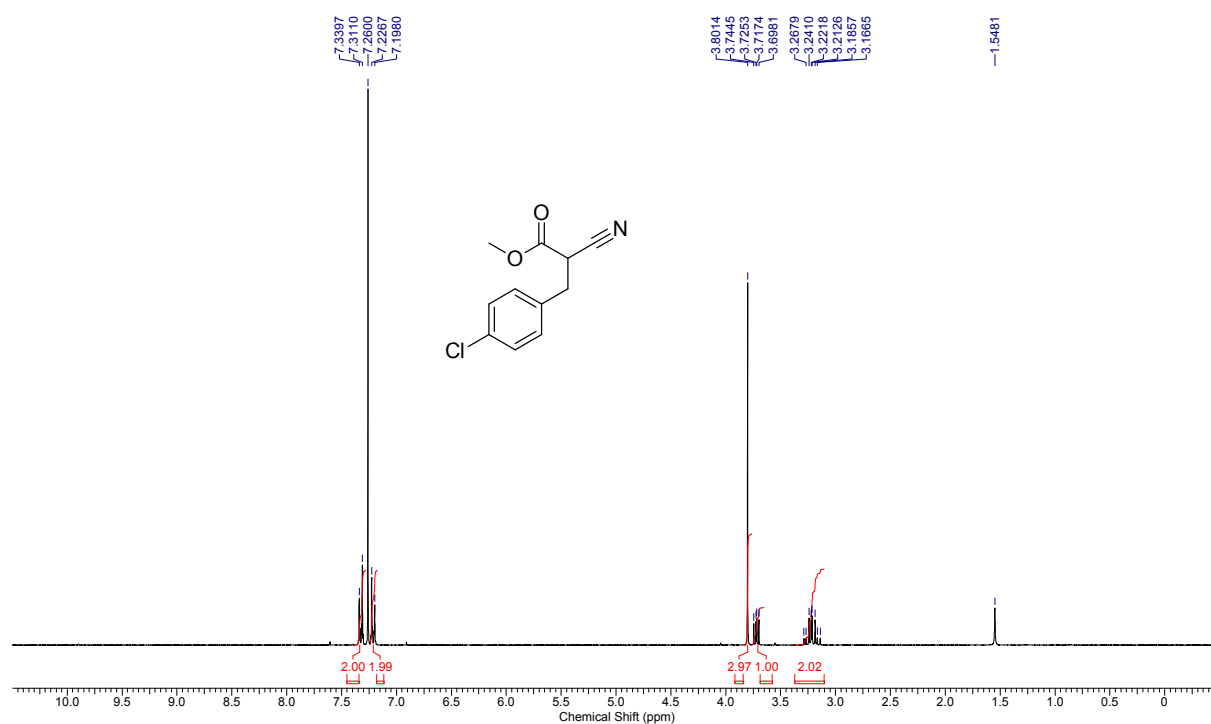




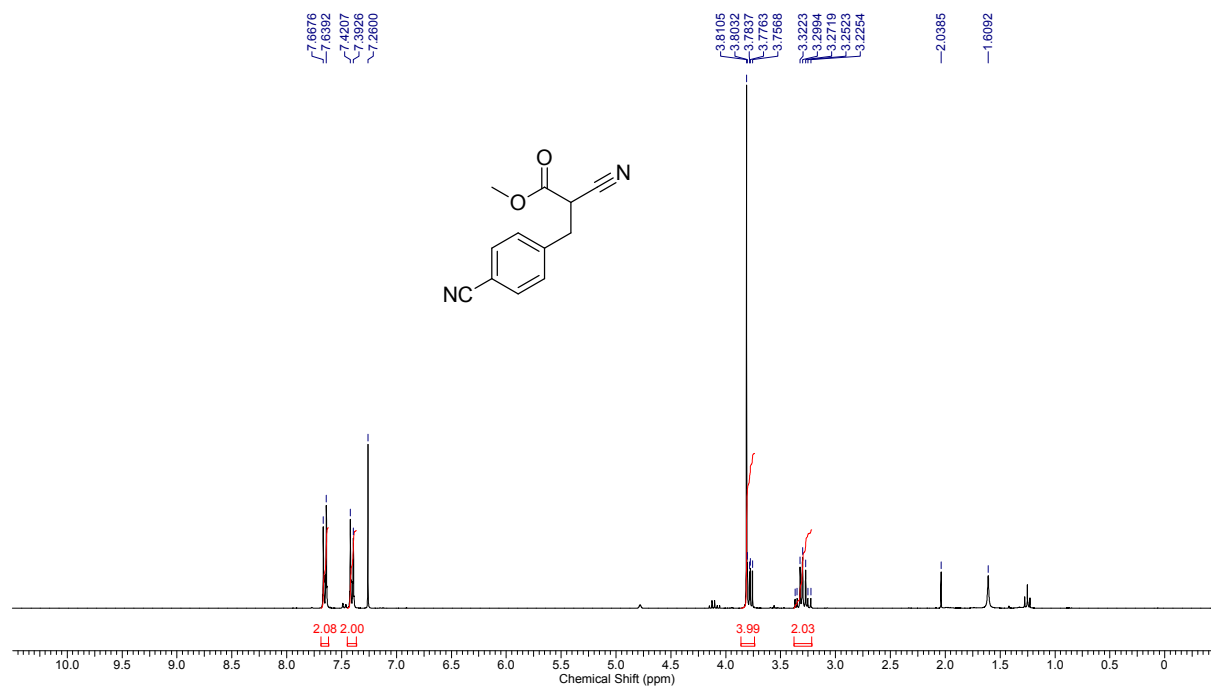
**Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate [75140-48-6] (6b)**

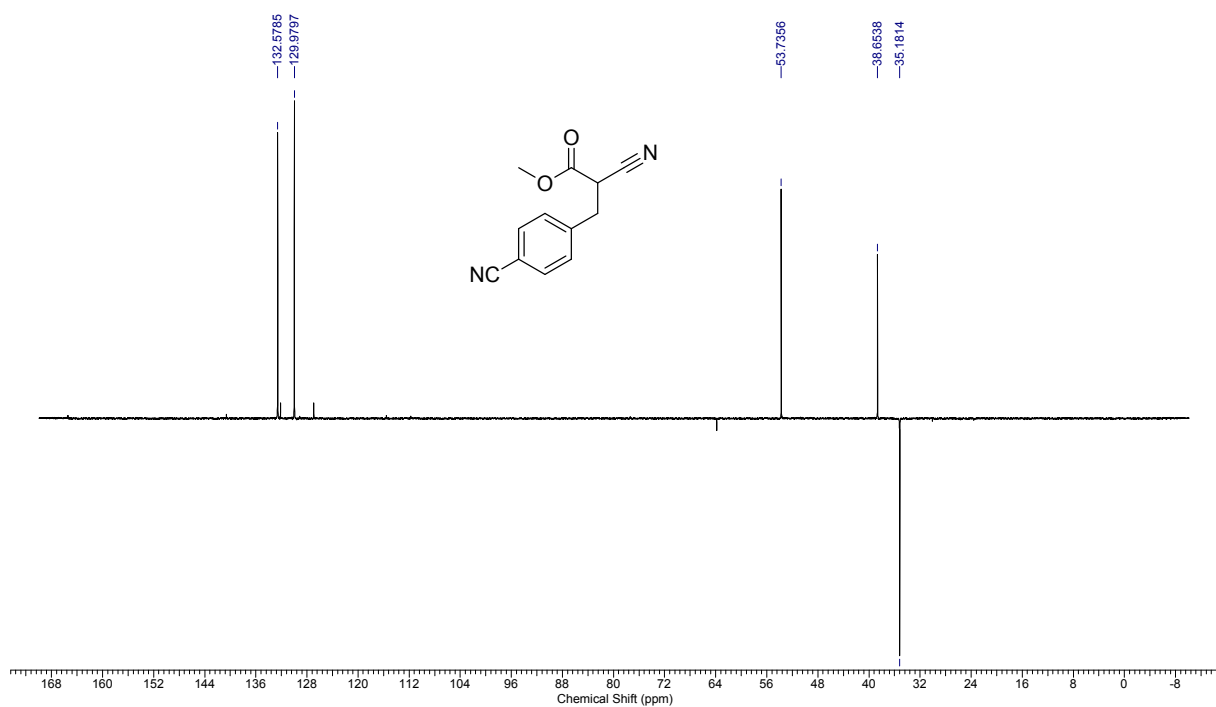
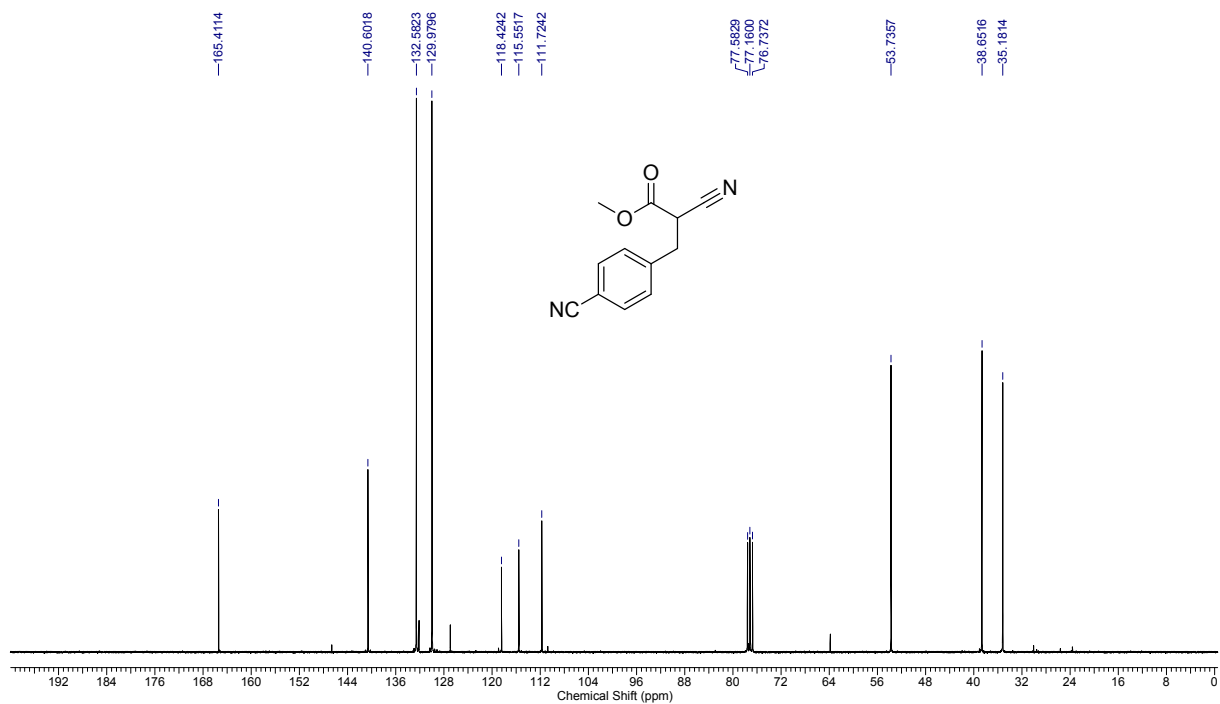


**Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-chlorophenyl)propionate [189697-36-7] (8b)**

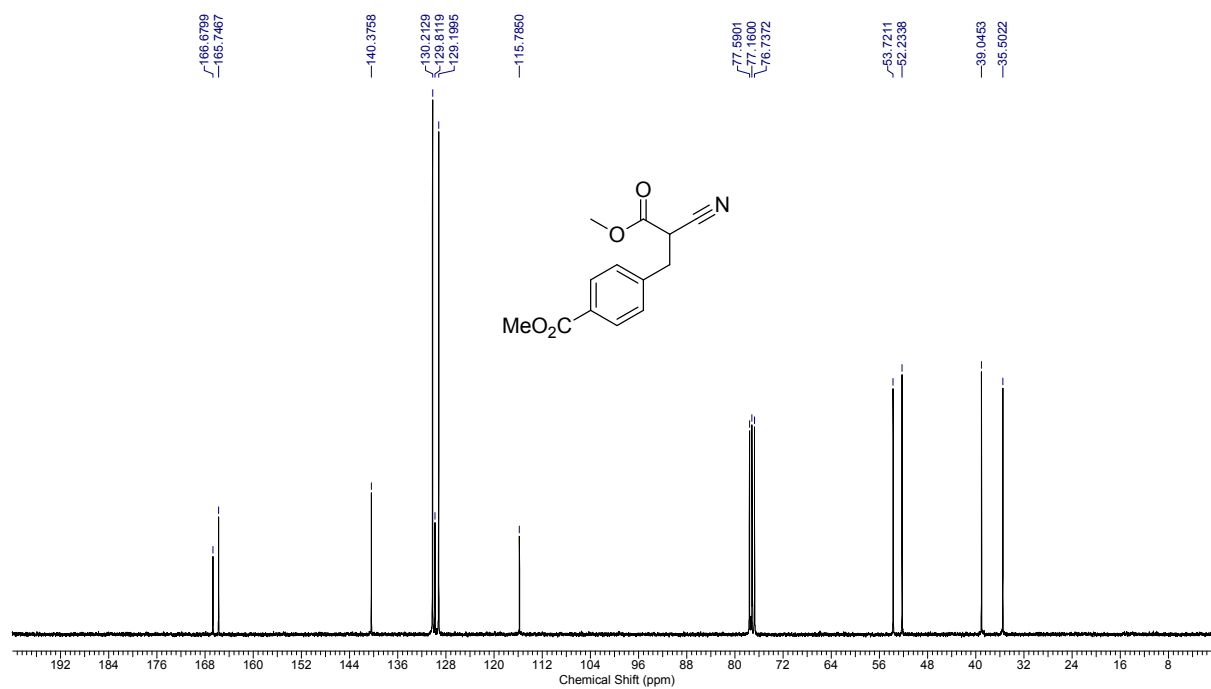
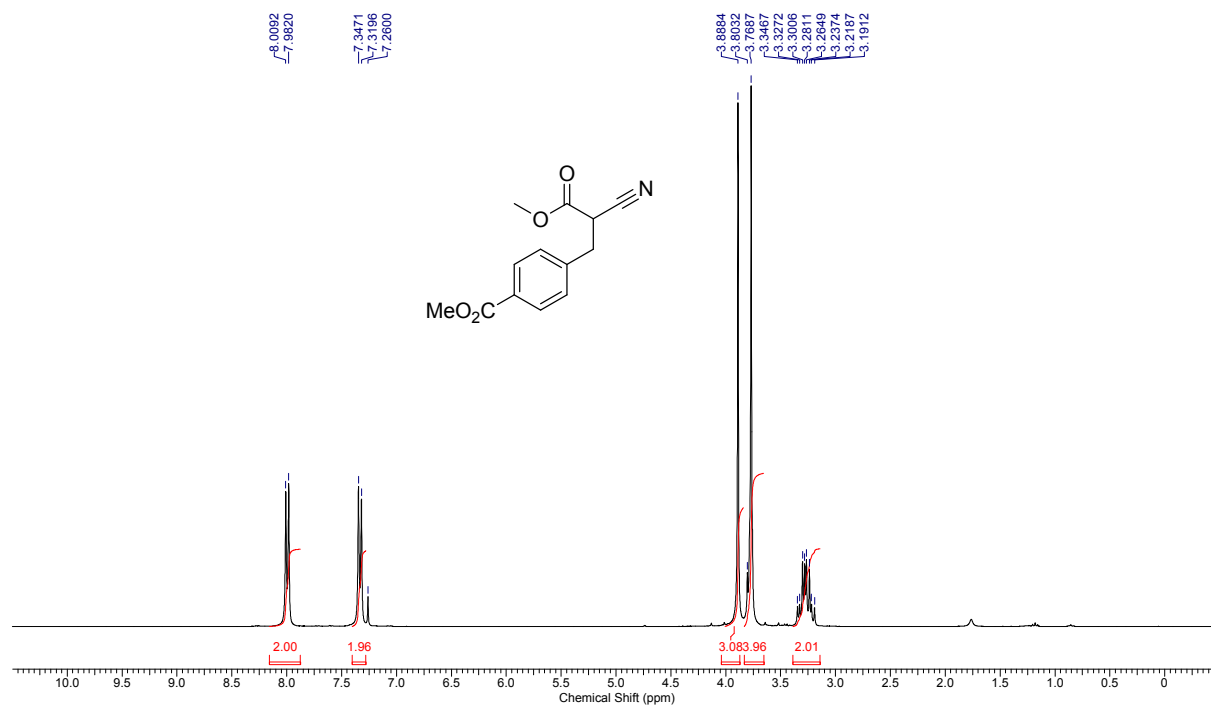


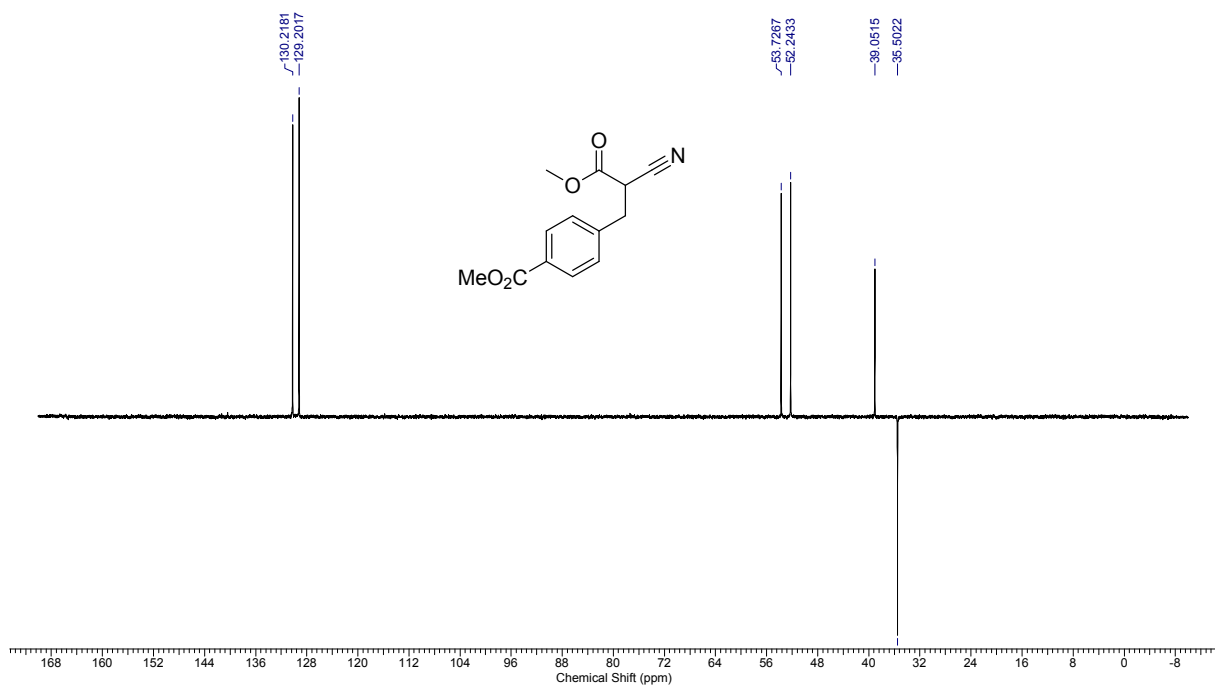
**Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-cyanophenyl)propanoate [676272-25-6] (10b)**



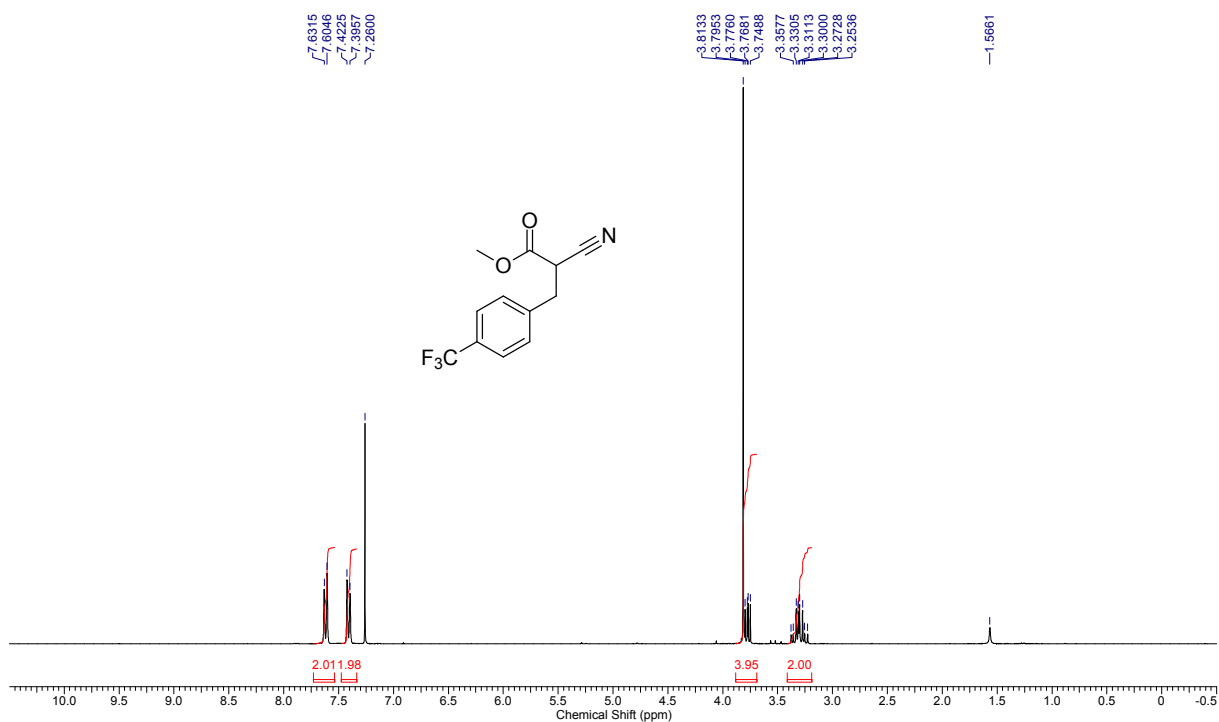


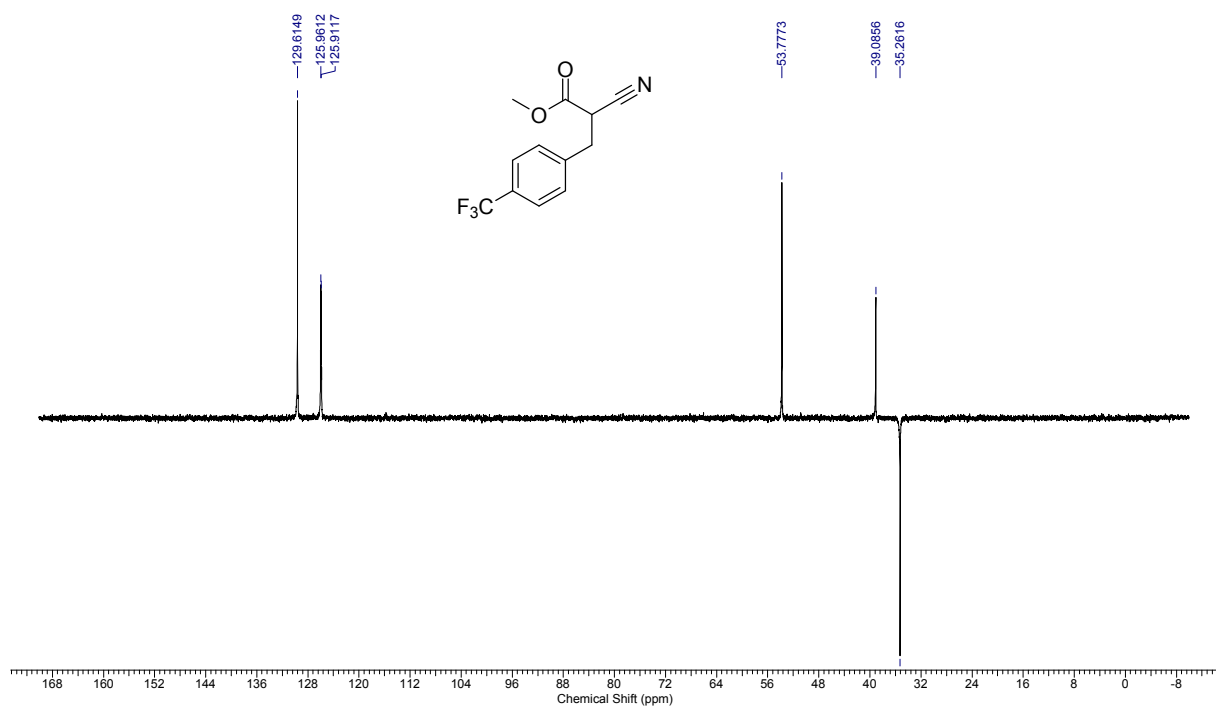
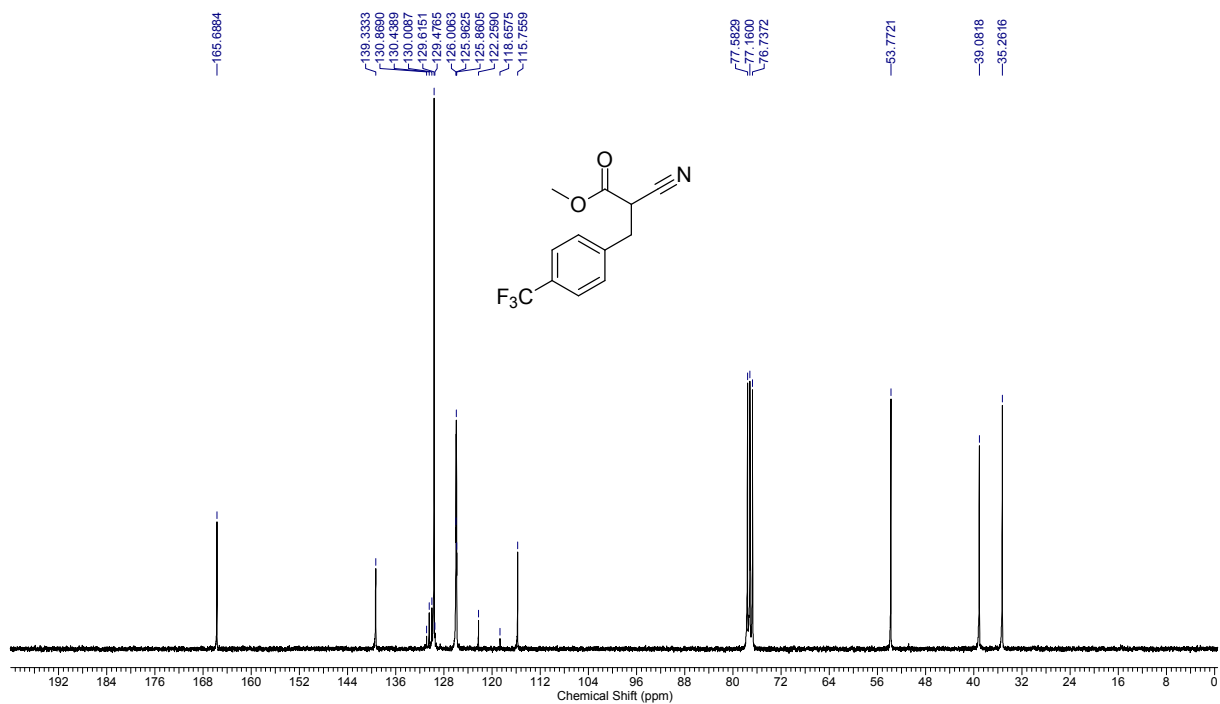
# Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-methylbenzoate)propanoate (12b)



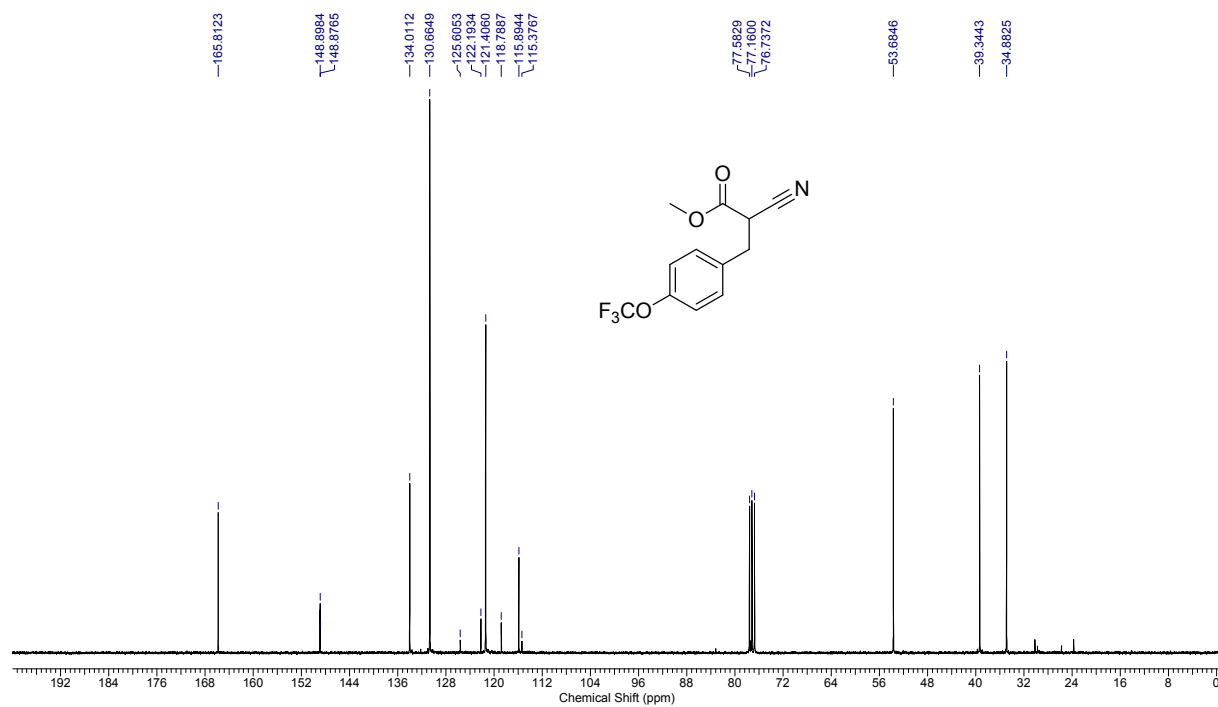
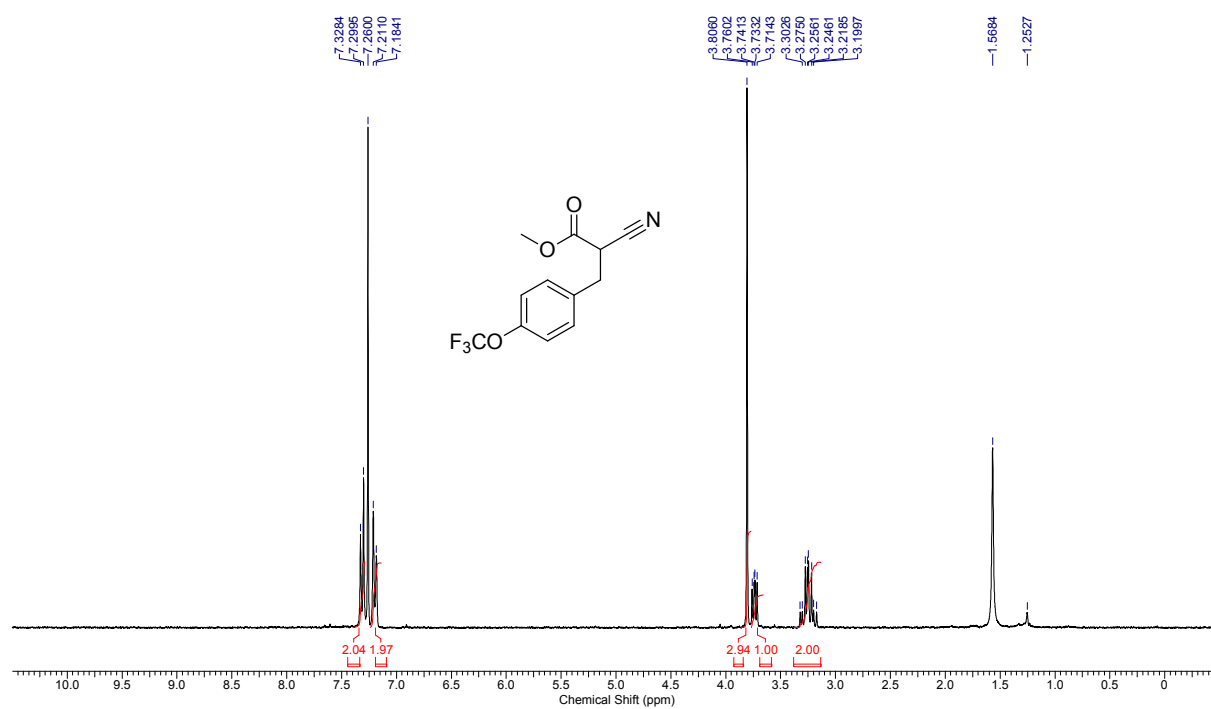


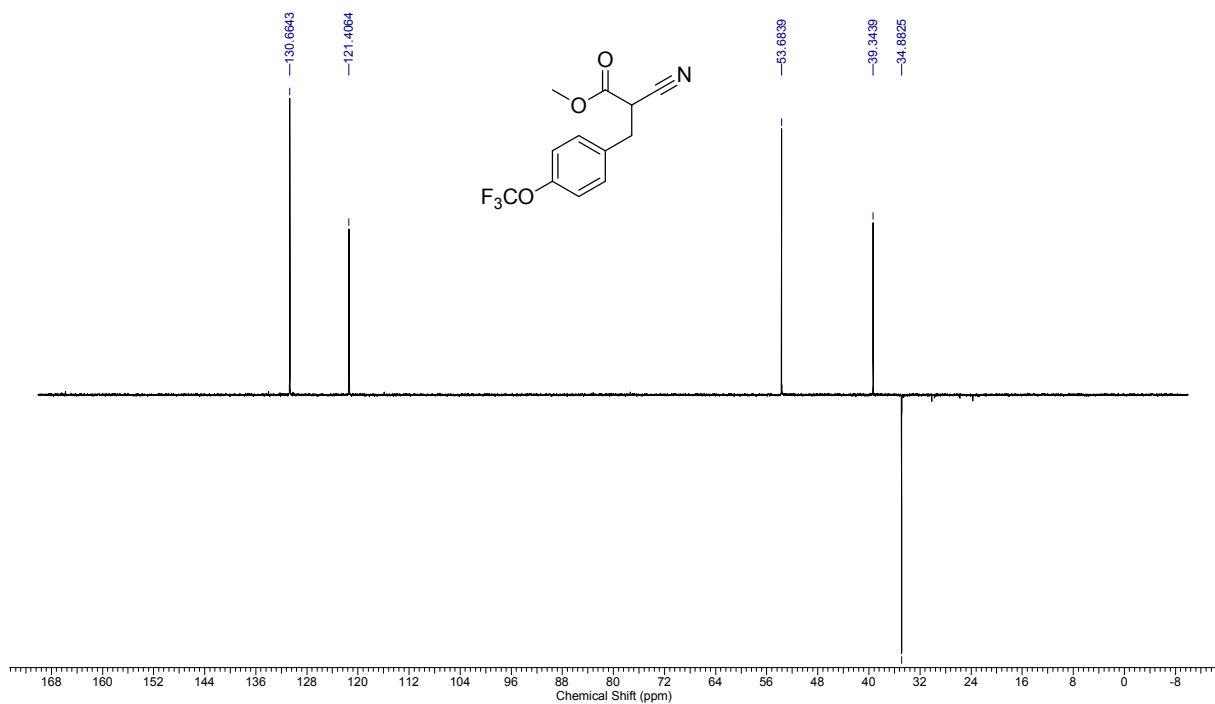
**Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)propionate [676272-24-5] (14b)**



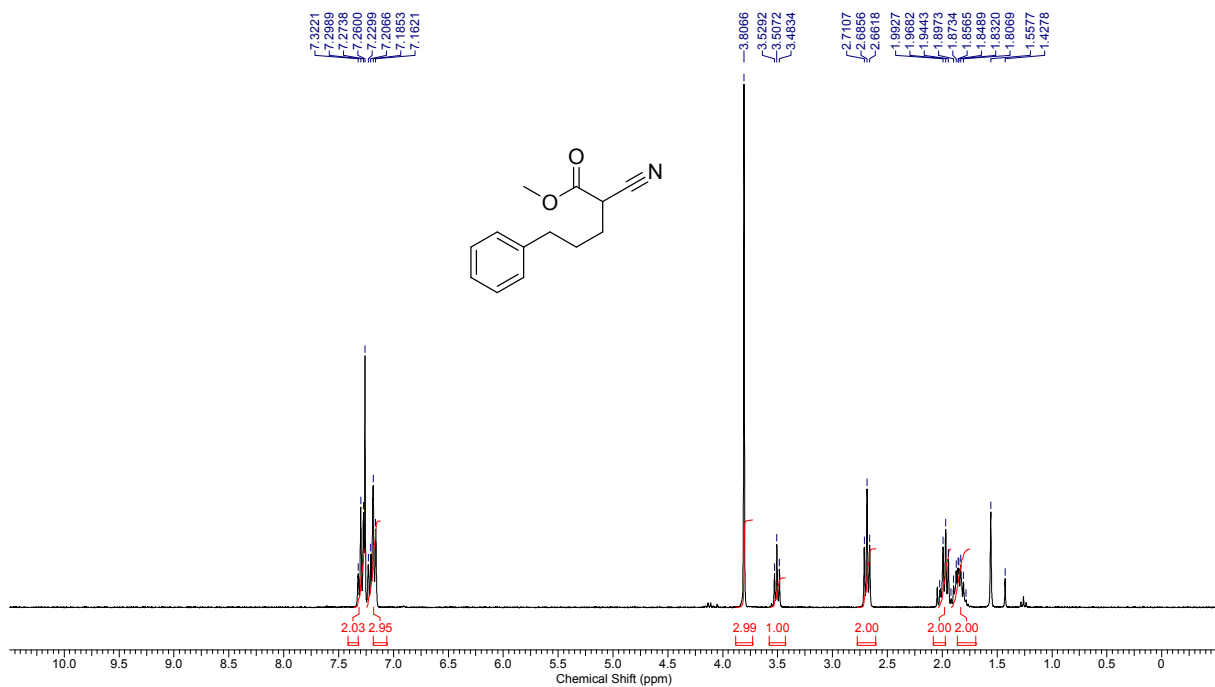


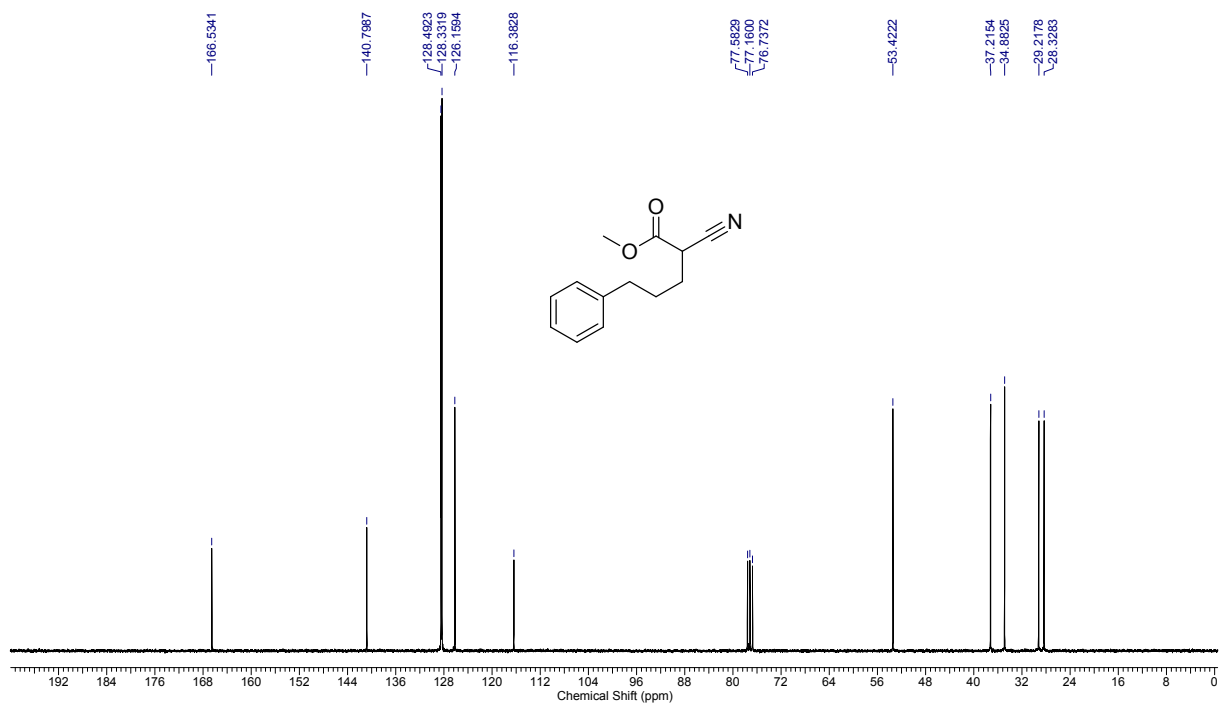
**Methyl 2-cyano-3-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)propionate (16b)**



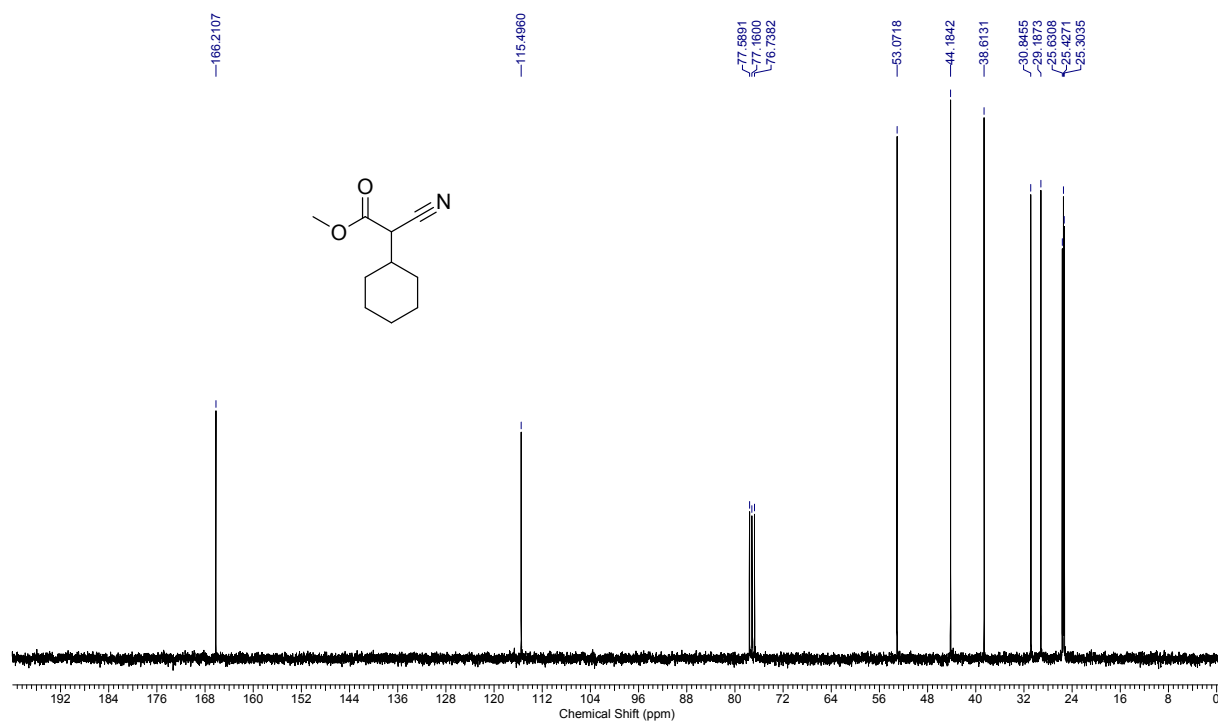
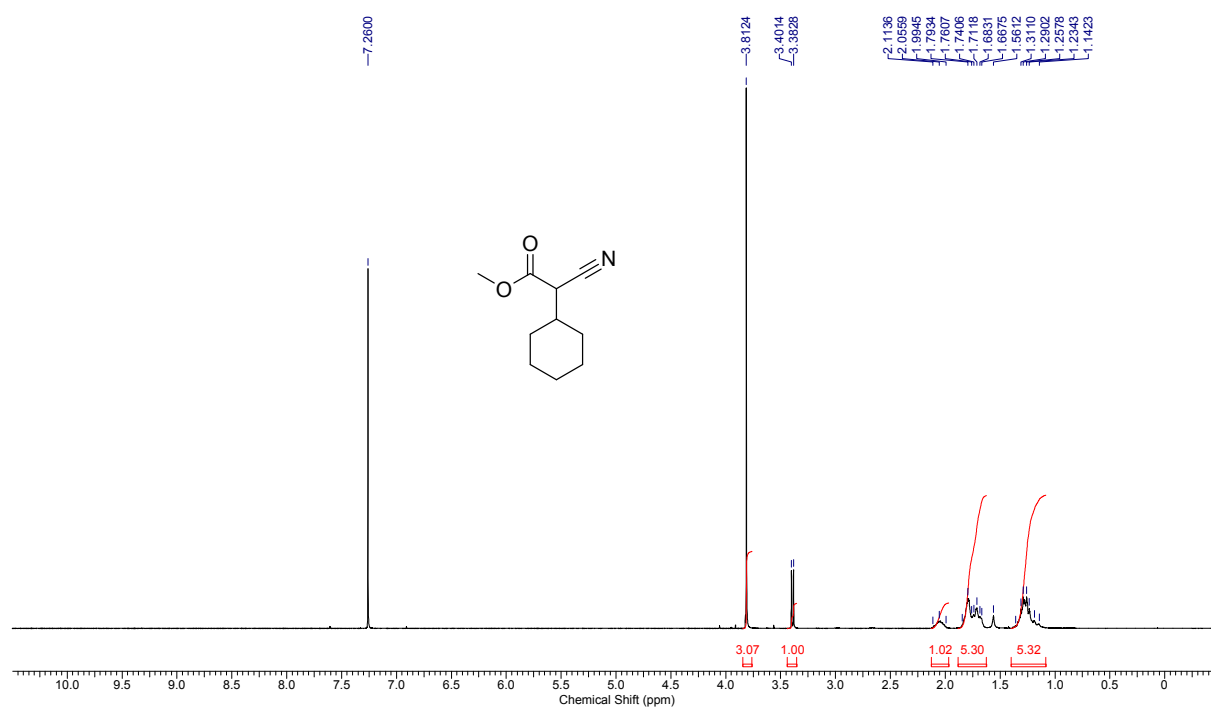


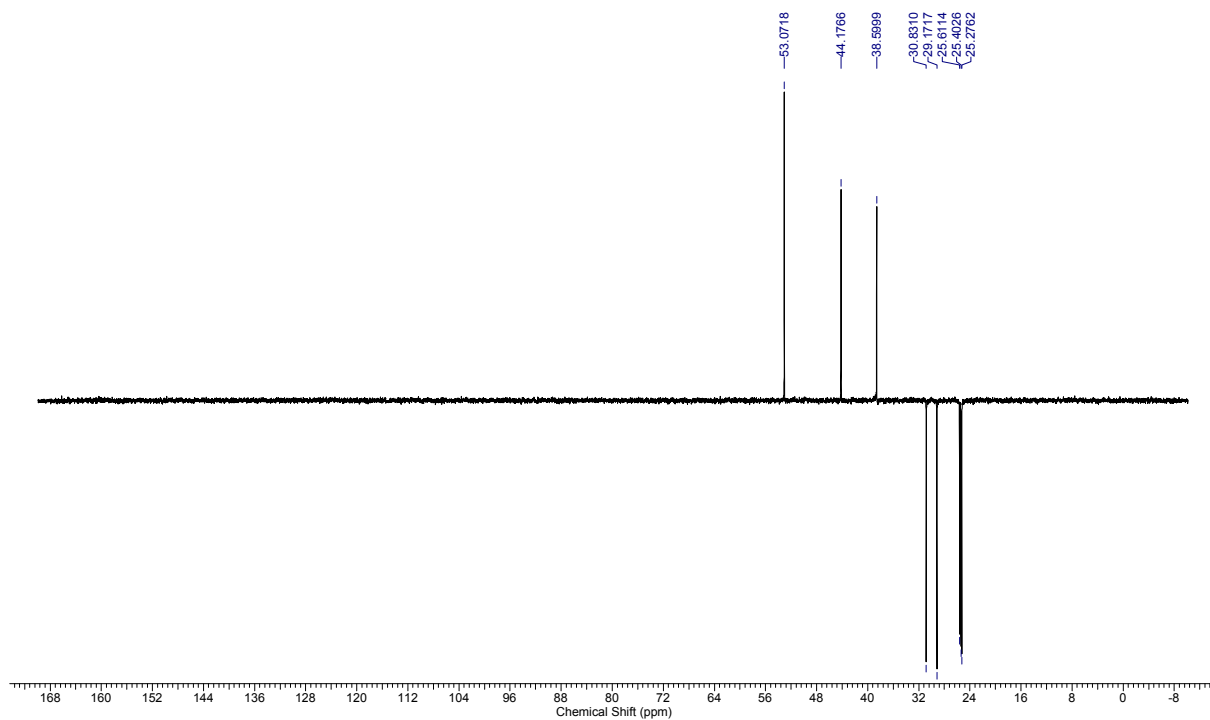
### Methyl 2-cyano-5-phenylpentanoate [1025483-41-3] (18b)



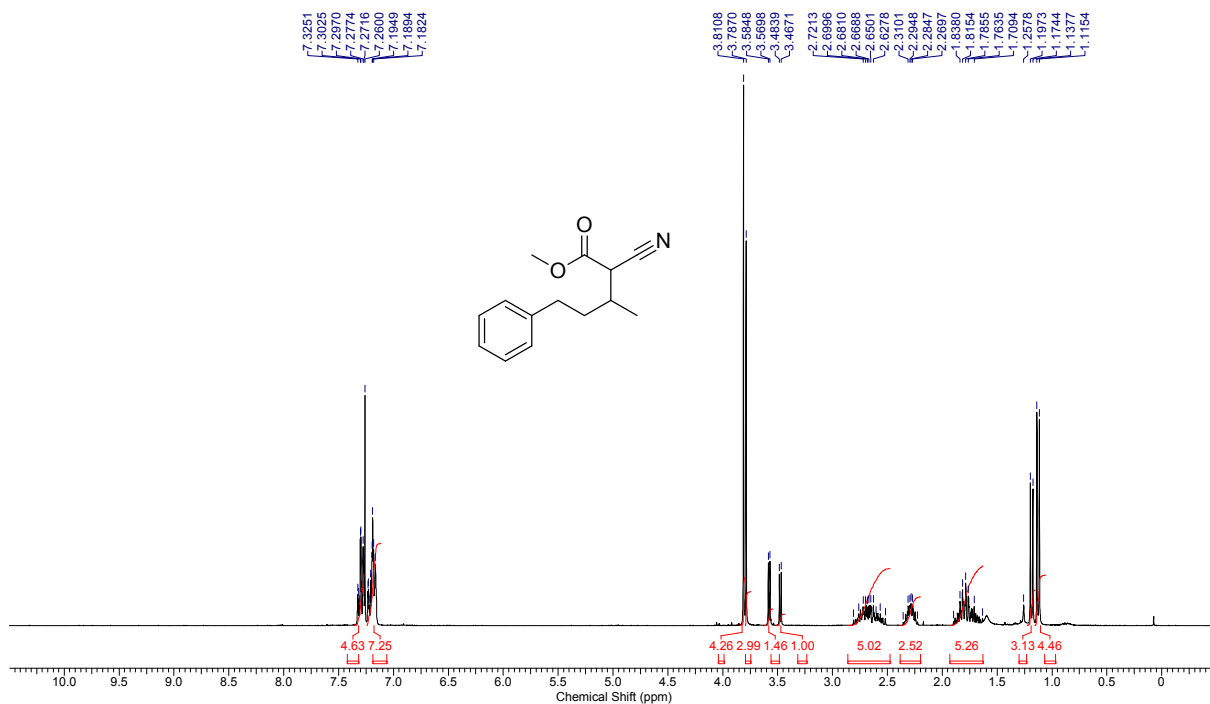


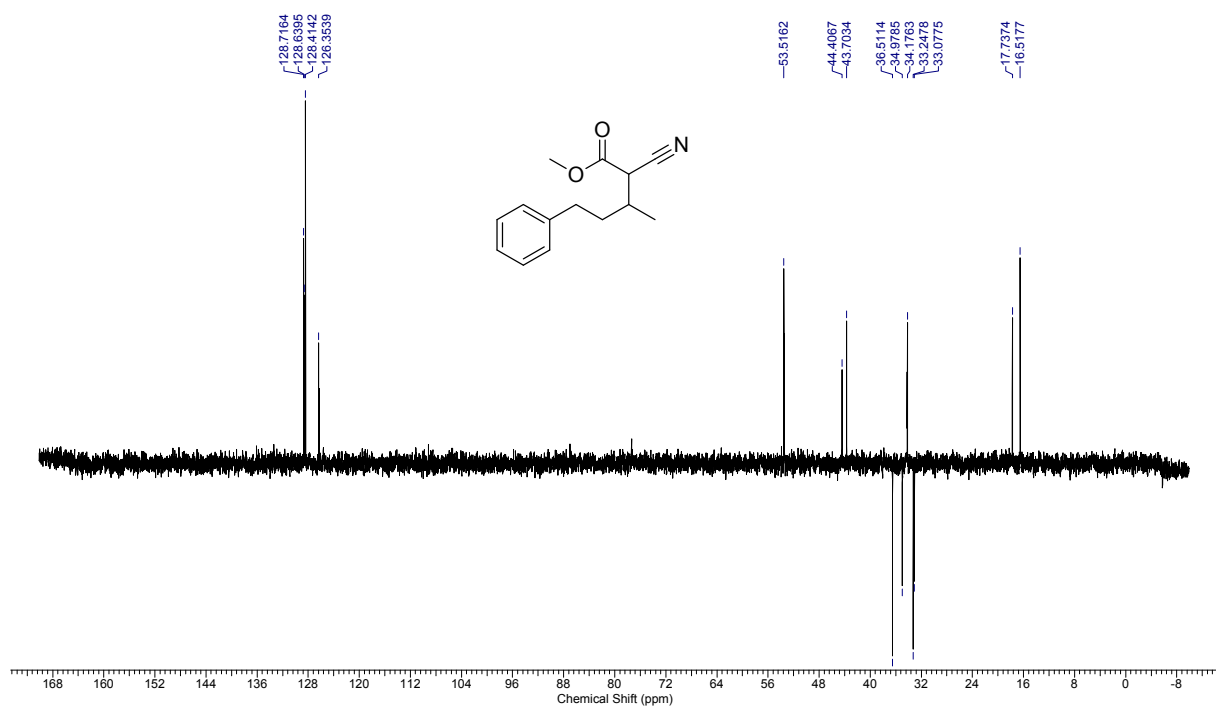
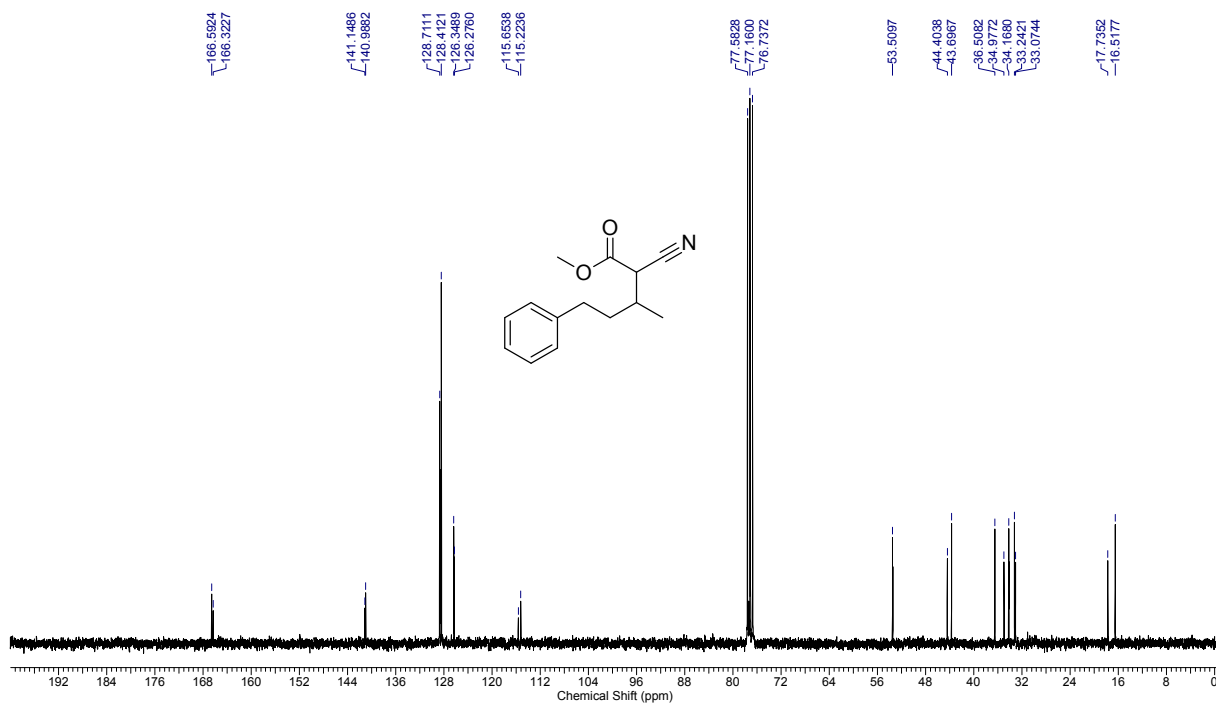
Cyano(cyclohexyl)acetic acid methyl ester [80627-89-0] (20b)



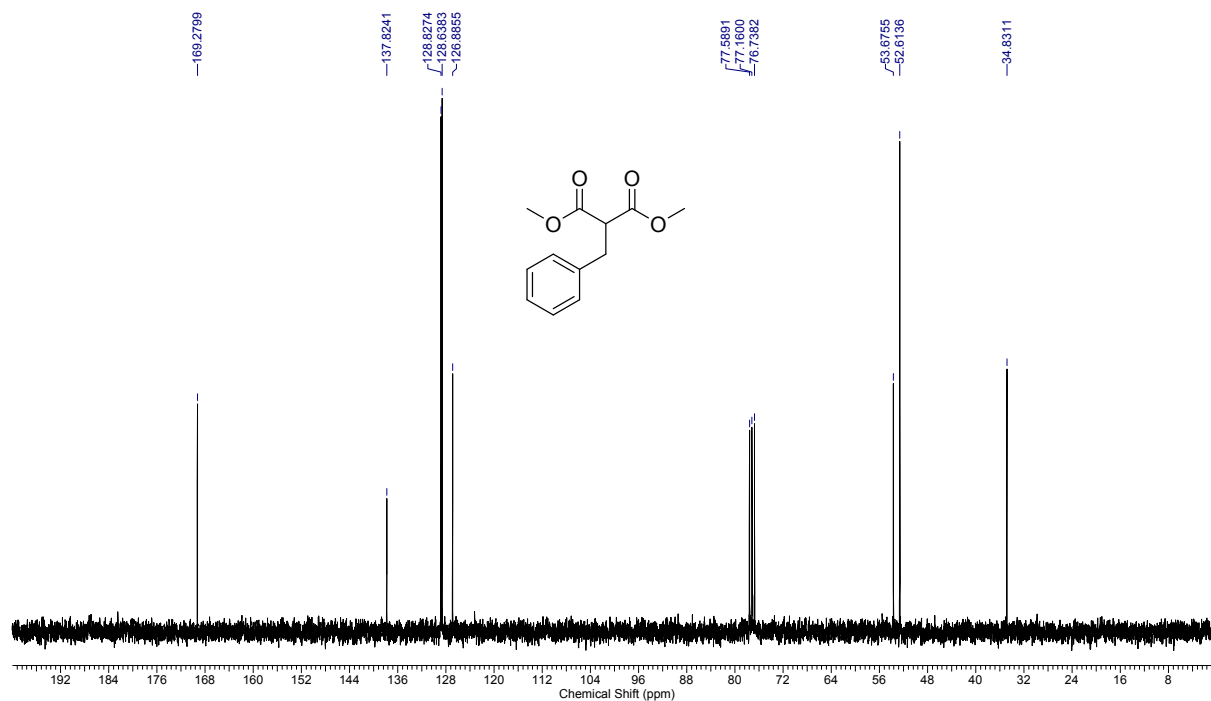
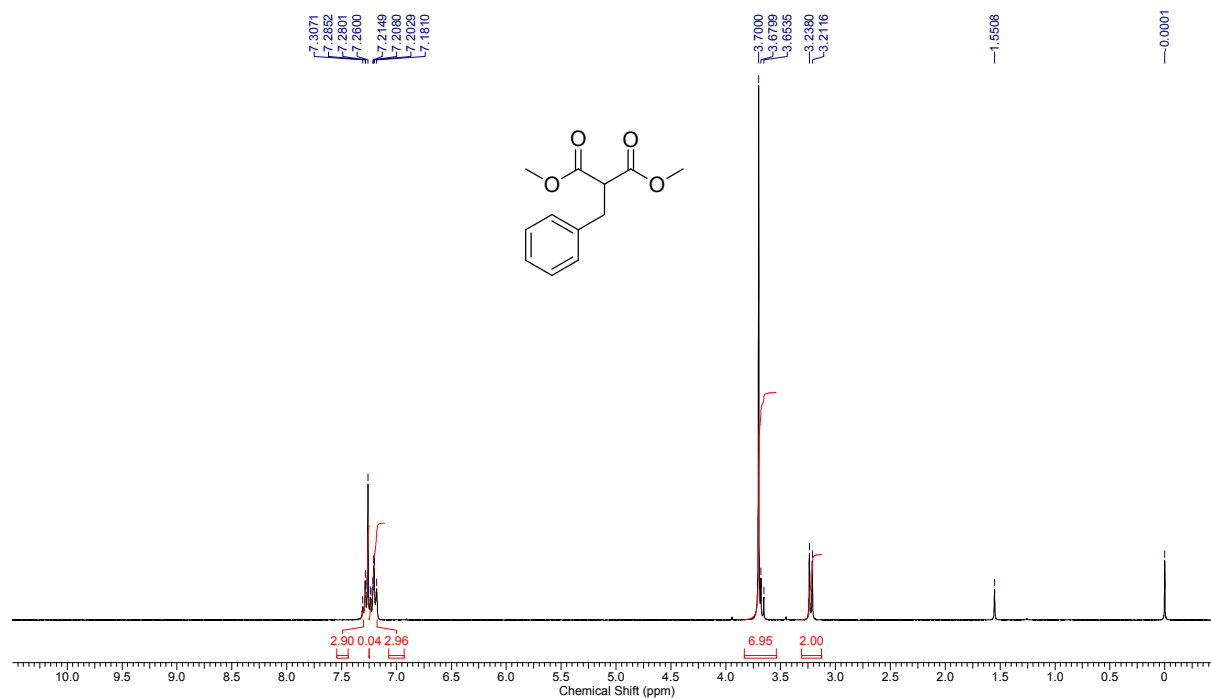


**Methyl 2-cyano-3-methyl-5-phenylpentanoate [1629235-94-4] and [1629235-95-5] (22b)**

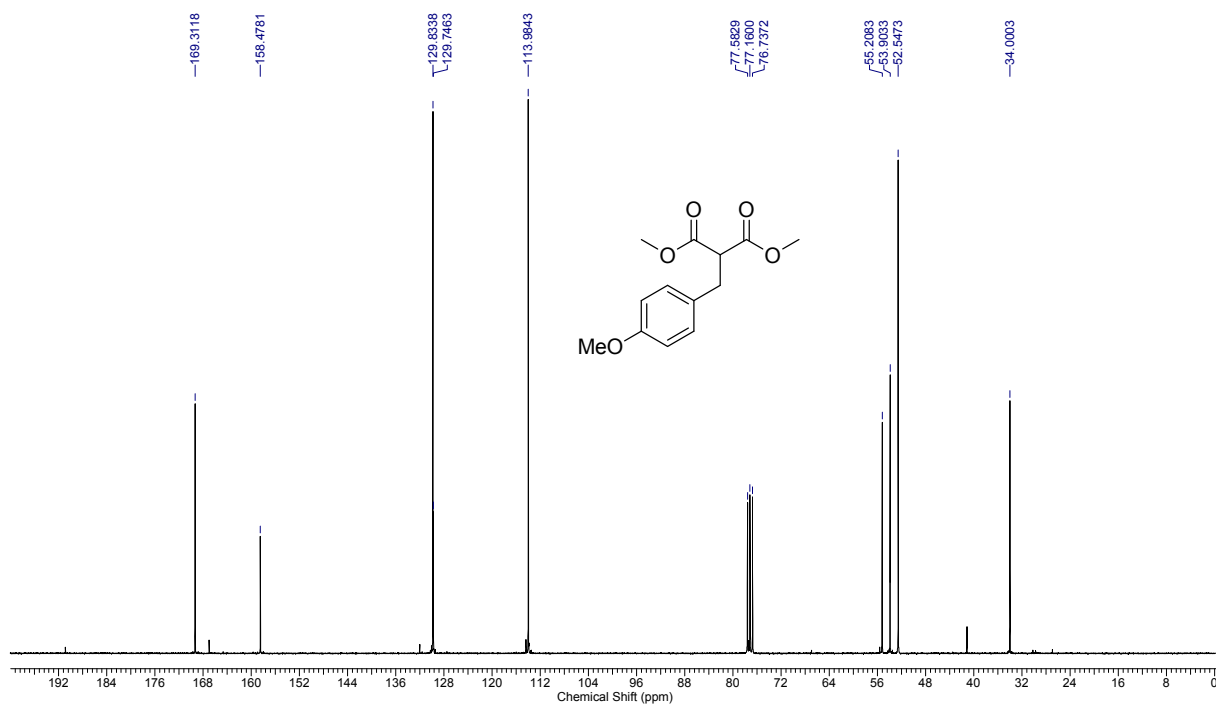
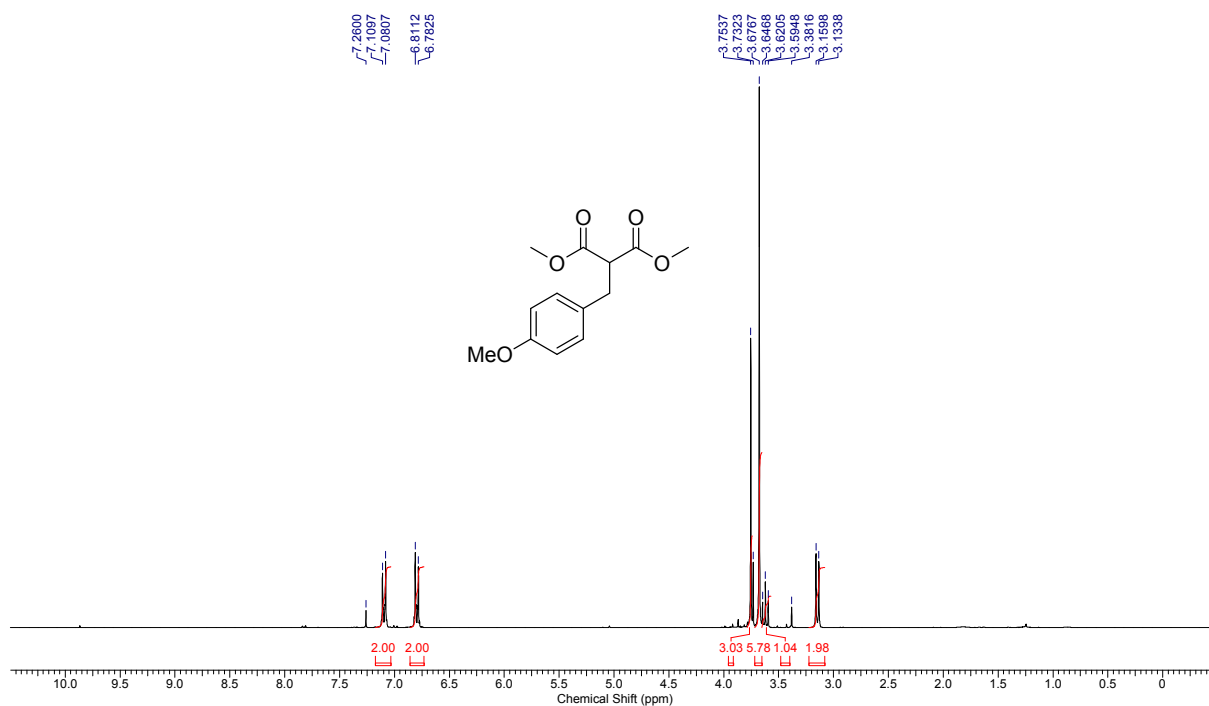


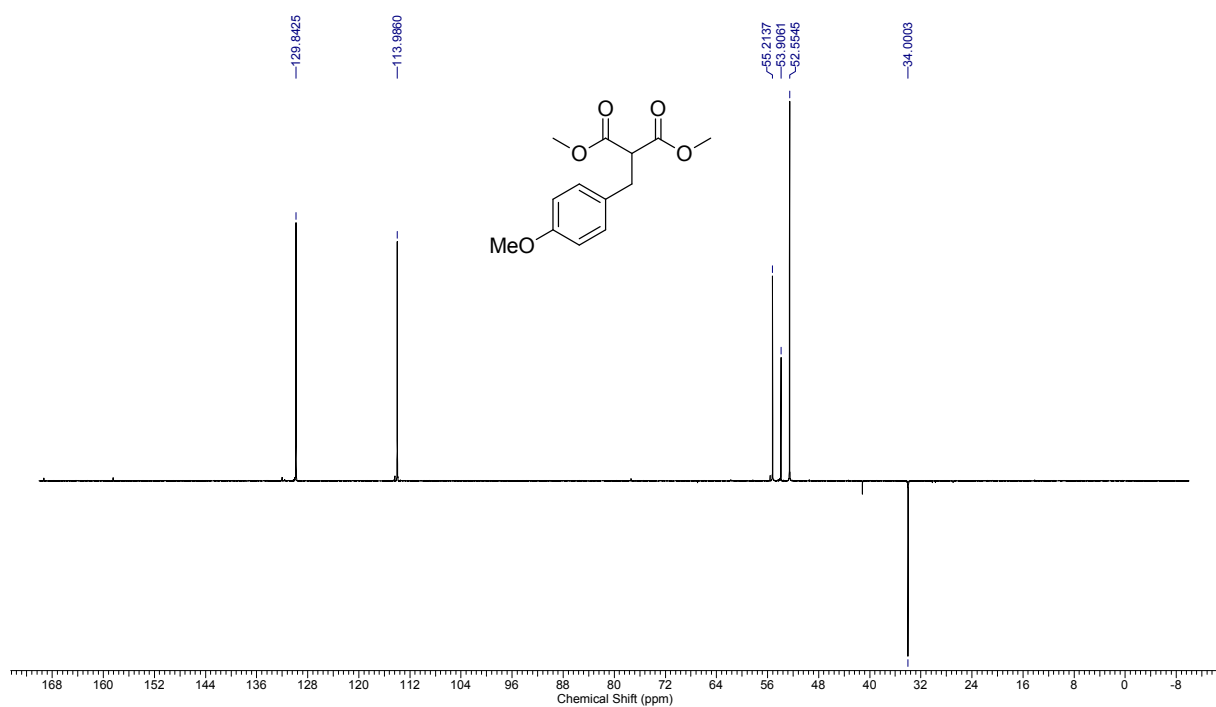


Dimethyl benzylmalonate [49769-78-0] (28b)

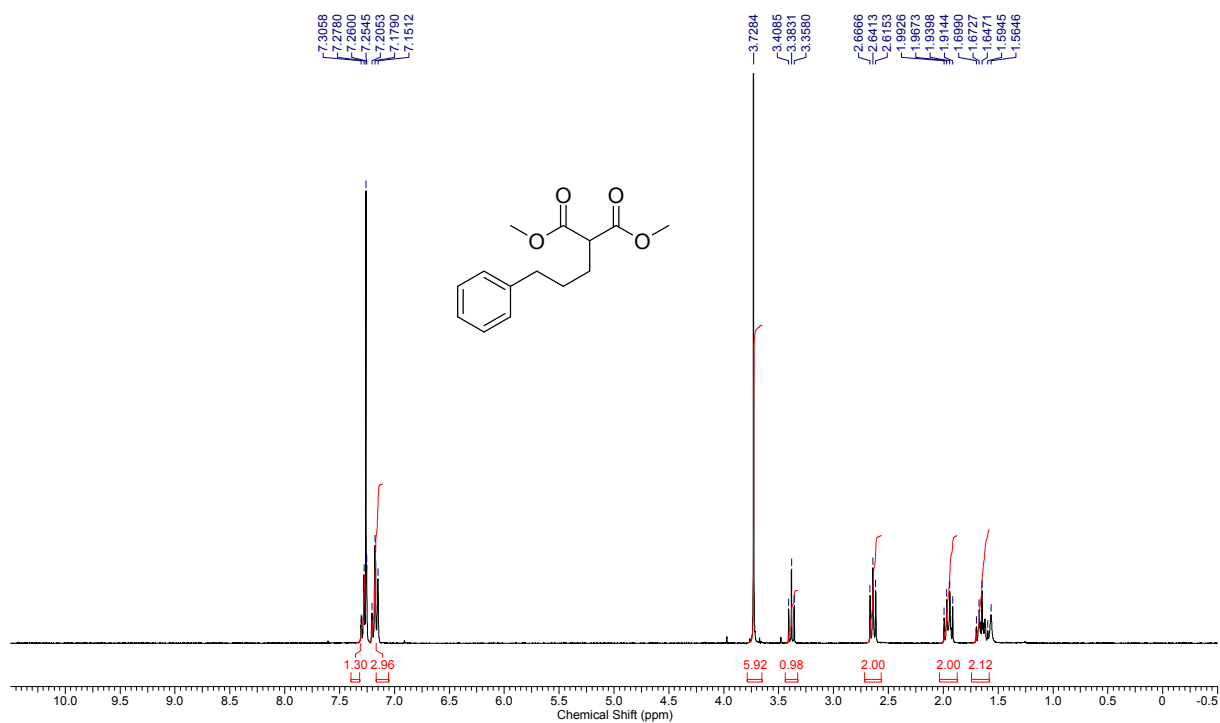


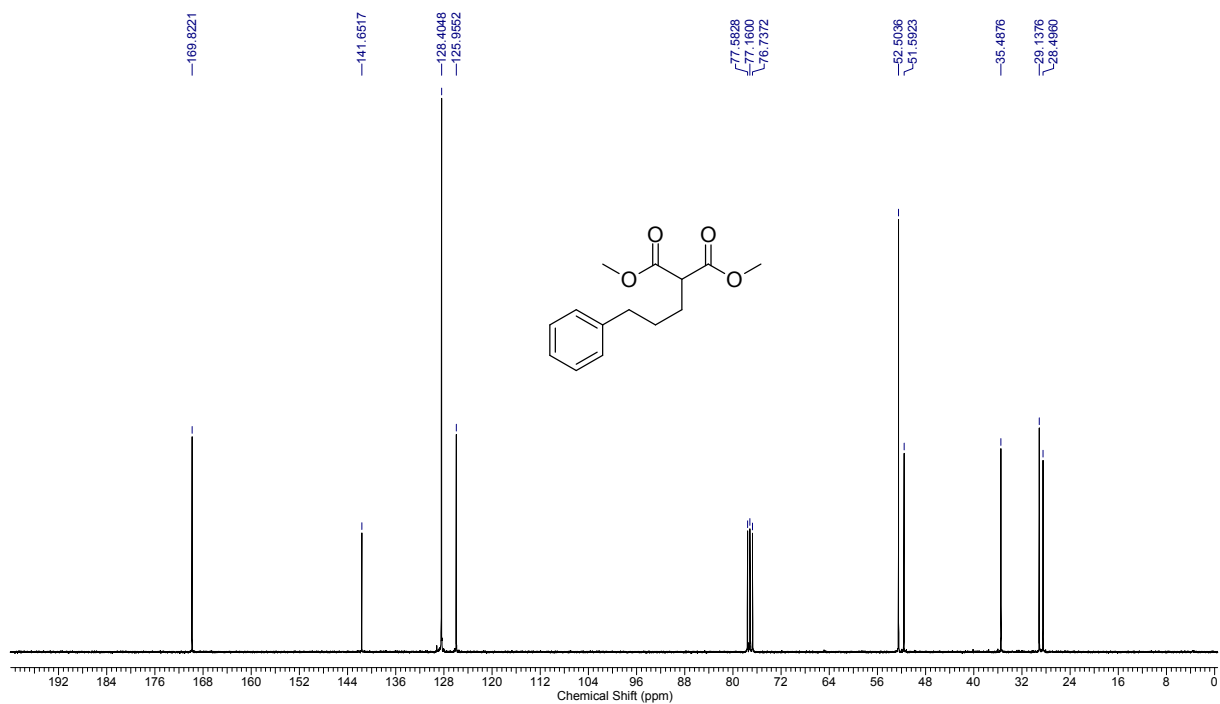
Dimethyl 2-(4'-methoxybenzyl)malonate [15378-09-3] (29b)



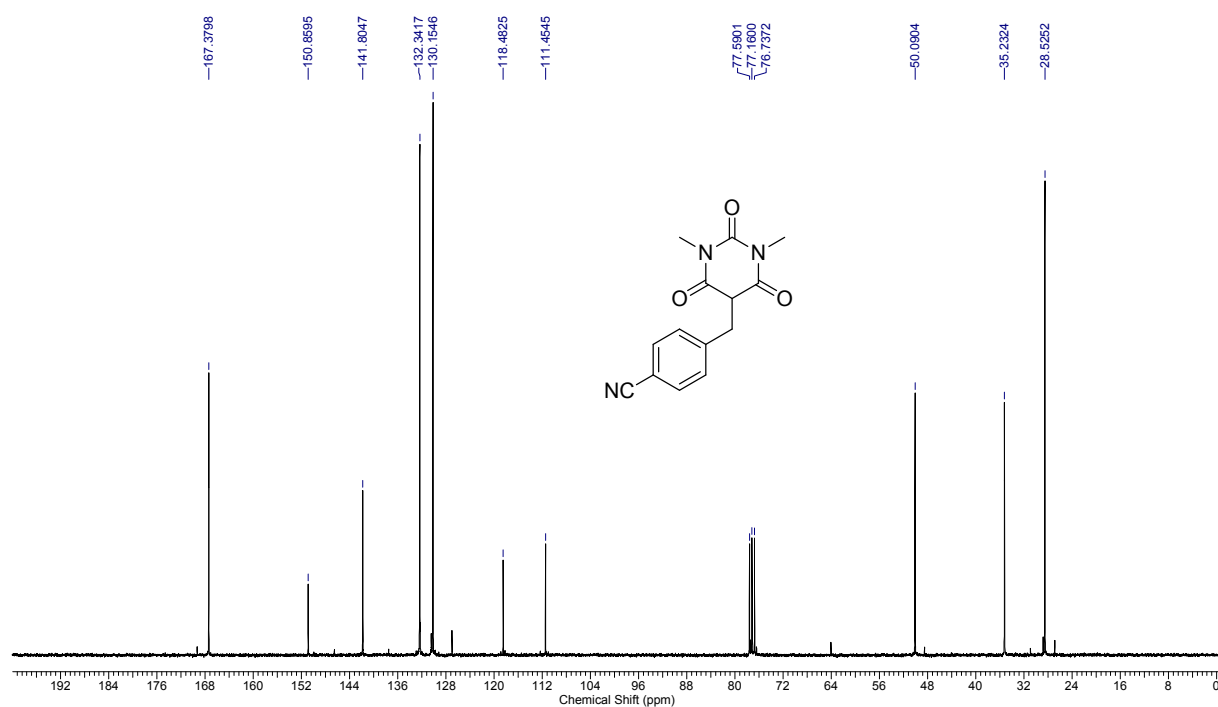
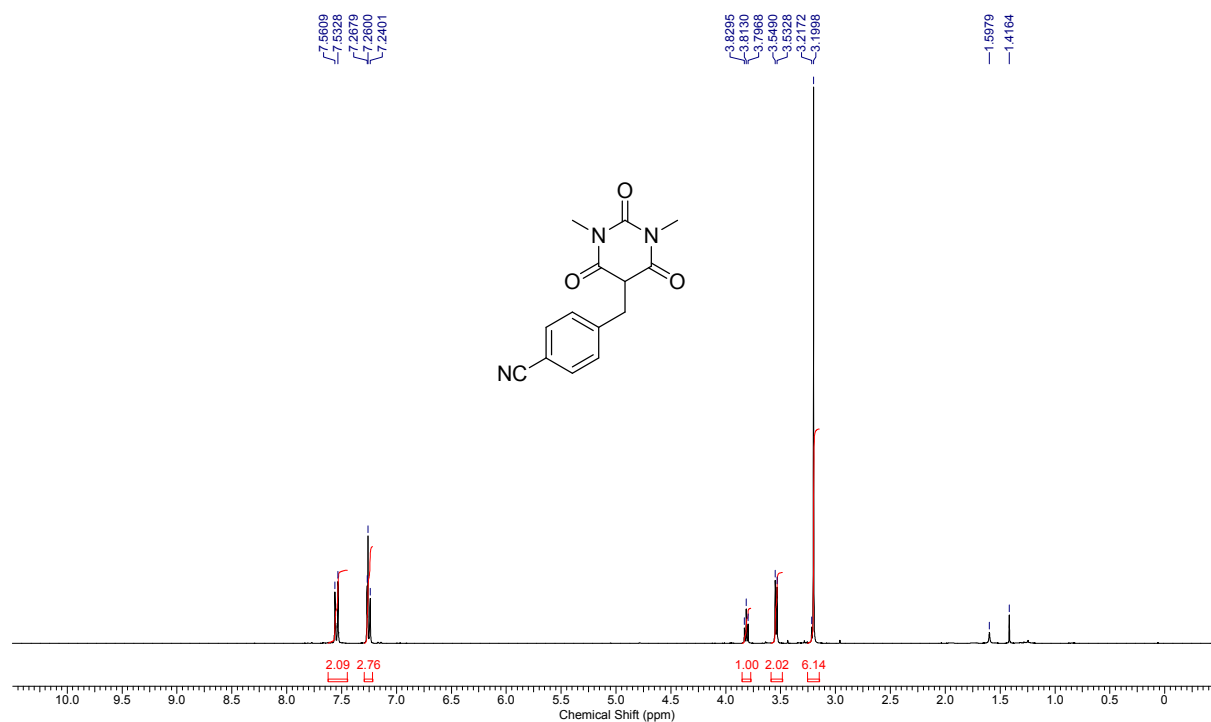


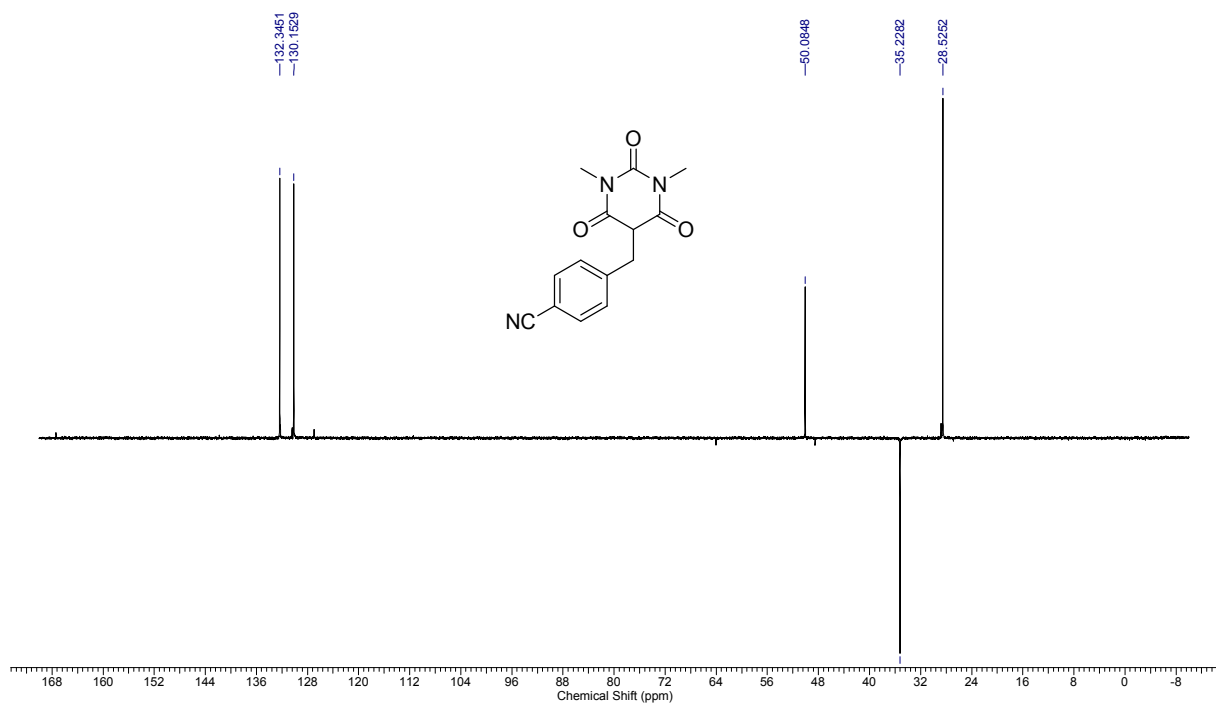
**2-(3-phenylpropyl)-malonic acid dimethyl ester [3708-34-7] (31b)**



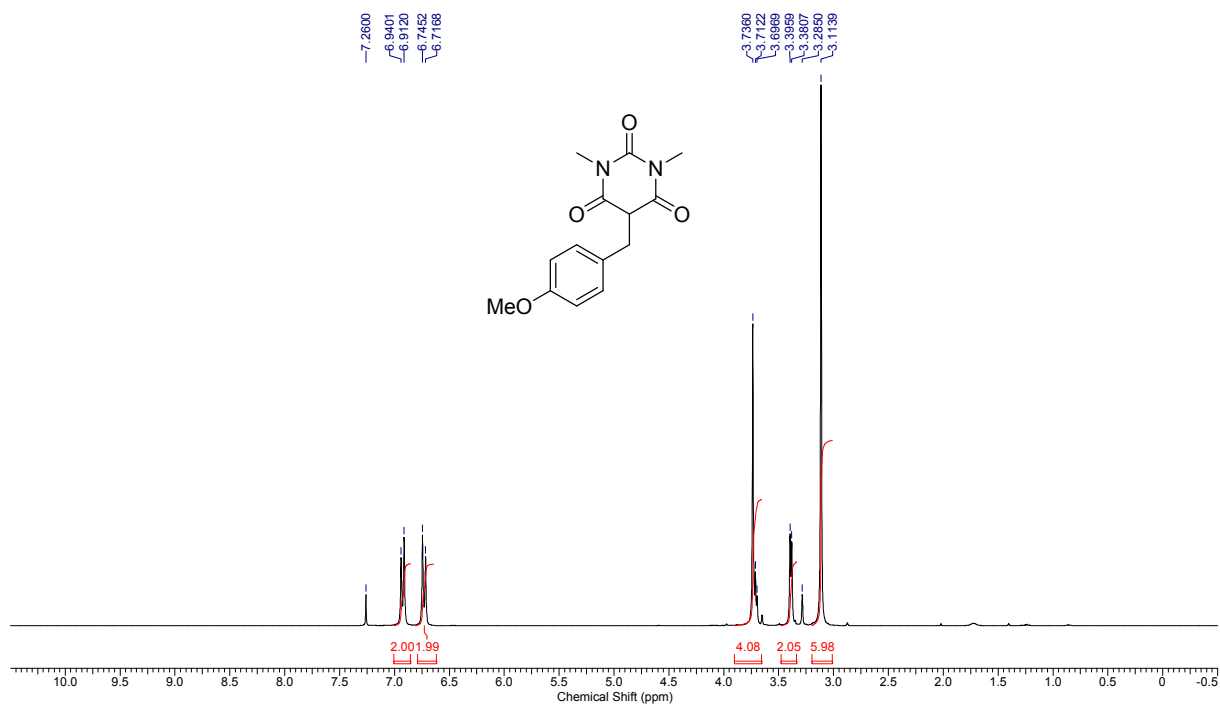


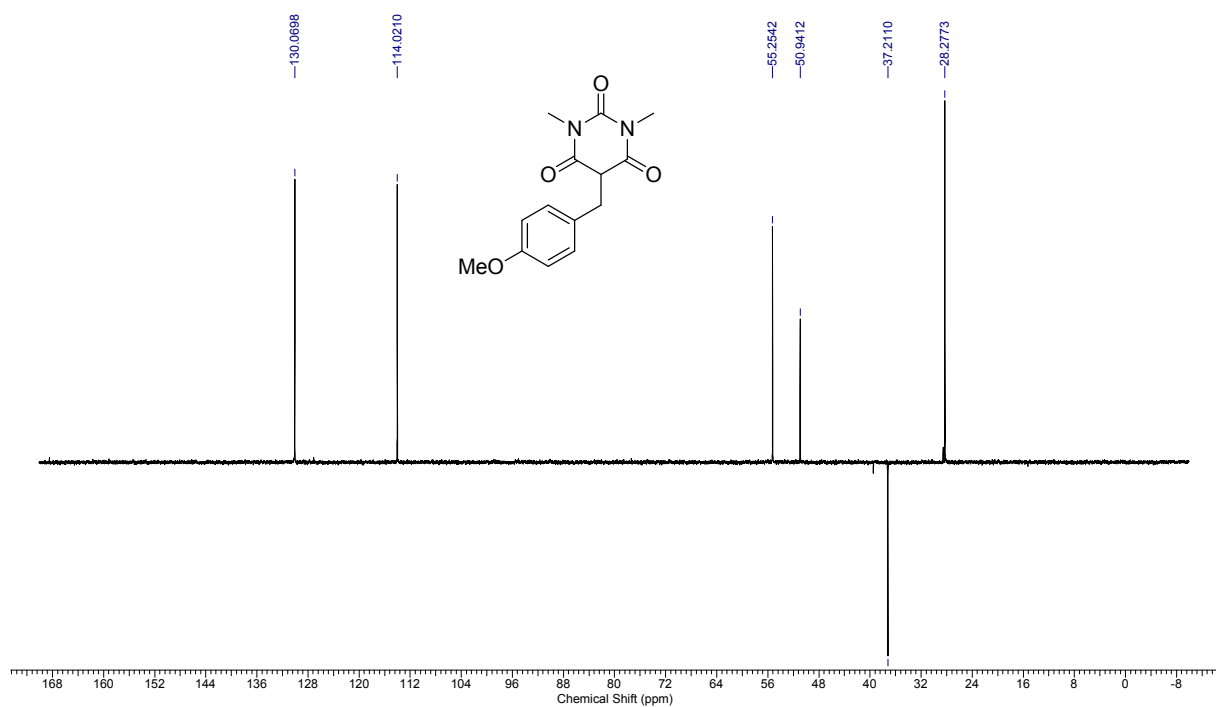
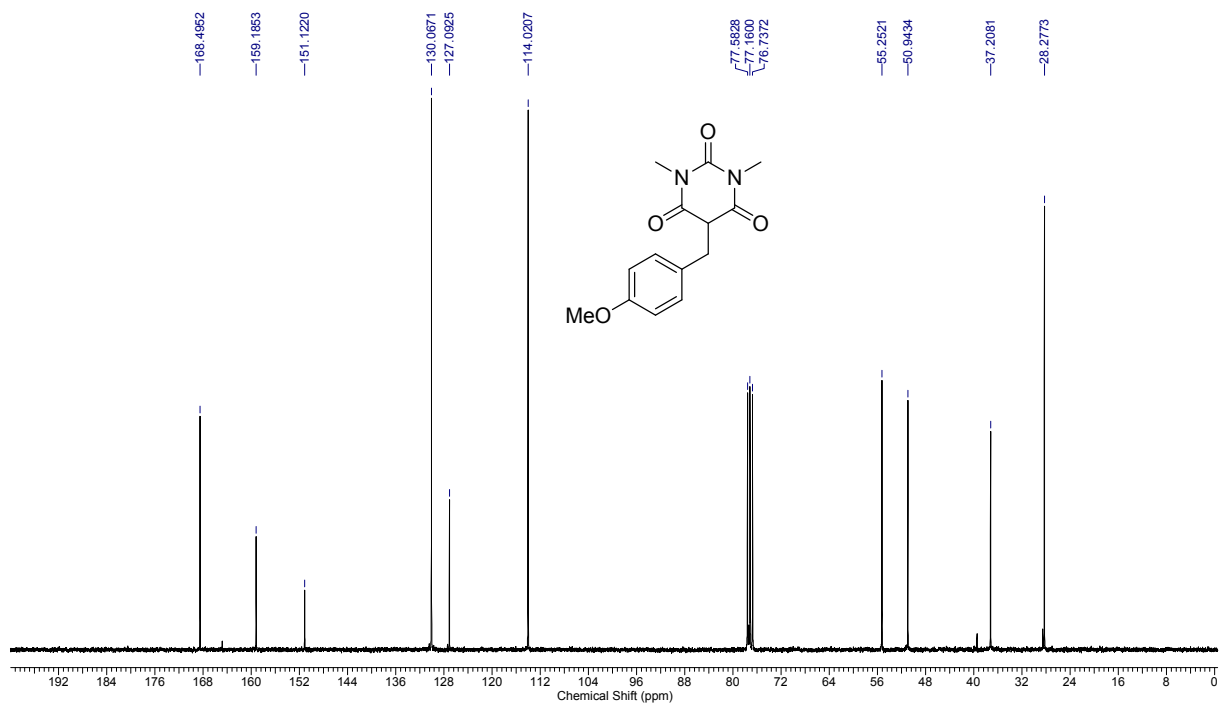
**5-(4-Cyanobenzyl)-1,3-dimethyl-hexahydropyrimidin-2,4,6-trion [81762-45-0] (32b)**



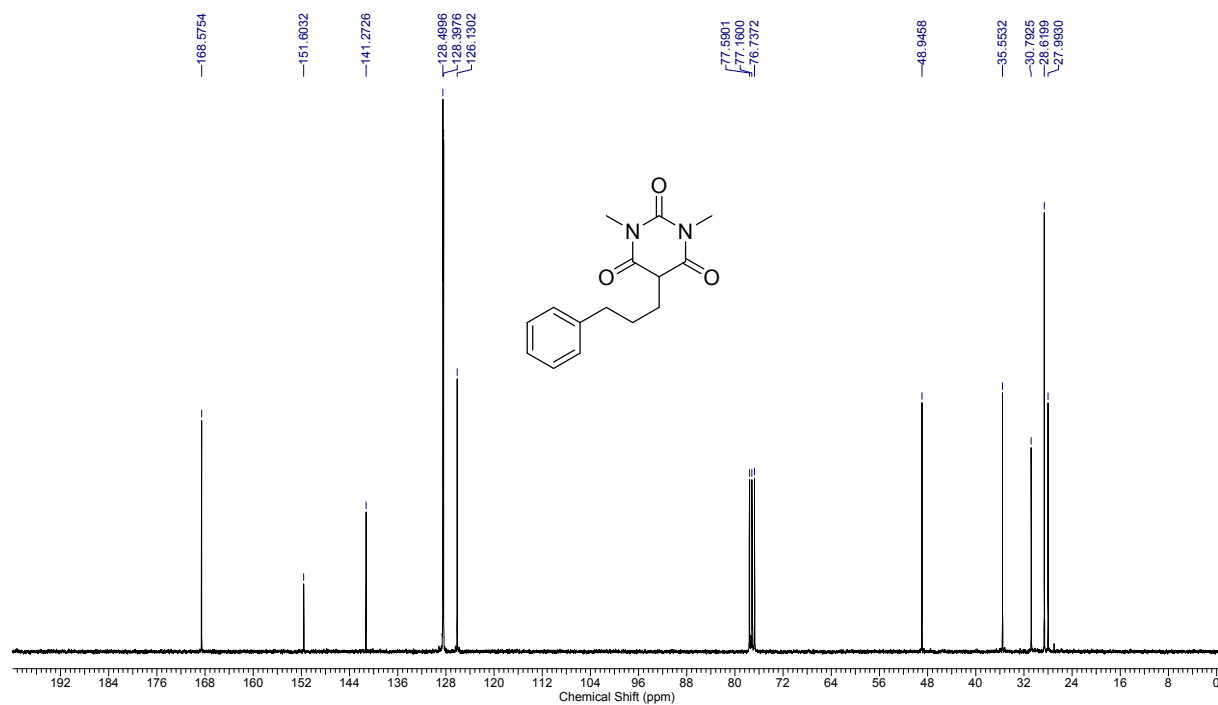
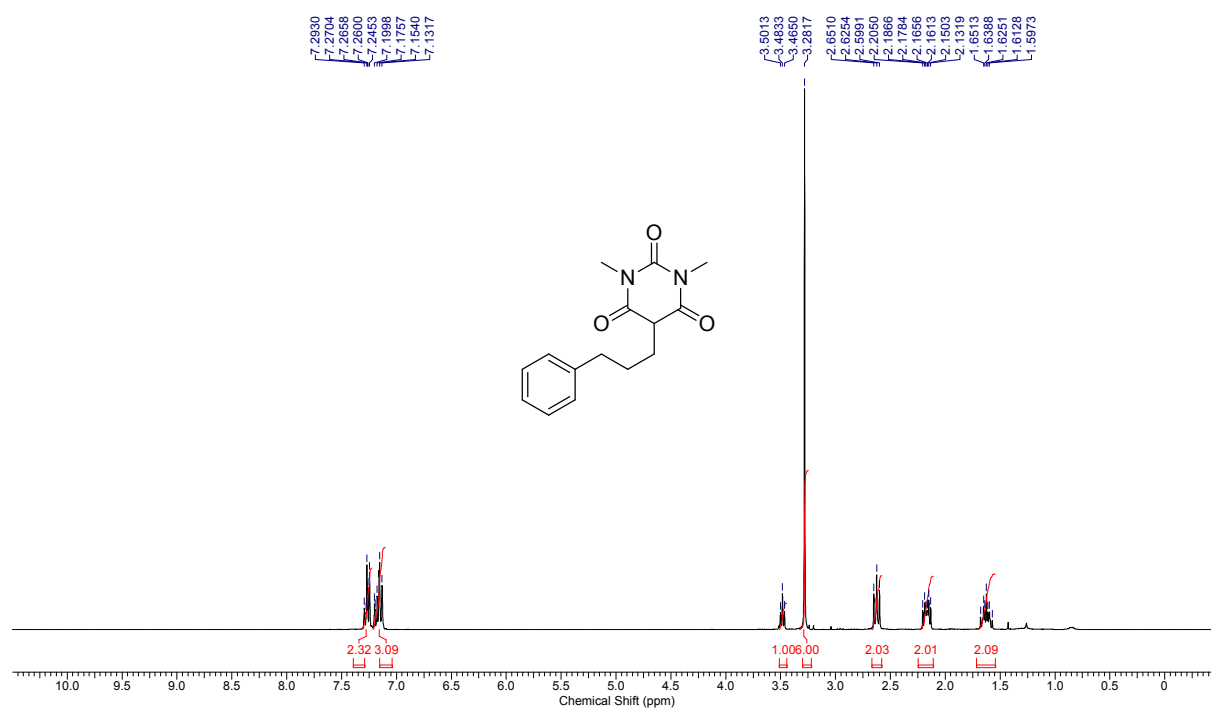


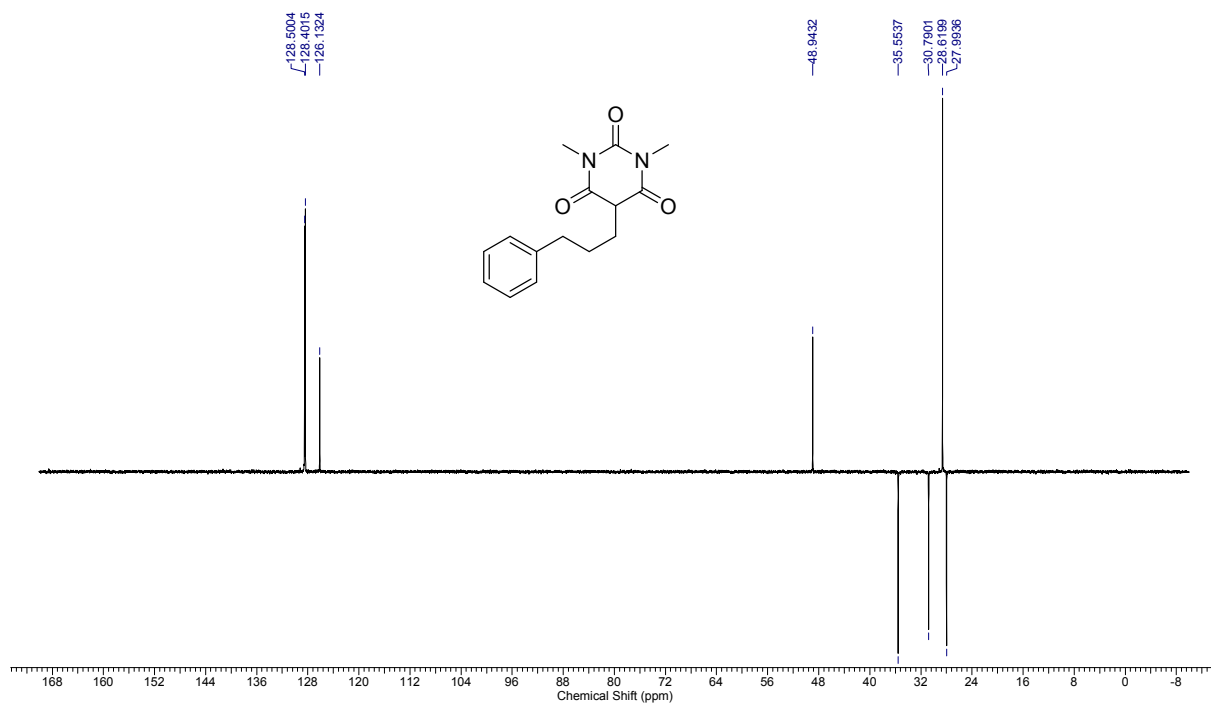
**5-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6-trione [114656-99-4] (33b)**



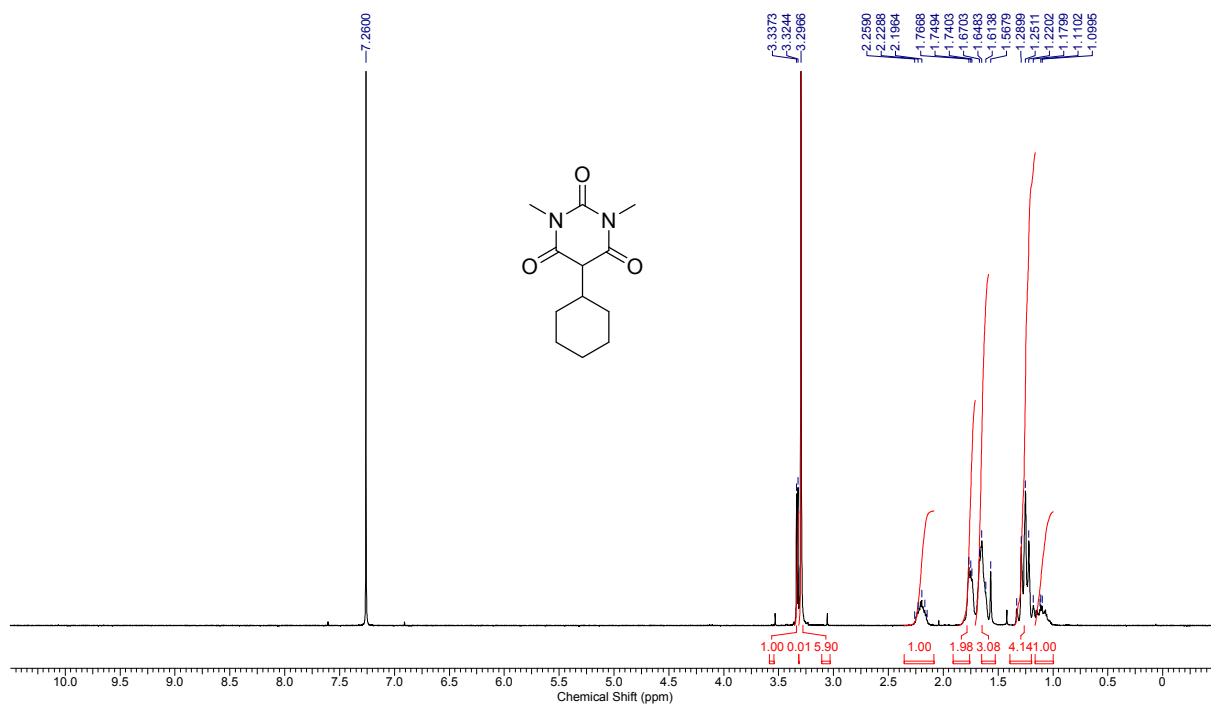


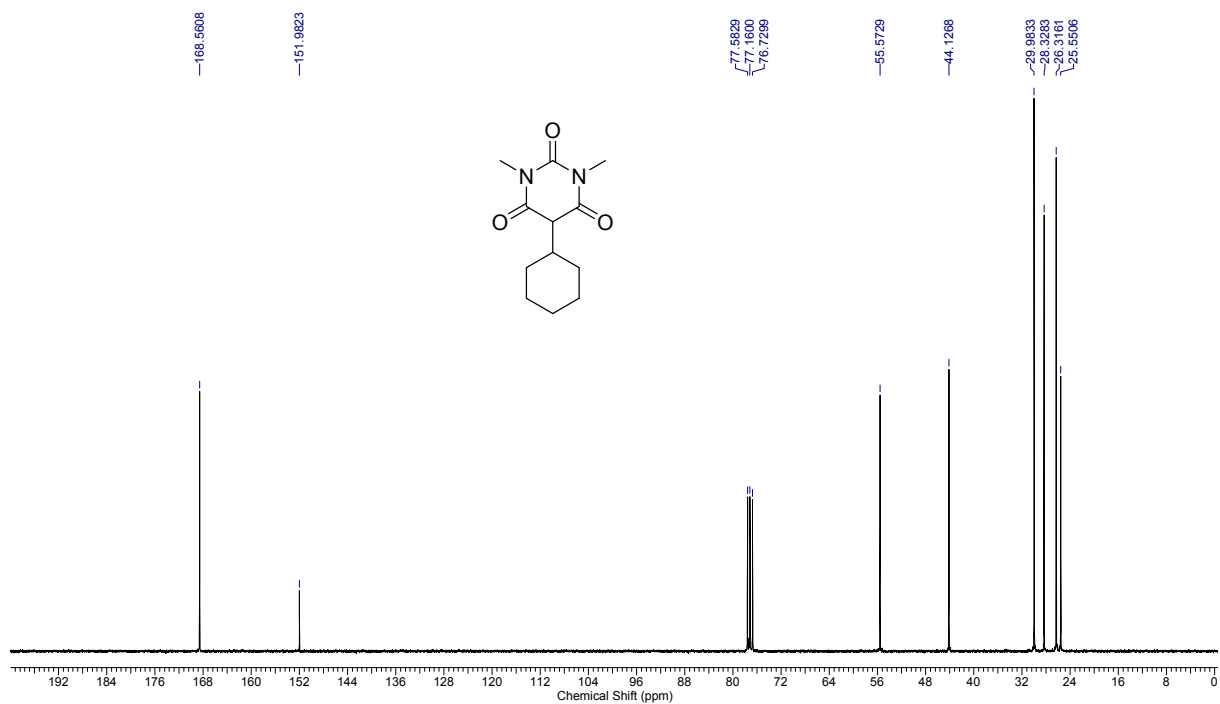
**1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrimidine-2,4,6-trione [82657-34-9] (34b)**



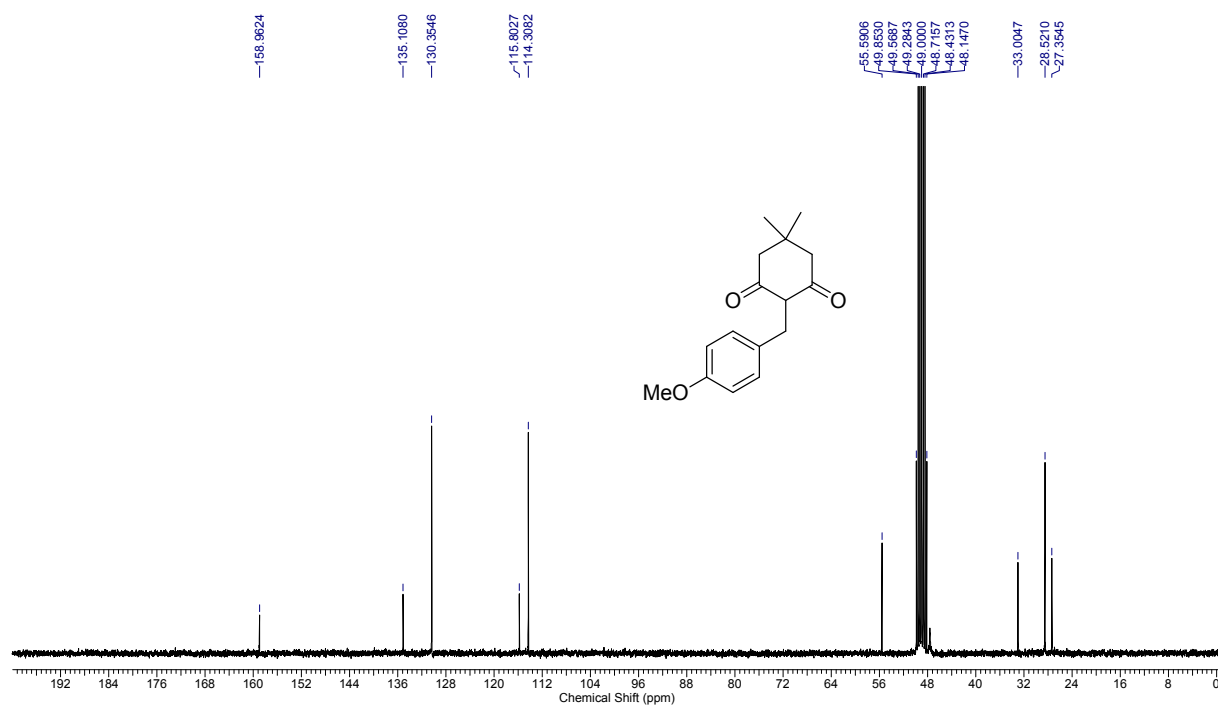
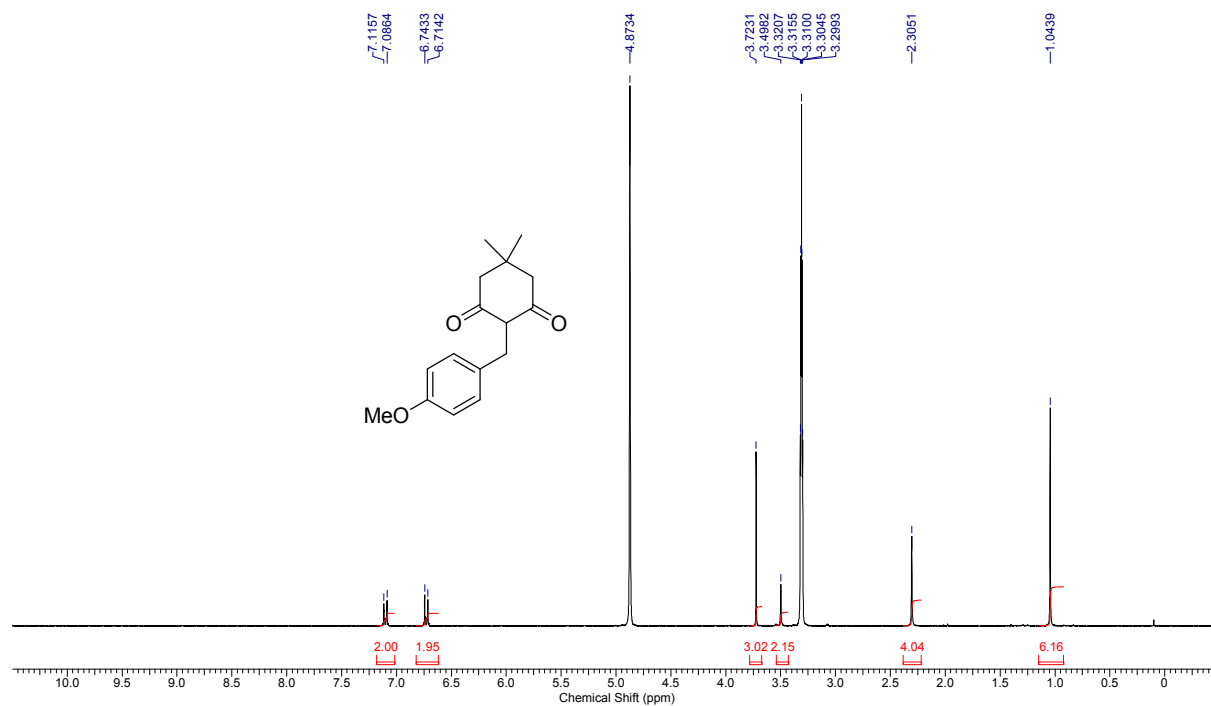


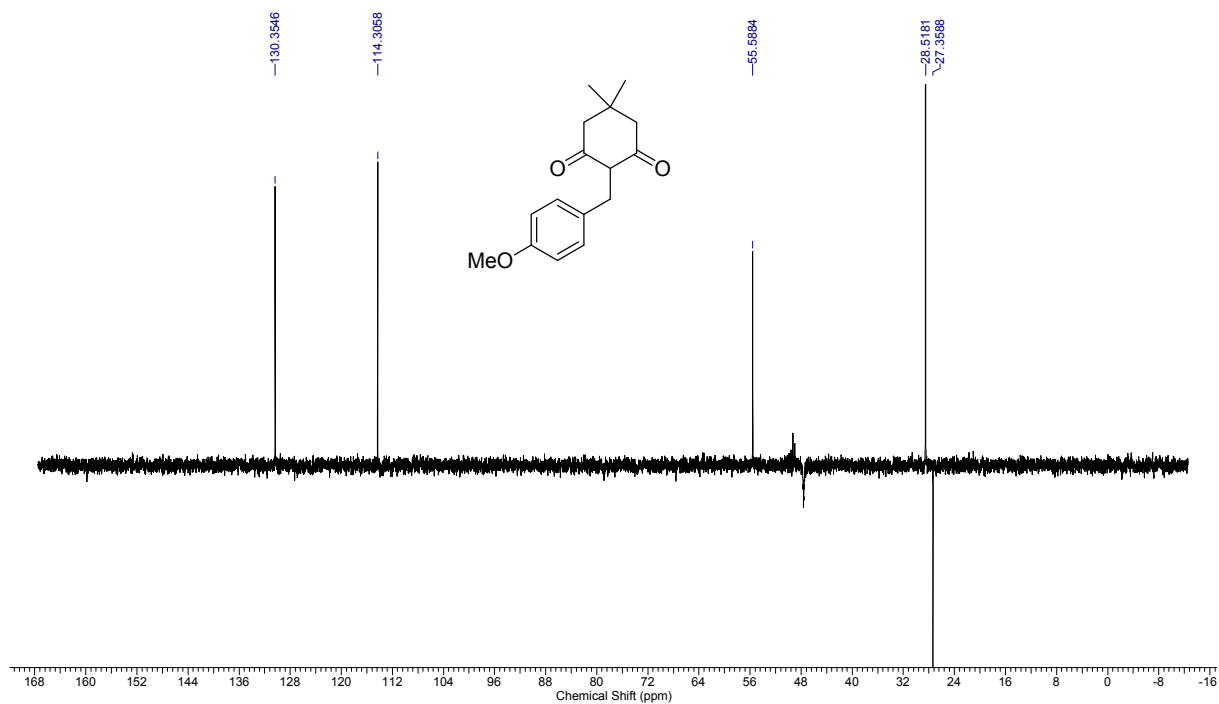
**5-cyclohexyl-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6-trione [7391-65-3] (35b)**



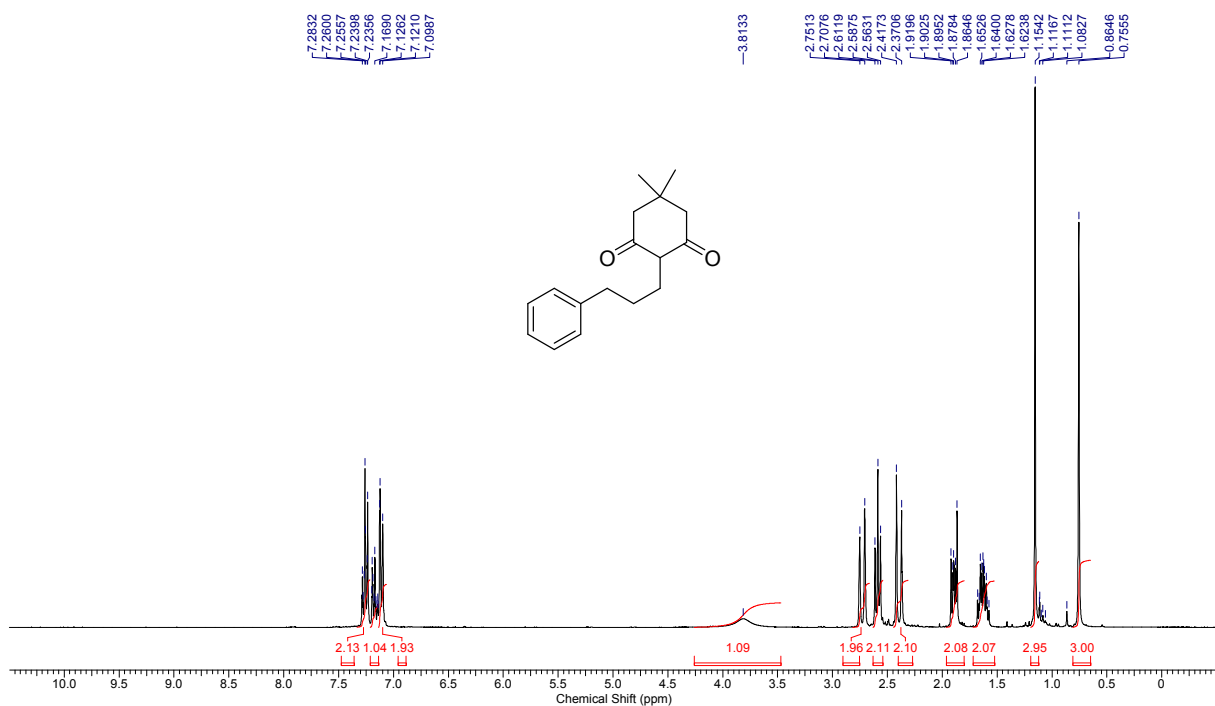


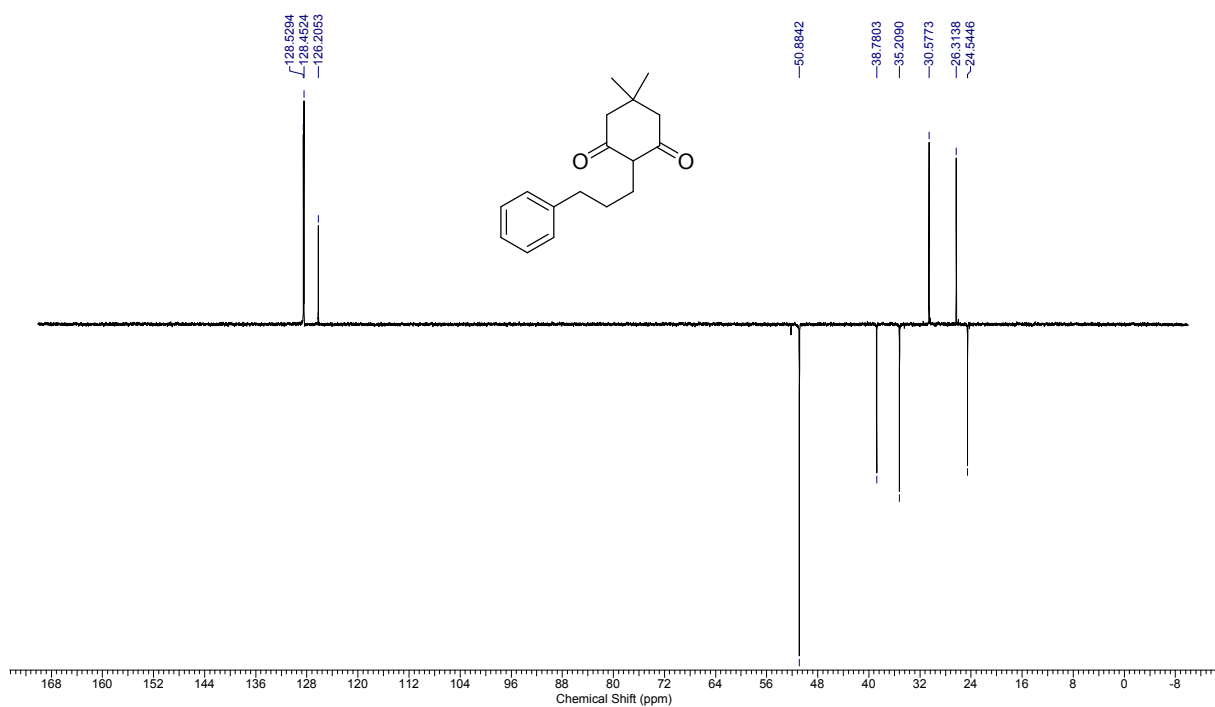
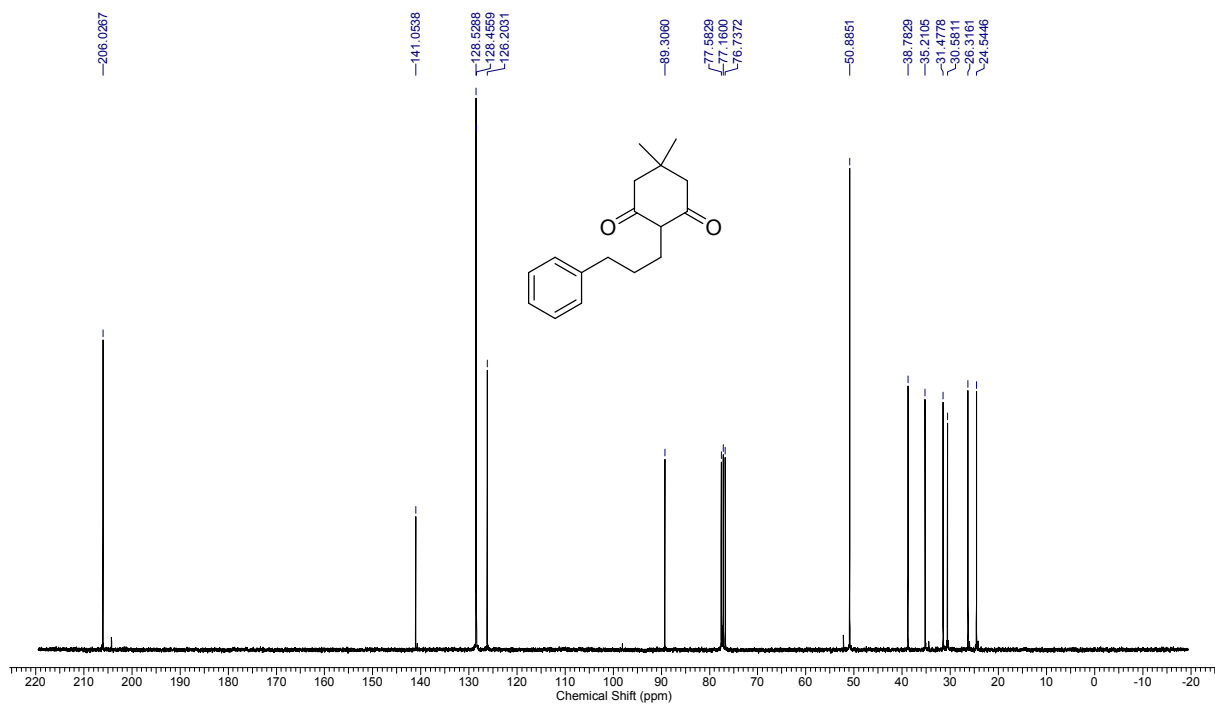
2-[(4-Methoxyphenyl)methyl]-5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione [33802-37-8] (37b)





## 2-[(3'-phenylpropyl)-5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione (38)





2-[(cyclohexyl)-5,5-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione (39b)

