

Experimental section

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Experimental Procedures

General Remarks

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV400 and AVII500 spectrometers. Proton and carbon chemical shifts (δ_{H} , δ_{C}) are quoted in ppm and referenced to tetramethylsilane with residual protonated solvent as internal standard. For chloroform-*d*, solvent residuals are 7.26 ppm and 77.16 ppm for proton and carbon respectively. Resonances are described as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet) and combinations thereof. Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hz and rounded to nearest 0.1 Hz. For diastereotopic protons, no particular stereochemistry is implied.

Mass spectra (low resolution) were recorded on a Micromass ZMD (ES). High resolution spectra were recorded by the Mass Spectrometry service at the Chemical Research Laboratory, University of Oxford using a Bruker Daltronics microTOF (ES) or a Micromass GCT (FI). *m/z* values are reported in Daltons with their percentage abundance and, where known, the relevant fragment ions in parentheses. High resolution values are calculated to 4 d.p. from the molecular formula, all found values being within 5 ppm tolerance.

TLC was performed on Merck DC-Alufolien 60 F₂₅₄ 0.2 mm precoated plates and visualised using an acidic vanillin or basic potassium permanganate dip. Retention factors (*R_f*) are reported with the solvent system used in parentheses. Flash column chromatography was performed on Merck 60 silica (particle size 40–63 μm , pore diameter 60 Å) and the solvent system used is recorded in parentheses.

Infrared spectra were recorded using a Bruker Tensor 27 Fourier Transform spectrophotometer using thin films on a diamond ATR.

Melting points were determined using a Leica Galen III Compound Microscope and are uncorrected. All non-aqueous reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen and employing standard techniques for handling air-sensitive materials. Solvents and commercially available reagents were dried and purified before use, as appropriate. In particular DCM and THF were distilled from CaH₂ and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves. 'PE' refers to the fraction of light petroleum ether boiling in the range 40–60 °C unless otherwise stated. All water used experimentally was distilled.

pH 2 sulfate buffer was prepared by dissolving NaHSO₄ (213 g, 1.50 mol) and H₂SO₄ (28.0 mL, 0.500 mol) in water (2.00 L).

Assignment of relative configuration The relative configuration of the product [3.3.0]-bicyclic γ -lactones was assigned on the basis of ¹H NMR nOe experiments or by analogy. In only a few cases was the relative configuration of the minor diastereomer(s) assigned. Where nOe data were not obtained, it was assumed that the [3.3.0]-bicyclic γ -lactones were *cis*-configured in keeping with those [3.3.0]-bicyclic γ -lactones for which nOe data was readily obtained and from previous precedent.^{1, 2}

Synthesis and Compounds Characterisation

General procedure

General procedure 1 : Rh(II)-catalysed OH-insertion on diazomalonate³

To a solution of alcohol (1 eq.) in benzene (0.3 M) were added diazomalonate (1.05 eq.) and $\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4$ (0.5 mol%). The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 2 h. After cooling down at room temperature, the solvent was evaporated to give the crude product. The residue was purified by Flash Chromatography using the indicated solvent system.

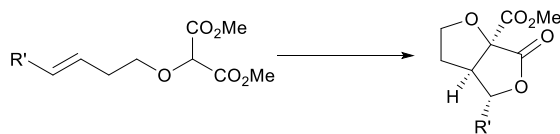
General procedure 2: one pot alkylation/reduction of 3-enoic acids

To a solution of 3-enoic acid derivative (1.0 eq.) in THF (0.4 M) at -78 °C was added (30 sec/mmol) a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexanes (2.5 M, 2.20 eq.). The mixture was stirred at -78 °C and the corresponding alkyl halide (3.0 eq.) was added (20 sec/mmol). After 5 min stirring the reaction was warmed to room temperature outside the cooling bath and stirred at this temperature for the indicated period. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 0 °C and LiAlH_4 (1.25 eq.) was added portionwise (about 1 mmol every 20 seconds). The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 30 min before careful addition of aqueous HCl (2.0 M, 175 eq.). During the addition, Et_2O (2 × initial volume of THF) was also progressively added to maintain good stirring. At the end of the addition, the mixture was vigorously stirred for 30 min and layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with more Et_2O (1 × initial volume of THF). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered and carefully evaporated (mind the volatility of some alcohols). The residue was purified by Flash Chromatography using the indicated solvent system.

General procedure 3: oxidative radical cyclisation of the alkoxymalonates

Copper(II) triflate (1.0 eq.) and manganese(III) acetate dihydrate (2.0 eq.) were placed under vacuum and heated to 40 °C for 10 minutes and then quenched to N_2 . A solution of alkoxymalonate (1.0 eq.) in MeCN (0.15 M) was then added rapidly and the solution stirred for 6h (unless otherwise stated). After cooling down to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with a saturated aqueous solution of NH_4Cl and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under vacuum to give the crude product. The residue was purified by Flash Chromatography using the indicated solvent system.

Control experiments

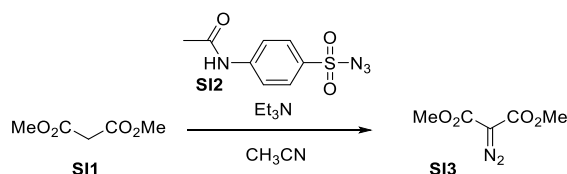


Entry	T(°C)	Substrate	R'	Mn(OAc) ₃ (eq.)	Cu(OTf) ₂ (eq.)	Yield lactone (%)	% SM recovered
1	40 °C	7a	H	3	0	0	100 ^a
2	40 °C	7a	H	2	0	0	100 ^a
3	40 °C	7a	H	0	1	0	100 ^a
4	40 °C	7a	H	0	2	0	100 ^a
5	40 °C	7a	H	0	3	0	100 ^a
6	40 °C	7c	Ph	3	0	0	100 ^a
7	40 °C	7c	Ph	2	0	0	100 ^a
8	40 °C	7c	Ph	0	1	0	100 ^a
9	40 °C	7c	Ph	0	2	0	100 ^a
10	40 °C	7c	Ph	0	3	0	100 ^a
11	80 °C	7a	H	3	0	63	36
12	80 °C	7a	H	2	0	41	28
13	80 °C	7a	H	0	1	34	45
14	80 °C	7a	H	0	2	31	6
15	80 °C	7a	H	0	3	26	24
16	80 °C	7c	Ph	3	0	66	17
17	80 °C	7c	Ph	2	0	54	26
18	80 °C	7c	Ph	0	1	54	29
20	80 °C	7c	Ph	0	3	23	19

^a Only starting material, based on crude ¹H NMR.

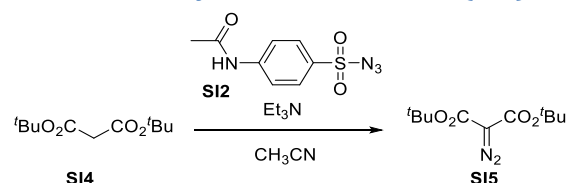
Synthetic Procedures

Dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (SI3)⁴



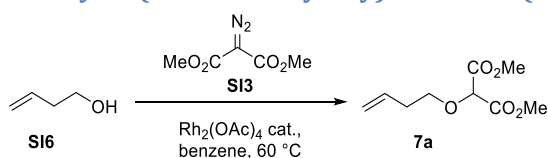
To a solution of dimethylmalonate (6.0 mL, 52.5 mmol) and *p*-acetamidobenzensulfonyl azide (12.9 g, 53.8 mmol, 1.02 eq.) in acetonitrile (130 mL) at 0 °C was added triethylamine (22 mL). The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 12 h. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressured and the residue was triturated with ether/petroleum ether (1:1) and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressured. The crude product was then purified by flash chromatography (PE₄₀₋₆₀/Et₂O 4:1 to 2:1) to give **SI3** as a yellow oil (6.3 g, 40 mmol, 76 %). *R_f* 0.49 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 5:5); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 3.83 (6H, s, CO₂Me), ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 161.4 (2×C=O), 52.5 (2×CO₂Me) *Note: the diazo carbon was not detected*; ν_{max} 2133 (s, C=N₂), 1735 (s, C=O); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 159.0 ([M+H]⁺, 9%), 339.0 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100 %). NMR data are in accordance with literature.⁵

Di-*tert*-butyl 2-diazomalonate (SI5)



To a solution of di-*tert*-butylmalonate (5.38 mL, 24 mmol) and *p*-acetamidobenzensulfonyl azide (6.34 g, 26.4 mmol, 1.02 eq.) in acetonitrile (55 mL) at 0 °C was added triethylamine (10 mL). The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 12 h. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressured and the residue was triturated with ether/petroleum ether (1:1) and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressured. The crude product was then purified by flash chromatography (PE₄₀₋₆₀/Diethyl ether 4:1 to 2:1) to give **SI5** as a yellow oil (5.4 g, 22.3 mmol, 93 %). *R_f* 0.73 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 6:4); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 1.47 (18H, s, ^{*t*}Bu); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 160.4 (2×C=O), 82.8 (OC^{*t*}Bu), 28.3 (^{*t*}Bu) *Note: the diazo carbon was not detected*; *m/z* (ESI⁺) 507.3 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100 %). NMR data are in agreement with literature.⁶

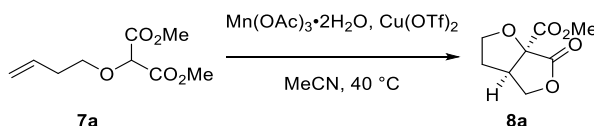
Dimethyl 2-(but-3-en-1-yloxy)malonate (7a)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using buten-3-ol (0.3 mL, 3.5 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (550 mg, 3.48 mmol, 1.05 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 9:1) gave the title compound **7a** as a colourless oil (590 mg, 2.92 mmol, 84%). *R_f* 0.40 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.82 (1H, tdd, *J* = 6.7, 10.1, 17.1 Hz, CH=CH₂), 5.12 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.1, 1.2 Hz, CHH'=CH), 5.06 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.1, 1.2 Hz, CHH'=CH), 4.53 (1H,

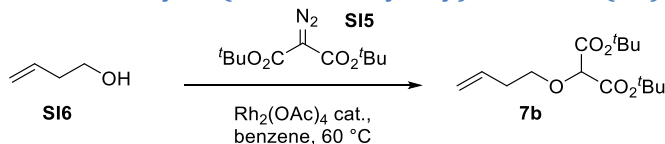
s, CH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.81 (6H, s, CO₂Me), 3.64 (2H, t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, OCH₂CH₂), 2.43 (2H, q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, OCH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.9 (2×C=O), 134.1 (CH₂=CH), 117.0 (CH₂=CH), 79.0 (CH(CO₂Me)₂), 70.8 (CH₂O), 52.9 (2×CO₂Me), 33.8 (OCH₂CH₂); *v*_{max} 2957 (w, C-H), 1744 (s, C=O), 1201 (m), 1131 (s), 1019 (m), 919 (w); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 225.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 427.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 17%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₉H₁₄NaO₅: *m/z* 225.0733 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 225.0742 ([M+Na]⁺).

(3a*R,6a*S**)-Methyl 6-oxohexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6a-carboxylate (8a)**



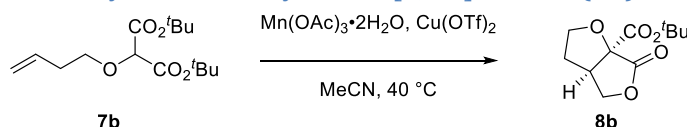
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **7a** (55 mg, 0.27 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2 to 6:4) gave the title compound **8a** as a colourless oil (41 mg, 0.22 mmol, 81%). *R*_f 0.10 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 6:4); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 4.58 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.6, 7.2 Hz, OCHH'CH), 4.21 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.6, 2.7 Hz, OCHH'CH), 4.15 (1H, dt, *J* = 9.0, 6.8 Hz, OCHH'CH₂), 4.07 (1H, dddd, *J* = 9.0, 7.0, 6.3, 0.6 Hz, OCHH'CH₂), 3.83 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.31 (1H, dddd, *J* = 8.7, 7.2, 6.0, 2.7, 0.6 Hz, CH₂CHCH₂), 2.39 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.9, 8.7, 6.8, 6.3 Hz, CHH'CHCH₂), 1.96 (dtd, *J* = 12.9, 6.9, 6.0 Hz, 1H, CHH'CHCH₂). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 171.9 (C=O), 168.4 (C=O), 86.7 (C_{quat}), 70.9 (OCH₂CH₂), 70.8 (OCH₂CH), 53.4, 45.5 (CH₂CHCH₂), 32.9 (CH₂CH₂CH); *v*_{max} 2961 (w, C-H), 1776 (s, C=O), 1758 (s, C=O), 1223 (s), 1115 (s), 1032 (m); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 209.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 40%), 395.1 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₈H₁₀NaO₅: *m/z* 209.0420 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 209.0415 ([M+Na]⁺).

Di-*tert*-Butyl 2-(but-3-en-1-yloxy)malonate (7b)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using 3-buten-1-ol (0.86 mL, 10 mmol) and di-*tert*-butyl 2-diazomalonate (2.54 g, 10.5 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE/Et₂O 9:1) gave the product **7b** as a colourless oil (1.91 g, 6.66 mmol, 66%); *R*_f 0.37 (PE/Et₂O 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.78 (1H, ddt, *J* = 17.1, 10.3, 6.8 Hz, CH₂=CH), 5.04 (1H, ddt, *J* = 17.1, 2.0, 1.3 Hz, CHH'=CH), 4.99 (1H, ddt, *J* = 10.3, 2.0, 1.3 Hz, CHH'=CH), 4.19 (1H, s, OCH), 3.55 (1H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, OCH₂), 2.36 (2H, qt, *J* = 7.0, 1.3 Hz, =CHCH₂), 1.42 (9H, OC(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.0 (C=O), 134.6 (CH₂=CH), 116.9 (CH₂=CH), 82.7 (C_{quat}), 80.4 (OCH), 70.4 (OCH₂), 34.0 (=CH-CH₂), 28.0 (OC(CH₃)₃); *v*_{max} 2980 (w, C-H), 1758 (m, C=O), 1737 (s, C=O), 1394 (w), 1248 (m), 1137 (s), 848 (=C-H); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 309.2 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 595.4 ([2M+Na]⁺, 29%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₅H₂₆NaO₅: *m/z* 309.1672 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 309.1674 ([M+Na]⁺).

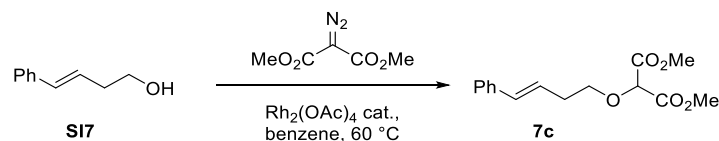
(3a*R,6a*R**)-*tert*-Butyl 6-oxotetrahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6a(6*H*)-carboxylate (8b)**



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using di-*tert*-butyl 2-(but-3-en-1-yloxy)malonate (1.28 g, 4.46 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE/EtOAc 1:1) gave

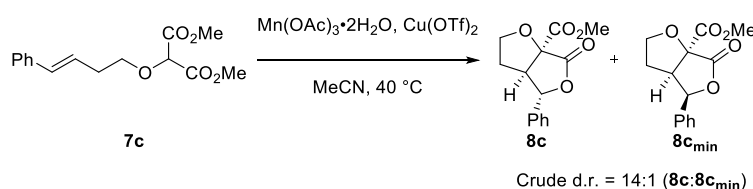
the desired product **8b** as a white solid (841 mg, 3.69 mmol, 83%). R_f 0.38 (PE/EtOAc 1:1); **m.p.** 116-118 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.54 (1H, dd, $J = 9.5, 6.7$ Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'$), 4.21 (1H, dd, $J = 9.5, 2.3$ Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'$), 4.11 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.0, 7.2, 6.7$ Hz, OCHH'), 4.05 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.0, 7.2, 6.3$ Hz, OCHH'), 3.22 (1H, dtd, $J = 9.0, 6.7, 2.3$ Hz, CH_2CHCH_2), 2.38 (1H, dddd, $J = 12.7, 9.0, 6.7, 6.3$ Hz, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}'$), 1.92 (1H, dq, $J = 12.7, 6.7$ Hz, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}'$), 1.49 (9H, s, $\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 172.4 (C=O), 166.7 (C=O), 86.8 (C_{quat}), 84.2 (C_{quat}), 70.8 (CO_2CH_2), 45.6 (CH), 33.0 (OCH_2CH_2), 28.0 ($\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); ν_{max} 2986 (w, C-H), 1767 (m, C=O), 1748 (s, C=O), 1158 (m), 1116 (s); **m/z** (ESI^+) 251.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%), 479.2 ($[\text{2M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 34%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_5$: m/z 251.0890 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 251.0901 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-((4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (**7c**)

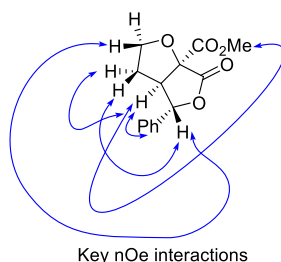


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using the alcohol **SI7** and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (520 mg, 3.29 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 9:1) gave the title compound **7c** as a yellow oil (480 mg, 1.73 mmol, 53%). R_f 0.36 ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 8:2); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.32-7.17 (5H, m, ArH), 6.44 (1H, dt, $J = 15.9, 1.4$ Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 6.19 (1H, td, $J = 5.9, 15.9$ Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 4.53 (1H, s, $\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 3.78 (6H, s, CO_2Me), 3.69 (2H, t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, OCH_2), 2.56 (2H, qd, $J = 6.9, 1.4$ Hz, $\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 167.0 ($2\times\text{C}=\text{O}$), 137.4 (C_{Ar}), 132.3 ($\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 128.6 ($2\times\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$), 127.3 (C_{Ar}), 126.2 ($2\times\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$), 125.8 ($\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 79.2 ($\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 71.1 (CH_2O), 53.0 ($2\times\text{OCH}_3$), 33.2 (CHCH_2CH); ν_{max} 2954 (w, C-H), 1741 (w, C=O), 1200 (m), 1133 (m), 745 (s), 694 (s); **m/z** (ESI^+) 301.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_5$: m/z 301.1046 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 301.1039 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

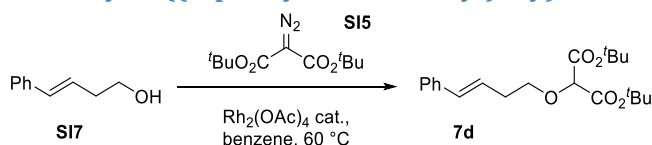
(3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 6-oxo-4-phenylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6a-carboxylate (**8c**)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **7c** (68 mg, 0.25 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 8:2 to 6:4) gave the title compound **8c** as a colourless oil (48 mg, 0.18 mmol, 72%). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer. R_f 0.23 ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 6:4); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 7.43-7.36 (5H, ArH), 5.19 (1H, d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, OCHPh), 4.36 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.0, 7.9, 3.9$ Hz, OCHH'), 4.20 (1H, tdd, $J = 9.0, 6.3, 0.53$ Hz, OCHH'), 3.81 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.36 (1H, ddd, $J = 7.9, 5.7, 2.4$ Hz, CH_2CHCH), 2.35 (1H, ddt, $J = 13.0, 9.0, 7.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CHH}'\text{CH}$), 2.18 (1H, dddd, $J = 13.0, 6.3, 3.9, 2.4$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CHH}'\text{CH}$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) δ 170.9 (C=O), 168.7 (C=O), 138.3 (C_{Ar}), 129.2 (C_{Ar}), 129.1 ($2\times\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$), 125.8 ($2\times\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$), 88.0 (C_{quat}), 84.9 (OCHPh), 70.8 (OCH_2), 54.5 (CH_2CHCH), 53.4 (CO_2Me), 31.9 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$); ν_{max} 2956 (w, C-H), 1780 (s, C=O), 1761 (s, C=O), 1254 (w), 1216 (w), 1090 (m), 1022 (s), 1050 (m), 699 (s); **m/z** (ESI^+) 263.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 40%), 285.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 74%), 547.2 ($[\text{2M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_5$: m/z 285.0733 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 285.0727 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

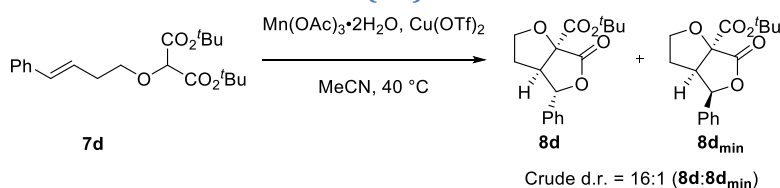


(*E*)-di-*tert*-Butyl 2-((4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (7d**)**

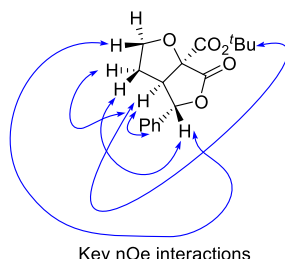


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (400 mg, 2.7 mmol) and di-*tert*-butyl 2-diazomalonate (680 mg, 2.81 mmol, 1.05 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 9:1) gave the title compound **7d** as a colourless oil (860 mg, 2.37 mmol, 88%). *R*_f 0.57 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.32-7.17 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.44 (1H, d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, PhCH=CH), 6.21 (1H, td, *J* = 7.0, 15.9 Hz, PhCH=CH), 4.27 (1H, s, CH(CO₂^{*t*}Bu)₂), 3.67 (2H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, OCH₂), 2.60-2.54 (2H, m, CHCH₂CH₂O), 1.47 (18H, CO₂(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 165.9 (2×C=O), 137.5 (C_{Ar}), 132.1 (PhCH=CH), 128.6 (C_{Ar}), 128.5 (2×C_{Ar}), 127.2 (PhCH=CH), 126.2 (2×C_{Ar}), 82.7 (OCH(CO₂^{*t*}Bu)₂), 80.4 (2×C_{quat}), 70.6 (OCH₂), 33.3 (CHCH₂CH₂O), 27.9 (6×C^{*t*}Bu); *v*_{max} 2978 (w), 1735 (s, C=O), 1393 (s), 1247 (s), 1134 (w), 744 (s), 693 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 385.2 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₂₁H₃₀NaO₅: *m/z* 385.1985 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 385.1990 ([M+Na]⁺).

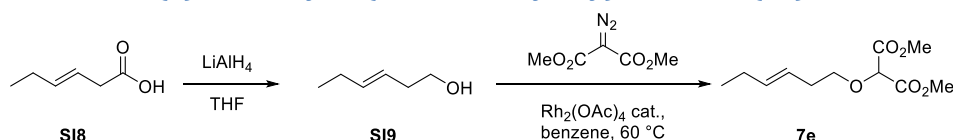
(3*aR,4*S**,6*aR**)-*tert*-Butyl 6-oxo-4-phenylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**8d**)**



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **7d** (93 mg, 0.26 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2 to 6:4) gave the title compound **8d** as a colourless oil (48 mg, 0.16 mmol, 62%). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer. *R*_f 0.49 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 5:5); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.43-7.23 (5H, ArH), 5.19 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, CO₂CHPh), 4.33 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.9, 7.6, 4.2 Hz, OCHH'CH₂), 4.14 (1H, dt, *J* = 6.3, 8.9 Hz, OCHH'CH₂), 3.28 (1H, dddd, *J* = 8.1, 5.1, 2.8, 0.6 Hz, CHCHCH₂), 2.36 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.9, 8.9, 8.1, 7.6 Hz, CH₂CHH'CH), 2.15 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.9, 6.3, 4.2, 2.8, 0.4 Hz, CH₂CHH'CH), 1.42 (s, 9H, CO₂C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 171.5 (C=O), 166.9 (C=O), 138.9 (C_{Ar}), 129.0 (2×C_{Ar}), 128.9 (C_{Ar}), 125.6 (2×C_{Ar}), 87.8 (C_{quat}), 84.8 (OCH₂), 84.2 (CO₂C(CH₃)₃), 70.6 (OCHPh), 54.2 (CH₂CH₂CH), 32.5 (CH₂CHCHPh), 27.8 (3×CH₃); *v*_{max} 2979 (w, C-H), 1781 (s, C=O), 1751 (s, C=O), 1155 (s), 1103 (s), 1050 (m), 969 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 327.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 67%), 631.3 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₇H₂₀NaO₅: *m/z* 327.1203 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 327.1209 ([M+Na]⁺).

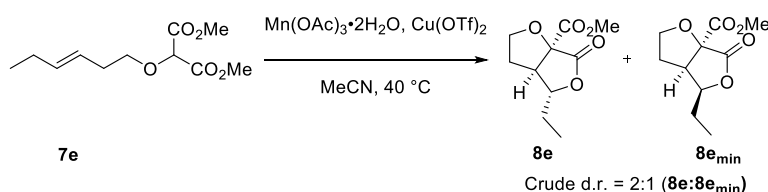


(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-(hex-3-en-1-yloxy)malonate (**7e**)



To a solution of *trans*-hexenoic acid (0.4 mL, 3.37 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added portionwise LiAlH_4 (175 mg, 4.6 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h and hydrolysed with water (0.22 mL) followed by addition of an aqueous solution of NaOH 3M (0.65 mL), and water (0.22 mL). The solution was stirred overnight and filtered over Celite. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude alcohol **SI9** was used without further purification to prepare the title compound according to the general procedure 1. Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 9:1) gave **7e** as a colourless oil (194 mg, 0.84 mmol, 25% over two steps). R_f 0.38 (PE/EtOAc 8:2); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 5.54 (1H, dtt, J = 15.3, 6.2, 1.2 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2$), 5.36 (1H, dtt, J = 15.3, 7.0, 1.5 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2$), 4.52 (1H, s, $\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 3.80 (6H, s, CO_2Me), 3.58 (2H, t, J = 7.1 Hz, OCH_2), 2.35 (1 H, qq, J = 7.0, 1.2 Hz, $\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 1.99 (1 H, qdq, J = 7.5, 6.2, 1.2 Hz, CH_2CH_3), 0.95 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 167.1 ($2\times\text{C}=\text{O}$), 135.0 ($\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}$), 124.1 ($\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}$), 79.1 ($\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 71.6 (OCH_2CH_2), 53.0 ($2\times\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$), 32.7 ($\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 25.7 (CH_2CH_3), 13.8 (CH_2CH_3); ν_{max} 2959 (w, C-H), 1744 (w, C=O), 1201 (m), 1131 (m), 1028 (w), 969 (s); m/z (ESI^+) 253.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%), 483.3 ($[2\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 31%); HRMS-ESI calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_5$: m/z 253.1046 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 253.1050 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

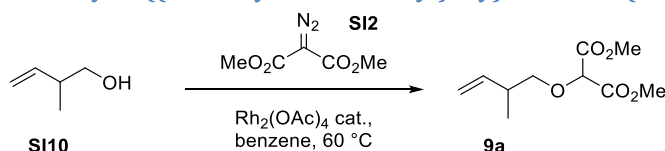
(3*aR**,4*R**,6*aS**)-Methyl 4-ethyl-6-oxohexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**8e**)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **7e** (56 mg, 0.24 mmol). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer. Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 8:2 to 6:4) gave the title compound **8e** (25 mg, 0.12 mmol, 50%) as a mixture of two diastereoisomers. R_f 0.15 (PE/EtOAc 6:4); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.63 (1H, dt, J = 8.2, 5.9 Hz, OCHCH_2 maj), 4.24 (1H, ddd, J = 9.0, 7.6, 4.4 Hz, OCHH , min), 4.16 (1 H, ddd, J = 7.6, 5.8, 4.7 Hz, OCHCH_2 , min), 4.11-4.05 (2H, m, CH_2O , maj), 4.04-4.00 (1H, m, OCHH , min), 3.84 (3H, s, CO_2Me , maj), 3.83 (3H, s, CO_2Me , min), 3.18 (1H, td, J = 8.7, 5.9 Hz, CH_2CHCH maj), 3.00 (1 H, ddd, J = 8.1, 4.7, 3.2 Hz, CH_2CHCH maj), 2.31 (1H, dtd, J = 12.8, 8.4, 7.7 Hz CH_2CHHCH , min), 2.20-2.02 (2H, m, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$, maj), 1.98-1.92 (1H, m, CH_2CHHCH , min), 1.93-1.83 (1H, m, CHHCH_3 , maj), 1.58-1.69 (1H, m, CHHCH_3 ,

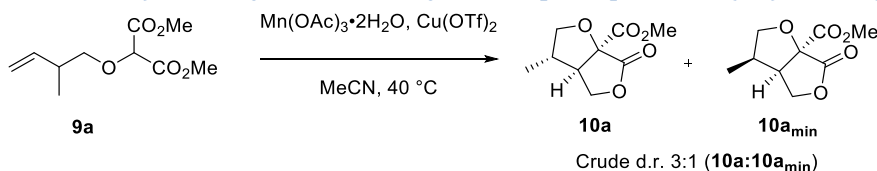
maj), 1.06 (1H, t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, CH₃ maj), 1.04 (1H, t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, CH₃ min). **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 194.8 (C=O), 171.8 (C=O), 168.9 (C=O), 168.6 (C=O), 88.5 (C_{quat} maj), 86.0 (OCHCH, min), 80.5 (OCHCH, maj), 71.4 (OCH₂CH₂, maj), 70.7 (OCH₂CH₂, min), 53.4 (CO₂Me), 50.8 (CH₂CHCH, min), 49.3 (CH₂CHCH), 32.7 (CH₂, min), 28.9 (CH₂, min), 26.7 (CH₂, maj), 24.3 (CH₂, maj), 10.3 (CH₃, maj), 9.6 (CH₃, min); **$\nu_{\max}$** 2971 (w), 1776 (s, C=O), 1760 (s, C=O), 1113 (m), 1021 (m); **m/z (ESI⁺)** 327.1 ([M+Na]⁺, min), 451.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%), 71%; **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₀H₁₄NaO₅: m/z 237.0733 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 237.0742 ([M+Na]⁺).

Dimethyl 2-((2-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (9a)



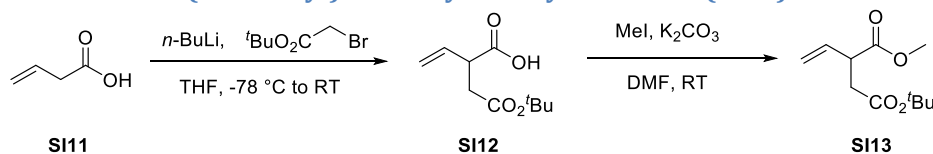
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using 2-methylbut-3-en-1-ol (258 mg, 3.00 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (501 mg, 3.17 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 4:1) gave the compound **9a** as a colourless oil (216 mg, 1.0 mmol, 33%). **R_f** 0.36 (PE/Et₂O 7:3); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 5.78 (1H, ddd, $J = 17.3, 10.4, 7.0$ Hz, CH₂=CH), 5.08 (1H, d, $J = 17.3$ Hz, CHH'=CH₂), 5.03 (1H, d, $J = 10.4$ Hz, CHH'=CH₂), 4.51 (1H, s, OCH(CO₂CH₃)₂), 3.80 (6H, s, (CO₂CH₃)₂), 3.51 (1H, dd, $J = 8.9, 7.0$ Hz, CHCHH'O), 3.41 (1H, dd, $J = 8.9, 7.0$ Hz, CHCHH'O), 2.60-2.51 (1H, m, CHCH₃), 1.05 (3H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, Me); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 167.1 (C=O), 140.3 (CH₂=CH), 114.9 (CH₂=CH), 79.3 (OCH), 796.1 (OCH₂), 53.0 (CO₂CH₃), 37.6 (CHCH₃), 16.4 (CHCH₃); **$\nu_{\max}$** 2958 (w, C-H), 1744 (s, C=O), 1200 (m), 1128 (s), 1026 (m), 917 (w); **m/z (ESI⁺)** 239.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 455.1 ([2M+Na]⁺, 11%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₀H₁₆NaO₅: m/z 239.0890 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 239.0894 ([M+Na]⁺).

Methyl (3S*,3aS*,6aS*)-3-methyl-6-oxotetrahydrofuro[3,4-b]furan-6a(6H)-carboxylate (10a)



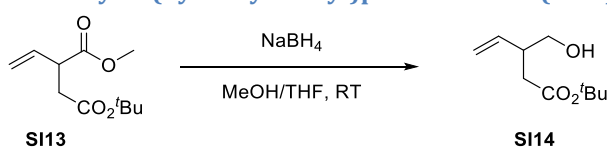
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using dimethyl 2-((2-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (55 mg, 0.254 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 1:2 to 1:4) gave the title compound **10a** (37 mg, 0.185 mmol, 73%). A second purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 1:2 to 1:4) gave the clean major diastereoisomer. Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer only. **R_f** 0.38 (PE/Et₂O 1:4); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 4.56 (1H, dd, $J = 9.7, 6.8$ Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.25 (1H, dd, $J = 9.7, 1.8$ Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.18 (1H, dd, $J = 8.6, 6.6$ Hz, OCHH'), 3.83 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 3.74 (1H, t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, OCHH'), 2.82 (1H, td, $J = 6.8, 1.8$ Hz, CO₂CHH'CH), 2.37-2.24 (1H, m, CH₂CHCH₃), 1.12 (3H, d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, CHCH₃); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 172.0 (C=O), 168.6 (C=O), 86.7 (C_{quat}), 77.3 (OCH₂CHCH₃), 69.5 (CO₂CH₂CH), 53.3 (CO₂CH₃), 53.1 (CO₂CH₂CH), 41.1 (CH₂CHCH₃), 15.4 (CH₂CHCH₃); **$\nu_{\max}$** 2962 (w, C-H), 1778 (s, C=O), 1760 (s, C=O), 1728 (m, C=O), 1194 (m); **m/z (ESI⁺)** 201.1 ([M+H]⁺, 20%), 223.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 50%), 423.1 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₉H₁₂NaO₅: m/z 223.0577 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 223.0578 ([M+Na]⁺).

4-(*tert*-Butyl) 1-methyl 2-vinylsuccinate (SI13)



To a solution of 3-butenic acid (0.796 mL, 9.37 mmol) in THF (24 mL) at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ was added a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexanes (2.5 M, 8.14 mL, 20.4 mmol) over 5 min. The mixture was stirred for 10 min and *tert*-butyl bromoacetate (4.1 mL, 28 mmol) was added over 5 min. The reaction was warmed to room temperature outside the cooling bath and stirred for 8 h. The mixture was quenched at 0°C with aqueous NaOH (0.5 M, 40 mL) and Et₂O was added (40 mL). The layers were separated and the organic phase was extracted with more aqueous NaOH (0.5 M, 20 mL). The combined aqueous layers were treated with pH 2 sulphate buffer (15 mL) and acidified by dropwise addition of concentrated aqueous HCl until pH 2. The acidified aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O and the combined layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and evaporated to give the crude carboxylic acid **SI12** (2.16 g). The residual oil was dissolved in dry DMF and treated upon stirring at room temperature with K₂CO₃ (3.83 g, 27.8 mmol) and MeI (1.43 mL, 23.1 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 4 h at room temperature and was then diluted with Et₂O (50 mL) and pentane (50 mL). The mixture was washed with H₂O (2 x 100 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by Flash Chromatography (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 9:1) to give the title compound **SI13** as a colourless oil (473 mg, 2.21 mmol, 24%). *R*_f 0.48 (PE/Et₂O 6:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.84 (1H, ddd, *J* = 17.2, 10.2, 7.8 Hz, CH₂=CH), 5.20 (1H, dt, *J* = 17.2, 1.1 Hz, CHH'=CH), 5.16 (1H, dt, *J* = 10.2, 1.0 Hz, CHH'=CH), 3.70 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.48 (1H, dddt, *J* = 8.8, 7.8, 5.9, 1.0 Hz, CHCH₂), 2.76 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.4, 8.8 Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 2.47 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.4, 5.9 Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 1.42 (9H, OC(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 173.4 (C=O), 170.6 (C=O), 134.4 (CH₂=CH₂), 117.9 (CH₂=CH), 81.1 (*C*_{quat}), 52.3 (OCH₃), 45.8 (CH), 37.3 (CH₂), 28.2 (OC(CH₃)₃); ν_{max} 2980 (w, C-H), 1730 (s, C=O), 1150 (s), 924 (w, =C-H), 845 (w, =C-H); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 237.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 451.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 20%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₁H₁₈NaO₄: *m/z* 237.1097 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 237.1102 ([M+Na]⁺).

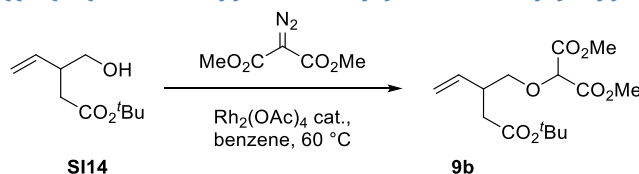
tert-Butyl 3-(hydroxymethyl)pent-4-enoate (SI14)



To a vigorously stirred solution of 4-(*tert*-butyl) 1-methyl 2-vinylsuccinate (457 mg, 2.13 mmol) in THF/MeOH (1:1, 15 mL), was added every 30 min NaBH₄ (4 additions, each addition: 457 mg, 12 mmol) and the reaction was stirred for another hour. The reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL) and water was added (20 mL). The mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by Flash Chromatography (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 3:2) to give desired product **SI14** as a colourless oil (224 mg, 1.20 mmol, 56%); *R*_f 0.30 (PE/Et₂O 3:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.70 (1H, ddd, *J* = 17.0, 10.5, 7.8 Hz, CH₂=CH), 5.16 (2H, m, CHH'=CH), 3.56 (2H, d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, CH₂OH), 2.71 (1H, m, CH(CH₂)₂), 2.40 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.0, 6.6 Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 2.29 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.0, 7.6 Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 1.43 (9H, s, OC(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 172.1 (C=O), 138.0 (CH₂=CH), 117.2 (CH₂=CH), 80.9 (*C*_{quat}), 65.4 (CH₂OH), 43.0 (CH), 37.5 (CH₂CO₂^tBu), 28.2 (OC(CH₃)₃); ν_{max} 3428 (br, O-H), 2979 (w, C-H), 1727 (s, C=O), 1368 (w), 1153 (s), 918 (=C-H), 842 (=C-H); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 209.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%),

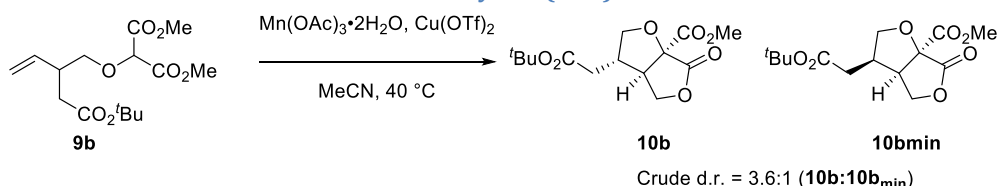
395.3 ([2M+Na]⁺, 15%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₀H₁₈NaO₃: *m/z* 209.1148 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 209.1158 ([M+Na]⁺).

Dimethyl 2-((2-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-2-oxoethyl)but-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (9b)



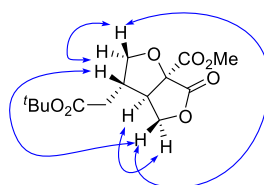
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using *tert*-butyl 3-(hydroxymethyl)pent-4-enoate (210 mg, 1.13 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (134 mg, 0.840 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 3:1 to 2:1) gave the desired product **9b** as a colourless oil (217 mg, 0.686 mmol, 61%); *R_f* 0.38 (PE/Et₂O 2:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.65, (1H, ddd, *J* = 17.3, 10.3, 7.6 Hz, CH₂=CH), 5.09 (1H, dt, *J* = 17.3, 1.2 Hz, CHH'=CH), 5.05 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.3, 1.4, 1.0 Hz, CHH'=CH), 4.45 (1H, s, OCH), 3.74 (6H, s, OCH₃), 3.55 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.1, 5.9 Hz, OCHH'), 3.45 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.1, 7.1 Hz, OCHH'), 2.93-2.83 (1H, m, CH(CH₂)₂), 2.51 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.4, 5.6 Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 2.20 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.4, 8.6 Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 1.36 (9H, s, OC(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 171.5 (C=O), 166.9 (C=O), 137.3 (CH₂=CH), 116.8 (CH₂=CH), 80.5 (C_{quat}), 79.2 (OCH), 73.8 (OCH₂), 53.0 (OCH₃), 40.2 (CH(CH₂)₂), 37.3 (CH₂CO₂^tBu), 28.2 (OC(CH₃)₃); *v*_{max} 2979 (w, C-H) 1740 (C=O), 1727 (s, C=O), 1243 (m), 1138 (s), 1027 (m), 921 (w, =C-H); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 339.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₅H₂₄NaO₇: *m/z* 339.1414 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 339.1413 ([M+Na]⁺).

(3*S,3*aS**,6*aS**)-Methyl 3-(2-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-2-oxoethyl)-6-oxotetrahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*(6*H*)-carboxylate (10b)**



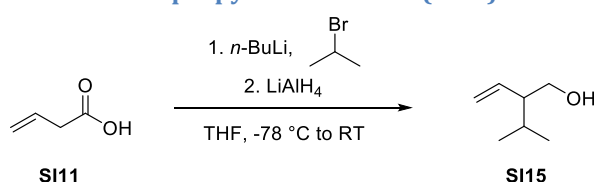
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using dimethyl 2-((2-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-2-oxoethyl)but-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (94.9 mg, 0.300 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 1:4) gave an inseparable mixture (3.6:1) of the two diastereoisomers (68.0 mg, 0.226 mmol, 76%) as a white solid. For analytical purposes, two successive recrystallisations from Hexane/EtOAc (4:1) gave the title compound **10b** in higher diastereomeric purity (15:1, 42 mg). Characterisation was performed on the recrystallised mixture and is given for the major diastereoisomer only. *R_f* 0.59 (PE/Et₂O 1:4); *m.p.* 98-99 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 4.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.8, 7.1 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.33 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.8, 2.5 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.17 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.1, 6.9 Hz, OCHH'), 3.80 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.1, 7.2 Hz, OCHH'), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.94 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.2, 6.2, 2.5 Hz, CO₂CH₂CH), 2.55 (1H, dqn, *J* = 8.3, 6.7 Hz, CHCH₂CO₂^tBu), 2.41 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.4, 6.7 Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 2.29 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.4, 8.3 Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 1.38 (9H, s, OC(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 171.7 (C=O), 170.6 (C=O), 168.5 (C=O), 86.9 (C_{quat}), 81.8 (C_{quat}), 75.5 (OCH₂), 70.6 (CO₂CH₂), 53.5 (OCH₃), 51.3 (CO₂CH₂CH), 43.1 (CHCH₂CO₂^tBu), 37.4 (CH₂CO₂^tBu), 28.2 (OC(CH₃)₃); *v*_{max} 2980 (w, C-H), 1783 (s, C=O), 1763 (m, C=O), 1724 (s, C=O), 1256 (m), 1155 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 323.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 623.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 35%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₄H₂₀NaO₇: *m/z* 323.1101 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 323.1099 ([M+Na]⁺).

nOe analysis was performed in MeOD. ^1H NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz) δ 4.55 (1H, dd, J = 9.8, 7.2 Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'$), 4.41 (1H, dd, J = 9.8, 2.4 Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'$), 4.17 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 6.6 Hz, OCHH'), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH_3), 3.75 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 7.8 Hz, OCHH'), 3.10 (1H, dt, J = 2.4, 6.9 Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$), 2.55 (1H, sext, J = 7.0 Hz, $\text{CHCH}_2\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 2.45 (1H, dd, J = 7.2, 16.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 2.40 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 16.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 1.41 (9H, s, $\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$).



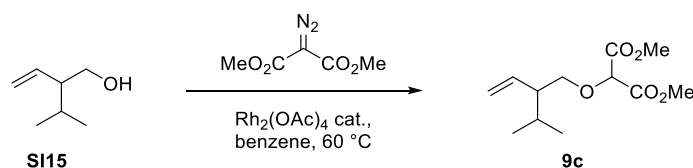
Key nOe interactions

2-Isopropylbut-3-en-1-ol (SI15)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 2 using vinyl acetic acid (1.00 g, 11.7 mmol) and 2-bromopropane (3.30 mL, 35.1 mmol). The stirring period at room temperature was 6 h. Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{30-40}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 7:3) gave the title compound **SI15** as a colourless oil (635 mg, 5.56 mmol, 48%). R_f 0.32 ($\text{PE}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 7:3); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 5.65 (1H, ddd, J = 17.1, 10.3, 9.3 Hz, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 5.23 (1H, dd, J = 10.3, 2.4 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}$), 5.15 (1H, ddd, J = 17.1, 2.4, 0.5 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}$), 3.70 (1H, dd, J = 10.5, 4.9 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{OH}$), 3.47 (1H, dd, J = 10.5, 9.1 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{OH}$), 2.08-1.99 (1H, m, CHCH_2OH), 1.69 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.94 (1H, d, J = 6.9 Hz, CHCH_3), 0.89 (1H, d, J = 6.9 Hz, CHCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 138.3 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 118.5 (CH_2), 63.9 (CH_2OH), 53.9 (CHCH_2), 28.7 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 20.9 (CH_3), 19.7 (CH_3); ν_{max} 3335 (br, O-H), 2958 (m, C-H), 1044 (m), 913 (s). NMR data are in agreement with literature.⁷

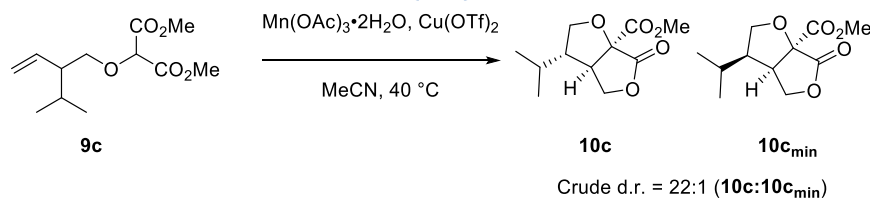
Dimethyl 2-((2-isopropylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (9c)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using 2-isopropylbut-3-en-1-ol (343 mg, 3.0 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (501 mg, 3.15 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{30-40}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 9:1) gave the compound **9c** as a colourless oil (590 mg, 2.42 mmol, 81%). R_f 0.20 ($\text{PE}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 9:1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 5.69 (1H, ddd, J = 17.1, 10.5, 9.1 Hz, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 5.13 (1H, dd, J = 10.5, 2.0 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}$), 5.09 (1H, dd, J = 17.1, 2.0 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}$), 4.52 (1H, s, OCH), 3.82 (6H, s, CO_2CH_3), 3.63 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 6.6 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{O}$), 3.59 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 6.6 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{O}$), 2.31-2.21 (1H, m, $\text{CHCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.88 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.93 (1H, d, J = 6.6 Hz, CHCH_3), 0.86 (1H, d, J = 6.6 Hz, CHCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 167.2 (C=O), 167.1 (C=O), 137.0 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 117.3 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 79.3 (OCH), 73.2 (OCH_2), 52.9 (CO_2CH_3), 49.9 ($\text{CHCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 28.1 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 20.8 (CHCH_3), 18.4 (CHCH_3);

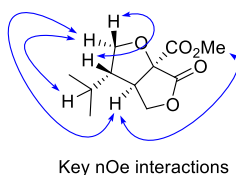
$\nu_{\max}$ 2958 (w, C-H), 1746 (s, C=O), 1129 (m), 1028 (m), 917 (w); m/z (ESI⁺) 267.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 511.0 ([2M+Na]⁺, 20%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₂H₂₀NaO₅: m/z 267.1203 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 267.1205 ([M+Na]⁺).

(3*S,3*aR**,6*aS**)-tert-Butyl 3-isopropyl-6-oxotetrahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*(6*H*)-carboxylate (10c)**

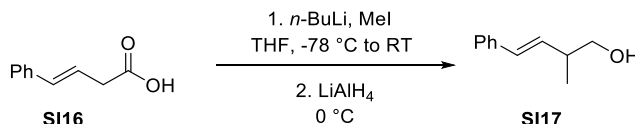


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using dimethyl 2-((2-isopropylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (70.0 mg, 0.287 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 2:3) gave the title compound as a colourless oil (48 mg, 0.211 mmol, 73%). R_f 0.50 (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 3:7); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 4.52 (1H, dd, J = 9.5, 6.7 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.22 (1H, ddd, J = 9.5, 1.7, 0.4 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.19 (1H, ddd, J = 8.8, 7.3, 0.5 Hz, CHH'O), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.79 (1H, m, CHH'O), 2.90 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 6.7, 1.7 Hz, CO₂CH₂CH), 2.05-1.97 (1H, m, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 1.60 (1H, dsep, J = 8.8, 6.7 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.91 (3H, d, J = 6.7 Hz, CHCH₃), 0.84 (3H, d, J = 6.7 Hz, CHCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 172.0 (C=O), 168.8 (C=O), 87.1 (C_{quat}), 75.6 (OCH₂), 70.7 (CO₂CH₂), 54.0 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 53.3 (OCH₃), 50.4 (CO₂CH₂CH), 30.9 (CH(CH₃)₂), 21.4 (CHCH₃), 21.2 (CHCH₃); $\nu_{\max}$ 2960 (w, C-H), 1783 (s, C=O), 1762 (m, C=O), 1730 (w, C=O), 1028 (m); m/z (ESI⁺) 251.0 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 479.0 ([2M+Na]⁺, 80%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₁H₁₆NaO₅: m/z 251.0890 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 251.0892 ([M+Na]⁺).

nOe analysis was performed in C₆D₆. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 400 MHz) δ 3.94 (1H, dd, J = 9.3, 6.9 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 3.80 (1H, dd, J = 8.5, 7.3 Hz, CHH'O), 3.55 (1H, dd, J = 9.3, 1.8 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 3.48 (1H, t, J = 9.2 Hz, CHH'O), 3.24 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 2.31 (1H, ddd, J = 8.5, 6.9, 1.8 Hz, COOCH₂CH), 1.26-1.19 (1H, m, CHiPr), 0.92 (1H, septd, J = 6.7, 8.9 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.38 (6H, d, J = 6.7 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂).



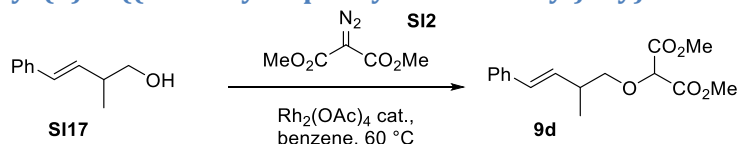
(*E*)-2-Methyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (SI17)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 2 using trans-styrylacetic acid (1.00 g, 6.17 mmol) and iodomethane (1.18 mL, 19 mmol, 3.0 eq). The stirring period at room temperature was one hour. Flash Chromatography purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 3:2) gave the product **SI17** as an orange oil (302 mg, 1.86 mmol, 30%). R_f 0.52 (PE/Et₂O 1:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.40-7.35 (2H, m, ArH), 7.34-7.27 (2H, m, ArH), 7.25-7.19 (1H, m, ArH), 6.49 (1H, d, J = 15.9 Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 6.10 (1H, dd, J = 15.9, 8.1 Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 3.60 (1H, dd, J = 10.6, 5.6 Hz, CHH'OH), 3.52 (1H, dd, J = 10.6, 7.6 Hz, CHH'OH), 2.61-2.48 (1H, m, CHCH₃), 1.11 (1H, d, J = 6.6 Hz, CHCH₃); ¹³C NMR

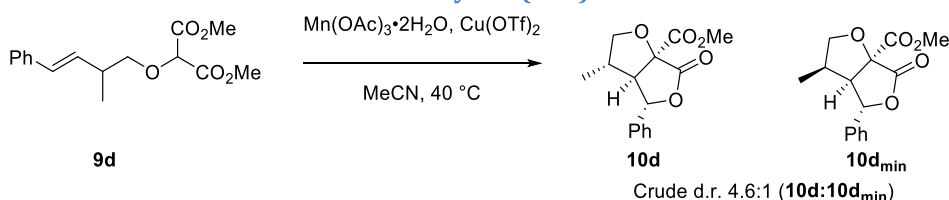
(CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 137.3 (Ar-CH=CH), 132.6 (Ar-CH=CH), 131.1 (Ar), 128.7 (Ar), 127.4 (Ar), 126.3 (Ar), 67.5 (CH₂), 40.3 (CHCH₃), 16.6 (CH₃); $\nu_{\max}$ 3342 (br, O-H), 2960 (w, C-H), 1031 (m), 476 (s), 693 (s); m/z (ESI⁺) 185.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%). NMR data are in agreement with literature.⁸

Dimethyl (*E*)-2-((2-methyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (**9d**)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using (*E*)-2-Methyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (286 mg, 1.76 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (294 mg, 1.85 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 3:1) gave the title compound **9d** as a colourless oil (285 mg, 0.975 mmol, 55%). R_f 0.47 (PE/Et₂O 3:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.32 (2H, m, ArH), 7.32-7.26 (2H, m, ArH), 7.23-7.17 (1H, m, ArH), 6.45 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 6.16 (1H, dd, J = 16.0, 7.3 Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 4.54 (1H, s, OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.59 (1H, dd, J = 9.0, 6.9 Hz, CHH'OCH), 3.51 (1H, dd, J = 9.0, 6.9 Hz, CHH'OCH), 2.80-2.67 (1H, dsep, J = 1.1, 6.9 Hz, CHCH₃), 1.16 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz, CHCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.1 (C=O), 167.1 (C=O), 137.6 (Ar-CH=CH), 132.0 (Ar-CH=CH), 130.2 (Ar), 128.6 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 126.3 (Ar), 79.4 (OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 76.3 (CH₂-O-CH), 53.0 (CO₂CH₃), 37.2 (CHCH₃), 17.0 (CHCH₃); $\nu_{\max}$ 2957 (w, C-H), 1764 (m, C=O), 1746 (s, C=O), 1139 (m), 1028 (w), 750 (w), 695 (w); m/z (ESI⁺) 315.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₆H₂₀NaO₅: m/z 315.1203 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 315.1203 ([M+Na]⁺).

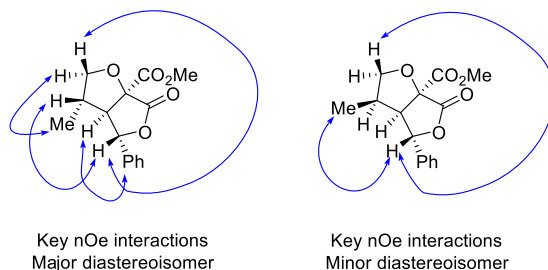
(3*S**,3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 3-methyl-6-oxo-4-phenyltetrahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*(6*H*)-carboxylate (**10d**)



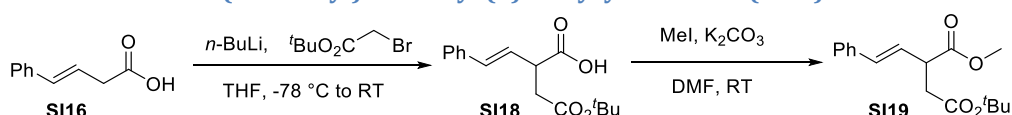
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using dimethyl (*E*)-2-((2-methyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate **9d** (75 mg, 0.257 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE/Et₂O 2:3) gave the product **10d** as a mixture of two diastereoisomers (65 mg, 0.236 mmol, 92%). A second purification (PE/Et₂O 2:3) gave the major diastereoisomer and a small amount of the minor diastereoisomer. R_f 0.24 (3:2 PE/Et₂O); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.46-7.50 (3H, m, ArH), 7.40-7.34 (2H, m, ArH), 5.26 (1H, d, J = 4.6 Hz, CHPh), 4.29 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 6.0 Hz, OCHH'), 3.97 (1H, J = 9.1, 4.7 Hz, OCHH'), 3.78 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 2.96 (1H, dd, J = 4.6, 3.7 Hz, PhCHCH), 2.59-2.52 (1H, m, CHCH₃), 1.15 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 171.4 (C=O), 169.0 (C=O), 138.6 (Ar), 129.1 (Ar), 129.0 (Ar), 122.5 (Ar), 87.5 (C_{quat}), 84.5 (PhCH), 66.0 (CH₂), 61.4 (PhCHCH), 53.4 (OCH₃), 41.2 (CHCH₃), 17.5 (CHCH₃); $\nu_{\max}$ 2959 (w, C-H), 1780 (s, C=O), 1732 (s, C=O), 725 (w), 699 (w); m/z (ESI⁺) 299.0 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 575.0 ([2M+Na]⁺, 75%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₅H₁₆NaO₅: m/z 299.0890 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 299.0886 ([M+Na]⁺).

The clean sample of minor diastereoisomer **10d_{min}** (3 mg) was submitted for NMR and NOESY analysis: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.44-7.34 (5H, m, ArH), 5.43 (1H, d, J = 6.2, CHPh), 4.38 (1H, dd, J = 8.7, 7.1, OCHH'), 3.84 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.75 (1H, dd, J = 10.7, 8.7, OCHH'), 3.36 (1H, dd, J = 7.1, 6.2, CHCHPh), 2.63-2.52 (1H, dsex, J = 10.7, 7.1 Hz, CHCH₃), 1.05 (3H, d, J = 7.1, CHCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃,

125 MHz) δ 171.2 (C=O), 168.7 (C=O), 138.7 (Ar), 129.2 (Ar), 129.2 (Ar), 126.5 (Ar), 88.4 (C_{quat}), 79.3 (PhCH), 75.8 (CH_2), 57.4 (PhCHCH), 53.5 (OCH_3), 36.9 ($CHCH_3$), 10.9 ($CHCH_3$).

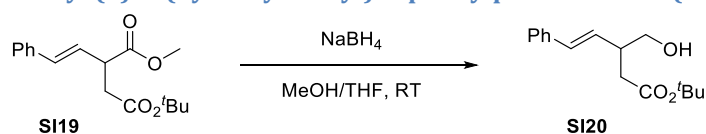


4-(*tert*-Butyl) 1-methyl (*E*)-2-styrylsuccinate (**SI19**)



To a solution of *trans*-styrylacetic acid (1.50 g, 9.25 mmol) in THF (24 mL) at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ was added a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexanes (2.5 M, 8.14 mL, 20.4 mmol) over 5 min. The mixture was stirred for 10 min and *tert*-butyl bromoacetate (4.1 mL, 28 mmol) was added over 5 min. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature outside the cooling bath and stirred for 3 h. The mixture was quenched at 0°C with aqueous NaOH (0.5 M, 40 mL), Et₂O was added (40 mL). Layers were separated and the organic phase was extracted with more aqueous NaOH (0.5 M, 20 mL). The combined aqueous layers were treated with pH 2 sulphate buffer (15 mL) and acidified by dropwise addition of conc. aqueous HCl until pH 2. The acidified aqueous layers was extracted with Et₂O. The combined layers were dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered and evaporated to give the crude carboxylic acid **SI18** (3.07 g). The residual oil was dissolved in dry DMF and treated upon stirring at room temperature with K_2CO_3 (3.83 g, 27.8 mmol) and MeI (1.43 mL, 23.1 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 16 h at room temperature and was then diluted with EtOAc (50 mL) and PE (50 mL). The mixture was washed with H₂O (2 x 100 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified 2 times by Flash Chromatography (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 9:1) to give the titled compound **SI19** as a colourless oil (520 mg, 1.79 mmol, 19% over 2 steps). R_f 0.32 (PE/Et₂O 8:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.36-7.28 (4H, m, ArH), 7.27-7.20 (1H, m, ArH), 6.53 (1H, d, $J = 15.9\text{ Hz}$, PhCH=CH), 6.18 (1H, dd, $J = 15.9, 8.6\text{ Hz}$, PhCH=CH), 3.73 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 3.64 (1H, tdd, $J = 8.6, 6.0, 1.0\text{ Hz}$, CHCH_2), 2.86 (1H, $J = 16.4, 8.6\text{ Hz}$, CHH'), 2.56 (1H, dd, $J = 16.4, 6.0\text{ Hz}$, CHH'), 1.6 (9H, s, $\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 173.5 (C=O), 170.6 (C=O), 136.6 (Ar), 133.1 (PhCH=CH), 128.7 (Ar), 127.9 (Ar), 126.5 (Ar), 125.7 (PhCH=CH), 81.2 (C_{quat}), 52.3 (CH_3), 45.4 (CH), 37.8 (CH_2), 28.2 ($\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); ν_{max} 2978 (w, C-H), 1729 (s, C=O), 1254 (w), 1148 (s), 745 (w, =C-H), 694 (w, =C-H); m/z (ESI⁺) 313.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_4$: m/z 313.1410 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 313.1417 ([M+Na]⁺).

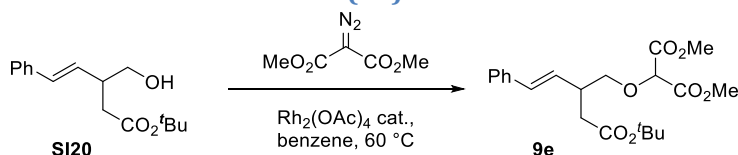
tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-phenylpent-4-enoate (**SI20**)



To a solution 4-(*tert*-butyl) 1-methyl (*E*)-2-styrylsuccinate (418 mg, 1.44 mmol) in THF/MeOH (1:1, 10 mL) was added NaBH_4 (272 mg) in three portions. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min and

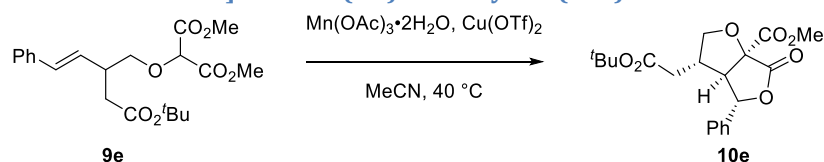
quenched with aqueous NH_4Cl (2.0 M, 30 mL), the mixture was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 20 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by Flash Chromatography ($\text{PE}_{30-40}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 1:2) to give desired product **SI20** as colourless oil (334 mg, 1.27 mmol, 88%); R_f 0.38 ($\text{PE}_{30-40}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 1:1); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.27 (4H, m, ArH), 7.25-7.18 (1H, m, ArH), 6.52 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 6.08 (1H, dd, J = 16.0, 8.5 Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 3.65 (2H, d, J = 5.9 Hz, CH_2OH), 2.94-2.84 (1H, m, CH), 2.50 (1H, dd, J = 14.9, 6.6 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 2.37 (1H, dd, J = 14.9, 7.6 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 1.99 (1H, br, OH), 1.43 (9H, s, $\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 172.0 (C=O), 137.0 (Ar), 132.4 ($\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 129.4 ($\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 128.7 (Ar), 127.6 (Ar), 126.3 (Ar), 80.9 (C_{quat}), 65.7 (CH_2OH), 42.7 (CH), 38.0 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 28.2 ($\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); ν_{max} 3248 (br, OH), 2978 (w, C-H), 1724 (m, C=O), 1148 (s), 748 (w, =C-H); m/z (ESI^+) 285.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3$: m/z 285.1461 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 285.1460 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-((2-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-2-oxoethyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (9e**)**



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using *tert*-butyl (*E*)-3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-phenylpent-4-enoate **SI20** (370 mg, 1.42 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (237.2 mg, 1.49 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{30-40}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 3:1) gave the desired product **9e** as a colourless oil (284 mg, 0.724 mmol, 51%). R_f 0.42 ($\text{PE}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 3:2); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.25 (4H, m, ArH), 7.25-7.16 (1H, m, ArH), 6.50 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 6.11 (1H, dd, J = 16.0, 8.3 Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 4.54 (1H, s, OCH), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH_3), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH_3), 3.69 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 5.6 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{O}$), 3.60 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 5.6 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{O}$), 3.05 (1H, m, CHCH_2), 2.67 (1H, dd, J = 15.2, 5.4 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 2.36 (1H, dd, J = 15.2, 8.8 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 1.40 (9H, s, $\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 171.4 (C=O), 166.9 (C=O), 137.1 (Ar), 131.9 ($\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 128.7 ($\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 128.5 (Ar), 127.4 (Ar), 126.3 (Ar), 80.5 (C_{quat}), 79.1 (OCH), 73.9 (OCH_2), 52.9 (OCH_3), 39.8 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_2$), 37.8 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2^t\text{Bu}$), 28.1 ($\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); ν_{max} 2977 (w, C-H), 1747 (s, C=O), 1723 (s, C=O), 1240 (m), 1149 (s), 751 (w, =C-H); m/z (ESI^+) 415.2 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{NaO}_7$: m/z 415.1727 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 415.1732 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

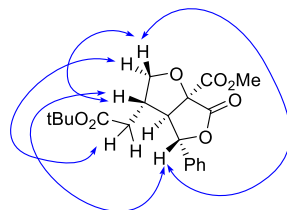
(3*S,3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 3-(2-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-2-oxoethyl)-6-oxo-4-phenyltetrahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*aH*)-carboxylate (**10e**)**



Crude d.r. = 6.7:1:0.7:0.4

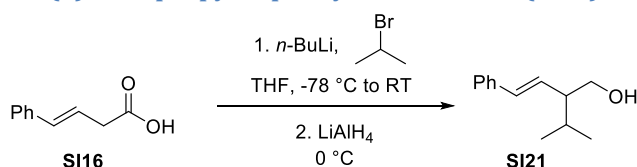
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using dimethyl (*E*)-2-((2-(2-(*tert*-butoxy)-2-oxoethyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (**9e**) (62 mg, 0.158 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{30-40}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 3:2) gave the desired product **10e** as a colourless oil (41 mg, 0.109 mmol, 69%) as a mixture of diastereoisomers. As second purification gave the clean major diastereoisomer **10e**. R_f 0.32 ($\text{PE}/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ 3:2); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.44-7.32 (5H, m, ArH), 5.36

(1H, d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, PhCH), 4.30 (1H, dd, $J = 9.3, 6.1$ Hz, OCHH'), 4.05 (1H, dd, $J = 9.3, 4.0$ Hz, OCHH'), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.04 (1H, dd, $J = 4.8, 3.0$ Hz, CHCHCH), 2.86 (1H, tddd, $J = 7.6, 6.1, 4.0, 3.0$ Hz, CHCH₂CO₂^tBu), 2.46 (1H, dd, $J = 16.4, 7.6$ Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 2.33 (1H, dd, $J = 16.4, 7.6$ Hz, CHH'CO₂^tBu), 1.36 (9H, s, OC(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 171.1 (C=O), 170.5 (C=O), 168.7 (C=O), 138.5 (Ar), 129.1 (Ar), 129.0 (Ar), 125.8 (Ar), 87.6 (C_{quat}), 84.6 (PhCH), 81.7 (C_{quat}), 75.2 (OCH₂), 59.4 (CHCHCH), 53.5 (OCH₃), 43.0 (CHCH₂CO₂^tBu), 38.0 (CH₂CO₂^tBu), 28.1 (OC(CH₃)₃); $\nu_{\max}$ 2978 (w, C-H), 1783 (s, C=O), 1761 (m, C=O), 1722 (m, C=O), 1152 (s), 726 (w, =C-H); m/z (ESI⁺) 399.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₂₀H₂₄NaO₇: m/z 399.1414 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 399.1421 ([M+Na]⁺).



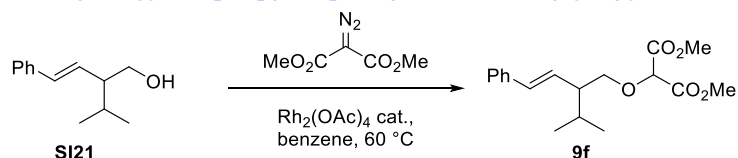
Key nOe interactions

(*E*)-2-isopropyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (SI21)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 2 using trans-styrylacetic acid (1.50 g, 9.25 mmol) and 2-bromopropane (2.77 mL, 29.5 mmol, 3 eq.). The stirring period at room temperature was 3 h. Two successive Flash Chromatography purifications (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 3:1) gave the titled compound **SI21** as a colourless oil (540 mg, 2.84 mmol, 31%). R_f 0.27 (PE/Et₂O 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.42-7.38 (2H, m, ArH), 7.36-7.30 (2H, m, ArH), 7.26-7.22 (1H, m, ArH), 6.50 (1H, d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 6.05 (1H, dd, $J = 15.8, 9.3$ Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 3.76 (1H, dd, $J = 10.7, 4.9$ Hz, CHH'OH), 3.56 (1H, dd, $J = 10.7, 9.1$ Hz, CHH'OH), 2.25-2.14 (1H, m, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 1.84-1.72 (1H, m, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 0.97 (3H, d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, CH₃), 0.84 (3H, d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 137.2 (Ar-CH=CH), 133.6 (Ar-CH=CH), 129.8 (Ar), 128.7 (Ar), 127.5 (Ar), 126.3 (Ar), 64.4 (CH₂OH), 53.1 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 29.3 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 21.1 (CH₃), 19.8 (CH₃); $\nu_{\max}$ 3349 (br, OH), 2957 (m, C-H), 967 (m), 746 (s, =C-H), 693 (s, =C-H); m/z (ESI⁺) 213.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₃H₁₈NaO: m/z 213.1250 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 213.1248 ([M+Na]⁺). Data are in agreement with literature.⁹

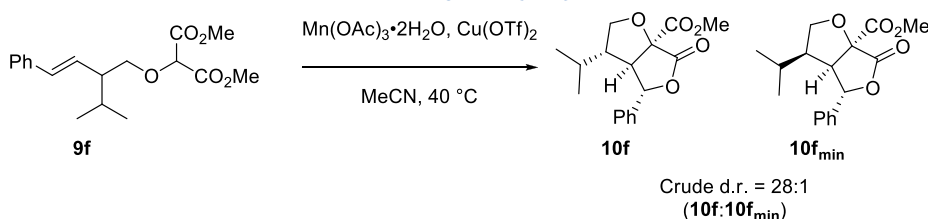
(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-((2-isopropyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (9f)



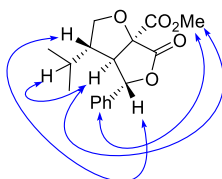
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using (*E*)-2-isopropyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (476 mg, 2.50 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (418 mg, 2.63 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₃₀₋₄₀/Et₂O 4:1 to 3:1) gave the compound **9f** as a colourless oil (590 mg, 1.84 mmol, 74%). R_f 0.38 (PE/Et₂O 7:3); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.40-7.30 (2H, m, ArH), 7.28-7.21 (2H, m, ArH), 7.20-7.16 (1H, m, ArH), 6.44 (1H, d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 6.09 (1H, dd, $J =$

15.8, 9.1 Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 4.52 (1H, s, OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.77 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.70 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.2, 6.4 Hz, CHH'OCH), 3.65 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.2, 6.4 Hz, CHH'OCH), 2.46-2.36 (1H, dtdd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 5.5, 0.9 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 1.97 (1H, qnd, *J* = 6.8 and 5.5, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.96 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃), 0.91 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.2 (C=O), 167.1 (C=O), 137.7 (Ar-CH=CH), 132.5 (Ar-CH=CH), 128.9 (Ar), 128.6 (Ar), 127.2 (Ar), 126.3 (Ar), 79.4 (CH₂OCH), 73.4 (CH₂OCH), 52.9 (OCH₃), 49.4 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 28.7 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 21.0 (CH₃), 18.7 (CH₃); *v*_{max} 2957 (w, C-H), 1748 (s, C=O), 1139 (m), 749 (w, =C-H), 695 (w, =C-H); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 343.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₈H₂₄NaO₅: *m/z* 343.1516 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 343.1531 ([M+Na]⁺).

(3*S,3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 3-isopropyl-6-oxo-4-phenyltetrahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*(6*H*)-carboxylate (**10f**)**

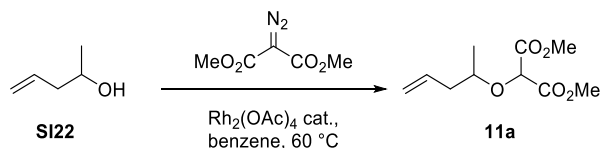


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 2 using dimethyl (*E*)-2-((2-isopropyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (84.0 mg, 0.26 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE/Et₂O 2:3) gave the product **10f** (73.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 92%). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer only. *R*_f 0.24 (3:2 PE/ Et₂O); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.44-7.34 (5H, m, ArH), 5.28 (1H, d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, CHPh), 4.33 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.1, 7.1 Hz, OCHH'), 4.02 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.1, 7.1 Hz, OCHH'), 3.78 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 3.11 (1H, t, *J* = 4.7 Hz, PhCHCH), 2.23 (1H, dtd, *J* = 8.9, 7.1, 4.7 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 1.60 (1H, dsep, *J* = 8.9, 6.7 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.88 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CHCH₃), 0.83 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CHCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 170.9 (C=O), 169.2 (C=O), 138.2 (Ar), 129.1 (Ar), 129.0 (Ar), 126.1 (Ar), 88.3 (C_{quat}), 86.2 (CHPh), 75.2 (OCH₂), 58.1 (PhCHCH), 55.2 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 53.3 (CO₂CH₃), 30.4 (CH(CH₃)₂), 21.4 (CHCH₃), 21.0 (CHCH₃); *v*_{max} 2959 (w, C-H), 1782 (s, C=O), 1760 (m, C=O), 1731 (w, C=O), 699 (w); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 327.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 631.3 ([2M+Na]⁺, 80%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₇H₂₀NaO₅: *m/z* 327.1203 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 327.1212 ([M+Na]⁺). The relative configuration of the minor diastereomer was assigned by comparison with the diastereomers of **10d**.



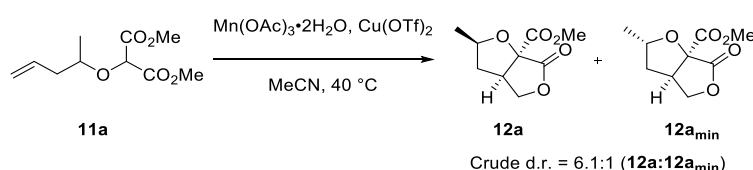
Key nOe interactions

Dimethyl 2-(pent-4-en-2-yloxy)malonate (**11a**)

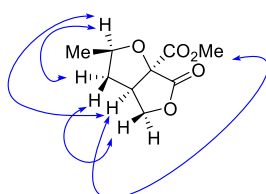


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using **SI22** (0.3 mL, 2.91 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (500 mg, 3.16 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE40-60/EtOAc 9:1) gave the title compound **11a** as a colourless oil (420 mg, 1.94 mmol, 67%). R_f 0.40 (PE40-60/EtOAc 8:2); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 5.77 (1H, ddt, J = 17.2, 10.1, 7.1 Hz, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 5.05 (1H, dd, J = 17.2, 1.9 Hz, $\text{CHH}=\text{CH}$), 5.02 (1H, dd, J = 10.1, 1.9 Hz, $\text{CHH}=\text{CH}$), 4.57 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.76 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.60 (1H, sex, J = 6.2 Hz, OCHCH_3), 2.37 (1H, dddt, J = 14.1, 6.9, 5.7, 1.3 Hz, CHCHHCH), 2.20 (1H, dddt, J = 14.1, 7.5, 6.5, 1.1 Hz, CHCHHCH), 1.18 (3H, d, J = 6.2 Hz, CH_3); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 167.6 (C=O), 167.4 (C=O), 134.1 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 117.5 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 77.3 ($\text{OCH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 77.1 ($\text{OCH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 52.9 (CO_2Me), 52.8 (CO_2Me), 40.6 (CHCH_2), 19.4 (CHCH_3); ν_{max} 2957 (w, C-H), 1747 (s, C=O), 1120 (m), 1022 (m), 917 (w); m/z (ESI^+) 239.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%), 455.2 ($[\text{2M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 12 %); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_5$: m/z 239.0890 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 239.0901 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

(2*R**,3*aR**,6*a**)-Methyl 2-methyl-6-oxohexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**12a**)

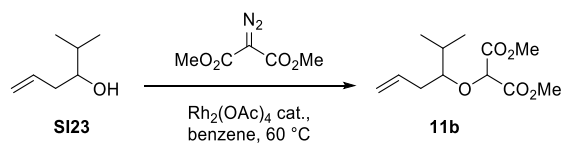


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **11a** (50 mg, 0.23 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 40 °C. Flash Chromatography purification (PE40-60/EtOAc 8:2 to 6:4) gave the title compound **12a** as a colourless oil (45 mg, 0.22 mmol, 96%). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer. R_f 0.10 (PE40-60/EtOAc 6:4); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 4.52 (1H, dd, J = 9.4, 6.6 Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'\text{CH}$), 4.38 (1H, dqd, J = 10.6, 6.0, 4.6 Hz, OCHCH_2), 4.23 (1H, dd, J = 9.4, 1.6 Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'\text{CH}$), 3.82 (s, CO_2Me), 3.31 (1H, dddd, J = 9.9, 8.3, 6.6, 1.6 Hz, CH_2CHCH_2), 2.48 (1H, ddd, J = 12.6, 8.3, 4.6 Hz, $\text{CHCHH}'\text{CH}$), 1.56 (1H, dt, J = 12.6, 10.1 Hz, $\text{CHCHH}'\text{CH}$), 1.36 (3H, d, J = 6.0 Hz, CH_3); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) δ 172.1 (C=O), 169.1 (C=O), 86.3 (C_{quat}), 80.8 (OCHCH_2), 70.2 ($\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$), 53.3 (CO_2Me), 46.9 ($\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$), 40.6 (CHCH_2CH), 19.9 (CH_3); ν_{max} 2978 (w), 1779 (s, C=O), 1760 (s, C=O), 1114 (m), 1037 (s); m/z (ESI^+) 201.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 16%), 223.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 62%), 423.1 ($[\text{2M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{12}\text{NaO}_5$: m/z 223.0577 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 223.0585 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).



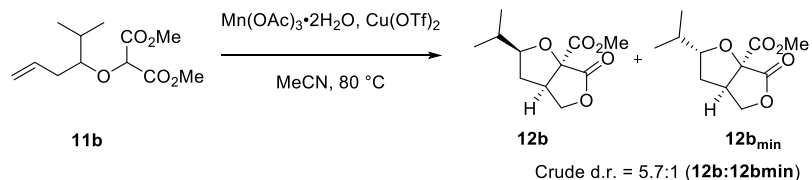
Key nOe interactions

Dimethyl 2-((2-methylhex-5-en-3-yl)oxy)malonate (**11b**)

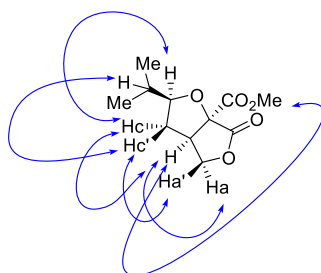


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using 2-methyl-5-hexen-3-ol (300 mg, 2.62 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (440 mg, 2.78 mmol, 1.06 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 80:20) gave the title compound **11b** as a colourless oil (435 mg, 1.78 mmol, 68%). *R_f* 0.52 (PE/EtOAc 8:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.84 (1H, ddt, *J* = 17.2, 10.1, 7.1 Hz, CH₂=CH), 5.05 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.2, 0.9 Hz, CHH'=CH), 5.02 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.1, 0.9 Hz, CHH'=CH), 4.55 (1H, s, OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.76 (6H, s, OCH₃), 3.24 (1H, q, *J* = 5.5 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 2.33-2.21 (2H, m, CH₂CHO), 1.91-1.80 (1H, m, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.92 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CHCH₃), 0.89 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CHCH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.6 (2×C=O), 134.8 (CH₂=CH), 117.2 (CH₂=CH), 86.9 (OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 78.7 (OCHCH₂), 52.8 (2×CO₂Me), 35.1 (OCHCH₂), 31.0 (CH(CH₃)₂), 18.1 (CH₃), 18.0 (CH₃); *v*_{max} 2958 (w, C-H), 1746 (s, C=O), 1118 (m), 1022 (m), 916 (w); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 267.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₂H₂₀NaO₅: *m/z* 267.1203 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 267.1211 ([M+Na]⁺).

(2*S**,3*aR**,6*aS**)-Methy 2-isopropyl-6-oxohexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**12b**)

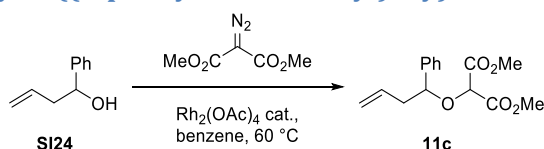


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **11b** (61 mg, 0.25 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 40 °C. Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2 to 6:4) gave the clean compound **12b** as a colourless oil (23 mg, 0.10 mmol, 40%) and a mixture of the two diastereoisomers (31 mg, 0.136 mmol, 54%). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer only. *R_f* 0.23 (PE/EtOAc 6:4); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 4.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.4, 6.4 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.22 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.4, 1.2 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.03 (1H, ddd, *J* = 11.0, 6.8, 4.7 Hz, OCHCH(CH₃)₂), 3.82 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.29 (1H, m, CO₂CHH'CH), 2.38 (1H, ddd, *J* = 12.7, 8.3, 4.7 Hz, CHCHH'CH), 1.87 (1H, oct, *J* = 6.8 Hz, OCHCH(CH₃)₂), 1.63 (1H, m, CHCHH'CH), 1.00 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.89 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 172.1 (C=O), 169.2 (C=O), 89.7 (OCHCH(CH₃)₂), 86.2 (*C_{quat}*), 70.2 (CO₂CH₂CH), 53.3 (CO₂Me), 46.5 (CO₂CHH'CH), 35.7 (CHCHH'CH), 32.1 (CH(CH₃)₂), 19.2 (CHCH₃), 17.9 (CHCH₃); *v*_{max} 2961 (w), 1780 (s, C=O), 1760 (s, C=O); 1117 (m), 1033 (s), 982 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 479.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%); 251.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 75%); 229.1 ([M+H]⁺, 21%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₁H₁₆NaO₅: *m/z* 251.0890 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 251.0895 ([M+Na]⁺).



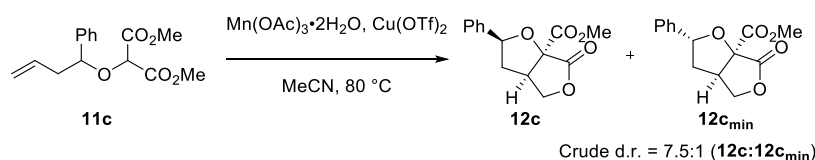
Key nOe interactions

Dimethyl 2-((1-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)oxy)malonate (**11c**)

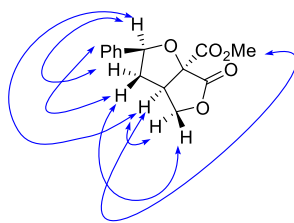


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using 4-phenyl-1-butene-1-ol 0.4 mL, 2.68 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (450 mg, 2.85 mmol, 1.05 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 80:20) gave the title compound **11c** as a colourless oil (635 mg, 2.28 mmol, 85%). *R_f* 0.40 (PE/EtOAc 8:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.32-7.23 (5H, ArH), 5.73 (1H, tdd, *J* = 7.0, 10.2, 17.1 Hz, CH₂=CH), 5.00 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.1, 1.5 Hz, CHH'=CH), 4.96 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.2, 1.5 Hz, CHH'=CH), 4.41 (1H, t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, OCHCH₂), 4.35 (1H, s, CH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.74 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.63 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 2.72 (1H, m, CHH'CHO), 2.44 (1H, m, CHH'CHO); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.6 (C=O), 166.7 (C=O), 139.5 (C_{quat}), 134.0 (CH₂=CH), 128.7 (2×C_{Ar}), 128.5 (C_{Ar}), 127.3 (2×C_{Ar}), 117.5 (CH₂=CH), 82.9 (OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 76.6 (OCHPh), 52.8 (2×CO₂Me), 42.2 (CHCH₂); *v*_{max} 2955 (w, C-H), 1745 (s, C=O), 1117 (m), 1022 (m), 918 (w), 702 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 301.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 579 ([2M+Na]⁺, 17%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₅H₁₈NaO₅: *m/z* 301.1046 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 301.1045 ([M+Na]⁺).

(2*S**,3*aR**,6*aS**)-Methyl 6-oxo-2-phenylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**12c**)

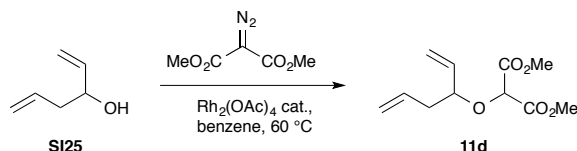


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **11c** (70 mg, 0.25 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 40 °C. Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2 to 6:4) gave the title compound **12c** as a mixture of two diastereoisomers (52 mg, 0.19 mmol, 80%). A second purification led to the pure major diastereoisomer as a white solid. Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer only. *R_f* 0.15 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 6:4); *m. p.* 98-102 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.27-7.19 (5H, ArH), 5.24 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.6, 5.1 Hz, OCHPh), 4.49 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.5, 6.4 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 4.17 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.5, 1.6 Hz, CO₂CHH'), 3.79 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.89 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.1, 6.4, 8.1, 1.6 Hz, CH₂CHCH₂), 2.69 (ddd, *J* = 12.9, 8.1, 5.1 Hz, CHCHH'CH), 1.83 (1H, td, *J* = 10.1, 12.9 Hz, CHCHH'CH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 171.8 (C=O), 168.9 (C=O), 138.9 (C_{quat}), 128.7 (2×C_{Ar}), 128.4 (C_{Ar}), 125.8 (2×C_{Ar}), 86.5 (C_{quat}), 85.6 (OCHPh), 69.8 (CO₂CH₂CH), 53.4 (CO₂Me), 46.8 (CO₂CHH'CH), 41.7 (CHCHH'CH); *v*_{max} 2920 (w), 1782 (s, C=O), 1743 (s), 1275 (m), 1106 (w), 761 (s), 714 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 285.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 47%), 547.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₄H₁₄O₅Na: *m/z* 285.0733 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 285.0736 ([M+Na]⁺).



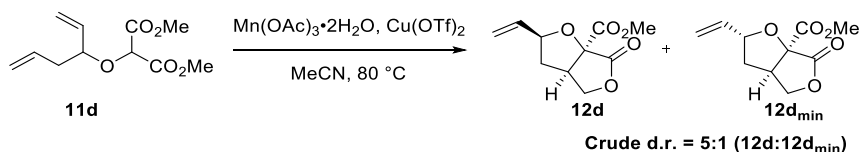
Key nOe interactions

Dimethyl 2-(hexa-1,5-dien-3-yloxy)malonate (**11d**)



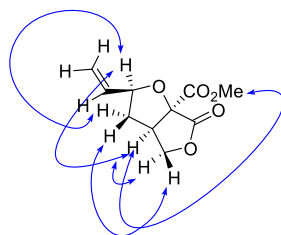
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using 1,5 hexadien-3-ol (0.3 mL, 2.68 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (460 mg, 2.91 mmol, 1.09 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 80:20) gave the title compound **11d** as a yellow oil (460 mg, 2.02 mmol, 75%). R_f 0.43 (PE/EtOAc 8:2); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 5.79 (1H, ddt, J = 17.2, 10.1, 7.0 Hz, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2$), 5.65 (1H, ddd, J = 17.2, 10.3, 8.3 Hz, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{CH}$), 5.25 (1H, ddd, J = 10.3, 1.3, 0.6 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}-\text{CH}$), 5.20 (1H, ddd, J = 17.2, 1.5, 0.8 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}-\text{CH}$), 5.06 (1H, dd, J = 17.2, 1.8 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CHCH}_2$), 5.03 (1H, dd, J = 10.1, 1.8 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2$), 4.55 (1H, s, $\text{OCH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})$), 3.83 (1H, td, J = 6.6, 8.3 Hz, OCHCH_2), 3.77 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.74 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 2.51 (1H, dtt, J = 14.3, 6.6, 1.3 Hz, $\text{CHCHH}'\text{CH}$), 2.33 (1H, dddt, J = 14.2, 7.1, 6.7, 1.3, Hz, $\text{CH}-\text{CHH}'-\text{CH}$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 167.5 (C=O), 167.1 (C=O), 136.5 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 133.7 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 119.6 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 117.5 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 82.3 (OCHCH_2), 76.4 ($\text{OCH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 52.9 (CO_2Me), 52.8 (CO_2Me), 39.6 (OCHCH_2); ν_{max} 2956 (w, C-H), 1747 (s, C=O), 1123 (m), 1022 (m), 925 (w); m/z (ESI $^+$) 251.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%), 479.2 ($[2\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 12 %); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_5$: m/z 251.0890 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 251.0897 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

(2*S**,3*aR**,6*aS**)-Methyl 6-oxo-2-vinylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**12d**)



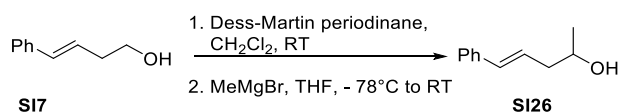
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **11d** (50 mg, 0.22 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 40 °C. Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2 to 6:4) gave the title compound **12d** as a colourless oil (40 mg, 0.19 mmol, 86%). R_f 0.27 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 5:5); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 5.86 (1H, ddd, J = 17.1, 10.5, 6.4 Hz, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 5.37 (1H, dd, J = 17.1, 1.0 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}$), 5.21 (1H, dd, J = 10.5, 1.0 Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}$), 4.75 (1H, dddt, J = 9.5, 6.4, 5.4, 1.1 Hz, OCHCH_2), 4.54 (1H, dd, J = 9.5, 6.7 Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'$), 4.24 (1H, dd, J = 9.5, 2.0 Hz, $\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'$), 3.84 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.35 (1H, ddt, J = 6.7, 2.0, 8.5 Hz, CH_2CHCH_2), 2.54 (1H, ddd, J = 12.7, 8.5, 5.4 Hz, $\text{CHCHH}'\text{CH}$), 1.77 (1H, td, J = 9.5, 12.7 Hz, $\text{CHCHH}'\text{CH}$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 171.8 (C=O), 168.9 (C=O), 135.7 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 118.1 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 86.3 (C_{quat}), 84.8 (OCHCH_2), 70.1 ($\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$), 53.4 (CO_2Me), 46.5 ($\text{CO}_2\text{CHH}'\text{CH}$), 38.9 ($\text{CHCHH}'\text{CH}$); ν_{max} 2950 (w, C-H), 1779 (s, C=O), 1760 (s, C=O),

1264 (s), 1126 (m), 1035 (s); **m/z** (ESI⁺) 235.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 83%); 479.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₀H₁₂NaO₅: *m/z* 235.0577 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 235.0578 ([M+Na]⁺).



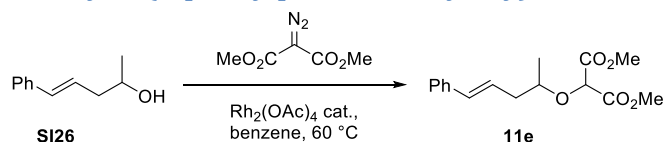
Key nOe interactions

(*E*)-5-Phenylpent-4-en-2-ol (**SI26**)



To a solution of (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (270 mg, 1.82 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (9.5 mL) was added Dess-Martin periodinane (1.16 g, 2.73 mmol, 1.5 eq.). After stirring for 2 h, the reaction mixture was hydrolysed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was engaged in the next step without further purification. To a solution of the previous crude product in THF (9 mL) at - 78 °C was added dropwise MeMgBr (1.20 mL, 3 M in Et₂O, 3.60 mmol, 1.7 eq.). The solution was stirred for 30 min at - 78 °C and warmed up to room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was hydrolysed with a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 7:3) to give **11e** as a yellow oil (149 mg, 0.92 mmol, 51% over 2 steps). **R_f** 0.33 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 7:3); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.33-7.16 (5H, m, ArH), 6.44 (1H, d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, PhCH=CH), 6.19 (1H, ddd, *J* = 15.9, 7.8, 6.8 Hz, PhCH=CH), 3.89 (1H, dqd, *J* = 7.3, 6.2, 5.0 Hz, CHCH₃), 2.37 (1H, dddd, *J* = 13.5, 6.8, 5.0, 1.4 Hz, CHH'), 2.29 (1H, *J* = 13.5, 8.7, 7.8, 1.2 Hz, CHH'), 1.21 (1H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, CH₃).

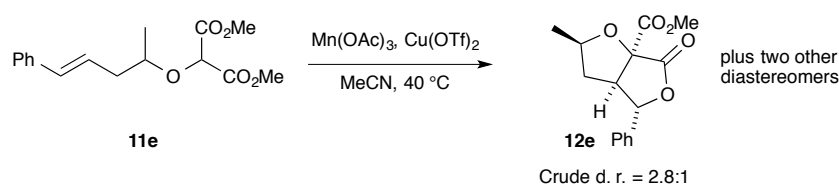
(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-(5-phenylpent-4-en-2-yloxy)malonate (**11e**)



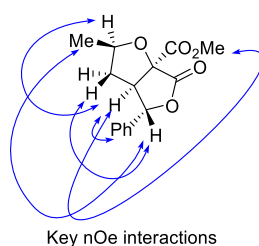
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using the alcohol **SI26** (115 mg, 0.71 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (127 mg, 0.80 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 9:1) gave the title compound **11e** as a yellow oil (172 mg, 0.59 mmol, 83%). **R_f** 0.31 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.33-7.15 (5H, m, ArH), 6.41 (1H, d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, PhCH=CH), 6.21 (1H, td, *J* = 7.2, 15.9 Hz, PhCH=CH), 4.60 (1H, s, CH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.77 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.72 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.68 (1H, tq, *J* = 7.2, 6.2 Hz, OCHCH₃), 2.54 (1H, dddd, *J* = 14.1, 7.2, 6.2,

1.2 Hz, CHH'), 2.37 (1H, dddd, $J = 14.1, 7.2, 6.2, 1.2$ Hz, CHH'), 1.24 (3H, d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 167.6 (C=O), 167.4 (C=O), 137.5 (C_{Ar}), 132.7 (PhCH=CH), 128.6 ($2 \times C_{Ar}$), 127.2 (C_{Ar}), 126.1 ($2 \times C_{Ar}$), 125.8 (PhCH=CH), 77.6 (CH_3CHO), 77.5 ($CH(CO_2Me)_2$), 52.9 ($2 \times CO_2Me$), 39.9 ($CHCH_2CH$), 19.6 ($CHCH_3$); ν_{max} 2955 (w, C-H), 1742 (w, C=O), 1201 (m), 1121 (s), 732 (s), 694 (s); m/z (ESI^+) 315.1 ($[M+Na]^+$, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for $C_{16}H_{20}NaO_5$: m/z 315.1203 ($[M+Na]^+$), found: 315.1199 m/z ($[M+Na]^+$).

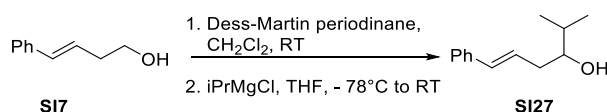
(2*R,3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 2-methyl-6-oxo-4-phenylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**12e**)**



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **11e** (52 mg, 0.18 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($PE_{40-60}/EtOAc$ 8:2) gave the title compound **12e** as a colourless oil, as a mixture of three diastereoisomers (32 mg, 0.12 mmol, 66%). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer. R_f 0.18 ($PE_{40-60}/EtOAc$ 7:3); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 500 MHz) δ 7.42–7.34 (5H, m, ArH), 5.33 (1H, d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, $OCHPh$), 4.53 (1H, qnd, $J = 6.1, 8.9$ Hz, $OCHCH_3$), 3.74 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.36 (1H, ddd, $J = 8.9, 6.2, 4.5$ Hz, $OCHCHCH_2$), 2.60 (1H, ddd, $J = 12.8, 8.9, 6.2$ Hz, CHH'), 1.80 (1H, ddd, $J = 12.8, 8.9, 6.2$ Hz, CHH'), 1.46 (1H, d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 125 MHz) δ 170.5 (C=O), 169.3 (C=O), 138.5 (C_{Ar}), 129.0 ($2 \times C_{Ar}$), 128.9 (C_{Ar}), 125.6 ($2 \times C_{Ar}$), 88.0 (C_{quat}), 86.0 ($OCHPh$), 80.9 (OCH_2), 55.1 (CH_2CHCH), 53.2 (CO_2Me), 40.5 (CH_2), 20.6 (CH_3); ν_{max} 2976 (w, C-H), 1782 (s, C=O), 1760 (s, C=O), 1219 (m), 1109 (w), 1068 (m), 1022 (s), 1050 (m); 700 (s); m/z (ESI^+) 575.2 299.1 ($[M+Na]^+$, 62%), ($[2M+Na]^+$, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for $C_{15}H_{16}NaO_5$: m/z 299.0890 ($[M+Na]^+$), found: m/z 299.0889 ($[M+Na]^+$).



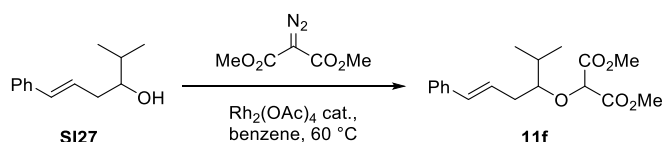
(*E*)-2-Methyl-6-phenylhex-5-en-3-ol (SI27)



To a solution of (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (308 mg, 2.08 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (9.5 mL) was added Dess-Martin periodinane (1.32 g, 3.11 mmol, 1.5 eq.). After stirring for 2h, the reaction mixture was

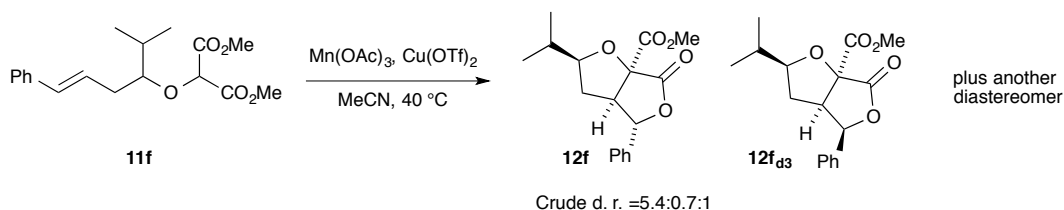
hydrolysed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was engaged in the next step without further purification. To a solution of the previous crude product in THF (10 mL) at -78°C was added dropwise $i\text{PrMgCl}$ (3.1 mL, 2 M in Et_2O , 6.2 mmol, 3 eq.). The solution was stirred for 30 min at -78°C and warmed up to room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was hydrolysed with a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 7:3) to give **SI27** as a yellow oil (130 mg, 0.68 mmol, 33% over 2 steps). R_f 0.5 ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 7:3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.39-7.19 (5H, m, ArH), 6.50 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 6.26 (1H, ddd, $J = 15.9, 7.9, 6.7$ Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 3.49 (1H, ddd, $J = 8.6, 5.5, 3.8$ Hz, CH_2CHOH), 2.46 (1H, dddd, $J = 14.0, 6.7, 3.8, 1.5$ Hz, CHH'), 2.31 (1H, dddd, $J = 14.0, 8.6, 7.9, 1.2$ Hz CHH'), 1.75 (1H, dtd, $J = 12.4, 6.8, 5.5$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.99 (1H, d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.97 (1H, d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$).

(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-(2-methyl-6-phenylhex-5-en-3-yloxy)malonate (**11f**)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using the alcohol **SI27** (64 mg, 0.337 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (61 mg, 0.39 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 9:1) gave the title compound **11f** as a yellow oil (74 mg, 0.23 mmol, 68%). R_f 0.42 ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 8:2); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.36-7.17 (5H, m, ArH), 6.43 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 6.29 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 15.9$ Hz, $\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 4.59 (1H, s, $\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 3.79 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.68 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.34 (1H, dt, $J = 6.4, 5.3$ Hz, OCHiPr), 2.46 (2H, m, CH_2), 1.93 (1H, septd, $J = 6.8, 5.3$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.98 (3H, d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, CH_3), 0.96 (3H, d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, CH_3); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 167.7 ($2\times\text{C}=\text{O}$), 137.6 (C_{Ar}), 132.4 ($\text{PhCH}=\text{CH}$), 128.6 ($2\times\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$), 127.2 (C_{Ar}), 126.5 ($2\times\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$), 126.2 ($2\times\text{C}_{\text{Ar}}$), 87.4 (CHiPr), 79.0 ($\text{OCH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 52.9 ($2\times\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$), 34.4 (CH_2), 31.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 18.2 (CH_3), 18.1 (CH_3); ν_{max} 2956 (w, C-H), 1743 (s, C=O), 1285 (m), 1124 (m), 746 (m), 695 (m); m/z (ESI^+) 343.1 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_5$: m/z 343.1516 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), found: m/z 301.1514 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$).

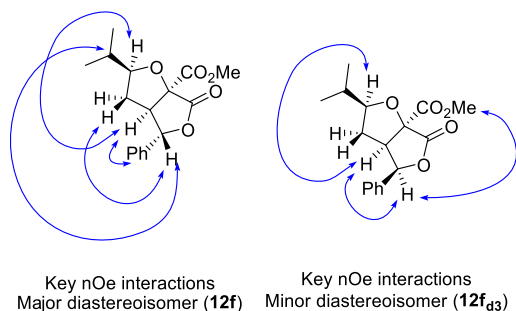
(2*S**,3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 2-isopropyl-6-oxo-4-phenylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6a-carboxylate (**12f**)



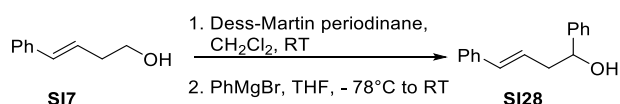
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **11f** (58 mg, 0.18 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 8:2) gave the title compound **12f** as a

colourless oil (34 mg, 0.11 mmol, 61%) as a mixture of three diastereoisomers. Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer. **R_f** 0.34 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 7:3); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)** δ 7.42-7.35 (5H, m, ArH), 5.30 (1H, d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, OCHPh), 4.12 (1H, ddd, *J* = 9.0, 7.0, 6.5 Hz, OCHCH₂), 3.72 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.35 (1H, ddd, *J* = 9.0, 6.0, 4.6 Hz, OCHCHCH₂), 2.48 (1H, ddd, *J* = 12.8, 8.9, 6.5 Hz, CHH'), 1.93 (1H, oct, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.86 (2H, ddd, *J* = 12.8, 9.0, 6.0 Hz, CHH'), 1.05 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH₃), 0.95 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH₃); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz)** δ 170.6 (C=O), 169.4 (C=O), 138.5 (C_{Ar}), 129.0 (2×C_{Ar}), 128.9 (C_{Ar}), 125.5 (2×C_{Ar}), 90.0 (OCHCH₂), 87.8 (C_{quat}), 85.7 (OCHPh), 54.6 (OCHCHCH₂), 53.1 (CO₂Me), 36.0 (CH₂), 32.6 (CH(CH₃)₂), 19.3 (CH₃), 18.3 (CH₃); **v_{max}** 2959 (w, C-H), 1782 (s, C=O), 1760 (s, C=O), 1219 (w), 1112 (w), 1026 (w), 699 (m); **m/z** (ESI⁺) 327.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 631.3 ([2M+Na]⁺, 28%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₇H₂₀NaO₅: *m/z* 327.1203 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 327.1201 ([M+Na]⁺)

Minor diastereomer: **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)** δ 7.43-7.23 (5H, m, ArH), 5.86 (1H, d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, OCHPh), 3.97 (1H, ddd, *J* = 11.1, 6.7, 4.5 Hz, OCHCH₂), 3.90 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.58 (1H, ddd, *J* = 11.0, 8.1, 5.9 Hz, OCHCHCH₂), 1.81 (1H, oct, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.65 (1 H, ddd, *J* = 12.9, 8.1, 4.5 Hz, CHH'), 1.34 (1 H, dt, *J* = 12.9, 11.1 Hz, CHH'), 0.94 (1 H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH₃), 0.79 (1H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH₃).



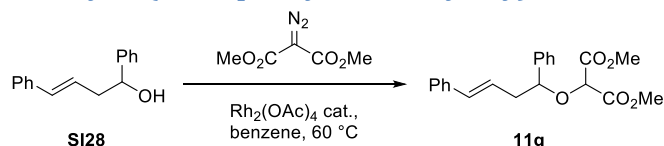
(*E*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ol (**SI28**)



To a solution of (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (331 mg, 2.24 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (12 mL) was added Dess-Martin periodinane (1.5 g, 3.54 mmol, 1.5 eq.). After stirring for 2 h, the reaction mixture was hydrolysed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was engaged in the next step without further purification. To a solution of the previous crude product in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was added dropwise PhMgBr (2.3 mL, 3 M in diethyl ether, 6.9 mmol, 2.9 eq.). The solution was stirred for 30 min at -78 °C and warmed up to room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was hydrolysed with a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2) to give **SI28** as a yellow oil (142 mg, 0.63 mmol, 28% over 2 steps). **R_f** 0.45 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 7:3); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.41-7.22

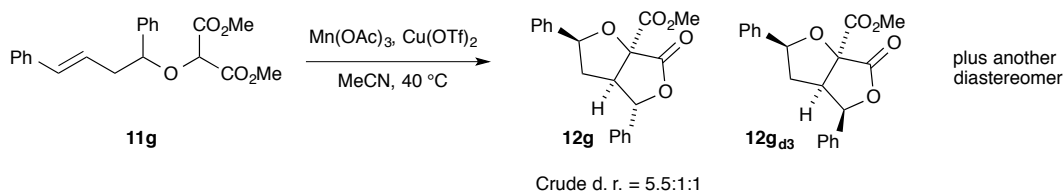
(10H, m, ArH), 6.51 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, PhCH=CH), 6.21 (1H, td, $J = 15.9, 7.3$ Hz, PhCH=CH), 4.82 (1H, dd, $J = 7.3, 5.6$ Hz, CH₂CHPh), 2.67 (2H, m, CH₂).

(E)-Dimethyl 2-(1,4-diphenylbut-3-enyloxy)malonate (11g)



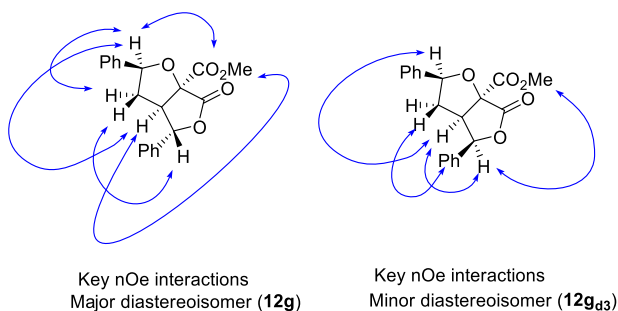
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using the alcohol **SI28** (115 mg, 0.51 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (93 mg, 0.58 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 9:1) gave the title compound **11g** as a yellow oil (147 mg, 0.41 mmol, 80%). *R*_f 0.33 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.35-7.15 (10H, m, ArH), 6.38 (1H, d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, PhCH=CH), 6.18 (1H, ddd, *J* = 15.9, 7.4, 6.8 Hz, PhCH=CH), 4.49 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.4, 6.1 Hz, OCHPh), 4.40 (1H, s, CH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.74 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.67 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 2.88 (1H, dddd, *J* = 14.4, 7.4, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, CHH'CHO), 2.61 (1H, dddd, *J* = 14.4, 7.4, 6.1, 1.2 Hz, CHH'CHO); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.6 (C=O), 166.8 (C=O), 139.6 (C_{Ar}), 137.6 (C_{Ar}), 132.6 (PhCH=CH), 128.8 (2×C_{Ar}), 128.6 (2×C_{Ar}), 127.6 (2×C_{Ar}), 127.3 (C_{Ar}), 127.2 (C_{Ar}), 126.2 (2×C_{Ar}), 125.9 (PhCH=CH), 83.3 (OCHPh), 76.8 (CH(CO₂Me)₂), 52.9 (2×CO₂Me), 41.5 (CH₂); *v*_{max} 2954 (w, C-H), 1743 (s, C=O), 1230 (m), 1163 (m), 745 (s), 699 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 377.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₂₁H₂₂NaO₅: *m/z* 377.1359 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 377.1363 ([M+Na]⁺).

(2*S,3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 6-oxo-2,4-diphenylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6a-carboxylate (12g)**

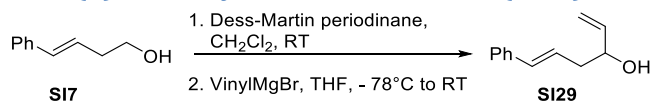


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **11g** (54 mg, 0.14 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2) gave the title compound **12g** as a colourless oil as a mixture of three diastereoisomers (29 mg, 0.09 mmol, 60%). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer. *R*_f 0.23 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 7:3); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.42-7.32 (10H, *ArH*), 5.52 (1H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, OCHCH₂), 5.21 (1H, d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, OCHCH), 3.79 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.48 (1H, td, *J* = 5.0, 8.5 Hz, OCHCHCH₂), 2.89 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.1, 8.5, 6.9 Hz, CHH'), 2.23 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.1, 7.9, 5.6, CHH'); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 170.4 (C=O), 169.1 (C=O), 139.7 (*C*_{Ar}), 138.3 (*C*_{Ar}), 129.0 (2×*C*_{Ar}), 128.9 (2×*C*_{Ar}), 128.3 (2×*C*_{Ar}), 125.6 (2×*C*_{Ar}), 125.5 (2×*C*_{Ar}), 88.2(*C*_{quat}), 85.2 (OCHCH₂), 85.0 (OCHCH), 54.9 (OCHCHCH₂), 53.4 (CO₂Me), 40.8 (CH₂); *v*_{max} 2955 (w, C-H), 1782 (s, C=O), 1760 (s, C=O), 1259 (w), 1222 (w), 1117 (m), 1026 (m), 668 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) %, 361.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 76%), 699.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₂₀H₁₈NaO₅: *m/z* 361.1046 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 361.1044 ([M+Na]⁺).

Minor diastereomer: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 7.39-7.27 (10H, ArH), 5.94 (1H, d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, OCHCH), 5.24 (1H, dd, $J = 11.4, 4.5$ Hz, OCHCH_2), 3.95 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.76 (1H, ddd, $J = 11.4, 7.6, 5.9$ Hz, OCHCHCH_2), 2.05 (1H, ddd, $J = 12.8, 7.6, 4.5$ Hz, CHH'), 1.60 (1H, td, $J = 11.4, 12.8$ Hz, CHH').

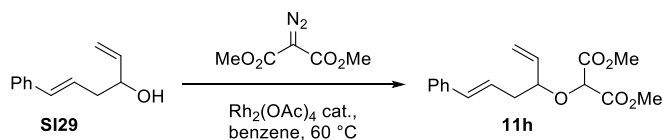


(*E*)-6-Phenylhexa-1,5-dien-3-ol (**SI29**)



To a solution of (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ol (368 mg, 2.48 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (12 mL) was added Dess-Martin periodinane (1.5 g, 3.54 mmol, 1.4 eq.). After stirring for 2h, the reaction mixture was hydrolysed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was engaged in the next step without further purification. To a solution of the previous crude product in THF (10 mL) at -78°C was added dropwise vinylmagnesium bromide (5 mL, 1 M in THF, 5 mmol, 2 eq.). The solution was stirred for 30 min at -78°C and warmed up to room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was hydrolysed with a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride. The aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 8:2) to give **SI29** as a yellow oil (156 mg, 0.90 mmol, 36%). R_f 0.43 ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 7:3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.20 (5H, m, ArH), 6.50 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, PhCH=CH), 6.22 (1H, dt, $J = 15.9, 7.3$ Hz, PhCH=CH), 5.95 (1H, ddd, $J = 17.2, 10.5, 5.8$ Hz, CHCH=CH_2), 5.29 (1H, td, $J = 17.2, 1.4$ Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CHCHOH}$), 5.16 (1H, td, $J = 10.5, 1.3$ Hz, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CHCHOH}$), 4.31-4.21 (1H, m, CHCH=CH_2), 2.55-2.41 (2H, m, CH_2).

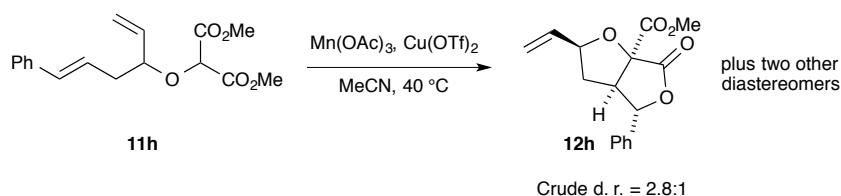
(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-(6-phenylhexa-1,5-dien-3-yloxy)malonate (**11h**)



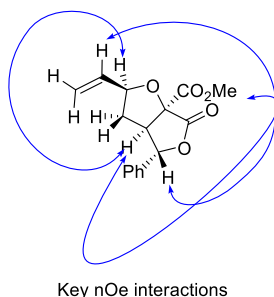
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using the alcohol **SI29** (156 mg, 0.90 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (162 mg, 1.01 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 9:1) gave the title compound **11h** as a yellow oil (189 mg, 0.62 mmol, 69%). R_f 0.33 ($\text{PE}_{40-60}/\text{EtOAc}$ 8:2); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.36-7.18 (5H, m, ArH), 6.45 (1H, d, $J =$

15.9 Hz, PhCH=CH), 6.24 (1H, dt, $J = 15.9, 7.2$ Hz, PhCH=CH), 5.74 (1H, ddd, $J = 17.2, 10.3, 8.2$ Hz, CHCH=CH₂), 5.29 (1H, dt, $J = 10.3, 1.4$ Hz, CHH'=CHCHO), 5.27 (1H, dd, $J = 17.2, 1.4$ Hz, CHH'CHCHO), 4.61 (1H, s, CH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.96-3.90 (1H, m, OCHCH₂), 3.79 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.77 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 2.70 (1H, dddd, $J = 14.2, 8.2, 7.2, 1.3$ Hz, CHH'), 2.52 (1H, dddd, $J = 14.2, 7.2, 6.6, 1.3$ Hz, CHH'); **¹³C NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.4 (C=O), 167.0 (C=O), 137.4 (C_{Ar}), 136.5 (CH₂=CH), 132.5 (PhCH=CH), 128.4(2×C_{Ar}), 127.1 (C_{Ar}), 126.1(2×C_{Ar}), 125.4 (PhCH=CH), 119.6 (CH₂=CH), 82.5 (OCHCH₂), 76.4 (CH(CO₂Me)₂), 52.8 (2×CO₂Me), 38.8 (CH₂); $\nu_{\max}$ 2954 (w, C-H), 1746 (s, C=O), 1286 (m), 1125 (m), 747 (m), 694 (m); ***m/z*** (ESI⁺) 327.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₇H₂₀NaO₅: *m/z* 327.1203 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 327.1201 ([M+Na]⁺).

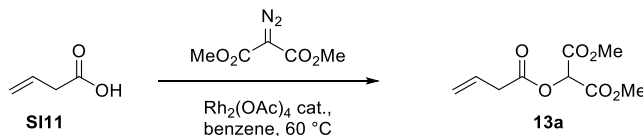
(2*S,3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 6-oxo-4-phenyl-2-vinylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**12h**)**



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **11h** (60 mg, 0.20 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 8:2) gave the title compound **12h** as a colourless oil as a mixture of three diastereoisomers (40 mg, 0.14 mmol, 70%). Characterisation is given for the major diastereoisomer. ***R_f*** 0.20 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 7:3); **¹H NMR** (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.43-7.33 (5H, ArH), 5.97 (1H, ddd, $J = 17.2, 10.6, 5.5$ Hz, CH₂=CH), 5.42 (1H, dt, $J = 17.2, 1.3$ Hz, CHH'=CH), 5.32 (1H, d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, OCHPh), 5.26 (1H, dt, $J = 1.3, 10.6$ Hz, CHH'=CH), 4.96 (1H, tdt, $J = 7.0, 5.5, 1.3$ Hz, OCHCH₂), 3.78 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.37 (td, $J = 5.0, 8.6$ Hz, OCHCHCH₂), 2.60 (1H, ddd, $J = 13.0, 8.6, 7.0$ Hz, CHH'), 2.05 (1H, ddd, $J = 13.0, 7.0, 5.0$ Hz, CHH'); **¹³C NMR** (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 170.4 (C=O), 169.0 (C=O), 138.2 (C_{Ar}), 136.4 (CH₂=CH), 129.1 (C_{Ar}), 129.0 (2×C_{Ar}), 125.7 (2×C_{Ar}), 117.6 (CH₂=CH), 88.2 (C_{quat}), 85.3 (OCHPh), 84.4 (OCHCH₂), 54.8 (OCHCHCH₂), 53.3 (CO₂Me), 37.8 (CH₂); $\nu_{\max}$ 2956 (w, C-H), 1781 (s, C=O), 1761 (s, C=O), 1260 (s), 1115 (s), 986 (s), 699 (s); ***m/z*** (ESI⁺) 599.2 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%), 311.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 73%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₆H₁₆NaO₅: *m/z* 311.0890 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 311.0887 ([M+Na]⁺).

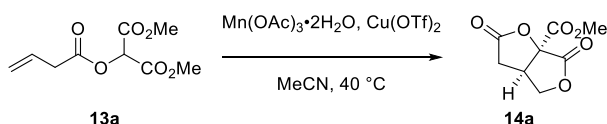


Dimethyl 2-(but-3-enoyloxy)malonate (**13a**)



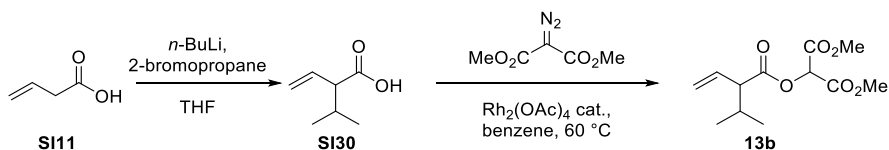
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using 3-butenoic acid (0.3 mL, 3.50 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (600 mg, 3.80 mmol, 1.09 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE/EtOAc 8:2) gave the title compound **13a** as a colourless oil (750 mg, 3.47 mmol, 99%). R_f 0.57 (PE/EtOAc 7:3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 5.92 (1H, m, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 5.56 (1H, s, $\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 5.28-5.22 (1H, m, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}$), 5.26-5.22 (1H, m, $\text{CHH}'=\text{CH}$), 3.82 (6H, s, CO_2Me), 3.33-3.3-2 (1H, m, CHH'), 3.29-3.28 (1H, m, CHH'); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 170.2 (C=O), 164.8 (C=O), 129.1 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 119.6 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), 71.6 ($\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{Me})_2$), 53.4 (CO_2Me), 38.3 (CH_2); ν_{max} 1745 (s, C=O), 1437 (s), 1150 (m), 1024 (s), 928 (w); m/z (ESI $^+$) 239.1 ([$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$, 100%), 455.0 ([$2\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$, 7%); HRMS-ESI calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{12}\text{NaO}_6$: m/z 239.0526 ([$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$), found: m/z 239.0522 ([$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$).

(3a*R**,6a*S**)-Methyl 2,6-dioxohexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6a-carboxylate (**14a**)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **13a** (56 mg, 0.26 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE/EtOAc 1:1 to 1:4) gave the title compound **14a** as a white solid (40 mg, 0.20 mmol, 77%). R_f 0.14 (PE/EtOAc 5:5); $m.p$ 127-130 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 4.74 (1H, dd, J = 9.8, 7.5 Hz, OCHH'), 4.25 (1H, dd, J = 9.8, 3.9 Hz, OCHH'), 3.92 (3H, s, CO_2Me), 3.57 (1H, dddd, J = 9.6, 7.5, 5.5, 3.9 Hz, CH_2CHCH_2), 3.06 (1H, dd, J = 18.5, 9.6 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{CH}$), 2.65 (1H, dd, J = 18.5, 5.5 Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{CH}$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 171.8 (C=O), 167.7 (C=O), 165.8 (C=O), 83.2 (C_{quat}), 70.8 (OCH_2CH), 54.1 (CO_2Me), 40.0 (OCH_2CH), 33.2 (CH_2CH); ν_{max} 2922 (w, C-H), 1786 (m, C=O), 1198 (m), 1113 (m); HRMS-ESI calculated for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{NaO}_6$: m/z 223.0213 ([$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$), found: m/z 223.0209 ([$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$).

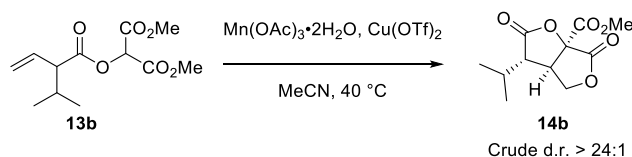
Dimethyl 2-((2-isopropylbut-3-enoyl)oxy)malonate (**13b**)



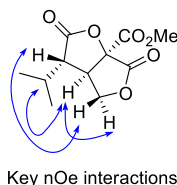
To a solution of but-3-enoic acid (1 mL, 11.8 mmol) in THF (30 mL) was added slowly $n\text{-BuLi}$ (11.8 mL, 2.5 M in hexanes) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred for 20 min and 2-bromopropane (3.36 mL, 35.8 mmol, 3 eq.) was added. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was hydrolysed at 0 °C with aqueous NaOH (0.5 M). The layers were separated with Et_2O and the organic phase was extracted with more aqueous NaOH (0.5 M). The combined aqueous layers were acidified slowly by addition of conc. HCl until pH 2. After three extractions of the aqueous layer with Et_2O , the combined organic layers were dried, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude carboxylic acid **SI30**, which was used without further purification. The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using the previous carboxylic acid (345 mg, 2.69 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (450 mg, 2.85 mmol,

1.06 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 9:1) gave the title compound **13b** as a colourless oil (290 mg, 1.12 mmol, 42 %). *R*_f 0.64 (PE/EtOAc 7:3); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.82 (1H, ddd, *J* = 17.1, 10.2, 9.4 Hz, CH₂=CHCH), 5.55 (1H, s, CH(CO₂Me)₂), 5.20 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.2, 1.3 Hz, CHH'=CH), 5.17 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.1, 1.3 Hz, CHH'=CH), 3.82 (6H, s, CO₂Me), 2.91 (ddt, *J* = 9.4, 8.0 and 0.6 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 2.10 (1H, septd, *J* = 6.7, 8.0 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 0.98 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH₃), 0.92 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 172.4 (C=O), 165.0 (C=O), 164.9 (C=O), 133.9 (CH₂=CH), 119.1 (CH₂=CH), 71.5 (CH(CO₂Me)₂), 57.3 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 53.4 (2×CO₂Me), 30.8 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 20.6 (CH₃), 19.5 (CH₃); *v*_{max} 2960 (w, C-H), 1745 (m, C=O), 1437 (s), 1207 (m), 1118 (m), 1025 (s); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 281.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%).

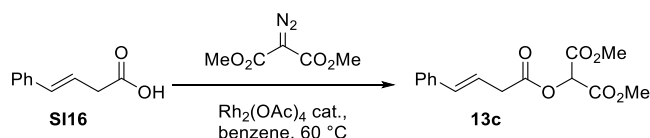
(3*S,3*aR**,6*aS**)-Methyl 3-isopropyl-2,6-dioxohexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**14b**)**



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **13b** (68 mg, 0.26 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 6:4 to 4:6) gave the title compound **14b** as a colourless oil (46 mg, 0.19 mmol, 73%). *R*_f 0.38 (PE/EtOAc 4:6); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 4.72 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.7, 6.7 Hz, OCHH'CH), 4.28 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.7, 2.0 Hz, OCHH'CH), 3.90 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.27 (1H, dt, *J* = 2.0, 7.1 Hz, CH₂CHCH), 2.64, (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 5.0 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 2.30 (1H, septd, *J* = 6.8, 5.0 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 1.05 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃), 0.95 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 173.6 (C=O), 168.5 (C=O), 166.0 (C=O), 81.7 (C_{quat}), 71.3 (OCH₂CH), 54.1 (CO₂Me), 51.5 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 42.5 (CH₂CHCH), 28.5 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 20.1 (CH₃), 18.4 (CH₃); *v*_{max} 2964 (w, C-H), 1787 (m, C=O), 1173 (m), 1104 (m), 997 (s), 731 (m); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₁H₁₄NaO₆: *m/z* 265.683 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 265.0679 ([M+Na]⁺).



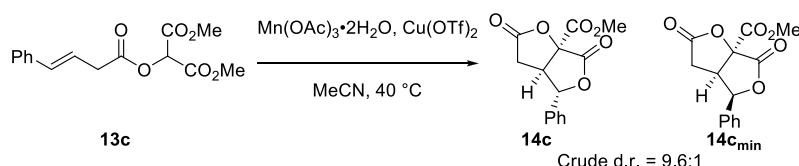
(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-((4-phenylbut-3-enoyl)oxy)malonate (13c**)**



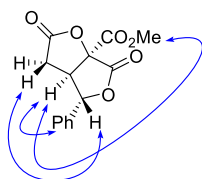
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 1 using (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-enoic acid (300 mg, 1.85 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (300 mg, 1.90 mmol, 1.03 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 9:1) gave the title compound **13c** as a colourless oil (385 mg, 1.32 mmol, 71%). *R*_f 0.55 (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 7:3); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.34-7.17 (5H, m, ArH), 6.50 (1H, *J* = 15.9 Hz, PhCH=CH), 6.24 (td, *J* = 15.9, 7.0 Hz, PhCH=CH), 5.56 (1H, s, CH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.79 (6H, s, CO₂Me), 3.89 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.4 Hz, CHCH₂); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 170.3 (C=O), 164.8

(C=O), 136.7 (C_{Ar}), 134.4 (PhCH=CH), 128.7 ($2\times C_{Ar}$), 127.8 (C_{Ar}), 126.5 ($2\times C_{Ar}$), 120.4 (PhCH=CH), 71.7 (OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 53.5 ($2\times CO_2Me$), 37.6 (CH₂); ν_{max} 1745 (s, C=O), 1436 (s), 1140 (m), 1024 (s), 967 (s), 743 (s), 693 (s); **m/z** (ESI⁺) 293.1 ([M+H]⁺, 29 %), 315.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₅H₁₆NaO₆: m/z 315.0839 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 315.0832 ([M+Na]⁺).

(3aR*,4S*,6aS*)-Methyl 2,6-dioxo-4-phenylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6a-carboxylate (14c)

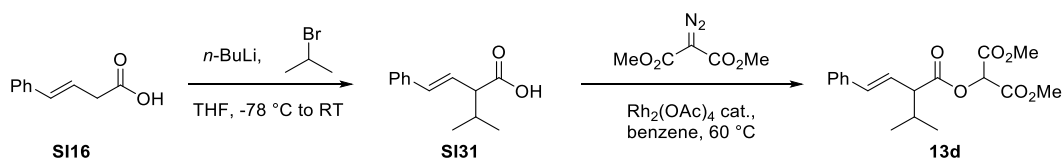


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **13c** (76 mg, 0.26 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 6:4 to 3:7) gave the title compound **14c** as a white solid (43 mg, 0.16 mmol, 62%). R_f 0.43 (PE/EtOAc 4:6); **m.p.** 124-132 °C; **NMR** (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.46-7.35 (5H, ArH), 5.23 (1H, d, J = 7.1 Hz, OCHPh), 3.91 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.46 (1H, ddd, J = 8.8, 7.1, 1.8 Hz, OCHCHCH₂), 2.98 (1H, dd, J = 18.5, 8.7 Hz, CHH'CHCH), 2.79 (1H, dd, J = 18.5, 1.8 Hz, CHH'CHCH); **¹³C NMR** (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 172.3 (C=O), 166.6 (C=O), 166.3 (C=O), 136.1 (C_{Ar}), 130.0 (C_{Ar}), 129.5 ($2\times C_{Ar}$), 126.0 ($2\times C_{Ar}$), 85.3 (OCHPh), 84.9 (C_{quat}), 54.3 (CO₂Me), 48.6 (OCHCHCH₂), 32.5 (CH₂); ν_{max} 2958 (w, C-H), 1744 (m, C=O), 1223 (m), 1160 (m), 1084 (m); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₄H₁₂NaO₆: m/z 299.526 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 299.0523 ([M+Na]⁺).



Key nOe interactions

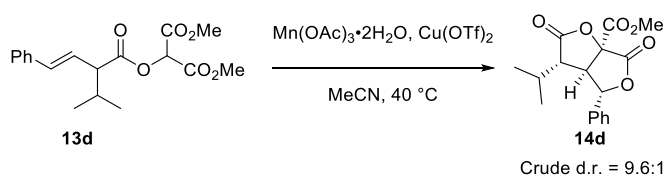
(*E*)-Dimethyl 2-((2-isopropyl-4-phenylbut-3-enoyl)oxy)malonate (13d)



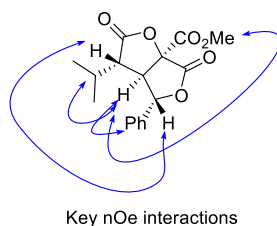
To a solution of (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-enoic acid (1 g, 6.17 mmol) in THF (15.5 mL) was added slowly *n*-BuLi (5.4 mL, 2.5 M in hexanes) at – 78 °C. The mixture was stirred for 20 min and 2-bromopropane (3.36 mL, 35.8 mmol, 3 eq.) was added. The solution was allowed to come to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was hydrolysed at 0 °C with aqueous NaOH (0.5 M). The layers were separated with Et₂O and the organic phase was extracted with more aqueous NaOH (0.5 M). The combined aqueous layers were acidified slowly by addition of conc. HCl until pH 2. After three extraction of the aqueous layer with Et₂O, the combined organic layers were dried, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude carboxylic acid **SI31** which was used without further purification. **m/z** (ESI⁺) 205.2 ([M+H]⁺, 37 %), 227.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₃H₁₆NaO₂: m/z 227.1043 ([M+Na]⁺), found: m/z 227.1048 ([M+Na]⁺). The title compound was

prepared according to the general procedure 1 using (*E*)-2-isopropyl-4-phenylbut-3-enoic acid (550 mg, 2.70 mmol) and dimethyl 2-diazomalonate (450 mg, 2.85 mmol, 1.06 eq.). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 9:1 to 7:3) gave the compound **13d** as a colourless oil (570 mg, 1.71 mmol, 63%). *R*_f 0.61 (PE/EtOAc 7:3); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.39-7.37 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.51 (1H, d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 6.21 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.9, 9.6 Hz, Ar-CH=CH), 5.59 (1H, s, OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 3.83 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.07 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.6, 8.6 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 2.21 (1H, m, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.04 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH₃), 0.97 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 172.5 (C=O), 165.0 (C=O), 164.9 (C=O), 136.8 (C_{Ar}), 134.0 (PhCH=CH), 128.7 (C_{Ar}), 128.2 (C_{Ar}), 127.8 (C_{Ar}), 126.5 (C_{Ar}), 125.5 (PhCH=CH), 71.5 (OCH(CO₂Me)₂), 56.5 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 53.4 (CO₂Me), 31.5 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 20.8 (CH₃), 19.7 (CH₃); *v*_{max} 2959 (m, C-H), 1743 (w, C=O), 1132 (m), 746 (s, =C-H), 693 (s, =C-H); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 335.1 ([M+H]⁺, 56%), 357.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₈H₂₂NaO₆: *m/z* 357.1309 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 357.1309 ([M+Na]⁺).

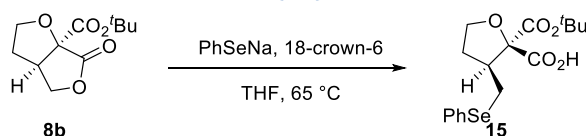
(3*S,3*aR**,4*S**,6*aS**)-Methyl 3-isopropyl-2,6-dioxo-4-phenylhexahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6*a*-carboxylate (**14d**)**



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure 3 using **13d** (86 mg, 0.26 mmol). Flash Chromatography purification (PE₄₀₋₆₀/EtOAc 6:4 to 3:7) gave the title compound **14d** as a colourless oil (64 mg, 0.20 mmol, 77%). *R*_f 0.65 (PE/EtOAc 4:6); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.45-7.37 (5H, ArH), 5.31 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, OCHPh), 3.86 (3H, s, CO₂Me), 3.23 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.5 Hz, OCHCHCH₂), 2.81 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.5 Hz, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 2.20 (1H, m, CHCH(CH₃)₂), 0.95 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃), 0.82 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃); NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 174.4 (C=O), 167.7 (C=O), 166.8 (C=O), 136.8 (C_{Ar}), 129.7 (2×C_{Ar}), 129.4 (C_{Ar}), 125.7 (2×C_{Ar}), 86.5 (OCHPh), 83.7 (C_{quat}), 54.1 (CO₂Me), 53.2 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 50.7 (OCHCHCH₂), 29.4 (CHCH(CH₃)₂), 20.5 (CH₃), 18.8 (CH₃); *v*_{max} 2972 (w, C-H), 1791 (m, C=O), 1200 (m), 1173 (m), 1111 (m), 753 (m), 699 (s); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₇H₁₈NaO₆: *m/z* 341.0996 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 341.0992 ([M+Na]⁺).



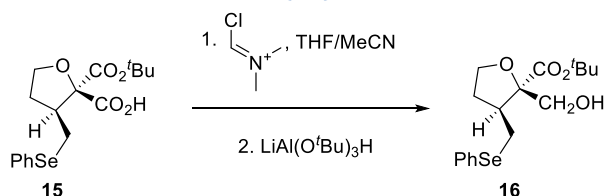
(2*R,3*S**)-2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-3-((phenylselanyl)methyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylic acid (**15**)**



To (PhSe)₂ (749 mg, 2.4 mmol) and NaH (60% dispersion, 160 mg, 4.00 mmol) was added nitrogen sparged THF (4.1 mL) at room temperature under argon. The mixture was then stirred at 65 °C for 90

min. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of *tert*-butyl (3a*S*,6a*S*)-6-oxotetrahydrofuro[3,4-*b*]furan-6a(6*H*)-carboxylate **8b** (456 mg, 2.0 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (132 mg, 0.50 mmol) in nitrogen sparged THF (4 mL) was added to the mixture. The mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 90 min, aqueous NaOH (0.5 M, 15 mL) and Et₂O (15 mL) were then carefully added. The organic layer was extracted with more aqueous NaOH (0.5 M, 2 x 10 mL). A solution of pH 2 sulphate buffer (10 mL) was added and conc. aqueous HCl was added until pH 2. The aqueous layer was then extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and evaporated to give the crude title compound **15** as a yellow oil (416 mg, 1.07 mmol, 54%). *R*_f is not given as compounds streaks even in presence of AcOH; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 9.12-8.50 (1H, br, CO₂H), 7.56-7.50 (2H, m, ArH), 7.32-7.24 (3H, m, ArH), 4.22 (1H, td, *J* = 8.3, 3.4 Hz, OCHH'), 3.96 (1H, q, *J* = 8.3 Hz, OCHH'), 3.39 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.2, 3.4 Hz, CHH'Se), 3.07-2.96 (1H, m, CHCH₂Se), 2.71 (1H, t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, CHH'Se), 2.40-2.30 (1H, m, OCH₂CHH'), 2.00-1.90 (1H, m, OCH₂CHH'), 1.45 (1H, s, OC(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 171.2 (C=O), 167.8 (C=O), 132.9 (Ar), 129.5 (Ar), 129.4 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 88.8 (C_{quat}), 83.9 (C_{quat}), 69.1 (OCH₂), 46.8 (CH), 31.9 (OCH₂CH₂), 27.8 (OC(CH₃)₃), 27.6 (CH₂Se); *v*_{max} 3200 (br, CO₂-H), 2979 (w, C-H), 1734 (s, C=O), 1158 (m), 1122 (m), 737 (m); *m/z* (ESI⁺) 409.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%); HRMS-ESI calculated for C₁₇H₂₁Na₂O₅Se: *m/z* 431.0345 ([M-H+2Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 431.0359 ([M-H+2Na]⁺).

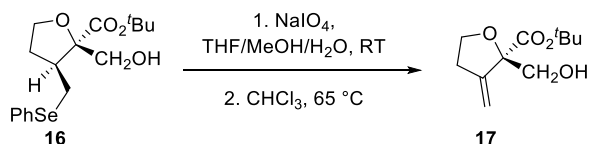
(2*R,3*S**)-*tert*-Butyl 2-(hydroxymethyl)-3-((phenylselanyl)methyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**16**)**



To a solution of DMF (96.0 μL) in DCM (14 mL) was added oxalyl chloride dropwise (0.32 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 20 min and all volatiles were removed. The residual salt was dissolved in dry THF/MeCN (1:1, 15 mL). A solution of (2*S*,3*R*)-2-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-3-((phenylselanyl)methyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylic acid **15** (239 mg, 0.62 mmol) was added over 2 min at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 20 min and cooled to -78 °C. A solution of LiAl(O^{*t*}Bu)₃H in THF (1.0 M, 6.2 mL, 6.2 mmol) was added over 5 min. The mixture was warmed to room temperature outside the cooling bath, and stirred at room temperature for 90 min. Water (20 mL), saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL), saturated aqueous Rochelle salt solution (20 mL) and EtOAc (50 mL) were successively added. The mixture was vigorously stirred for two hours and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with more EtOAc (30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by Flash Chromatography (PE/EtOAc 3:2) to give the desired product **16** as a colourless oil (176 mg, 0.473 mmol, 76%). *R*_f 0.34 (PE/EtOAc 3:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.55-7.48 (2H, m, ArH), 7.31-7.22 (3H, m, ArH), 4.08 (1H, td, *J* = 8.1, 2.6 Hz, OCHH'), 3.90 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.1, 8.1, 5.9 Hz, OCHH'), 3.77 (2H, s, CH₂OH), 3.35 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.9, 3.7 Hz, CHH'Se), 2.90 (1H, t, *J* = 11.9 Hz, CHH'Se), 2.54 (1H, dddd, *J* = 11.9, 10.1, 7.5, 3.7 Hz, CH), 2.30 (1H, dddd, *J* = 11.9, 7.5, 5.9, 2.6 Hz, OCH₂CHH'), 2.24 (1H, br, OH), 1.79 (1H, dtd, *J* = 11.9, 10.1, 8.1 Hz, OCH₂CHH'), 1.40 (9H, s, OC(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 177.2 (C=O), 133.0 (Ar), 129.6 (Ar), 129.3 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 86.7 (C_{quat}), 82.1 (C_{quat}), 68.0 (OCH₂), 63.8 (CH₂OH), 46.6 (CH), 33.6 (OCH₂CH₂), 28.0 (OC(CH₃)₃), 27.7 (CH₂Se); *v*_{max} 3468 (br, O-H), 2976 (w, C-H), 1742 (s, C=O), 1368 (m),

1148 (s), 1036 (s), 737 (s); **m/z** (ESI⁺) 395.0 ([M+Na]⁺, 100%), 767.1 ([2M+Na]⁺, 8%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₇H₂₄NaO₄Se : *m/z* 395.0732 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 395.0740 ([M+Na]⁺).

***tert*-Butyl 2-(hydroxymethyl)-3-methylenetetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (17)**



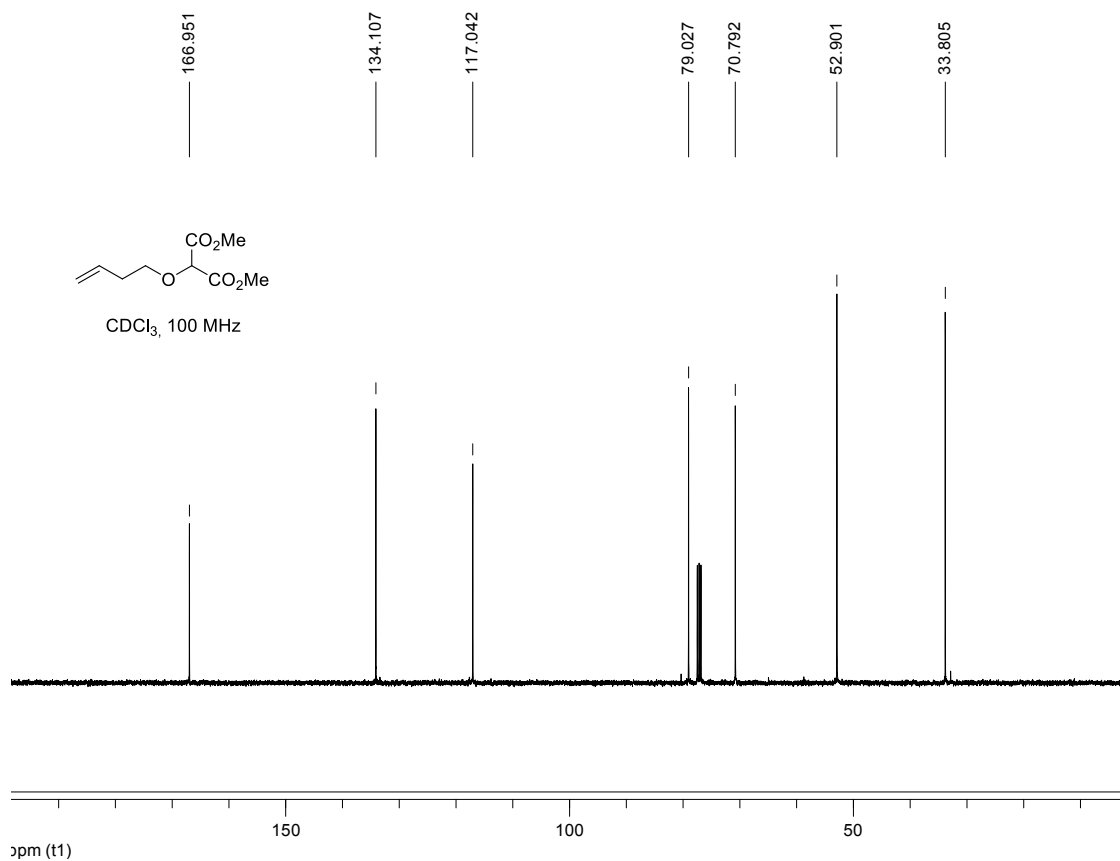
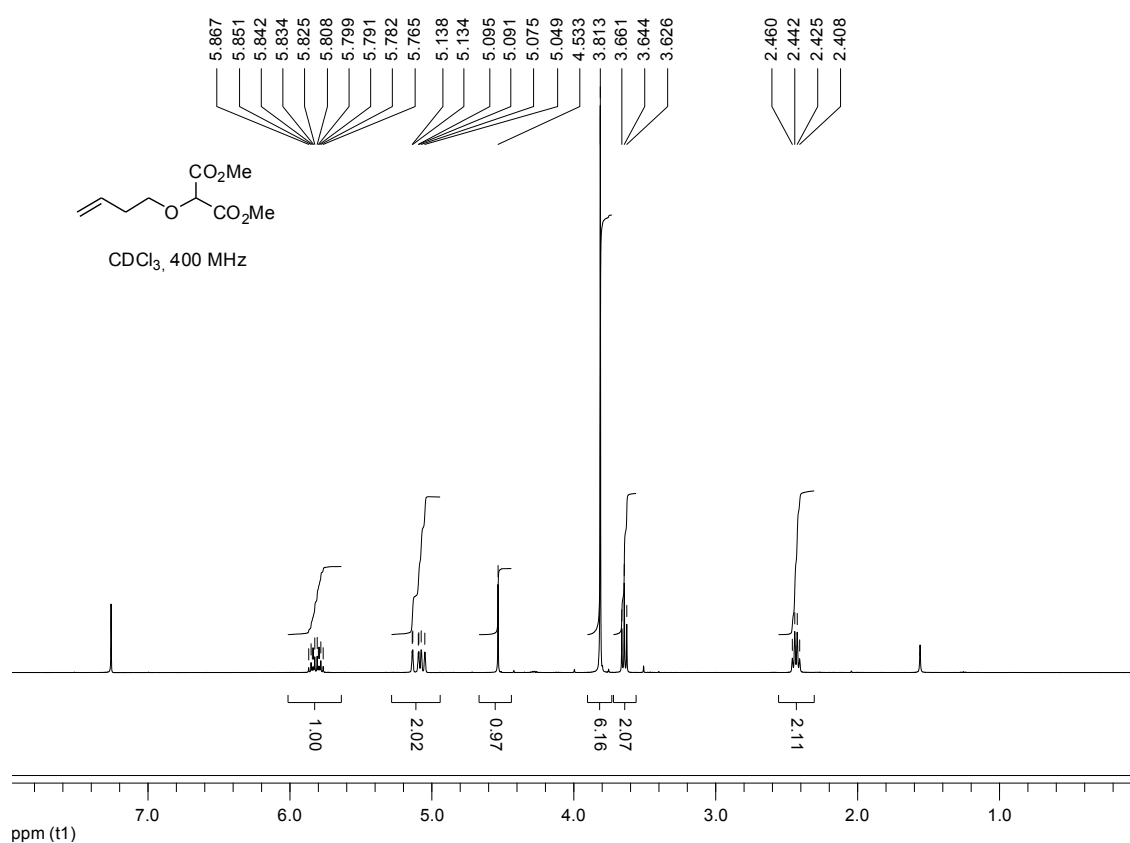
To a vigorously stirred solution of *tert*-butyl (2*S*,3*R*)-2-(hydroxymethyl)-3-((phenylselanyl)methyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate **16** (218 mg, 0.586 mmol) in THF/MeOH/H₂O (1:1:1, 12 mL) at room temperature were added successively NaHCO₃ (198 mg, 2.35 mmol) and NaIO₄ (503 mg, 2.35 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 30 min. Water (35 mL) and CHCl₃ (20 mL) were added. Stirring was continued for 5 min and the mixture was filtered through celite, which was further eluted with CHCl₃ (15 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with more CHCl₃ (20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and refluxed for 2 h at 65 °C. Solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by Flash Chromatography (PE/Et₂O 3:2 to 2:3) to give the desired compound **17** as a colourless oil (116 mg, 0.541 mmol, 92%); **R_f** 0.40 (PE/Et₂O 2:3); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 5.22 (1H, t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, CHH'=C), 5.19 (1H, t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, CHH'=C), 4.10 (2H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, OCH₂), 3.90 (1H, d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, CHH'OH), 3.68 (1H, d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, CHH'OH), 2.67-2.63 (2H, m, OCH₂CH₂), 2.13 (1H, br, OH), 1.47 (1H, s, OC(CH₃)₃); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 170.6 (C=O), 147.5 (CH₂=C), 108.4 (CH₂=C), 87.2 (C_{quat}), 82.2 (C_{quat}), 68.1 (OCH₂), 67.0 (CH₂OH), 33.3 (CH), 28.0 (O(CH₃)₃); **ν_{max}** 3468 (br, O-H), 2977 (w, C-H), 1725 (s, C=O), 1163 (s), 1031 (s), 899 (w), 846 (w); **m/z** (ESI⁺) 237.1 ([M+Na]⁺, 47%), 451.0 ([2M+Na]⁺, 100%); **HRMS-ESI** calculated for C₁₁H₁₈NaO₄ : *m/z* 237.1097 ([M+Na]⁺), found: *m/z* 237.1102 ([M+Na]⁺).

References

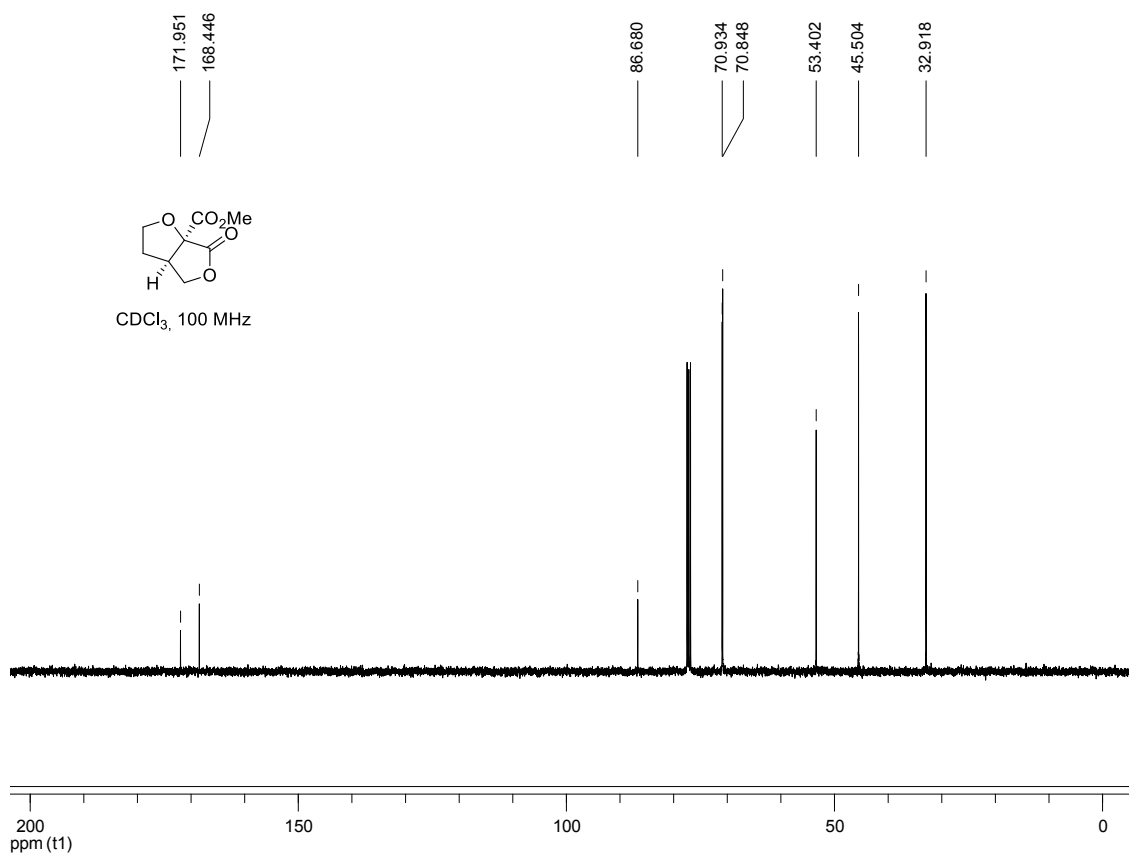
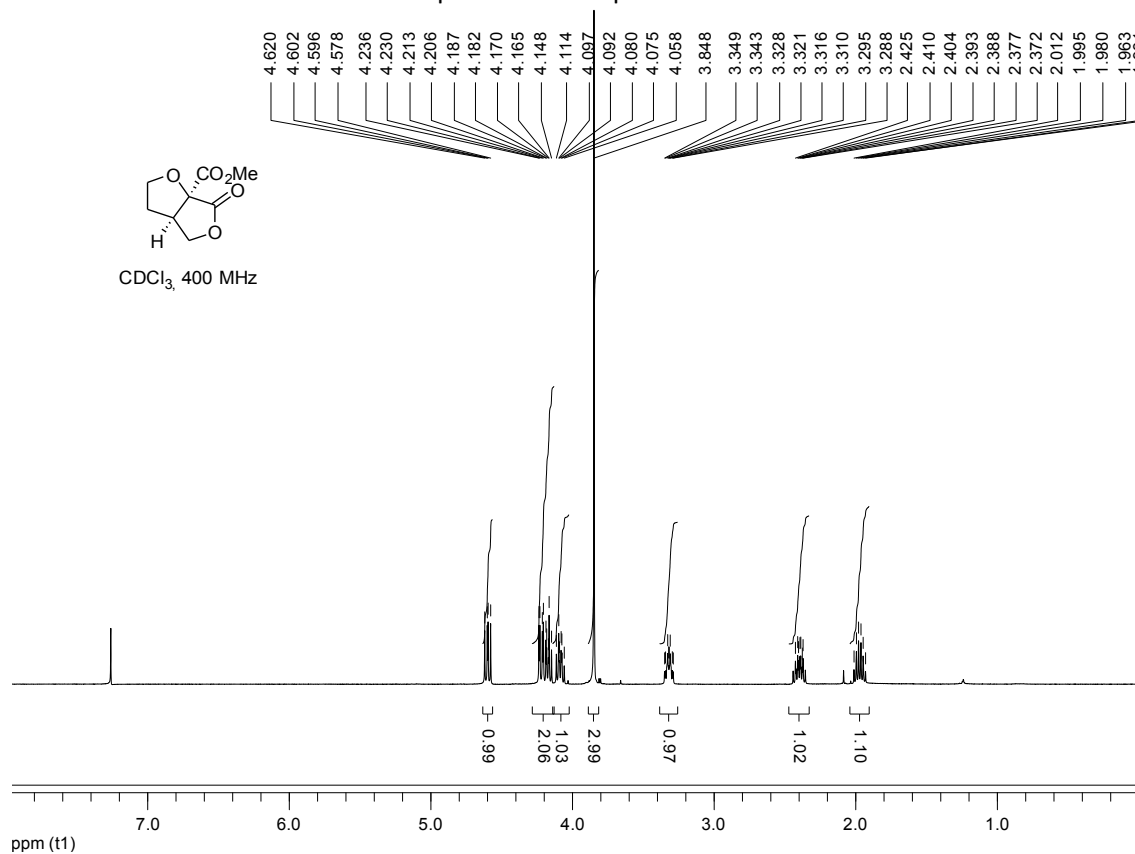
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NMR Spectra

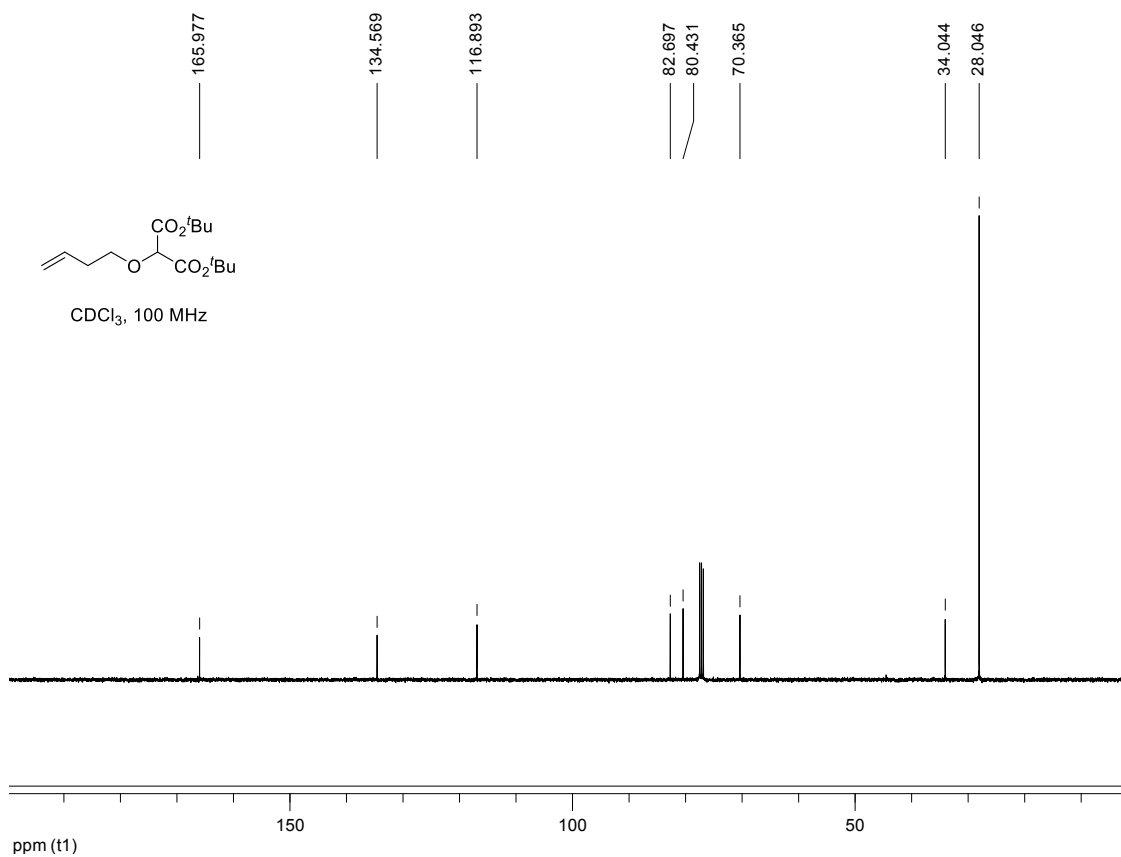
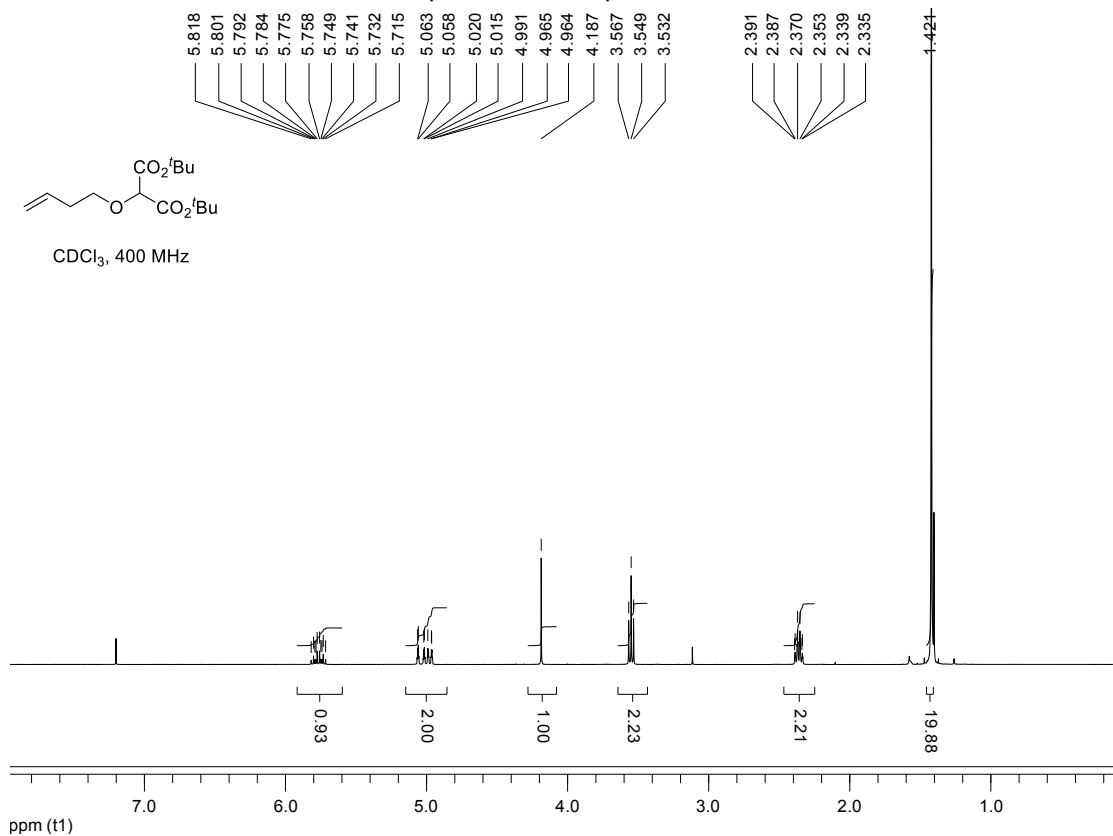
Spectra for compound **7a**



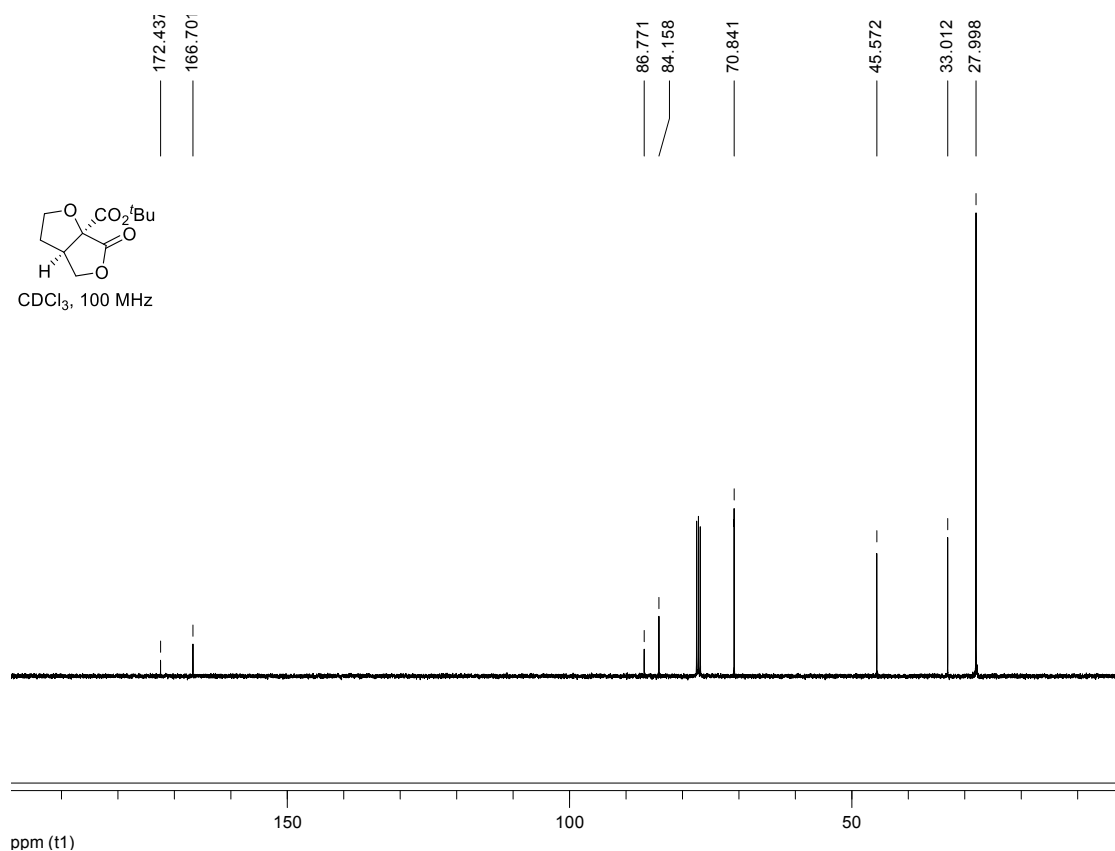
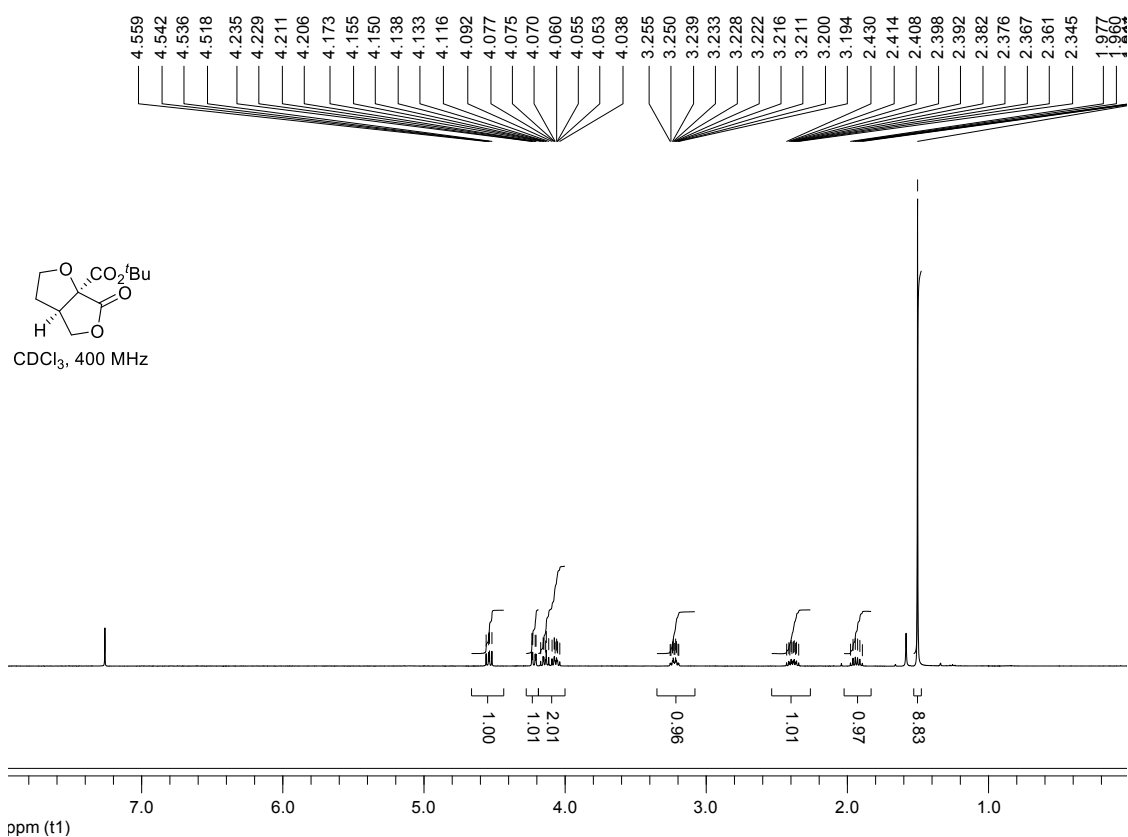
Spectra for compound **8a**



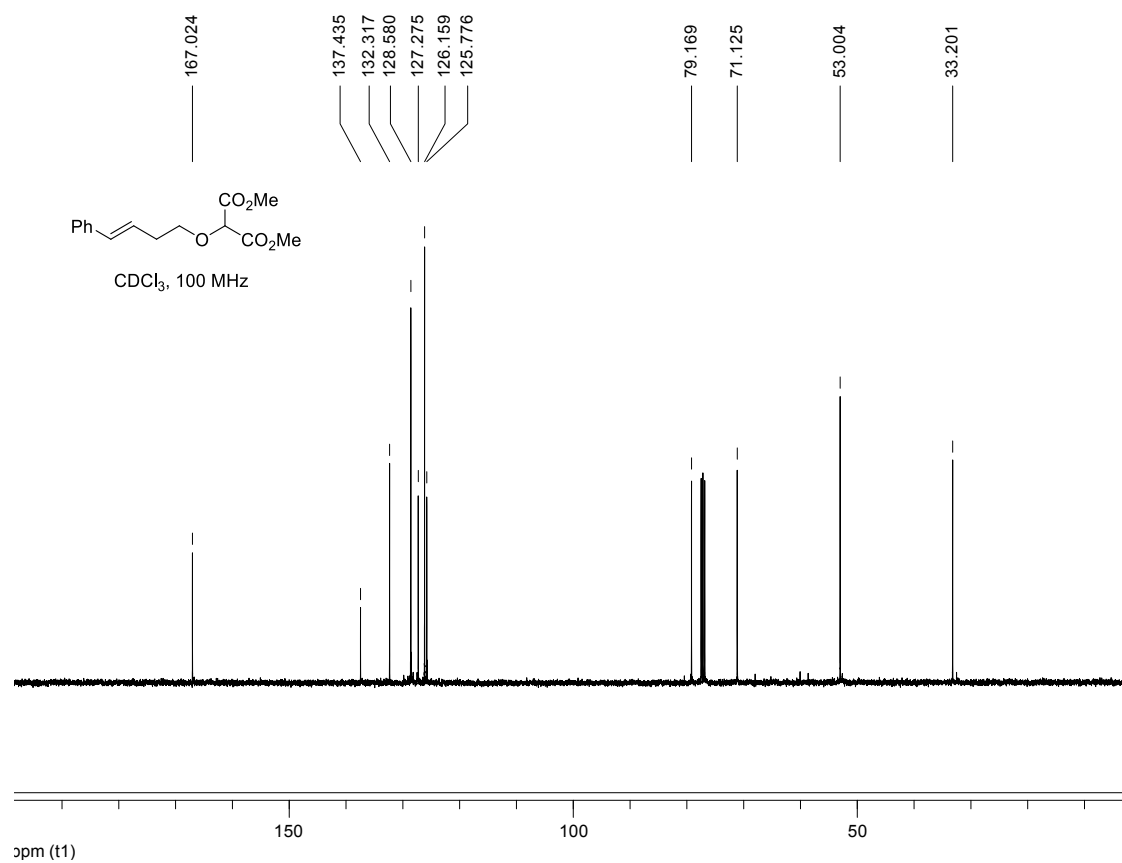
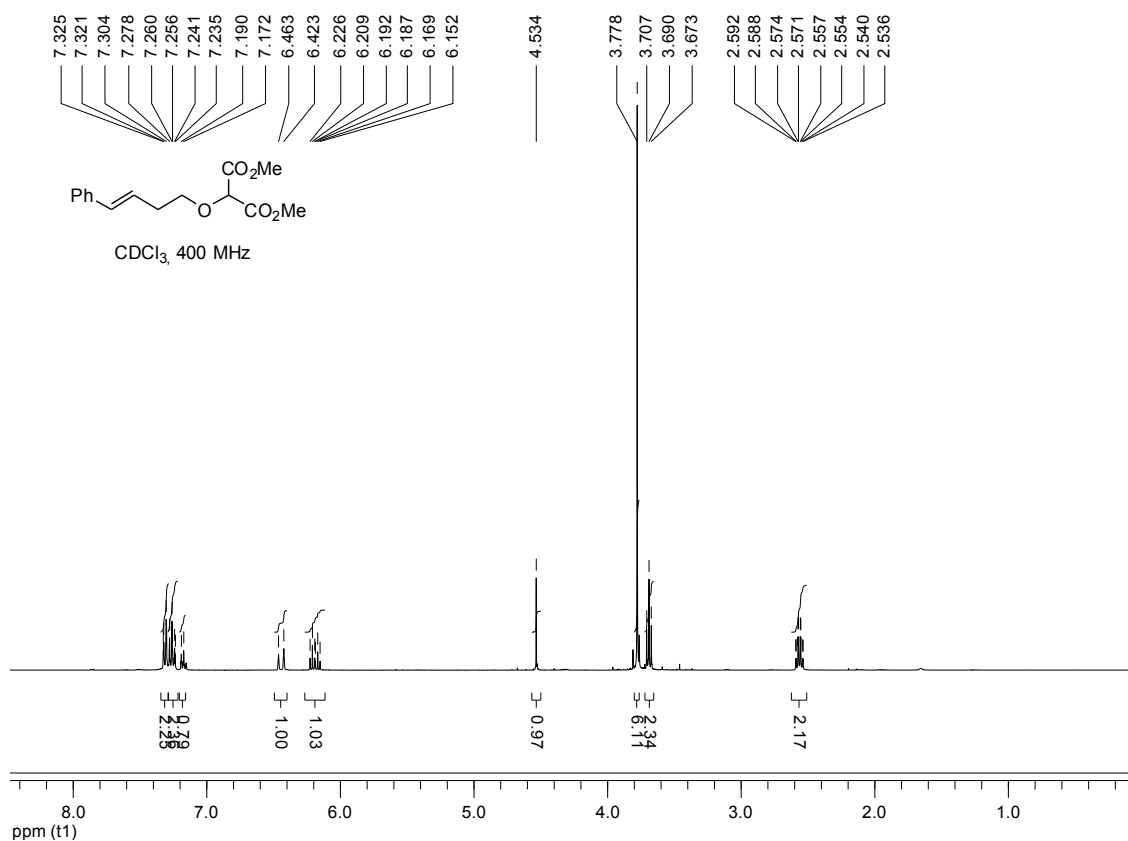
Spectra for compound **7b**



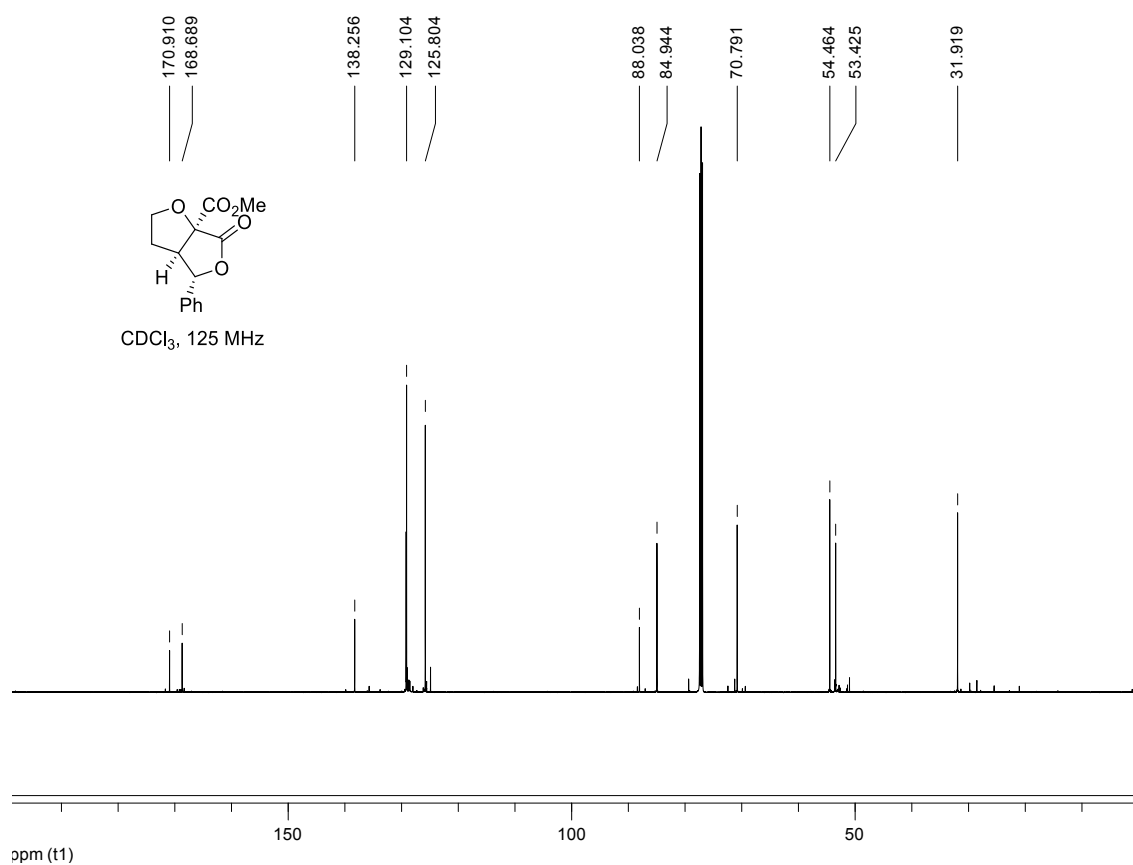
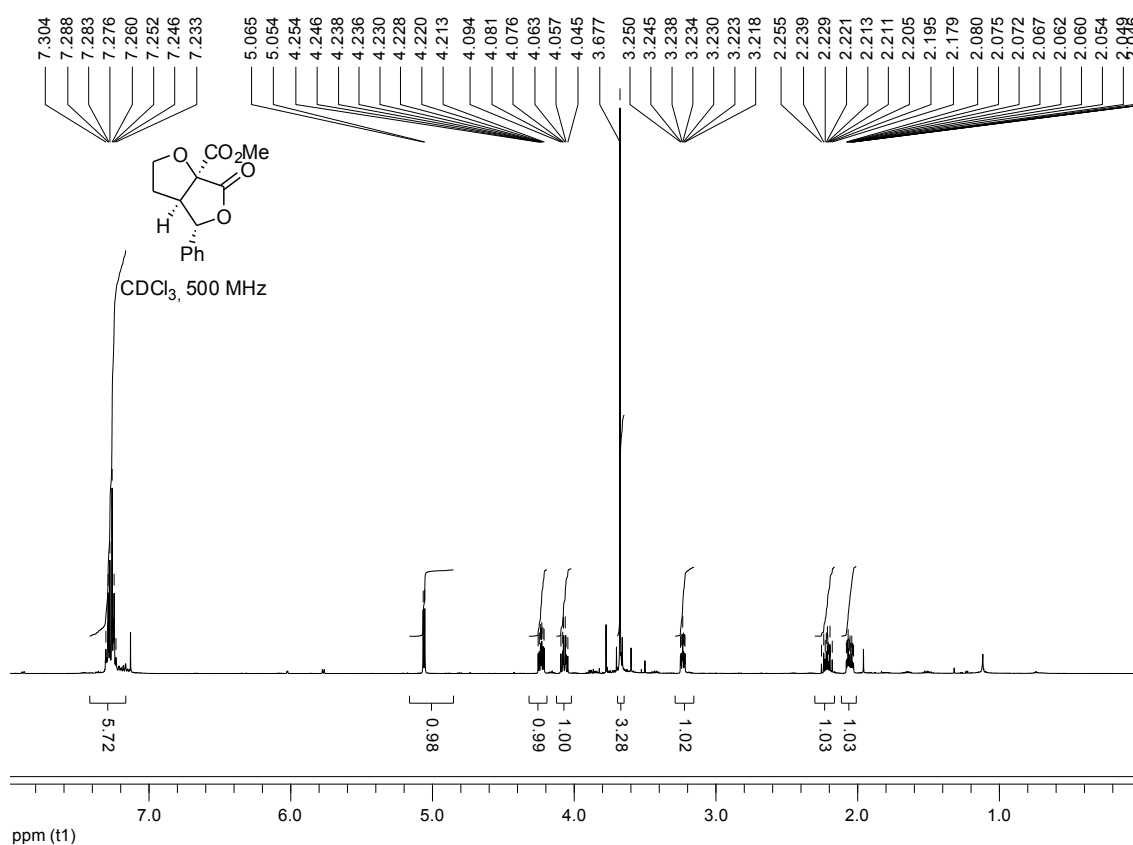
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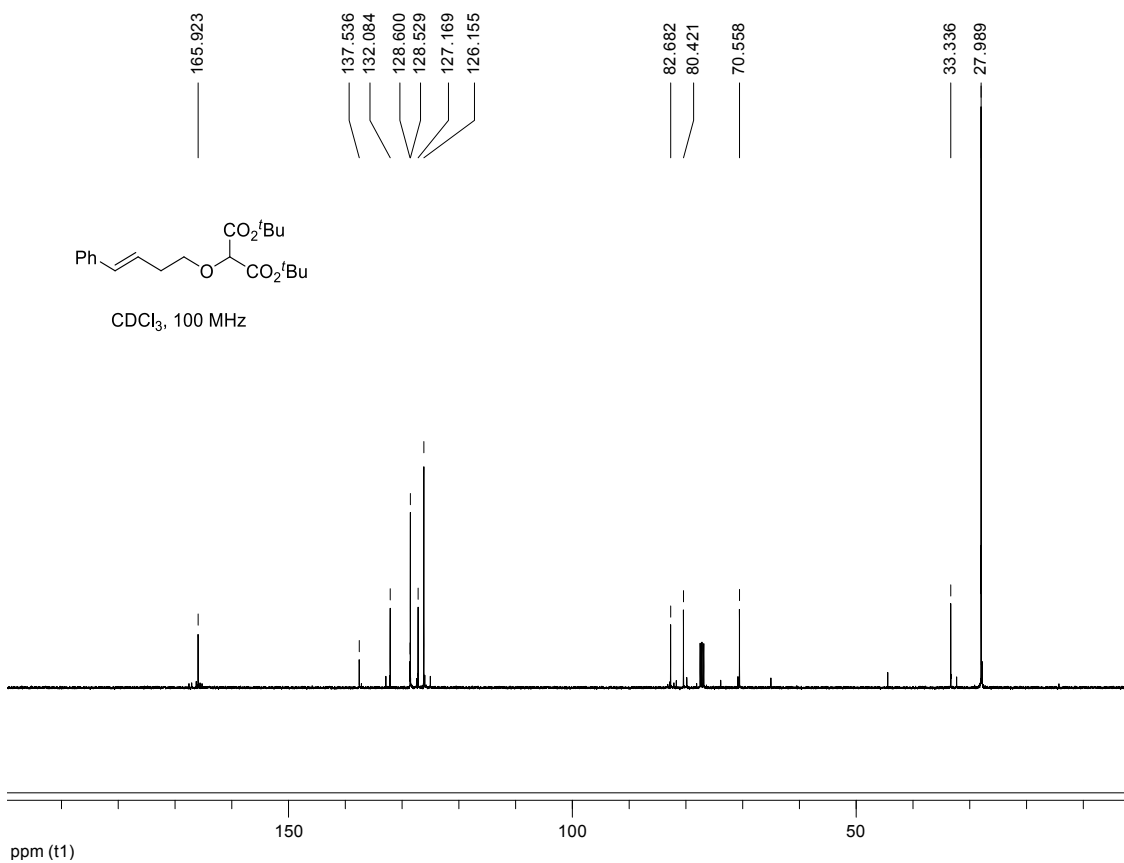
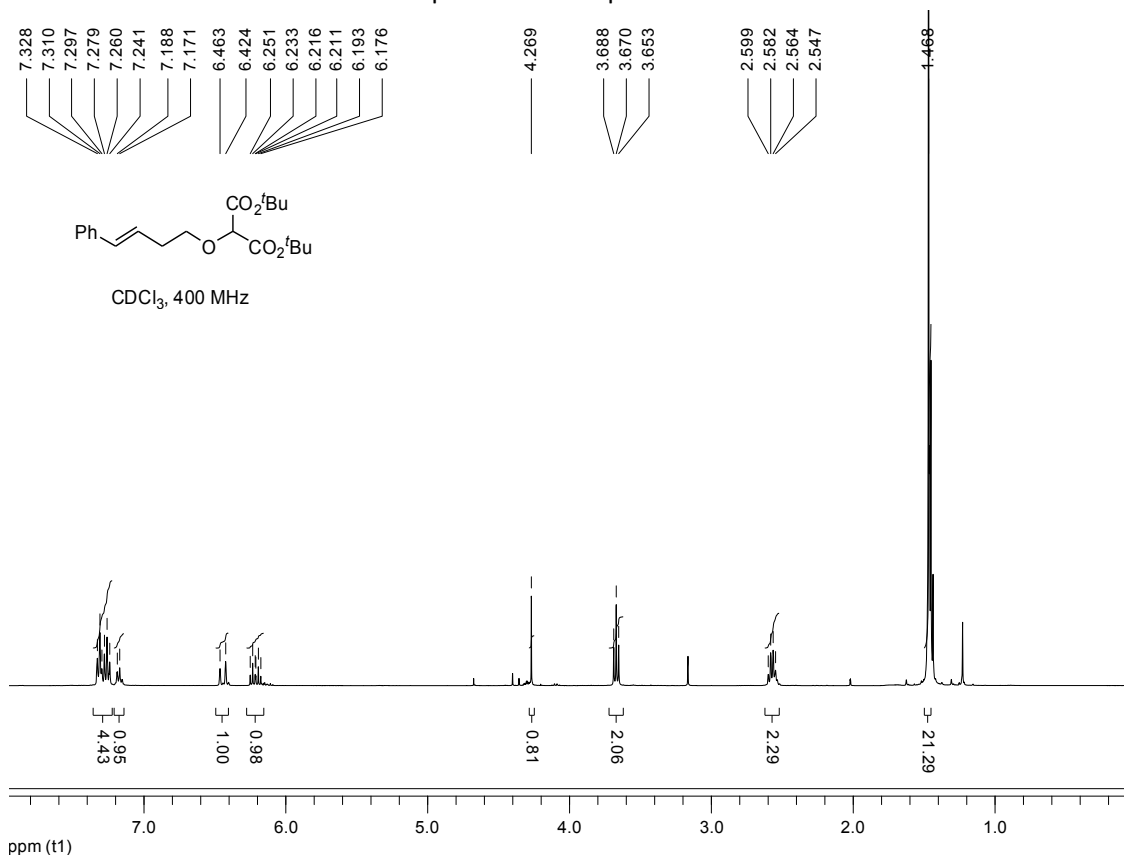
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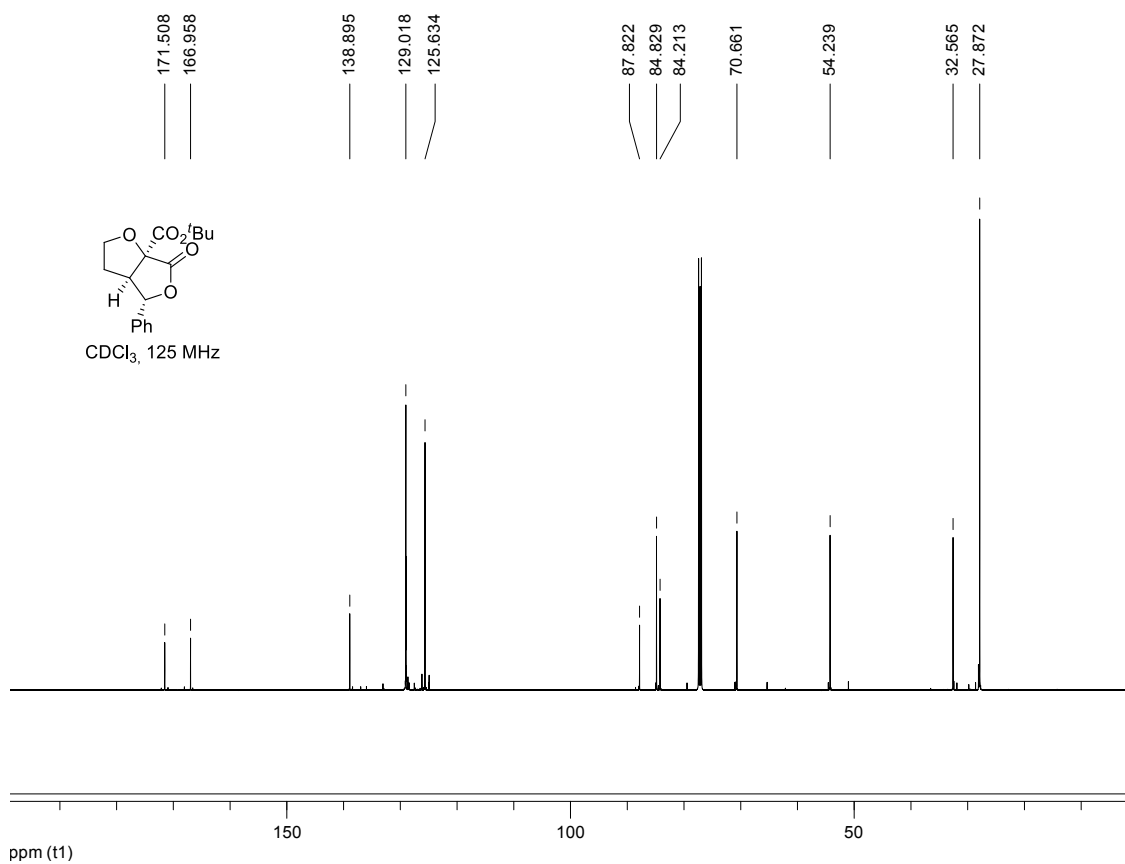
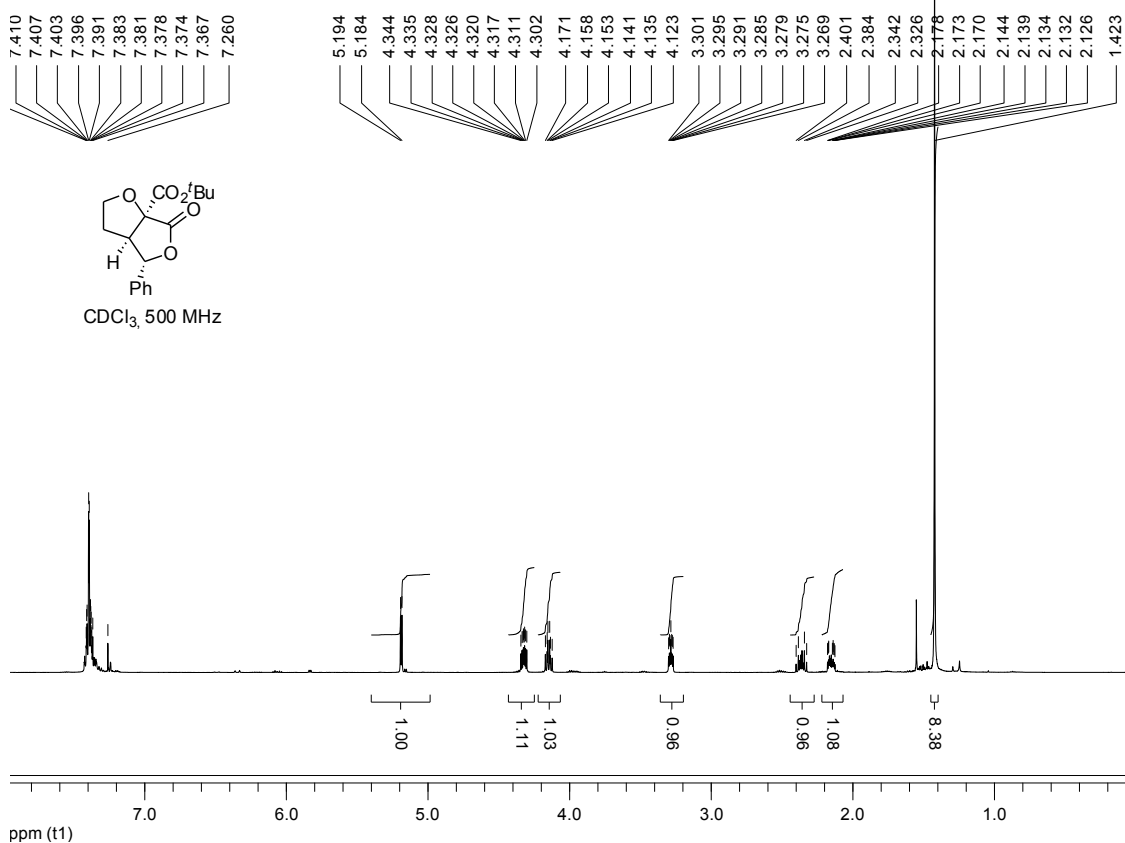
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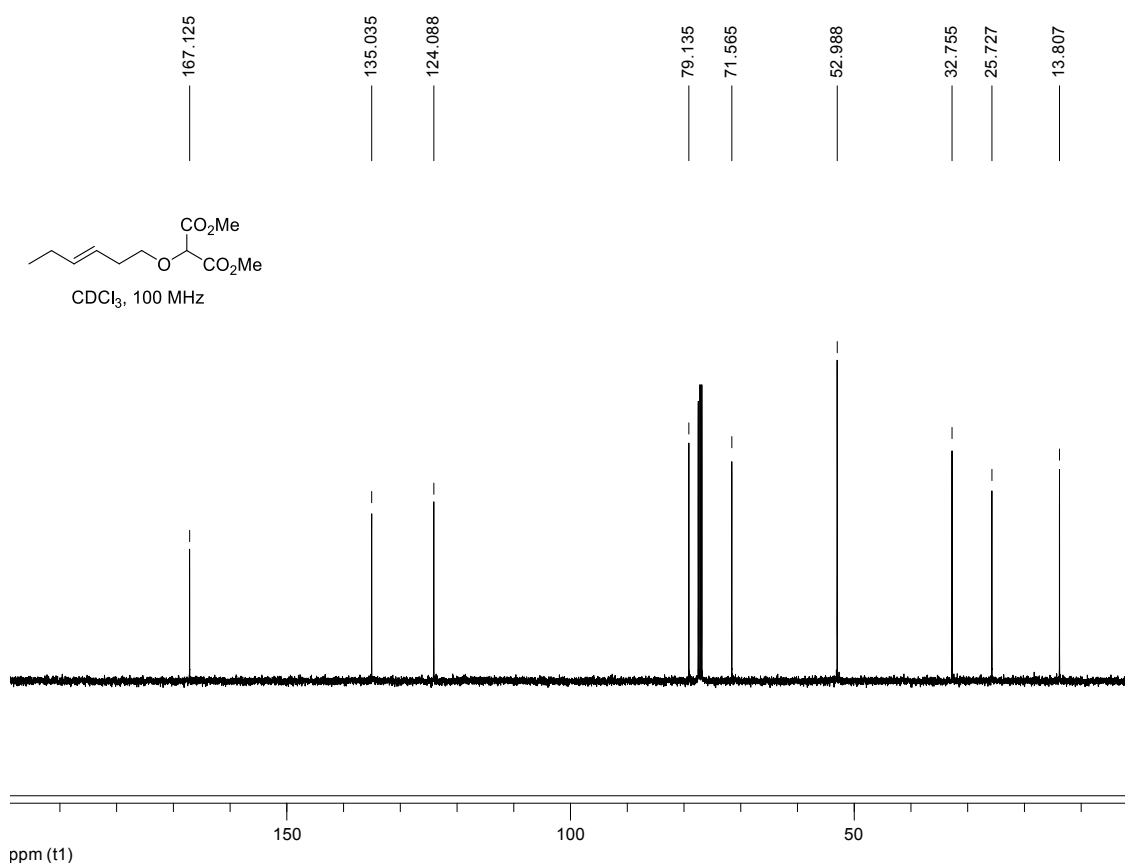
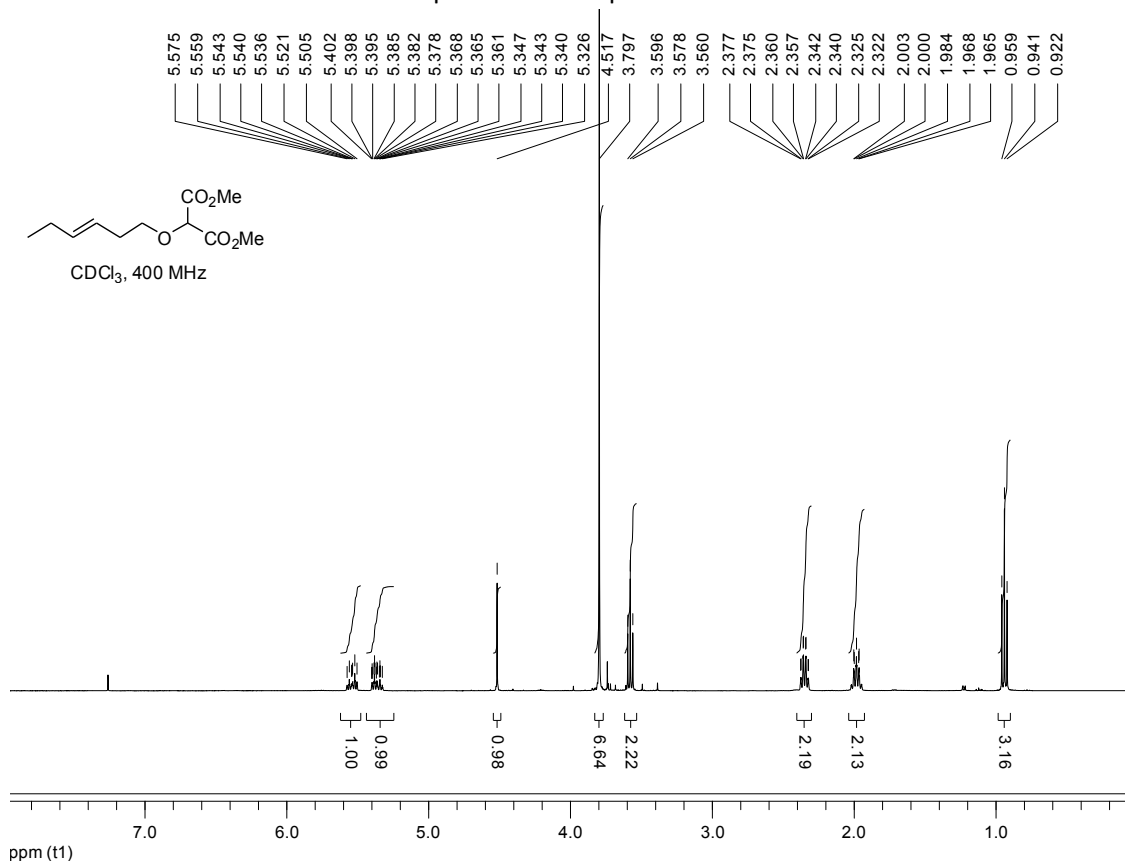
Spectra for compound **7d**



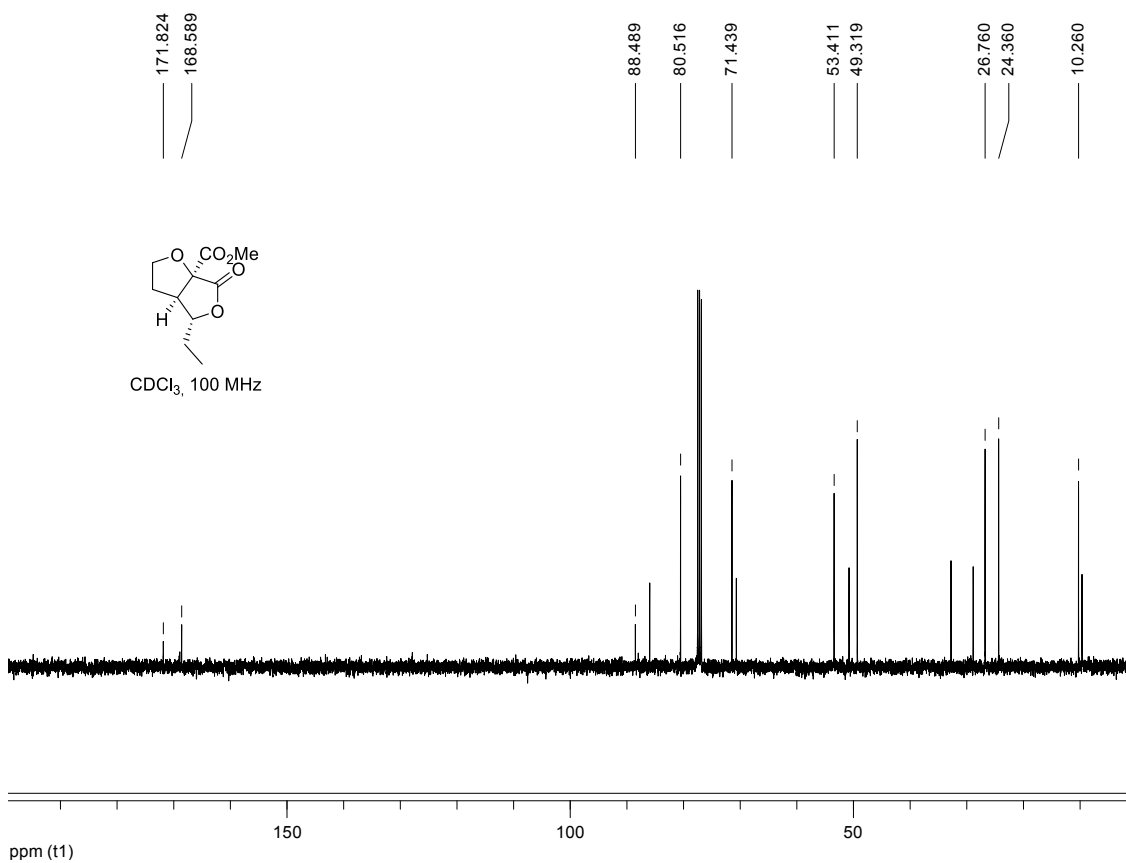
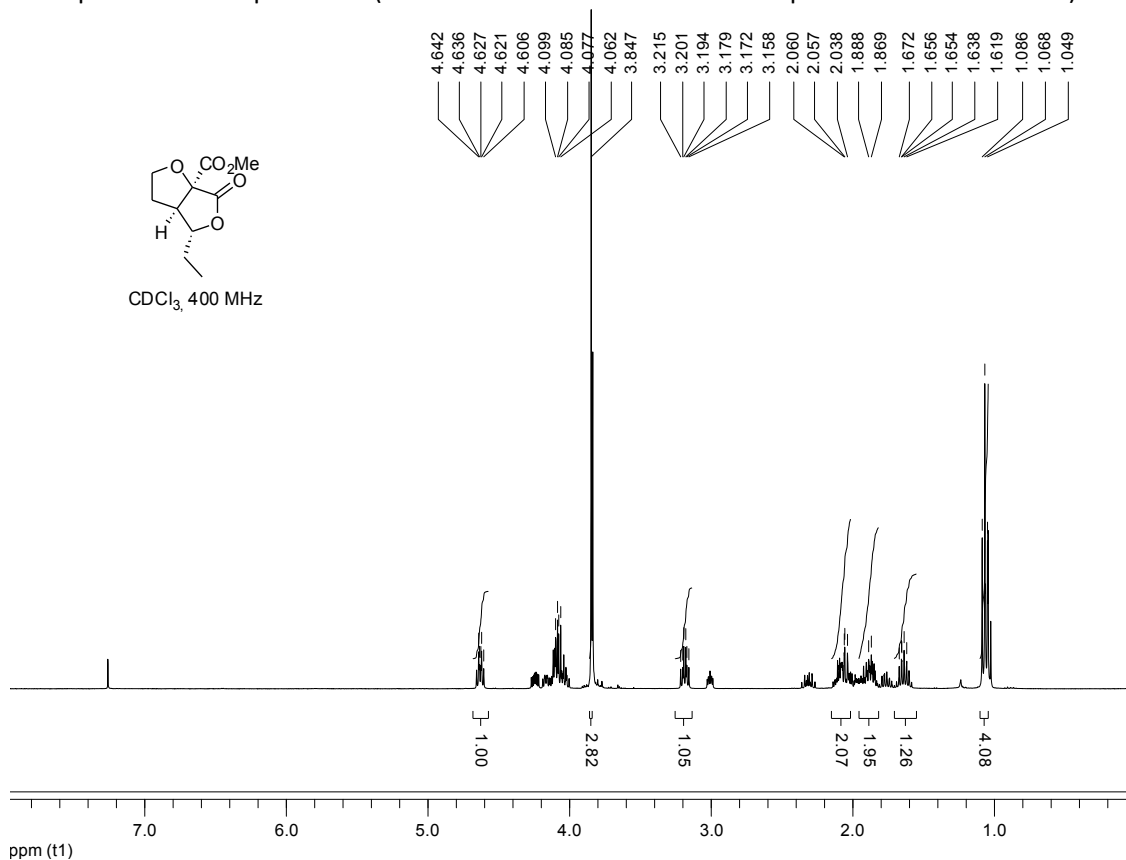
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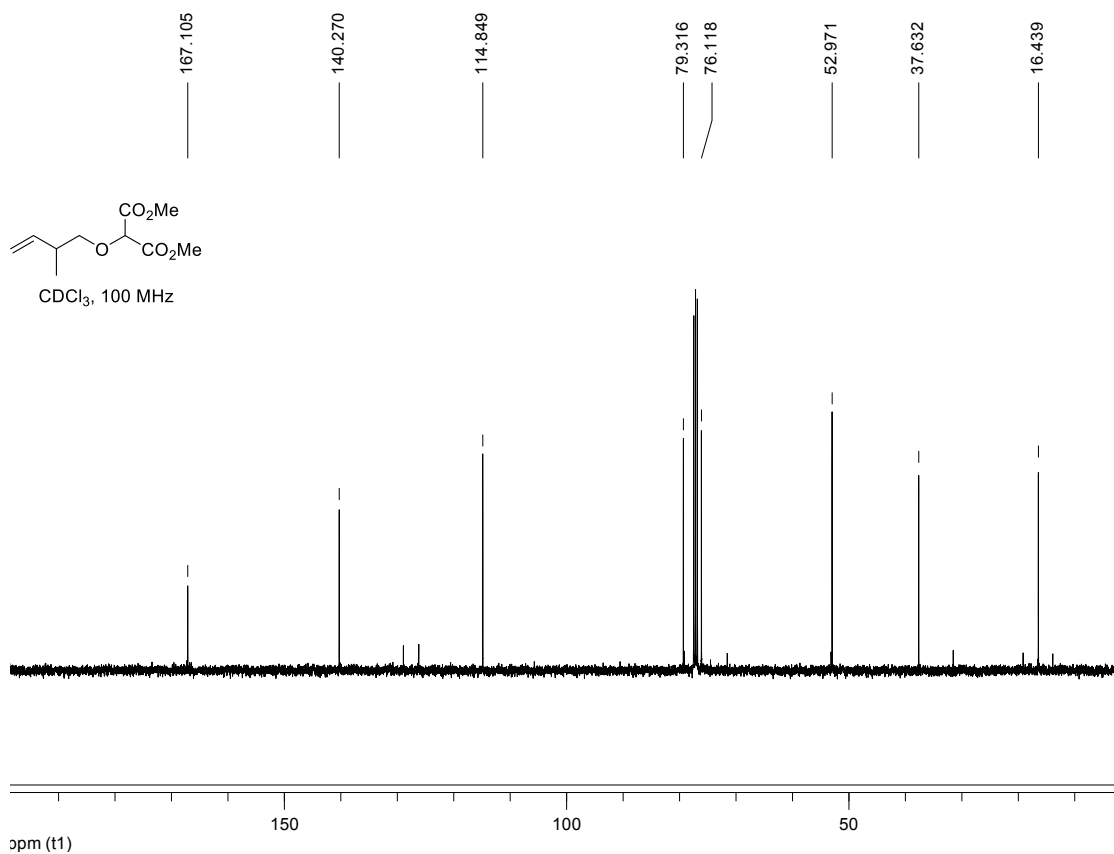
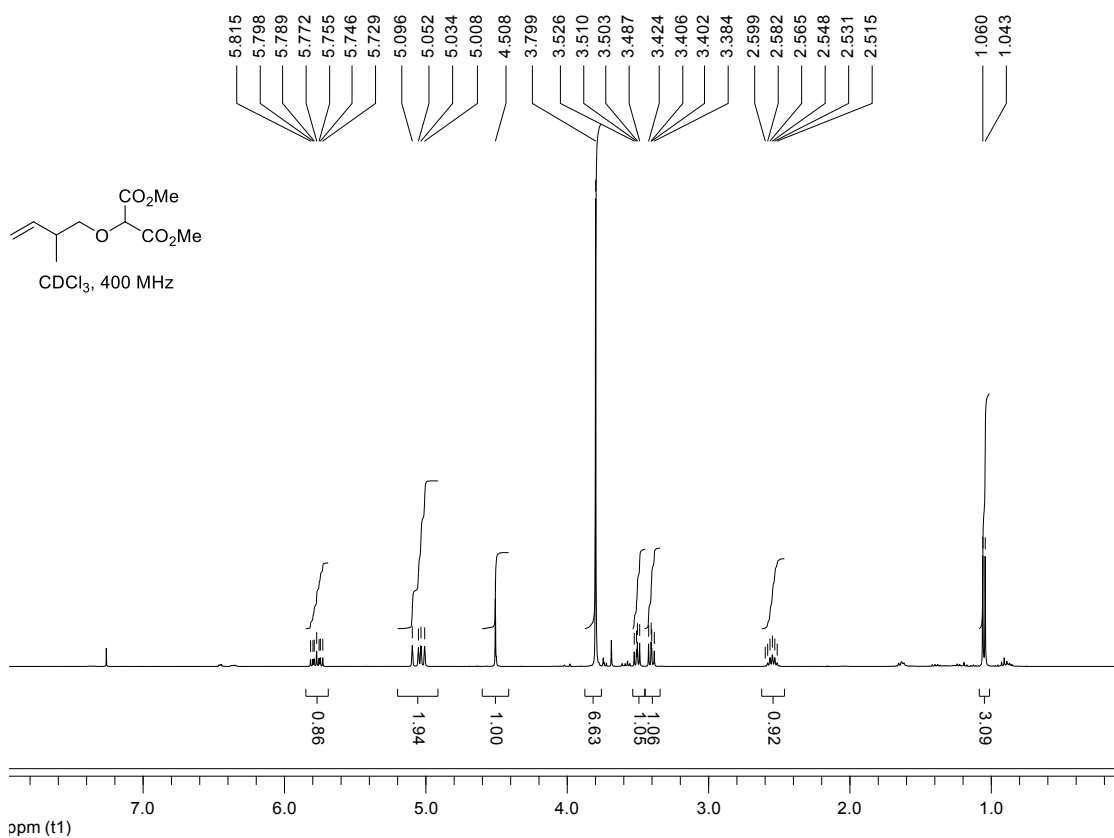
Spectra for compound **7e**

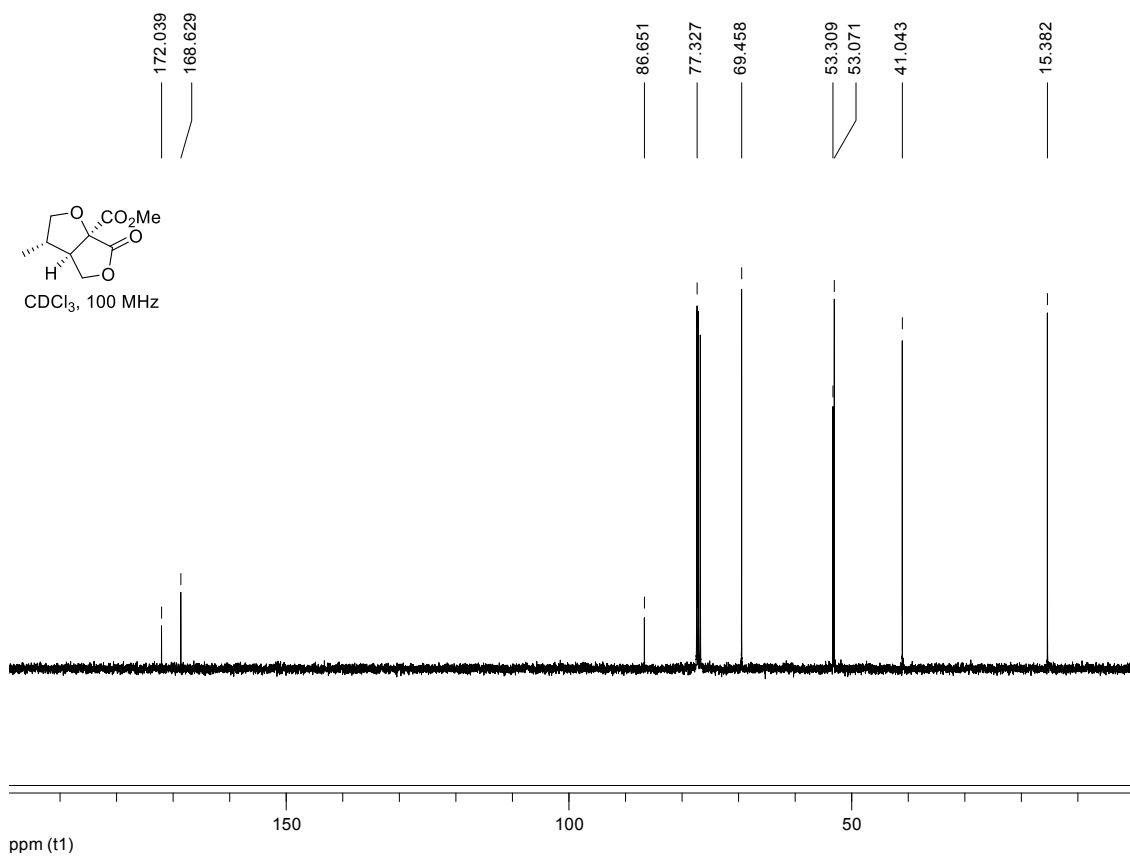
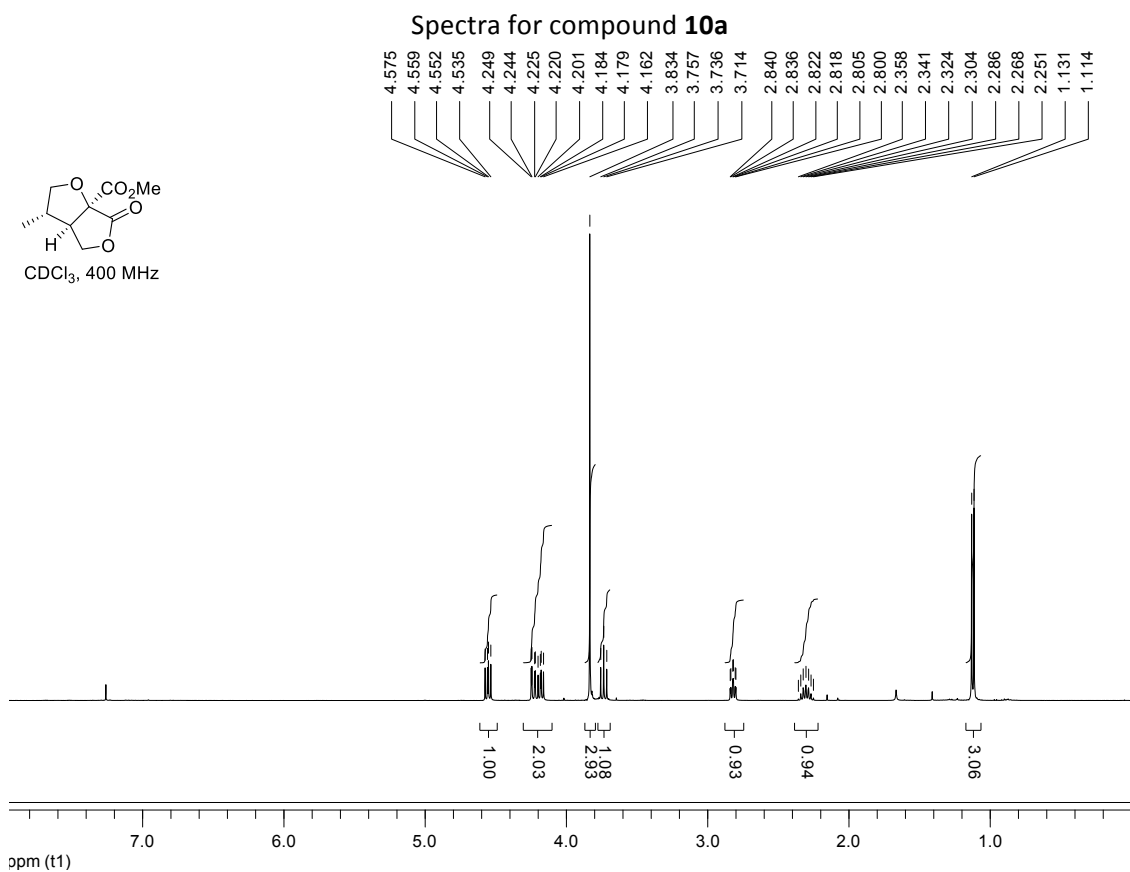


Spectra for compound **8e** (mixture of diastereoisomers after purification d. r. = 2.1:1)

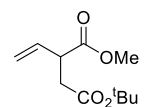


Spectra for compound **9a**

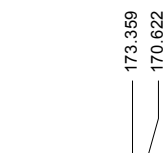
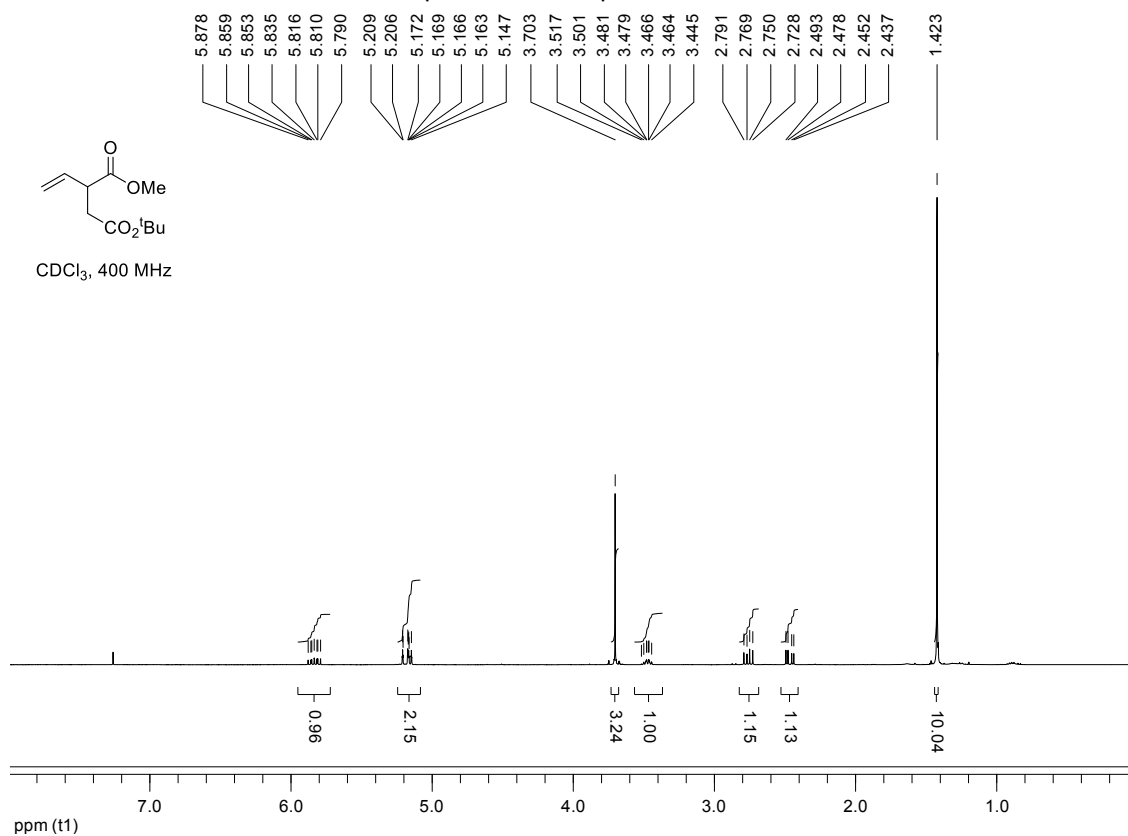




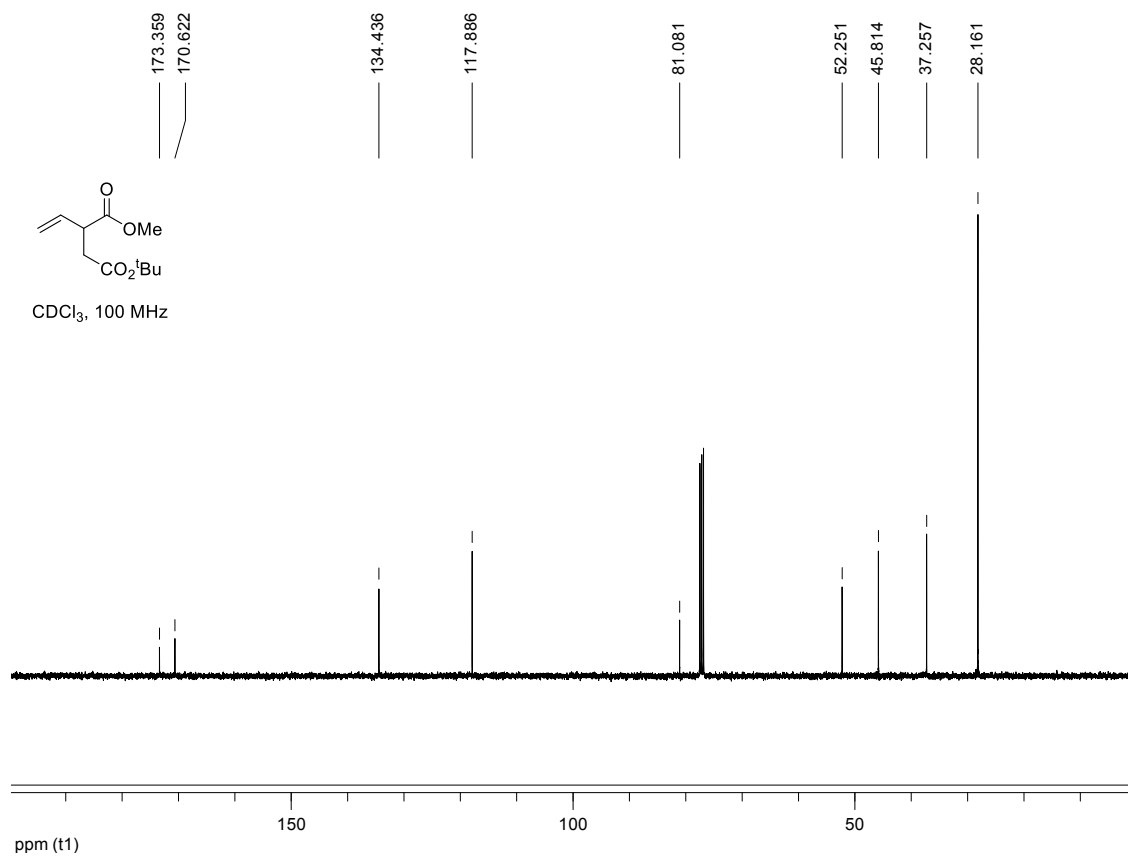
Spectra for compound **SI13**



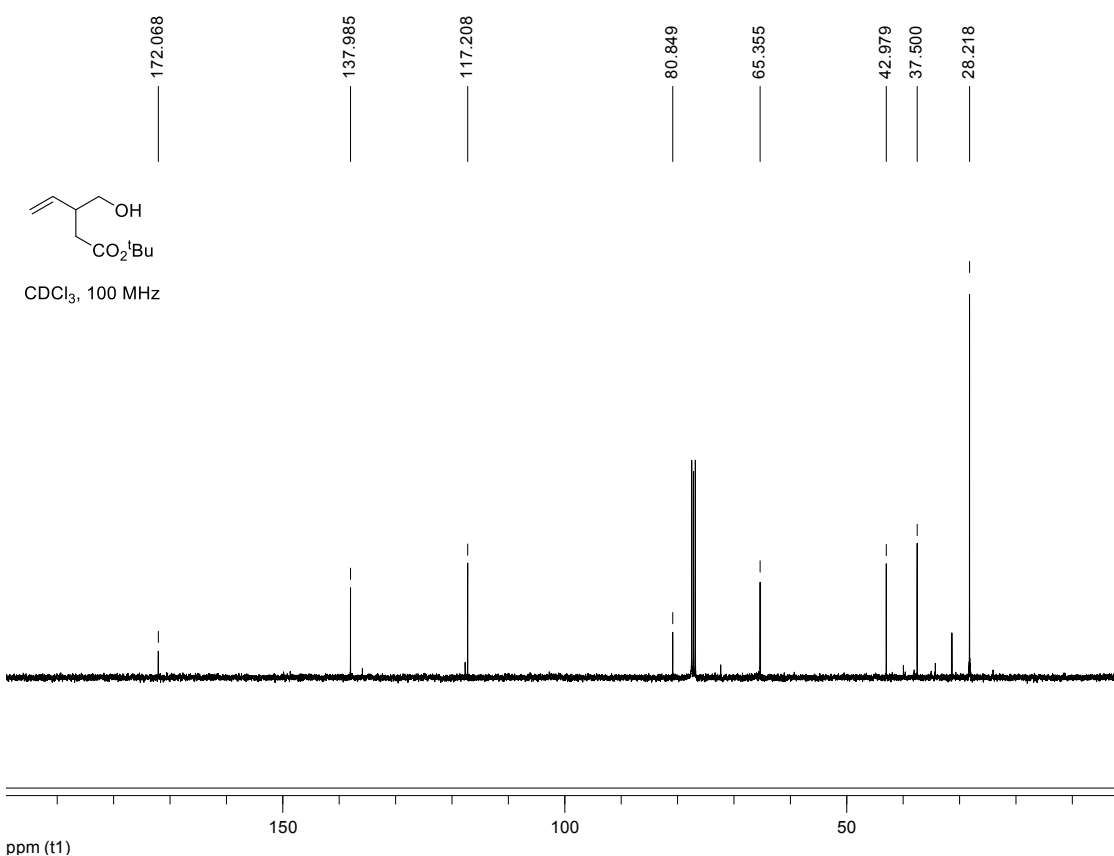
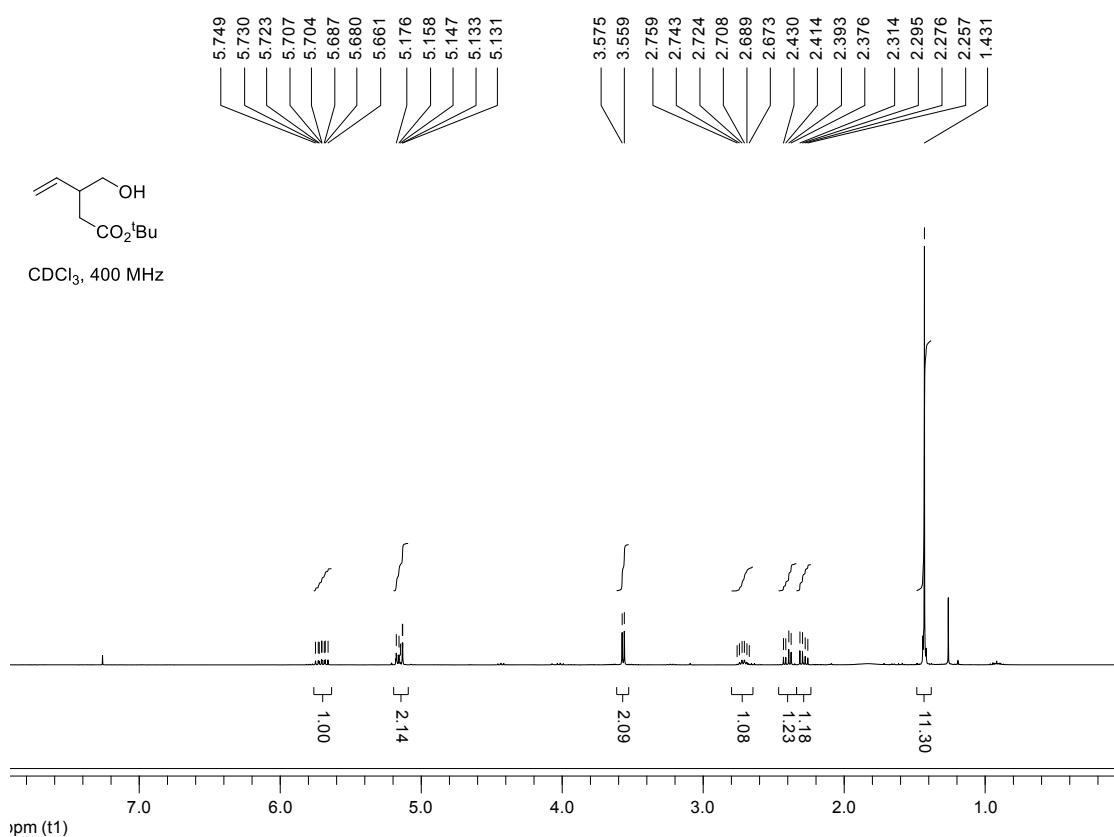
CDCl₃, 400 MHz



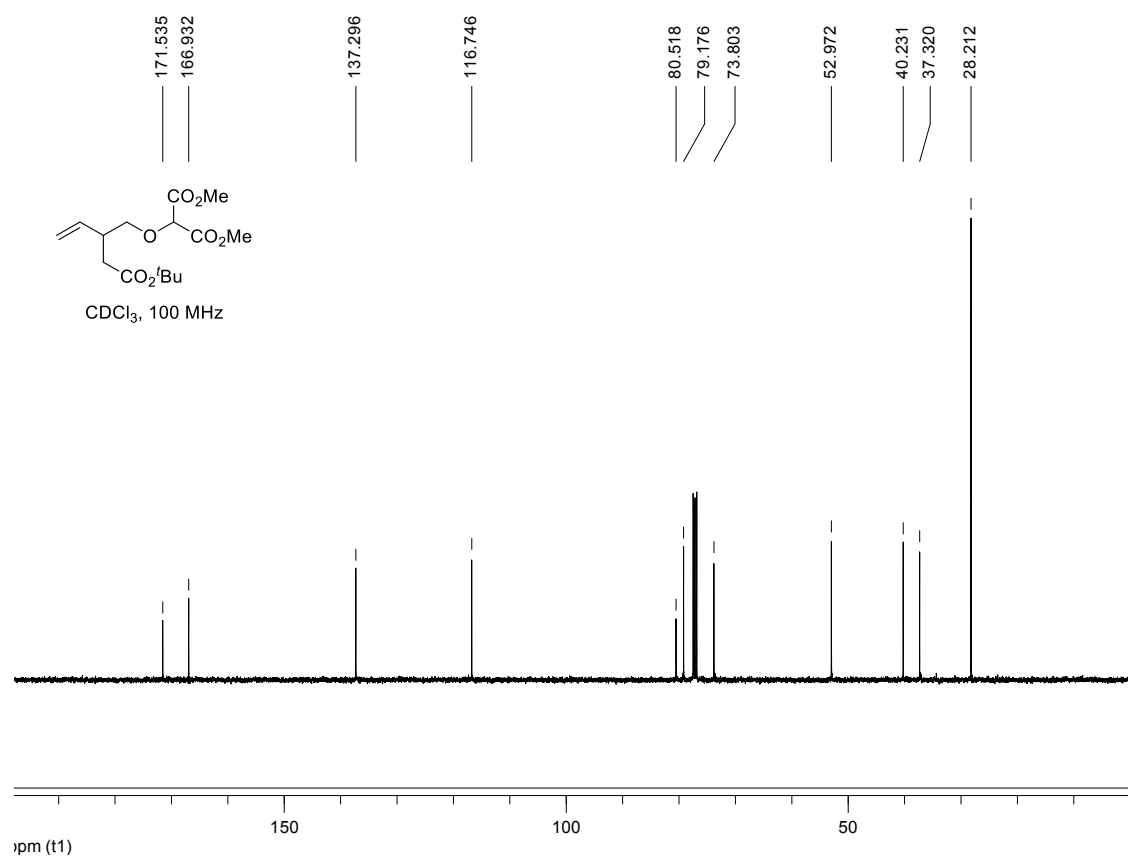
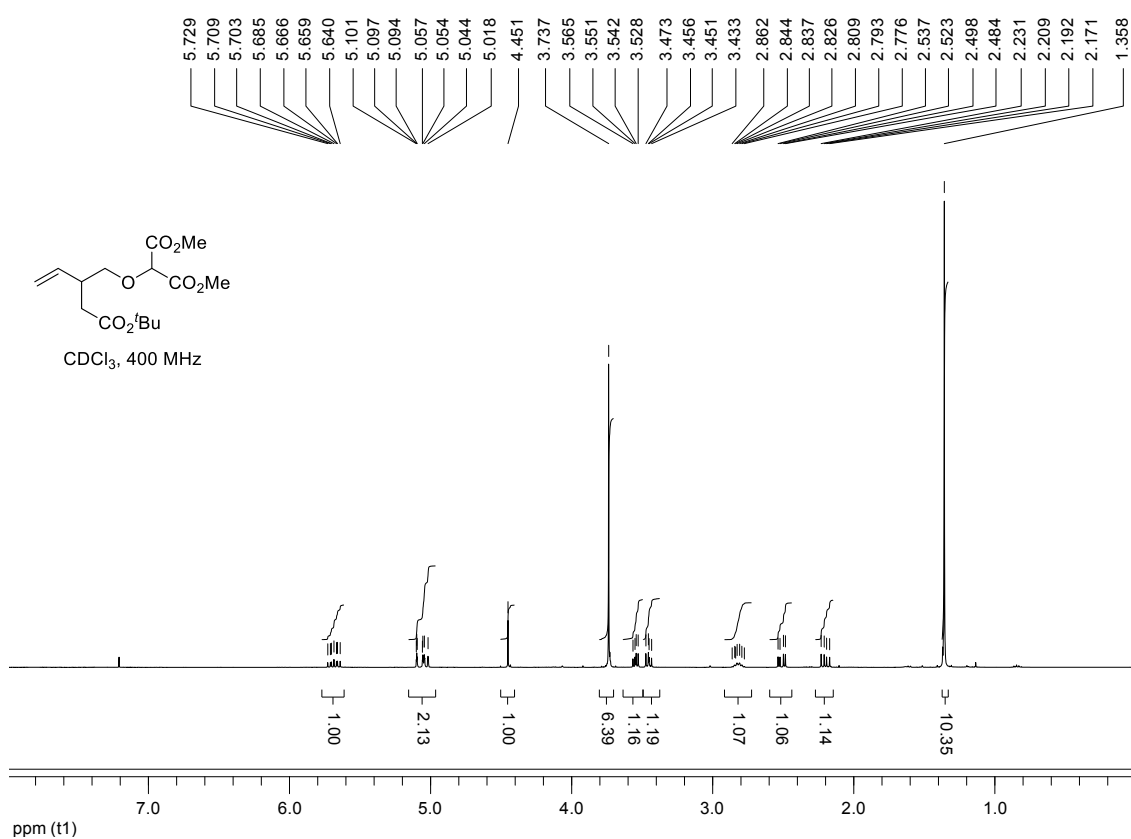
CDCl₃, 100 MHz



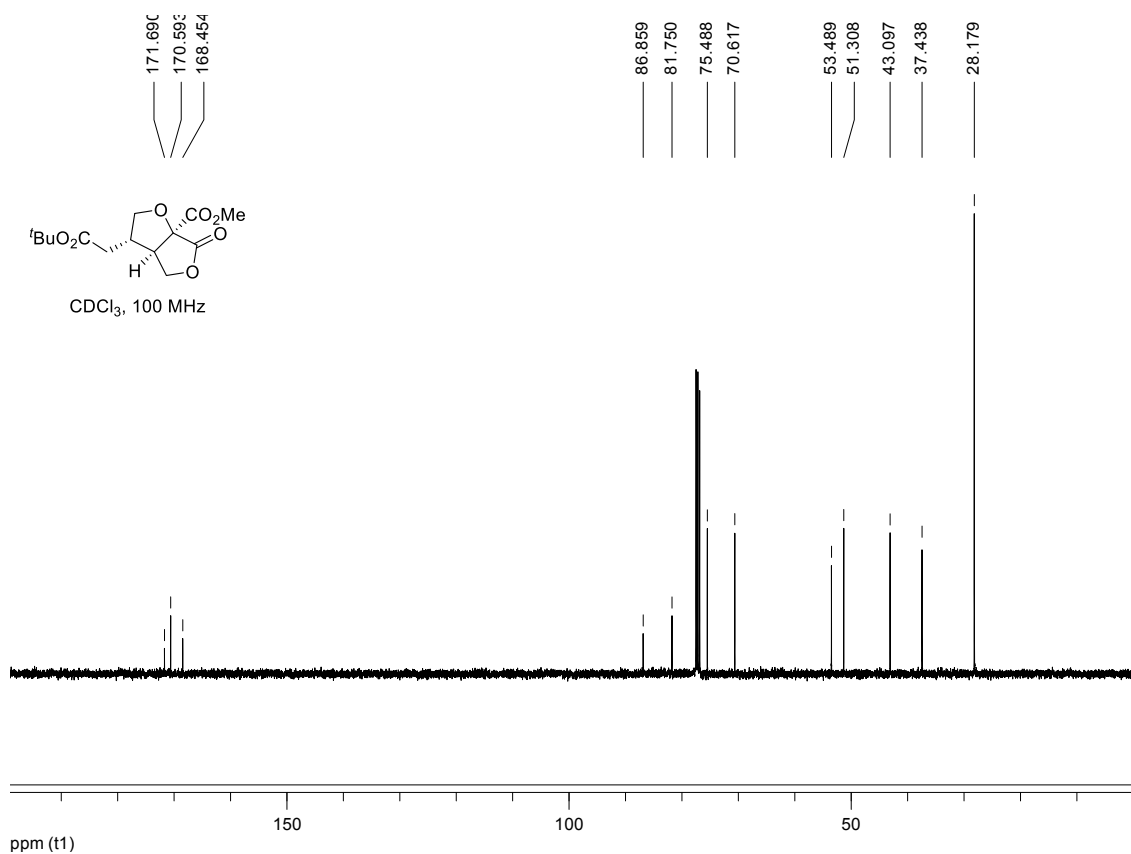
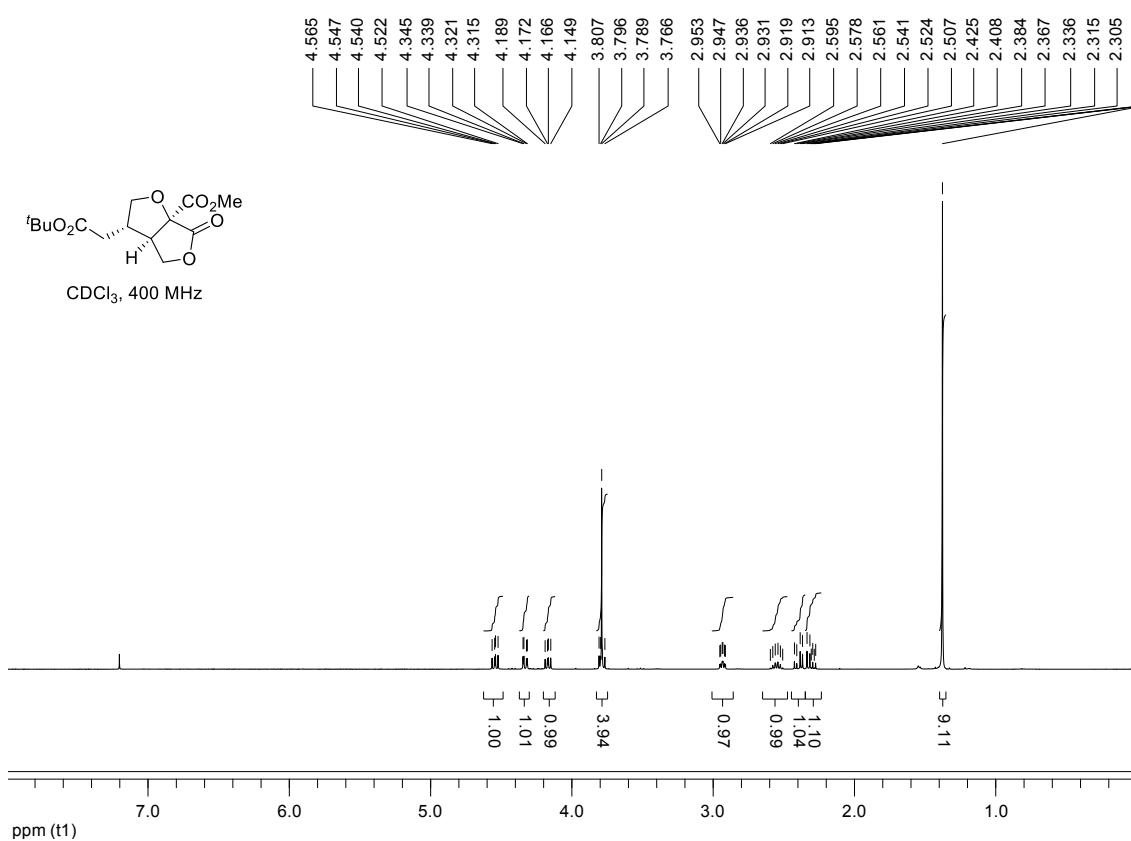
Spectra for compound SI14



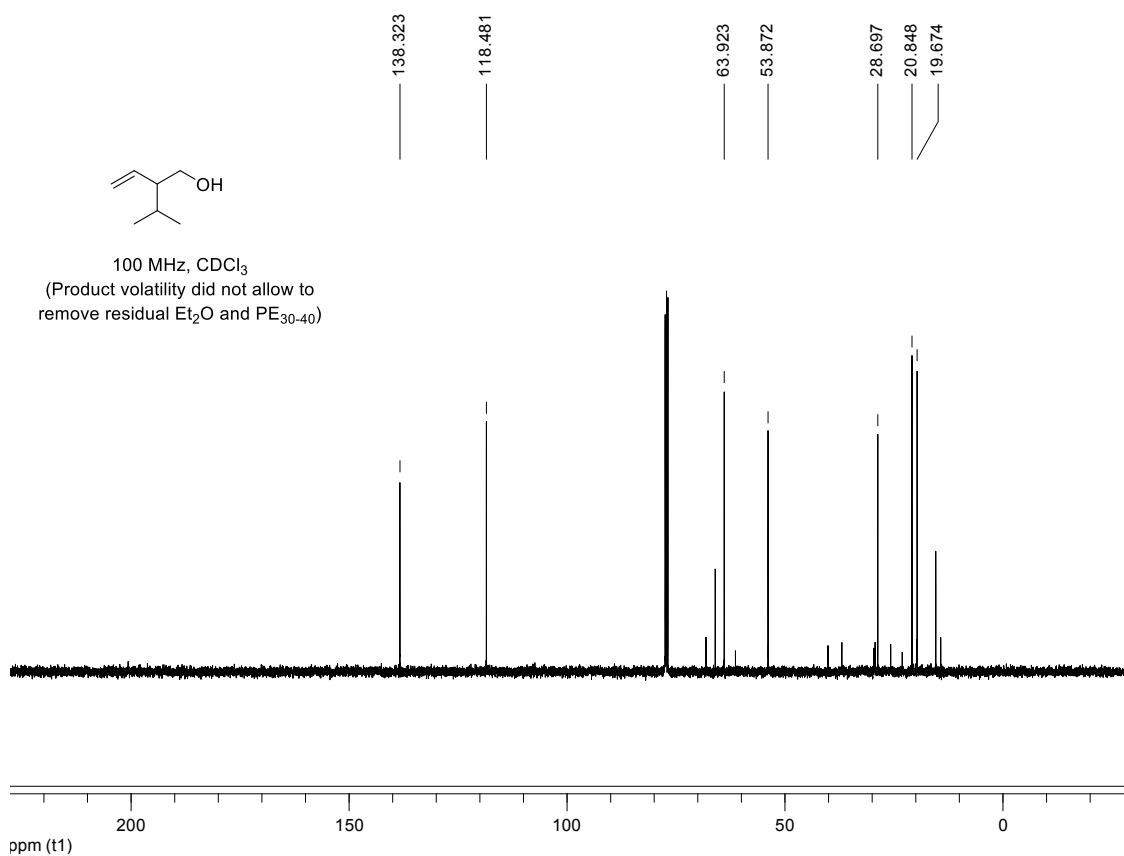
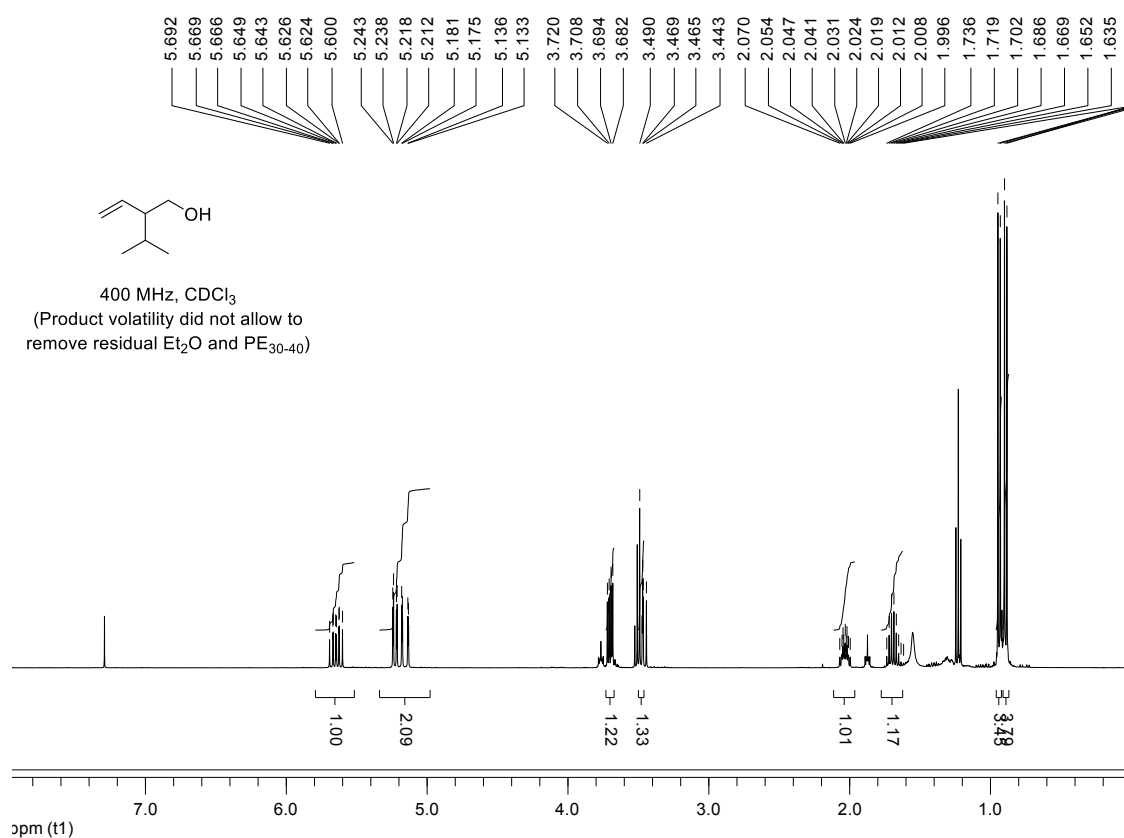
Spectra for compound **9b**



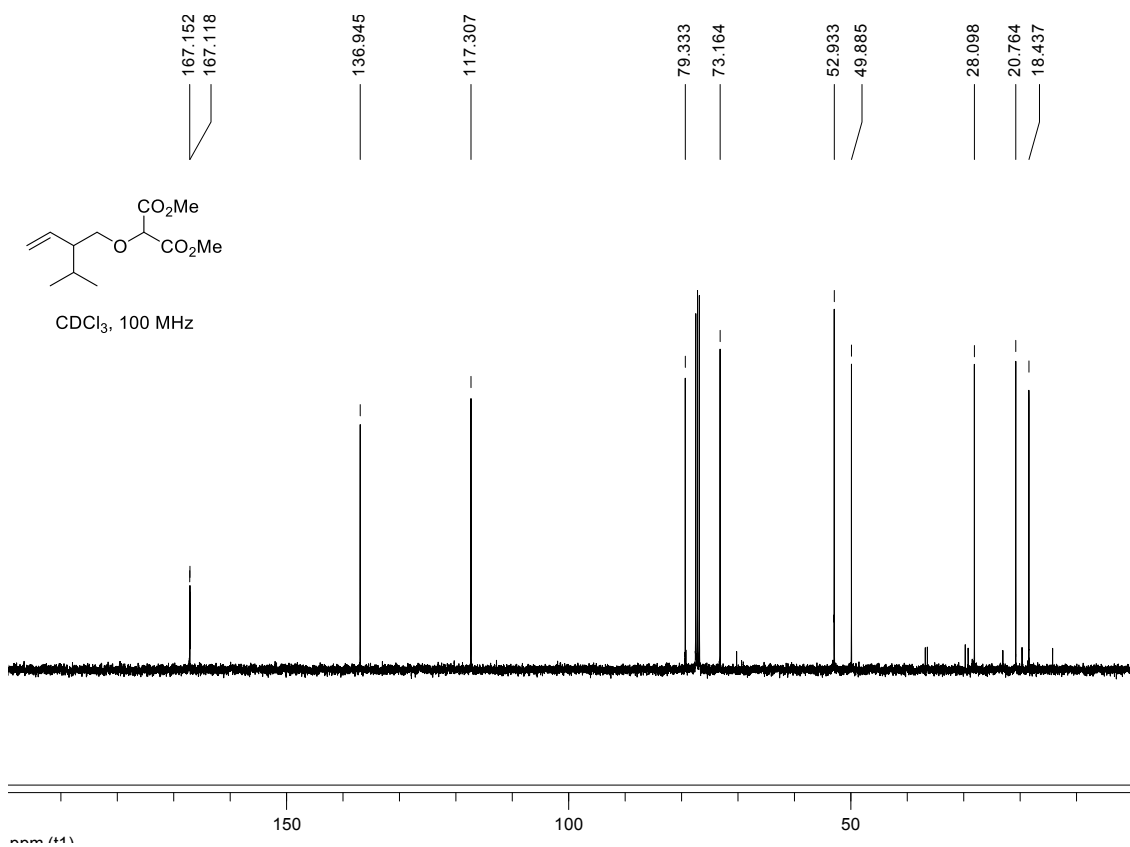
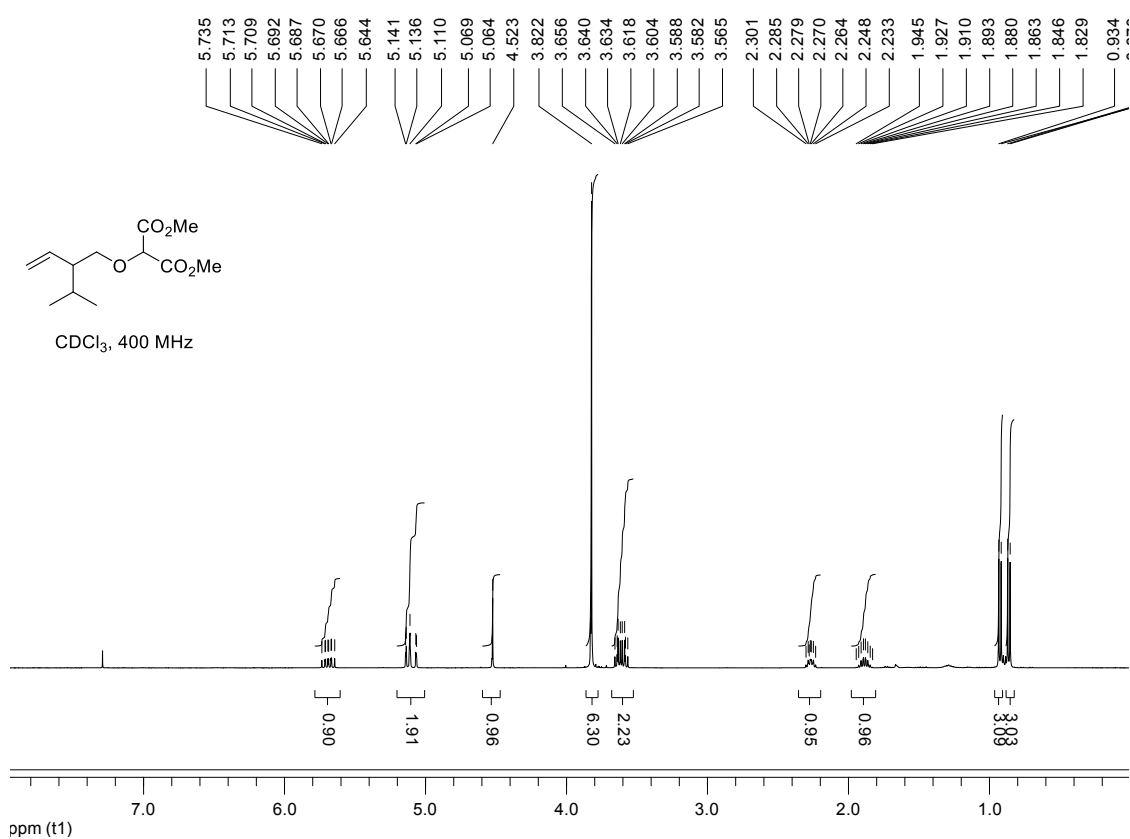
Spectra for compound **10b**



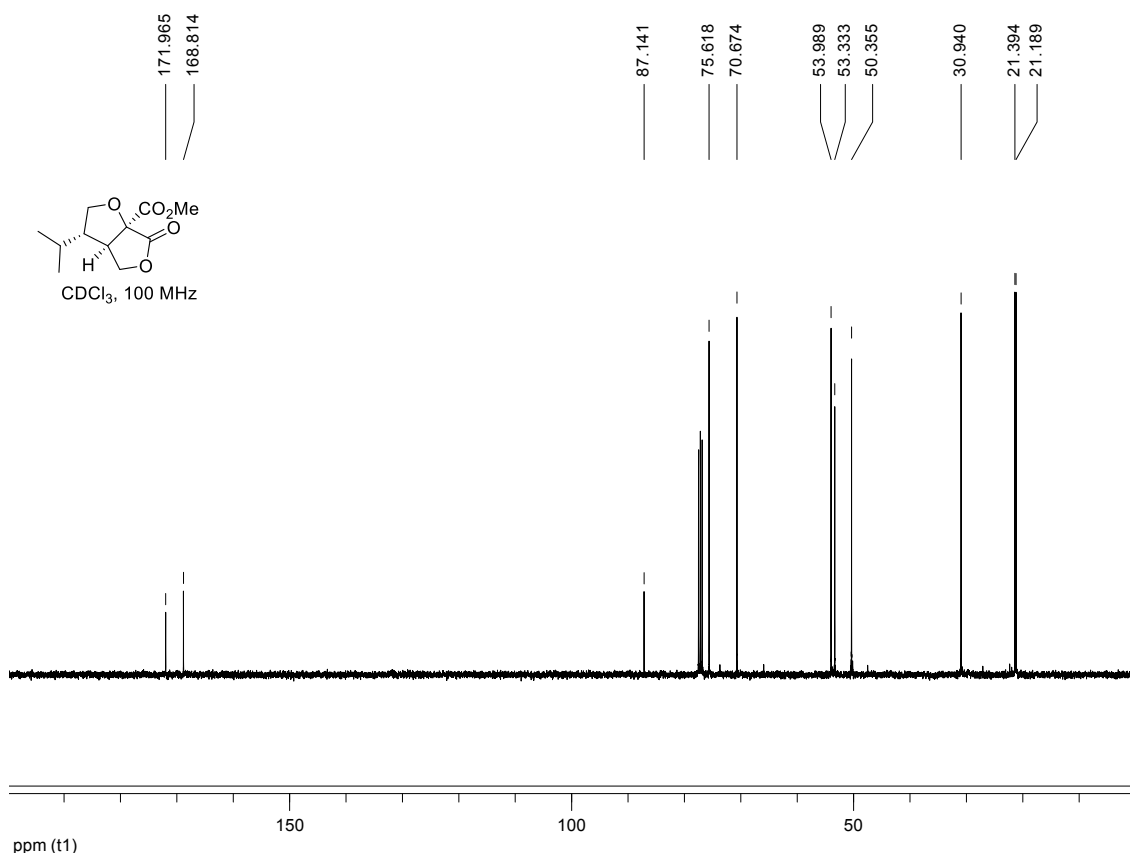
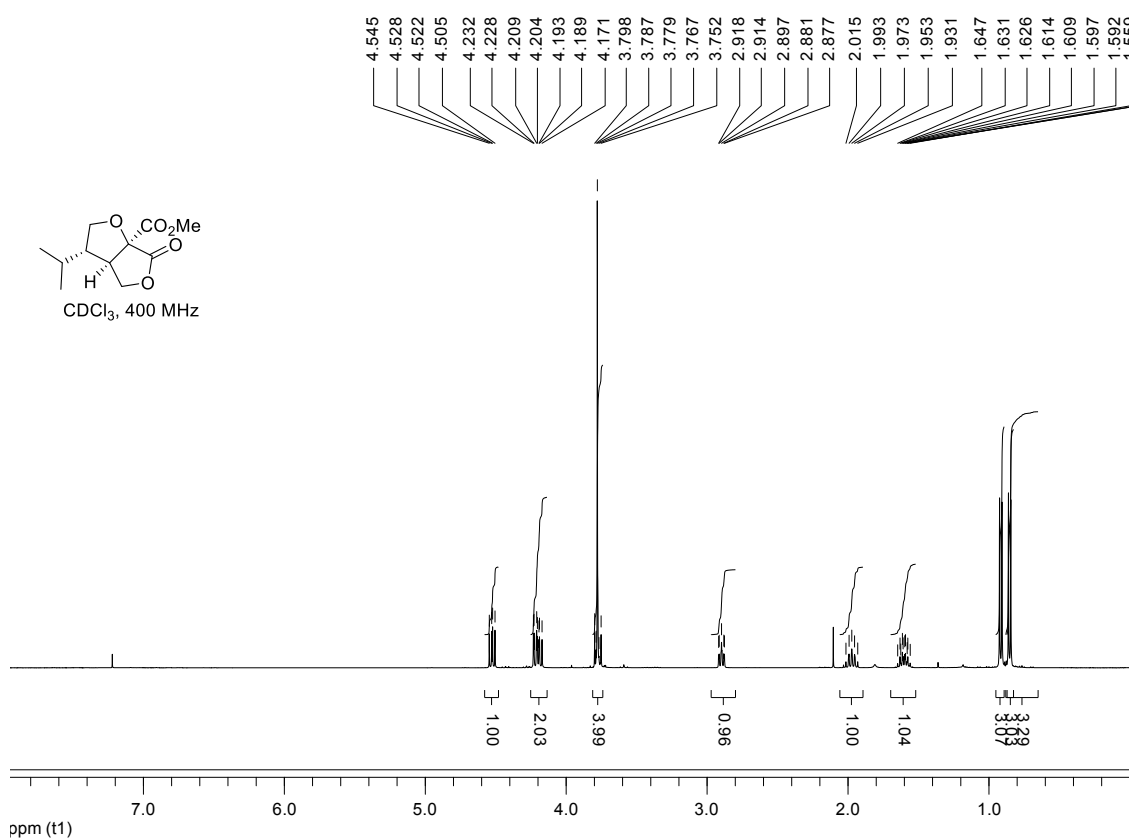
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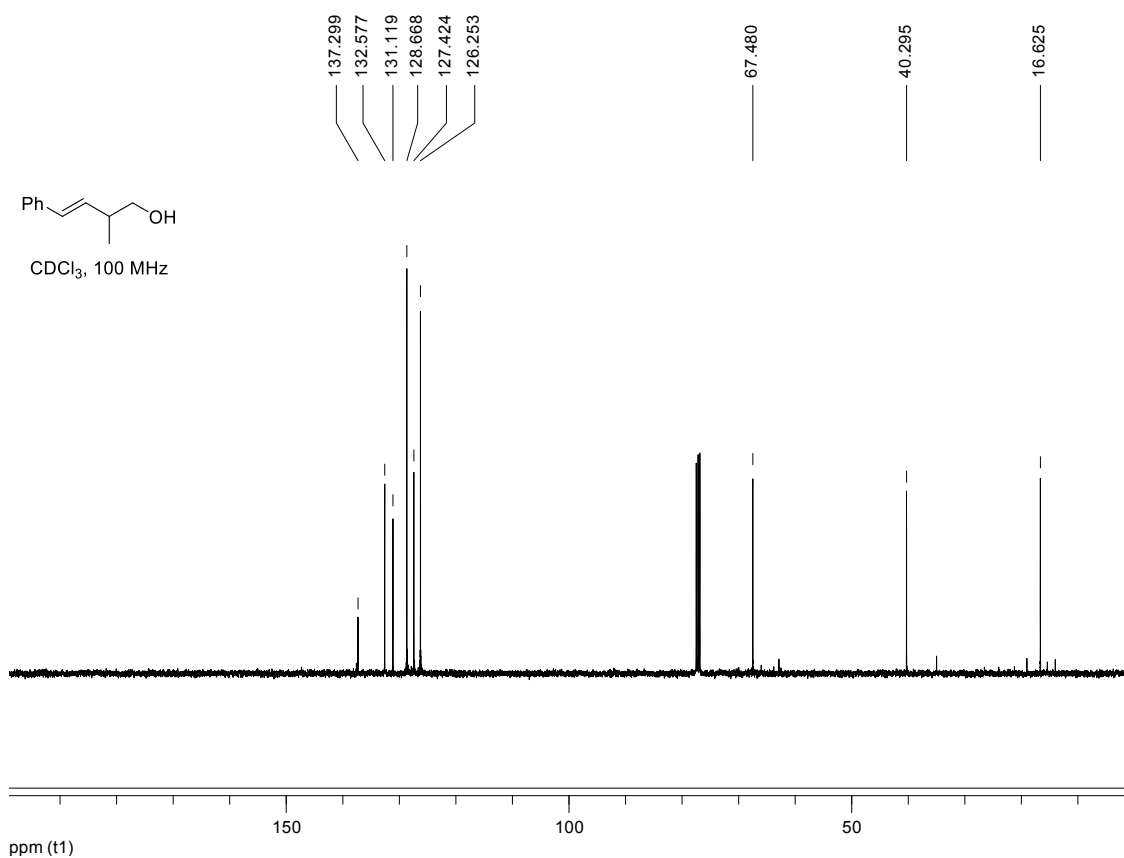
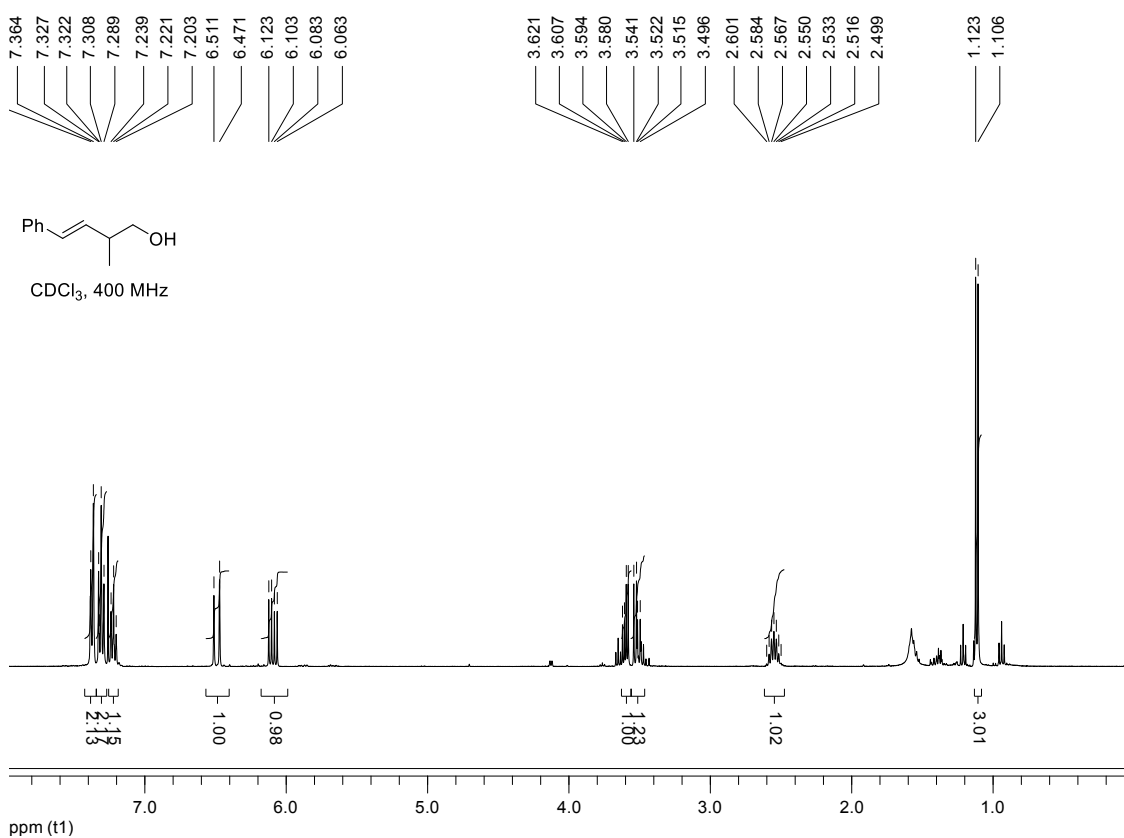
Spectra for compound **9c**



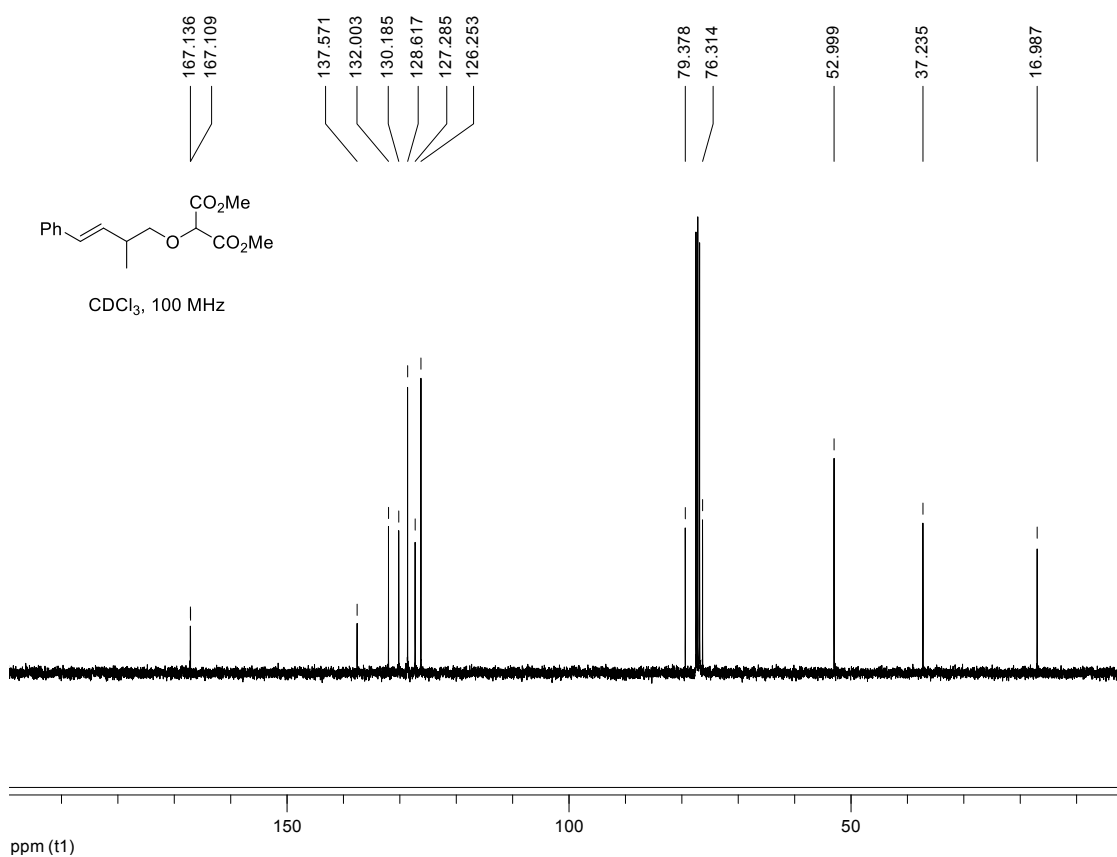
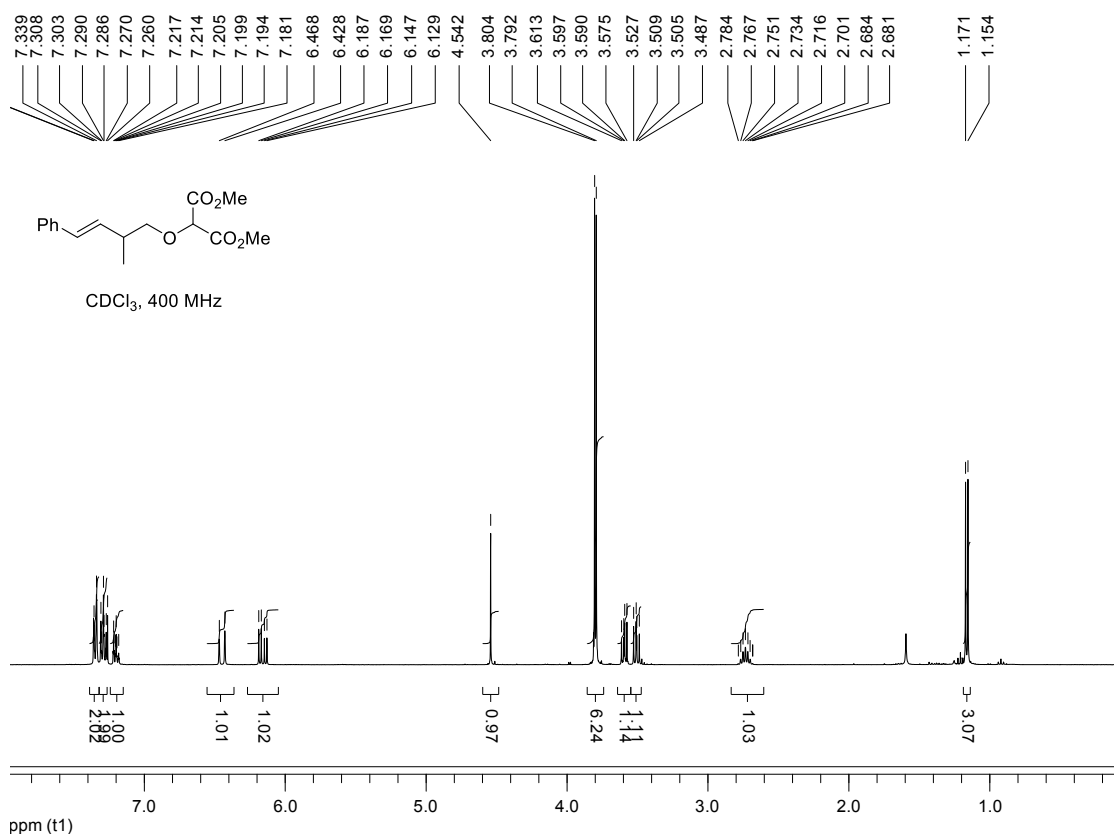
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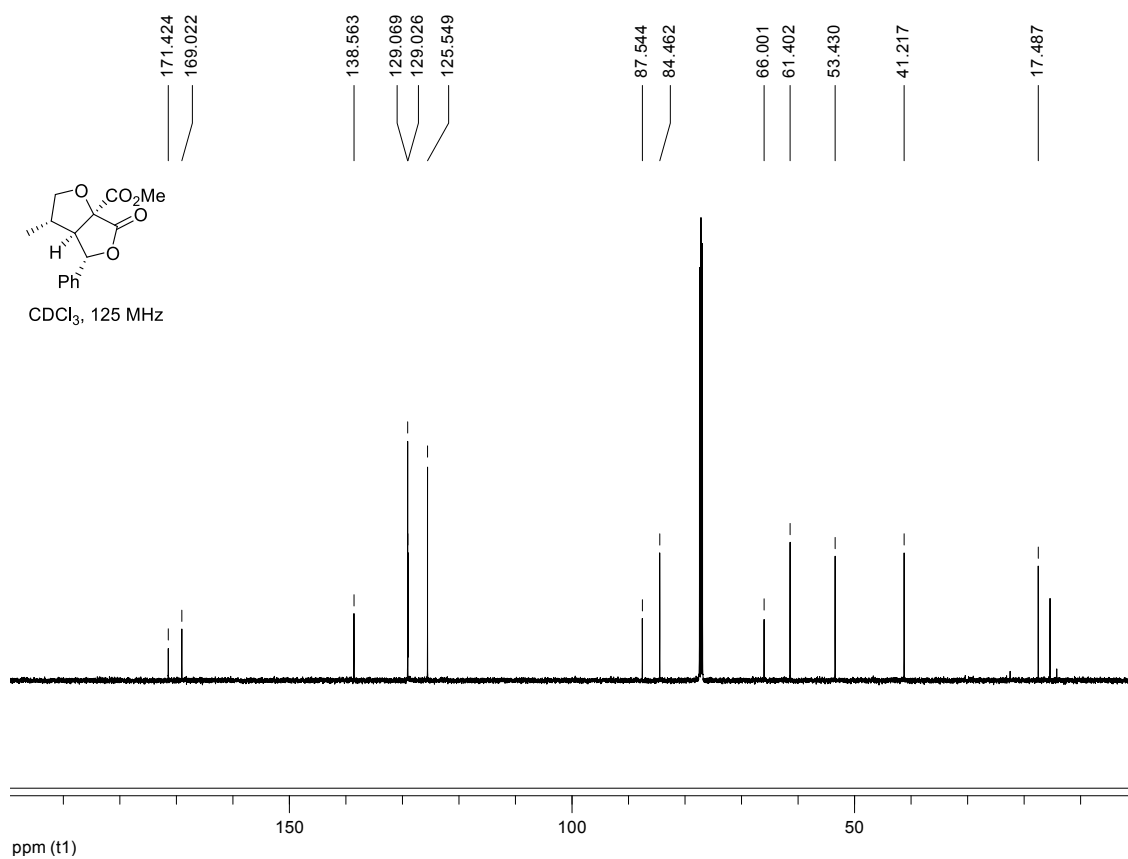
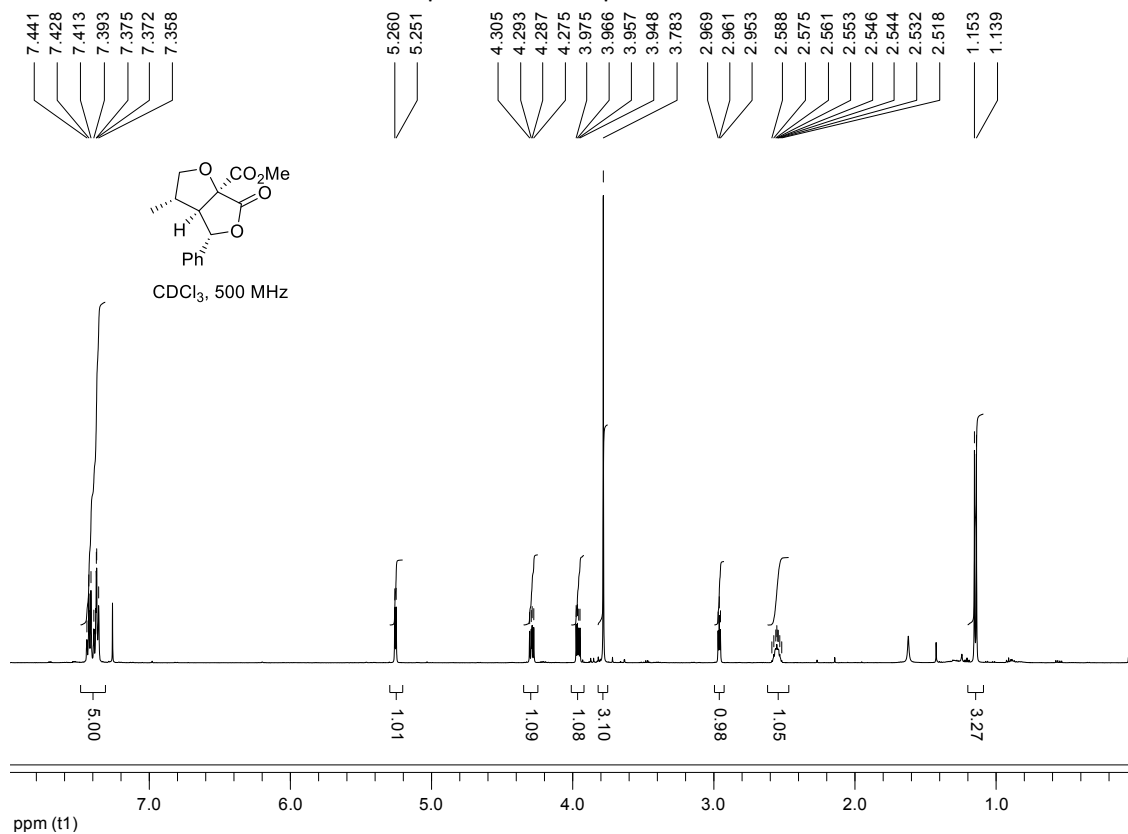
Spectra for compound SI17



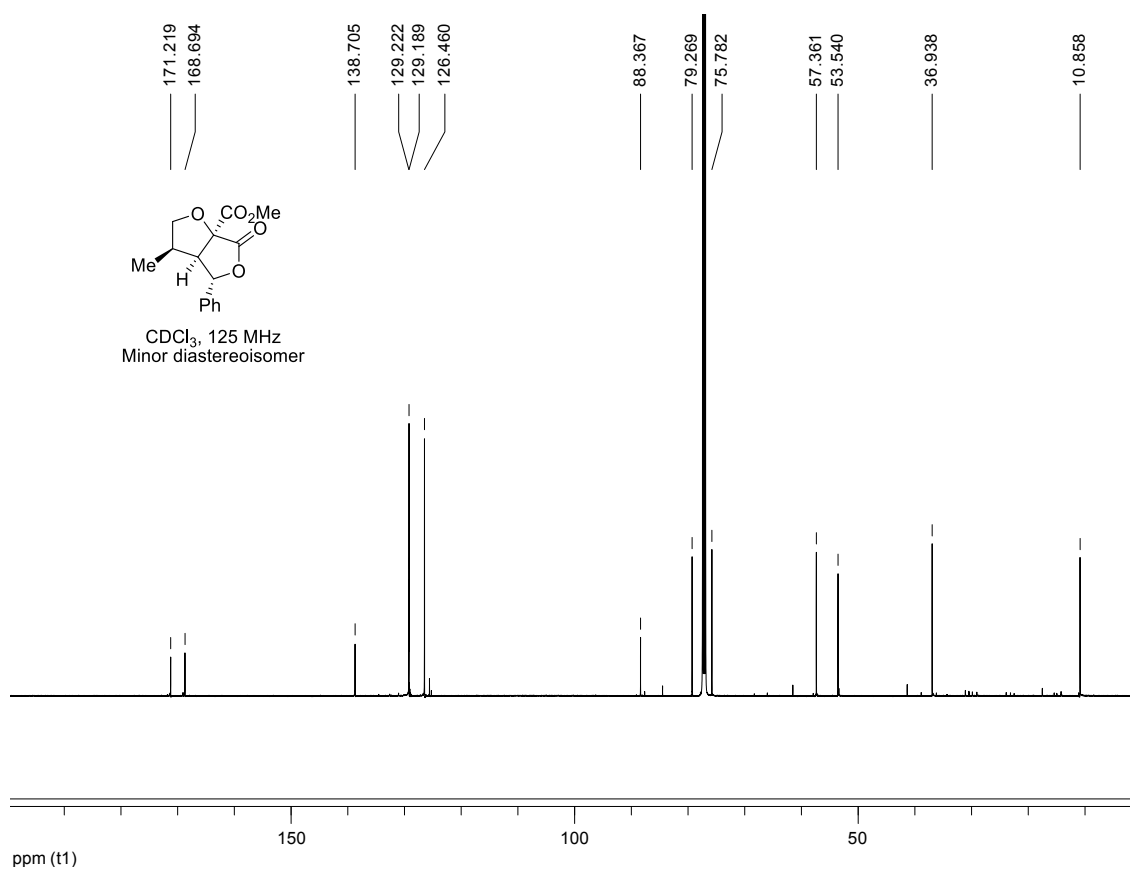
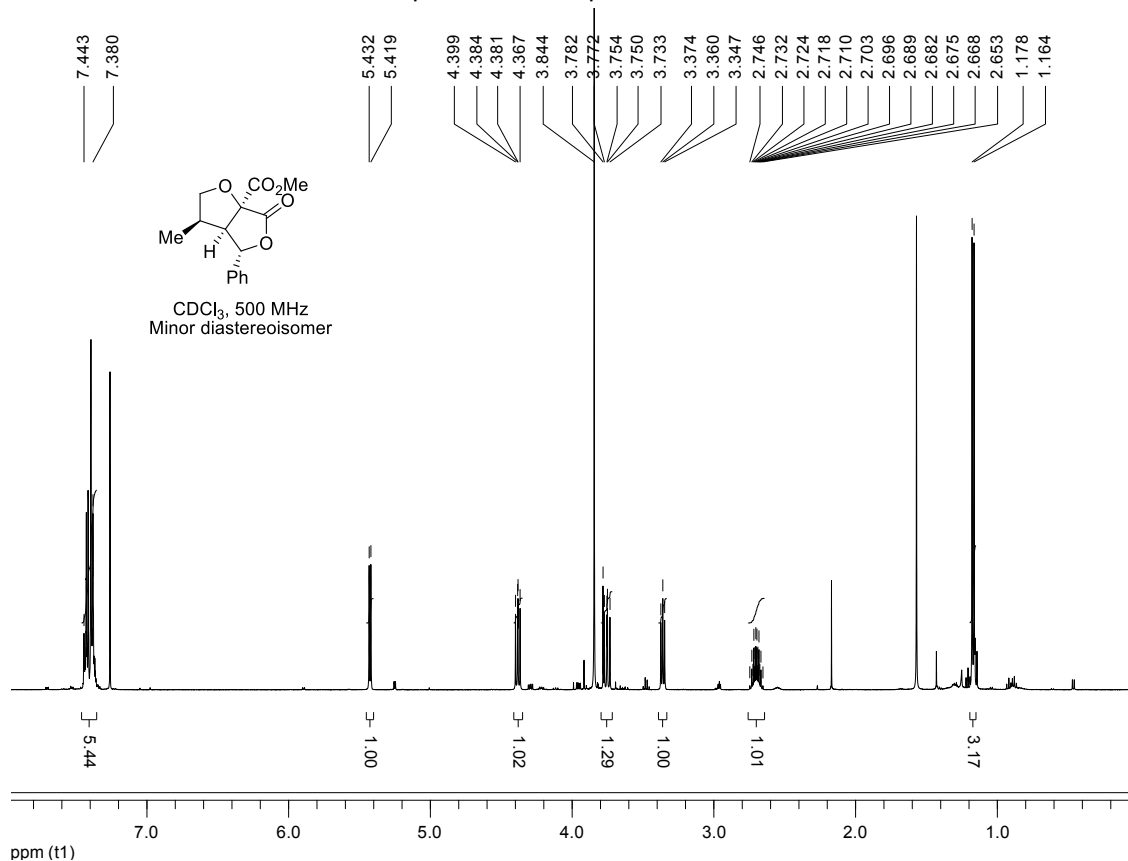
Spectra for compound **9d**



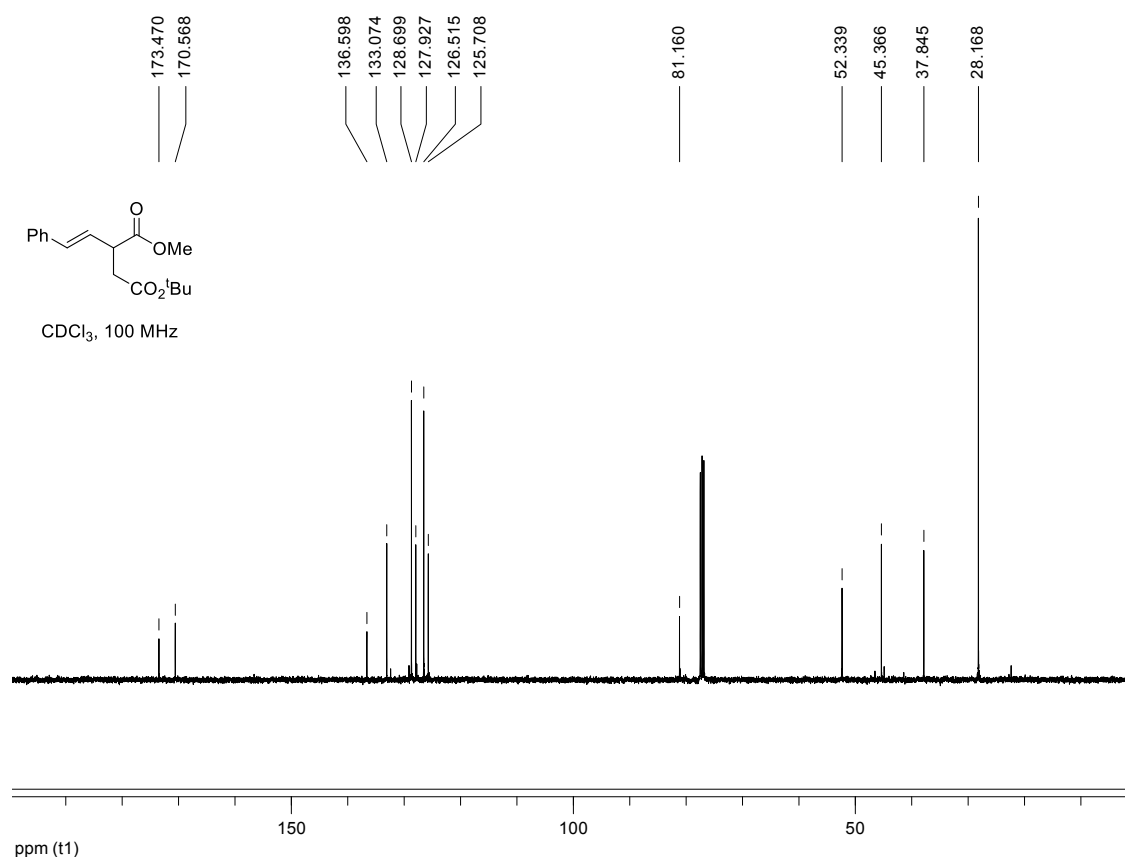
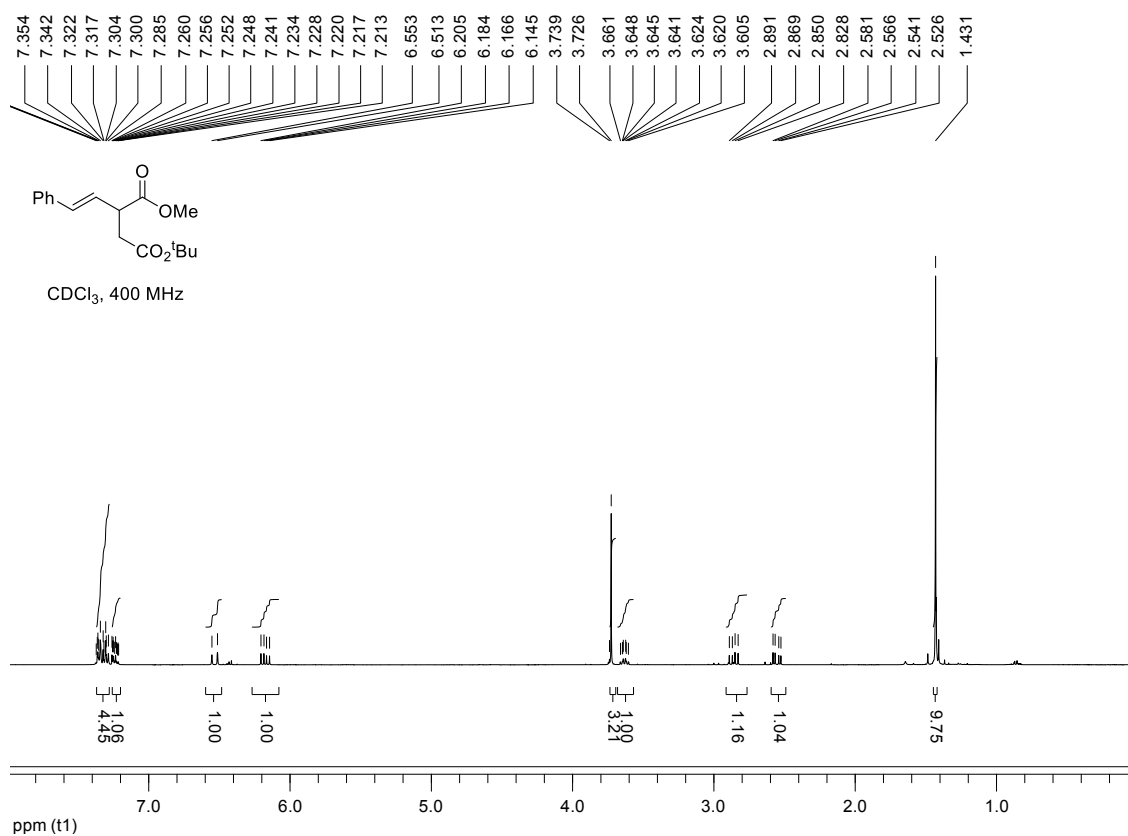
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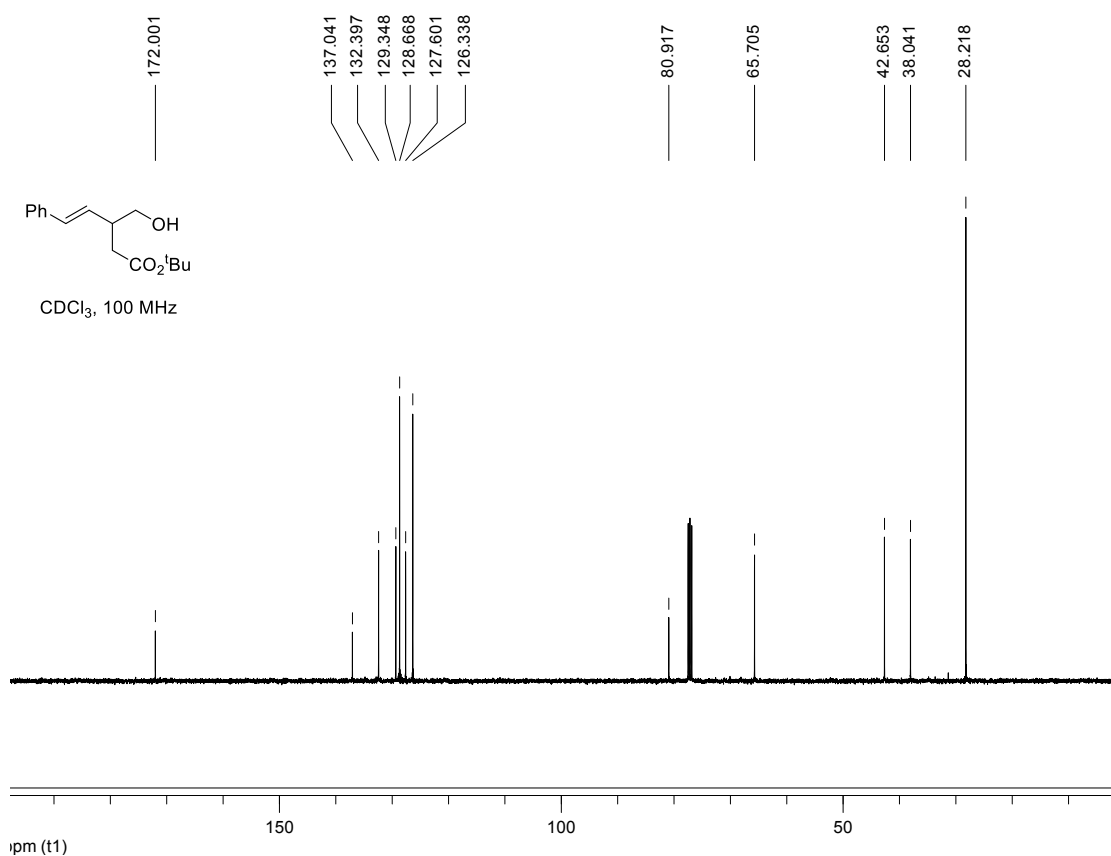
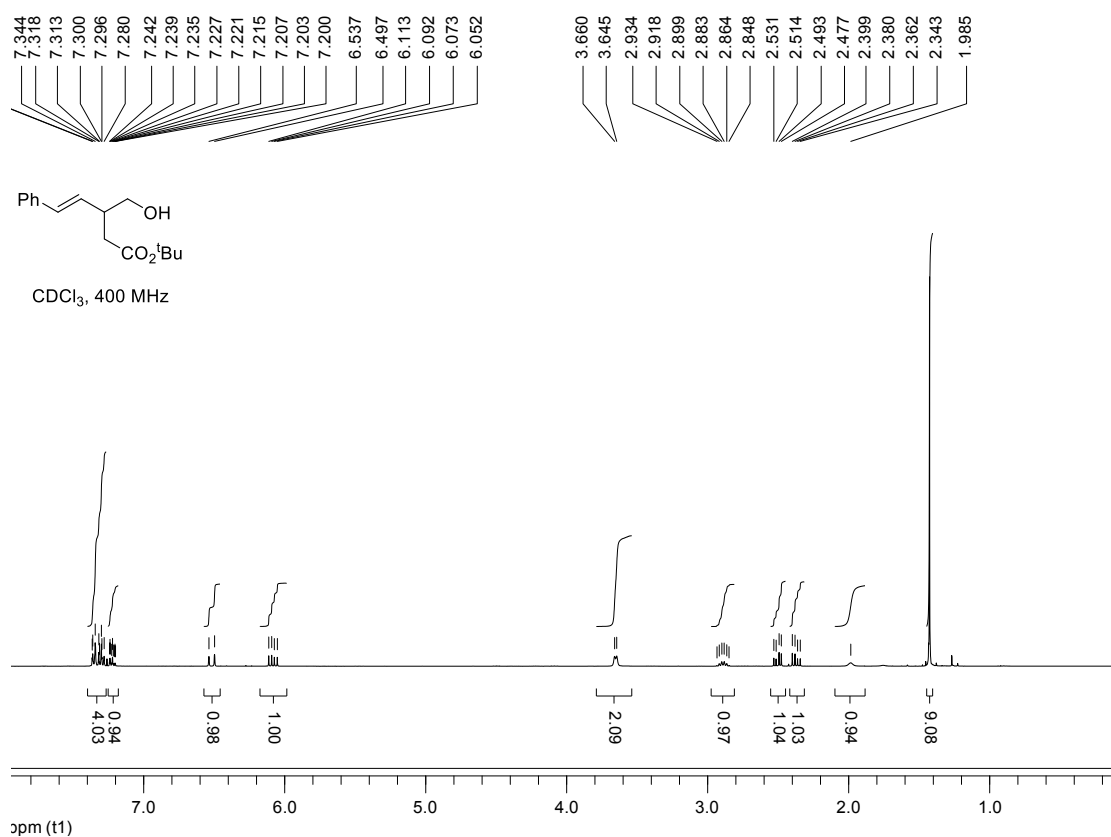
Spectra for compound **10d_{min}**



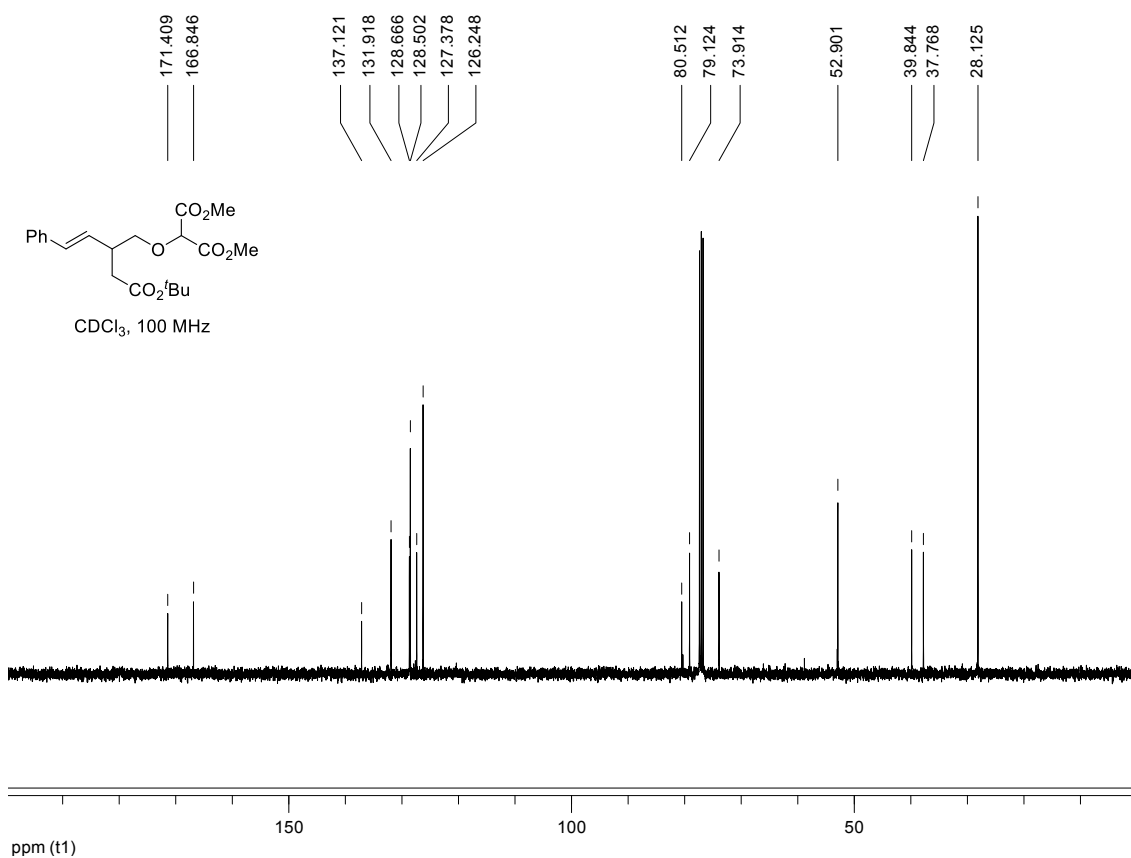
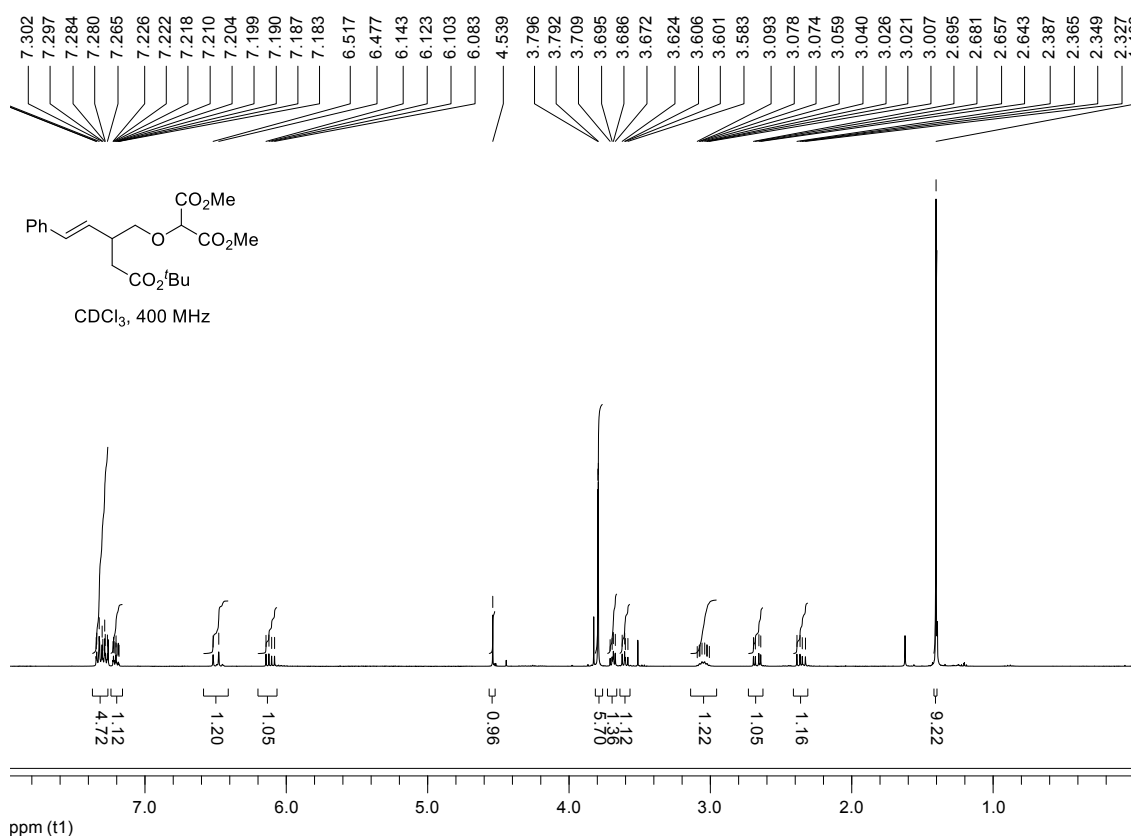
Spectra for compound SI19



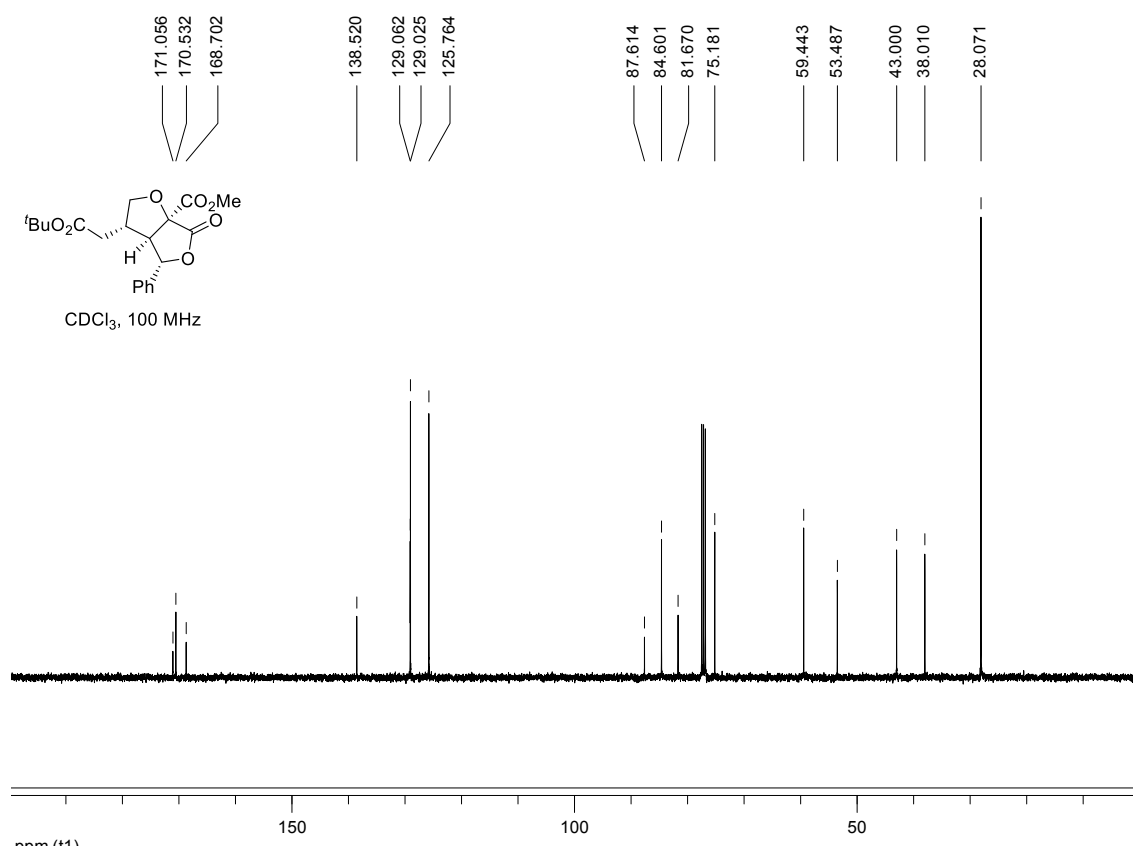
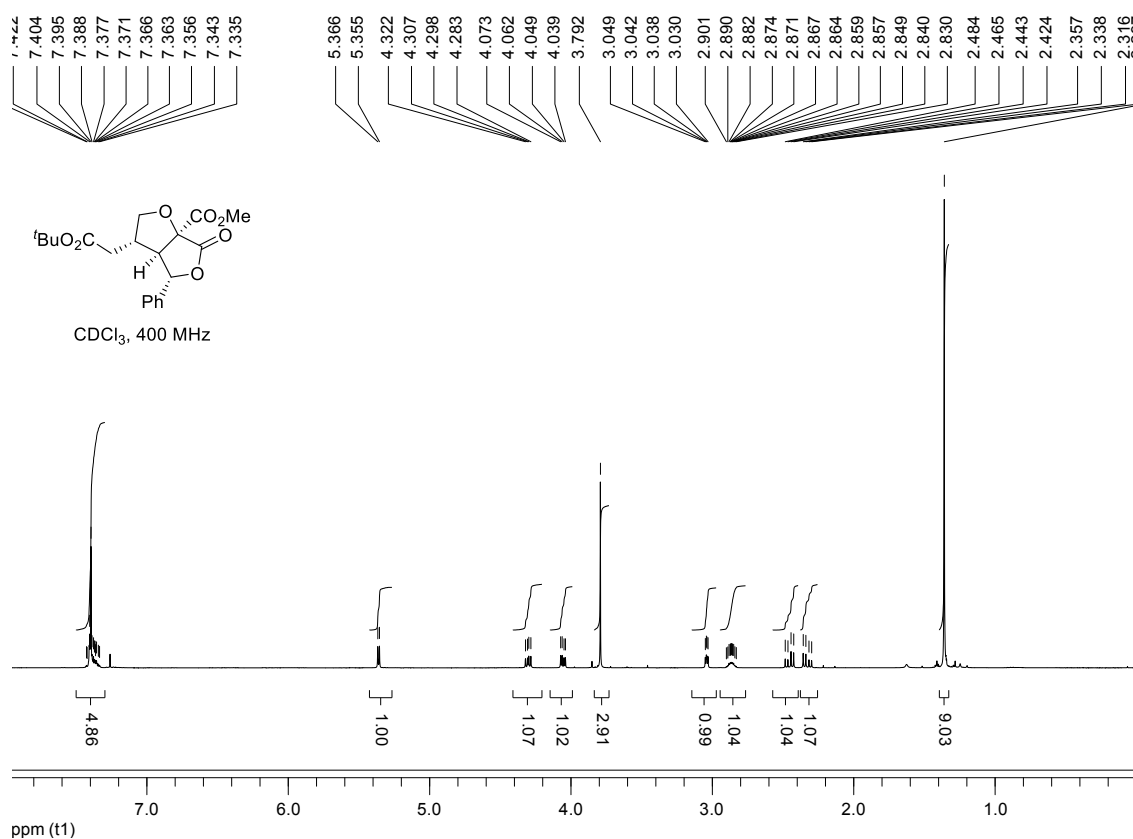
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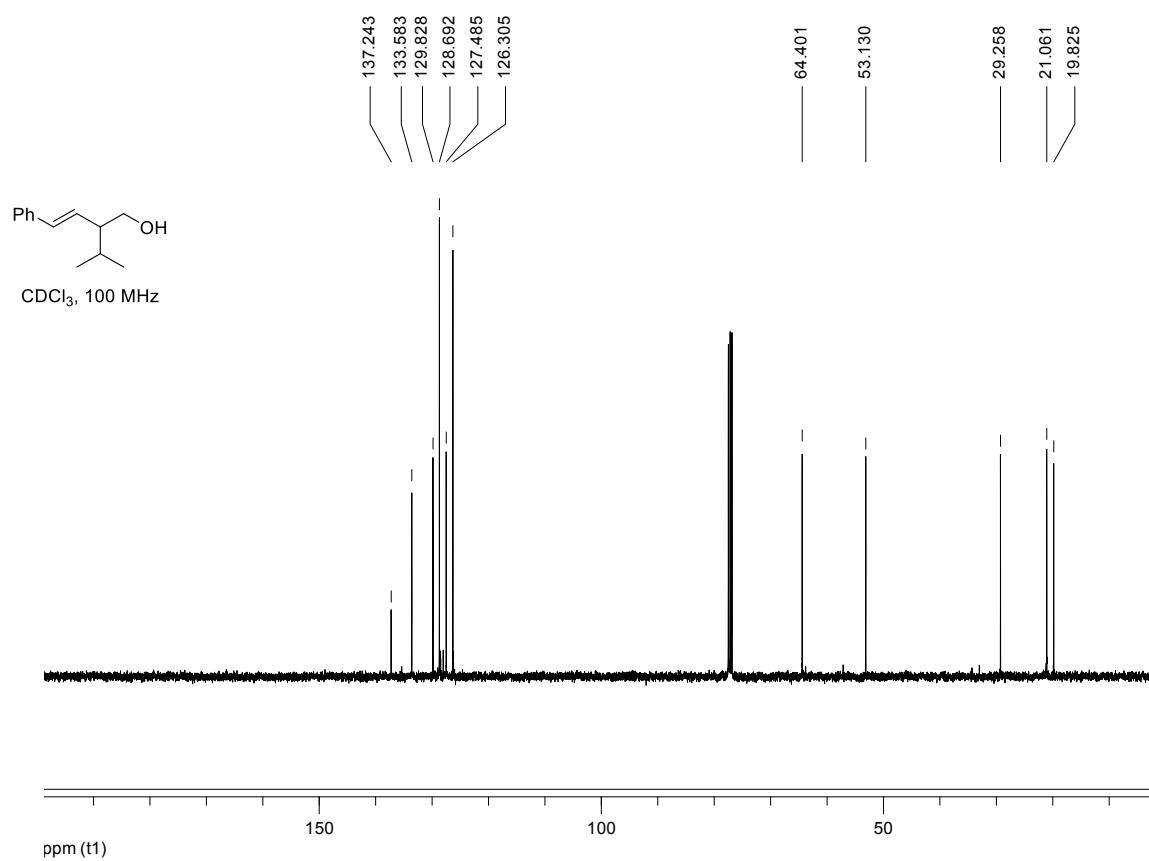
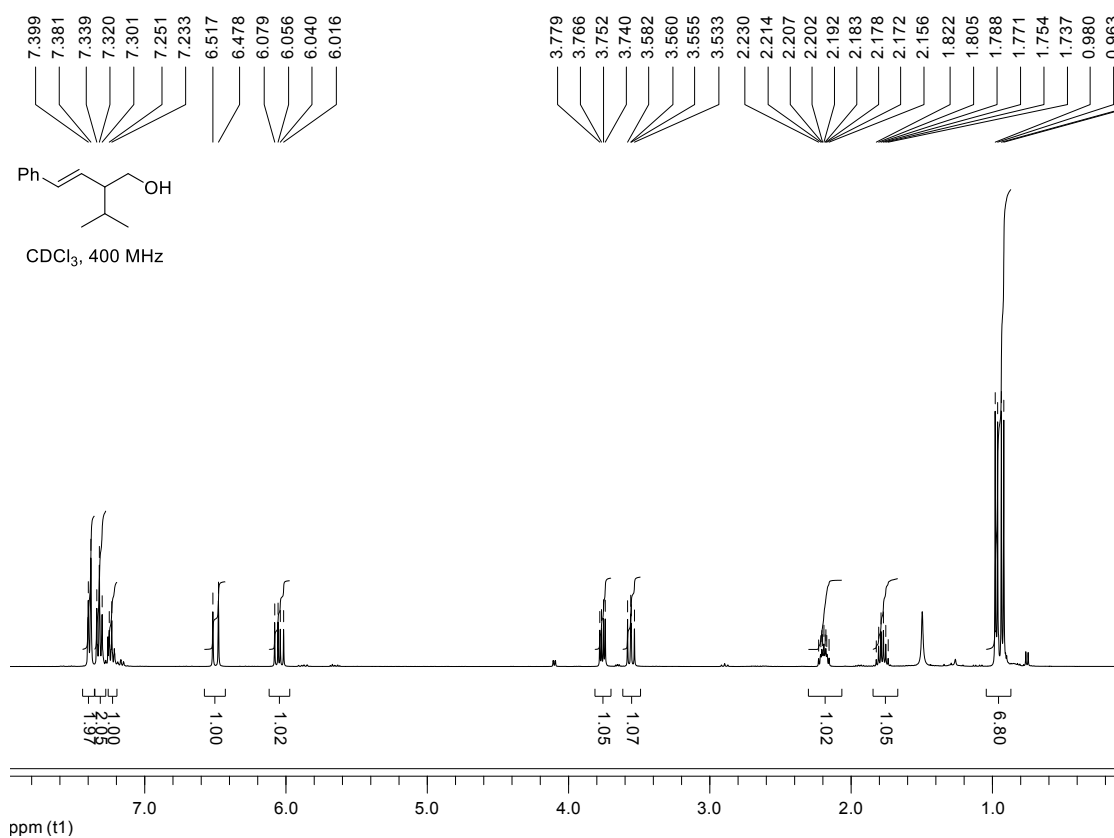
Spectra for compound 9e



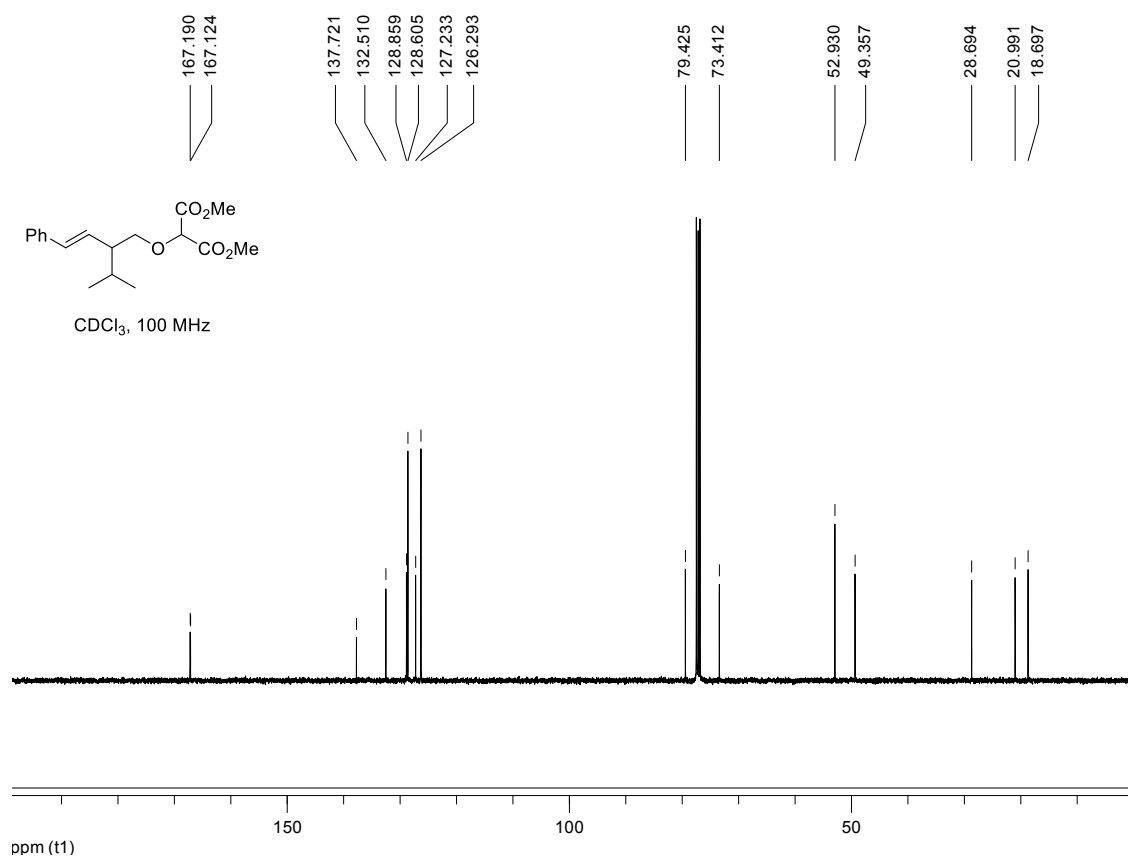
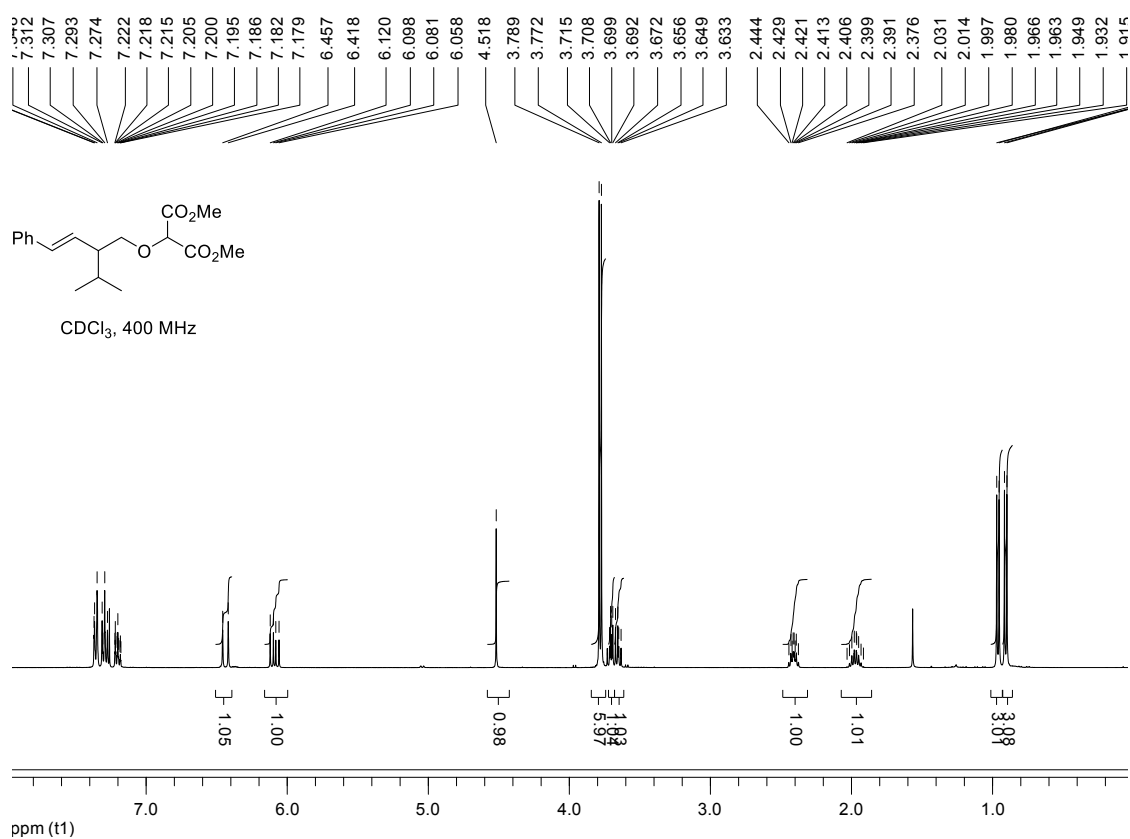
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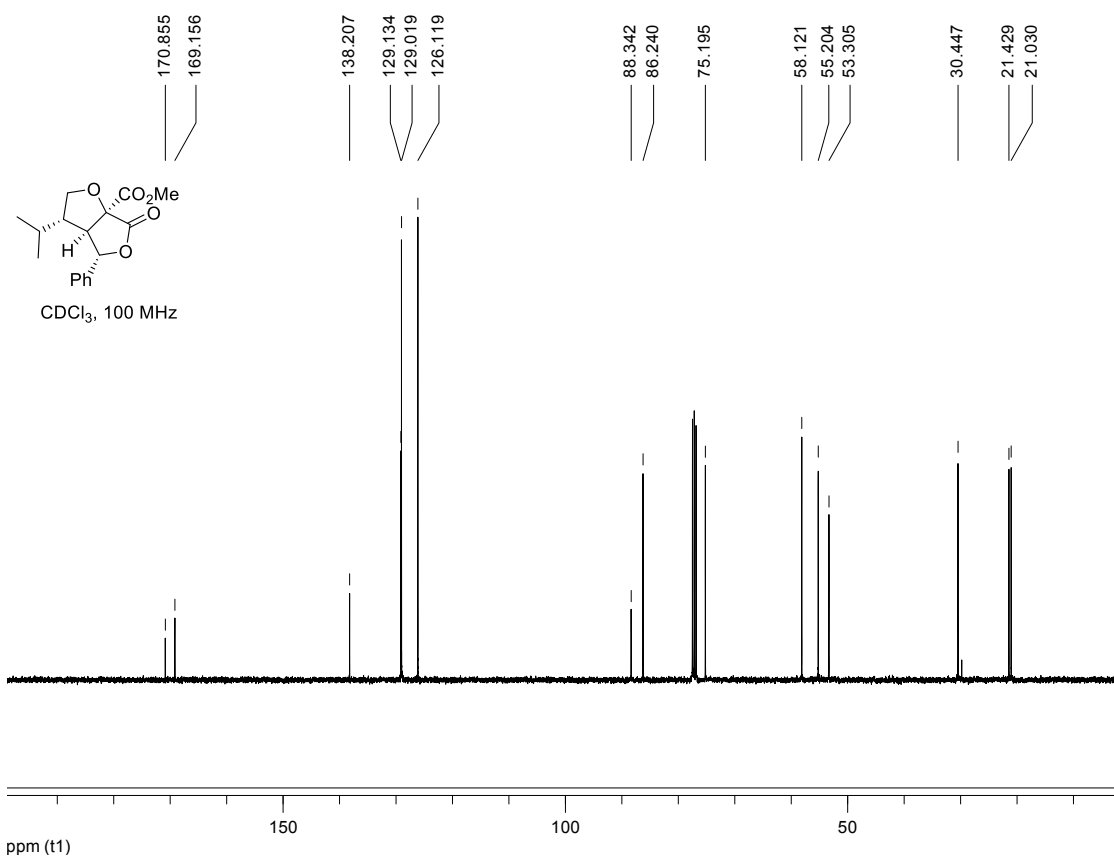
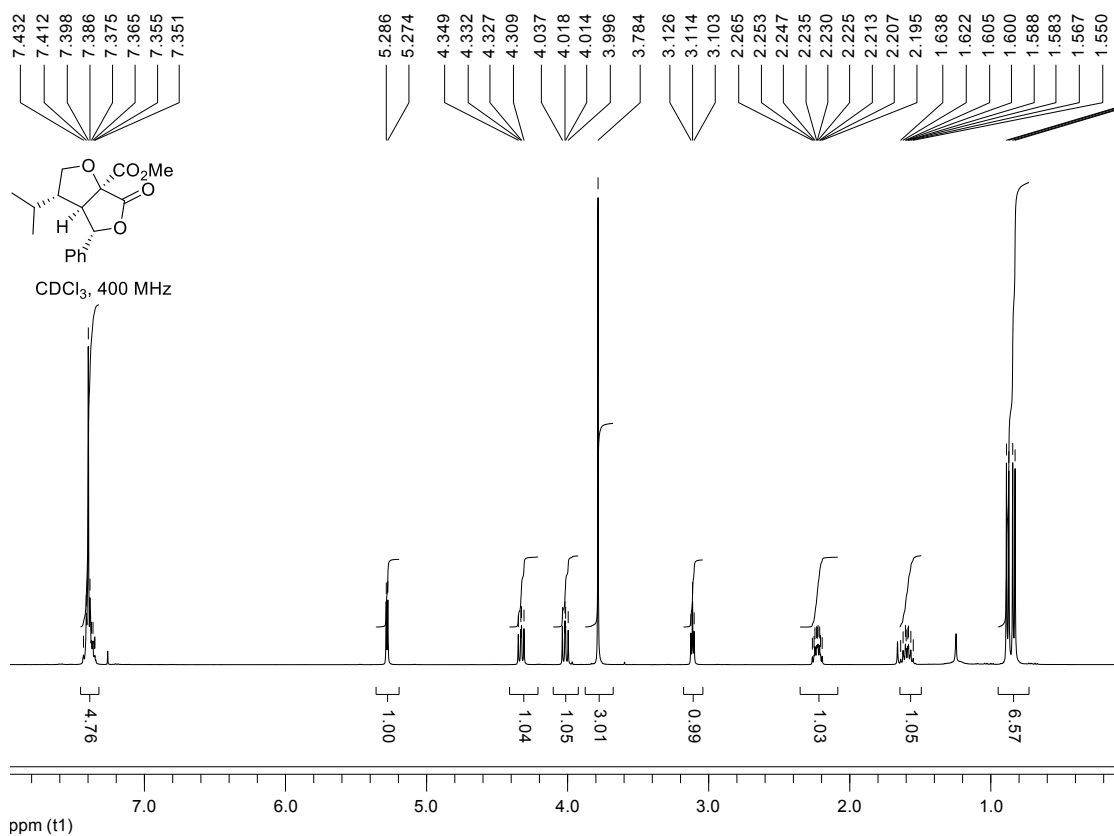
Spectra for compound SI21



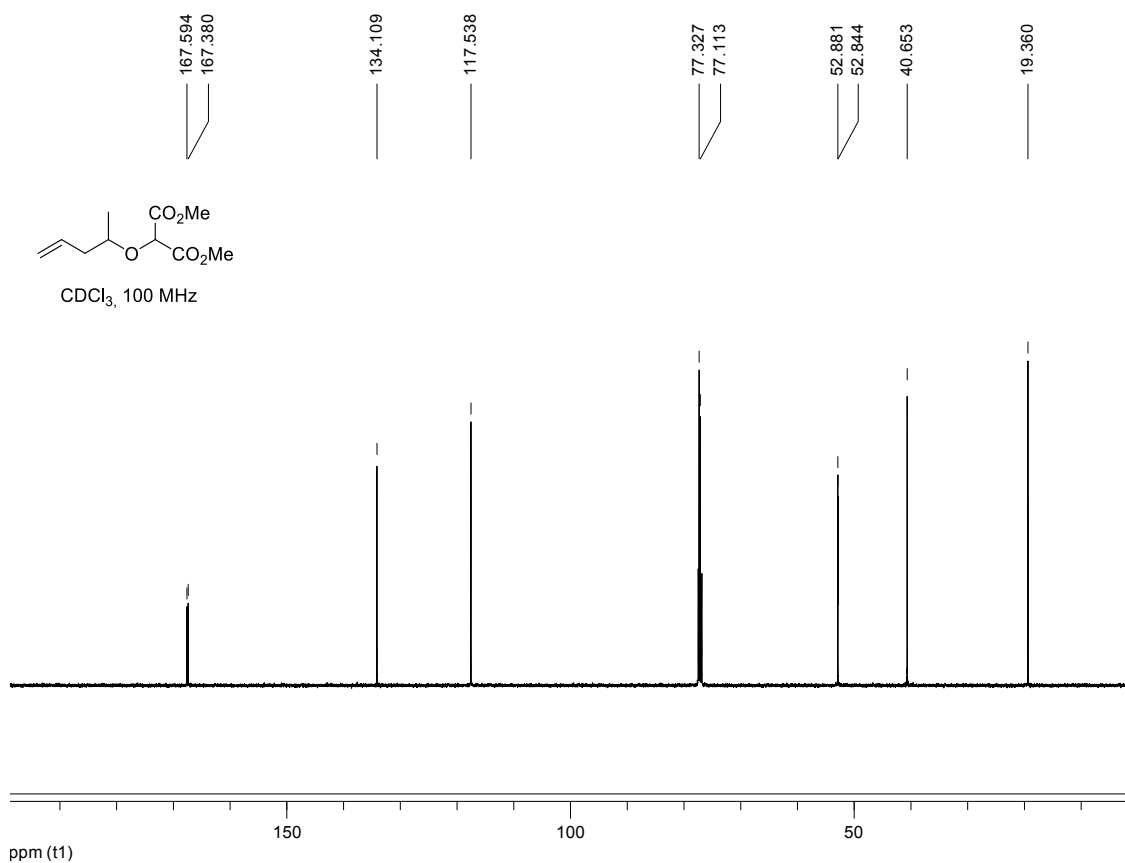
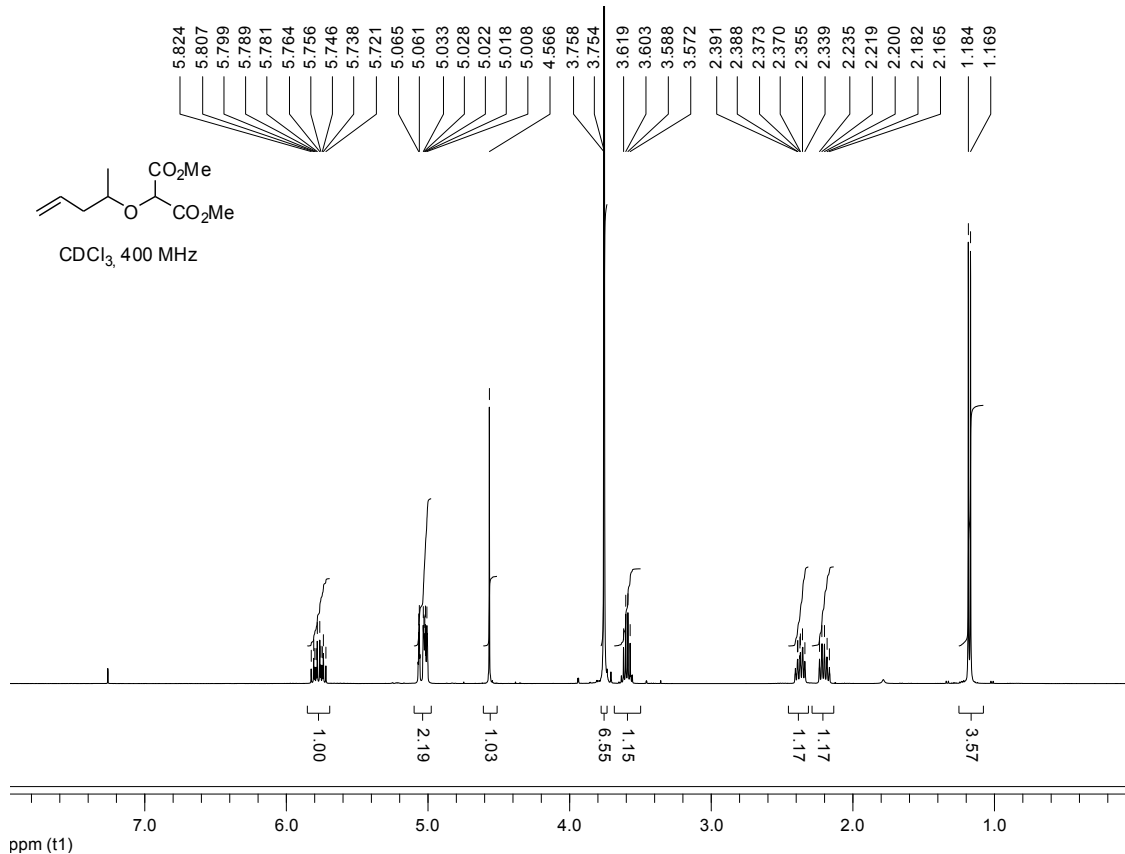
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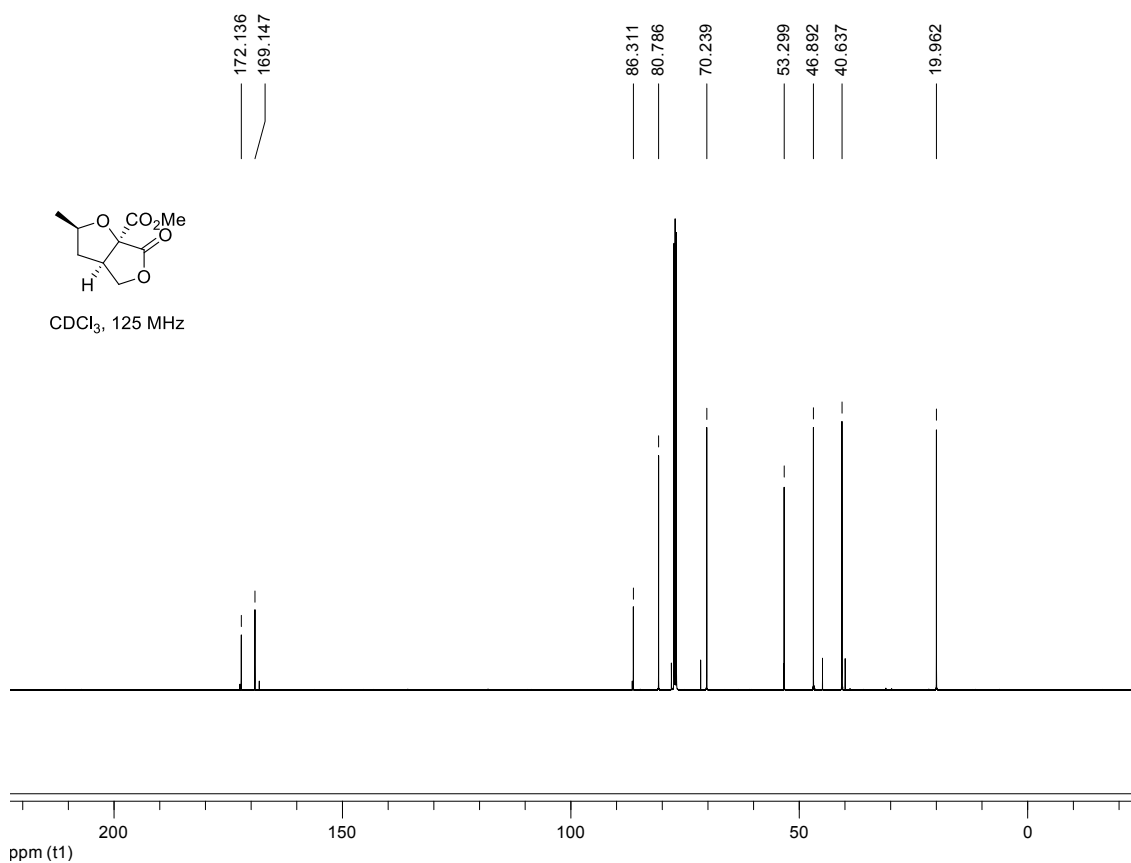
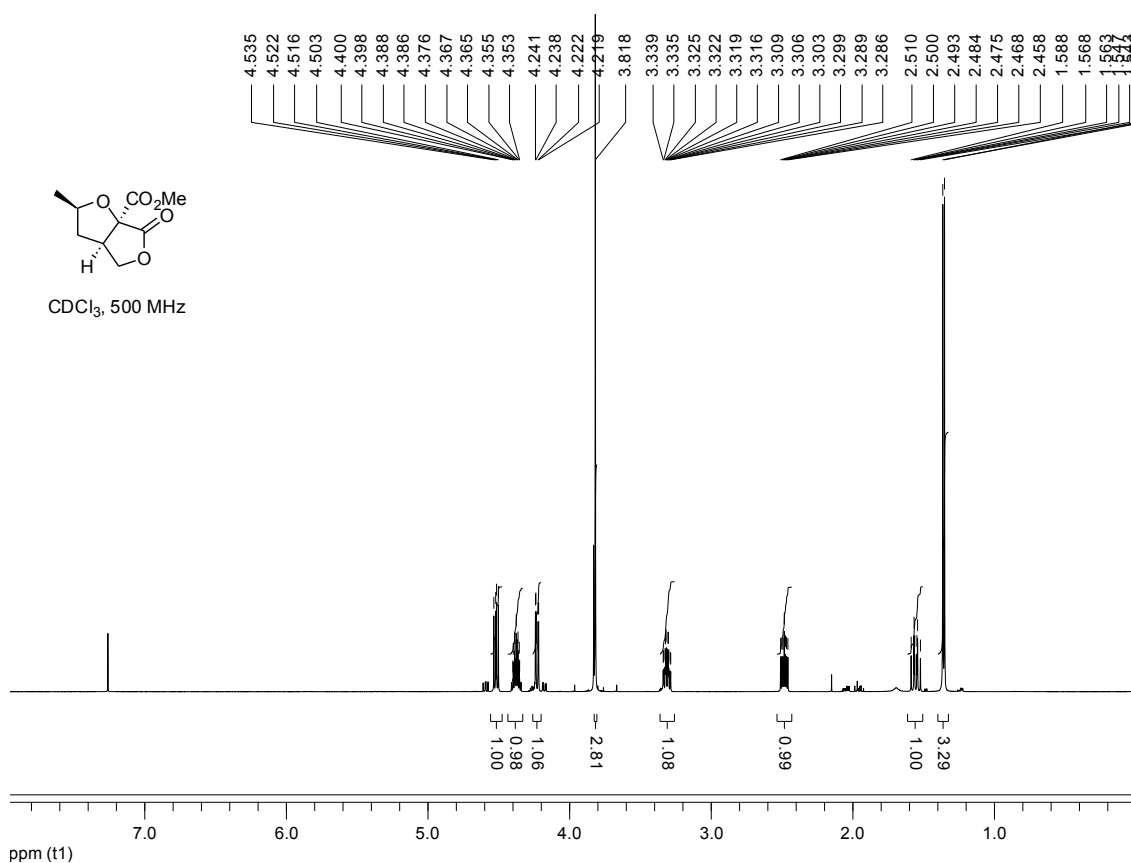
Spectra for compound **10f**



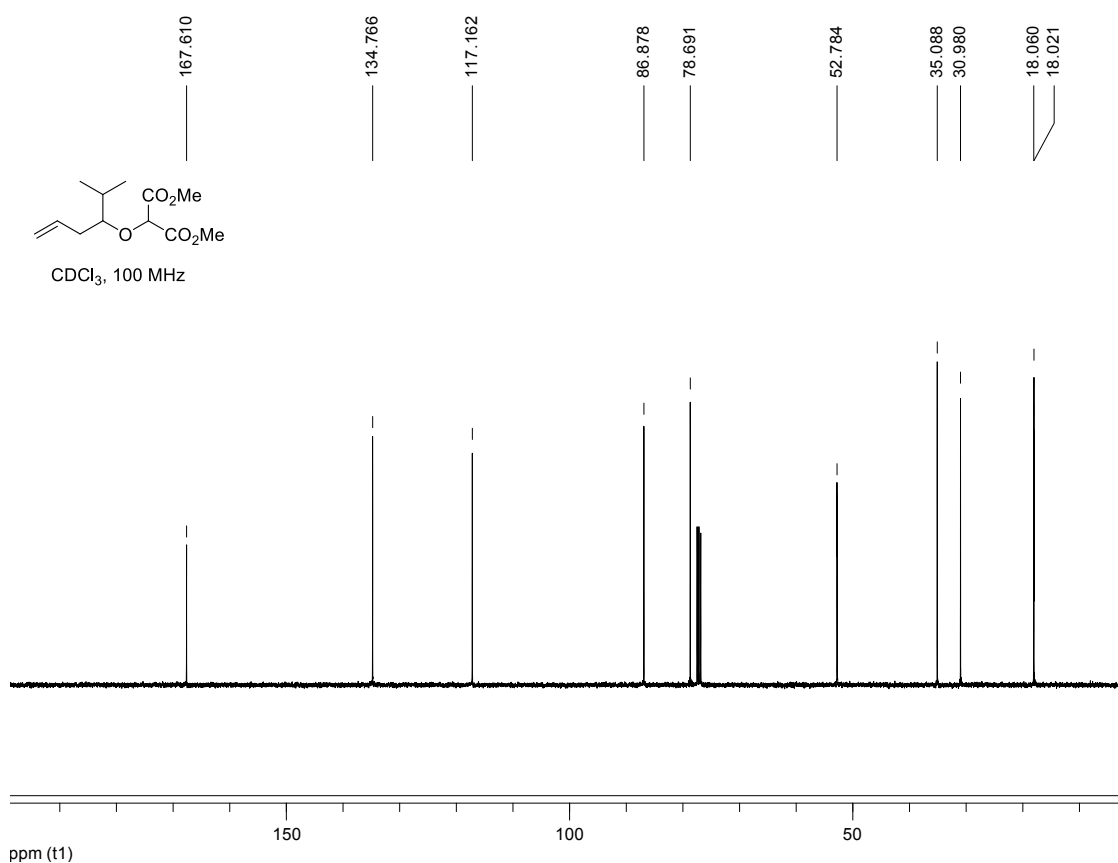
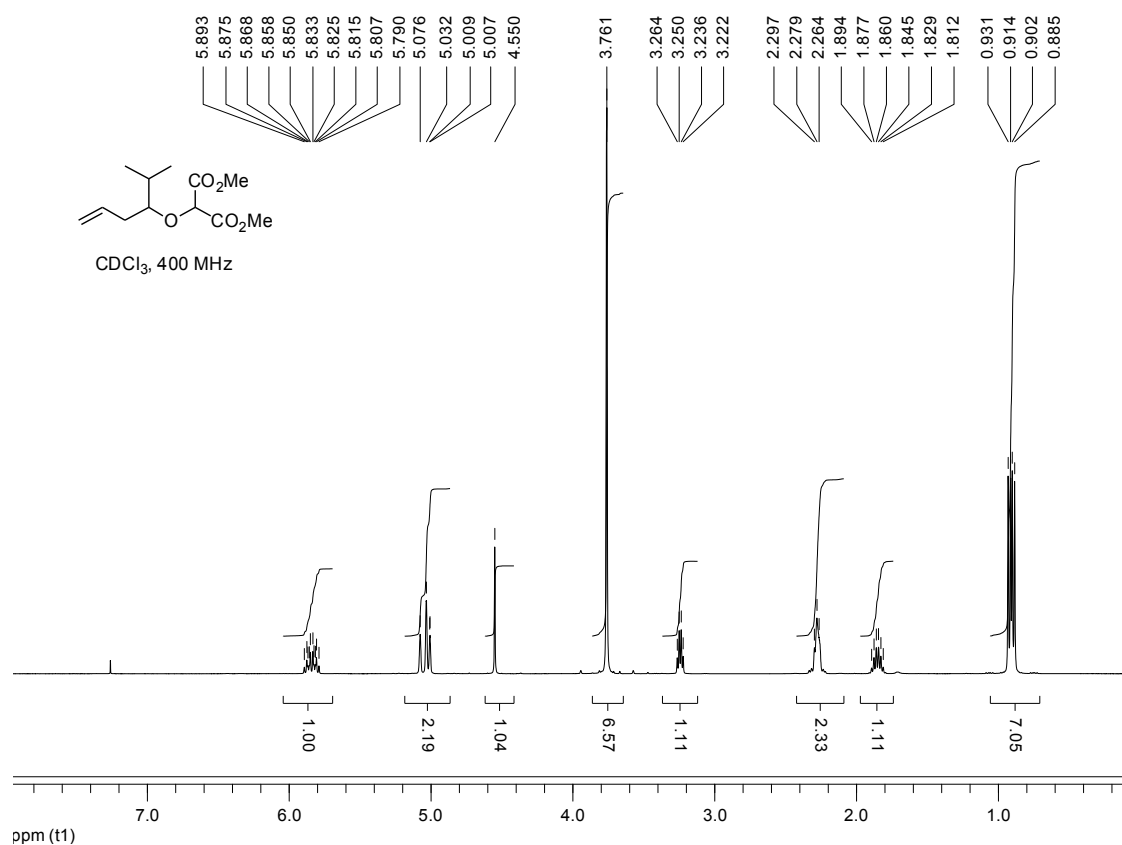
Spectra for compound **11a**



Spectra for compound **12a** (mixture of diastereoisomers after purification d. r. = 8.5:1)

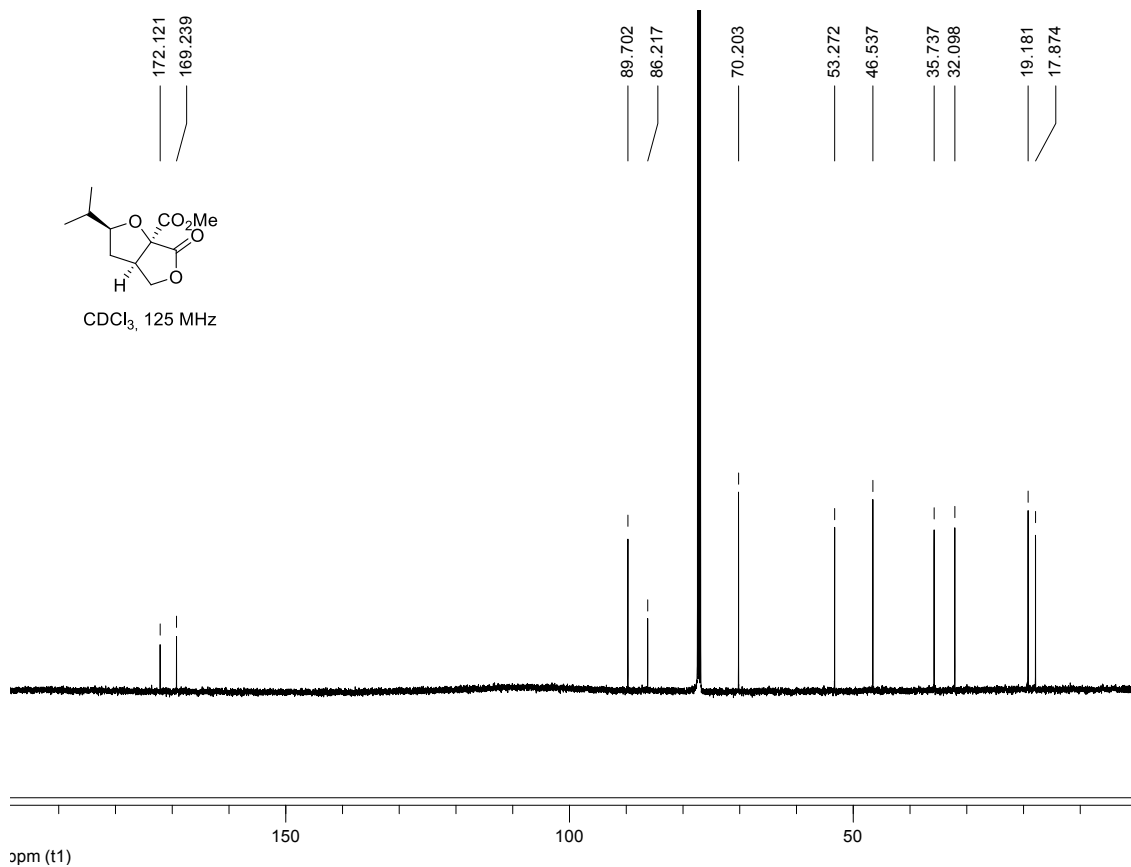


Spectra for compound **11b**

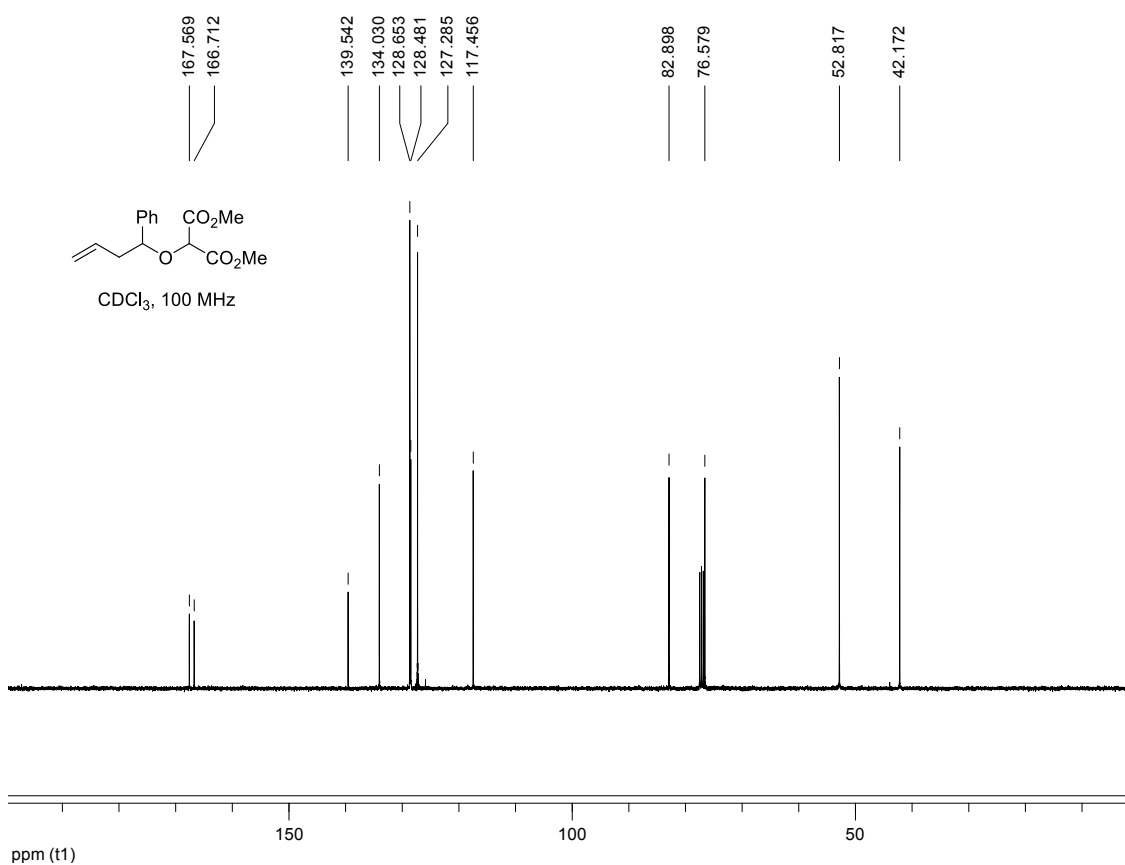
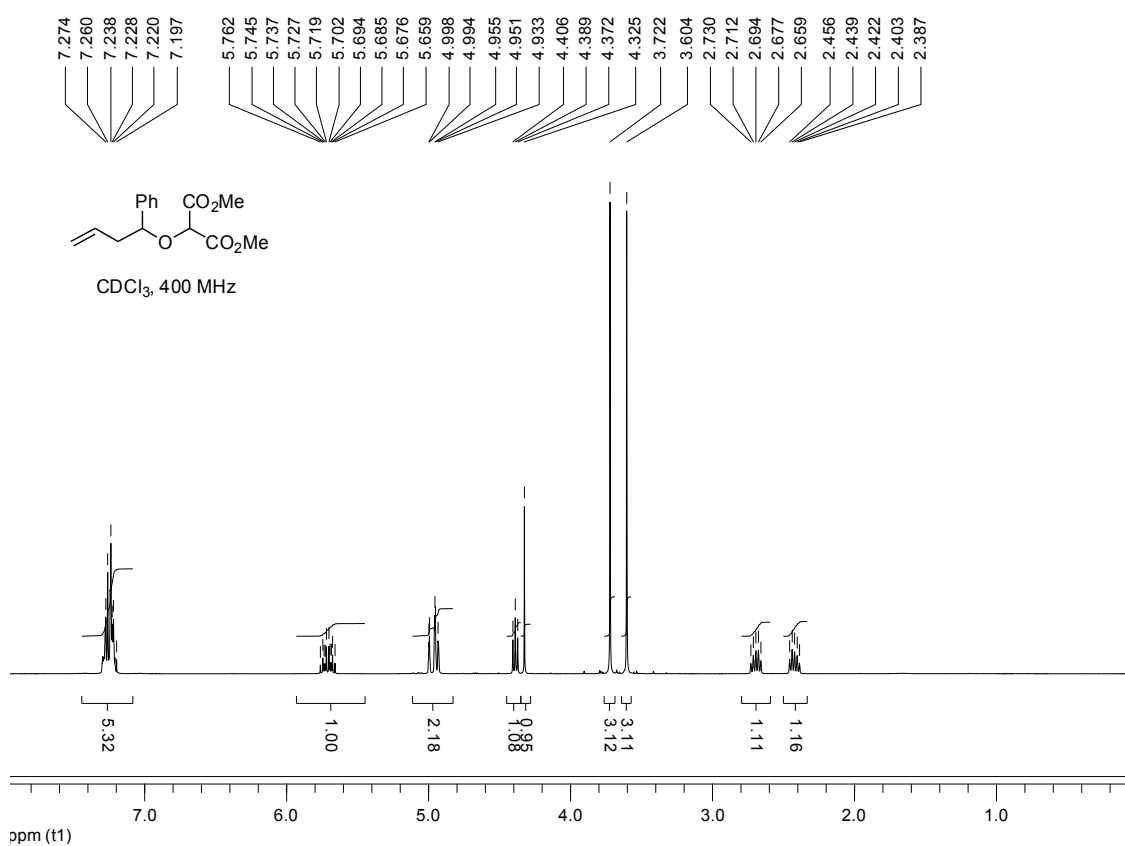


Chemical structure of methyl 2-isopropyl-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-carboxylate is shown. The spectrum is recorded in CDCl_3 at 500 MHz. The x-axis represents the chemical shift in ppm (t1), ranging from 1.0 to 7.5. The spectrum displays several multiplets and singlets, with integration values provided below the baseline. The chemical shift values (ppm) are listed above the peaks: 4.536, 4.523, 4.518, 4.505, 4.235, 4.233, 4.216, 4.214, 4.051, 4.041, 4.037, 4.028, 4.020, 4.016, 4.006, 3.825, 3.314, 3.311, 3.295, 3.281, 3.279, 3.265, 3.262, 2.402, 2.392, 2.385, 2.376, 2.367, 2.360, 2.350, 1.905, 1.892, 1.878, 1.865, 1.851, 1.838, 1.661, 1.641, 1.637.

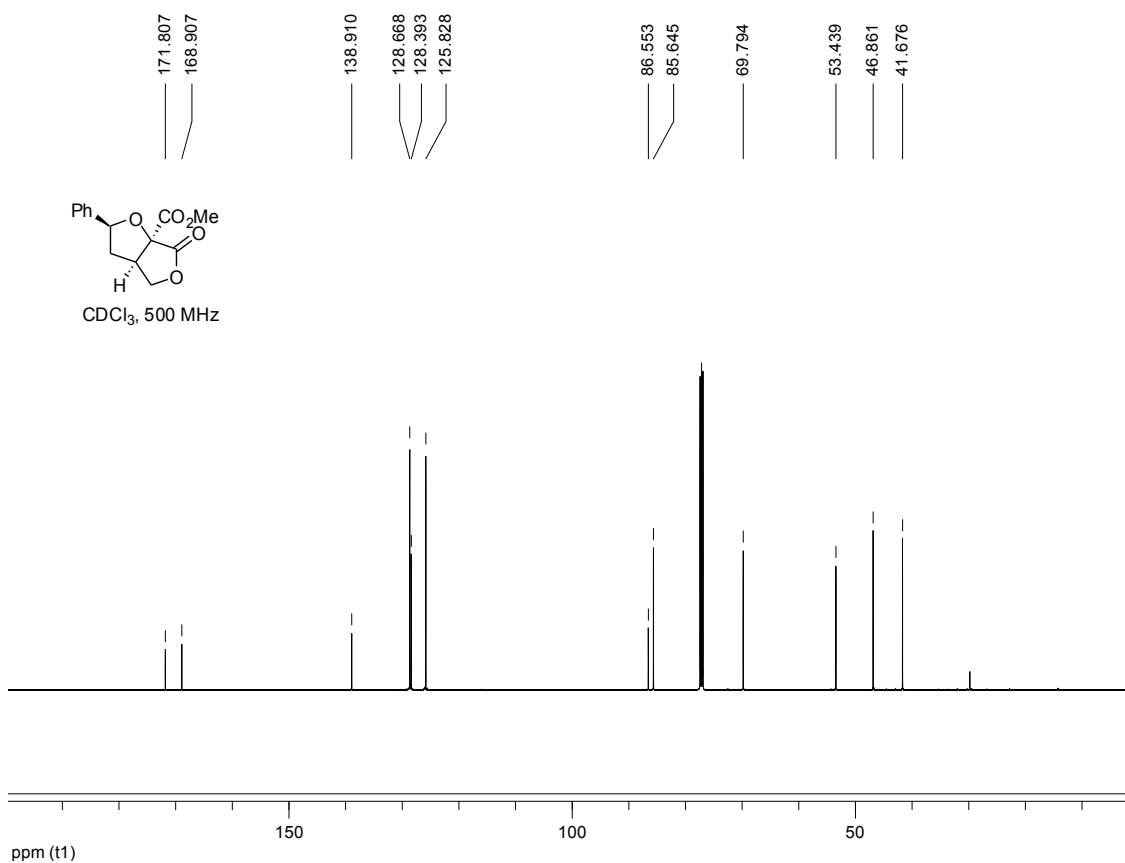
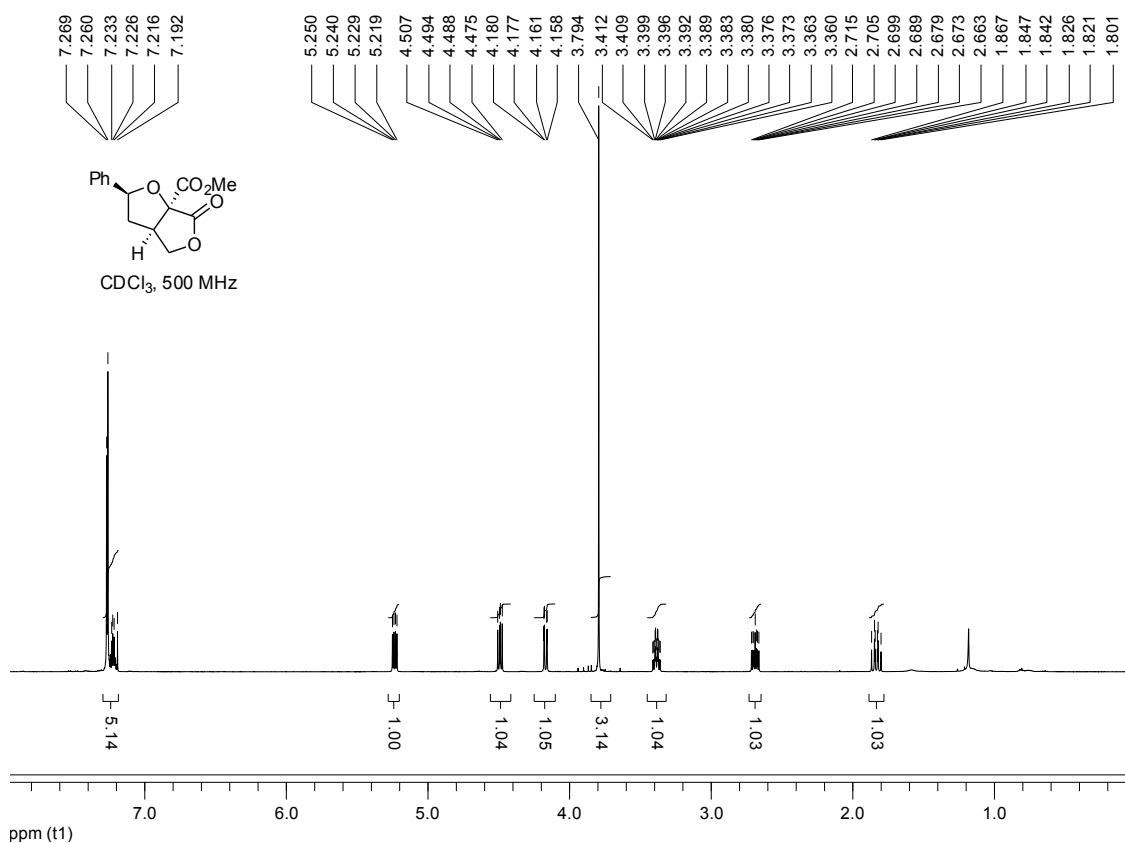
Chemical Shift (ppm)	Integration
4.536	1.00
4.523	0.98
4.518	0.91
4.505	2.85
4.235	0.93
4.233	0.95
4.216	1.22
4.214	3.06
4.051	3.05
4.041	3.05
4.037	3.05
4.028	3.05
4.020	3.05
4.016	3.05
4.006	3.05
3.825	3.05
3.314	3.05
3.311	3.05
3.295	3.05
3.281	3.05
3.279	3.05
3.265	3.05
3.262	3.05
2.402	3.05
2.392	3.05
2.385	3.05
2.376	3.05
2.367	3.05
2.360	3.05
2.350	3.05
1.905	3.05
1.892	3.05
1.878	3.05
1.865	3.05
1.851	3.05
1.838	3.05
1.661	3.05
1.641	3.05
1.637	3.05



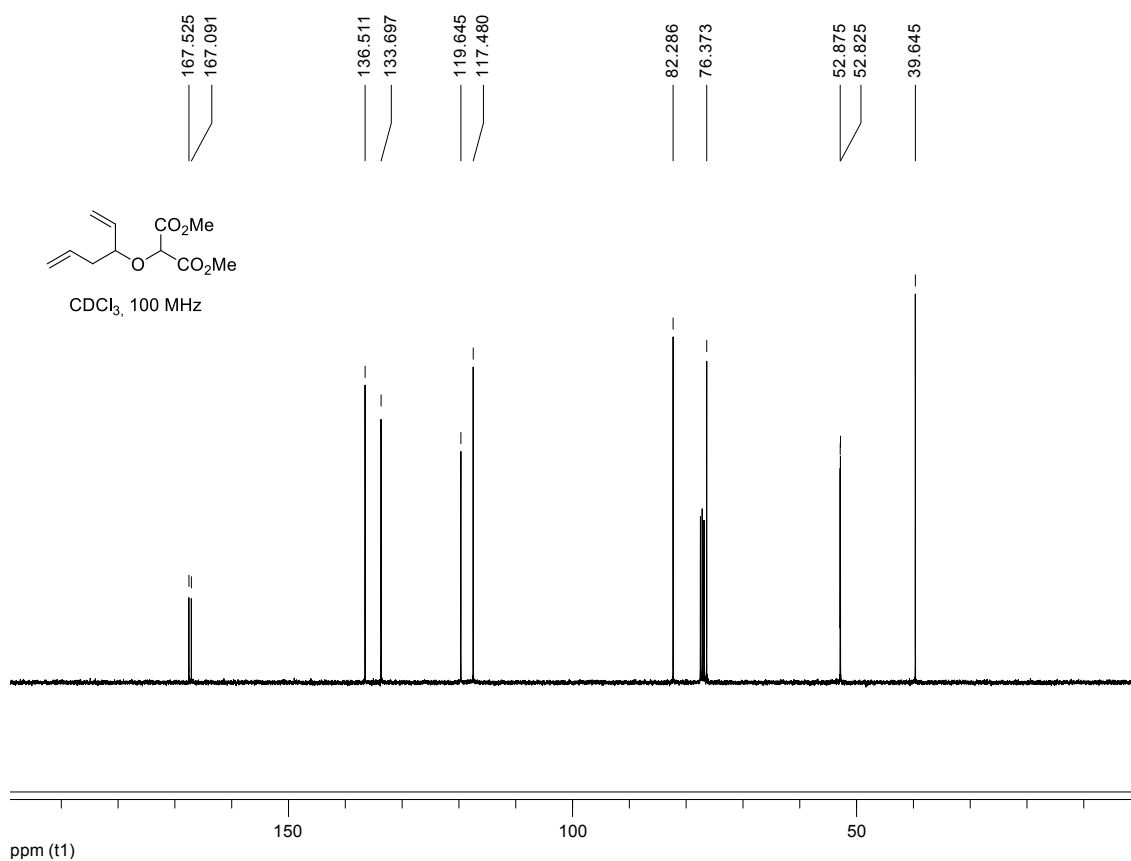
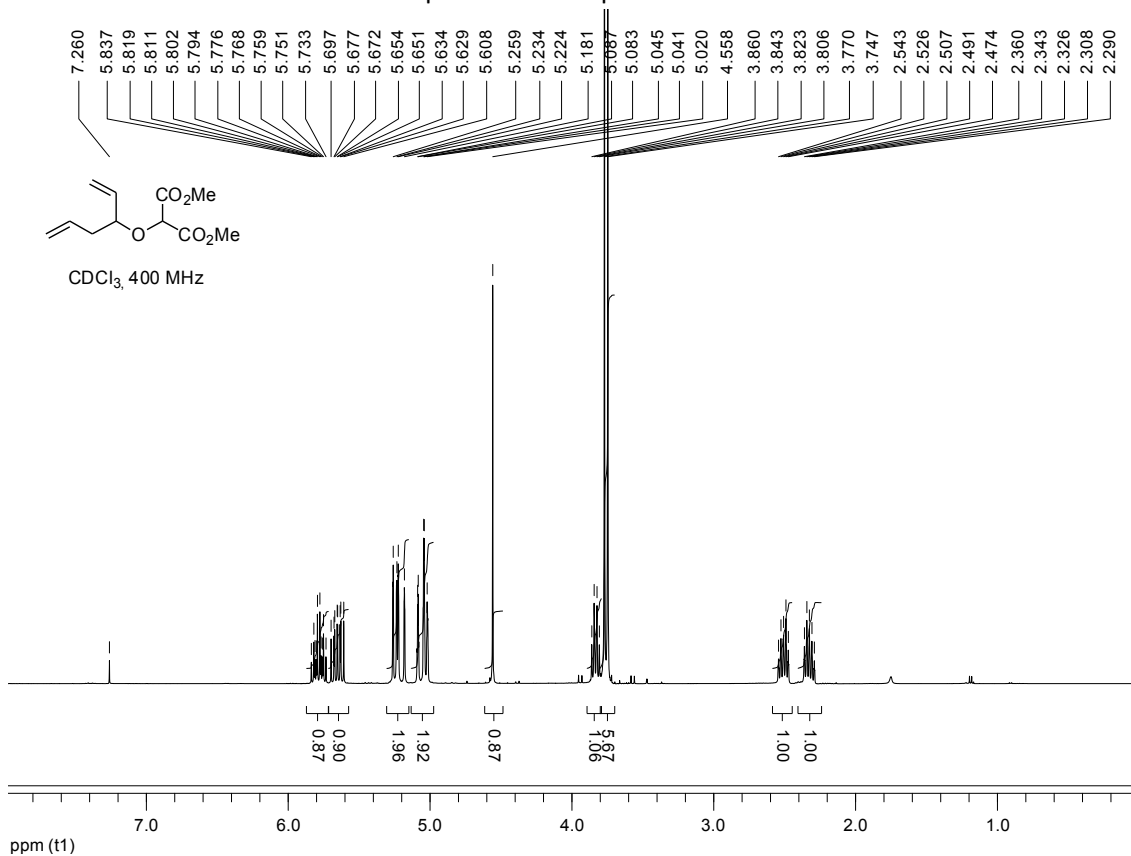
Spectra for compound **11c**



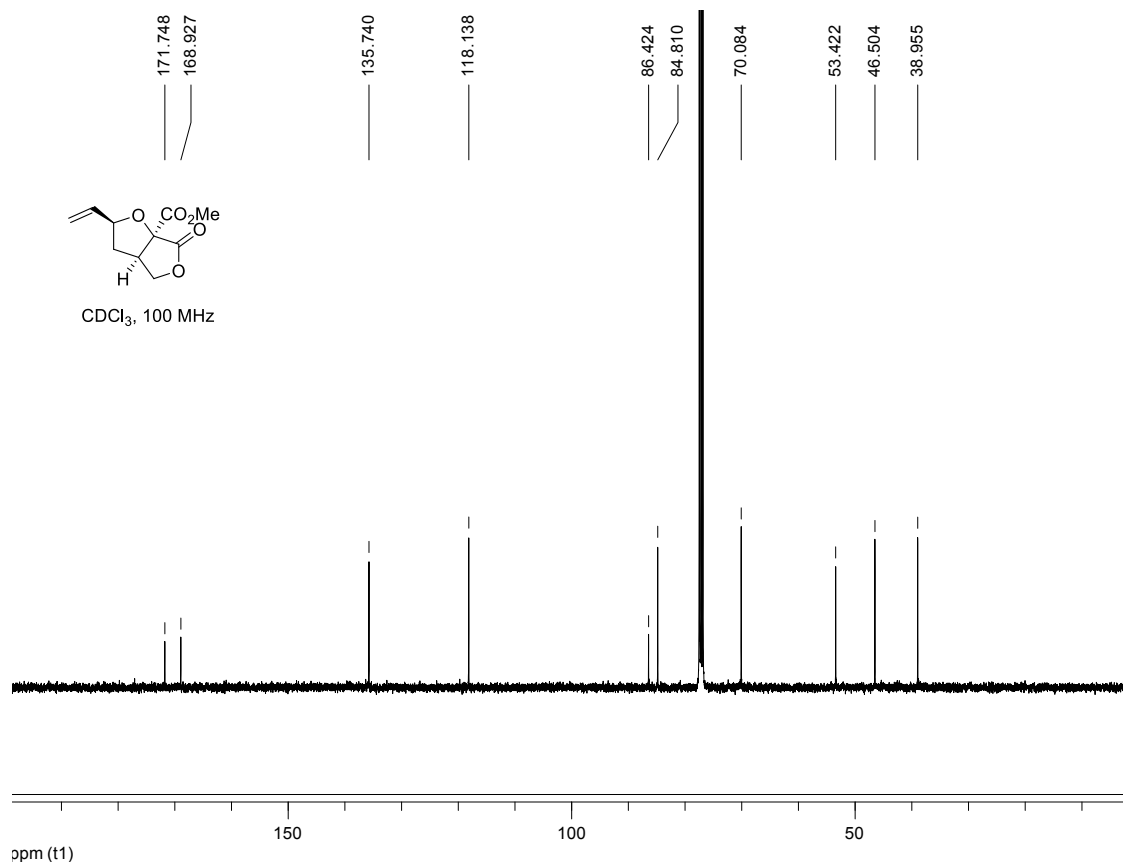
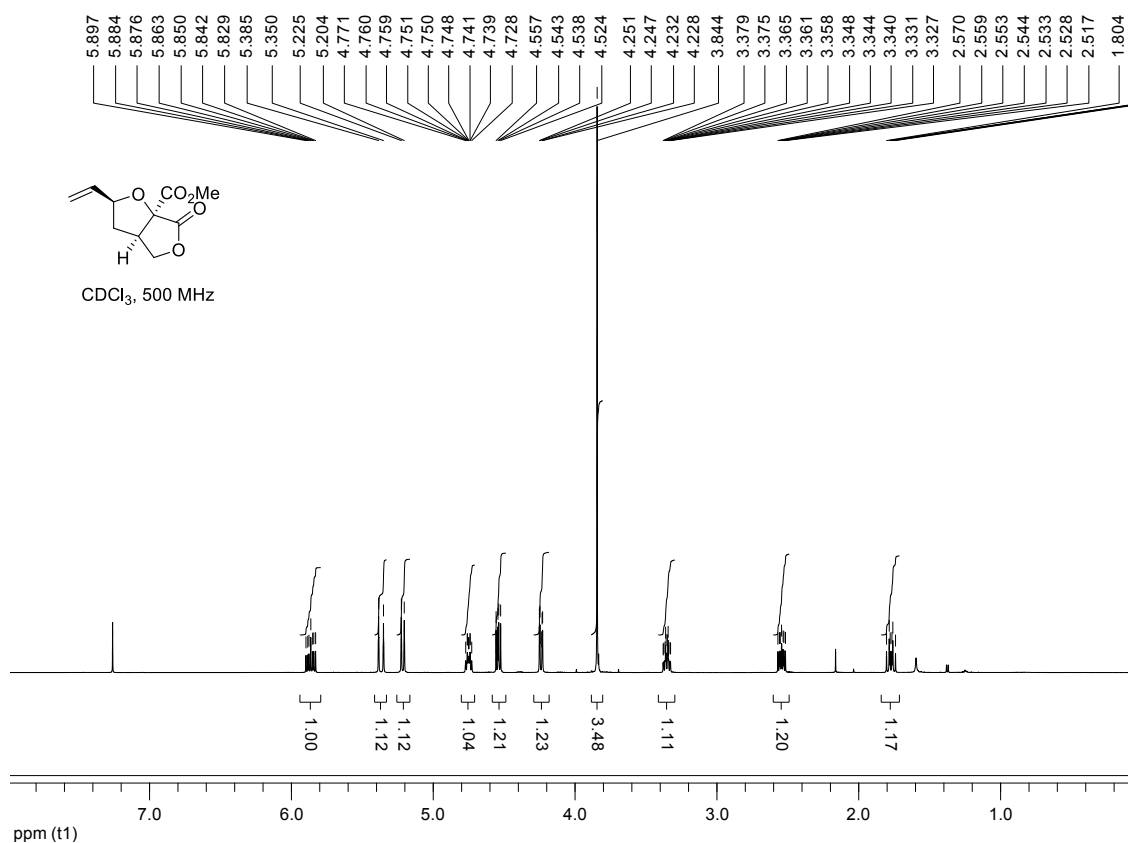
Spectra for compound **12c**



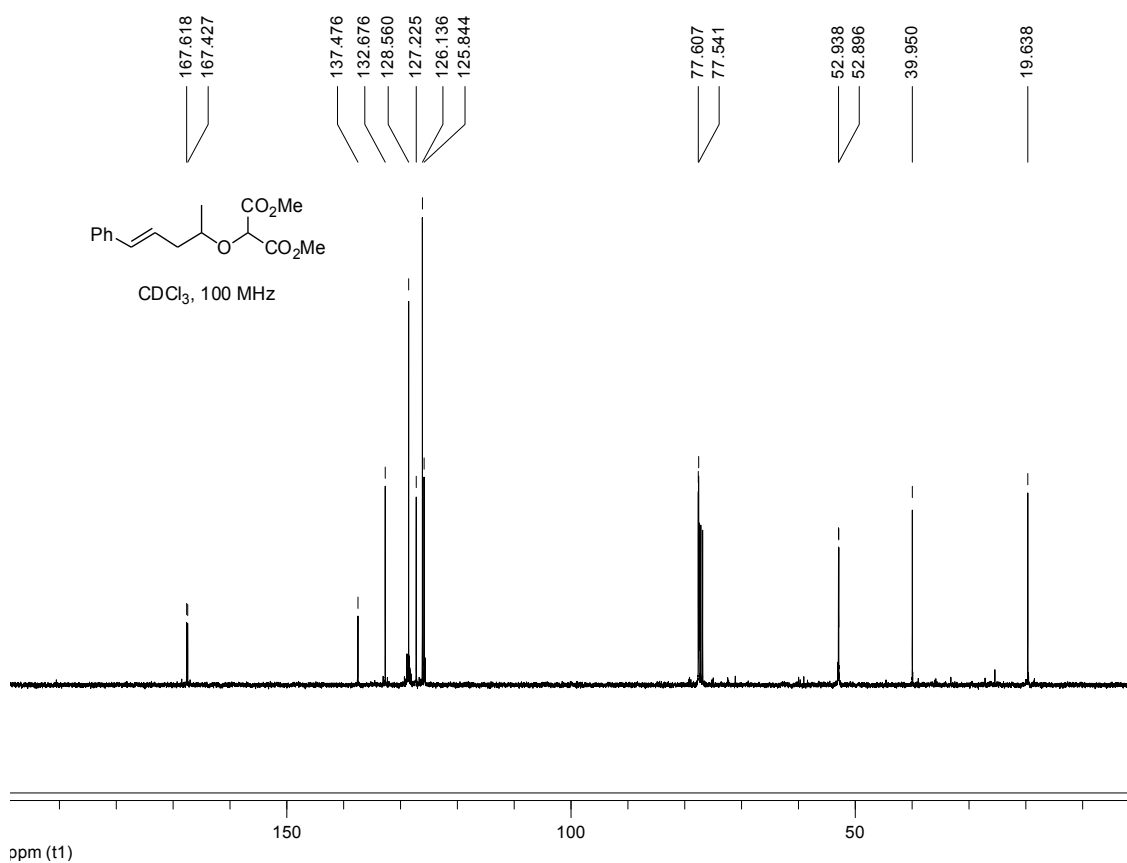
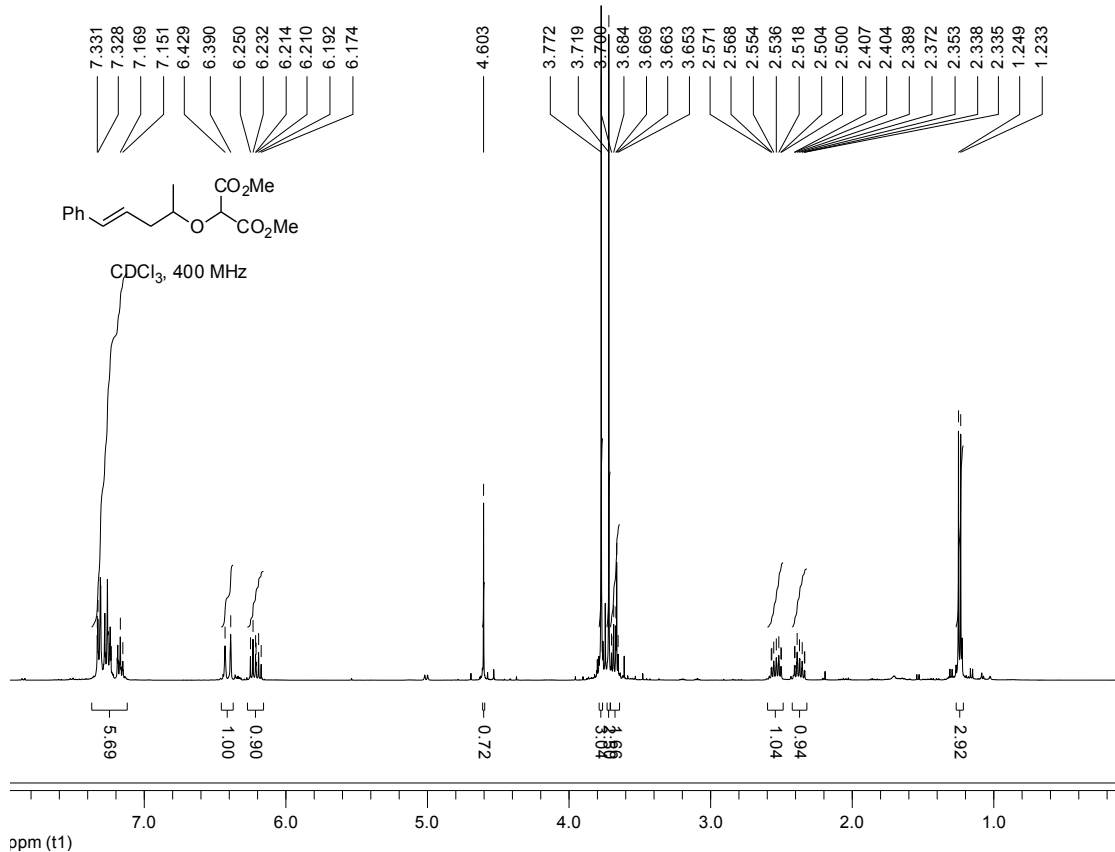
Spectra for compound **11d**



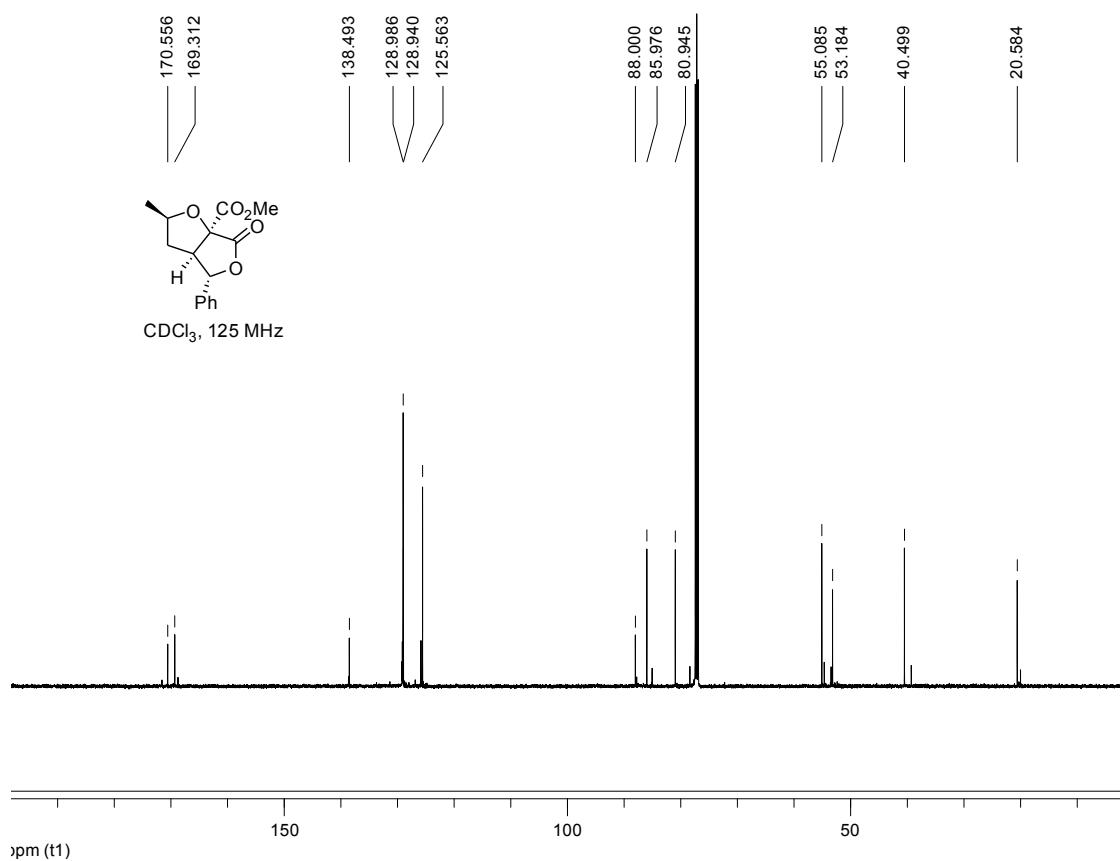
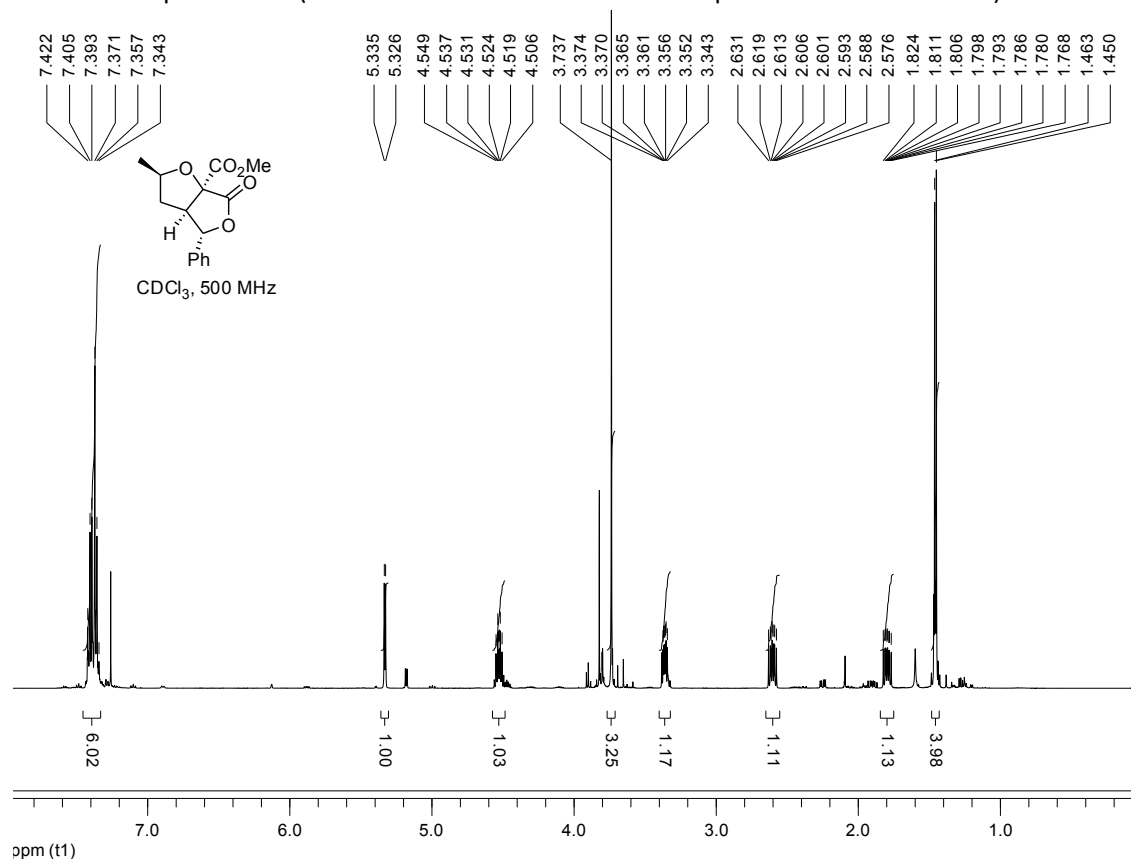
Spectra for compound **12d**



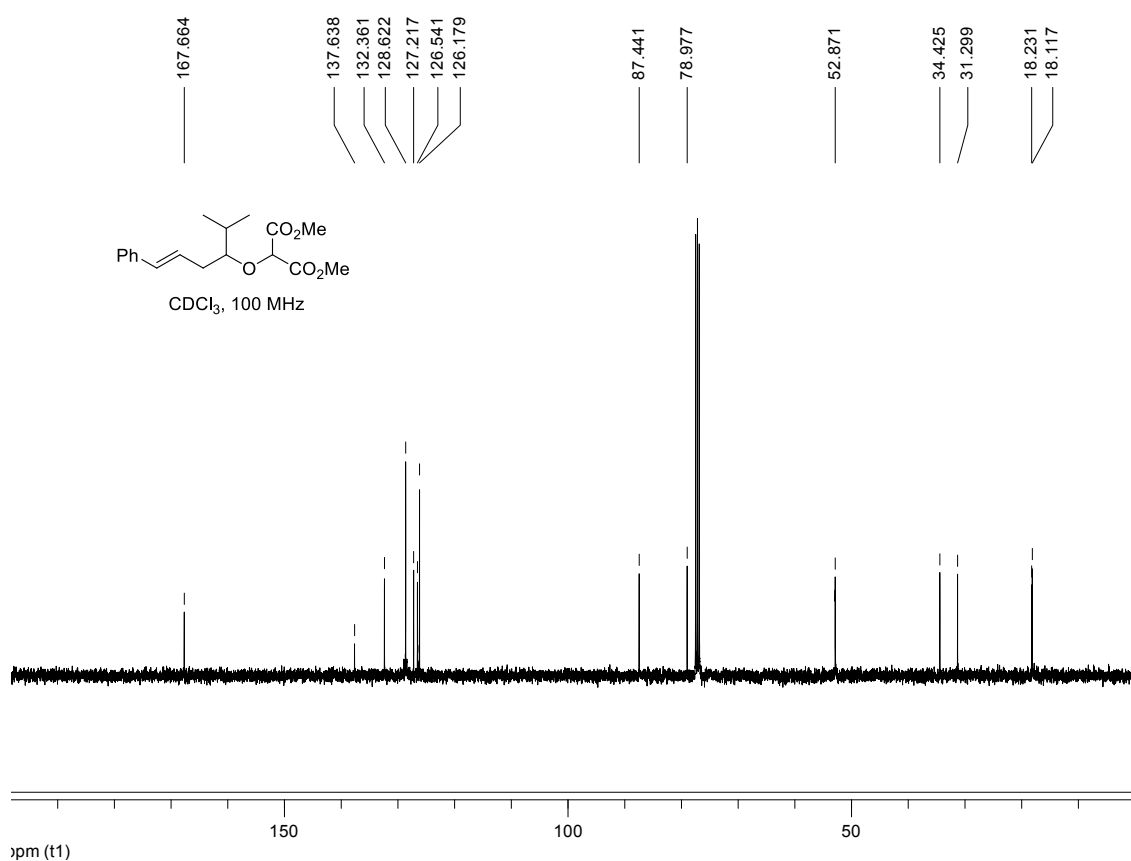
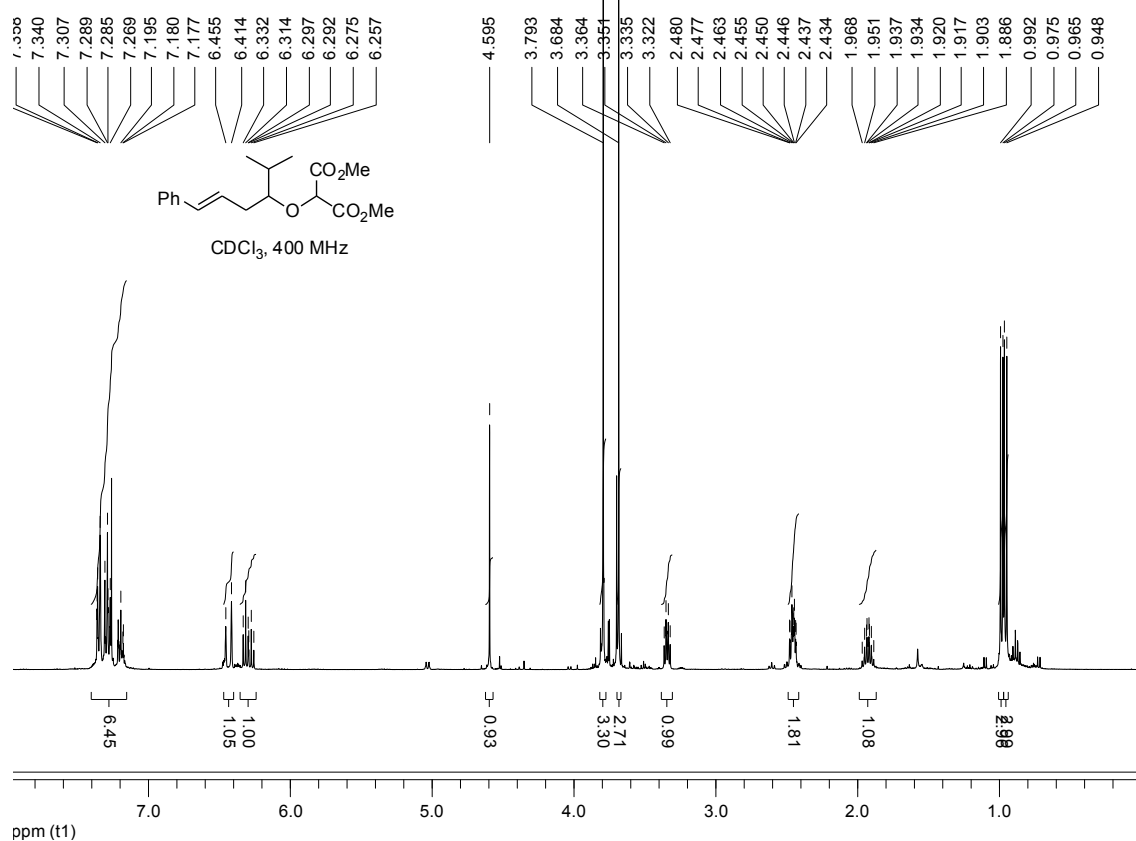
Spectra for compound **11e**



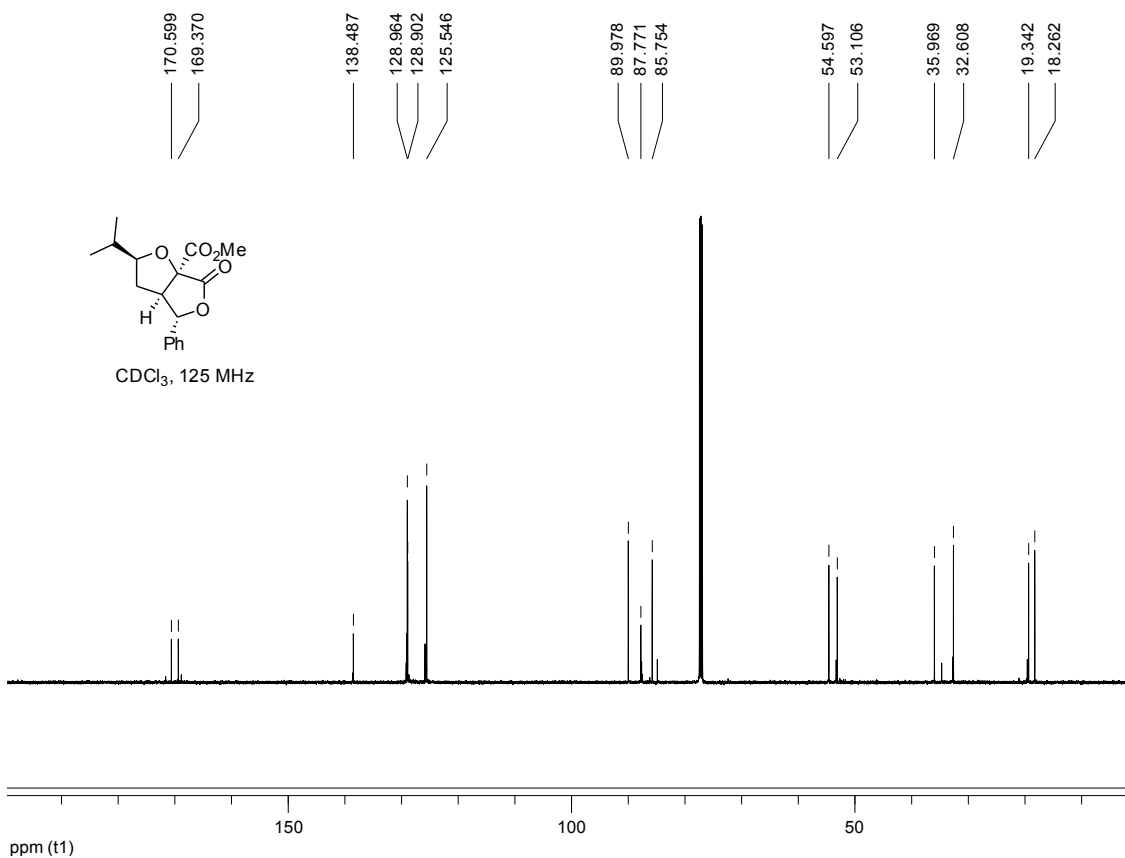
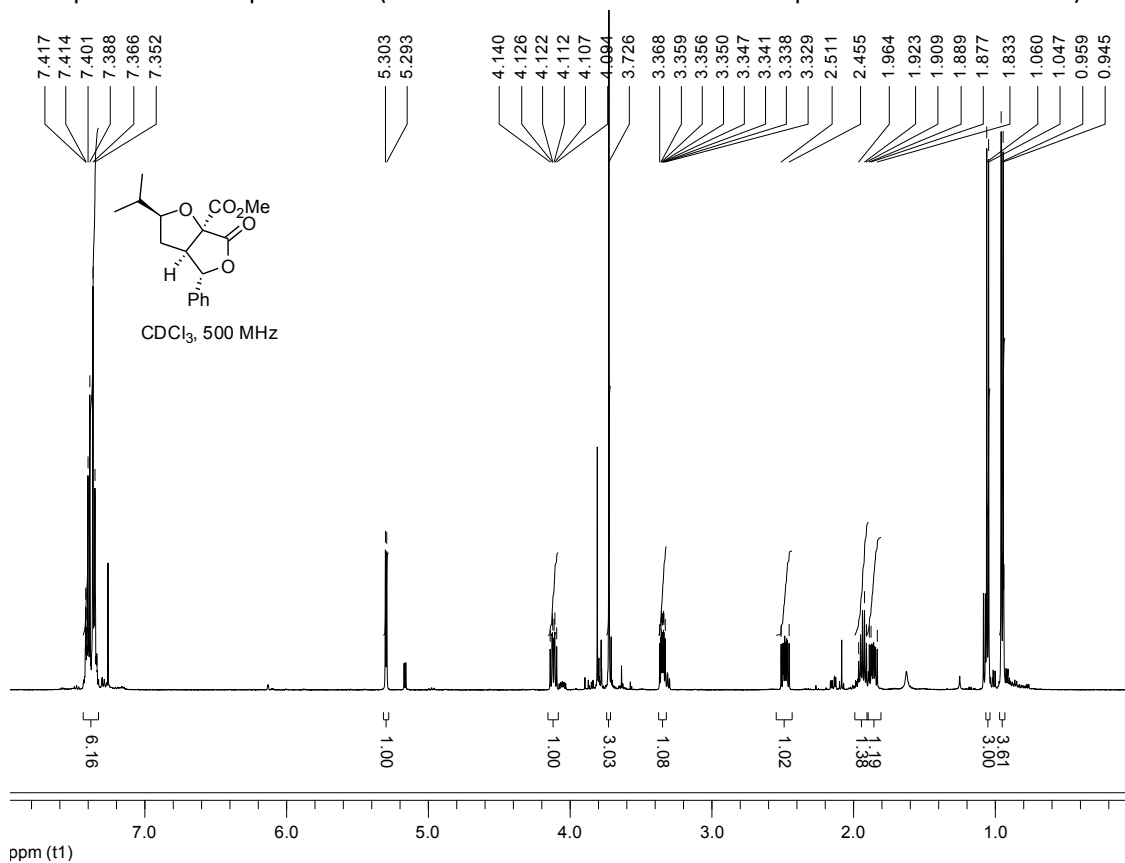
Spectra for compound **12e** (mixture of diastereoisomers after purification d. r. = 5.6:1)



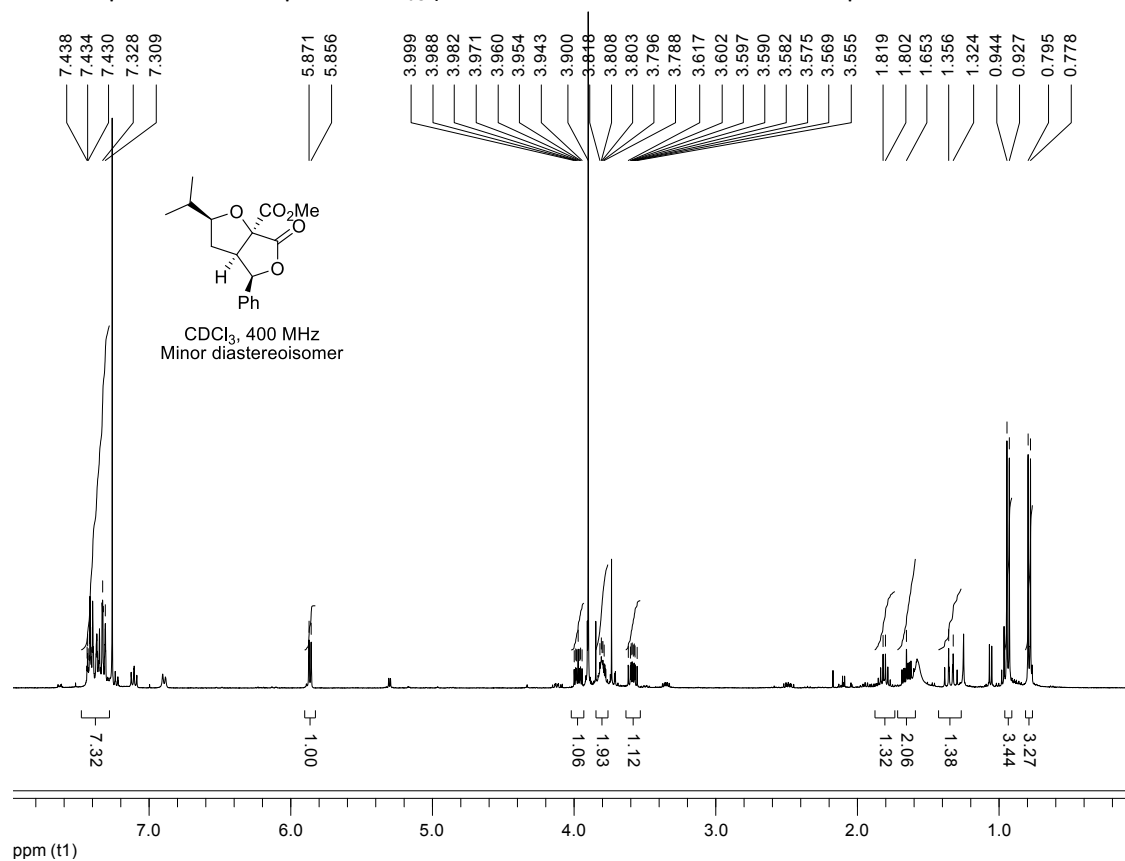
Spectra for compound **11f**



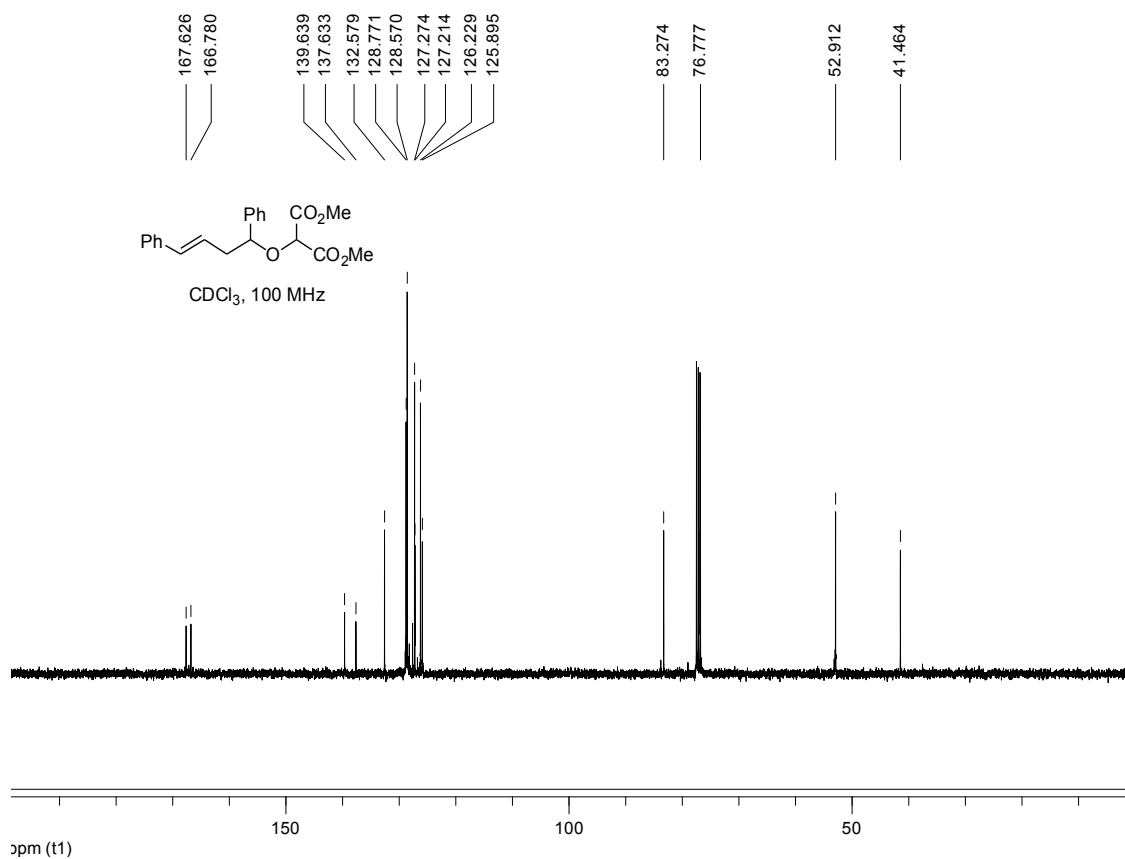
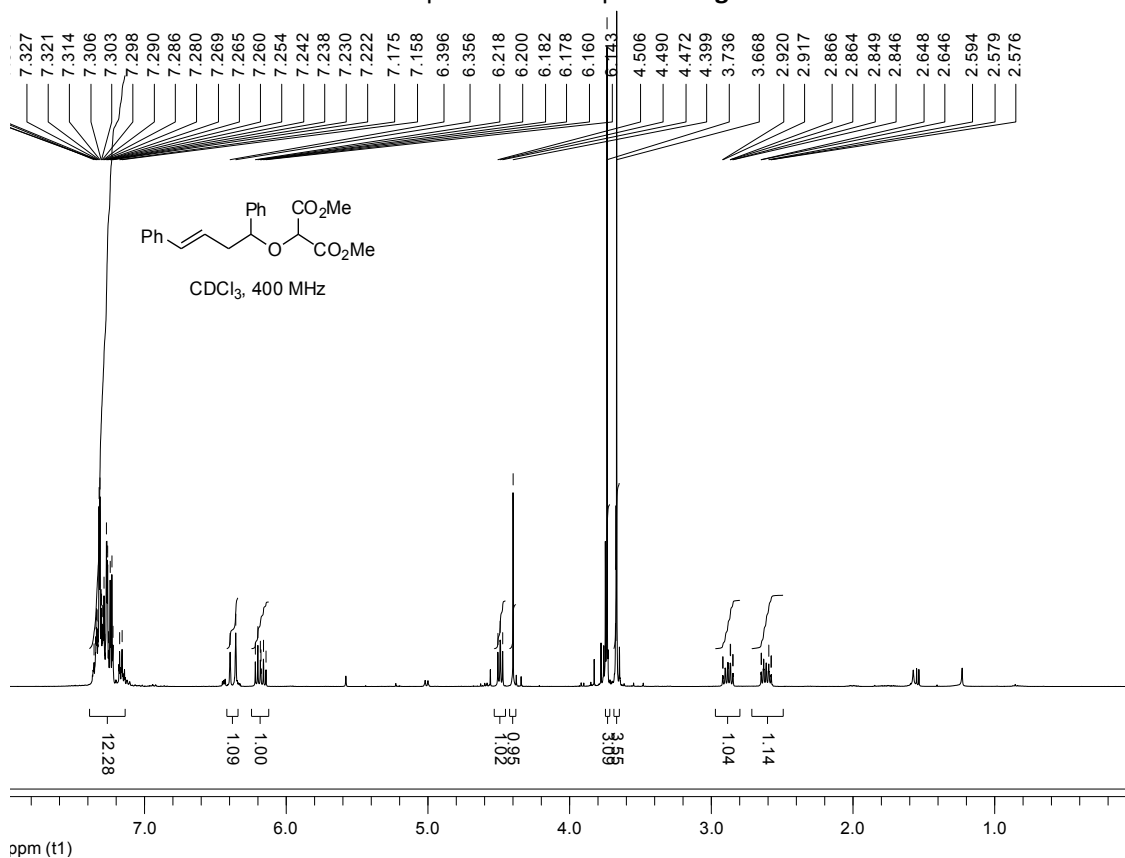
Spectra for compound **12f** (mixture of diastereoisomers after purification d. r. = 5.7:1)



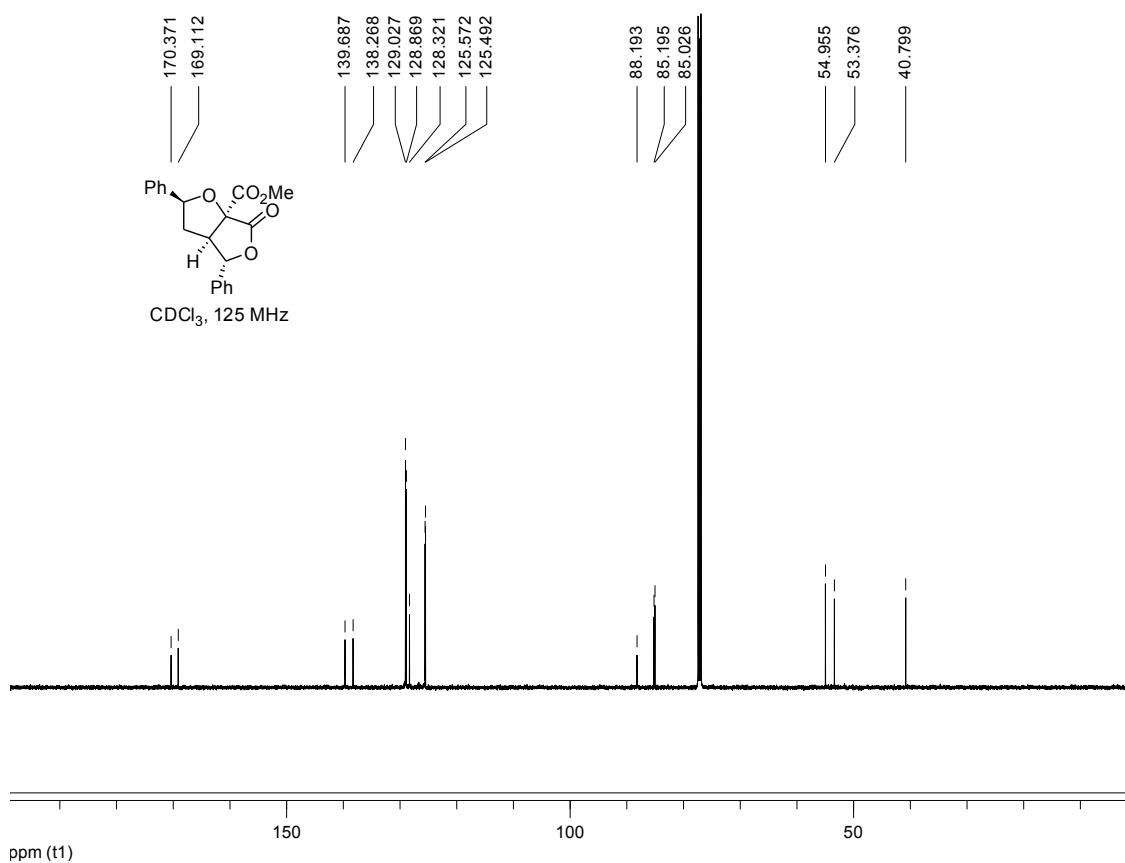
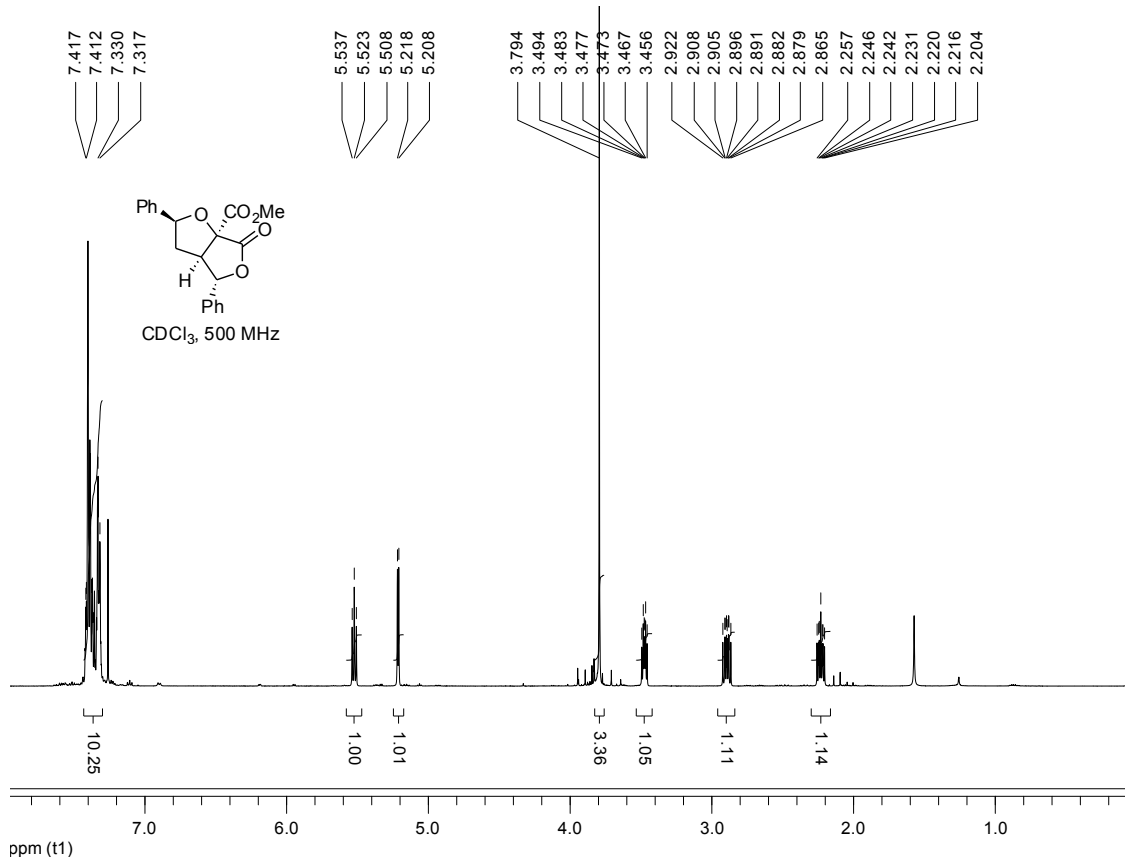
Spectra for compound **12f_{d3}** (mixture of diastereoisomers after purification d. r. = 5.5:1)



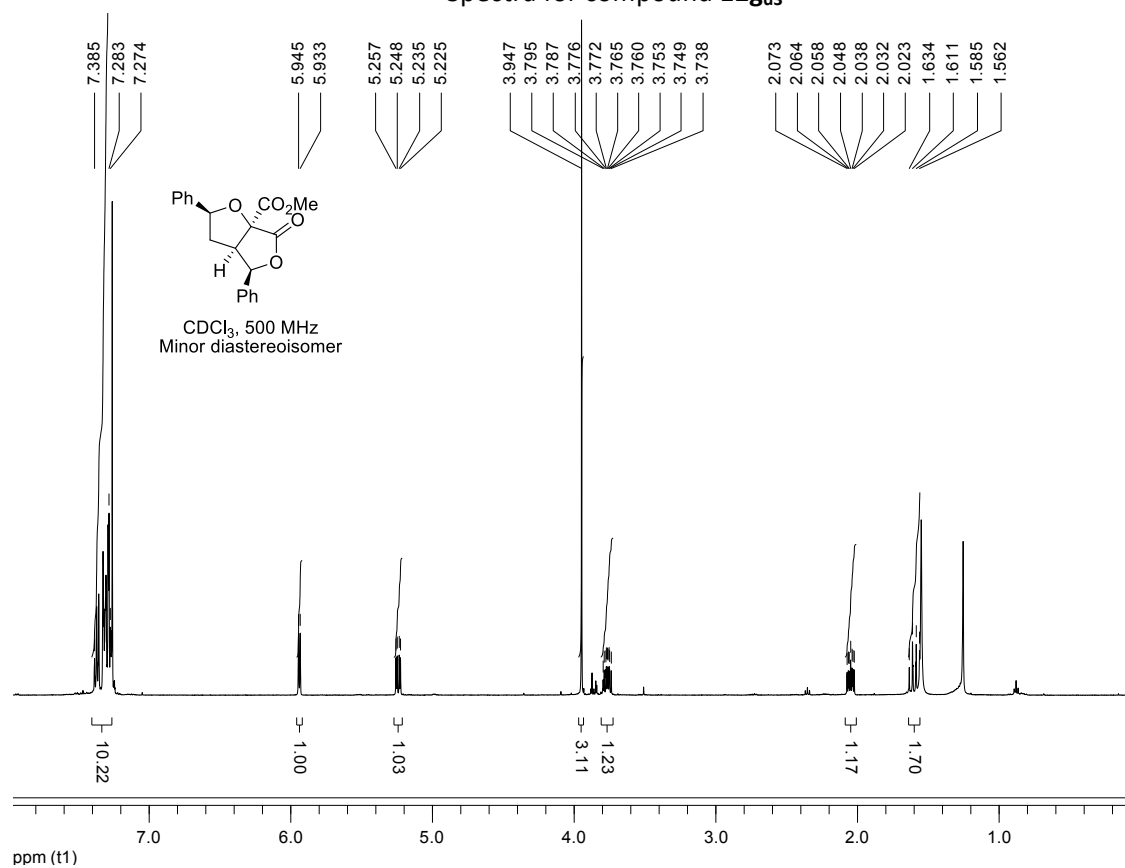
Spectra for compound **11g**



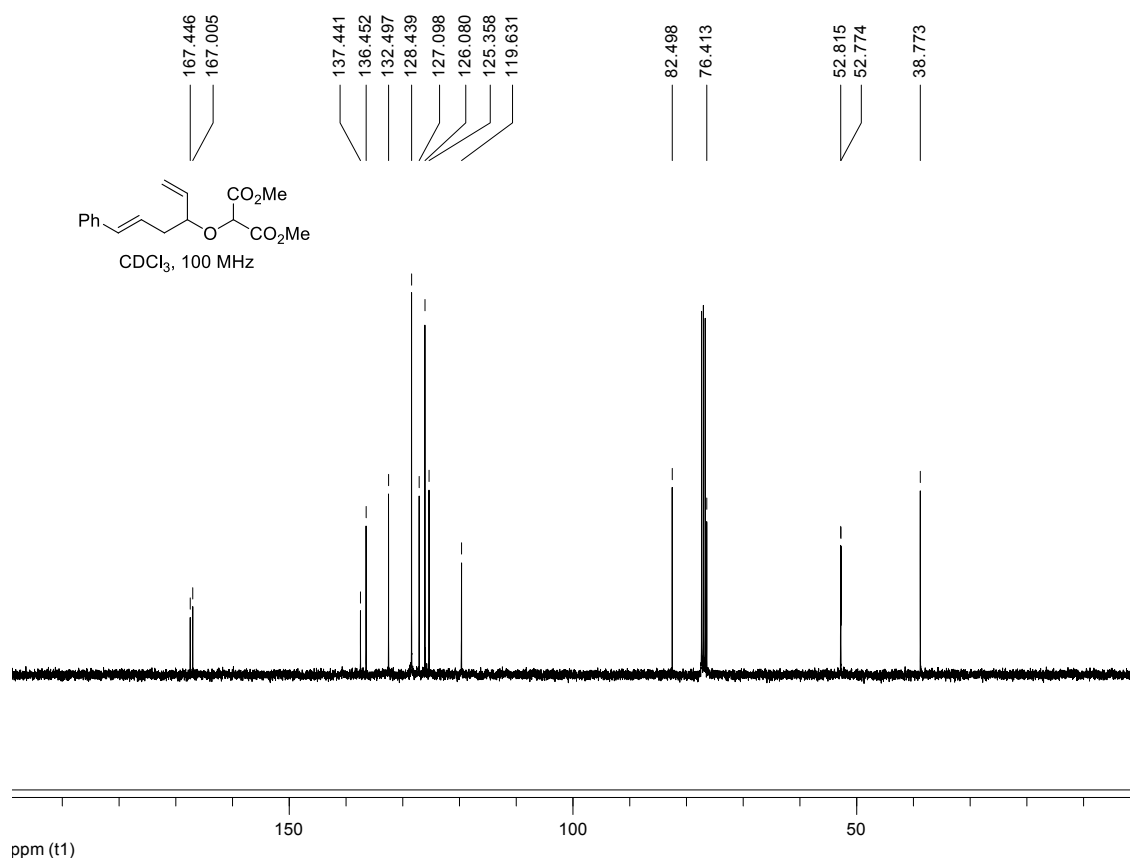
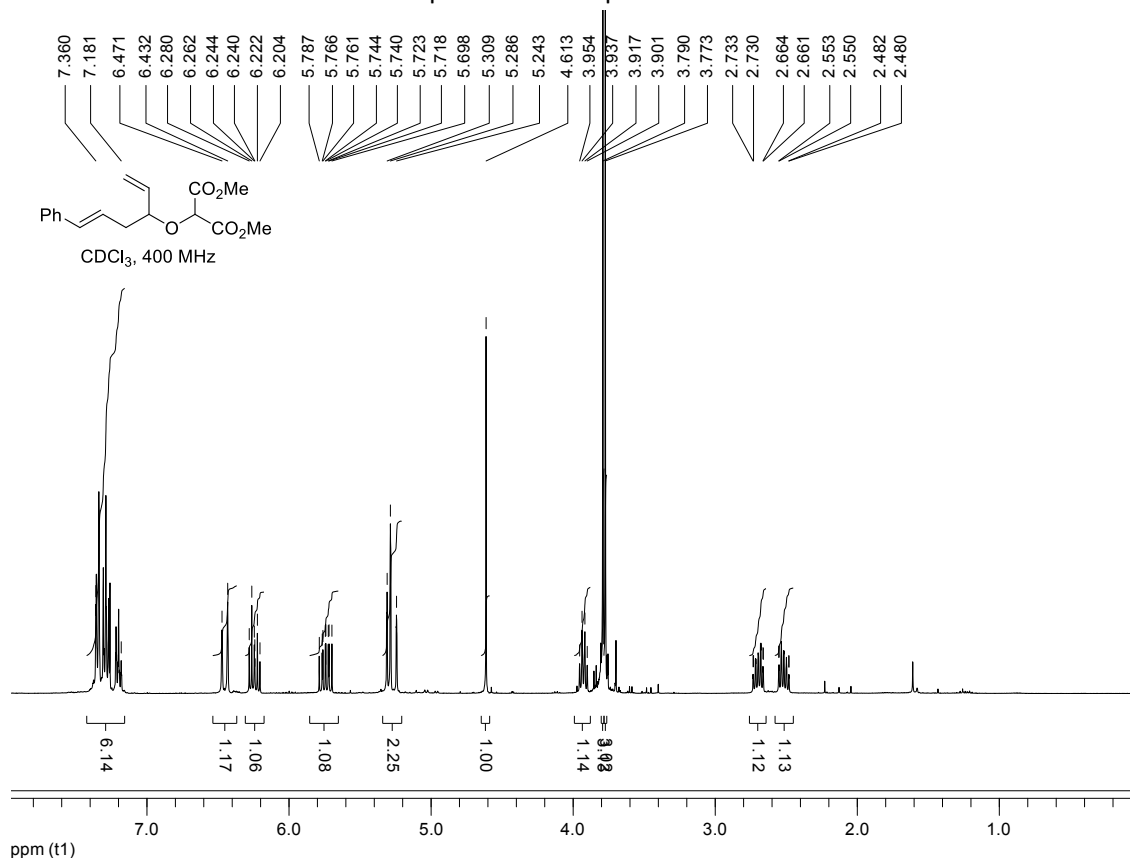
Spectra for compound **12g**



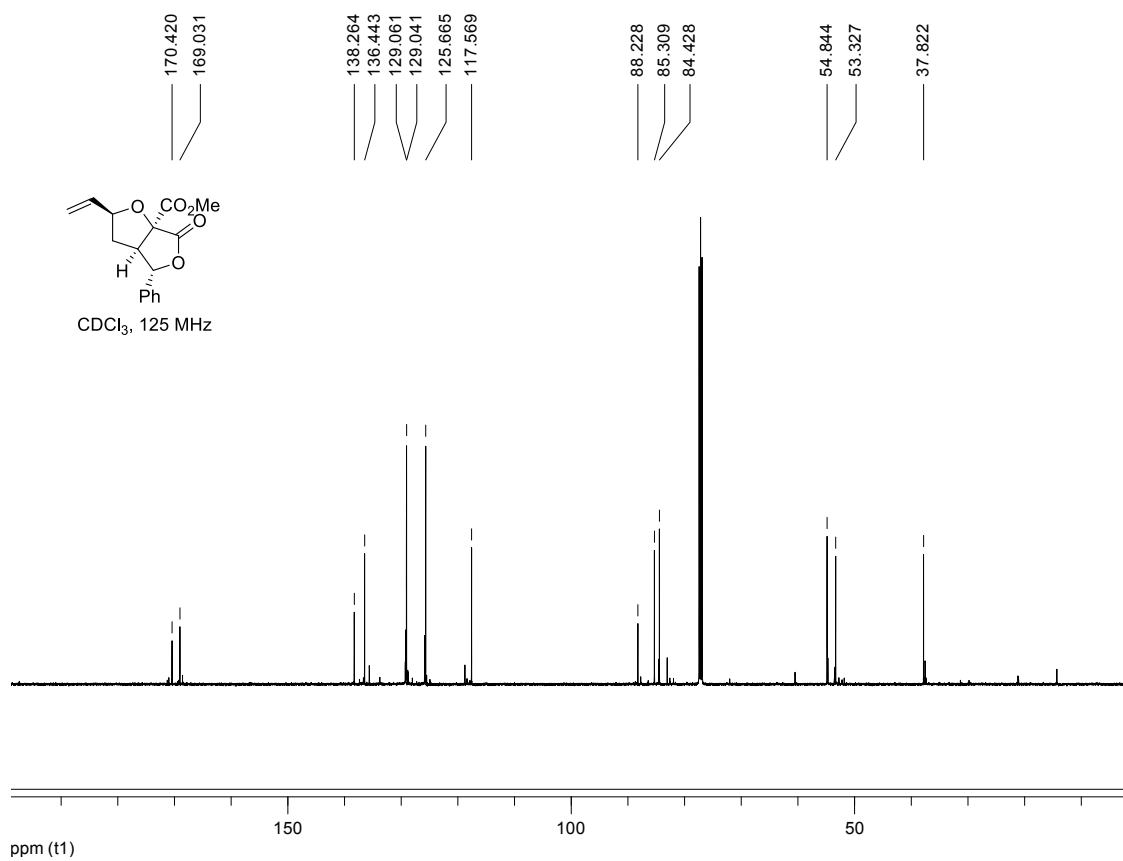
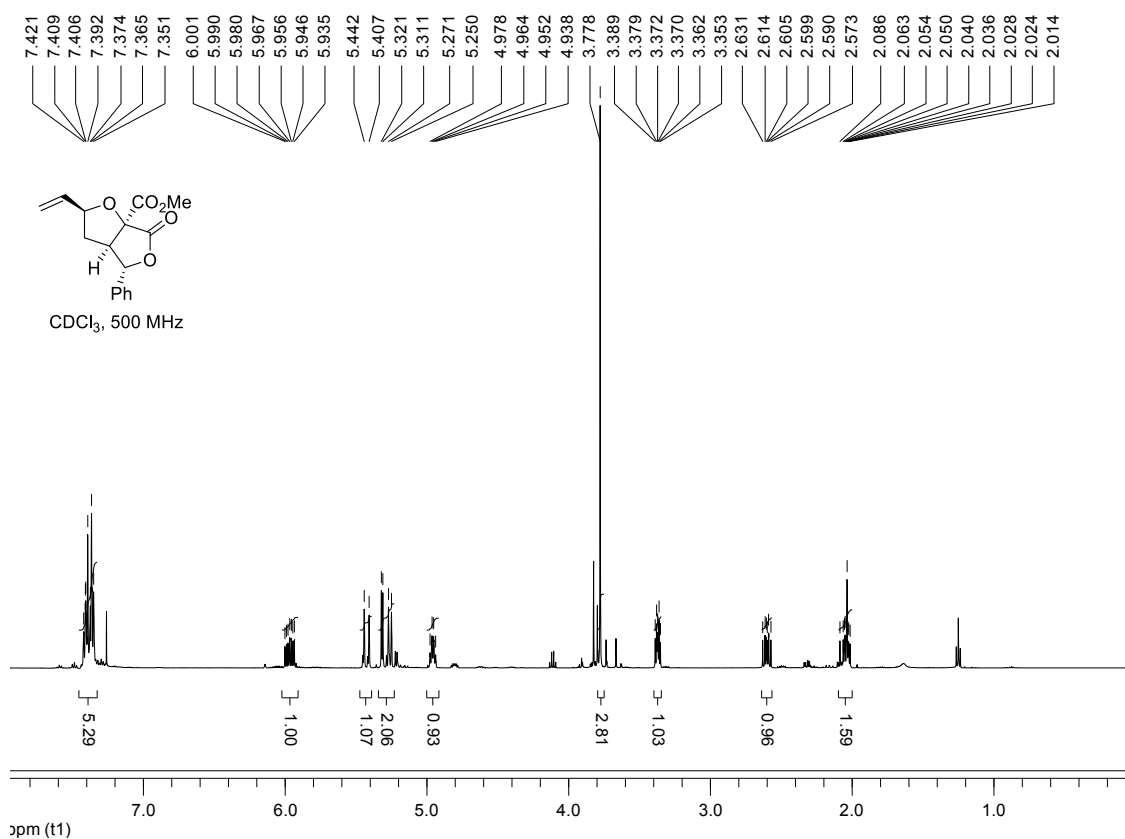
Spectra for compound **12g_{d3}**



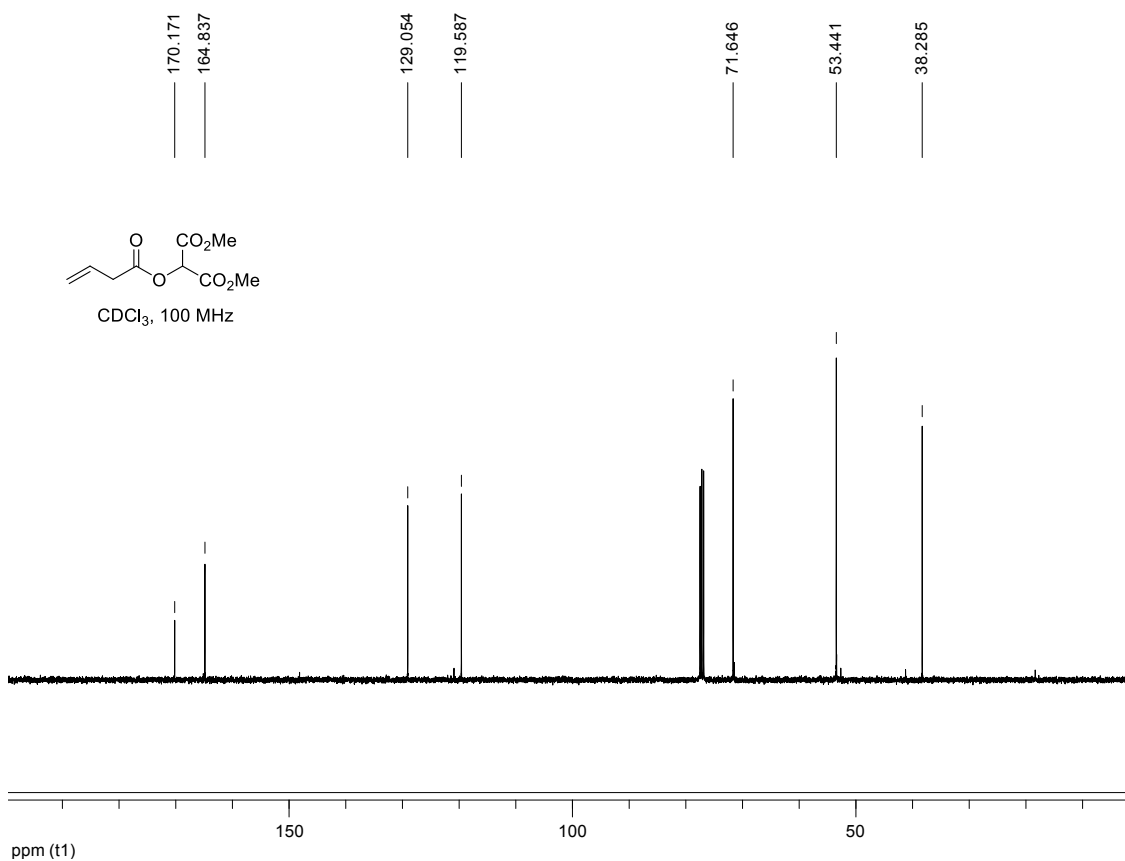
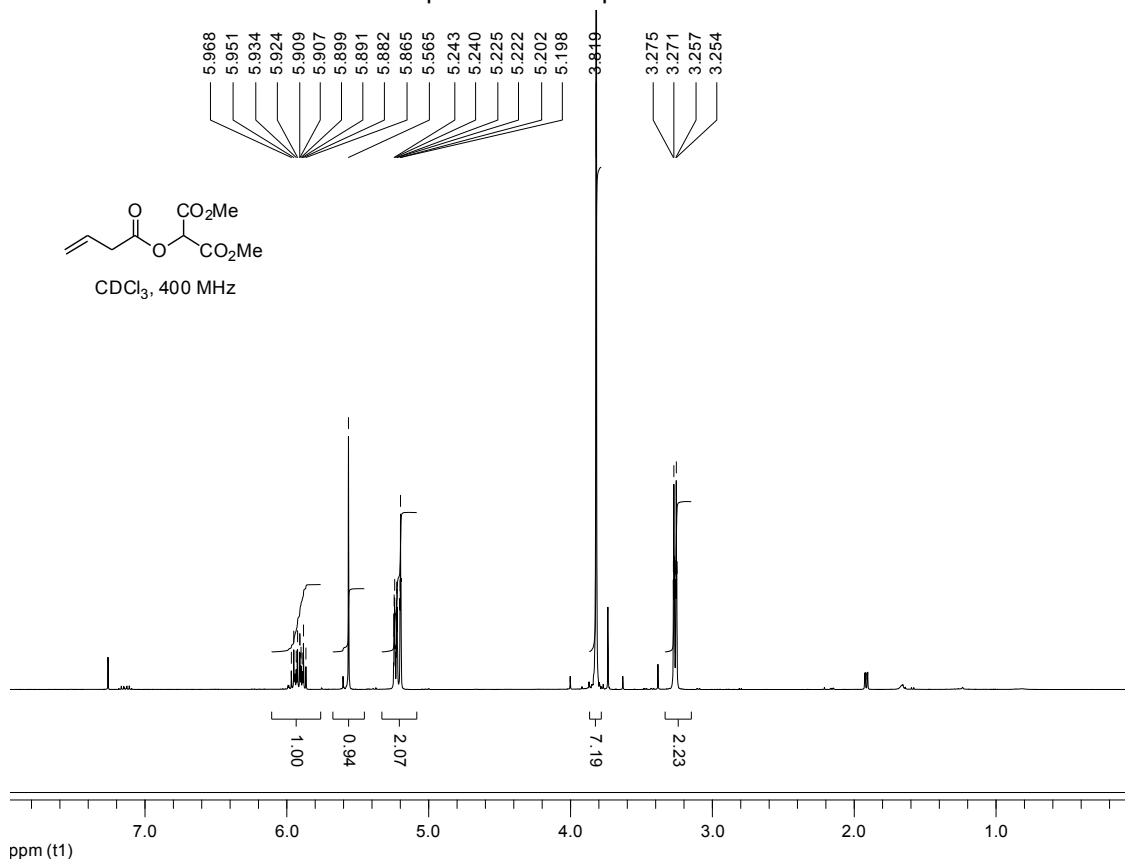
Spectra for compound **11h**



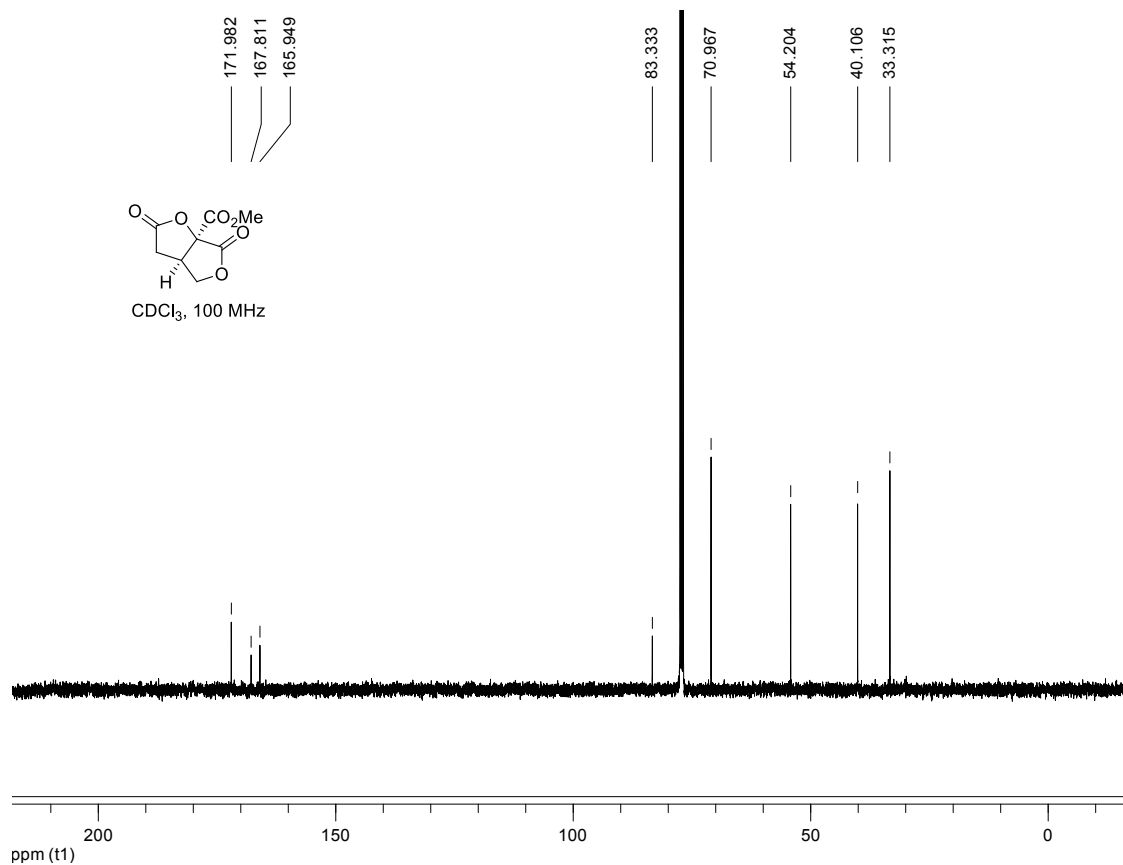
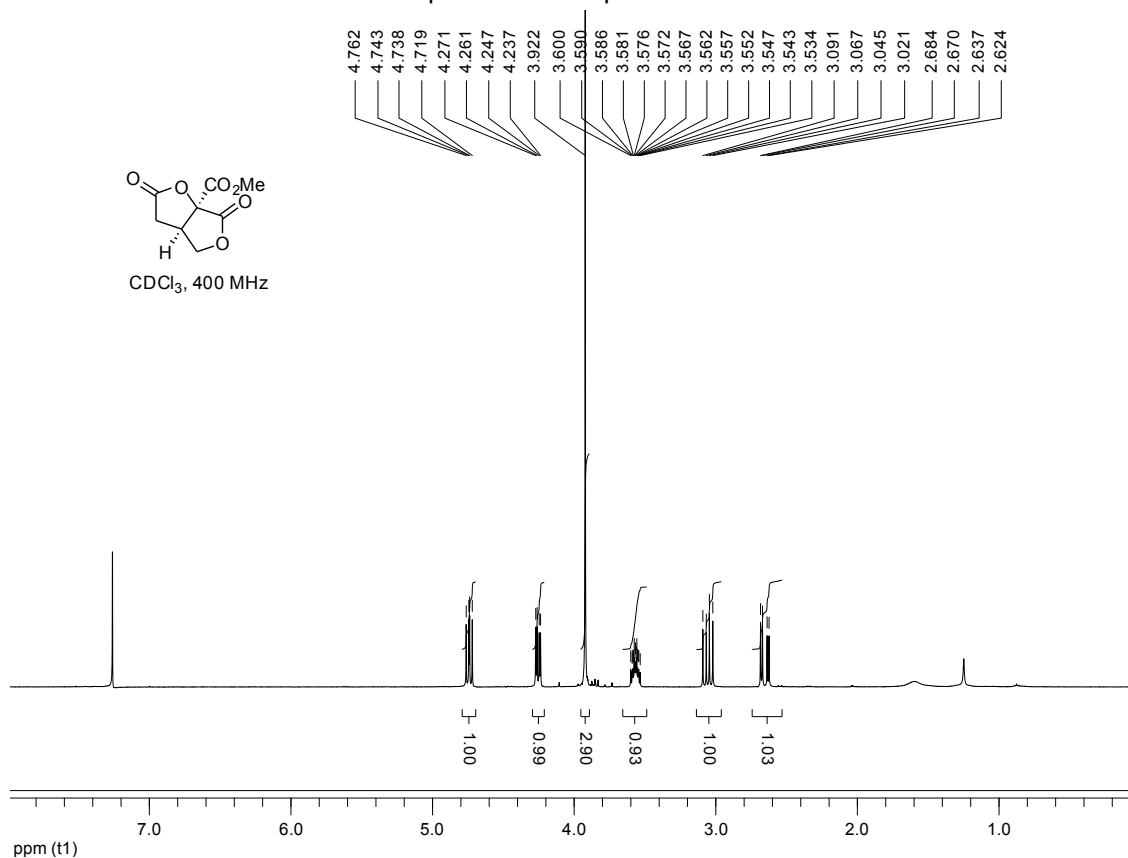
Spectra for compound **12h** (mixture of diastereoisomers after purification d. r. = 5.5:1)



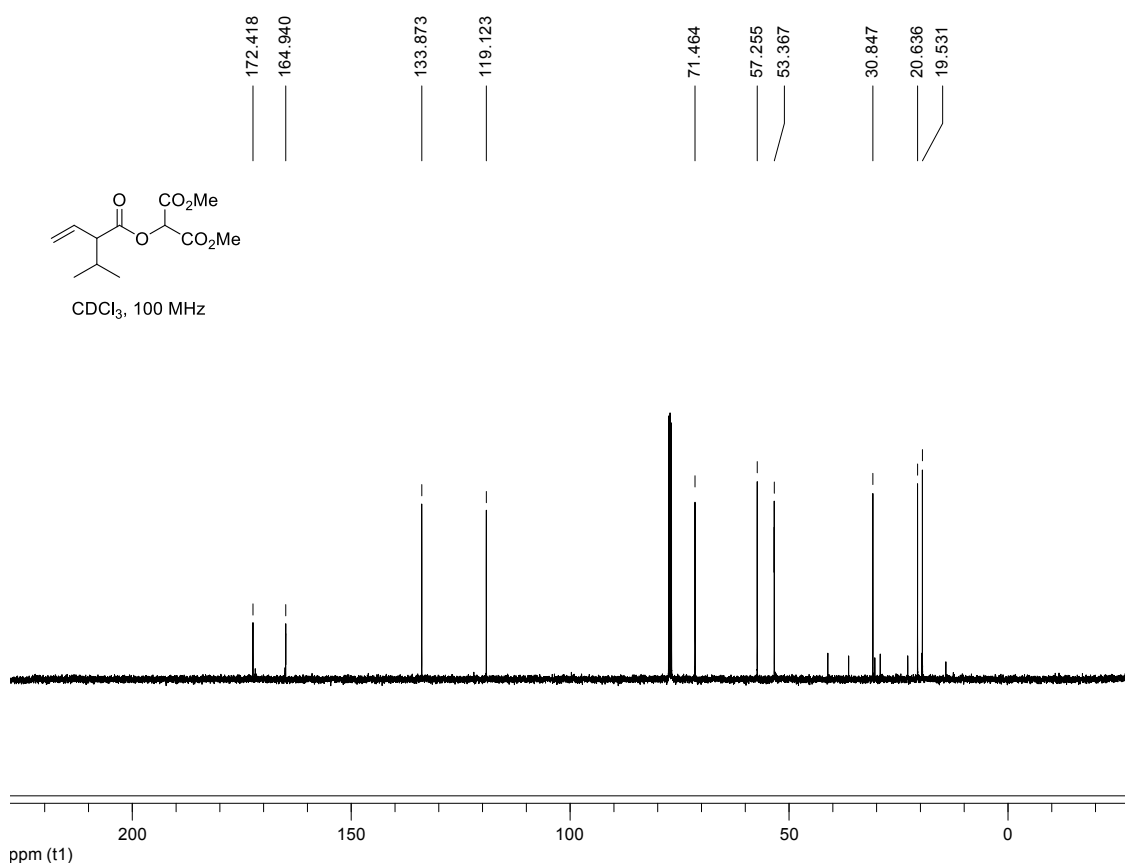
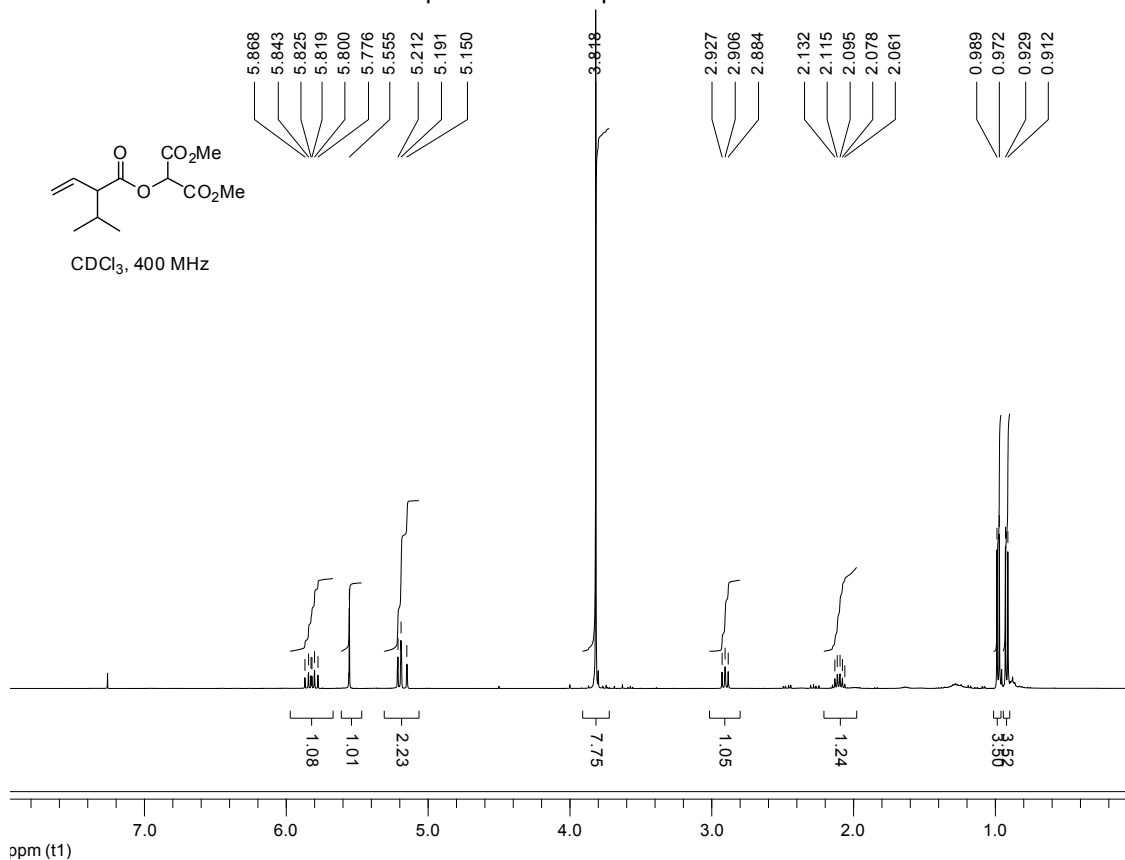
Spectra for compound **13a**



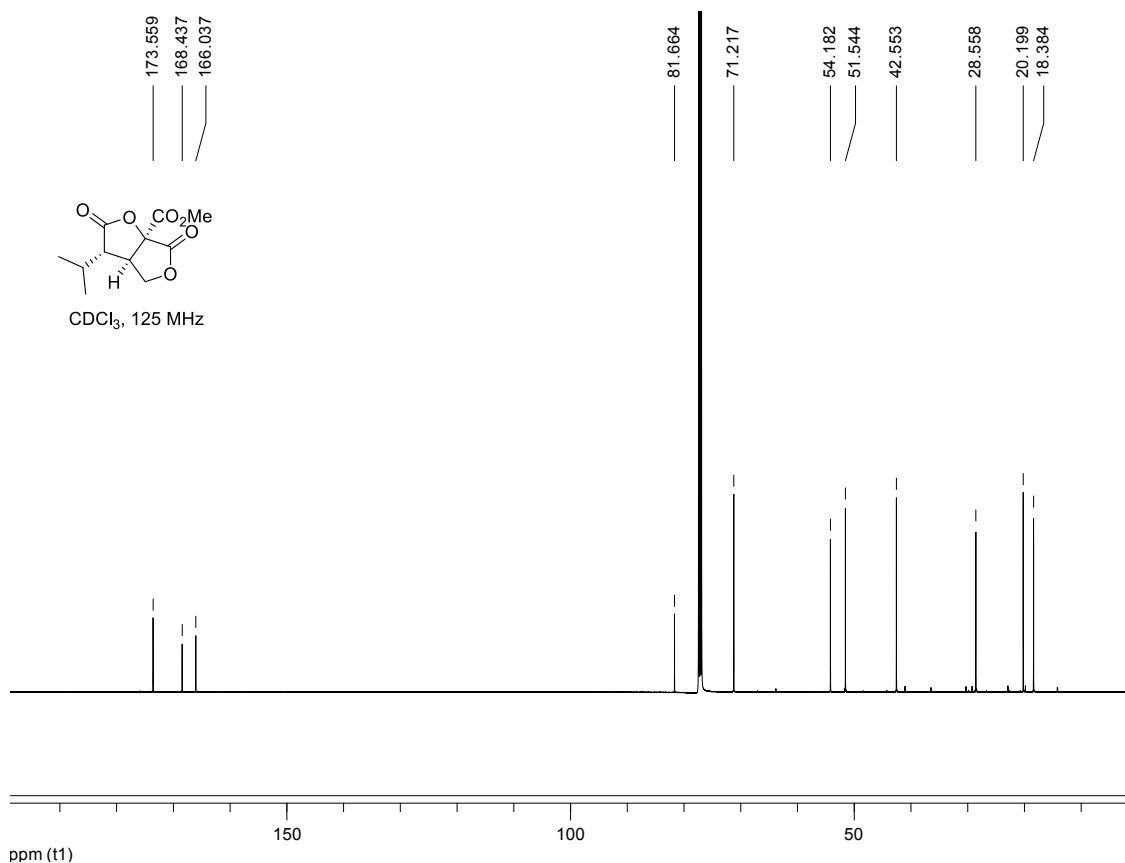
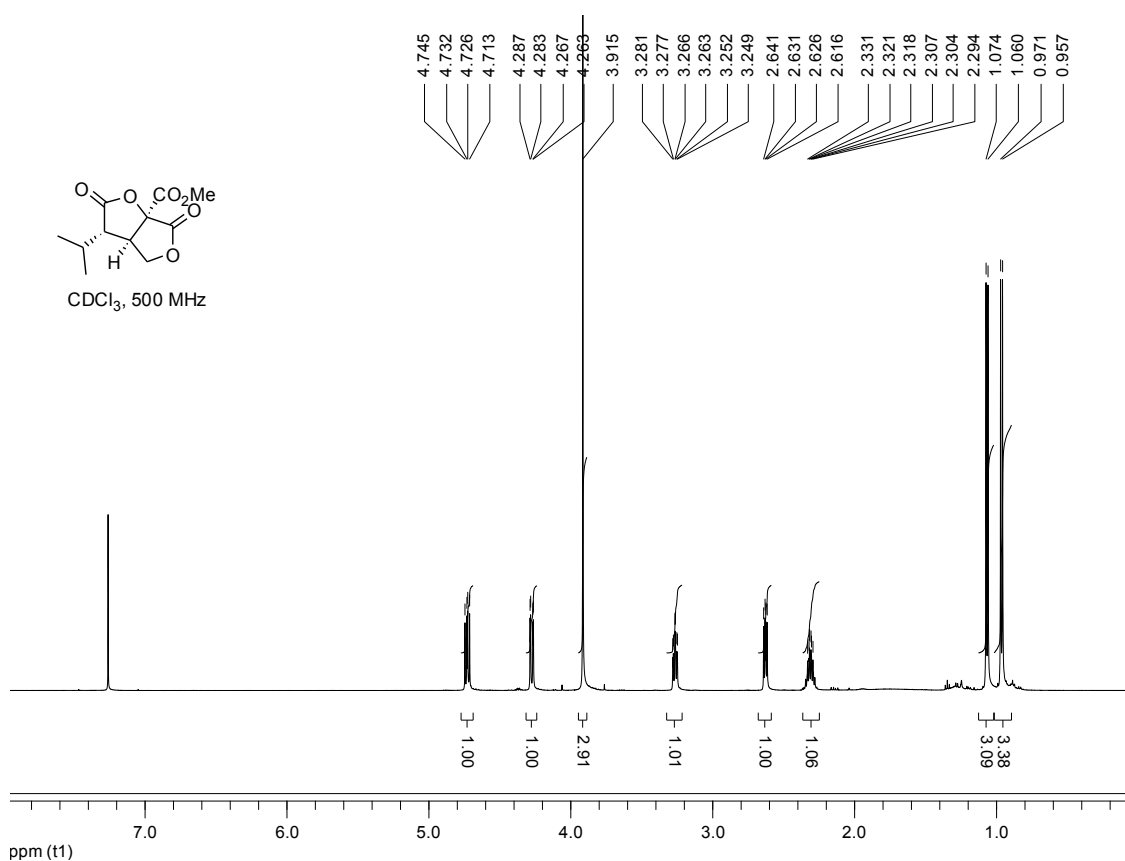
Spectra for compound **14a**



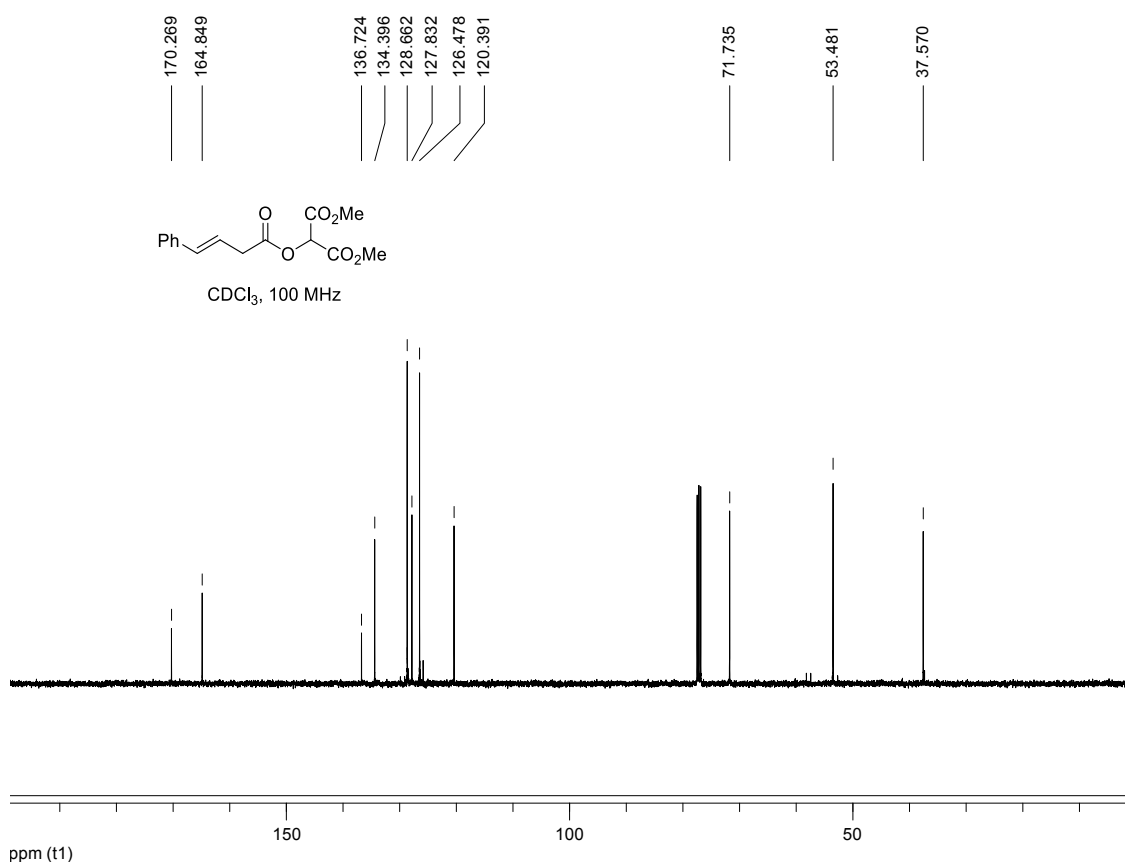
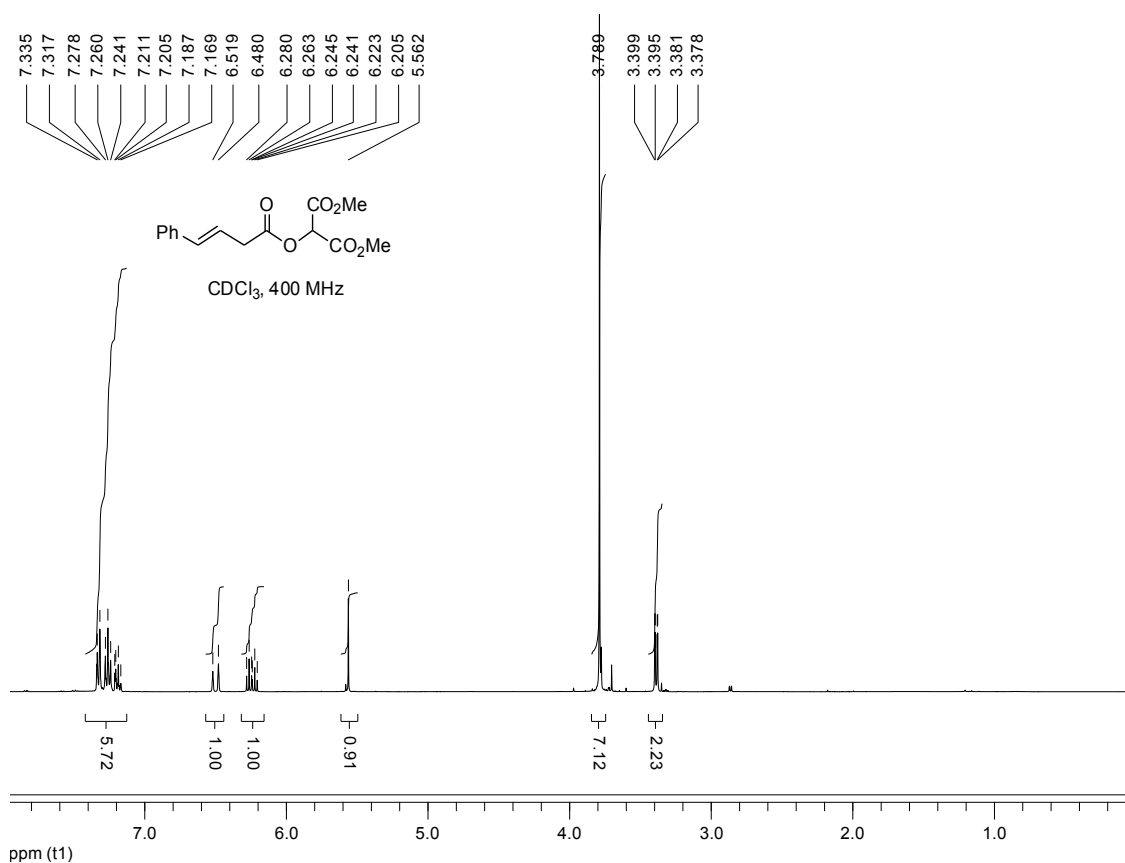
Spectra for compound **13b**



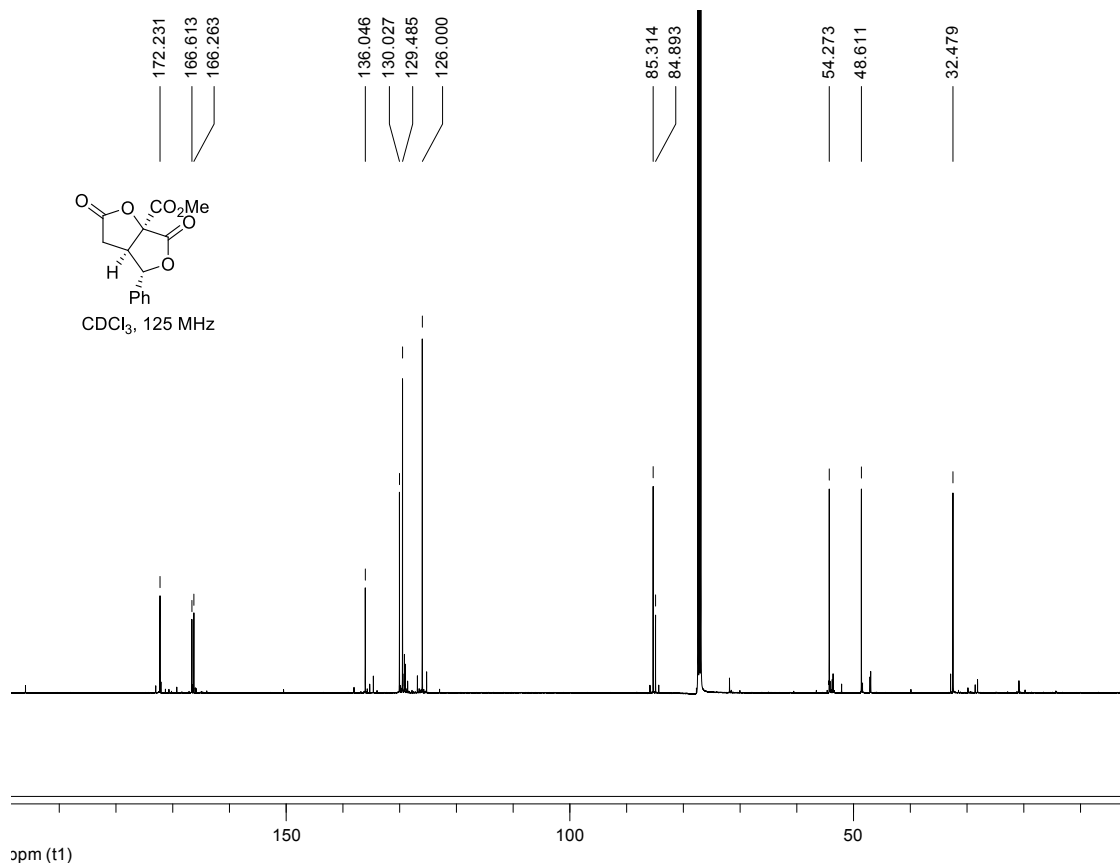
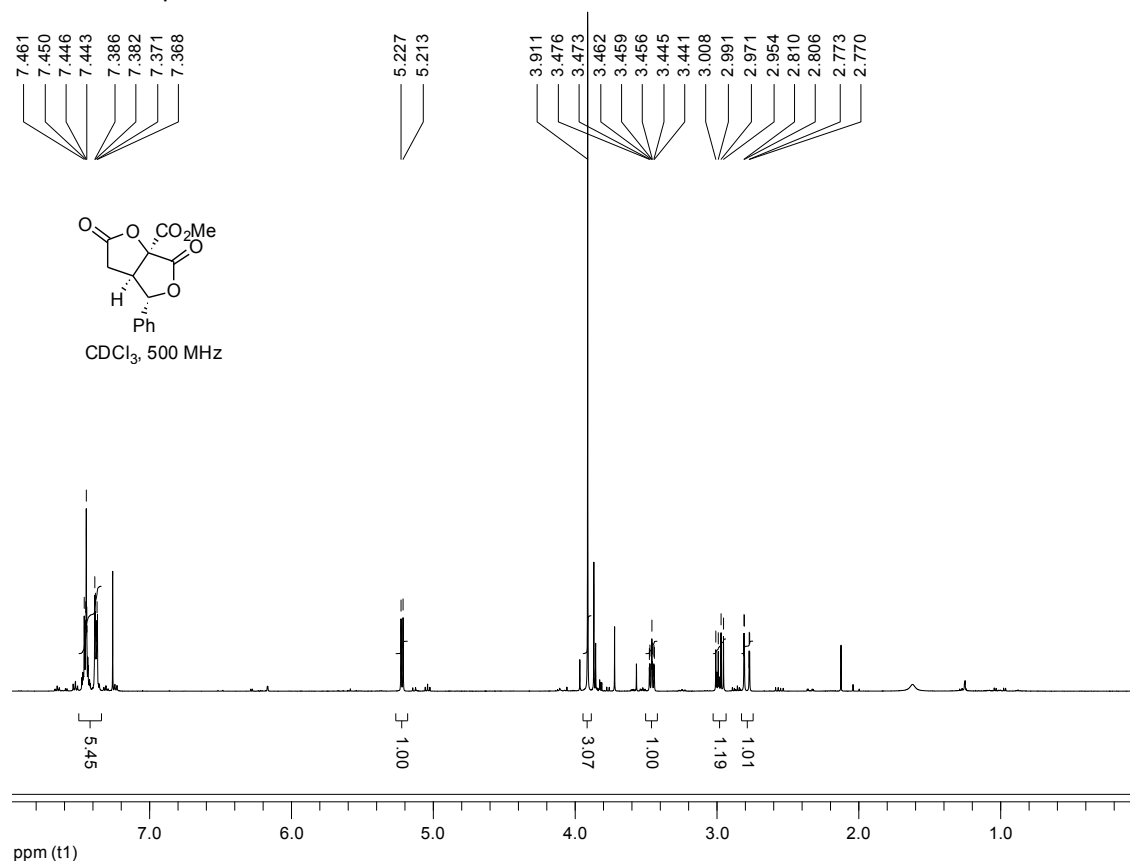
Spectra for compound **14b**



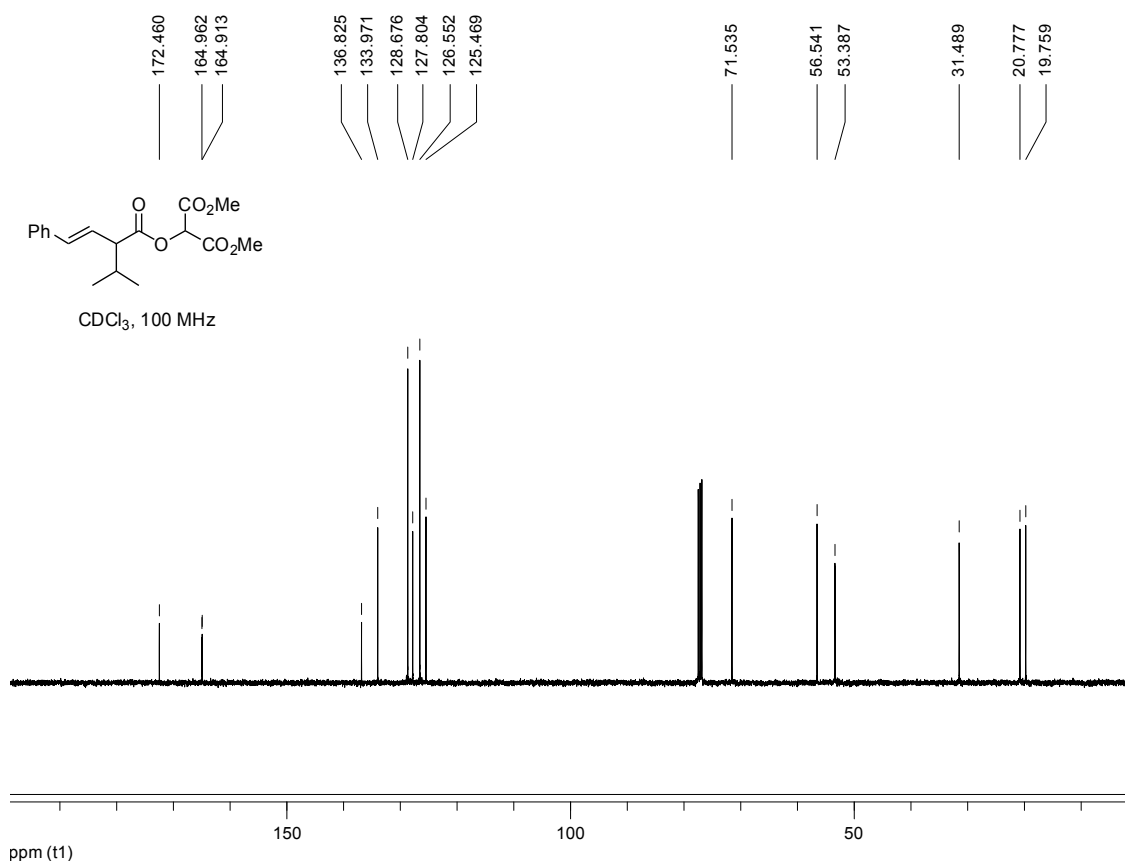
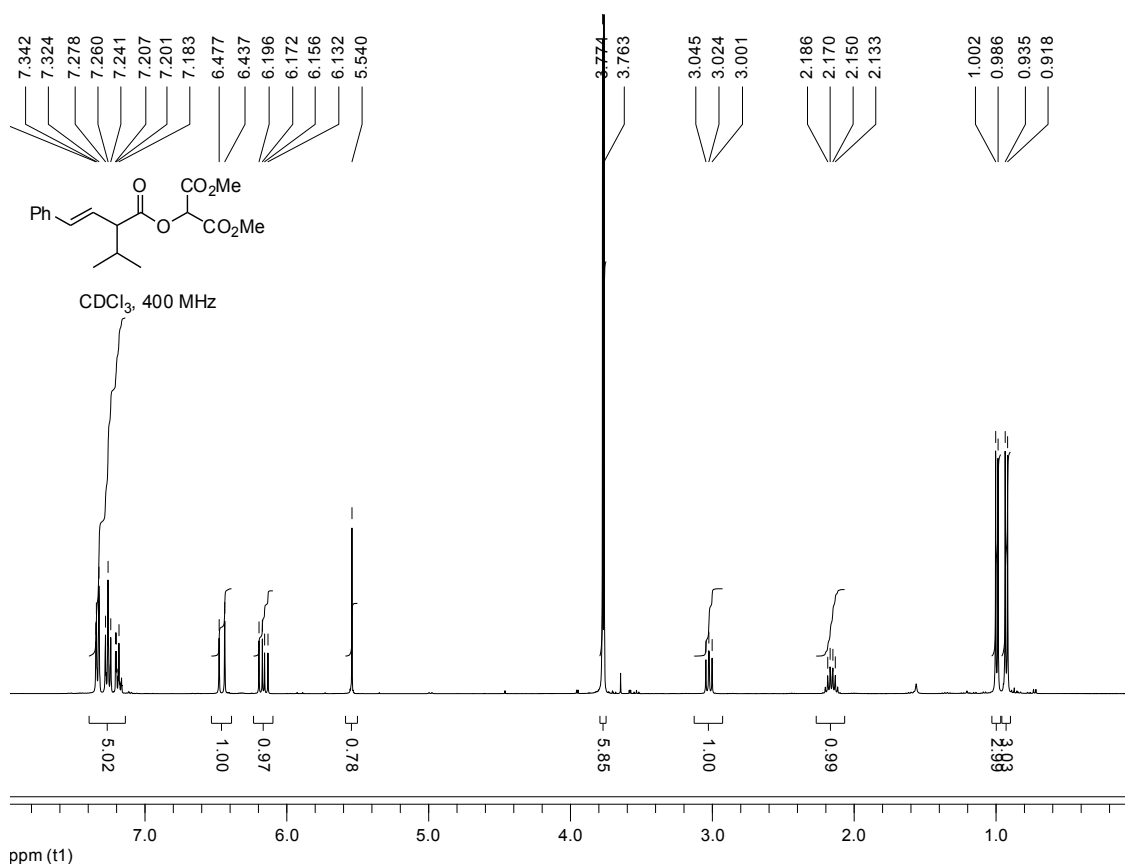
Spectra for compound **13c**



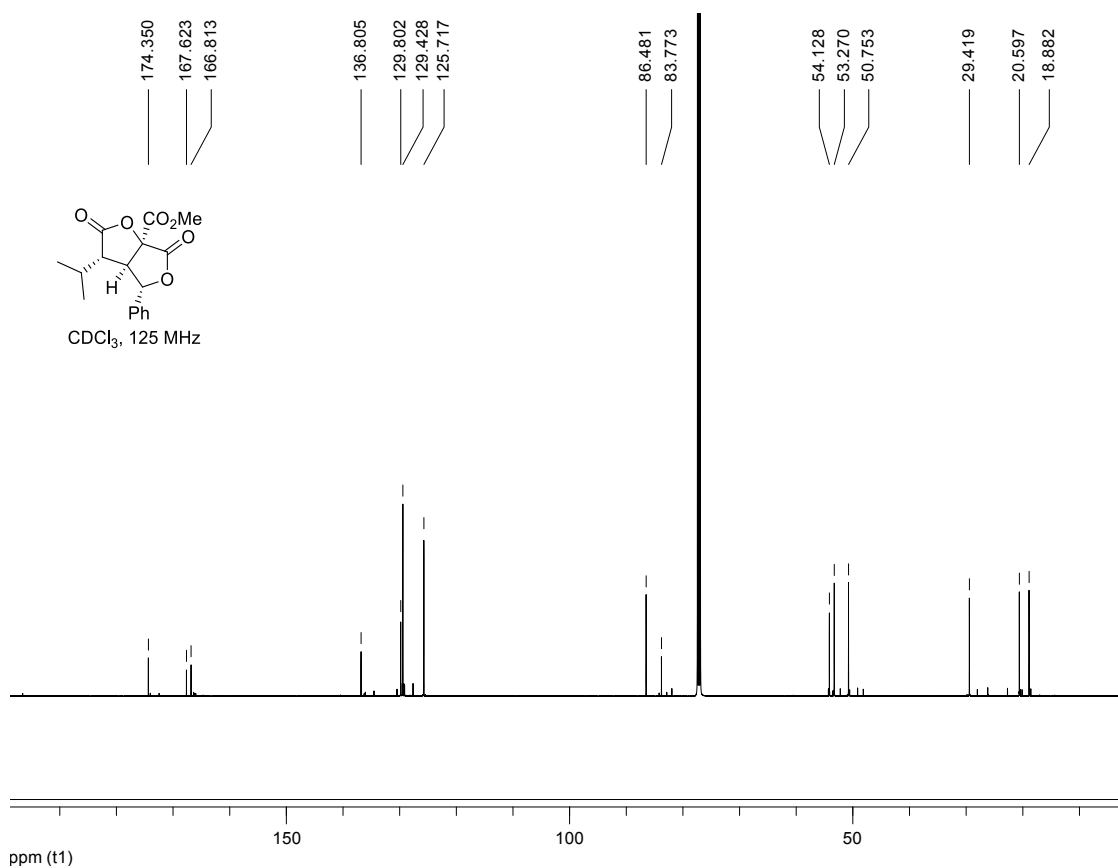
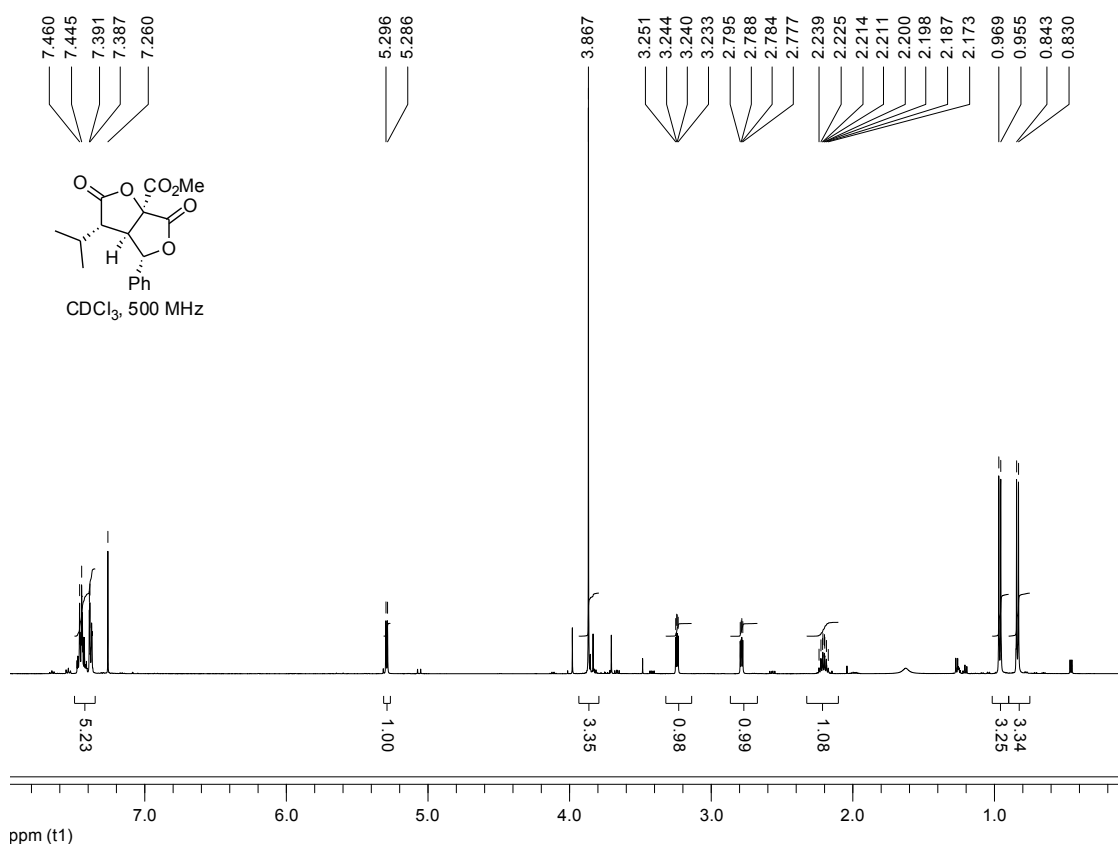
Spectra for compound **14c**



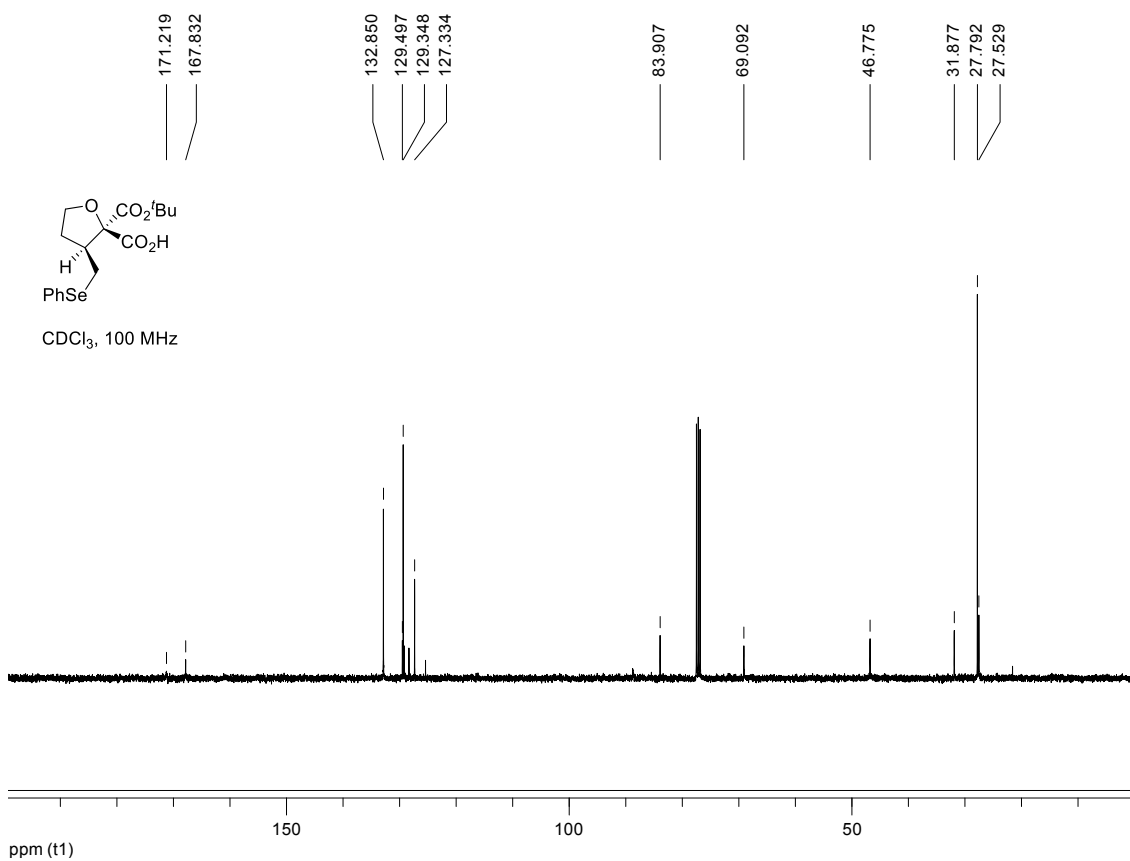
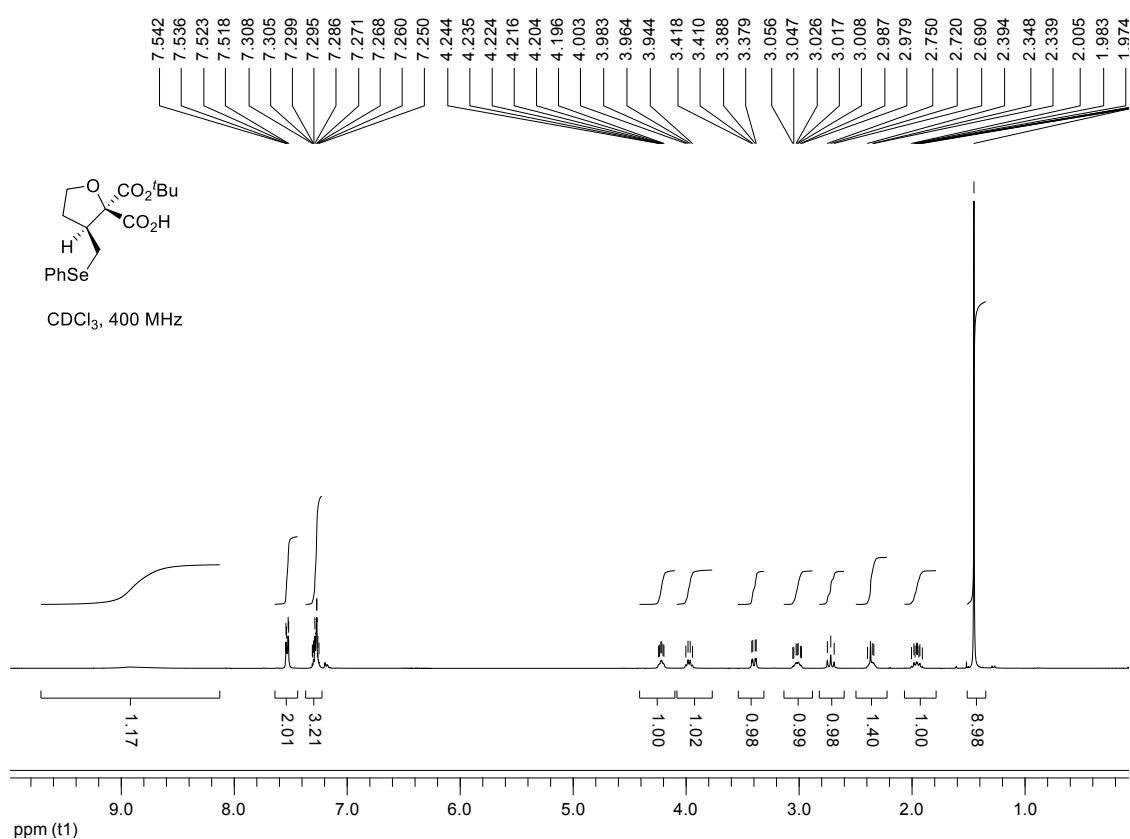
Spectra for compound **13d**



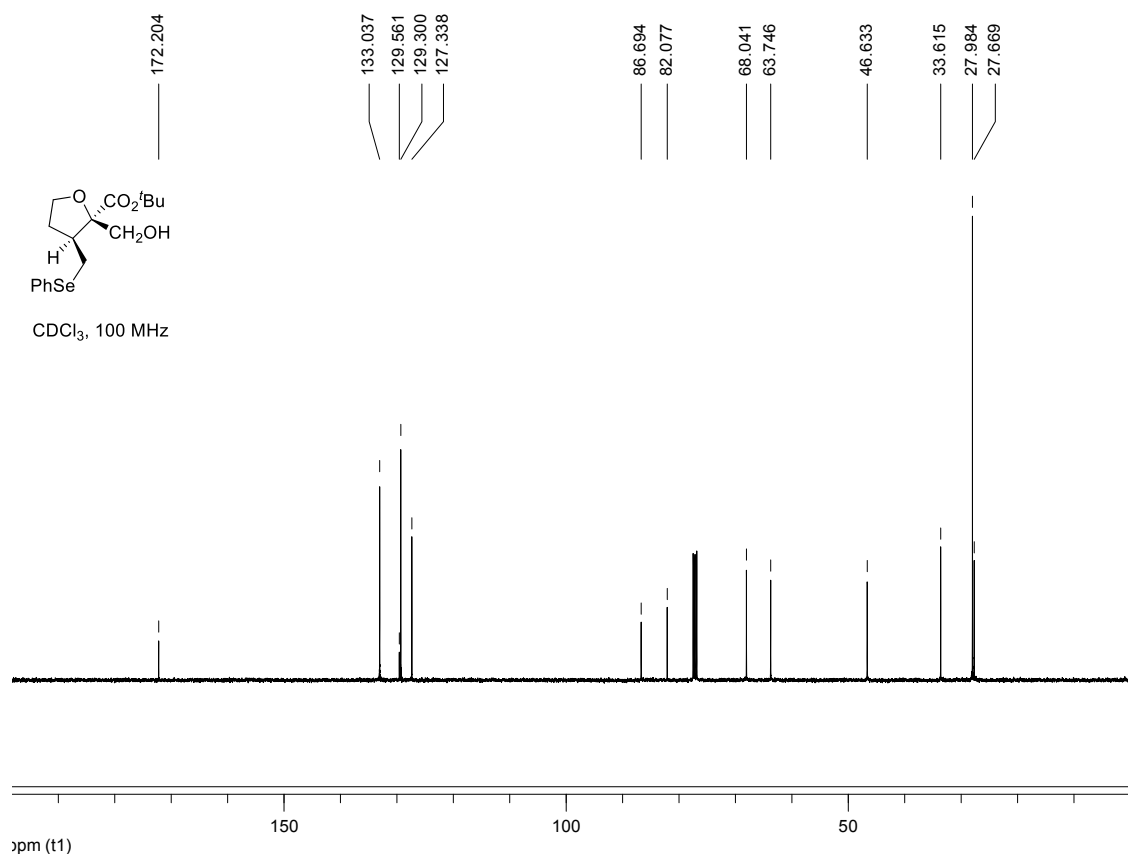
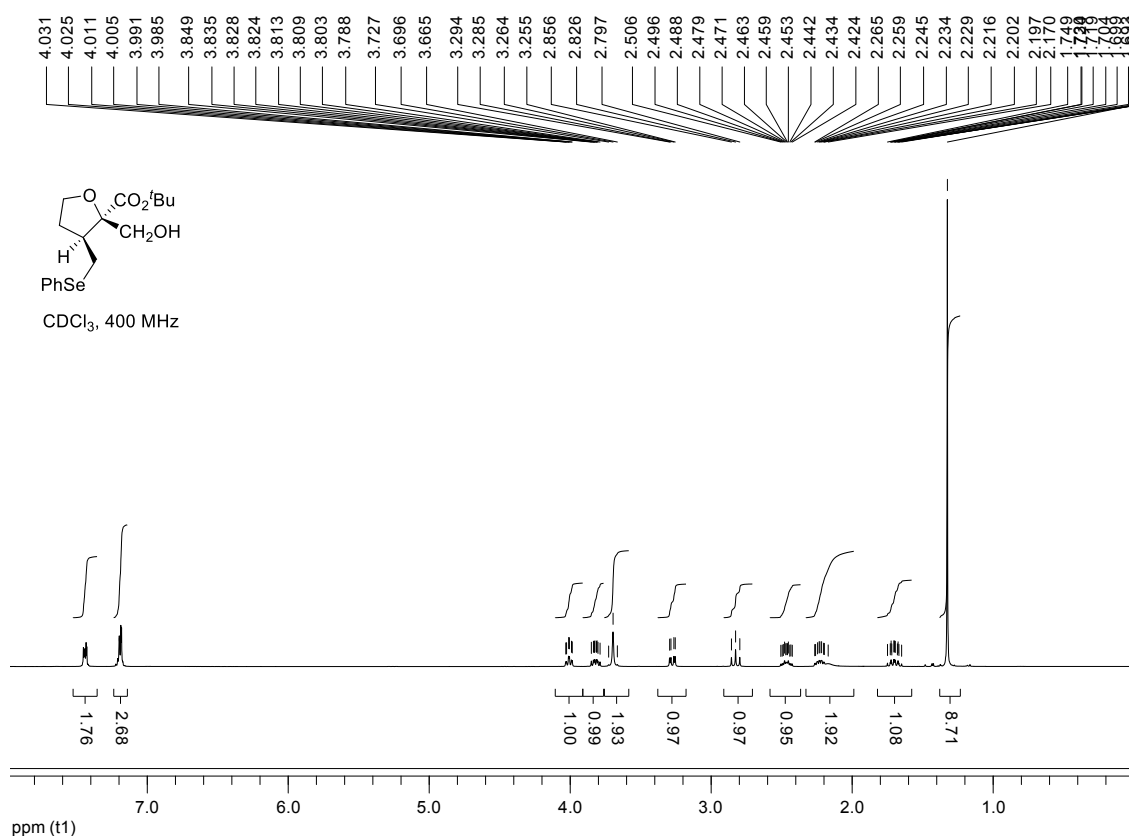
Spectra for compound **14d** (mixture of diastereoisomers after purification d. r. = 15.7:1)



Spectra for compound **15**



Spectra for compound **16**



Spectra for compound **17**

