

## Supporting Information

### **Synthesis of biologically important, fluorescence active 5-hydroxy benzo[g]indoles through four-component domino condensations and their fluorescence “Turn-off” sensing of Fe(III) ions**

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Subhendu Maity, Ashis Kundu and Animesh Pramanik\*

*Department of Chemistry, University of Calcutta, 92, A. P. C. Road, Kolkata-700 009, India;*  
Fax: +91-33-2351-9755; Tel: +91-33-2484-1647.

E-mail: animesh\_in2001@yahoo.co.in

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## Photophysical Study

Spectroscopic grade solvents were purchased from Spectrochem, India and used without further distillation. The concentration of the ligands was maintained at  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M. Absorption and emission measurements were performed using Hitachi UV-vis U-3501 spectrophotometer and Perkin Elmer LS-55 fluorimeter respectively. The backgrounds of the recorded spectra were appropriately subtracted with a blank solvent in order to eliminate any spectral interference. The experiments have been carried out at room temperature.

Fluorescence quantum yields ( $\Phi F$ ) in various solvents are determined using the following equation

$$\Phi_{\text{sample}} = [(A_{\text{std}} F_{\text{sample}} \eta_{\text{sample}}^2 / A_{\text{sample}} F_{\text{std}} \eta_{\text{std}}^2)] \Phi_{\text{std}}$$

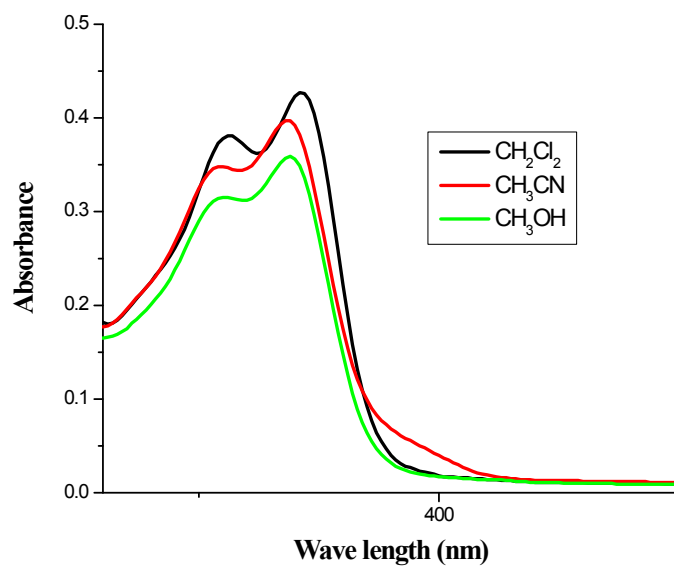
In this equation  $\Phi_{\text{sample}}$  and  $\Phi_{\text{std}}$  are the quantum yields of sample and standard, respectively;  $A_{\text{std}}$  and  $A_{\text{sample}}$  are the absorbance of the sample and standard, respectively;  $F_{\text{sample}}$  and  $F_{\text{std}}$  are integrated emission area across the fluorescence band and  $\eta_{\text{sample}}$  and  $\eta_{\text{std}}$  are the refractive indexes of the sample and standard solution, respectively.

**Table S1.** Absorbance (A), fluorescence emission area (F) and refractive index ( $\eta$ ) of **9** in different Solvents.

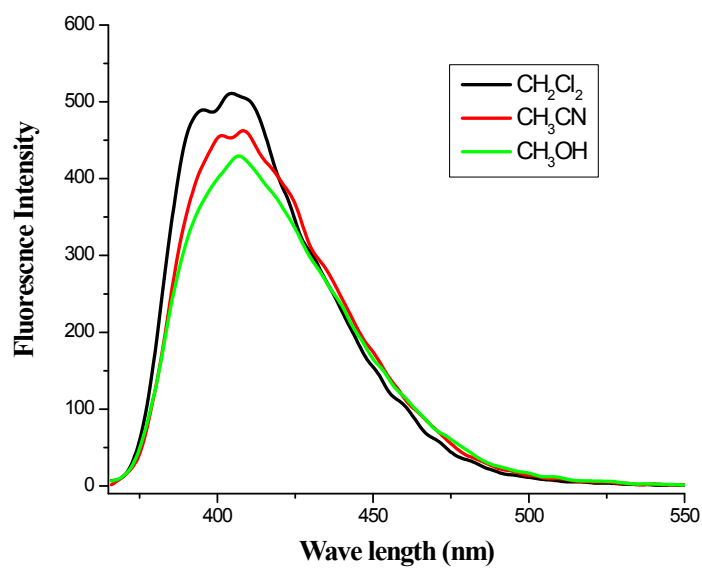
Compounds	Solvents	Absorbance (A)	Emission area (F)	Refractive index ( $\eta$ )
<b>11u</b>	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.412	33426.0203	1.4242
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.329	26286.5744	1.3460
	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	0.292	23897.9378	1.3314
<b>11w</b>	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.470	35860.6285	1.4242
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.343	28482.5987	1.3460

<b>11v</b>	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	0.295	26438.4931	1.3314
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.425	29644.7671	1.4242
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.356	28117.1088	1.3460
	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	0.296	26468.2118	1.3314

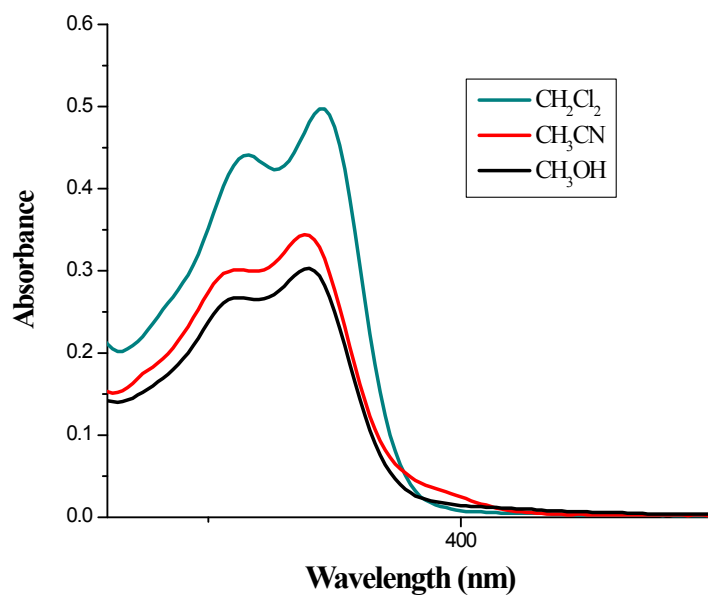
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**Fig. S1** UV-vis absorption spectra of compound **11v** in different solvents (**[11v]**  $\sim 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M).

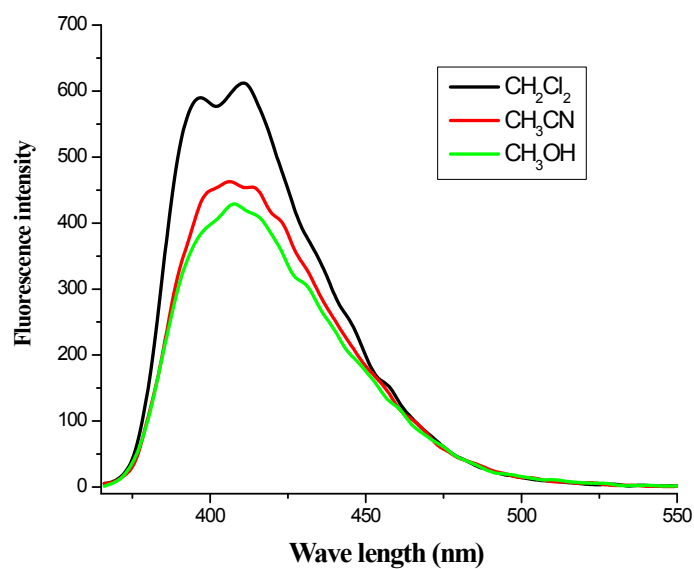


**Fig. S2** Fluorescence emission spectra of **11v** in different solvents ( $[\mathbf{11v}] \sim 5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ).

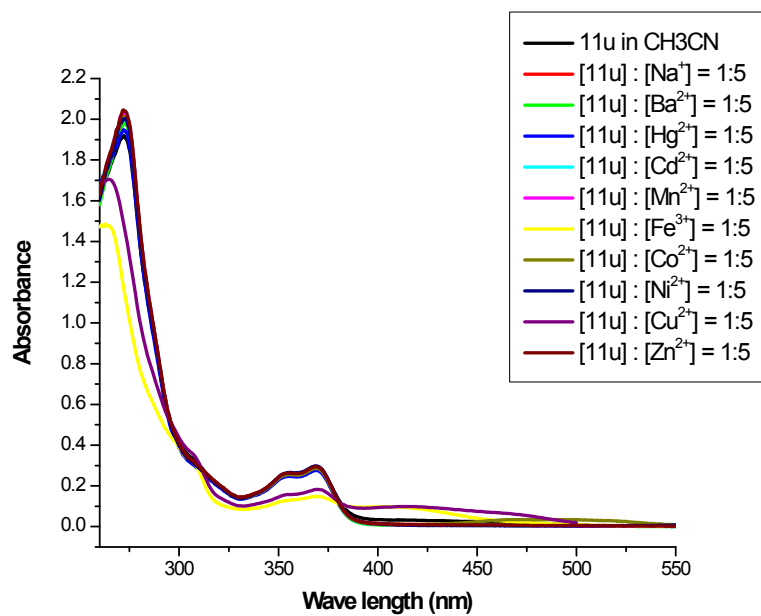


**Fig. S3** UV-vis absorption spectra of compound **11w** in different solvents ( $[\mathbf{11w}] \sim 5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ).

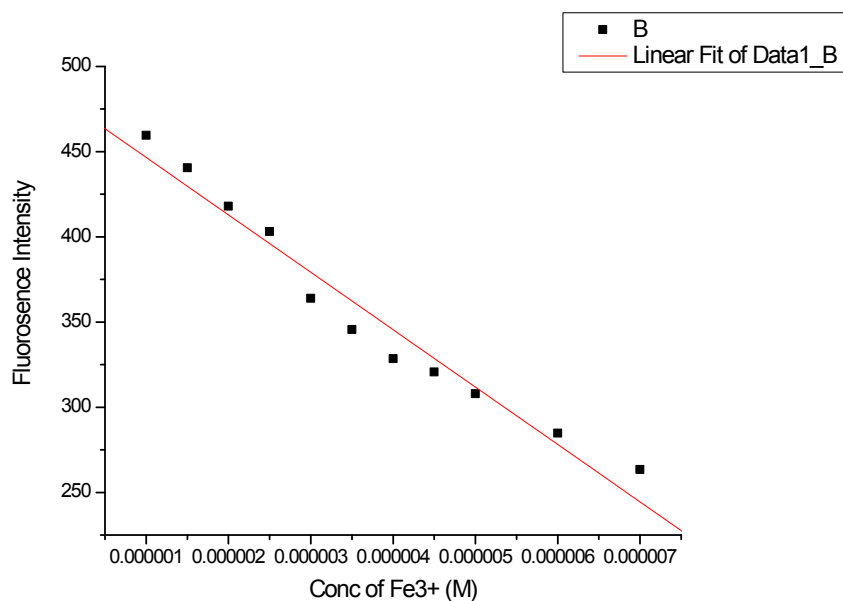




**Fig. S4** Fluorescence emission spectra of **11w** in different solvents ( $[\mathbf{11w}] \sim 5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ).



**Fig. S5** UV-VIS spectra of **11u** in acetonitrile in presence of various metal ions



**Fig. S6** Change in Fluorescence intensity of **11u** in acetonitrile upon addition of Fe<sup>3+</sup>

### Calculation of limit of detection

The limit of detection of Fe<sup>3+</sup> has been determined from fluorescence titration curves. 15-20 blank measurements (in absence of metal ion) have been measured over an extended period of time and the standard deviation corresponding to the blank measurements have been calculated. Calibration curve has been obtained by plotting fluorescence intensity against metal (Fe<sup>3+</sup>) concentration. Finally the limit of detection has been calculated using the following equation

$$C_L = k * S_b / S$$

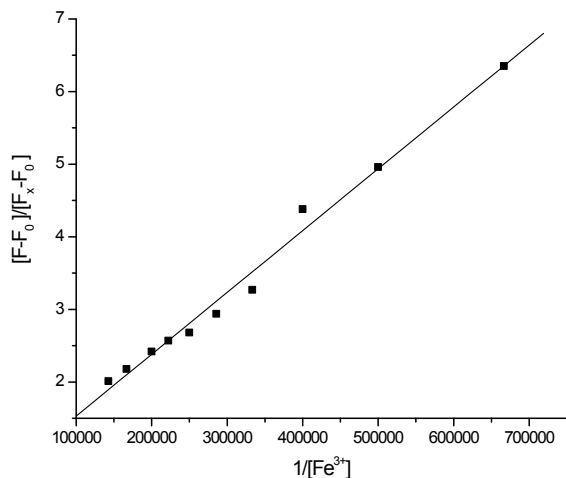
C<sub>L</sub> is the detection limit

K has been taken as 3

S<sub>b</sub> is the standard deviation of the blank measurements

S is the slope of the calibration curve

From Graph, Limiting Concentration ( $C_L$ ) =  $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$  [M]



**Fig. S7** Plot of  $[F-F_0]/[F_x-F_0]$  vs  $1/[Fe^{3+}]$  to determine Association constant ( $K_a$ ) using Benesi–Hildebrand equation.

Where  $F_0$ ,  $F$ , are the fluorescence intensity of Free ligand, full quenching with metal and  $F_x$  is the fluorescence intensity on gradual addition of metal. From slope and intercept we can have the Association constant.

From Graph,

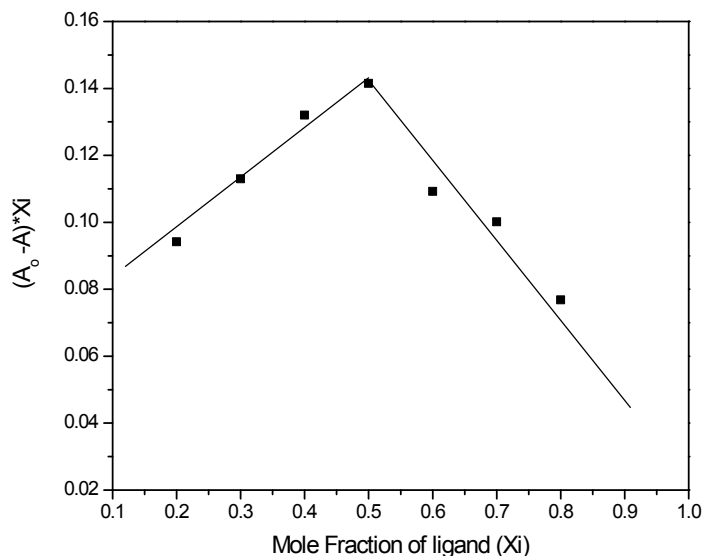
$$\text{Slope (B)} = 8.51548 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$\text{Intercept (A)} = 0.67876$$

$$\text{The Association constant ( } K_a) = A/B = 7.97 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$$

### Jobs Plot:

Ligand with Metal ( $Fe^{3+}$ ) binding ratio can be easily determined from JOBS plot.



**Fig. S8** Plot of  $(A_0 - A) * X_i$  Vs  $X_i$ . Where  $X_i$  = mole fraction of ligand (**11u**) and  $A_0$  is the Absorbance of pure ligand and  $A$  is the absorbance of complex in mixture.

From Graph:  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ : 11u = 1:1 (Binding Ratio)

### X-ray crystal analyses:

**Crystal data for 2-[4-acetyl-5-methyl-1-*p*-tolyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-3-pyrrolyl]-2-cyanoacetamide (**5j**):**  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_2$ ,  $M = 405.87$ , Orthorhombic,  $a = 10.0940(18) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 11.275(2) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 17.835(3) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = 90$ ,  $\beta = 90$ ,  $\gamma = 90$ ,  $V = 2029.7(6) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $T = 296 \text{ K}$ , space group  $P2(1)2(1)2(1)$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.213 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ , 9835 reflections measured, 3788 independent reflections ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0679$ ). The final  $R_I$  values were 0.0566 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ). The final  $wR(F^2)$  values were 0.1244 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ). The final  $R_I$  values were 0.1865 (all data). The final  $wR(F^2)$  values were 0.1034 (all data). The goodness of fit on  $F^2$  was 0.893. CCDC number 1025342.

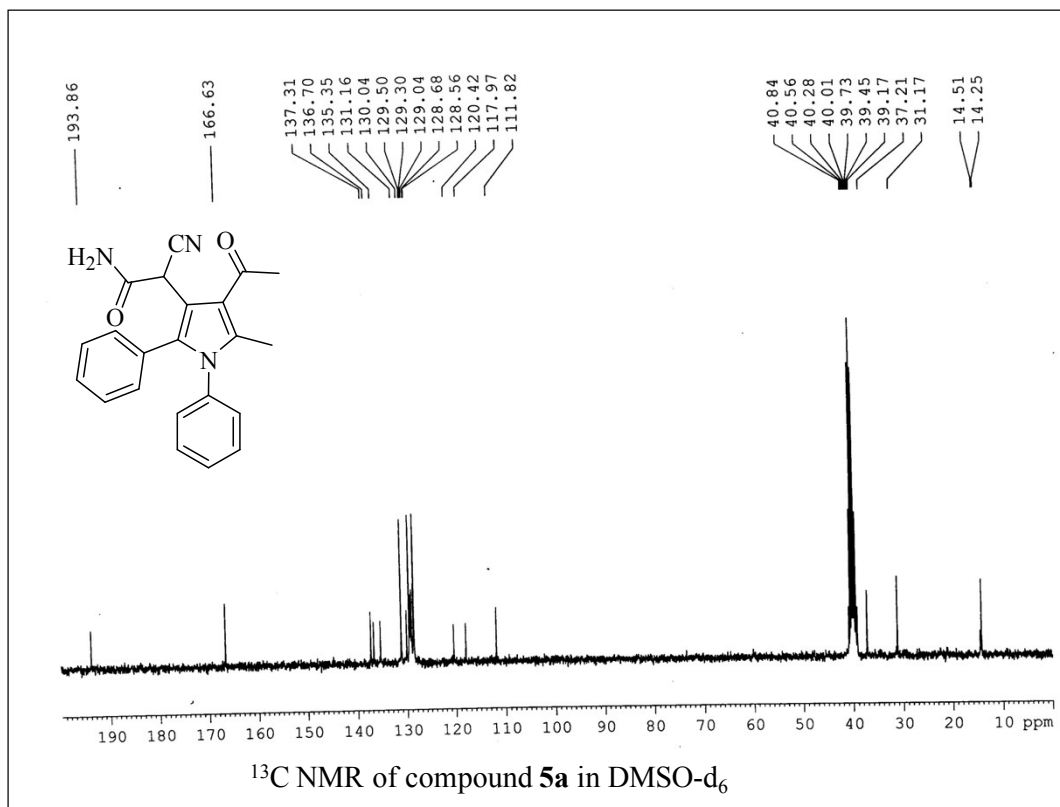
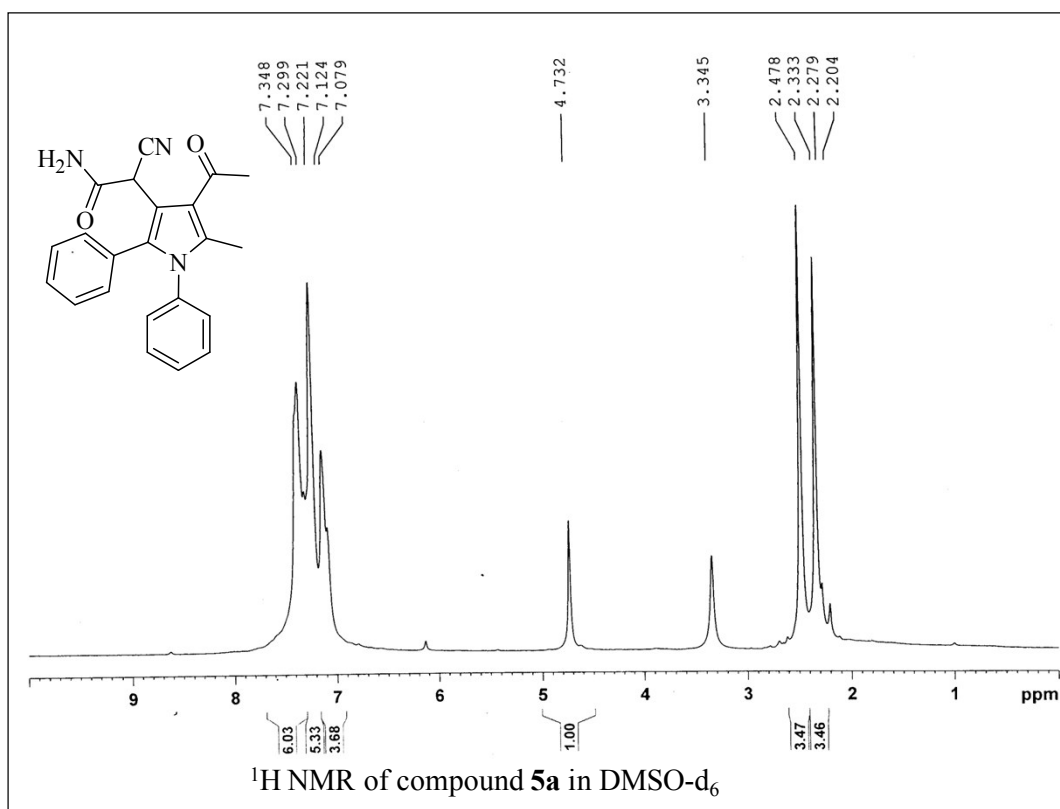
**Crystal data for 3-acetyl-5-hydroxy-1-benzyl-2-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*g*]indole-4-carbonitrile (11g):** C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, *M* = 354.39, Triclinic, *a* = 8.2226(7) Å, *b* = 9.7911(7) Å, *c* = 12.1078(9) Å,  $\alpha$  = 85.263(3),  $\beta$  = 72.053(3),  $\gamma$  = 75.796(3), *V* = 898.97(12) Å<sup>3</sup>, *T* = 296 K, space group P-1, *Z* = 2,  $\mu$ (MoK $\alpha$ ) = 0.085 mm<sup>-1</sup>, 13318 reflections measured, 5675 independent reflections (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.0446). The final *R*<sub>*I*</sub> values were 0.0785 (*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)). The final *wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) values were 0.2248 (*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)). The final *R*<sub>*I*</sub> values were 0.1938 (all data). The final *wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) values were 0.2844 (all data). The goodness of fit on *F*<sup>2</sup> was 0.970. CCDC number 1025252.

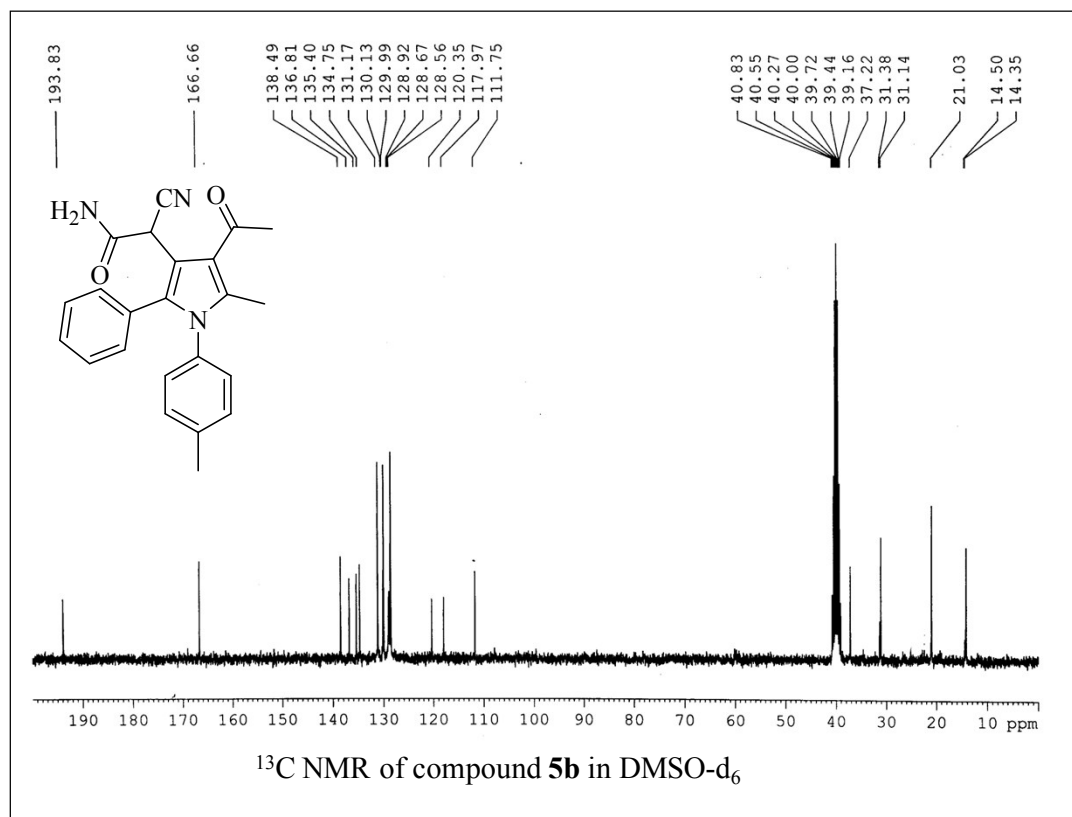
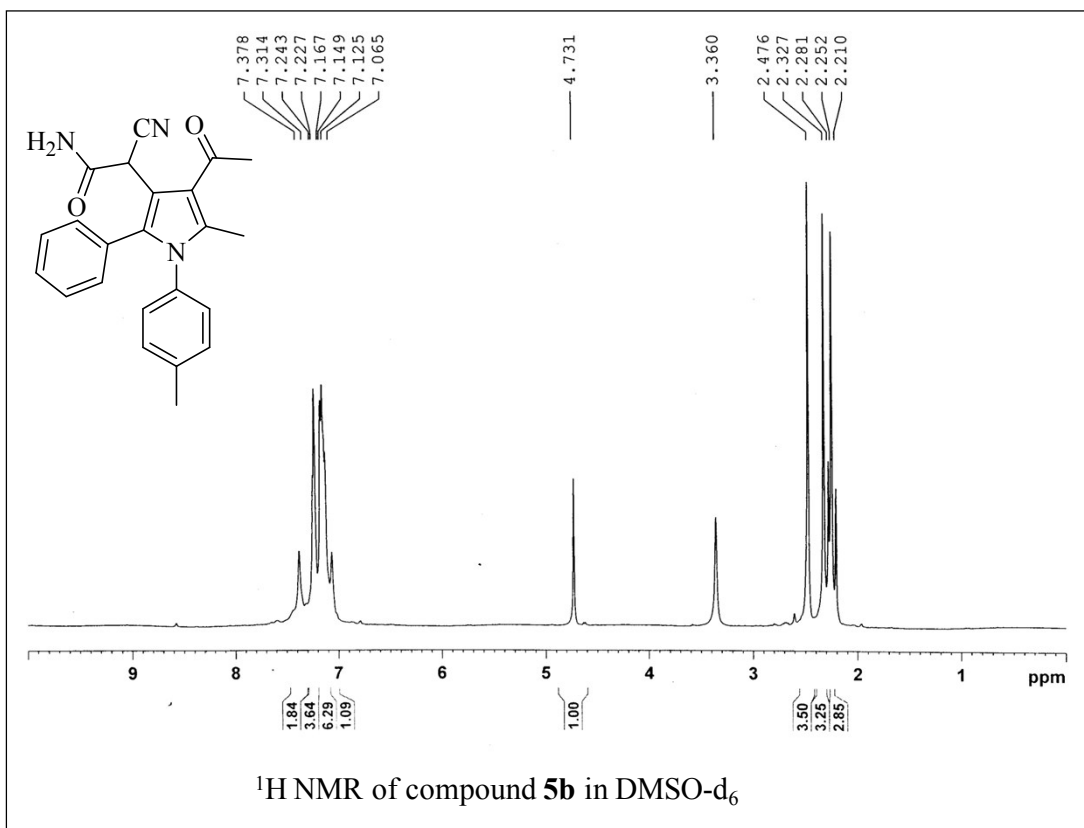
**Crystal data for 3-acetyl-5-hydroxy-1-cyclopropyl-2-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*g*]indole-4-carbonitrile (11h):** C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, *M* = 304.34, Triclinic, *a* = 9.4136(7) Å, *b* = 9.9725(7) Å, *c* = 10.1281(13) Å,  $\alpha$  = 111.742(3),  $\beta$  = 96.696(3),  $\gamma$  = 116.846(2), *V* = 740.30(12) Å<sup>3</sup>, *T* = 296 K, space group P-1, *Z* = 2,  $\mu$ (MoK $\alpha$ ) = 0.090 mm<sup>-1</sup>, 10092 reflections measured, 3771 independent reflections (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.0285). The final *R*<sub>*I*</sub> values were 0.0551 (*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)). The final *wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) values were 0.1347 (*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)). The final *R*<sub>*I*</sub> values were 0.0737 (all data). The final *wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) values were 0.1494 (all data). The goodness of fit on *F*<sup>2</sup> was 1.015. CCDC number 1025253.

**Crystal data for 3-Carboethoxy-5-hydroxy-1-phenyl-2-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*g*]indole-4-carbonitrile (11u):** C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, *M* = 370.41, Orthorhombic, *a* = 13.1523(11) Å, *b* = 14.8790(12) Å, *c* = 19.1293(15) Å,  $\alpha$  = 90,  $\beta$  = 90,  $\gamma$  = 90, *V* = 3743.5(5) Å<sup>3</sup>, *T* = 296 K, space group Pbca, *Z* = 8,  $\mu$ (MoK $\alpha$ ) = 0.088 mm<sup>-1</sup>, 49294 reflections measured, 5650 independent reflections (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.0948). The final *R*<sub>*I*</sub> values were 0.0687 (*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)). The final *wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) values were 0.1693 (*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)). The final *R*<sub>*I*</sub> values were 0.1729 (all data). The final *wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) values were 0.2103 (all data). The goodness of fit on *F*<sup>2</sup> was 0.957. CCDC number 1042549.

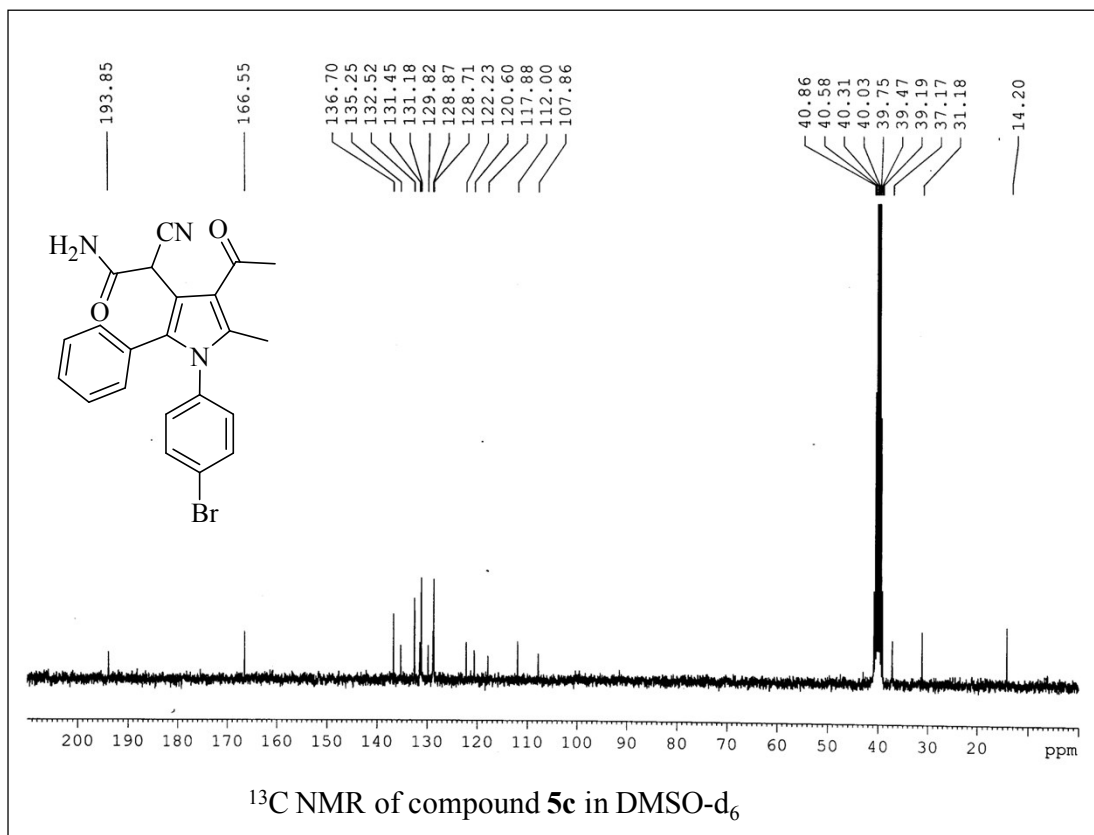
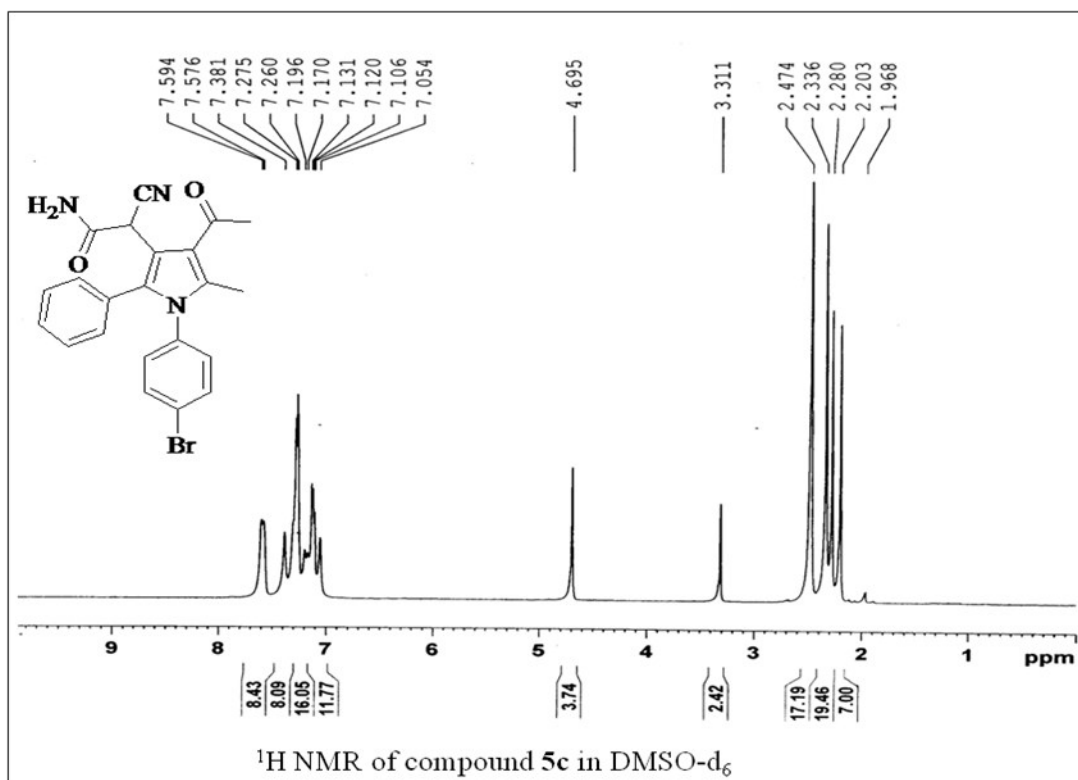
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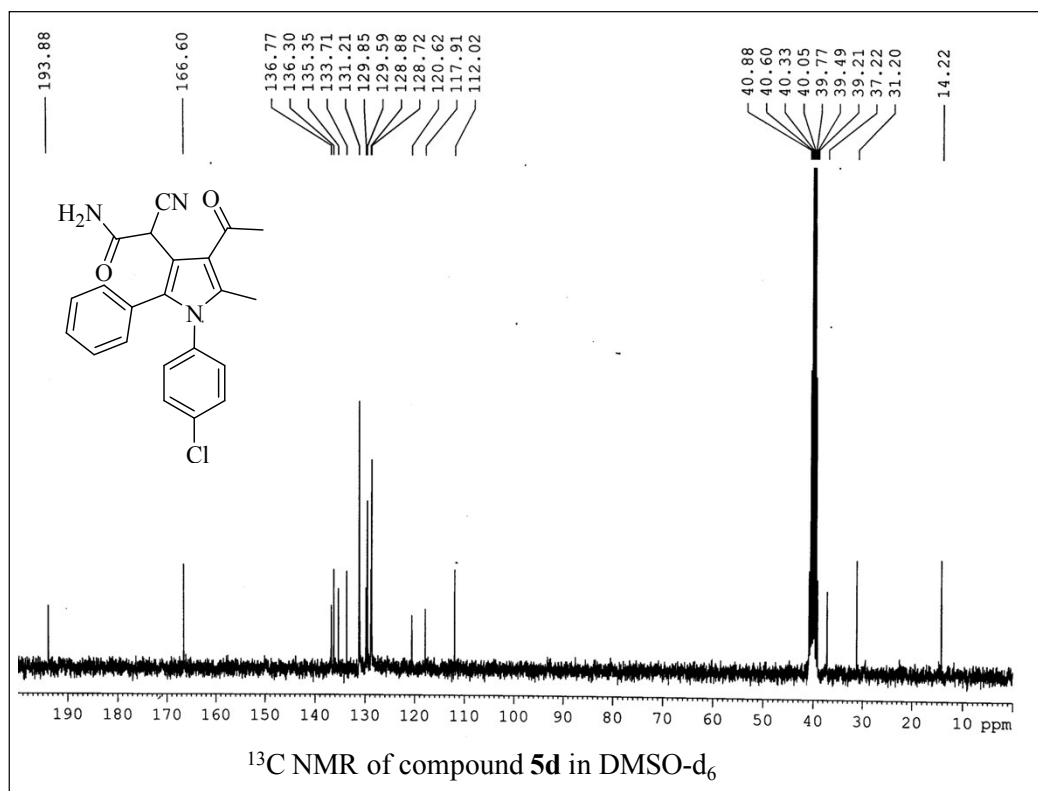
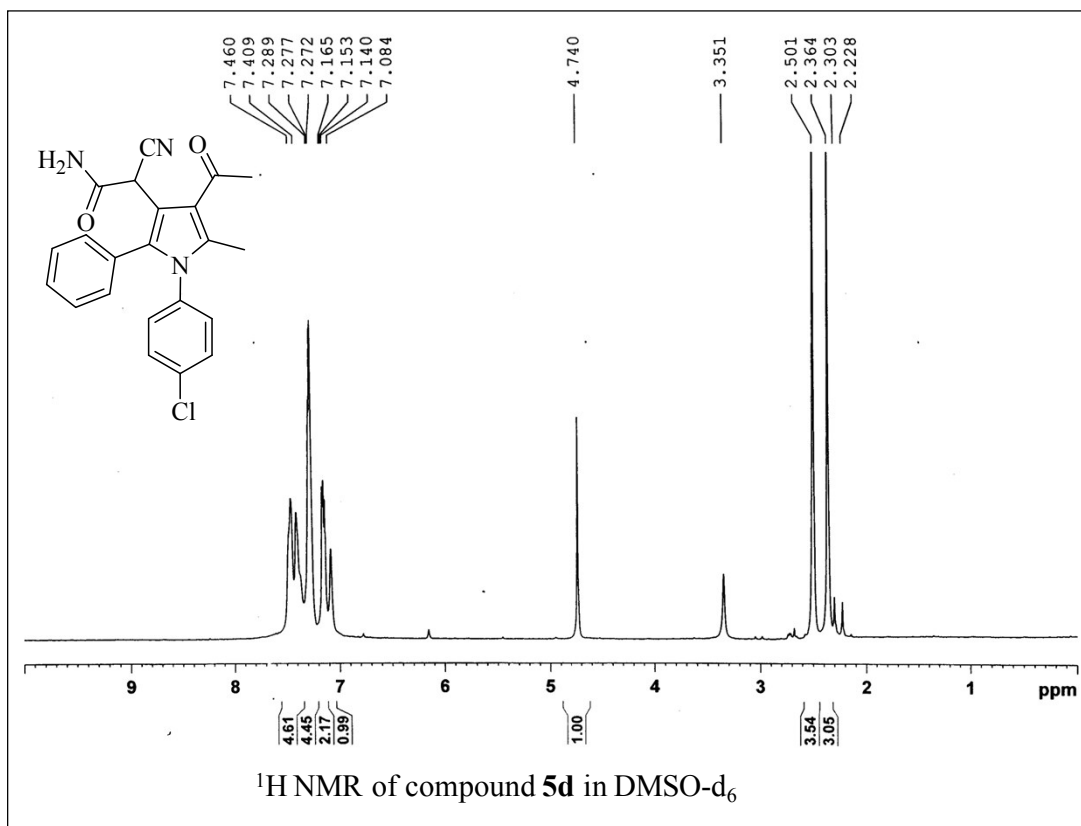
Starting materials and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Melting points were determined in open capillary tubes and were uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 782 spectrophotometer.  $^1\text{H}$  (300 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz) spectra were recorded on Bruker 300 MHz instrument in  $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$ . Elemental analyses (C, H and N) were performed using Perkin-Elmer 240C elemental analyzer. . The Xray diffraction data for crystallized compounds were collected with  $\text{MoK}\alpha$  radiation at 296K using the Bruker APEX-II CCD System. The crystals were positioned at 50 mm from the CCD. Frames were measured with a counting time of 5s. Data analyses were carried out with the Bruker APEX2 and Bruker SAINT program. The structures were solved using direct methods with the Shelxs97 program (Sheldrick, 2008).

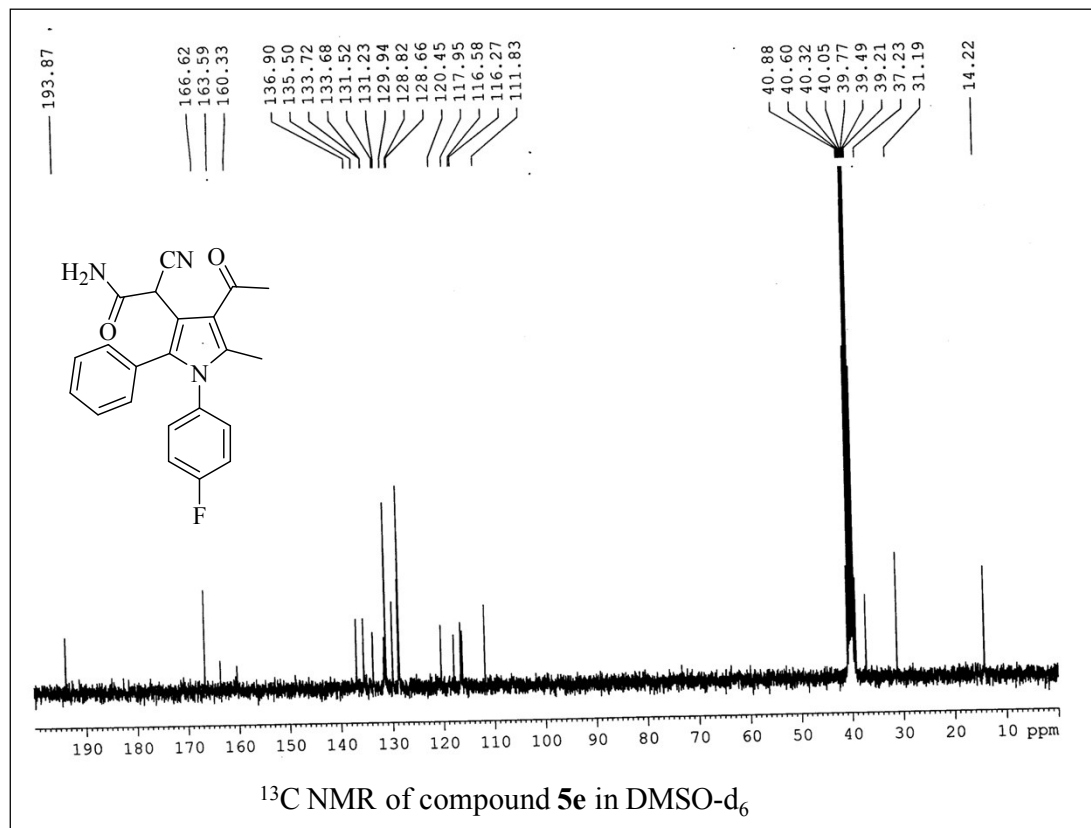
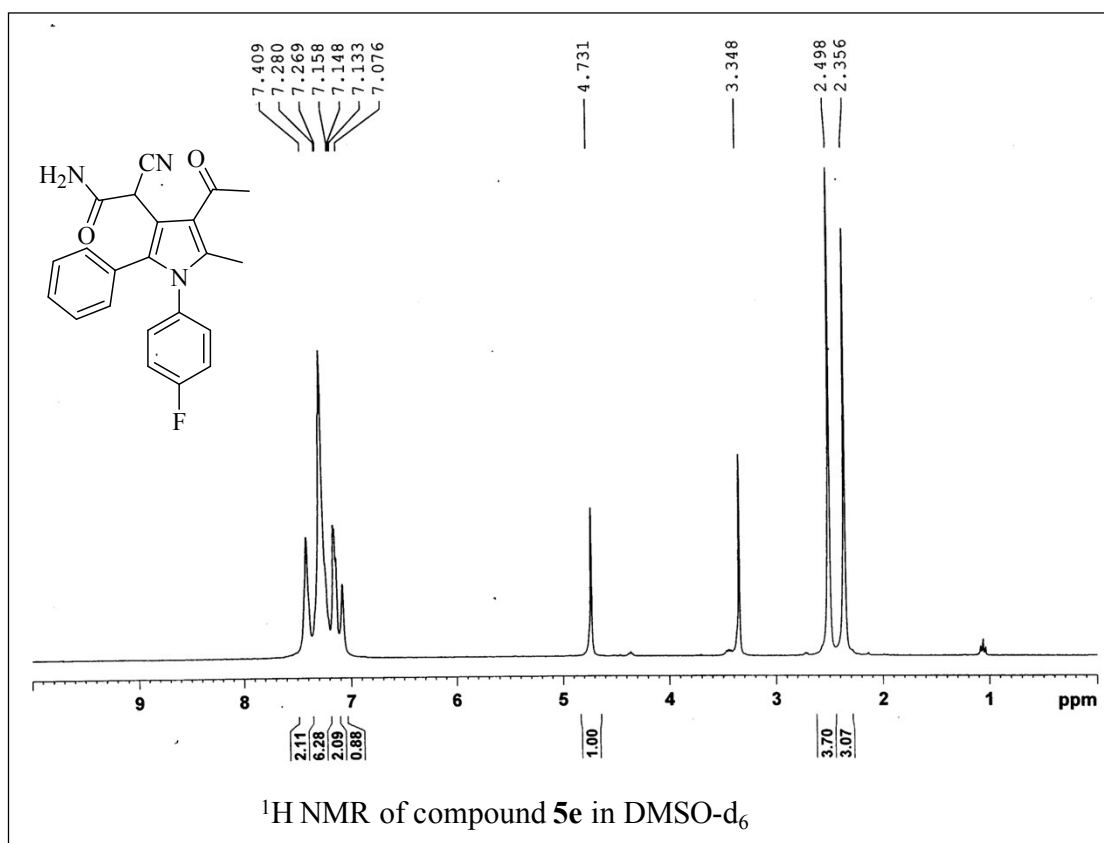


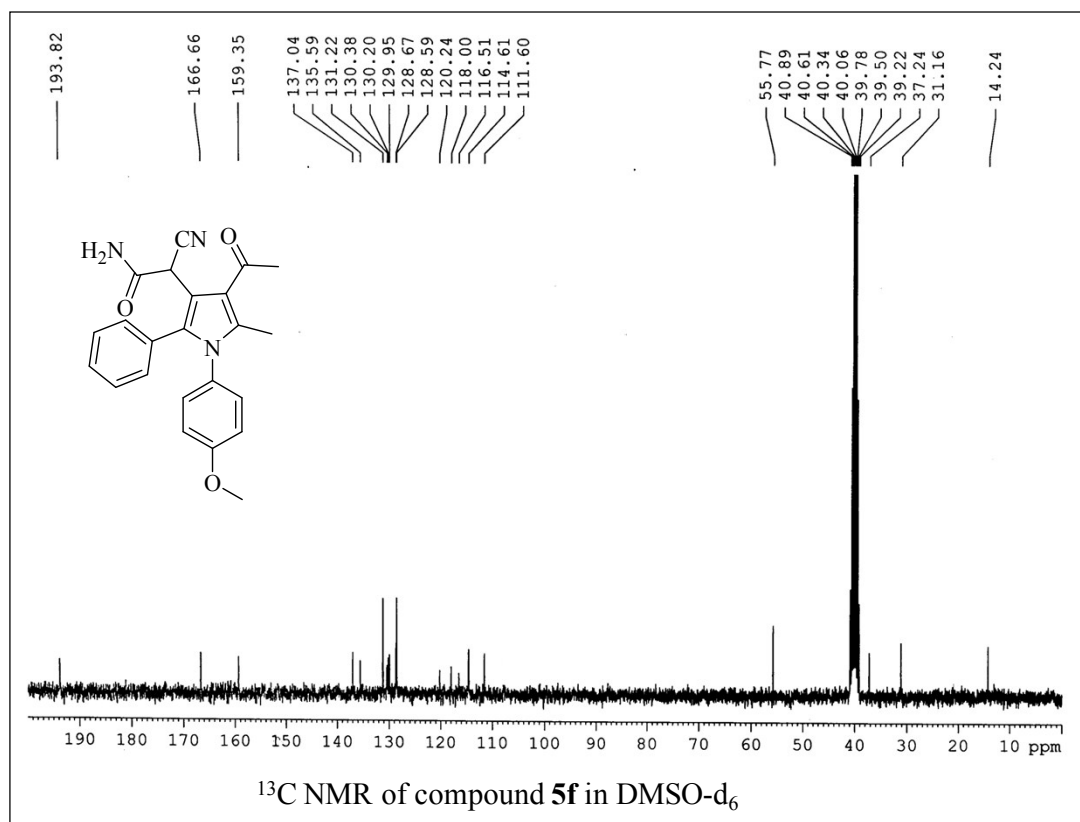
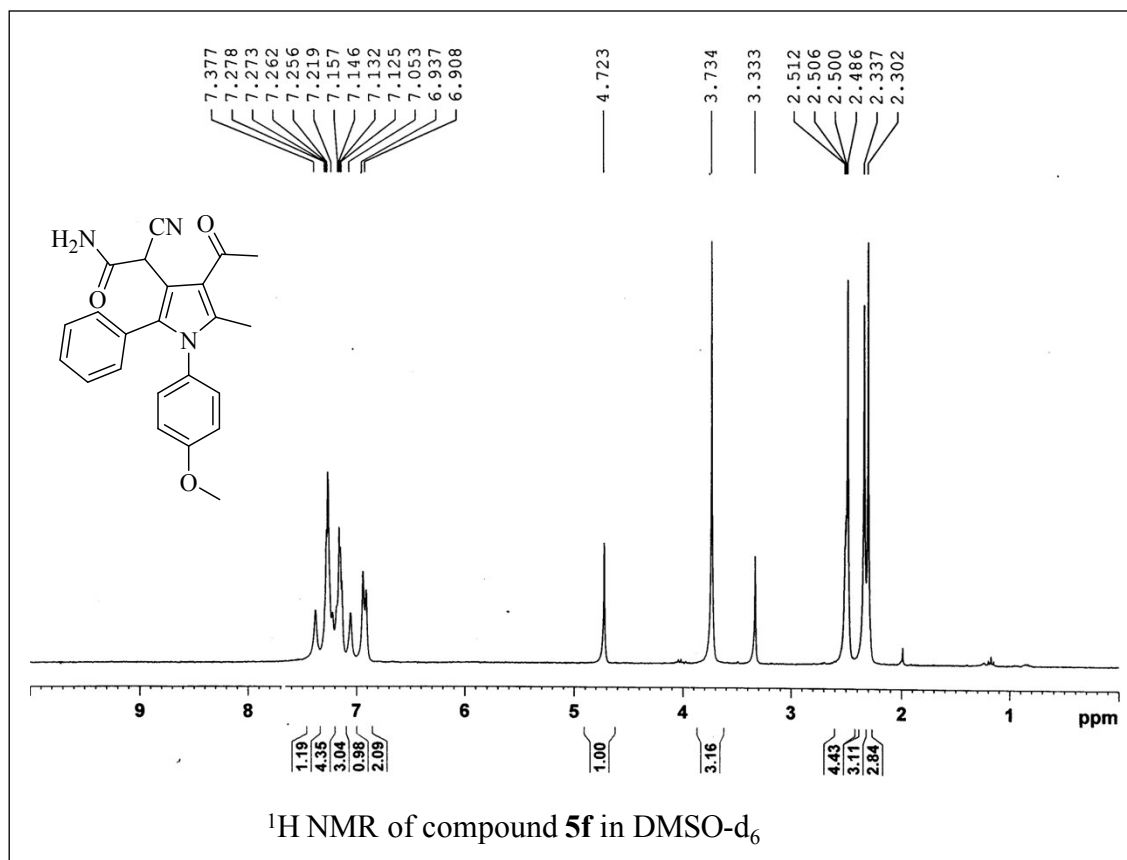


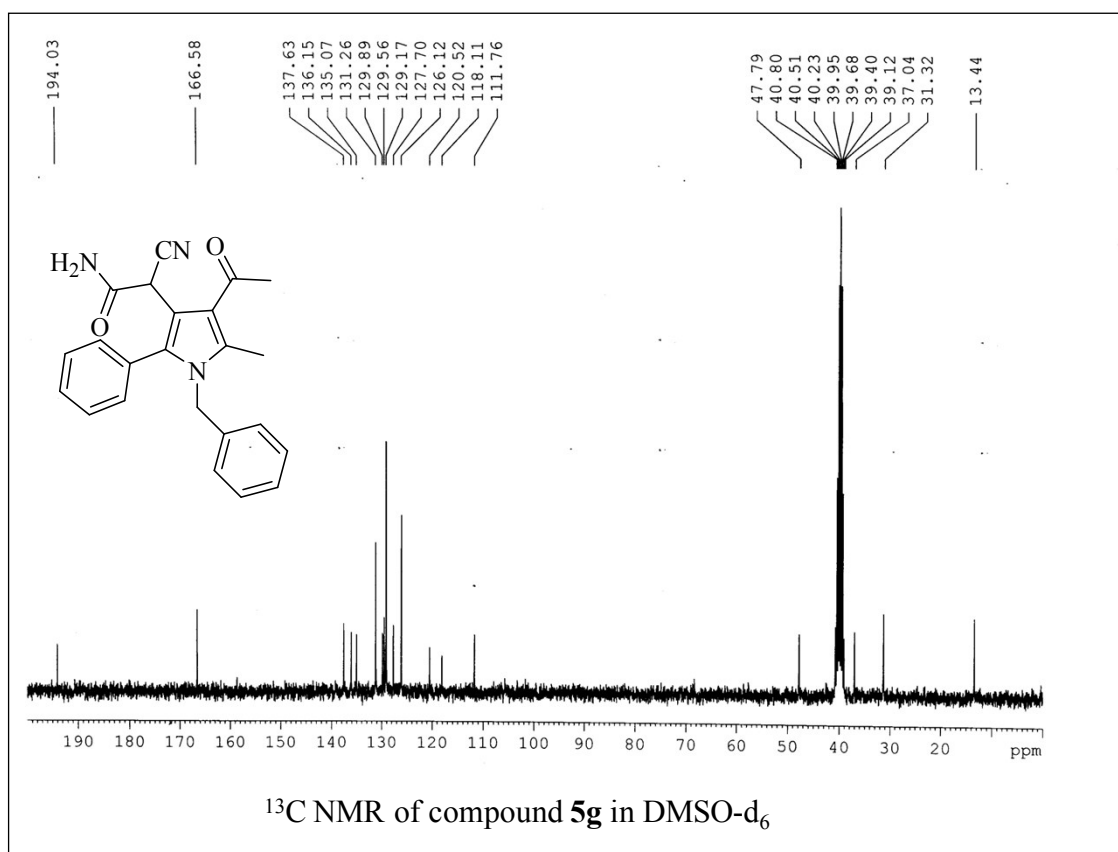
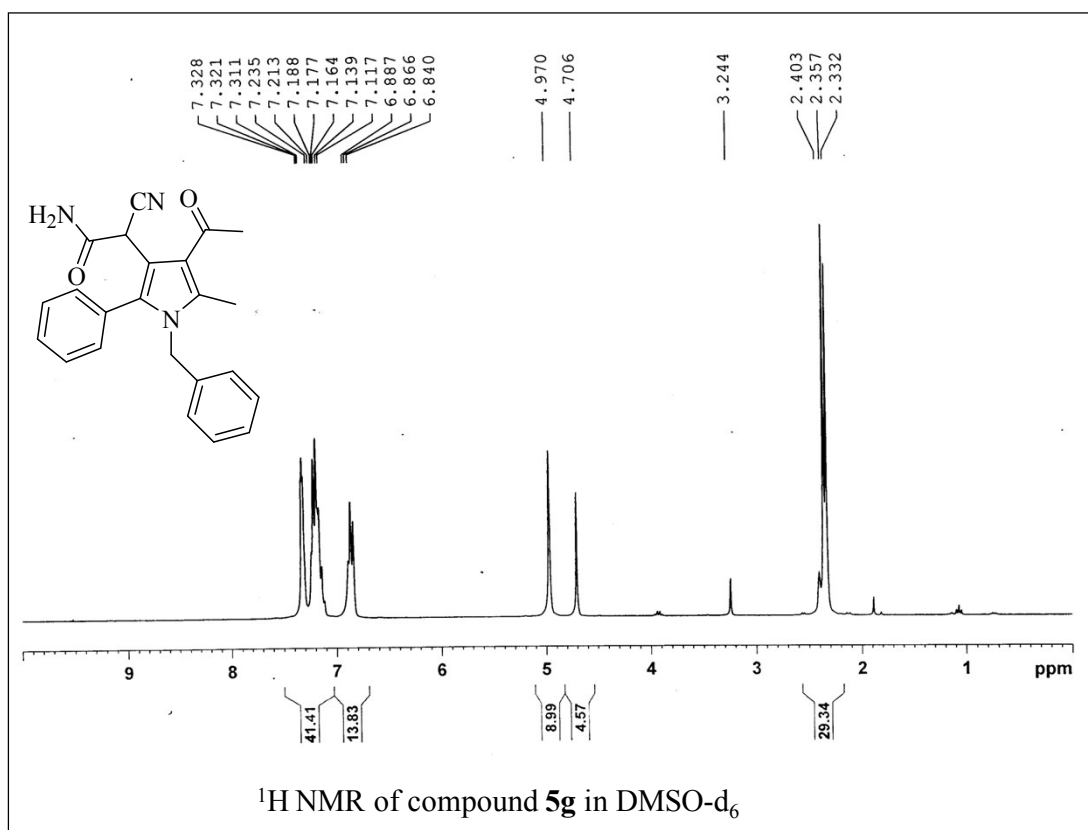


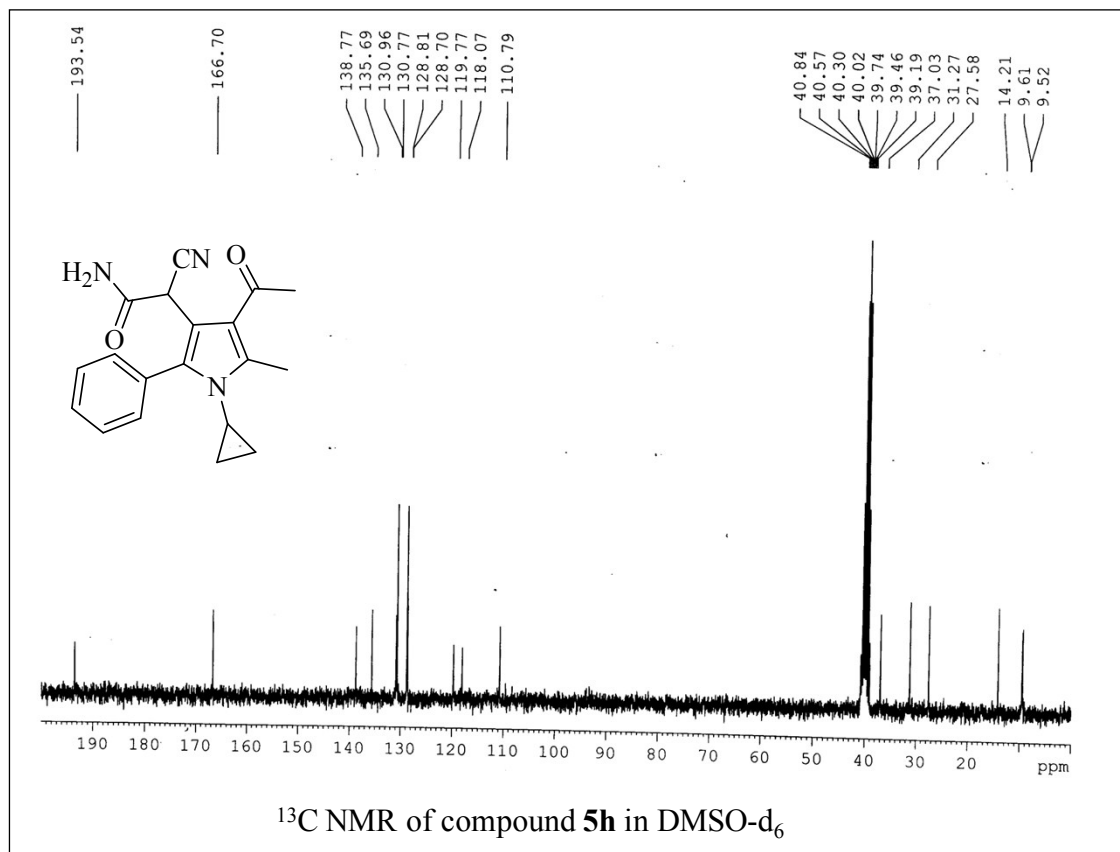
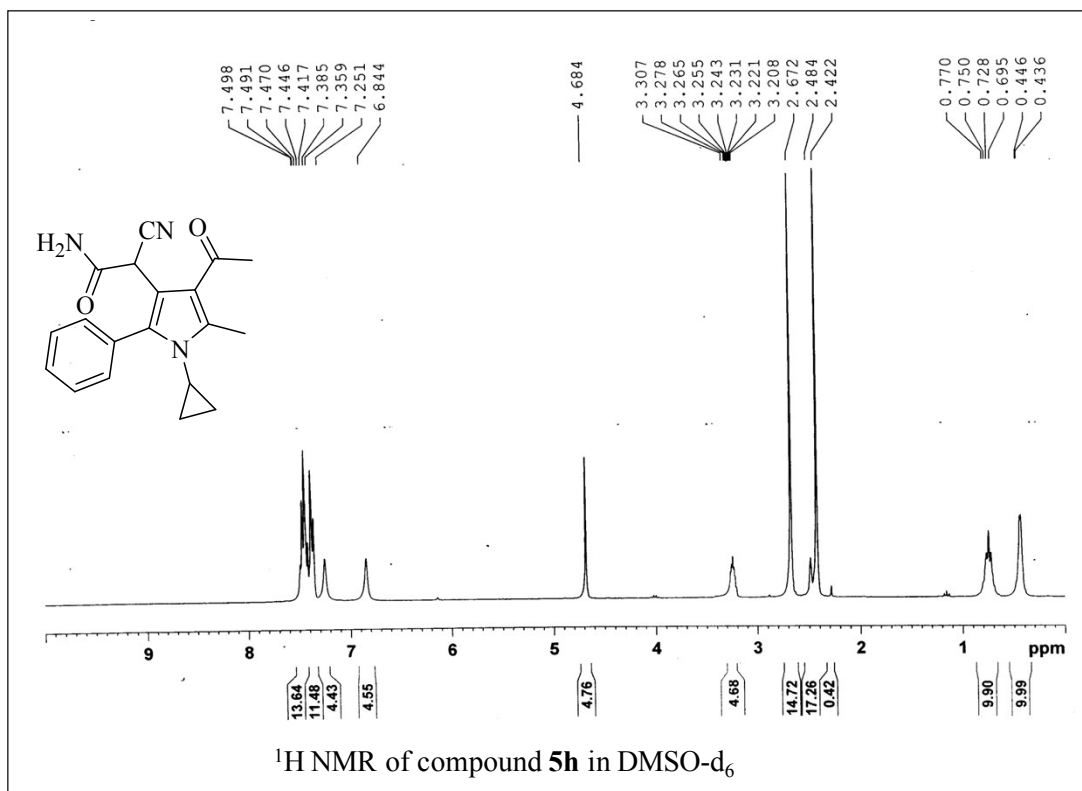


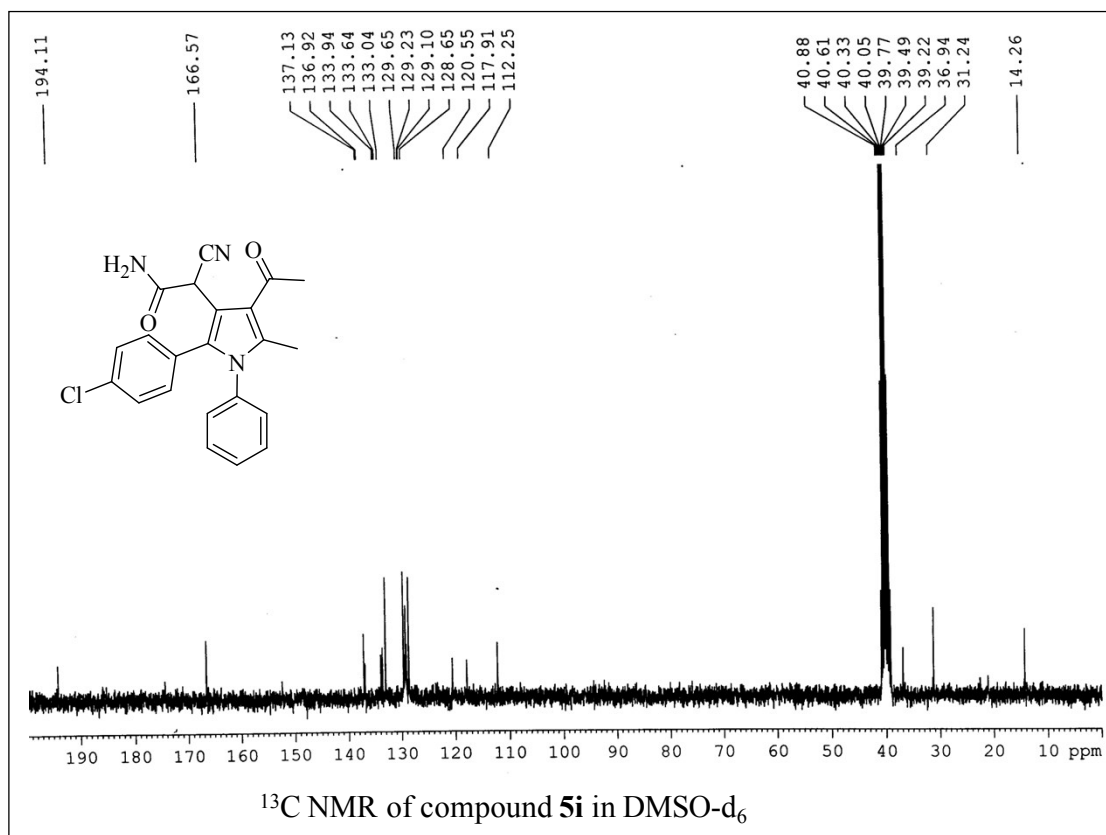
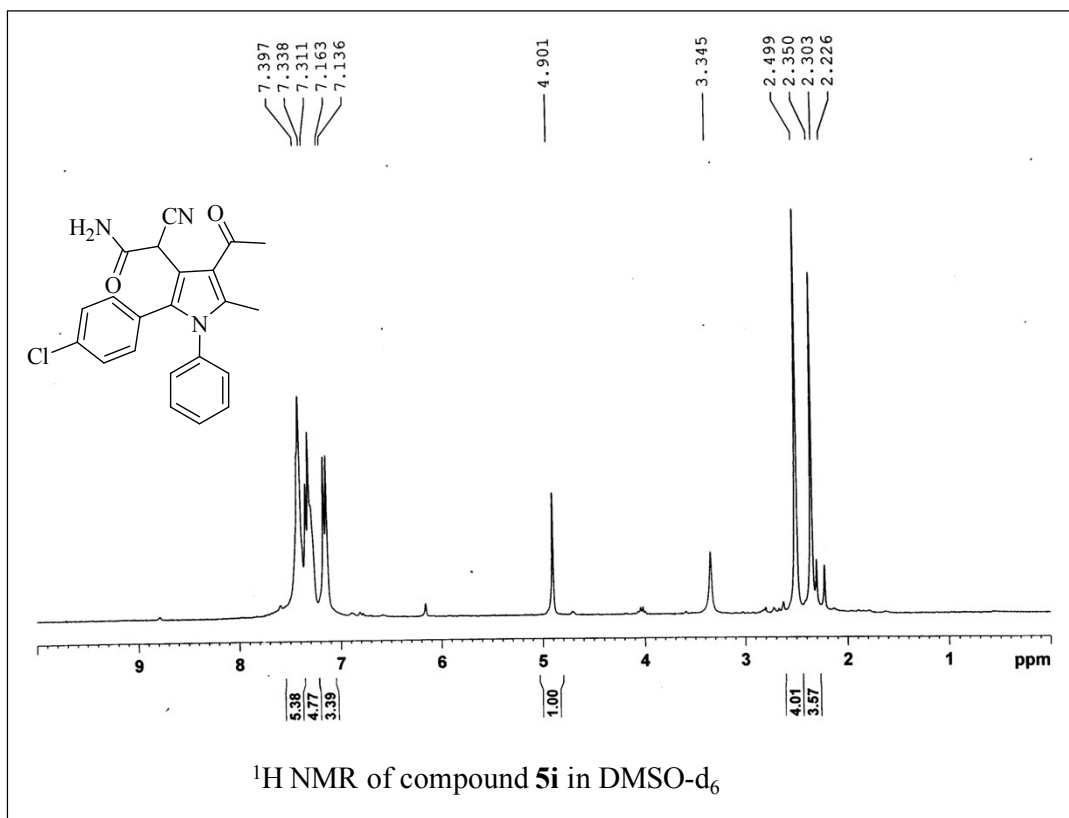


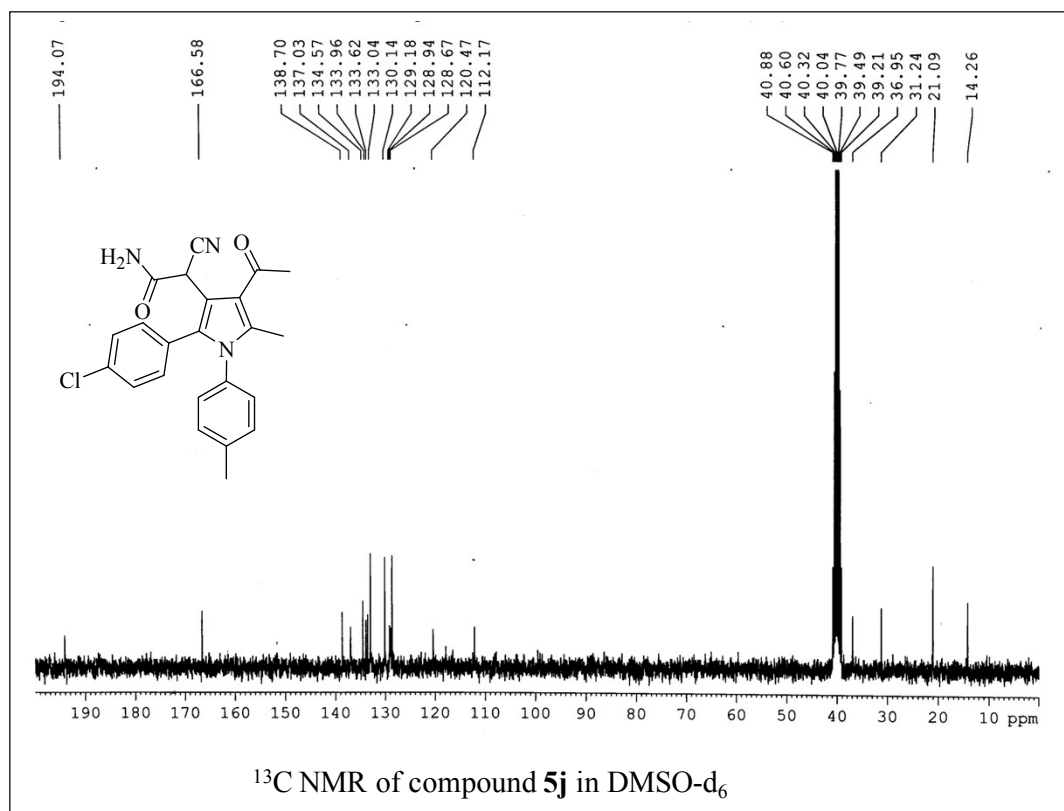
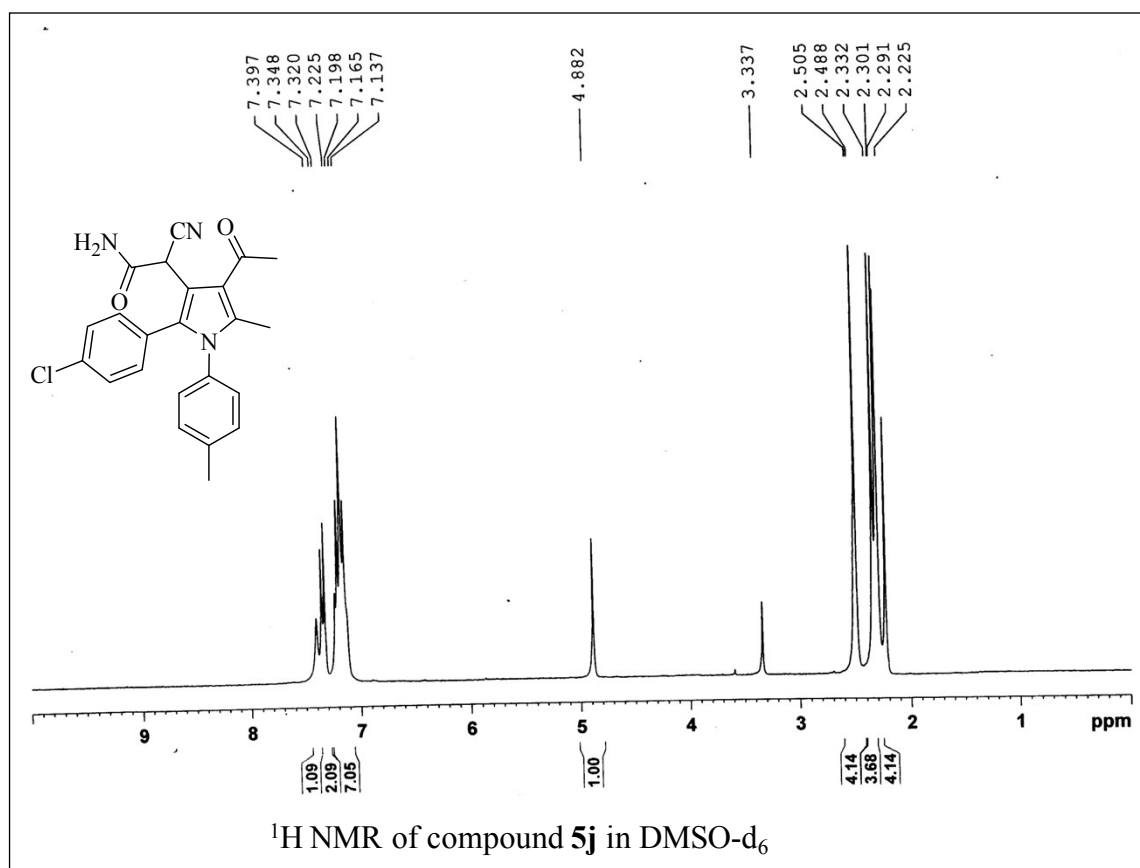




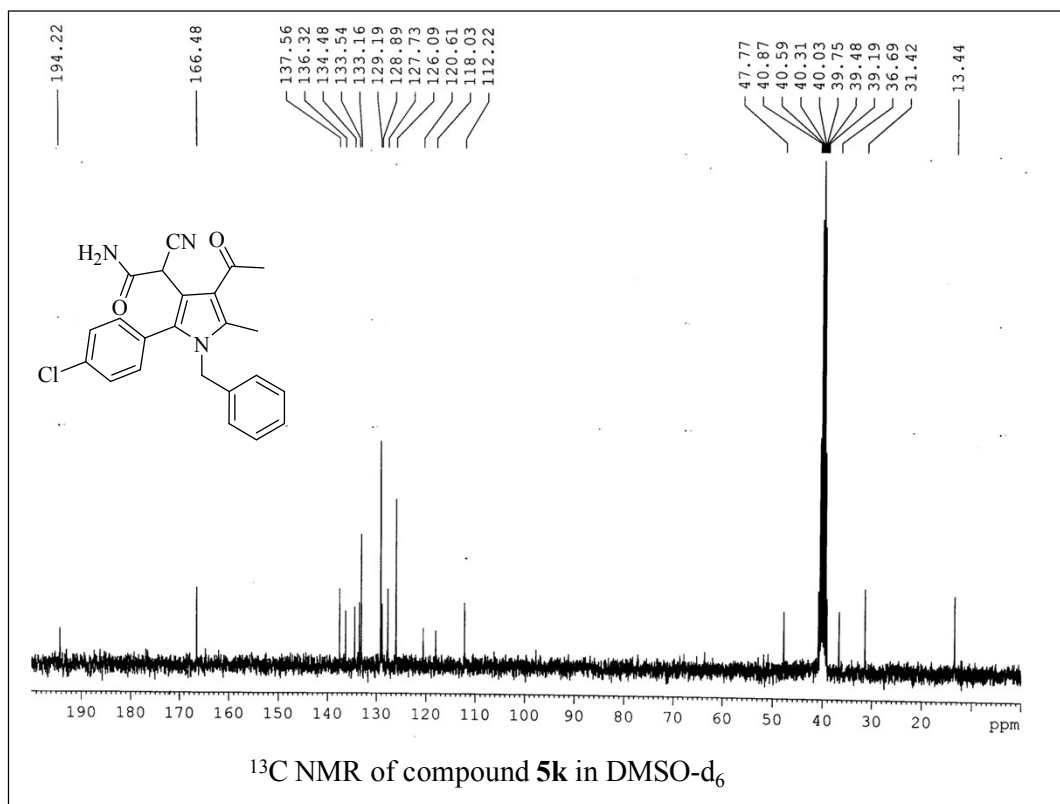
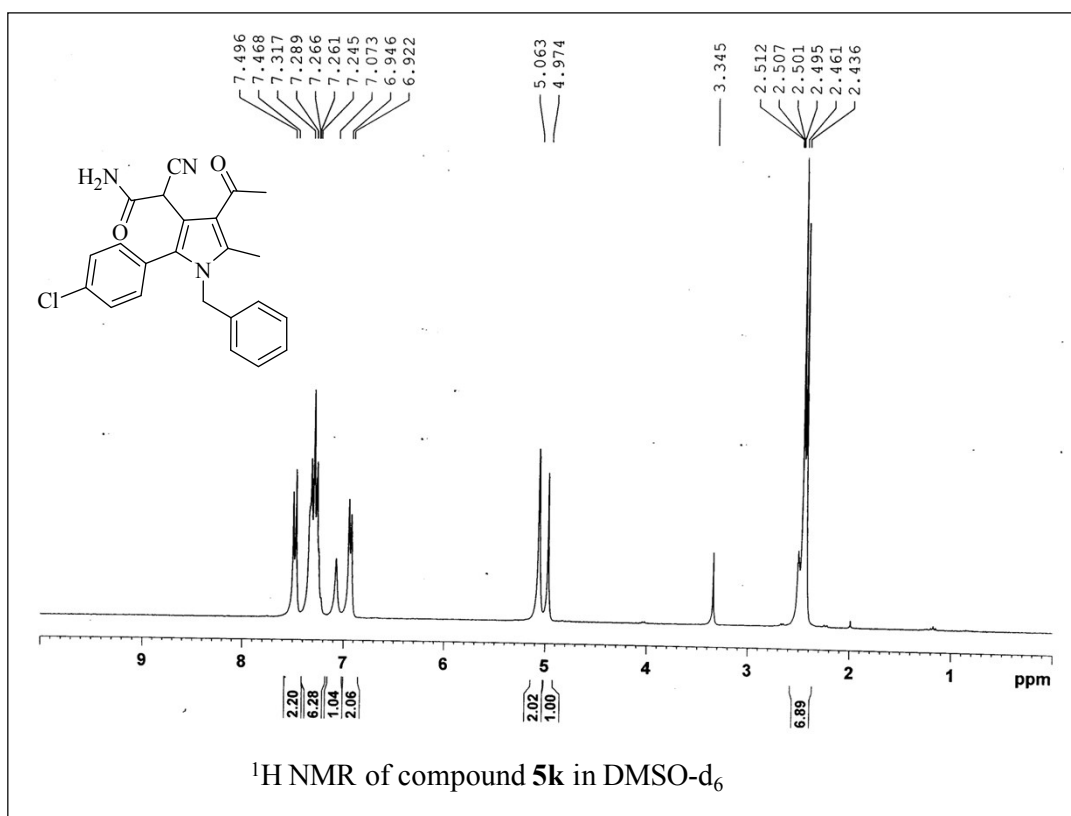


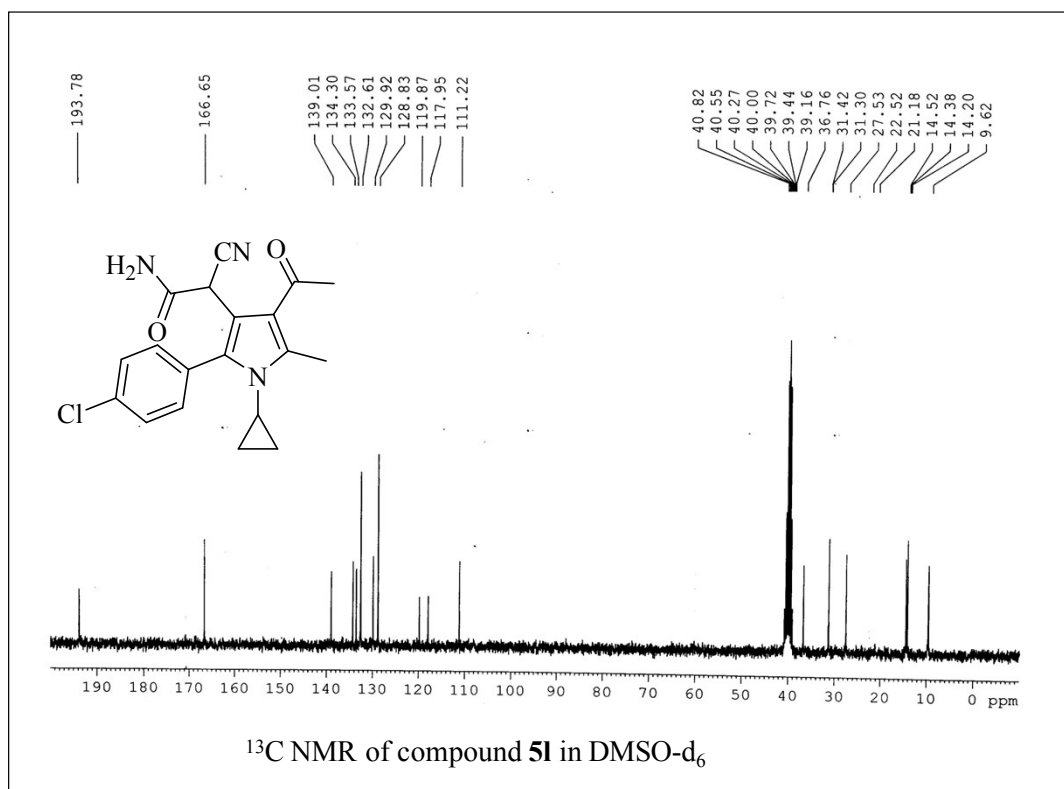
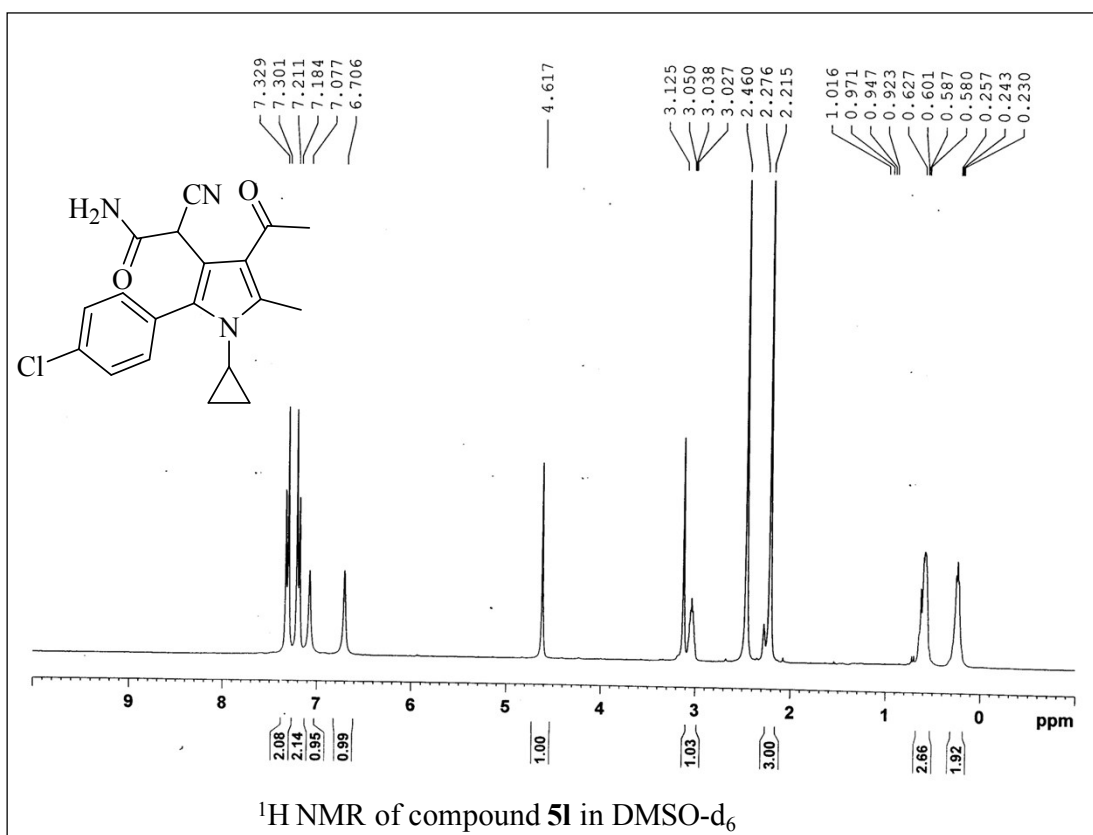


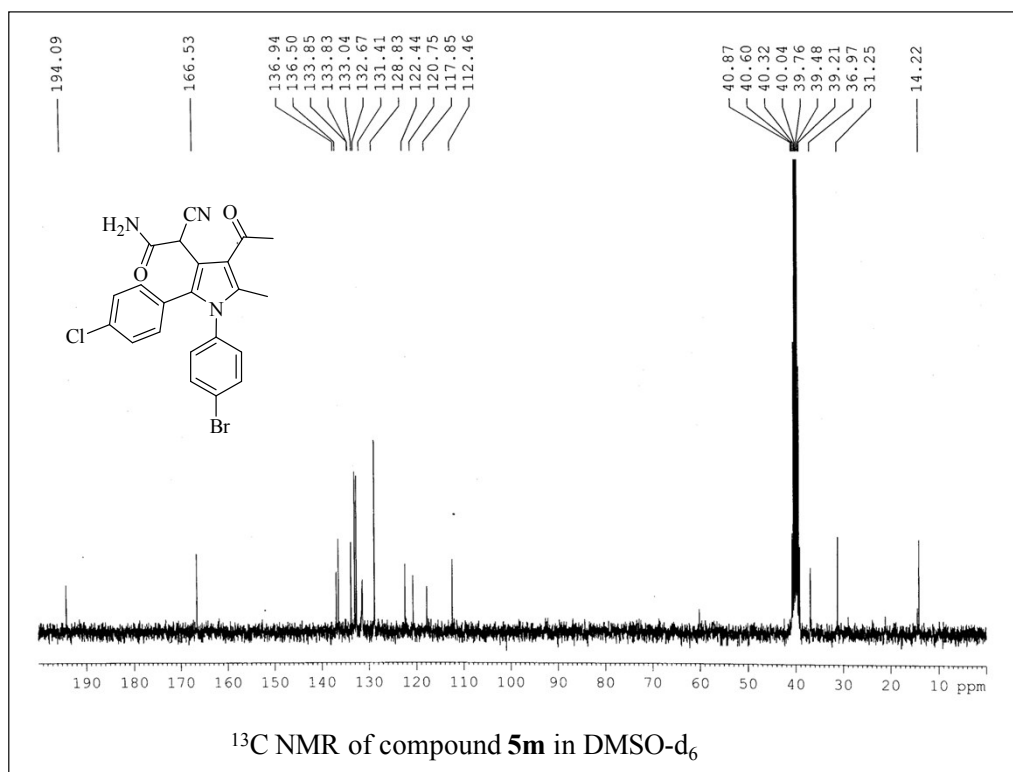
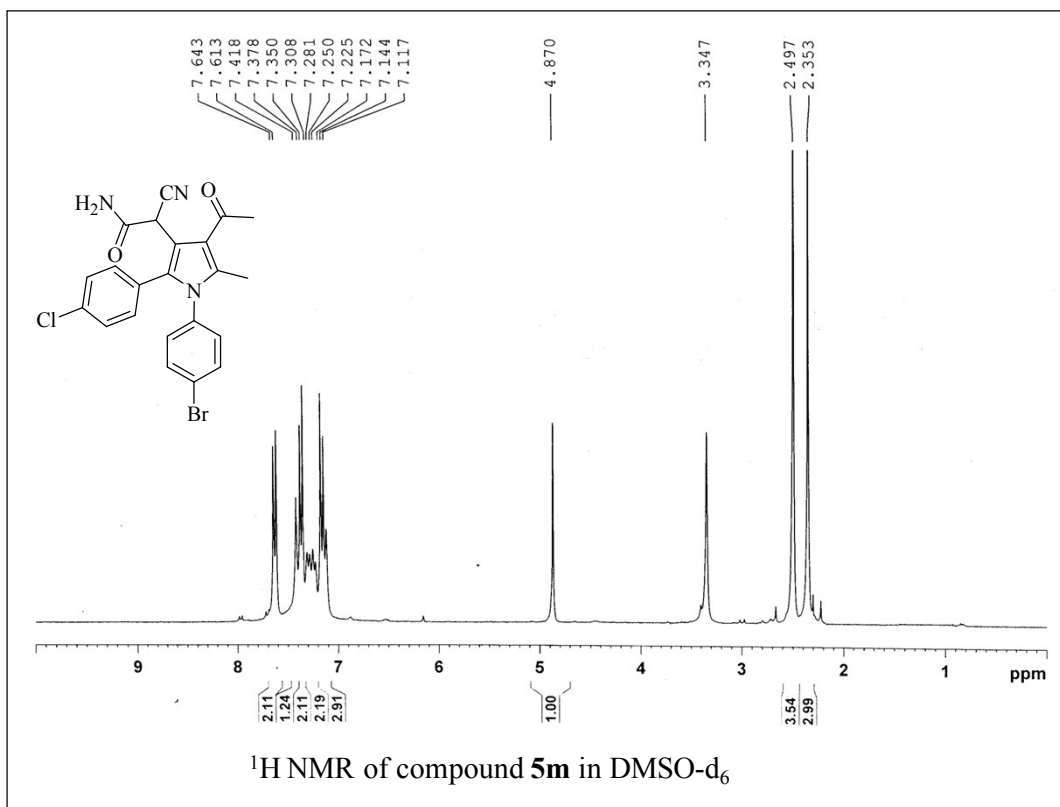


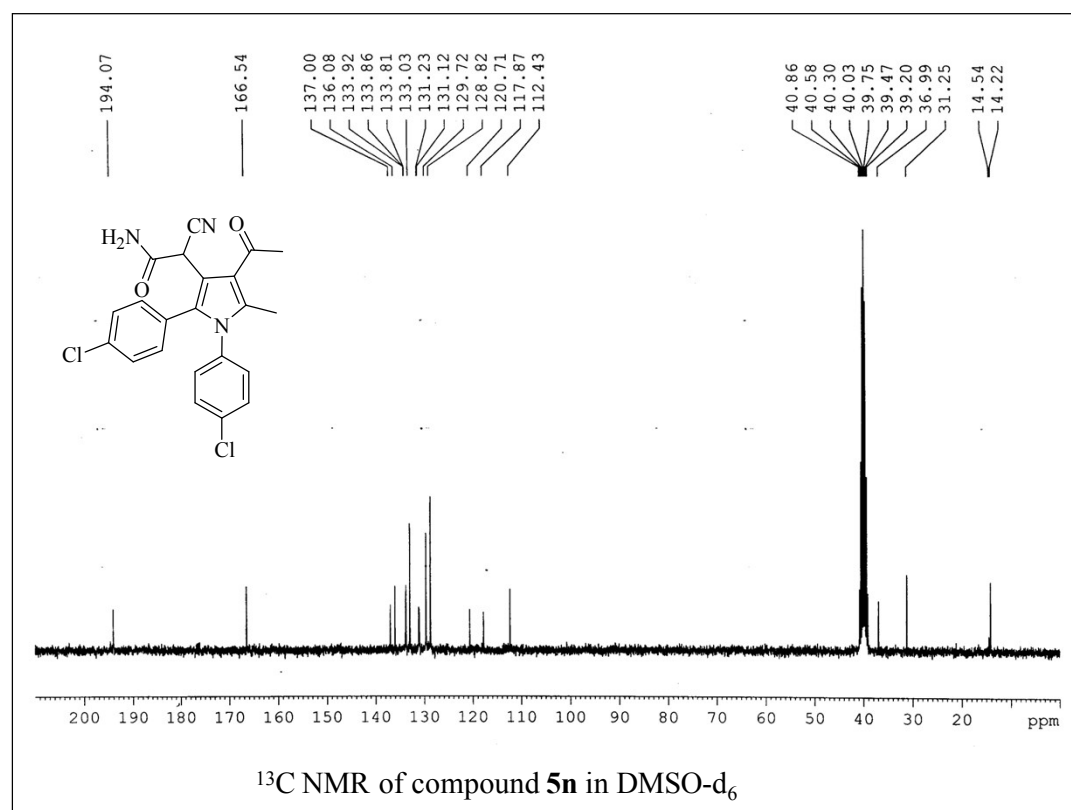
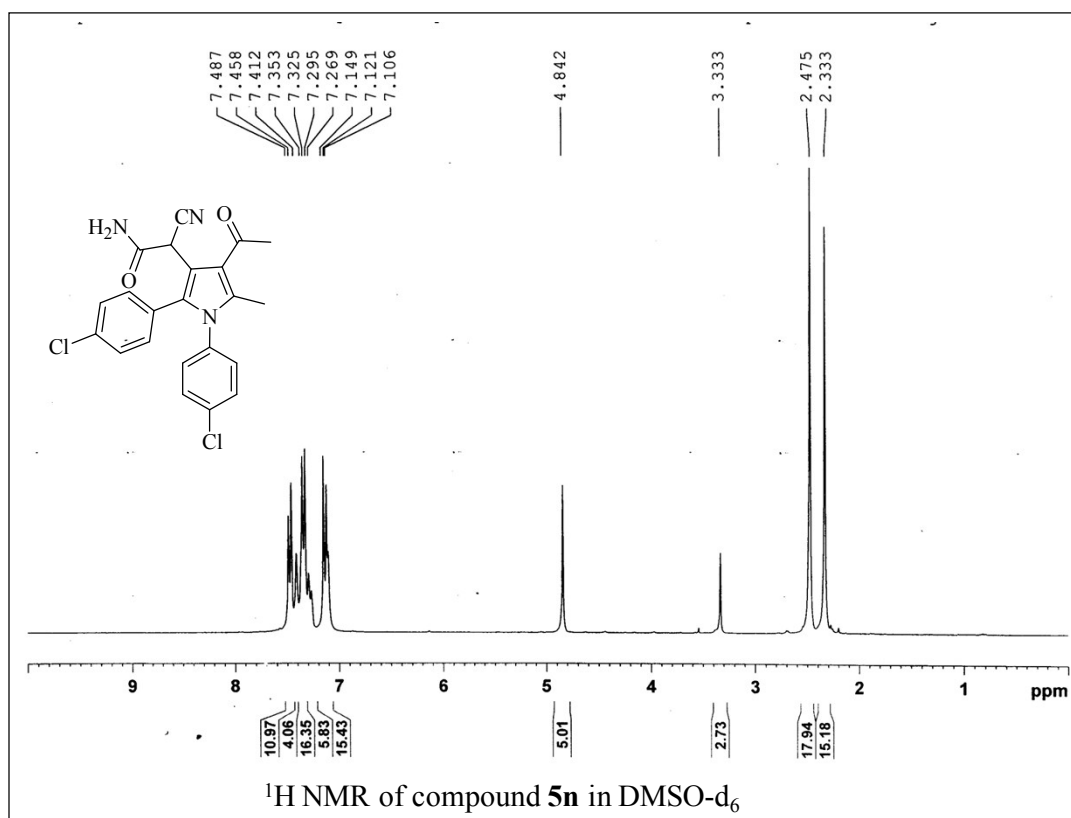


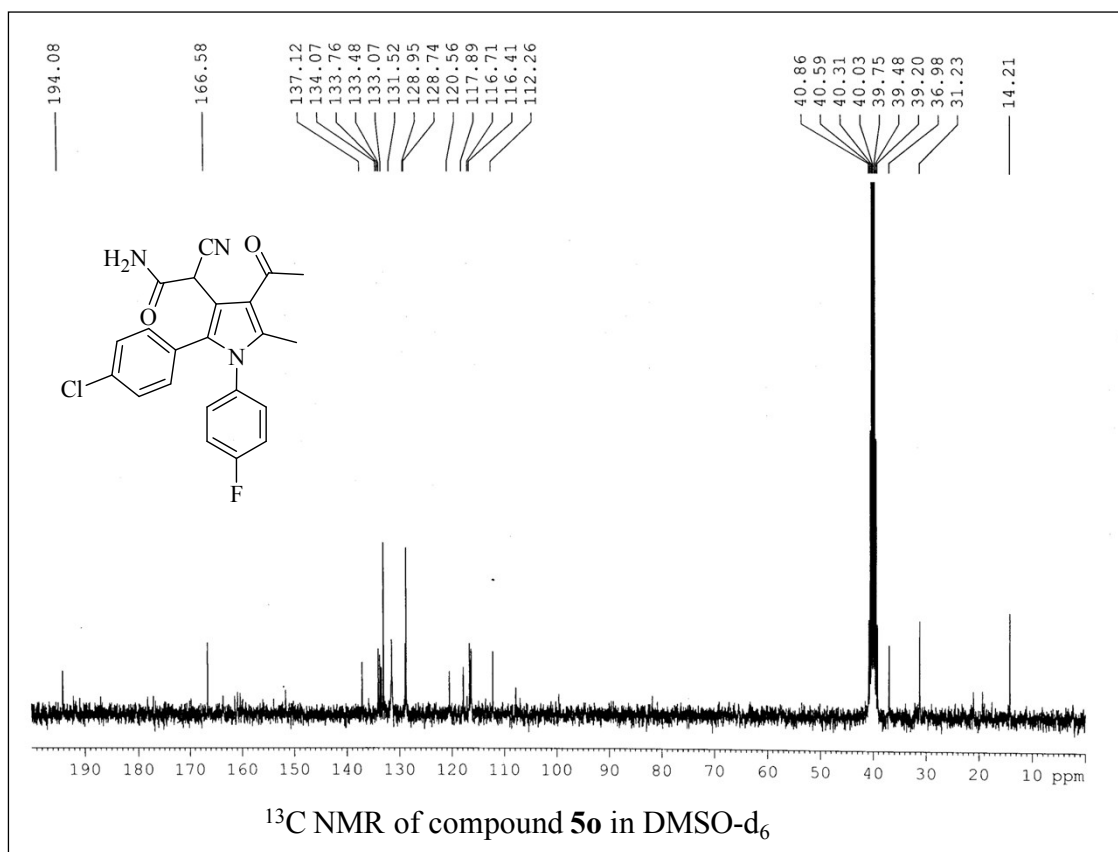
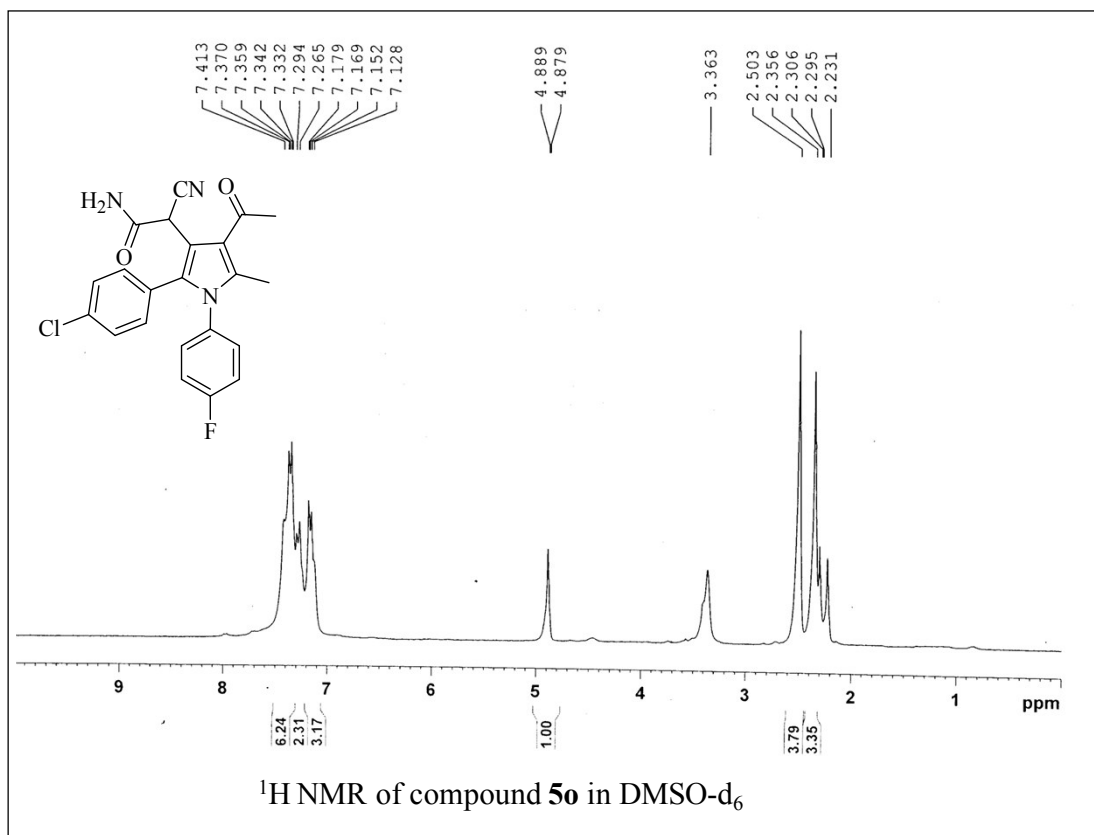


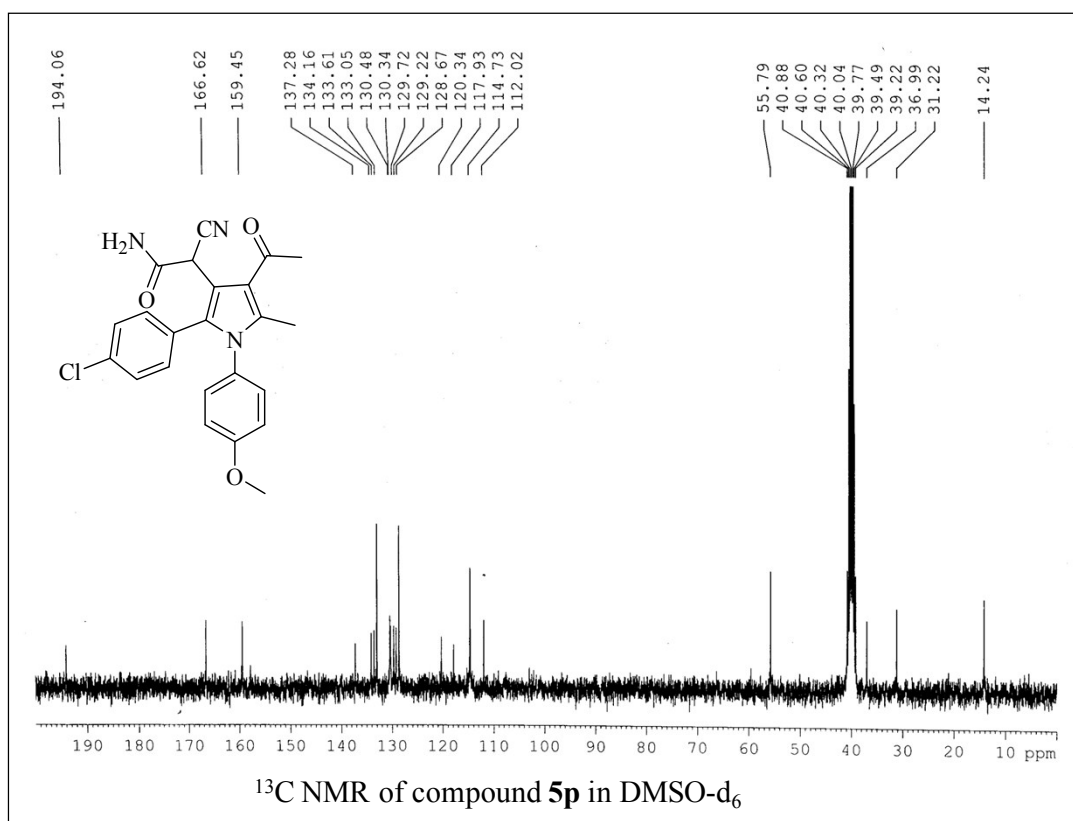
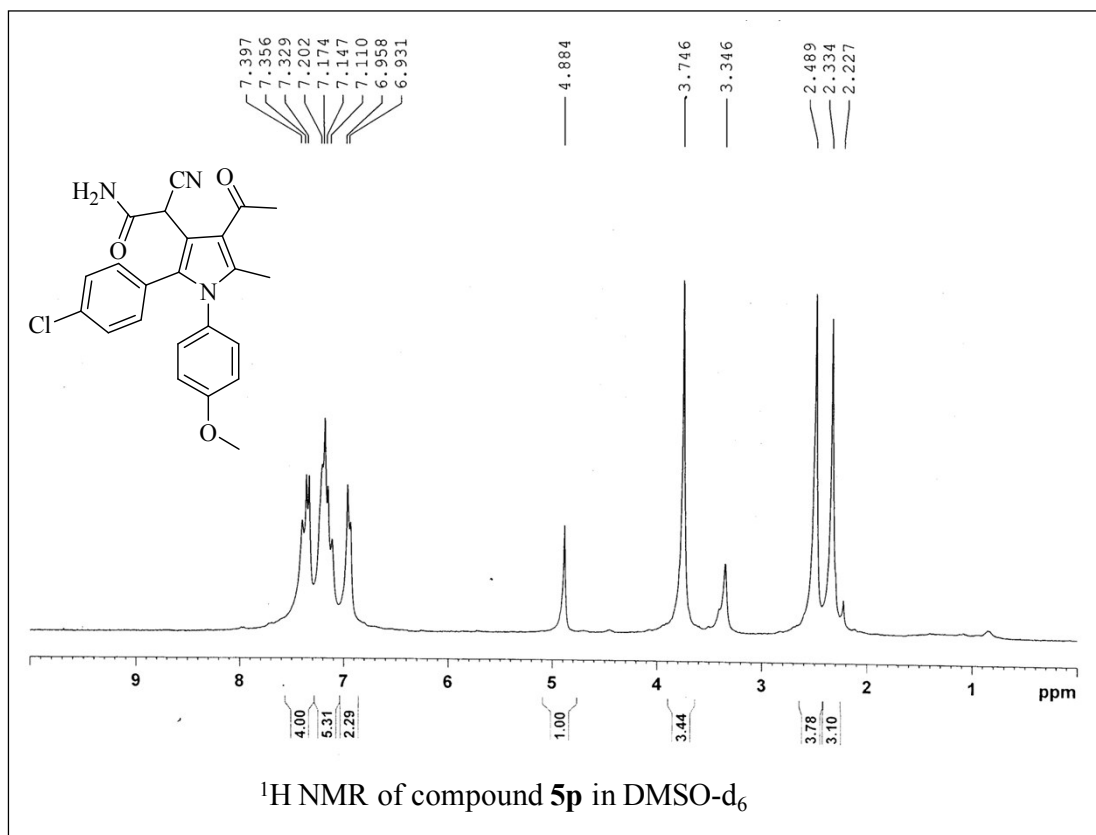


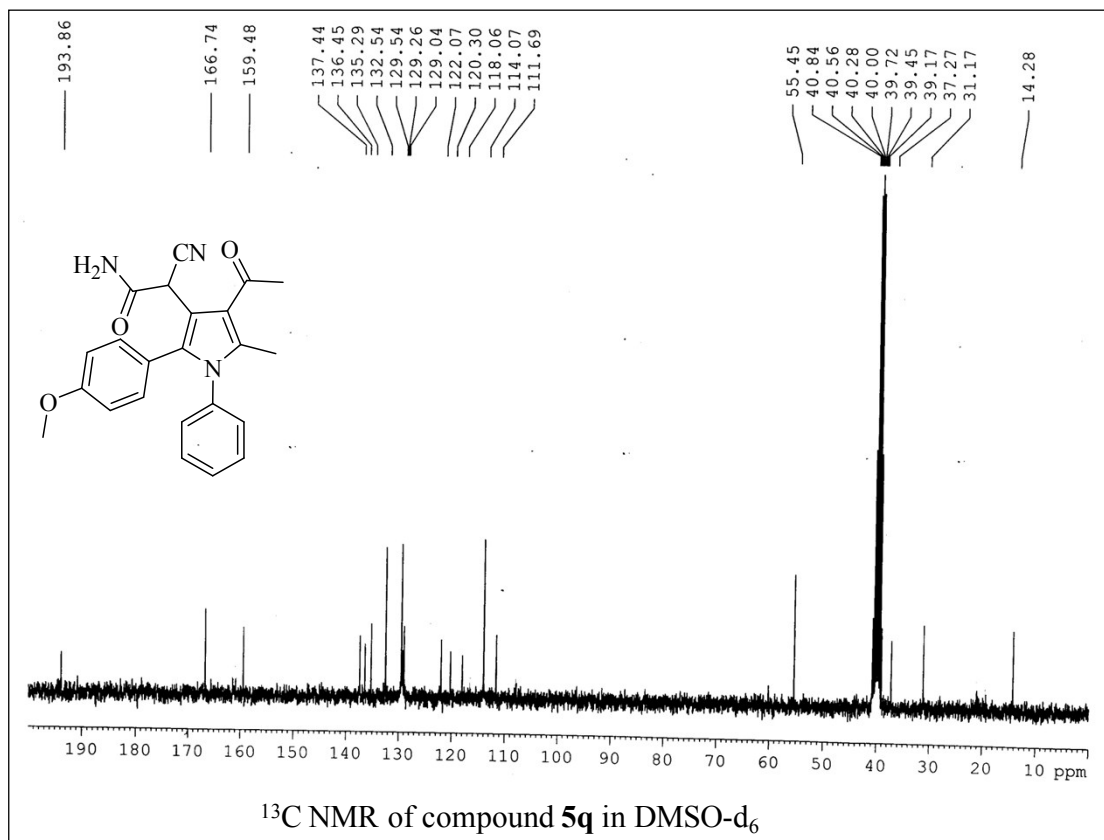
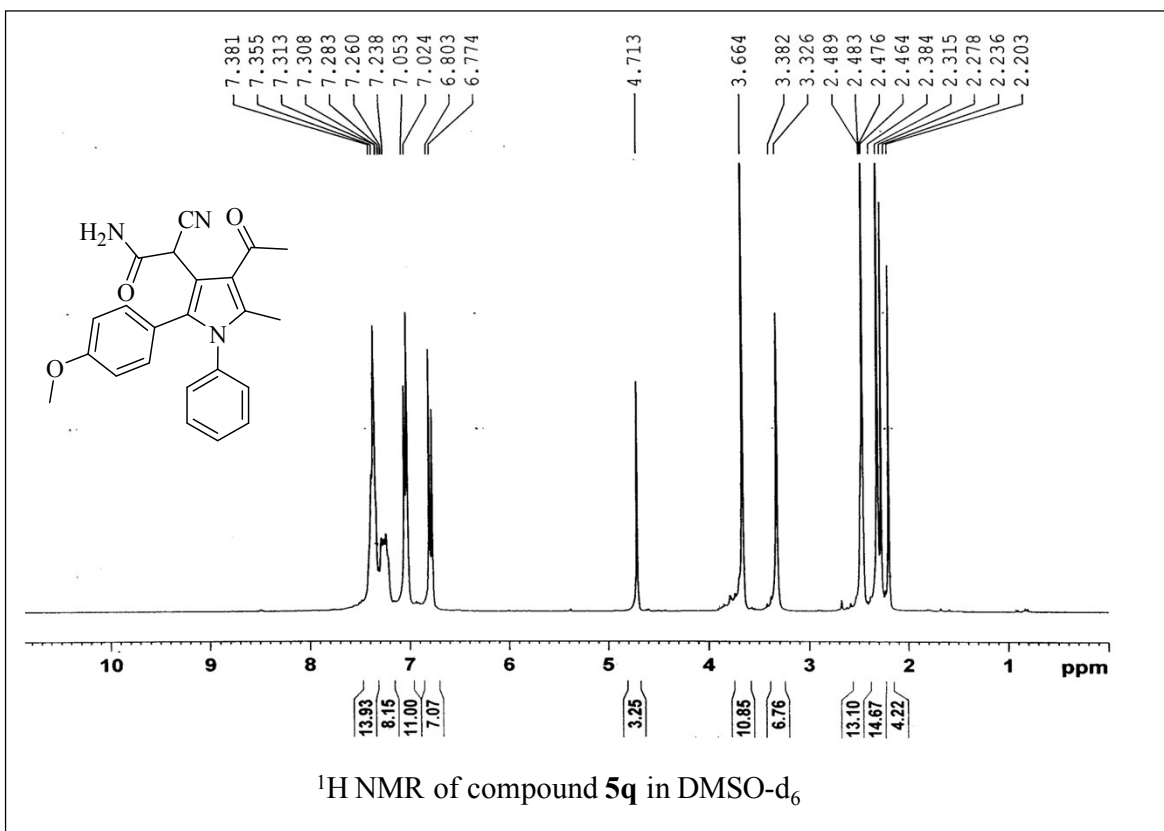


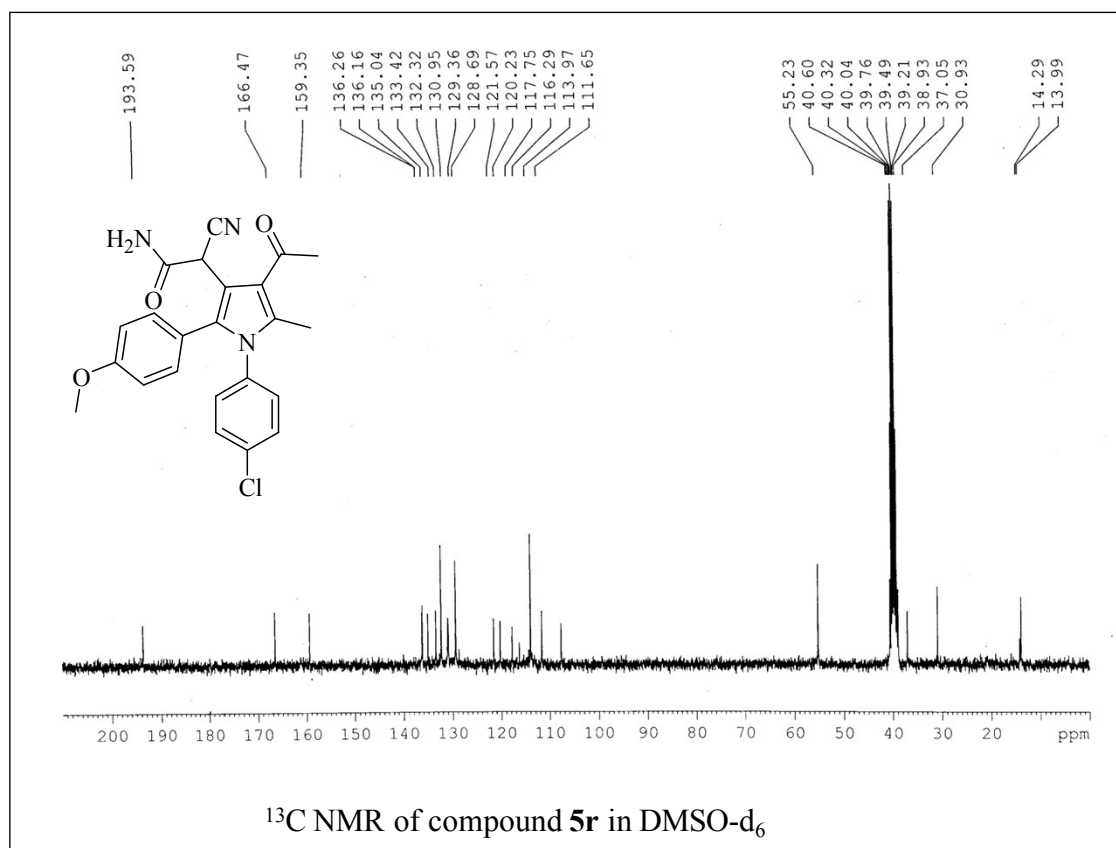
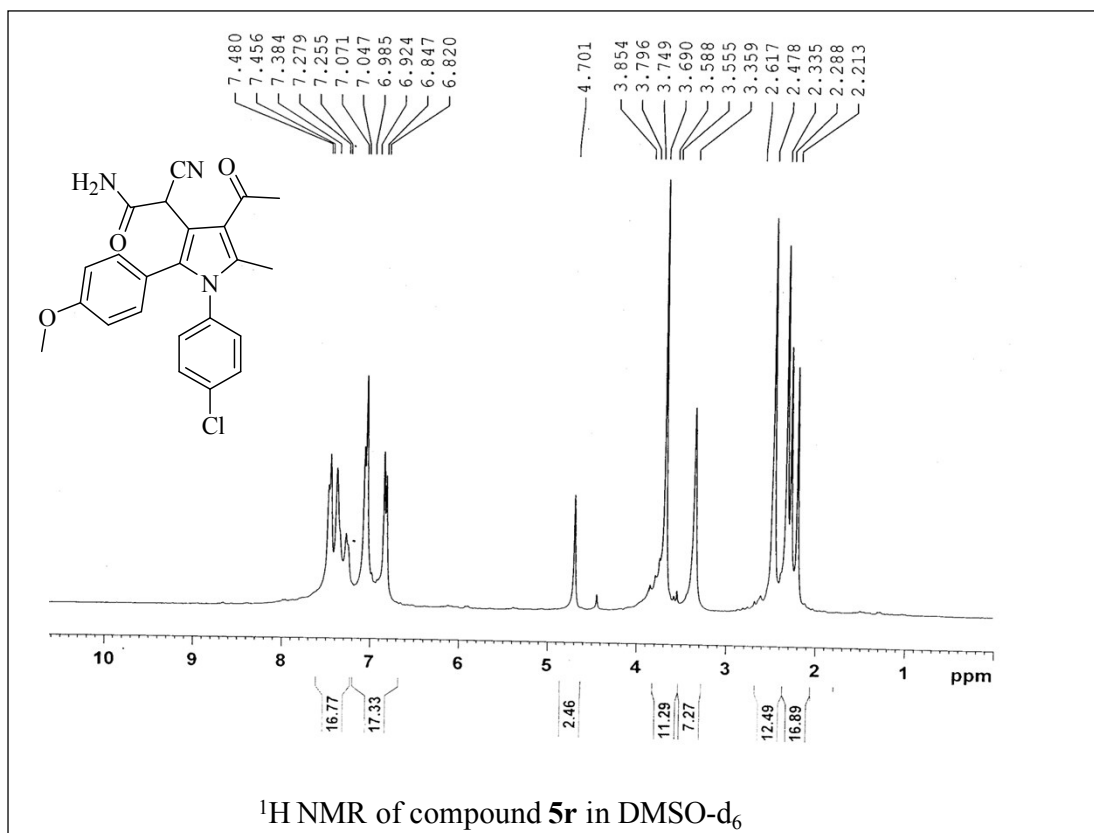




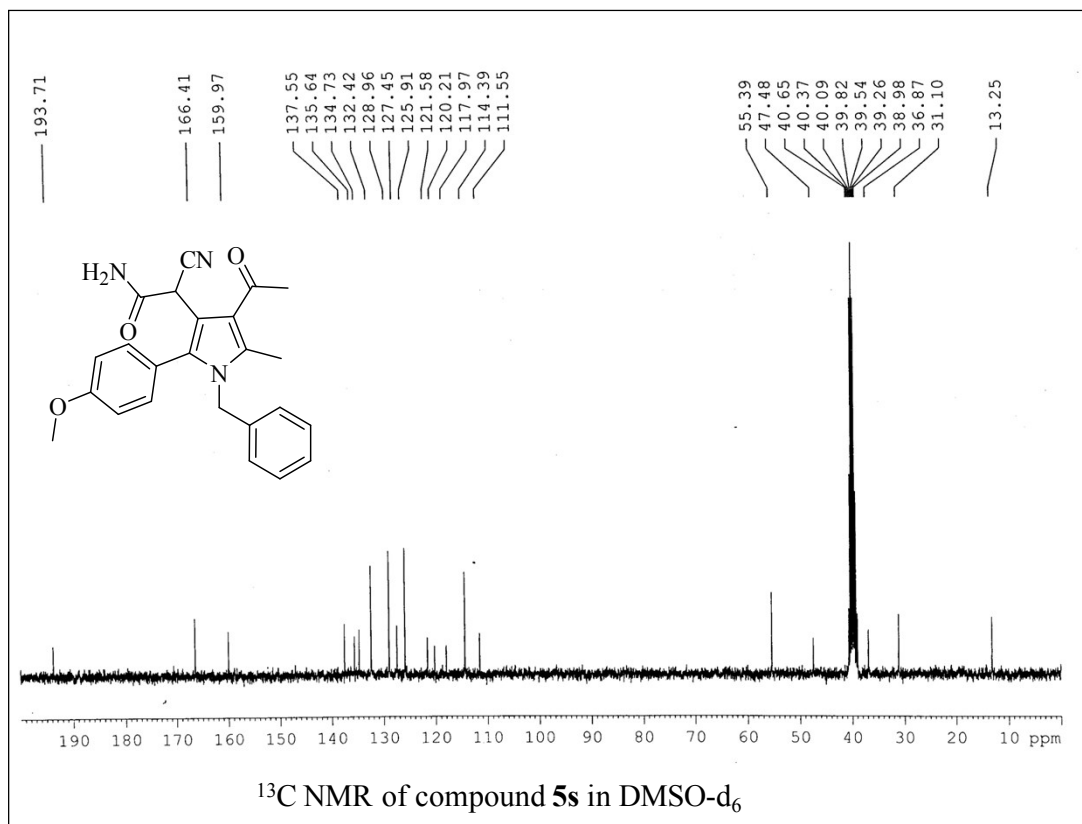
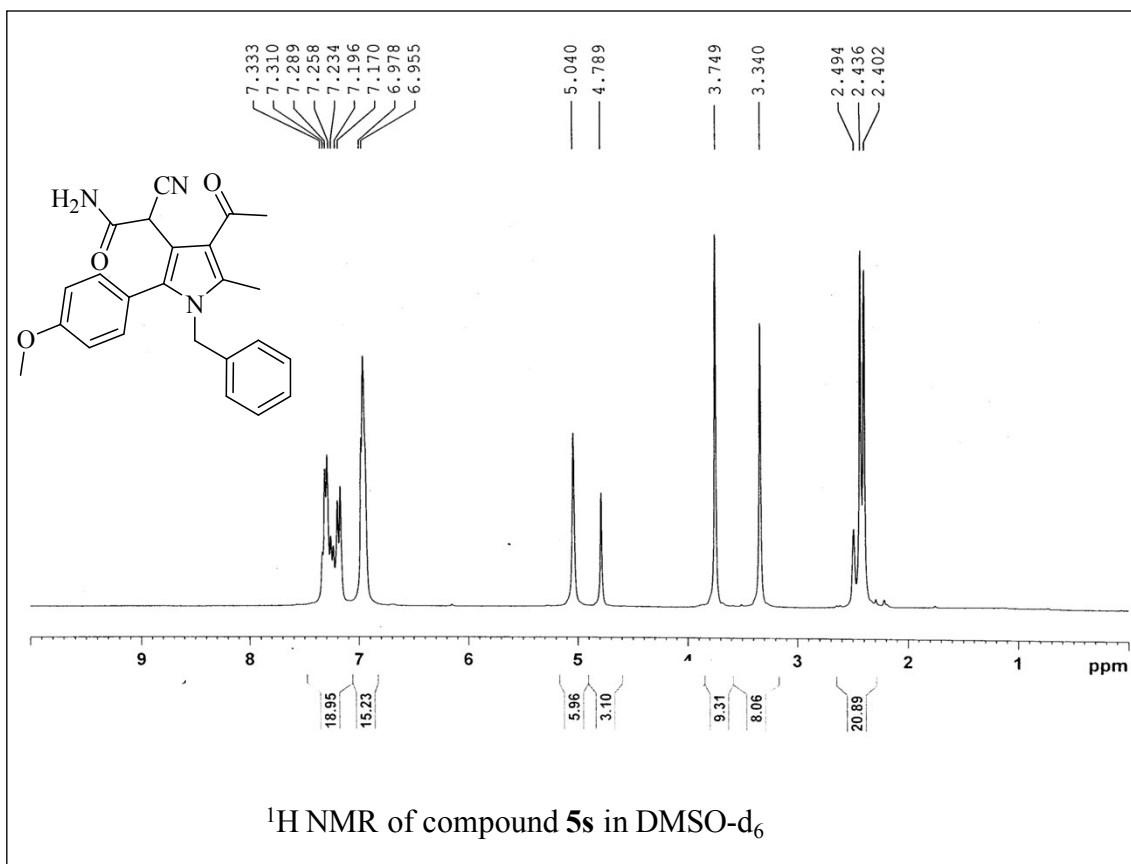


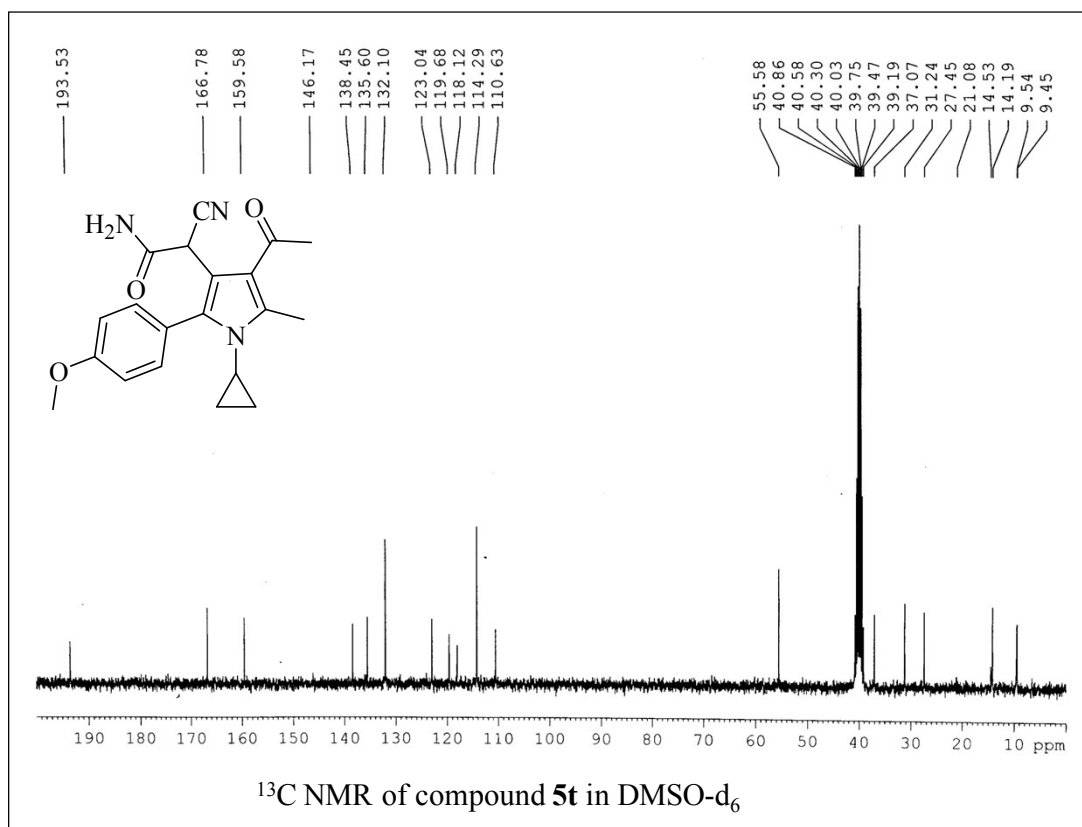
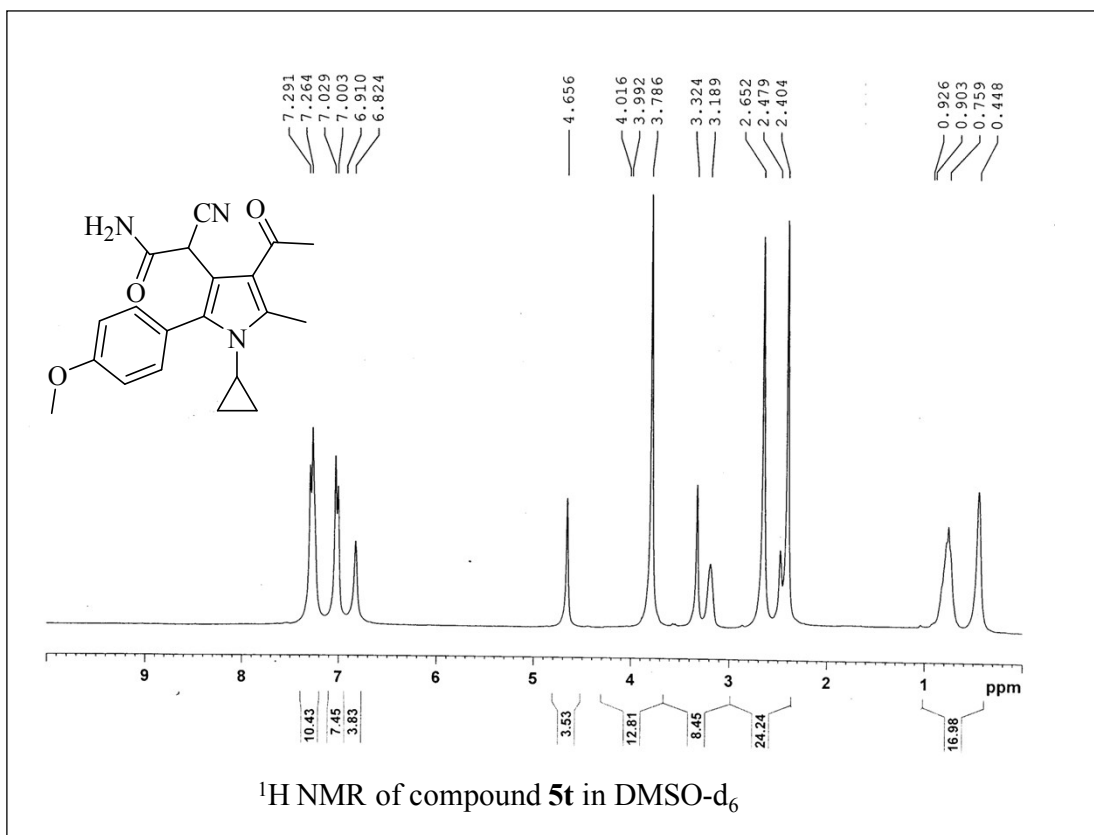


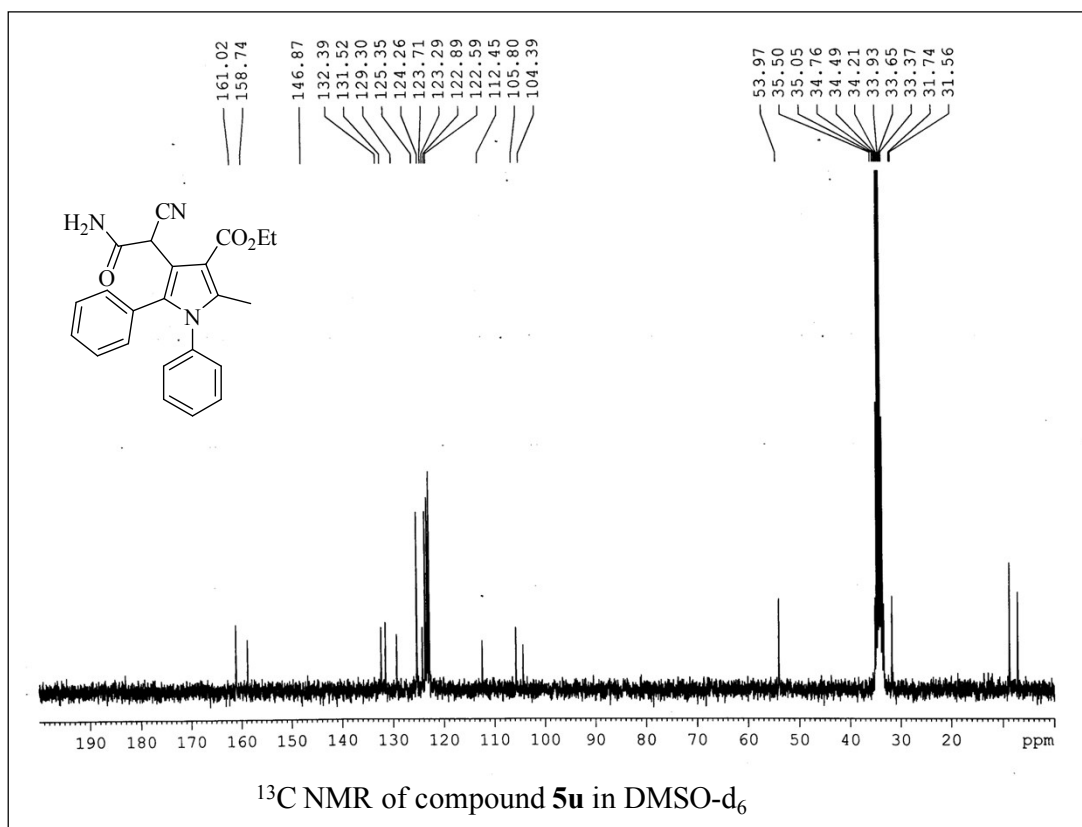
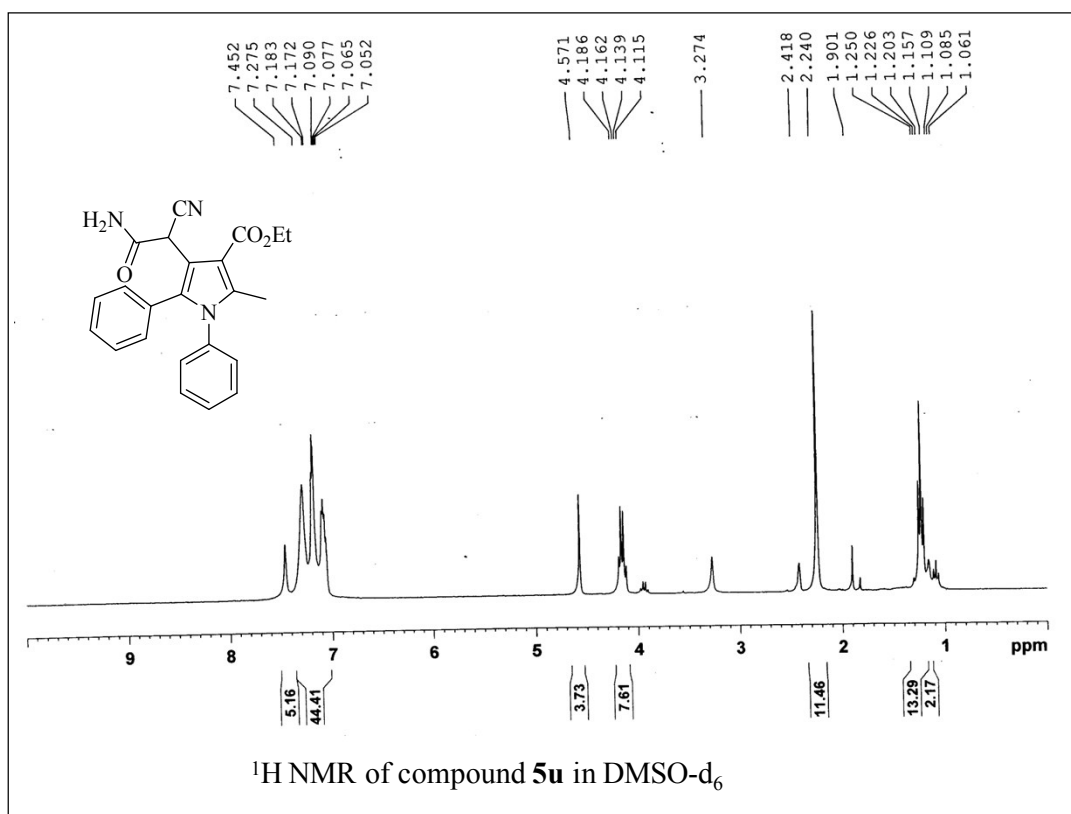


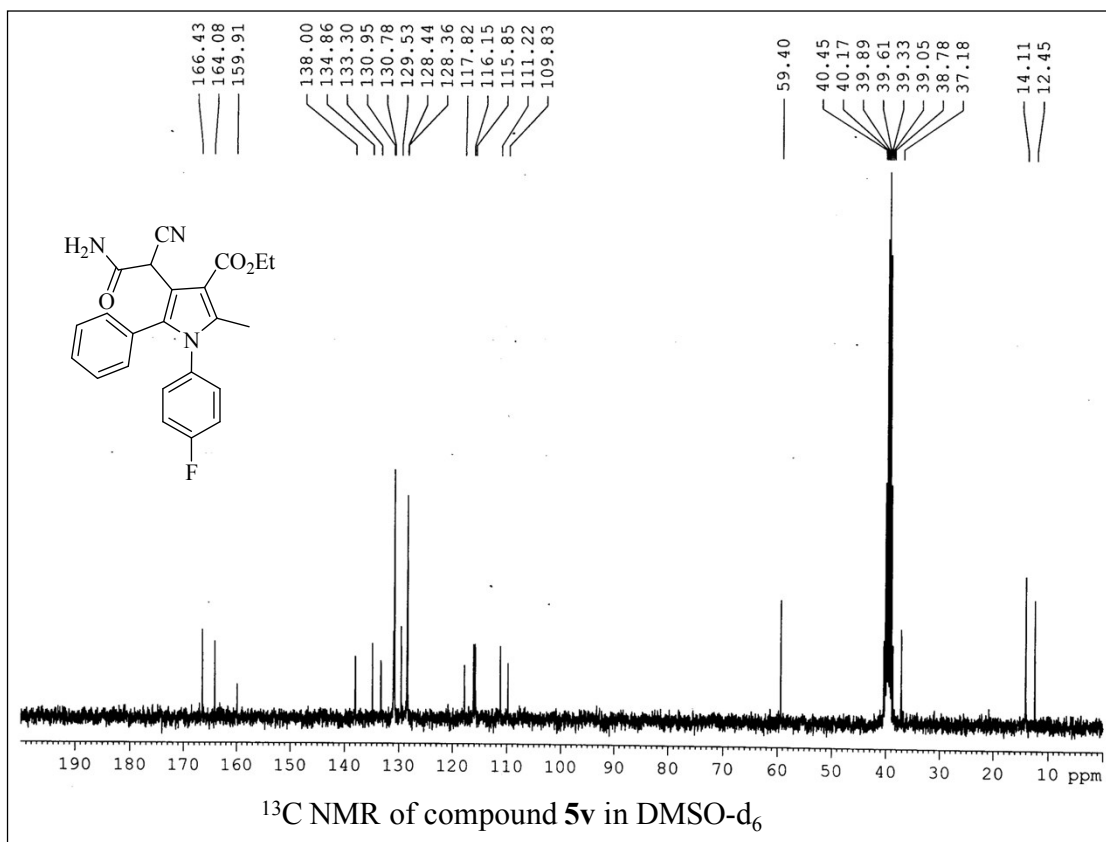
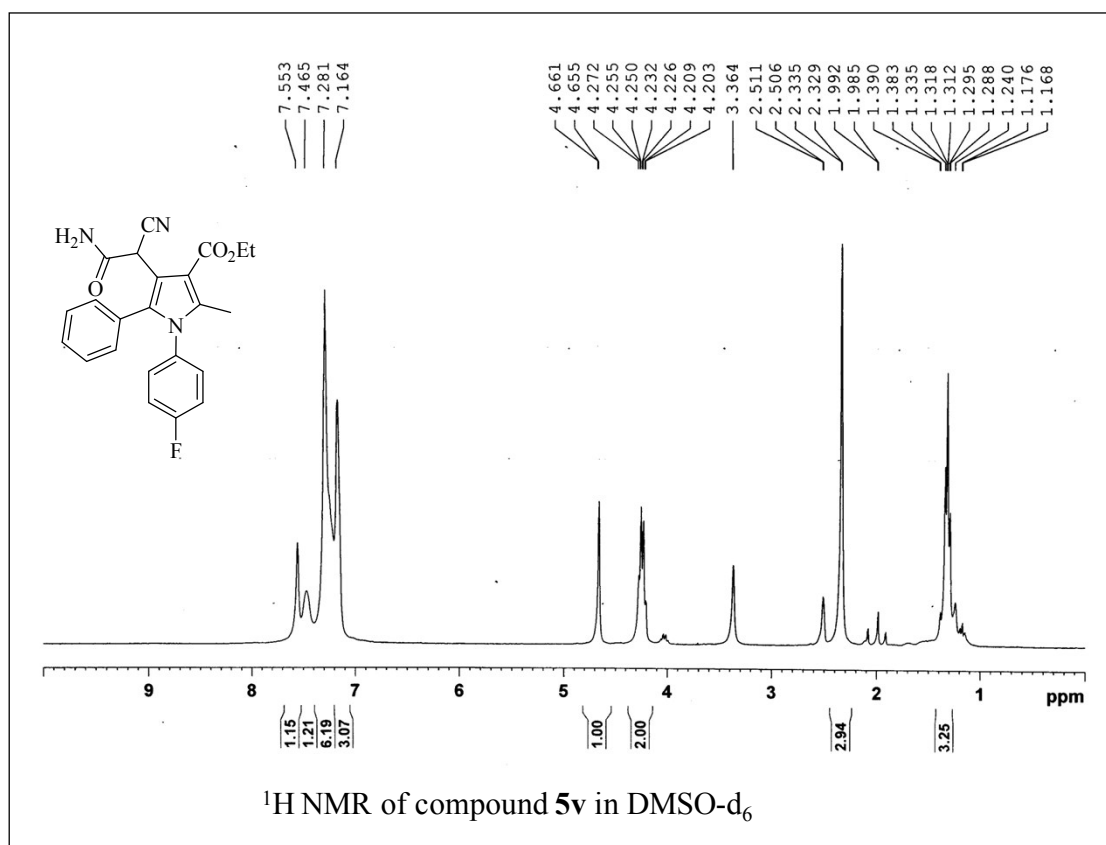


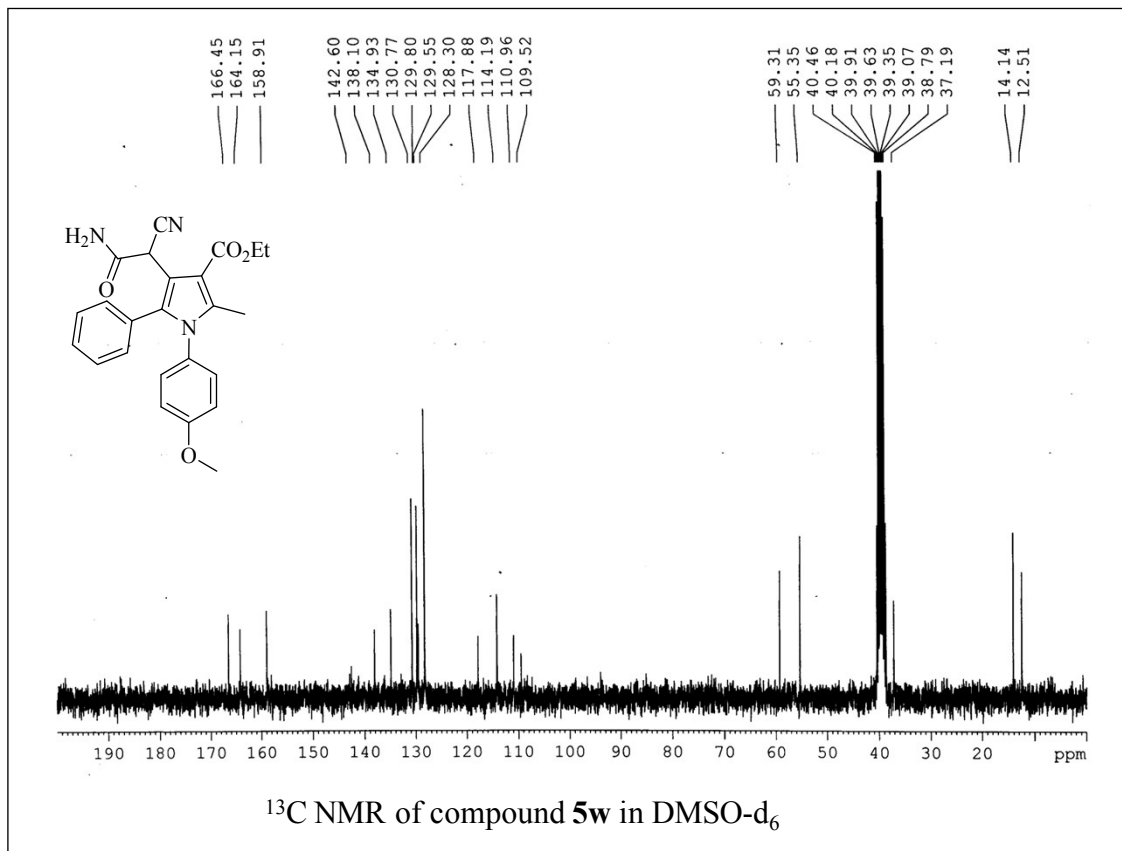
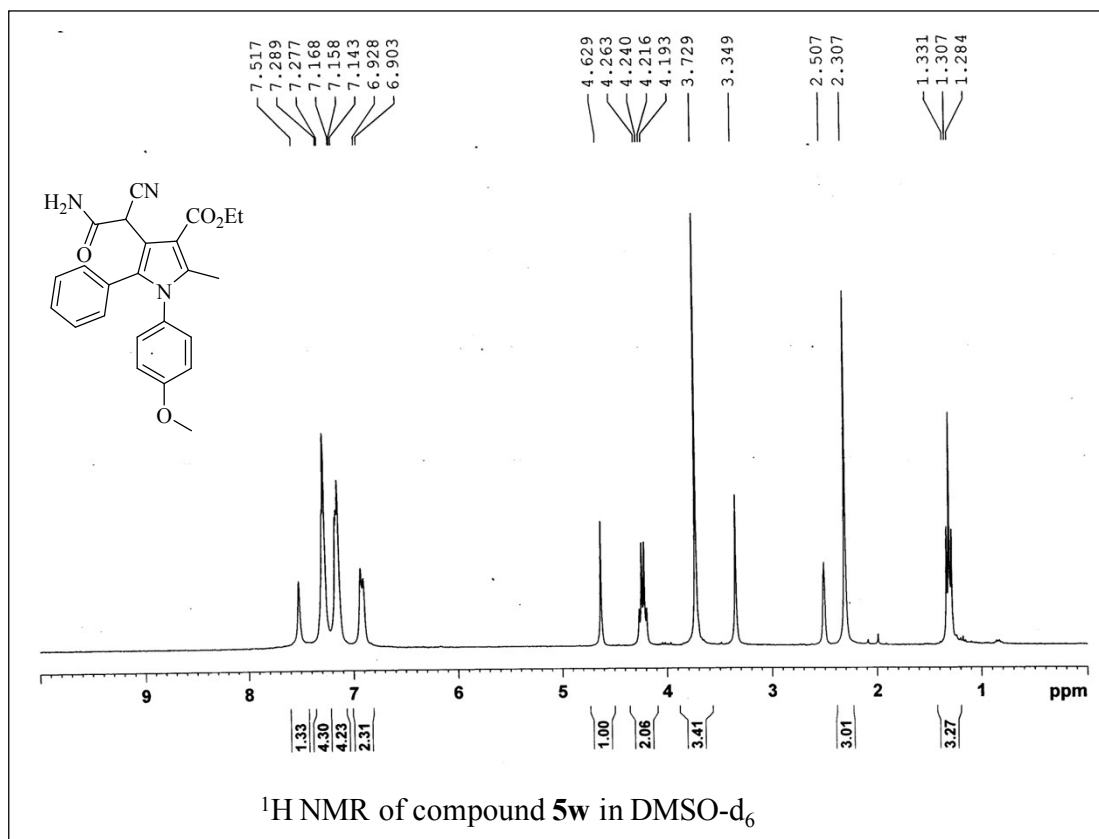


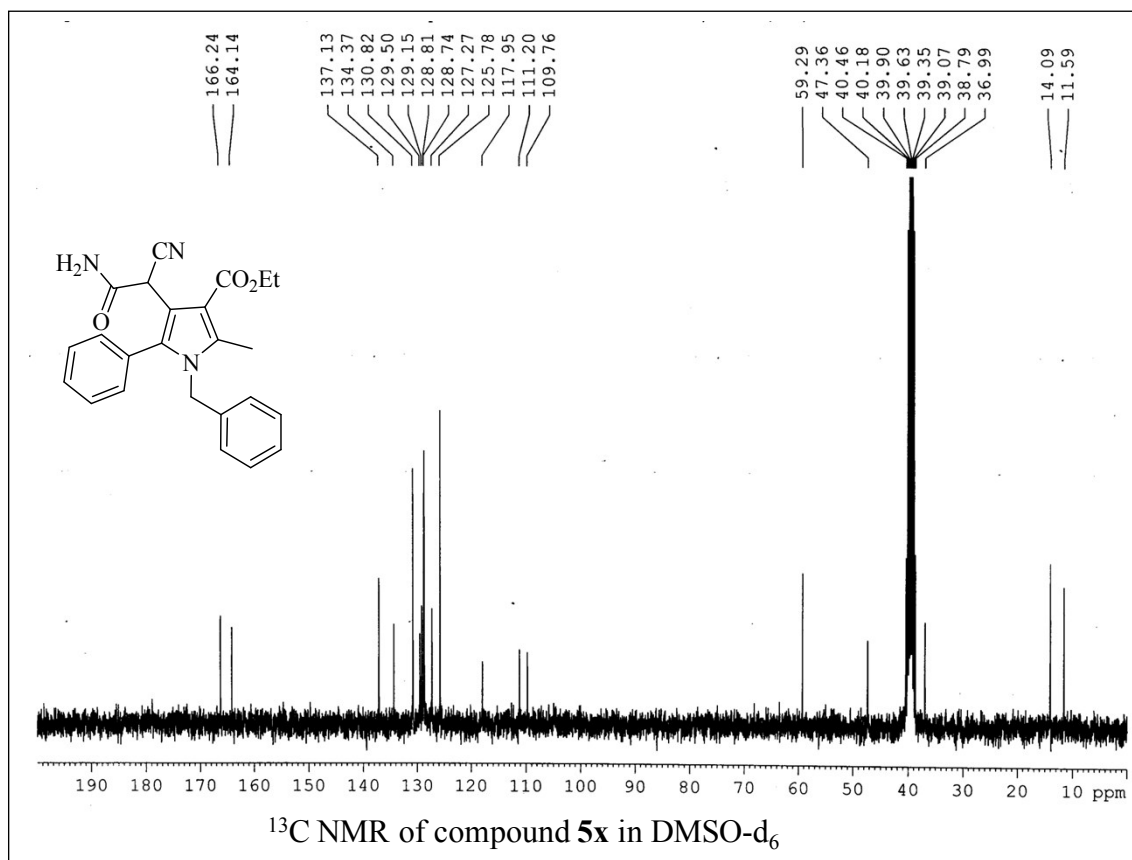
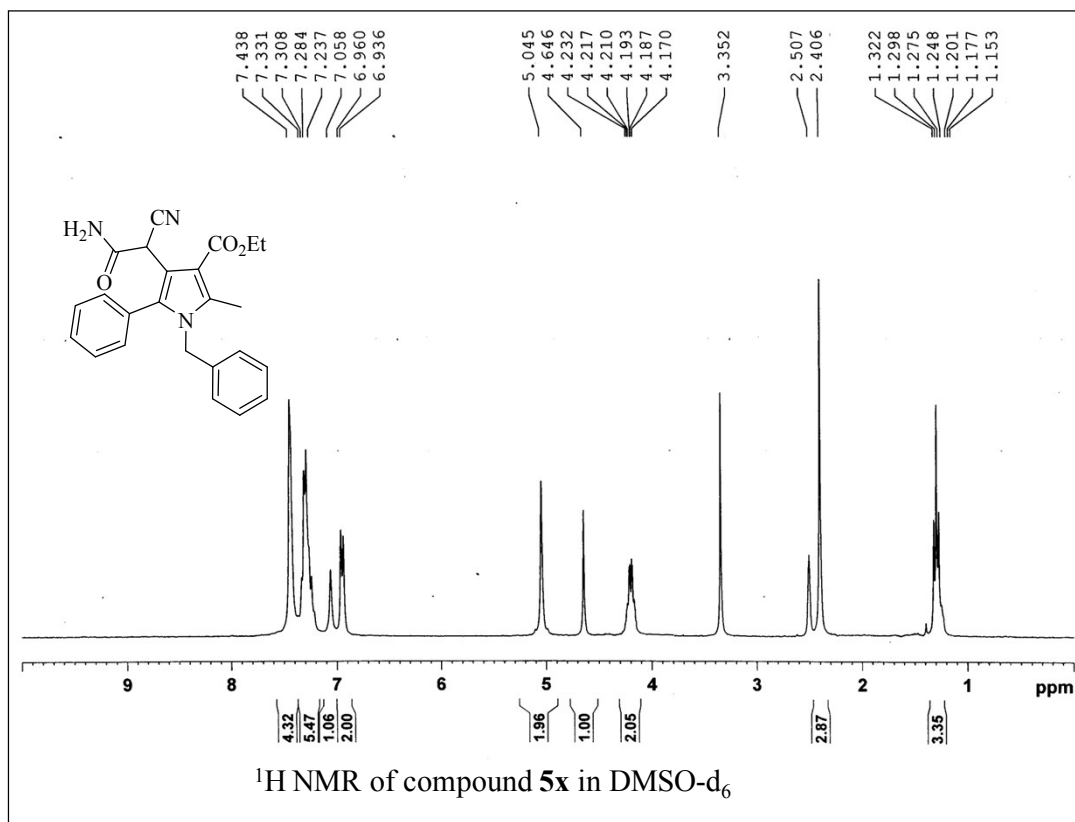


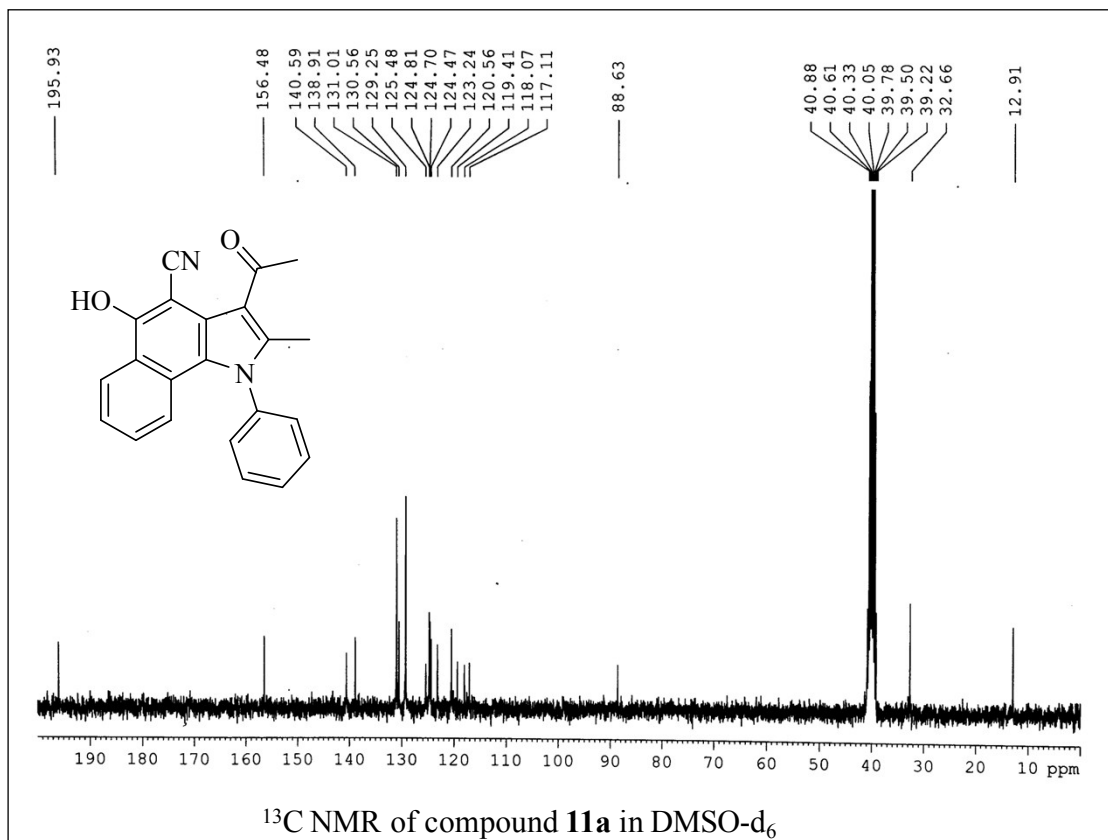
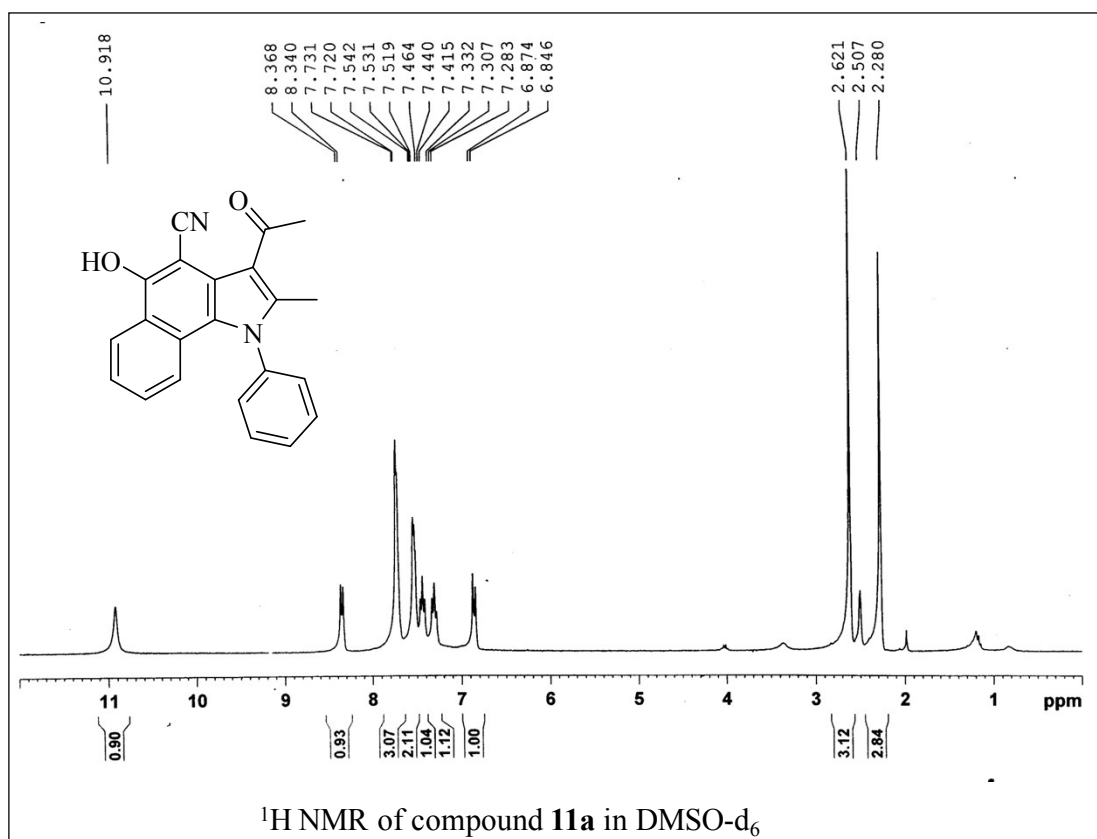


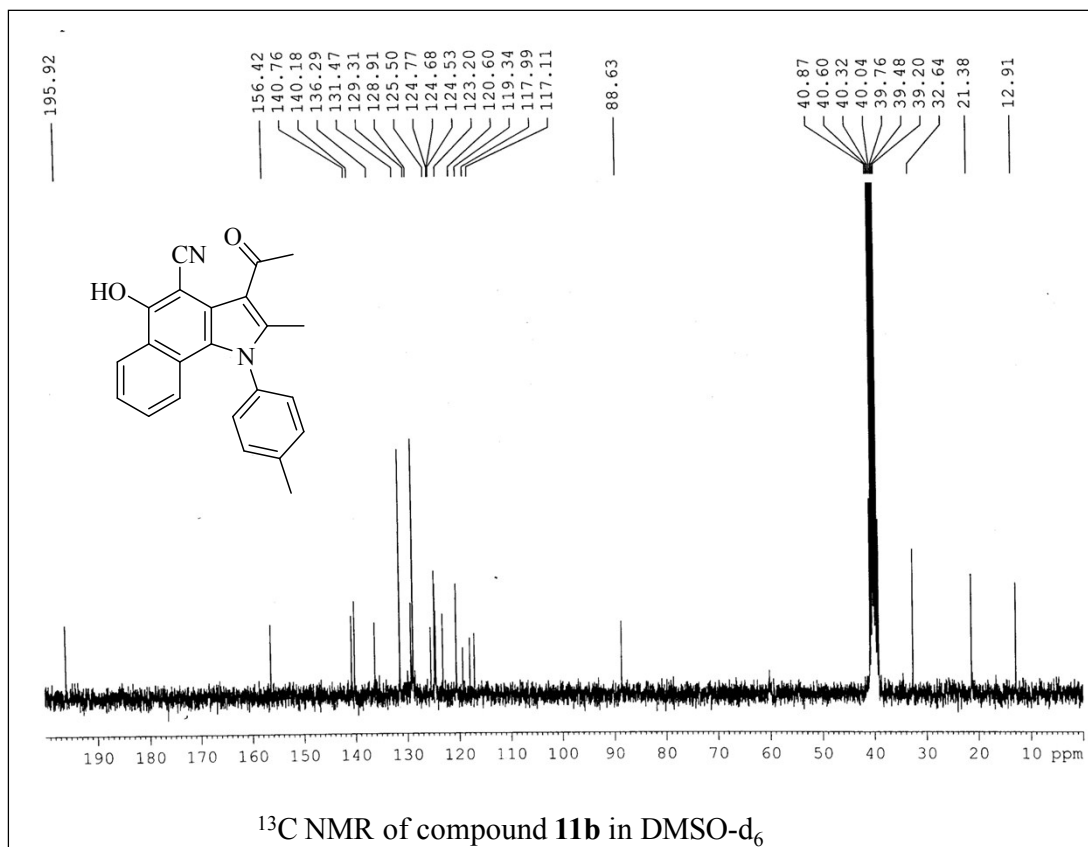
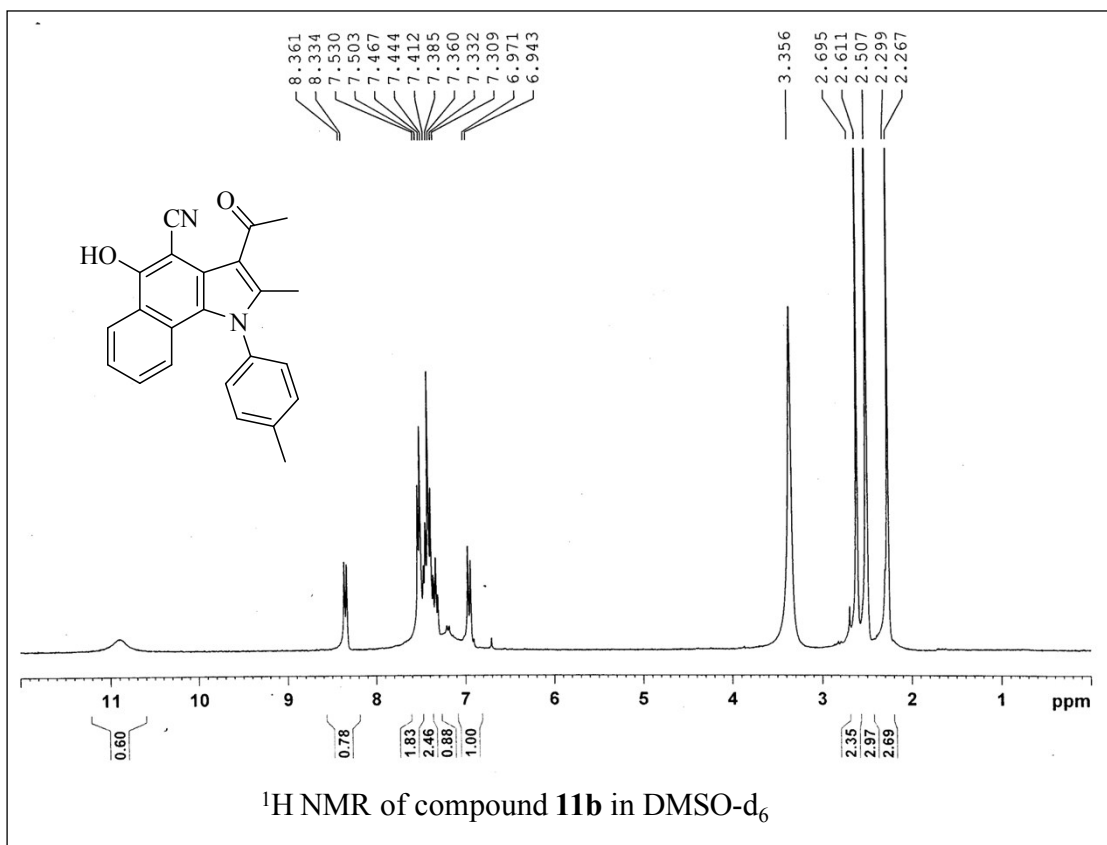




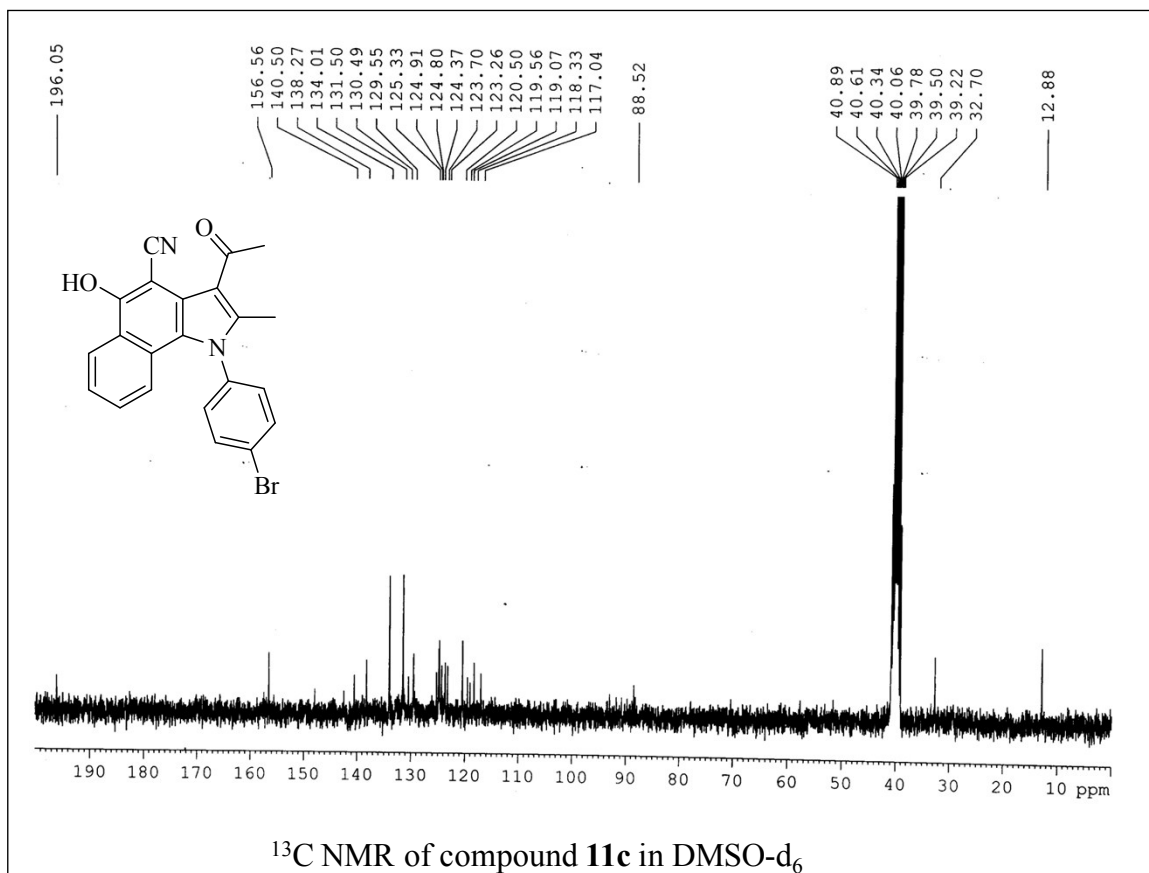
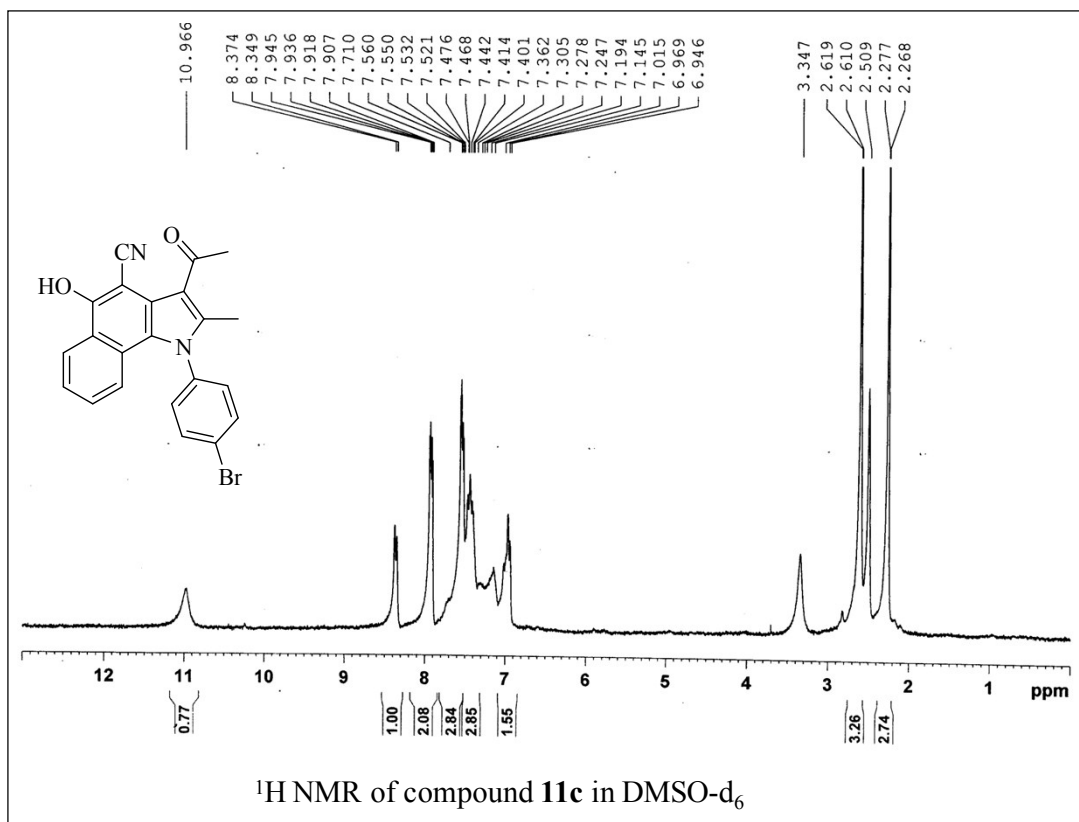


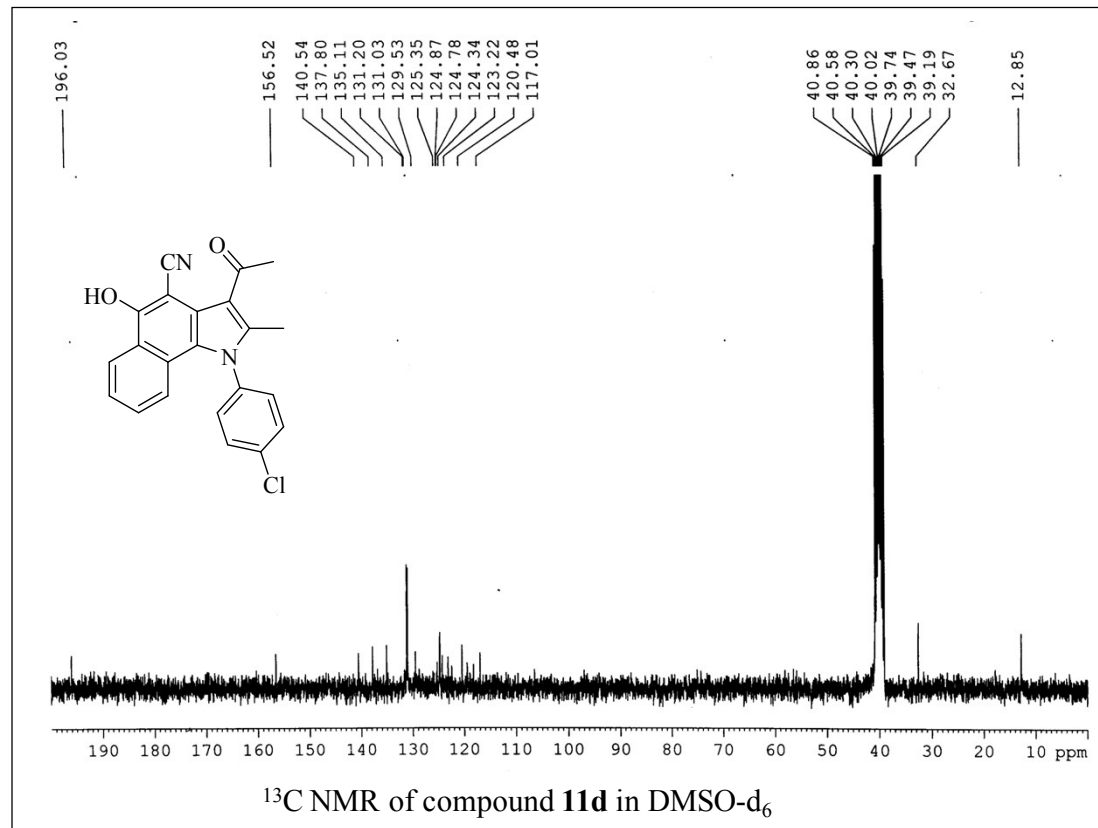
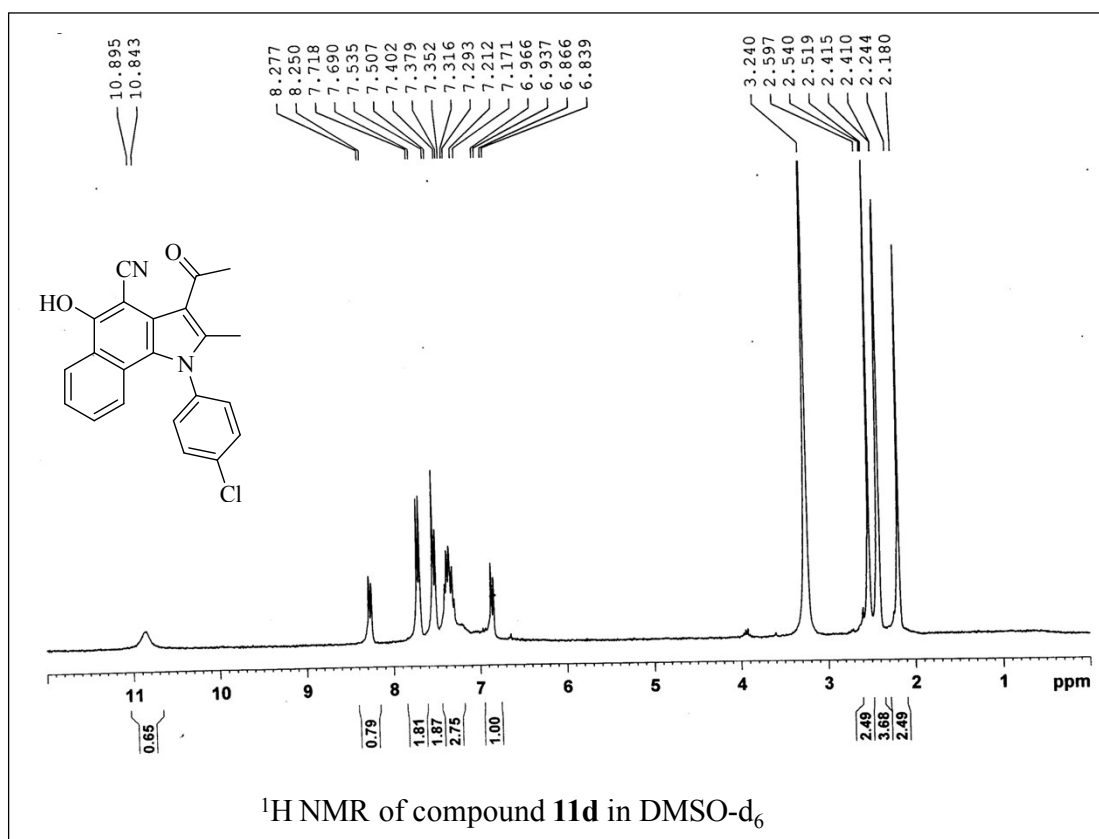


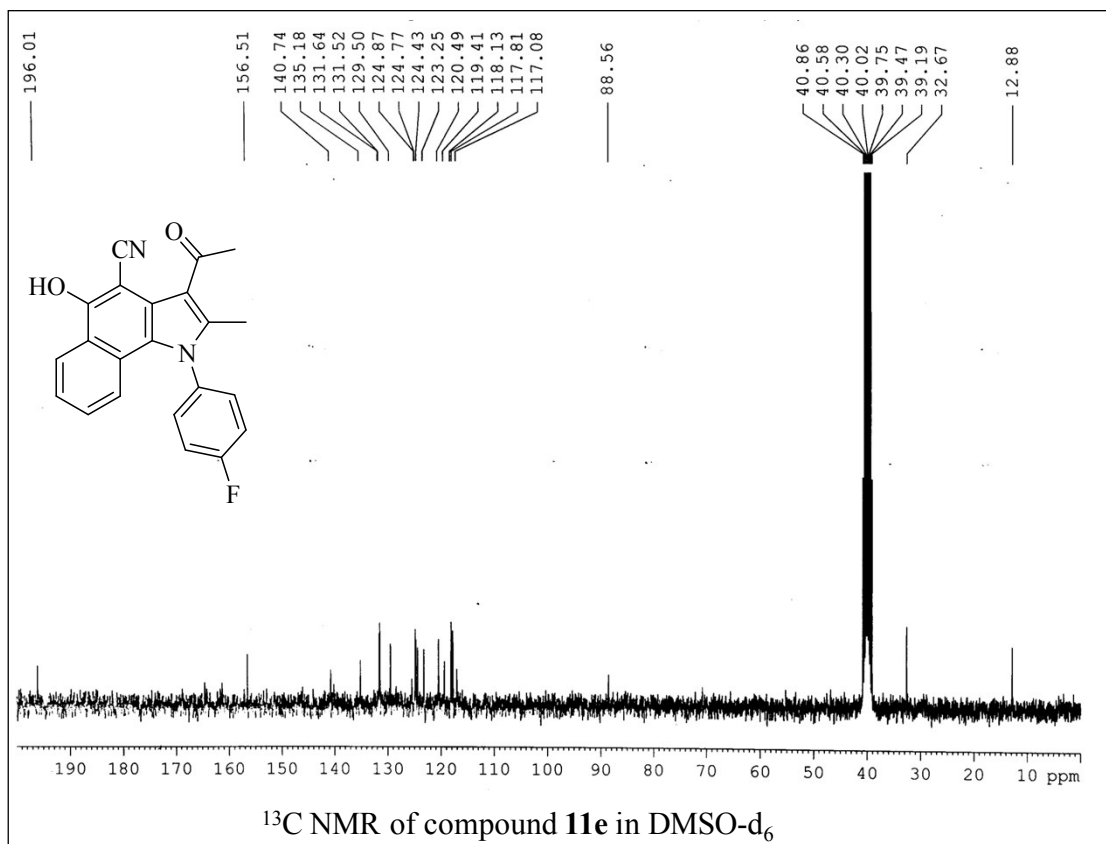
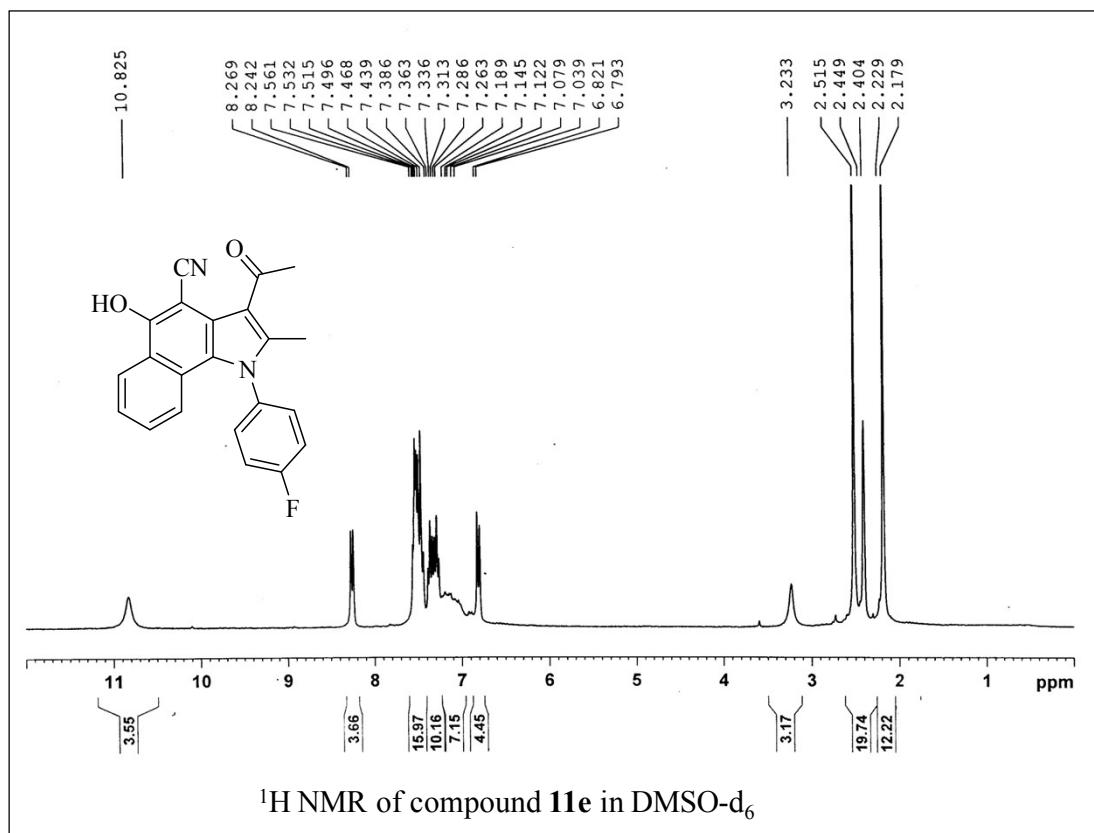


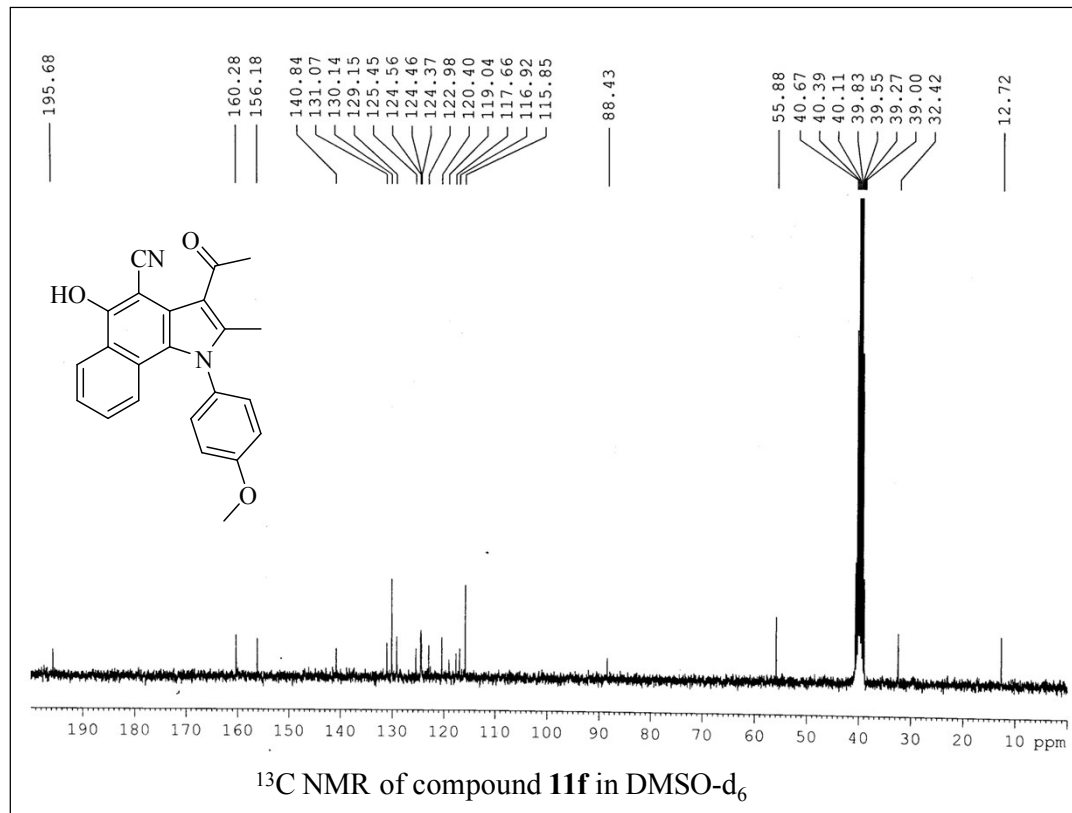
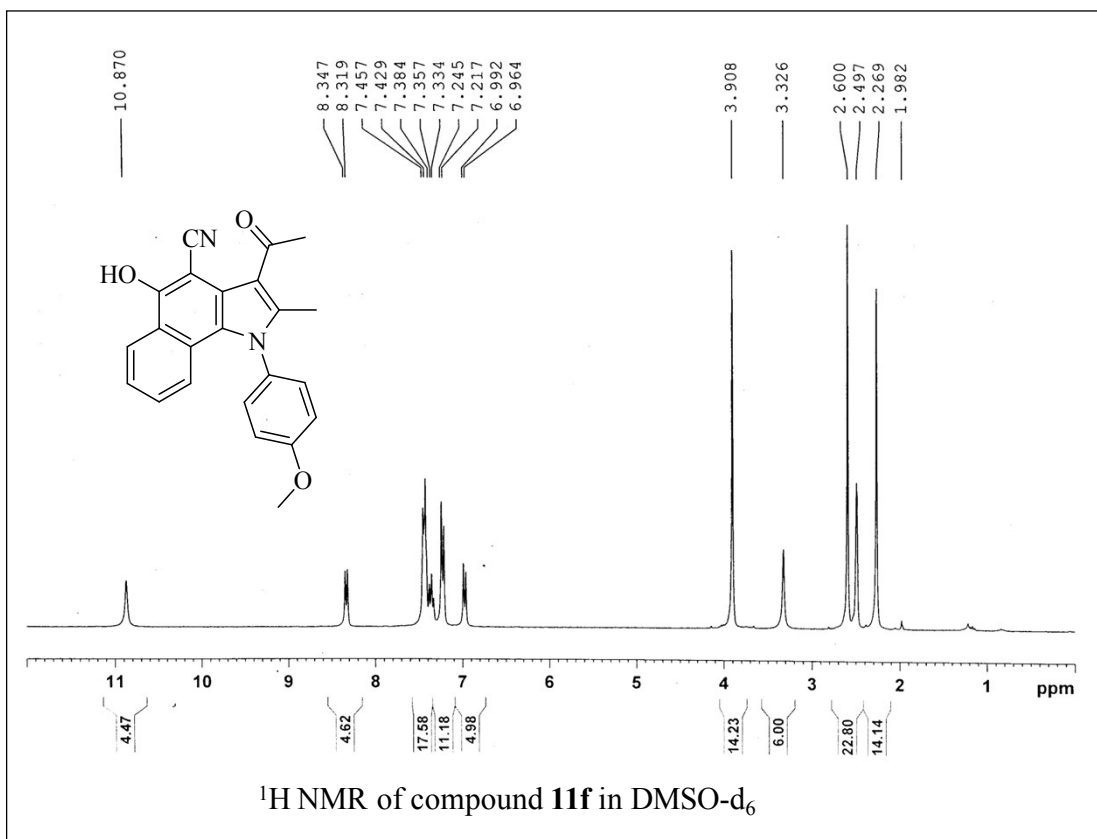


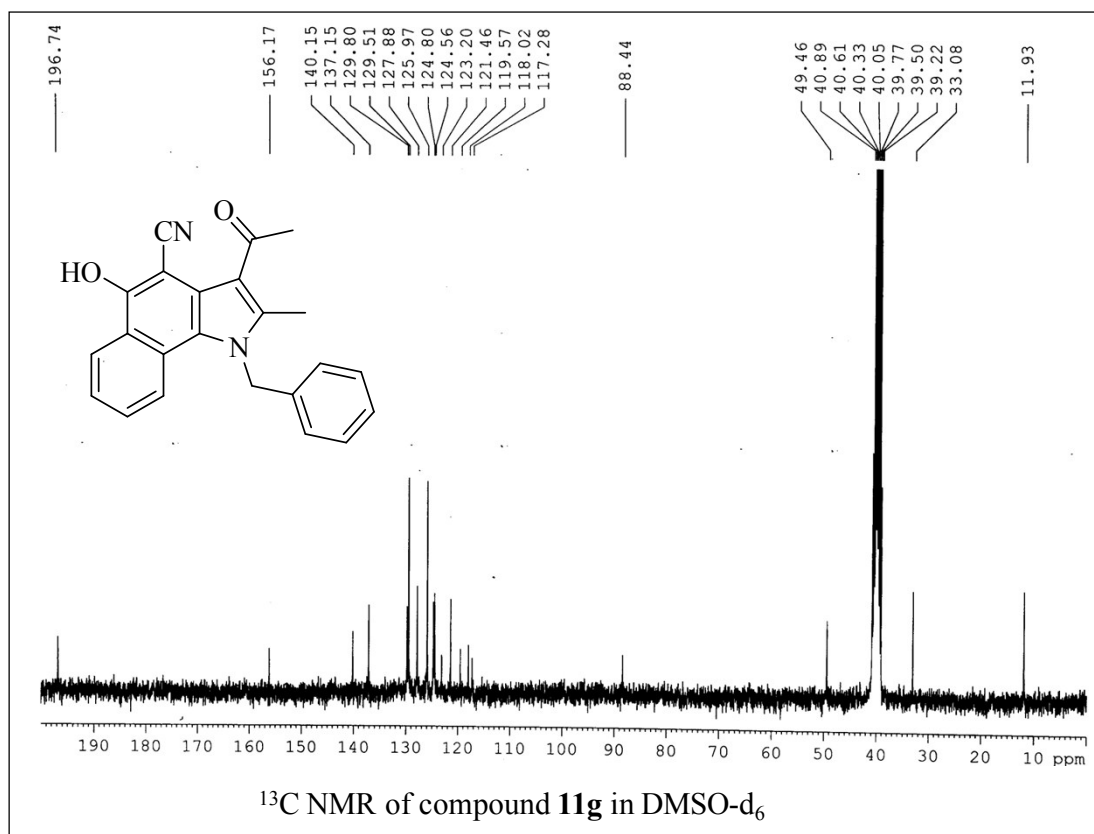
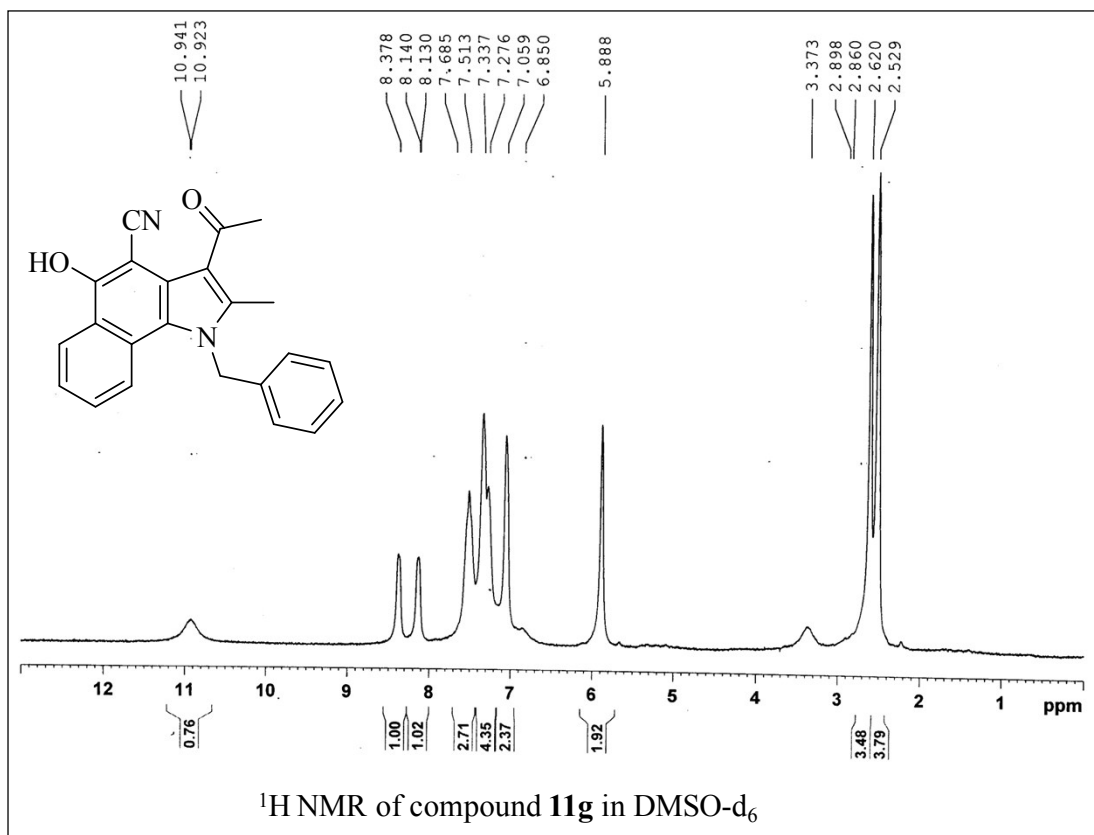


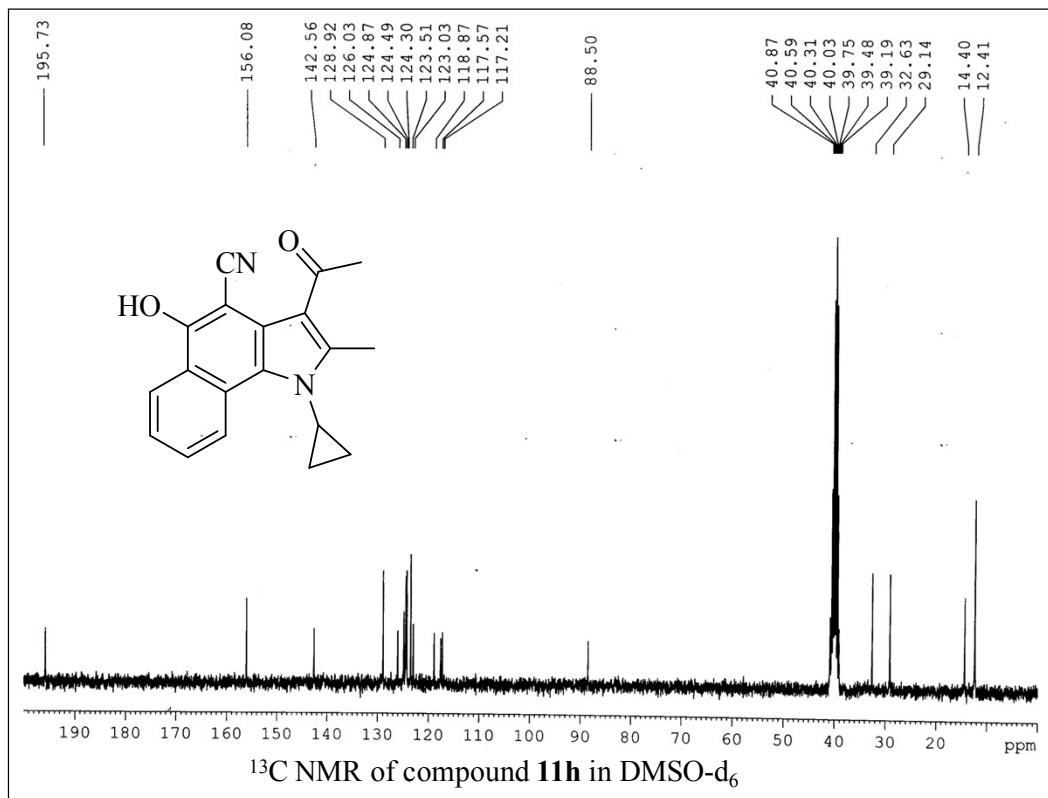
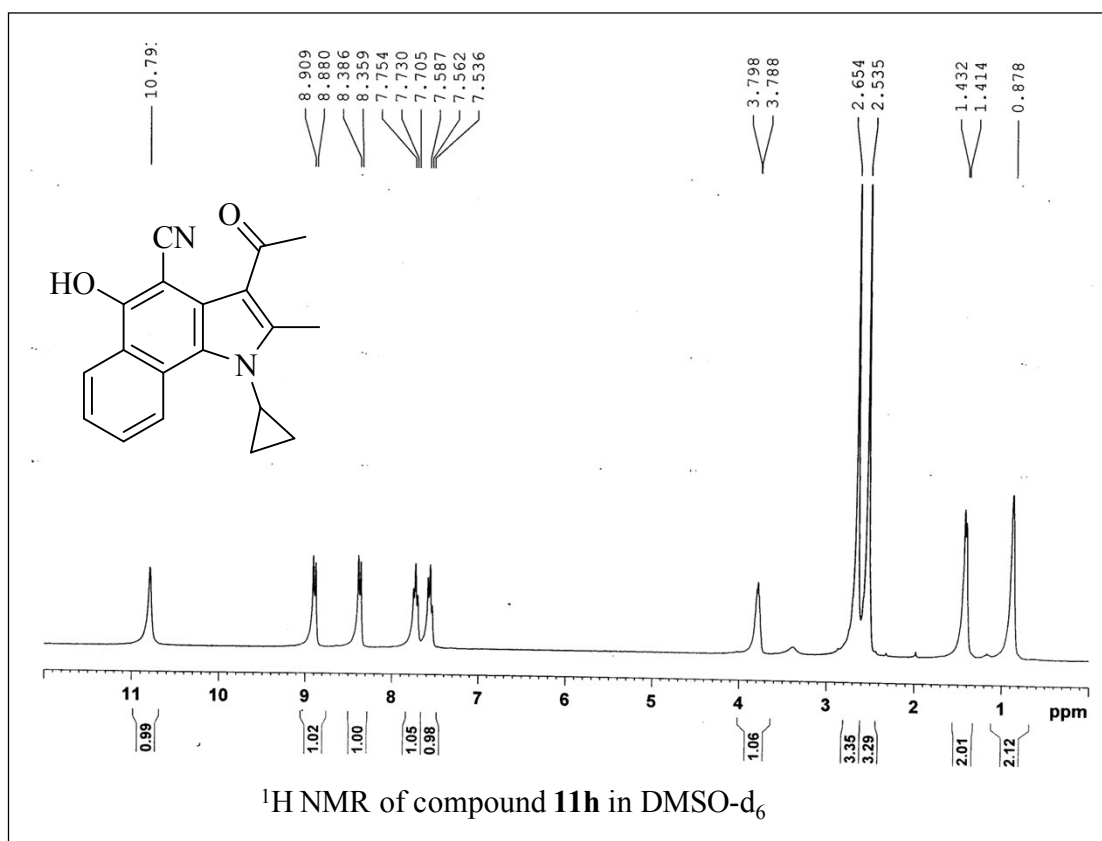


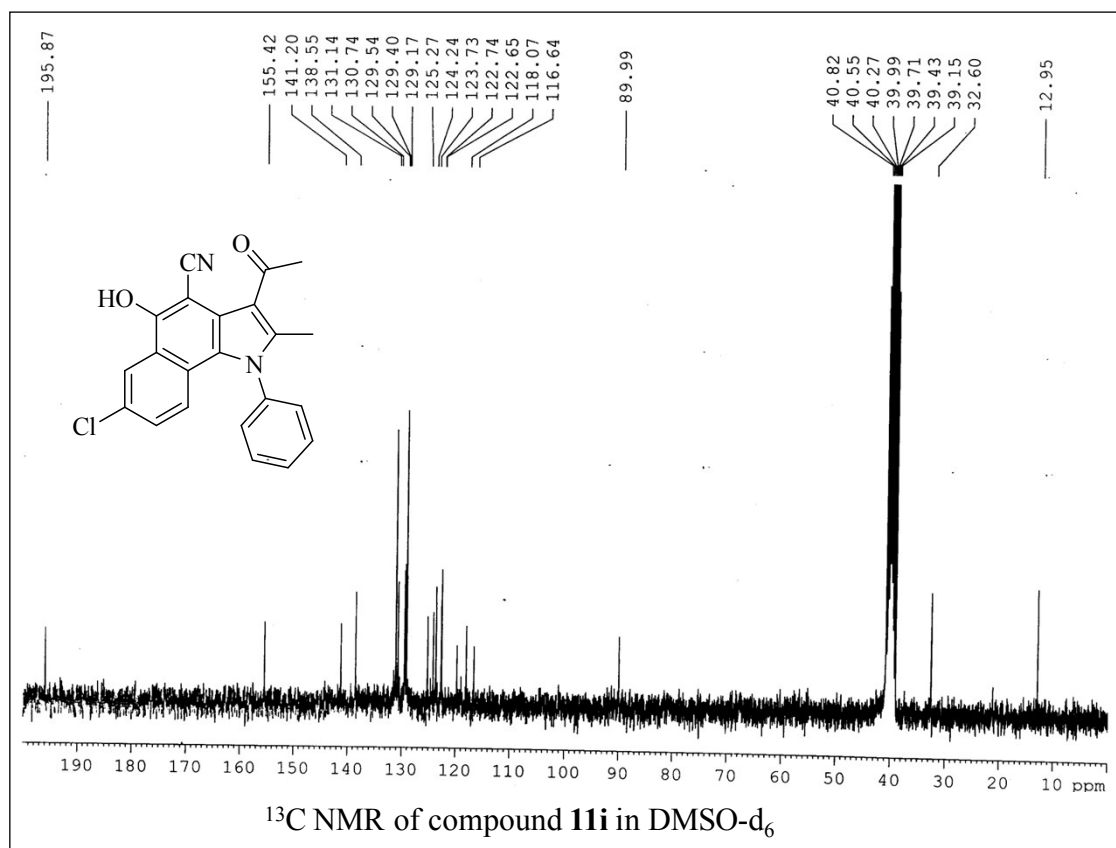
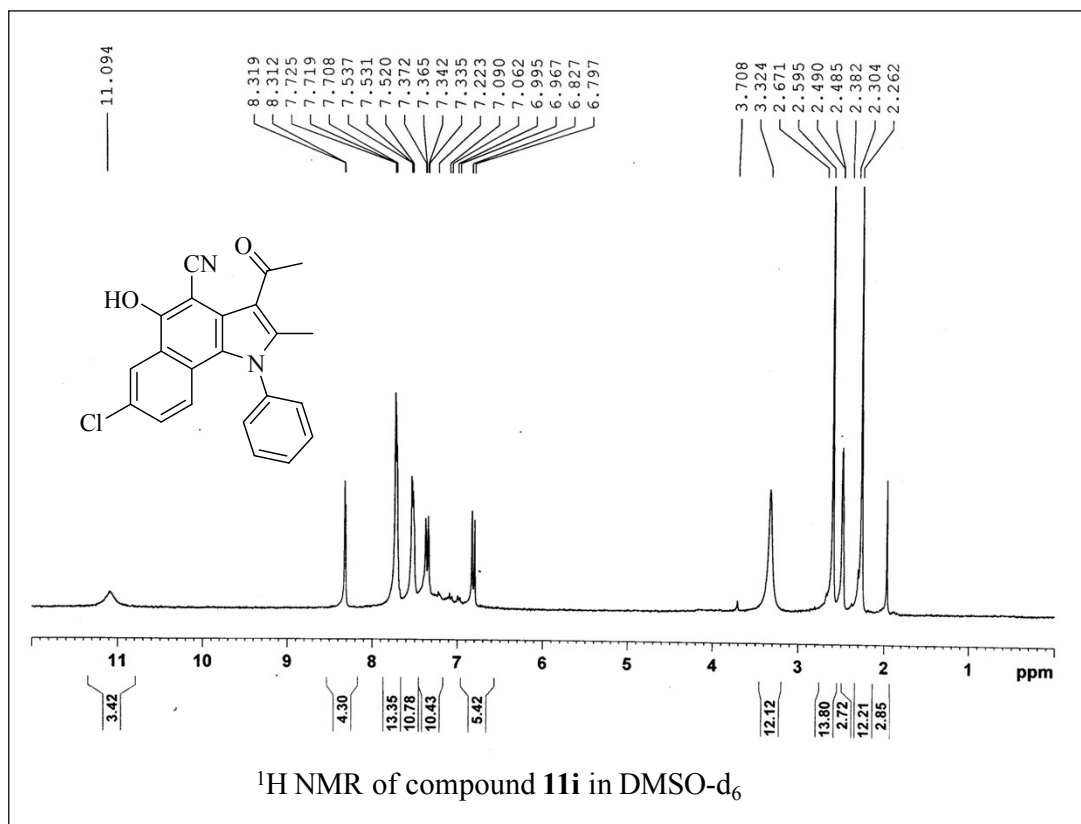


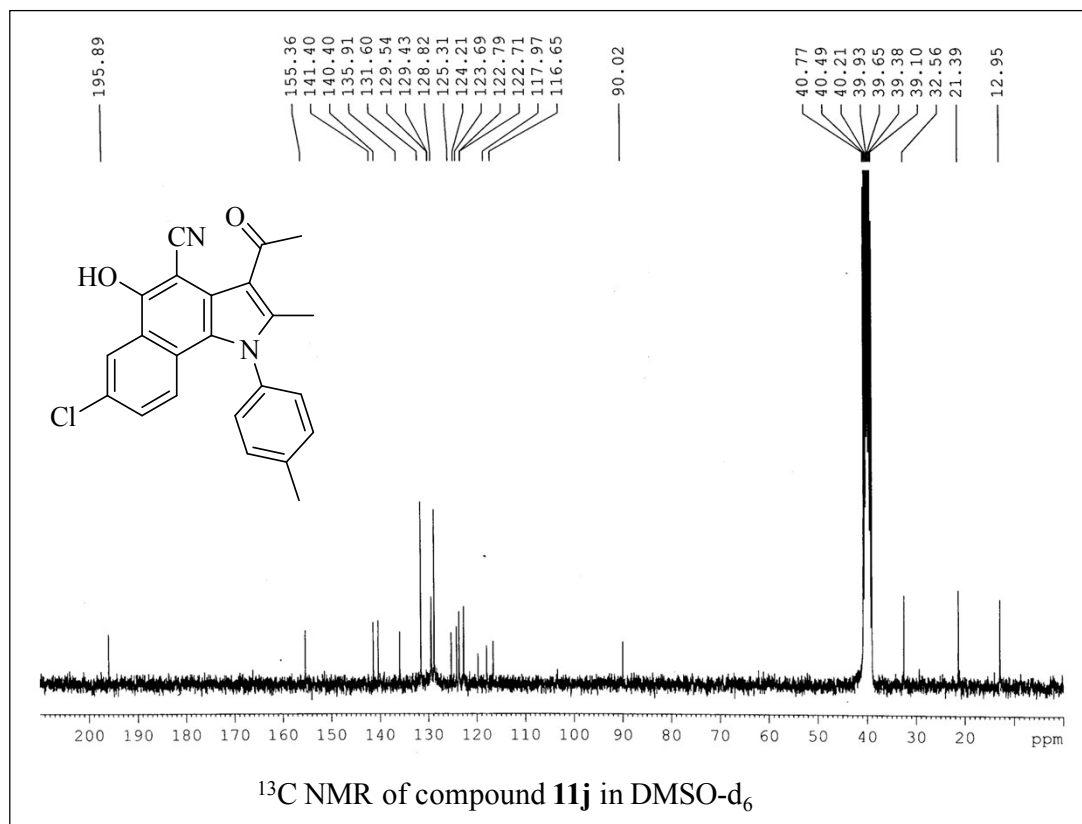
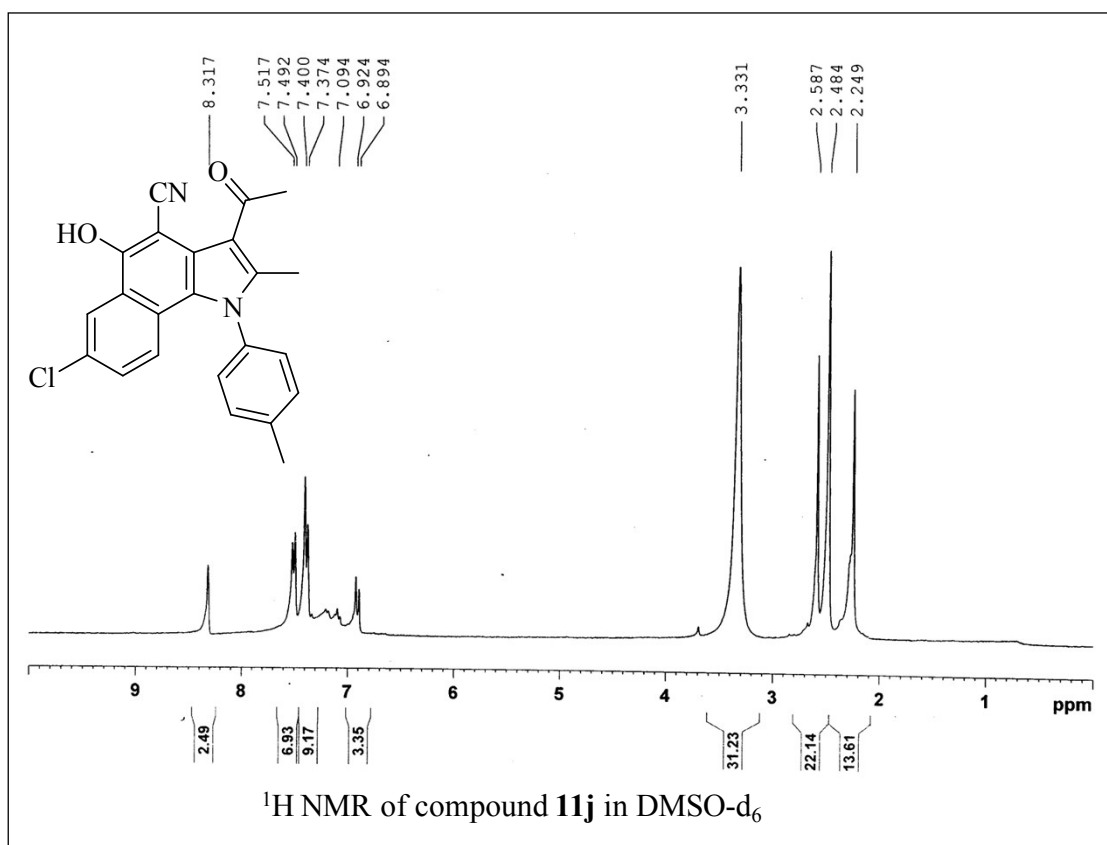




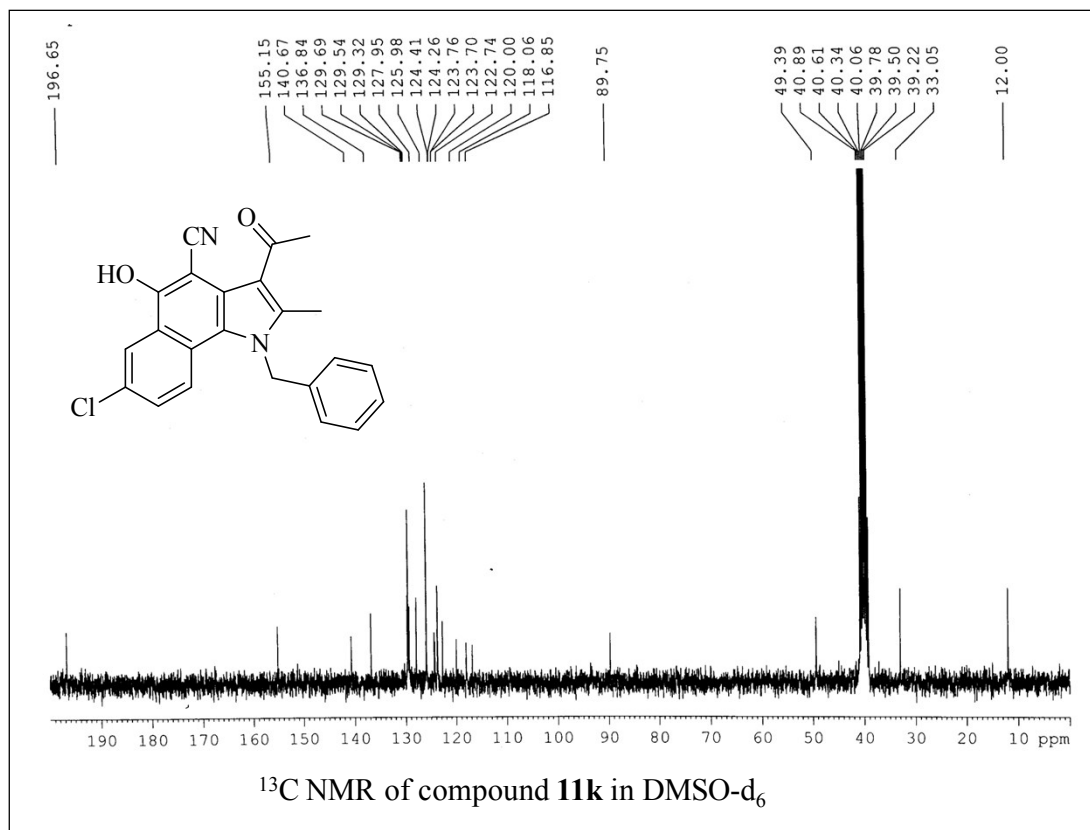
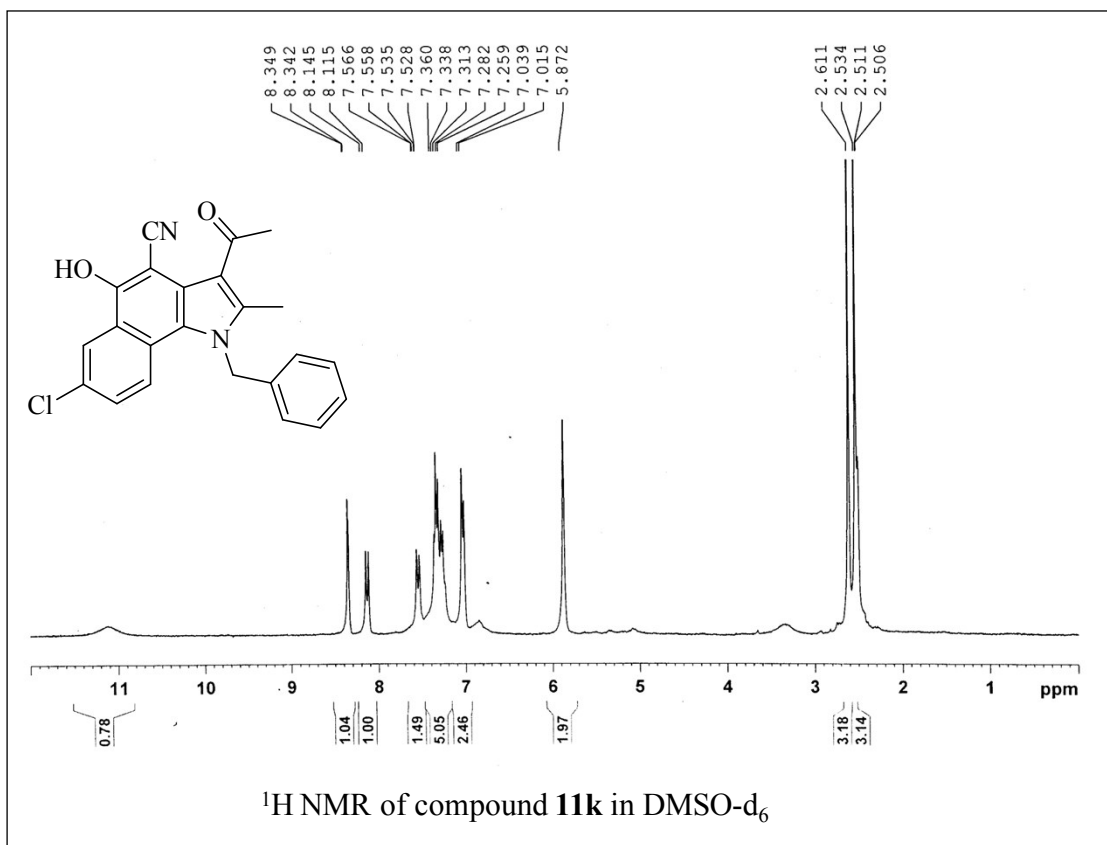


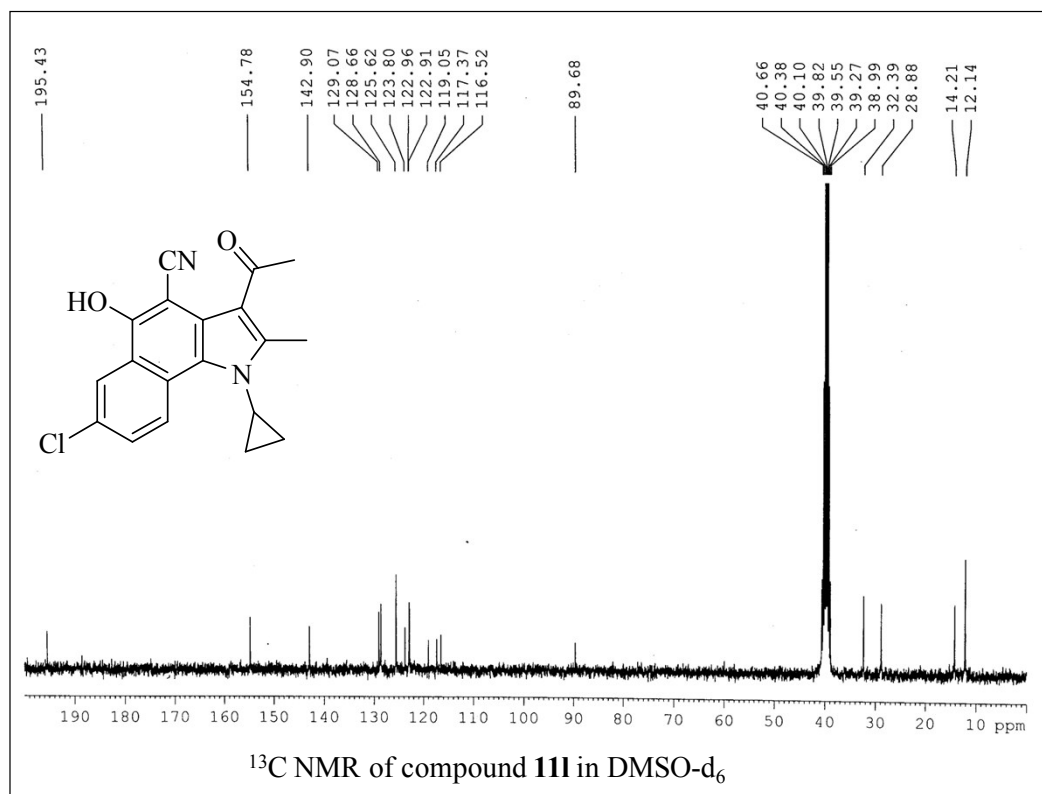
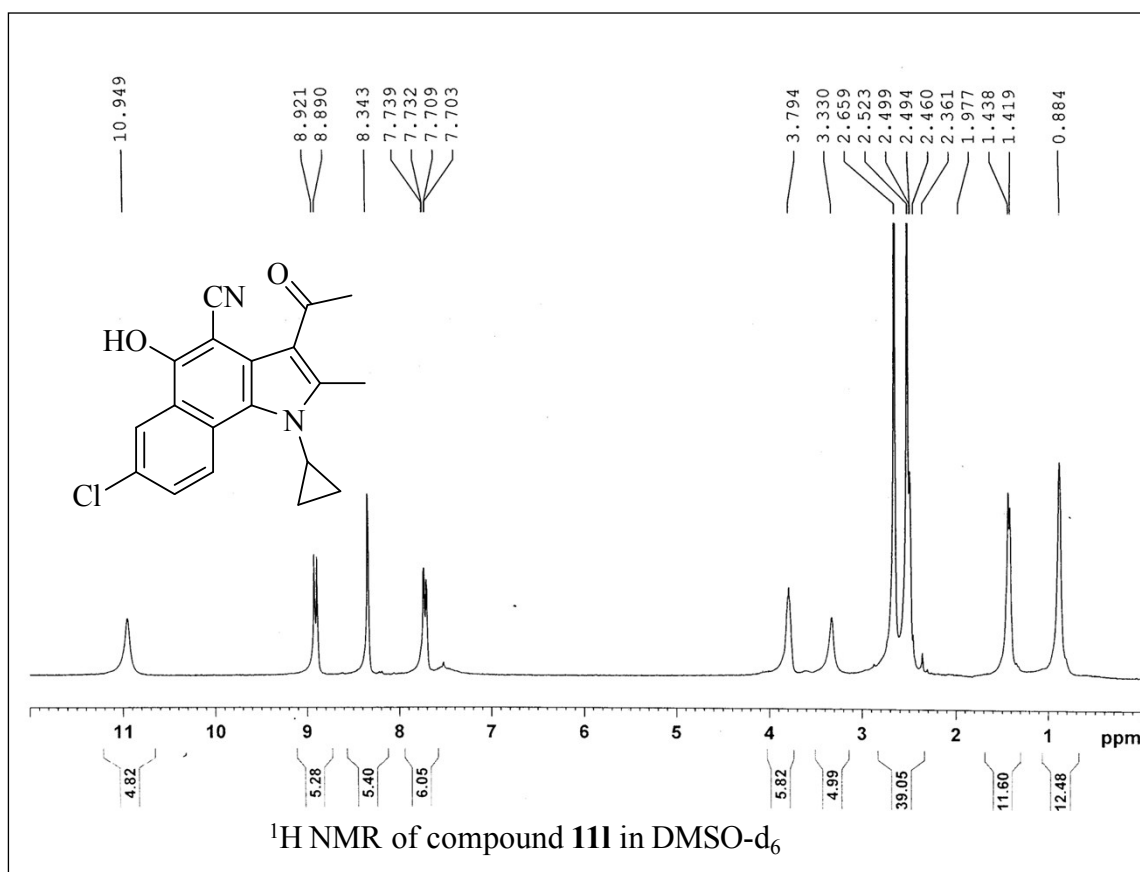


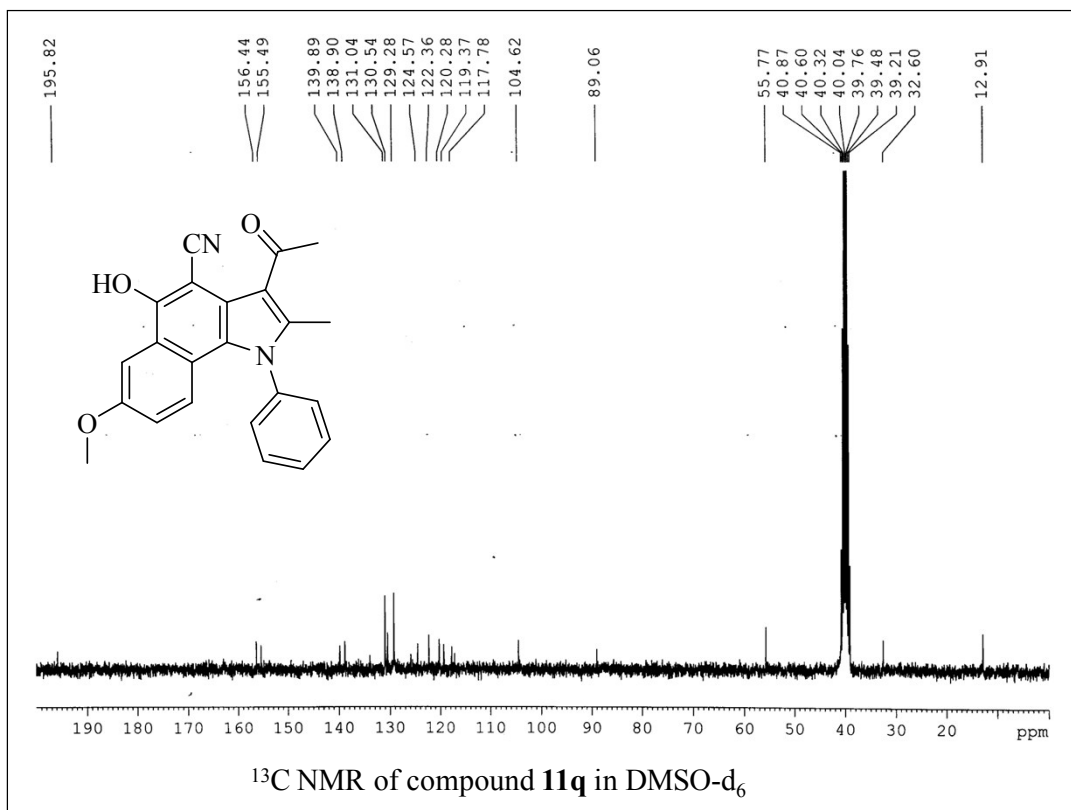
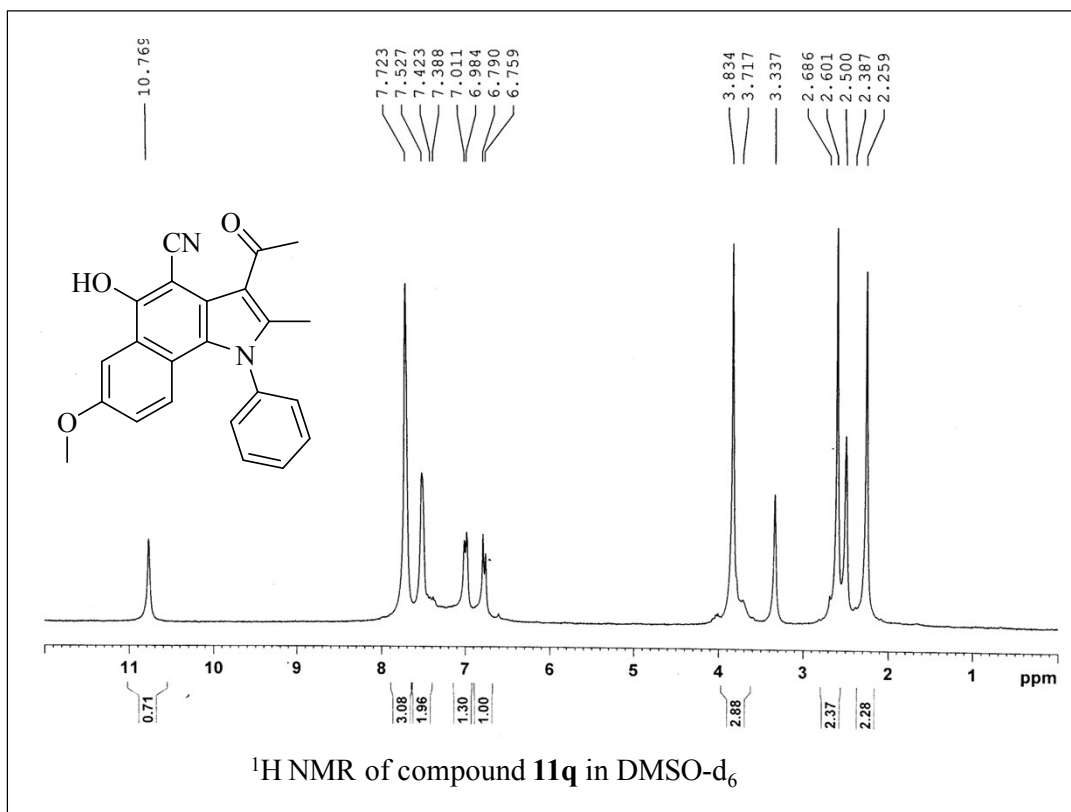


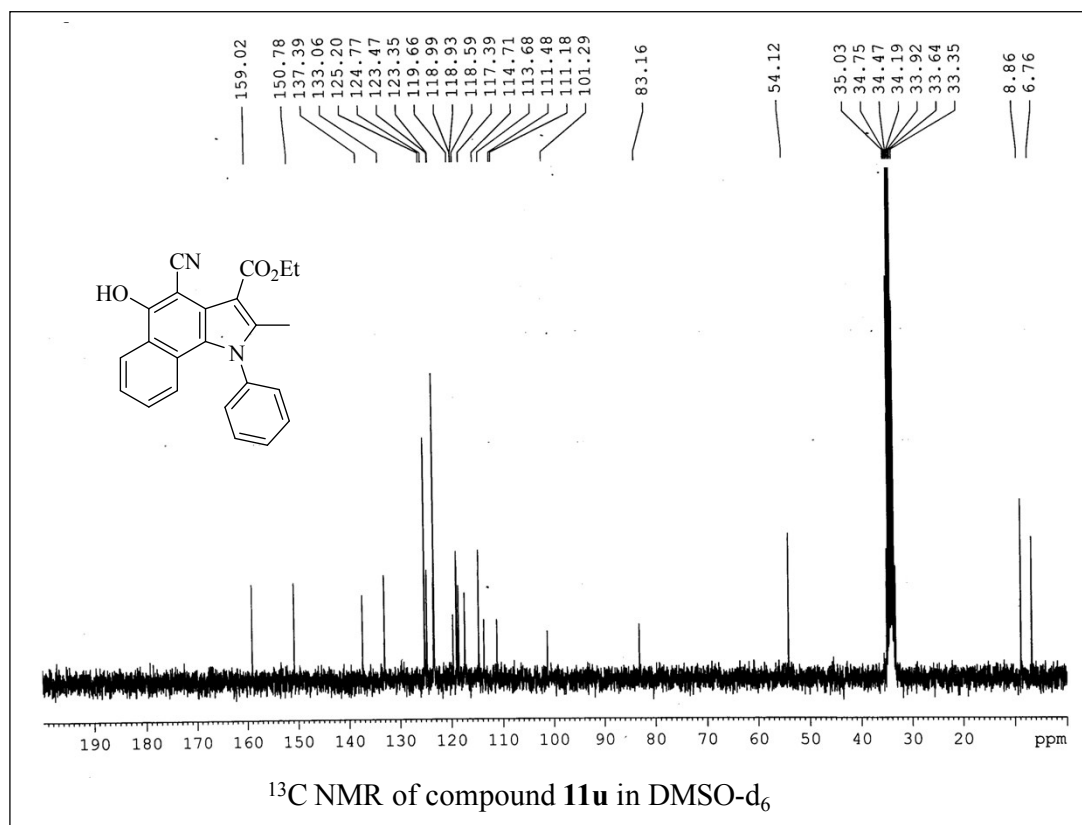
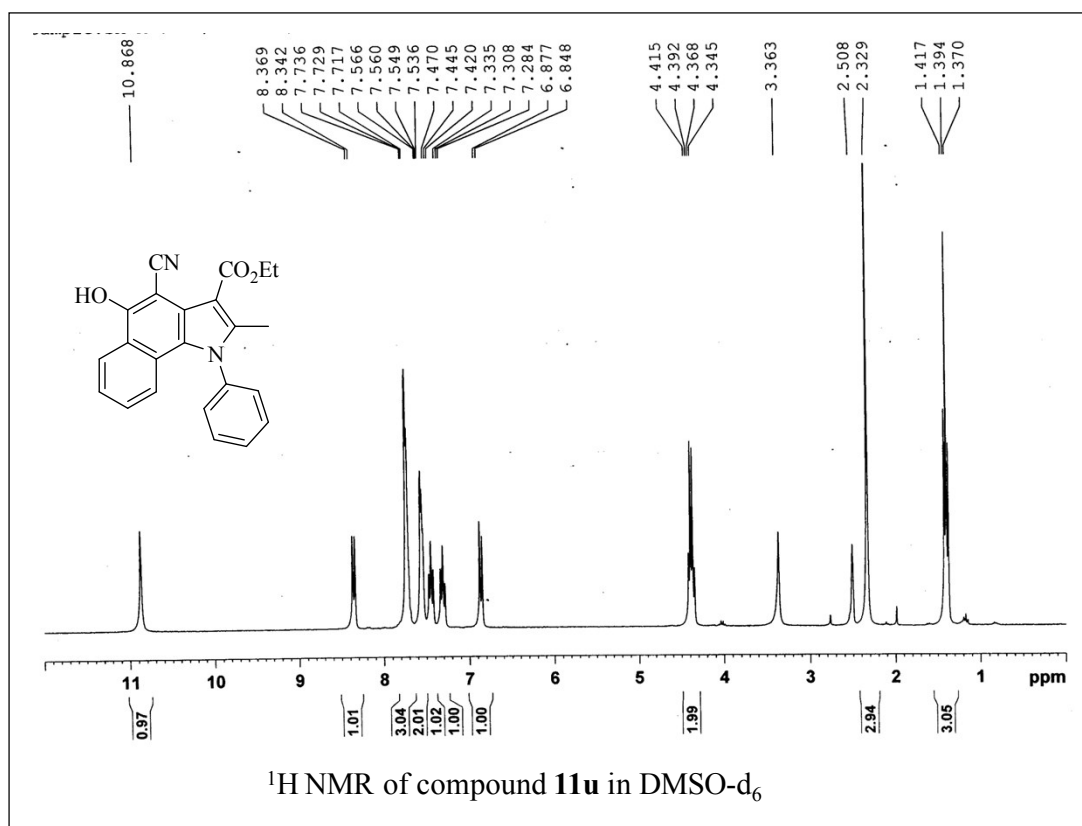


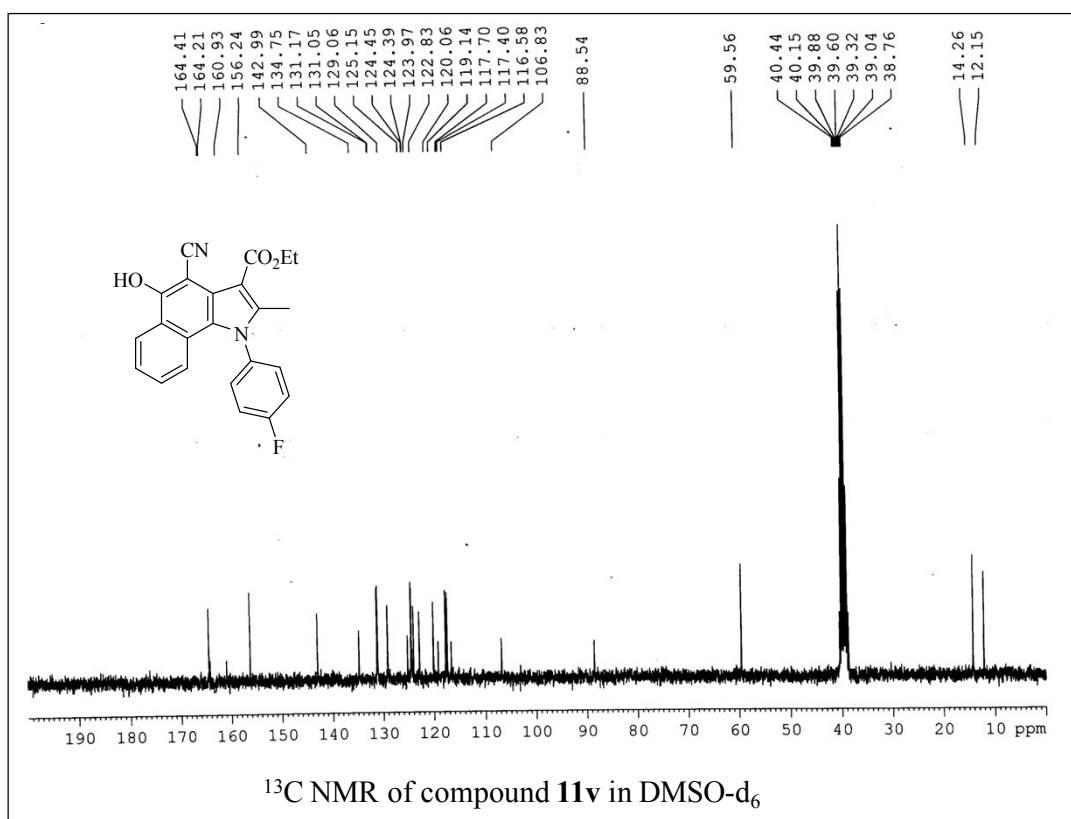
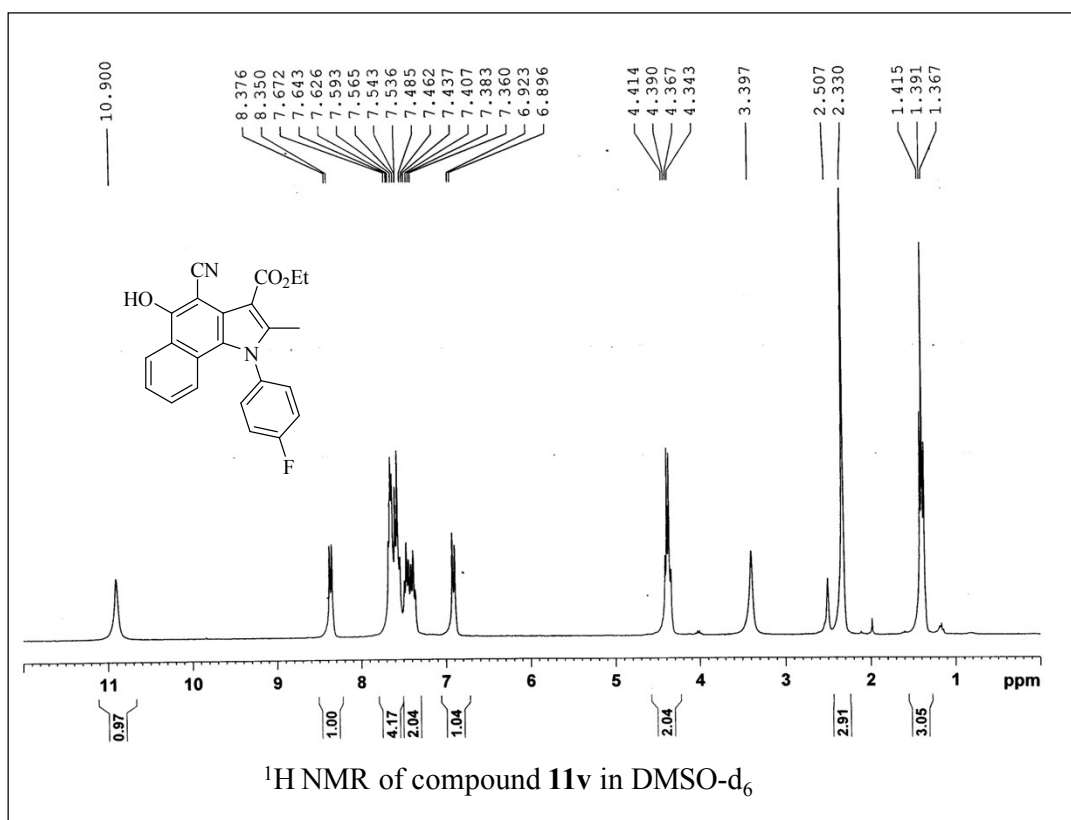


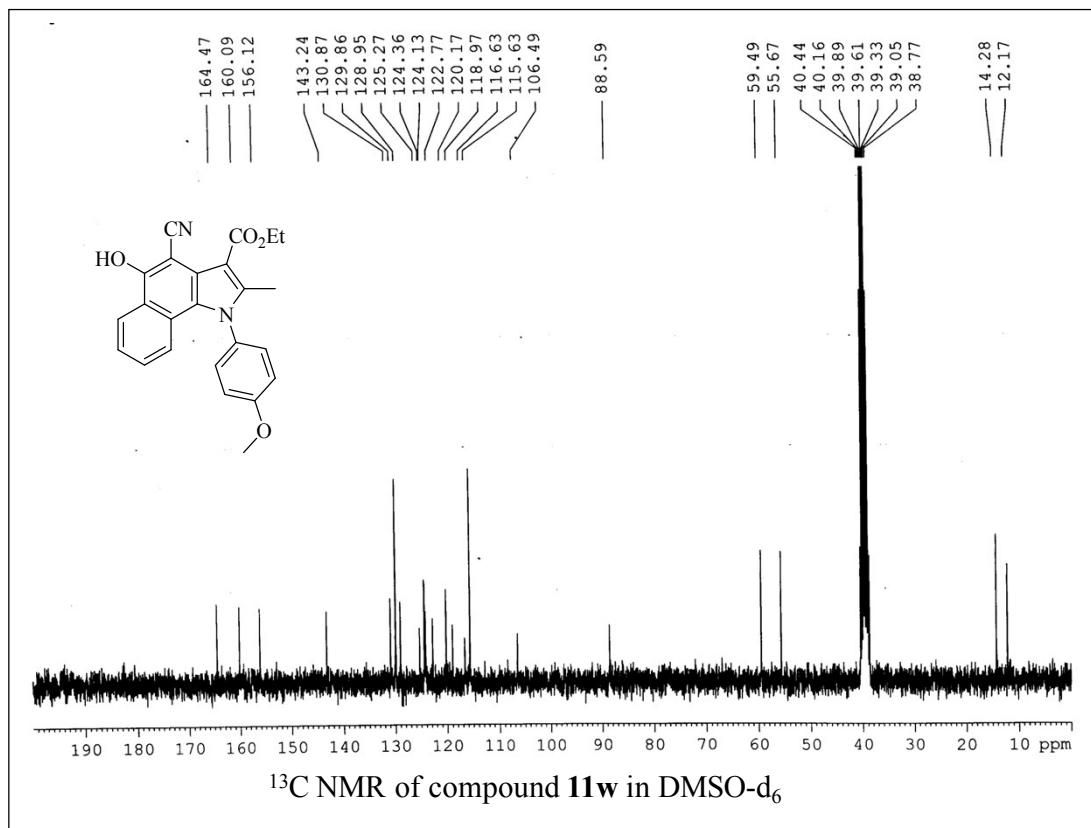
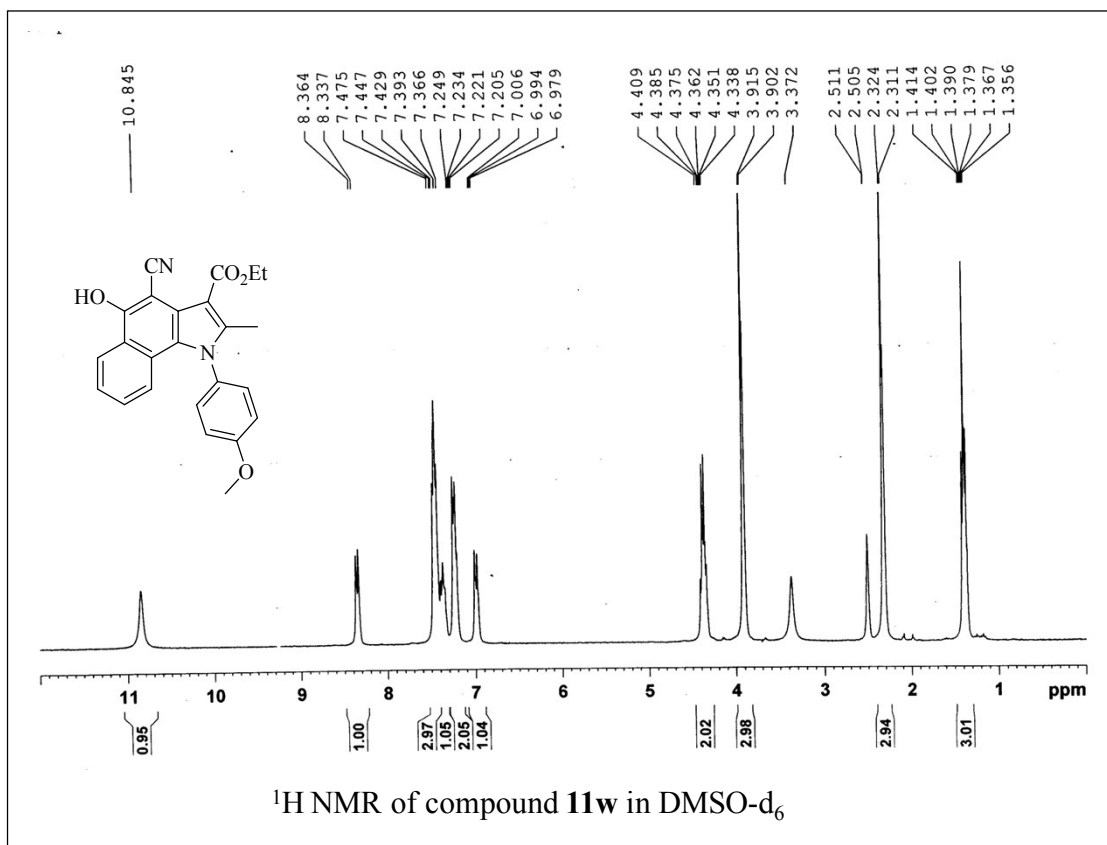


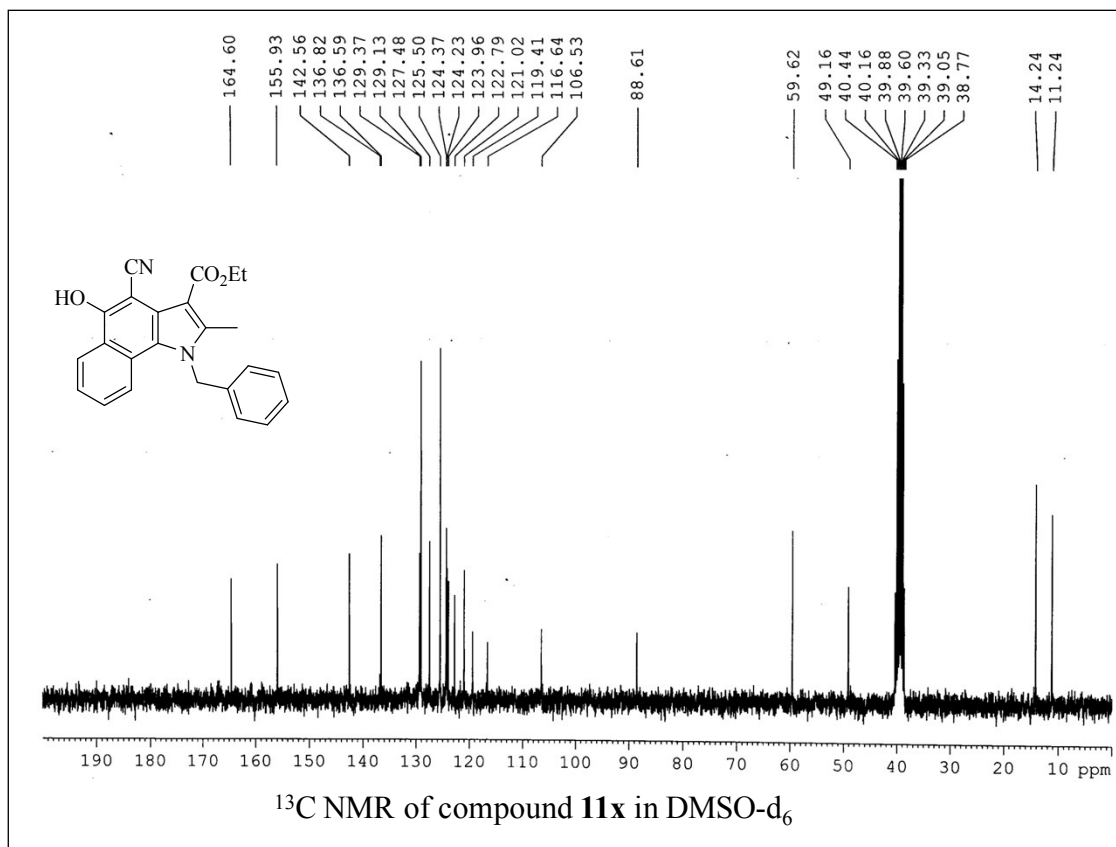
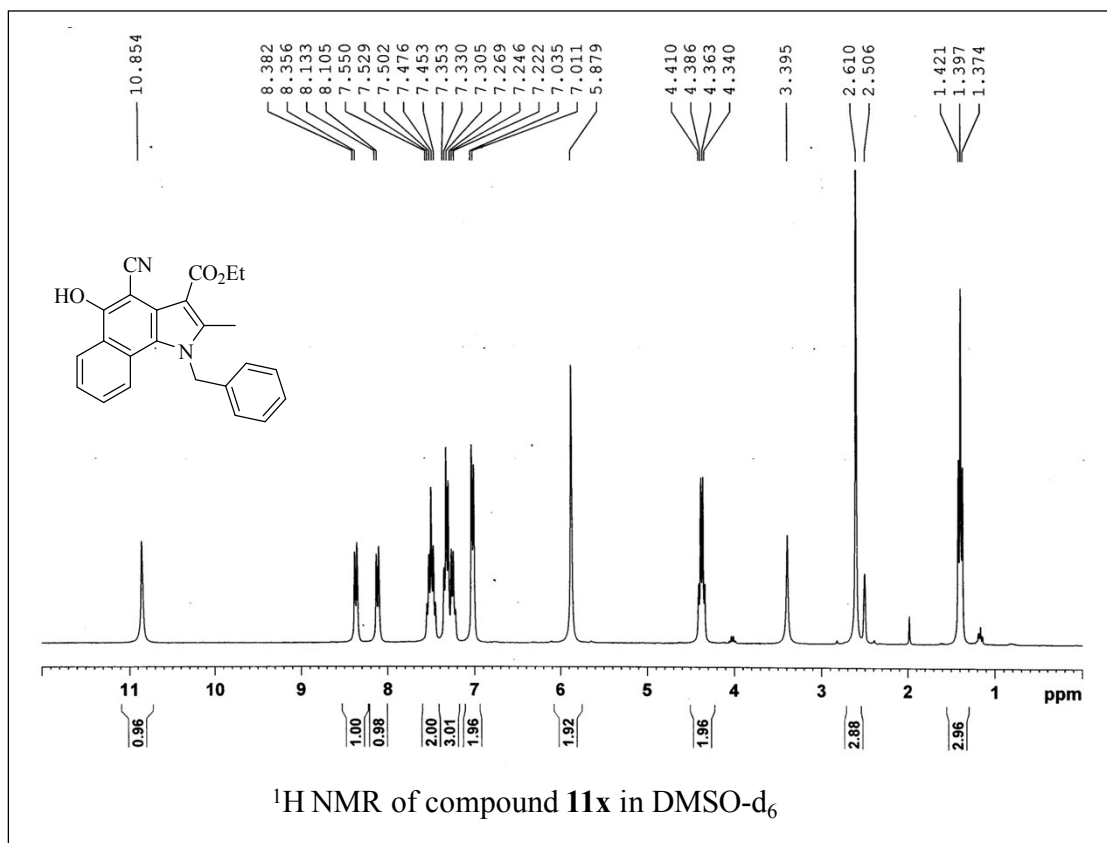


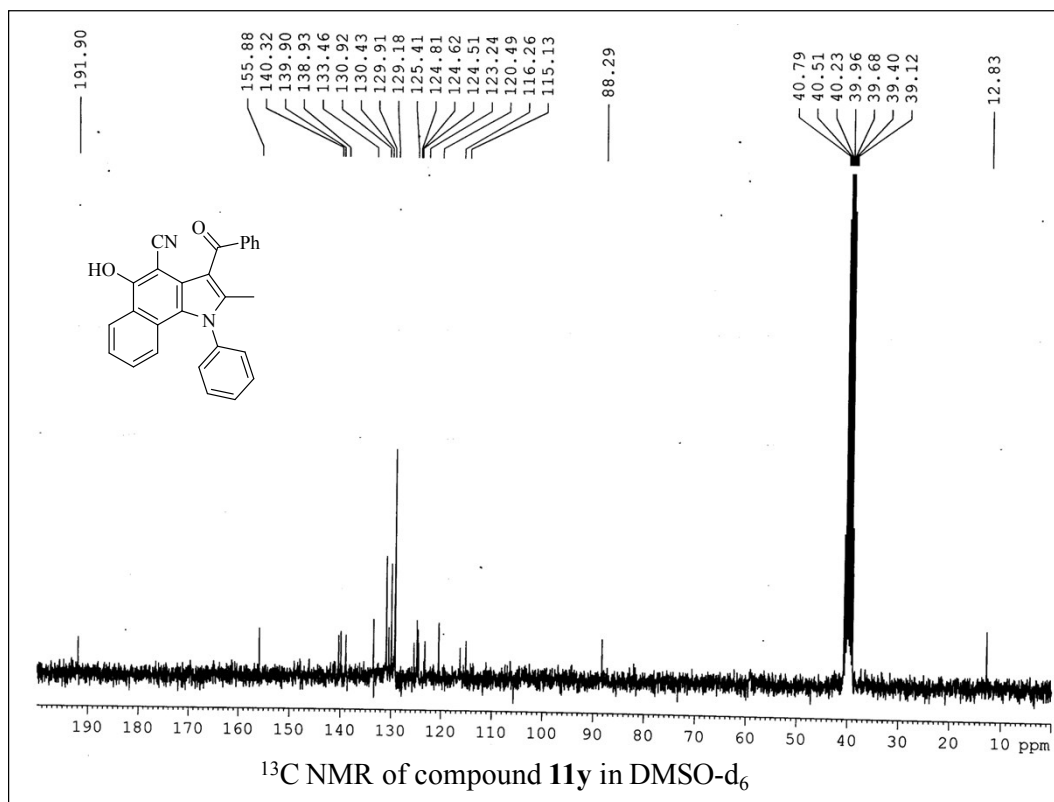
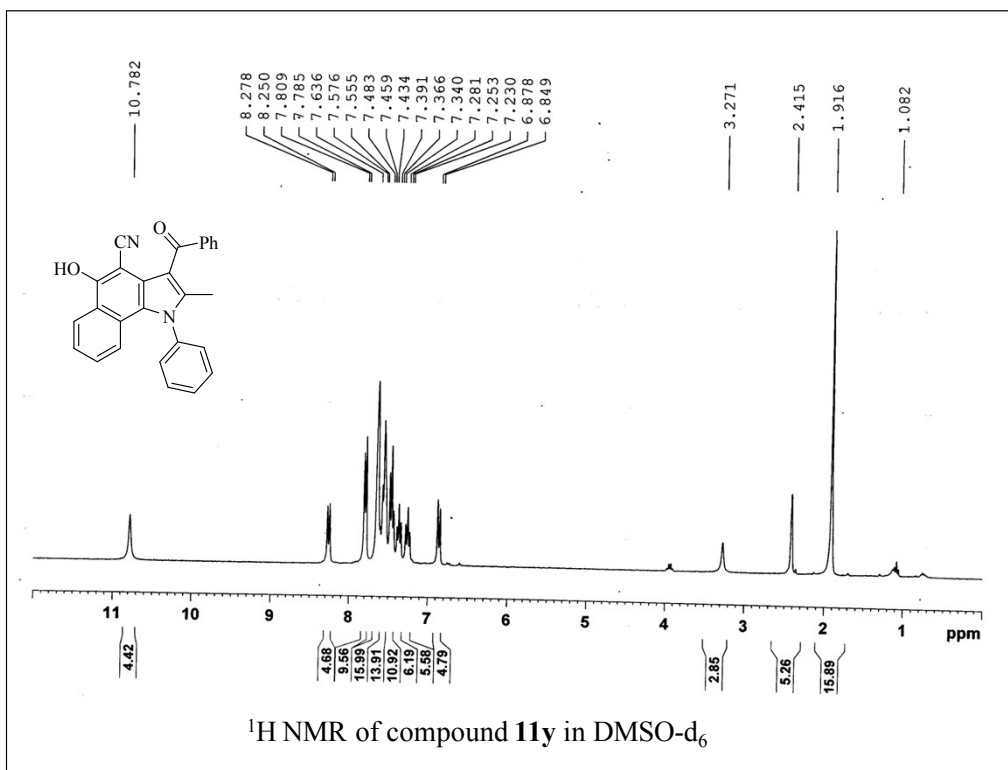




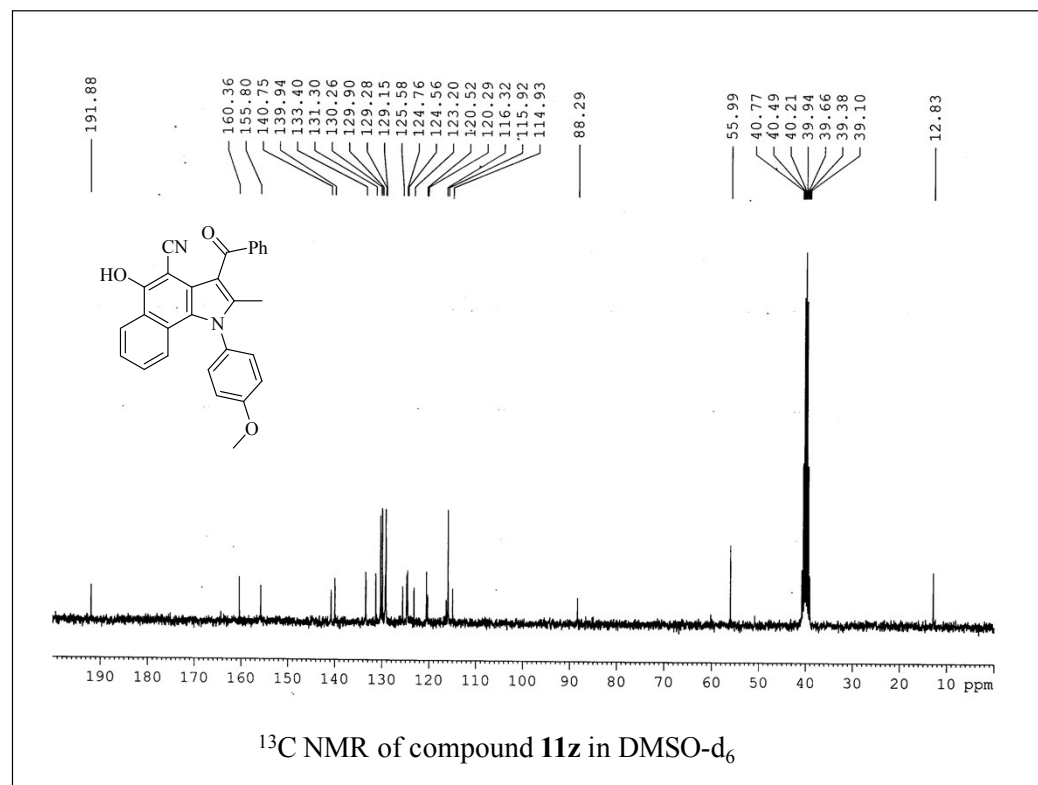
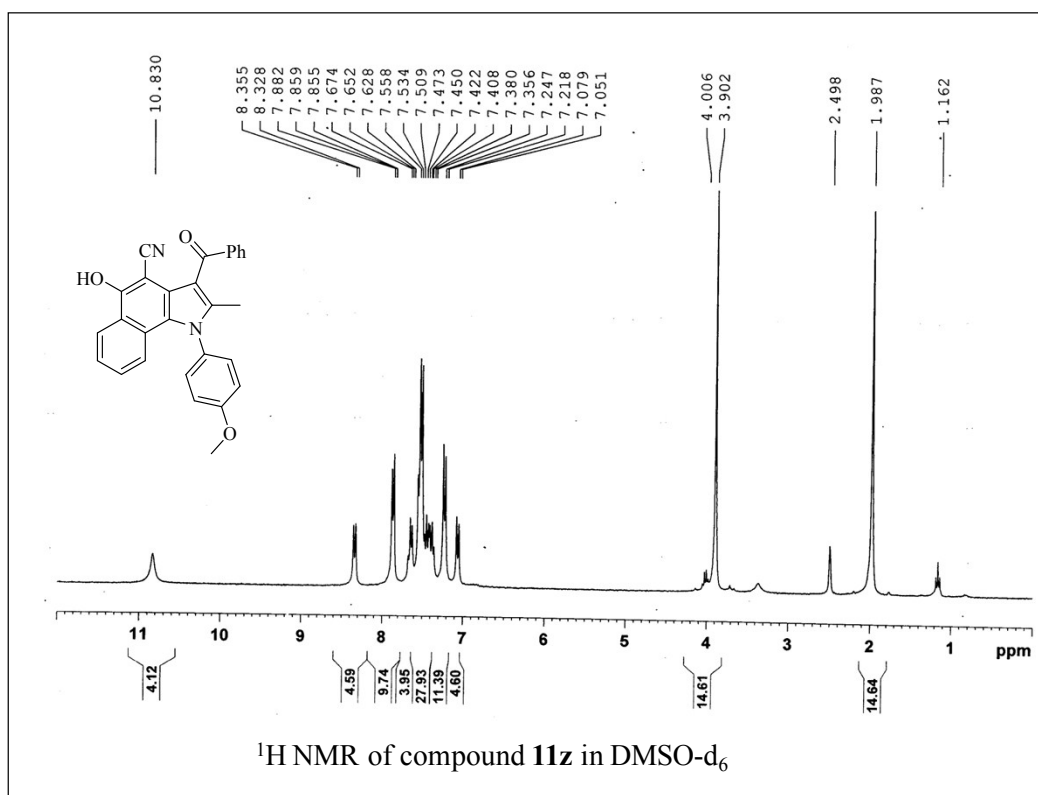


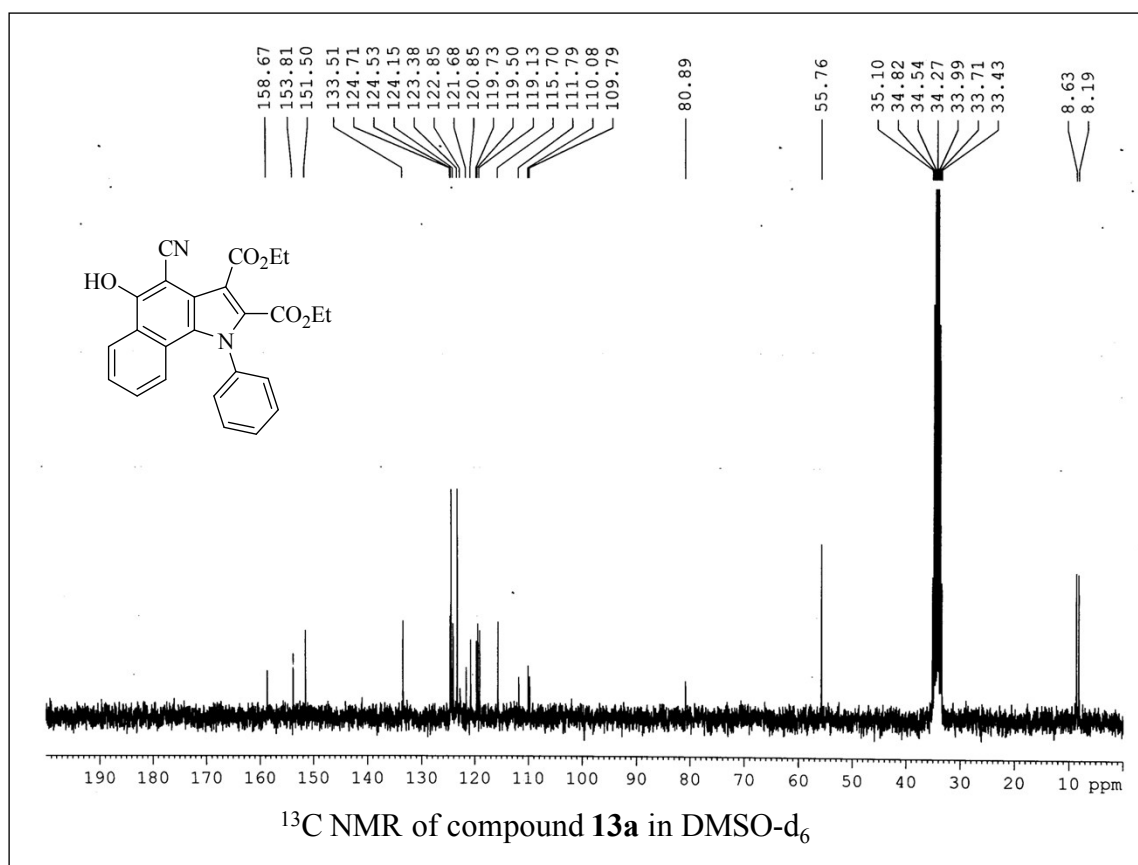
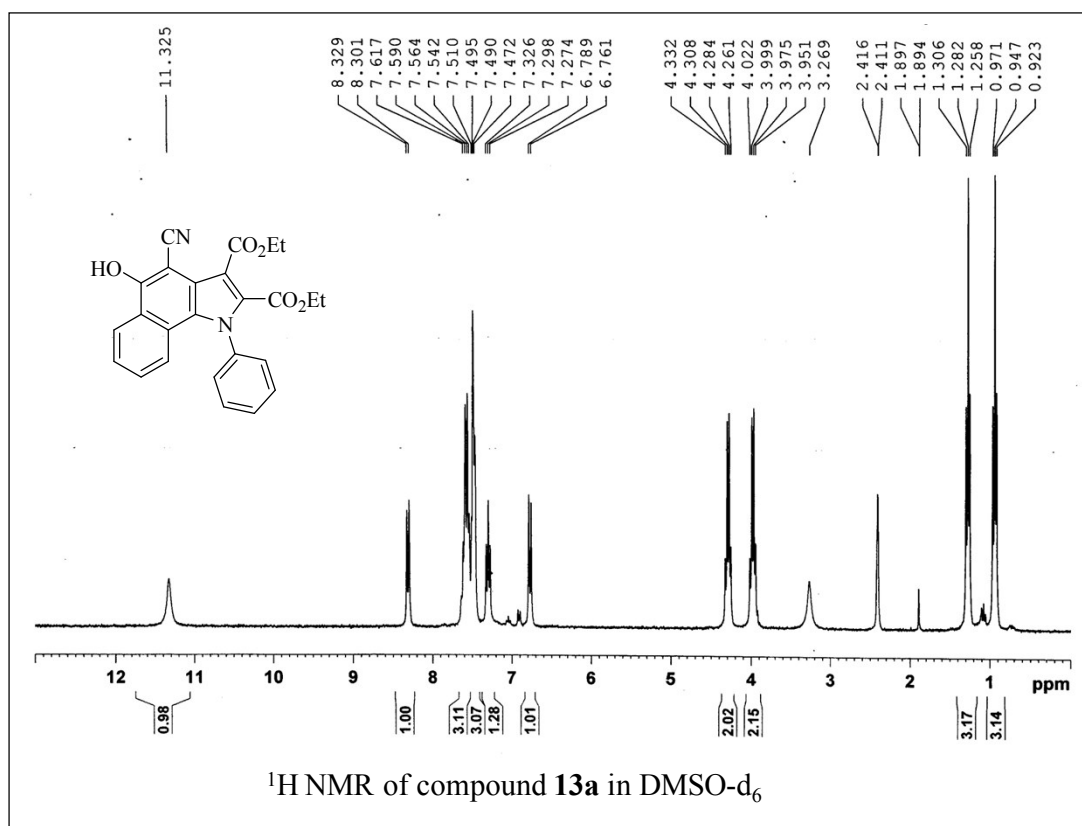


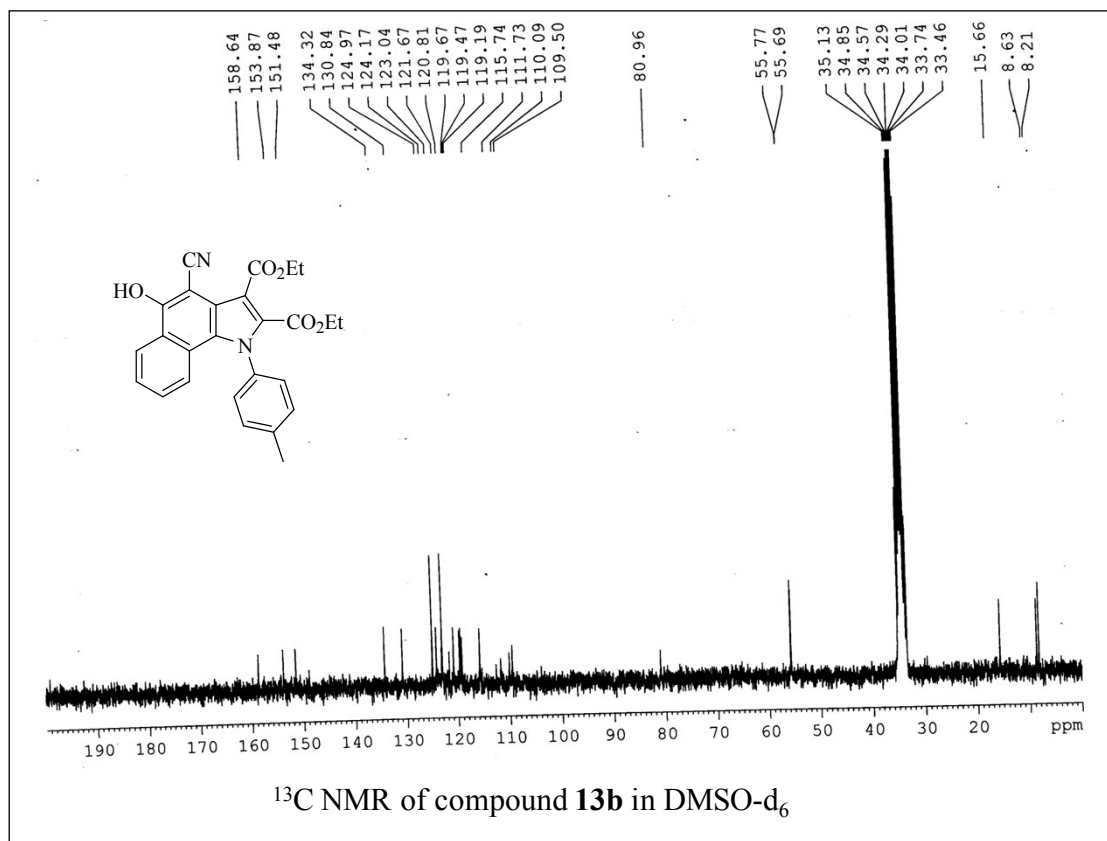
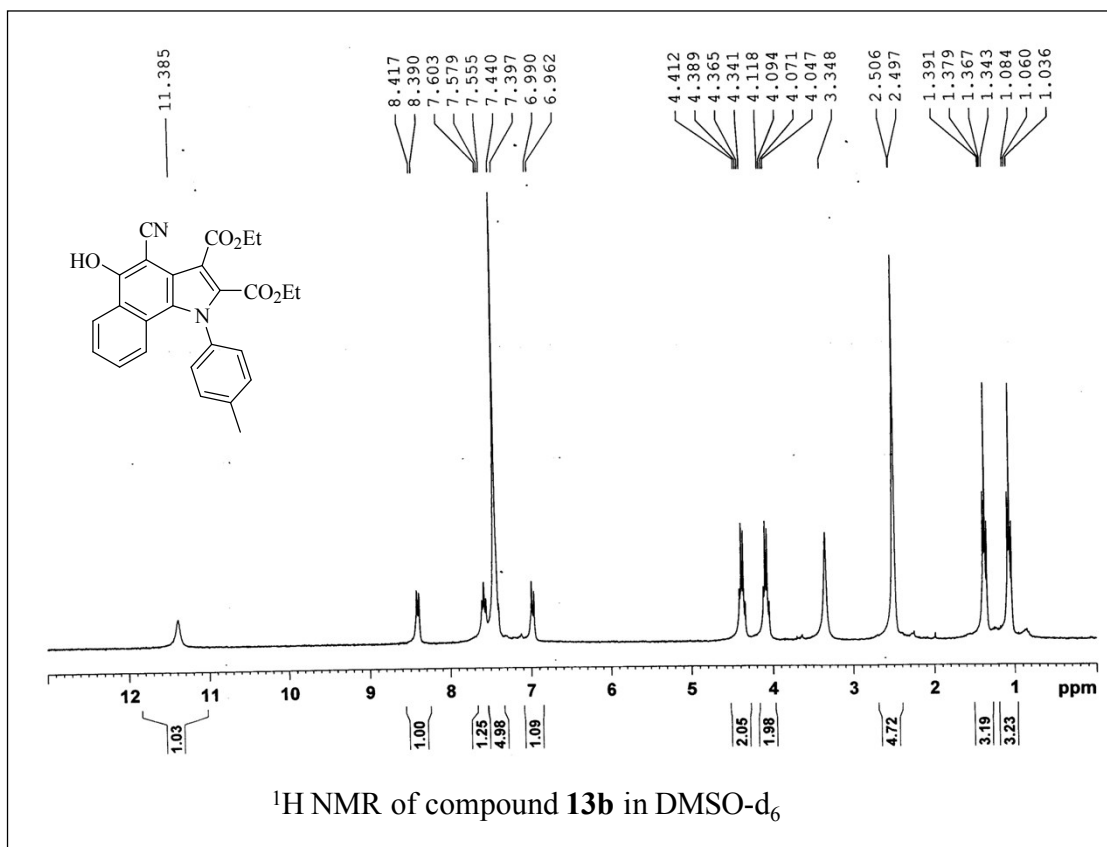


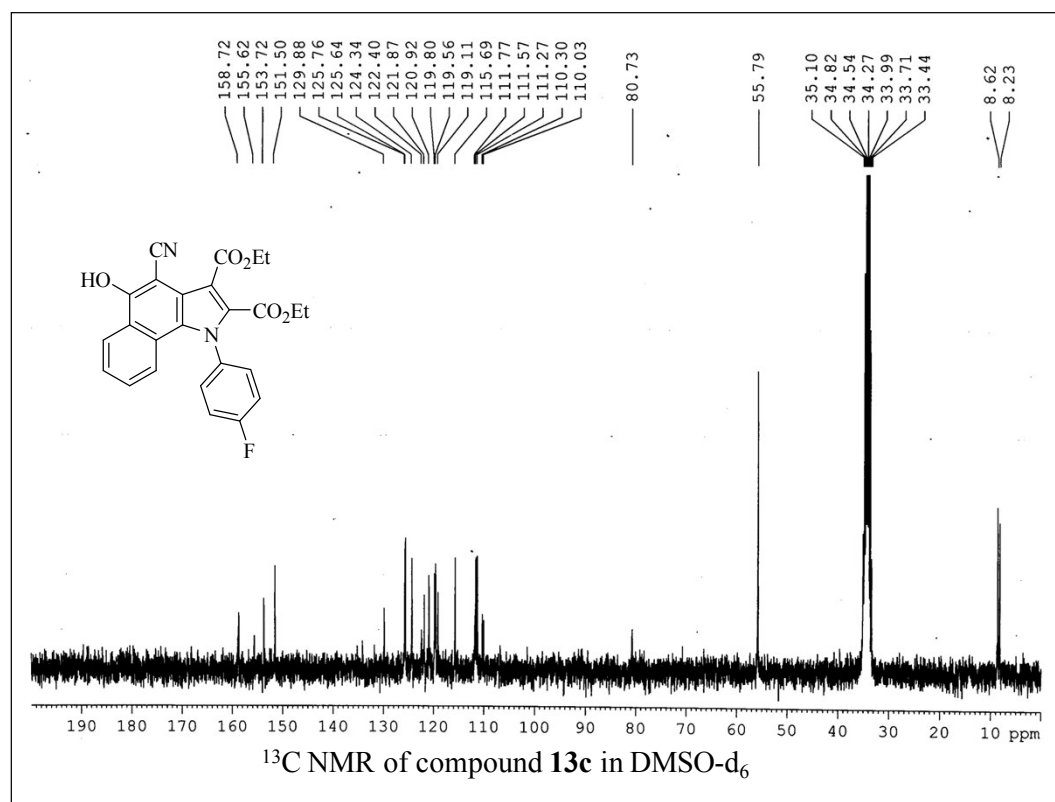
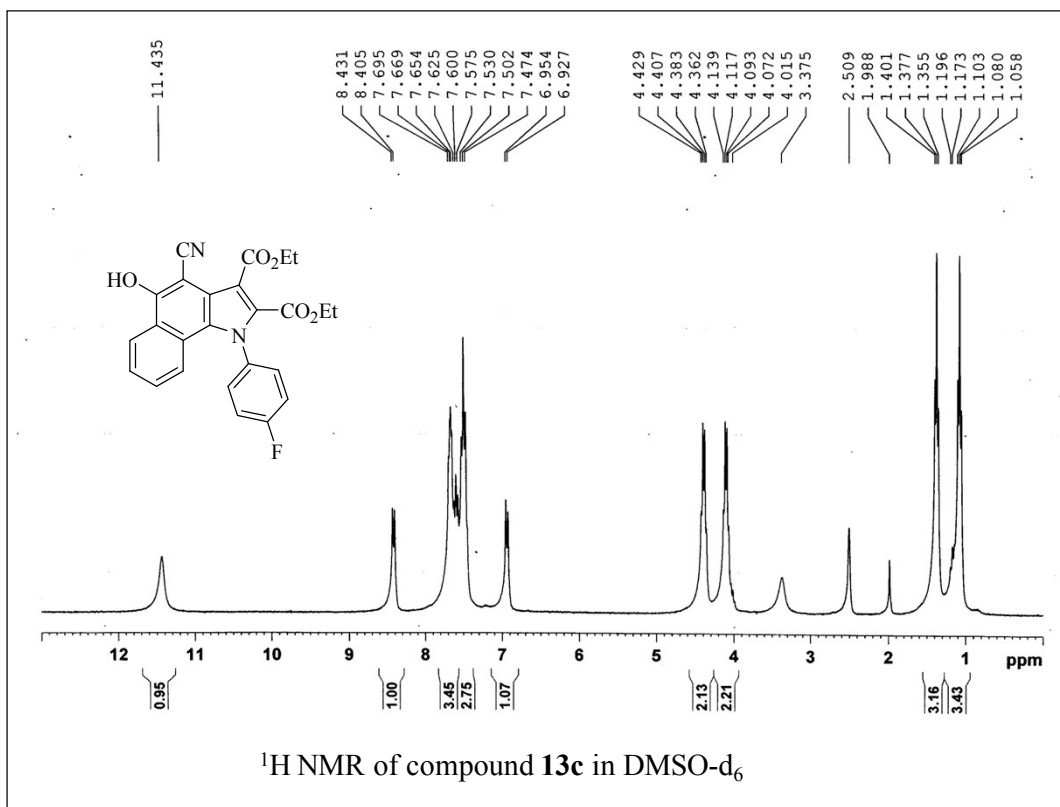


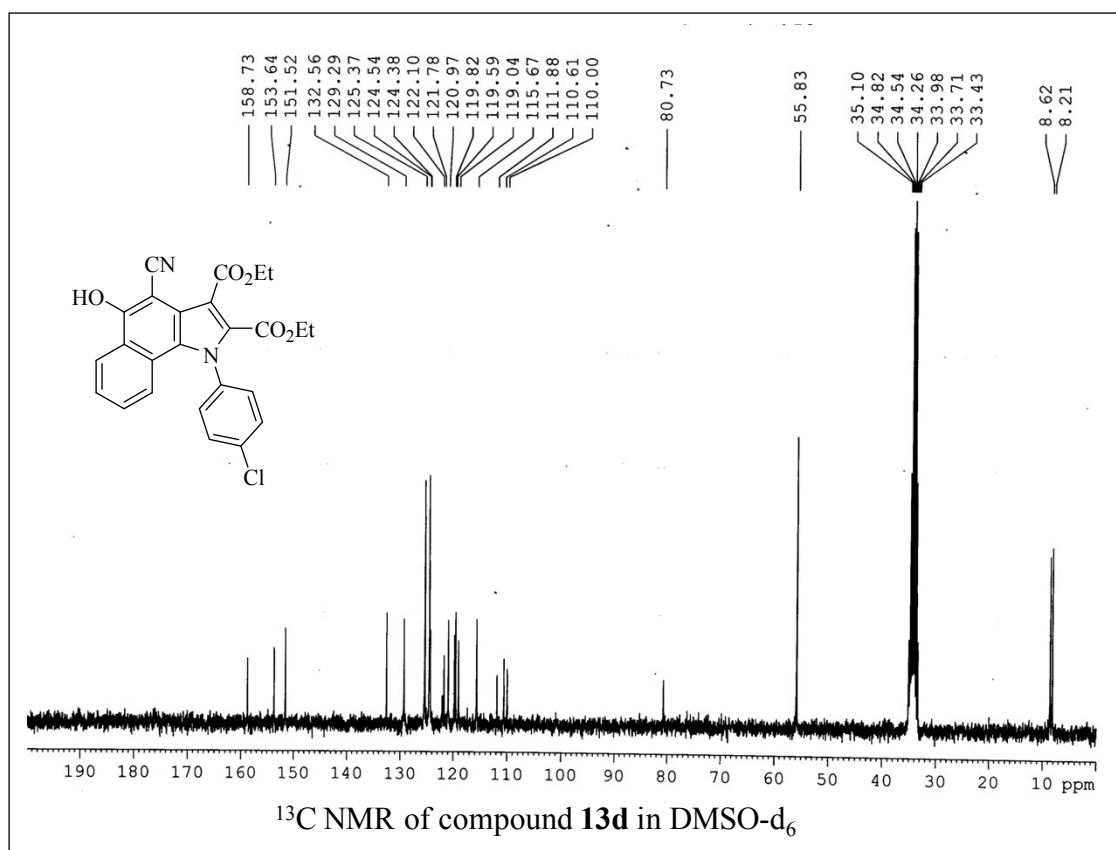
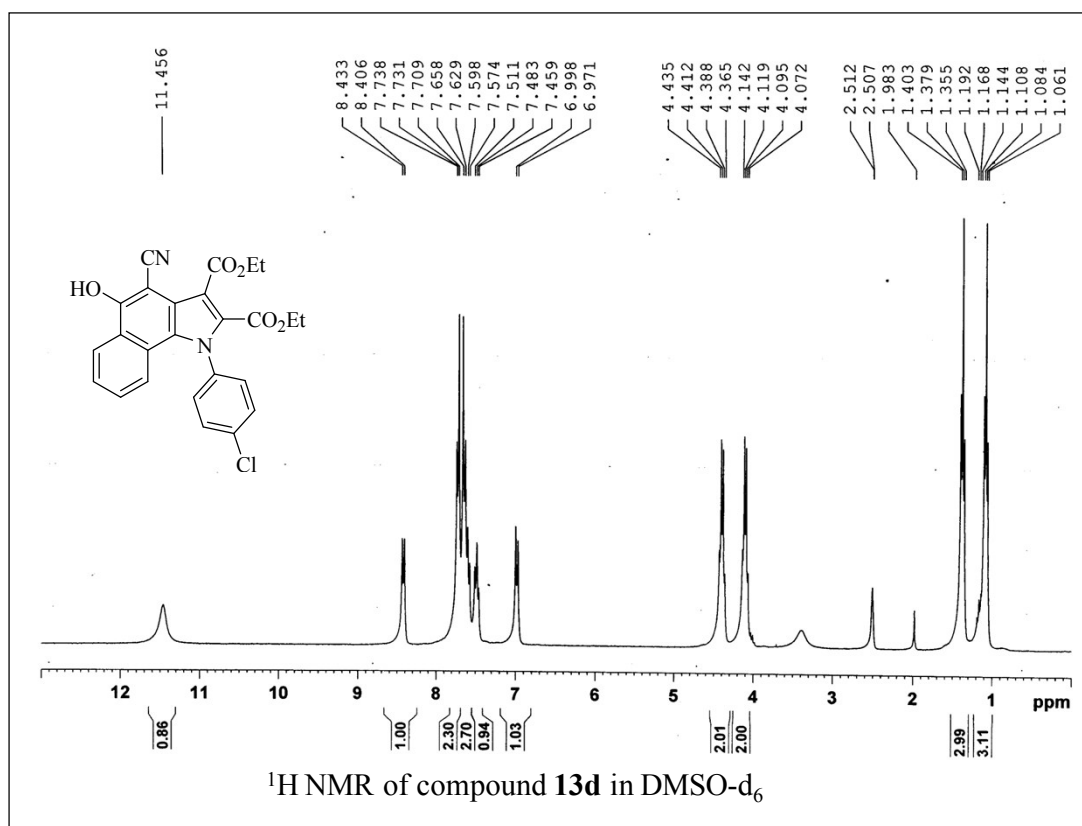


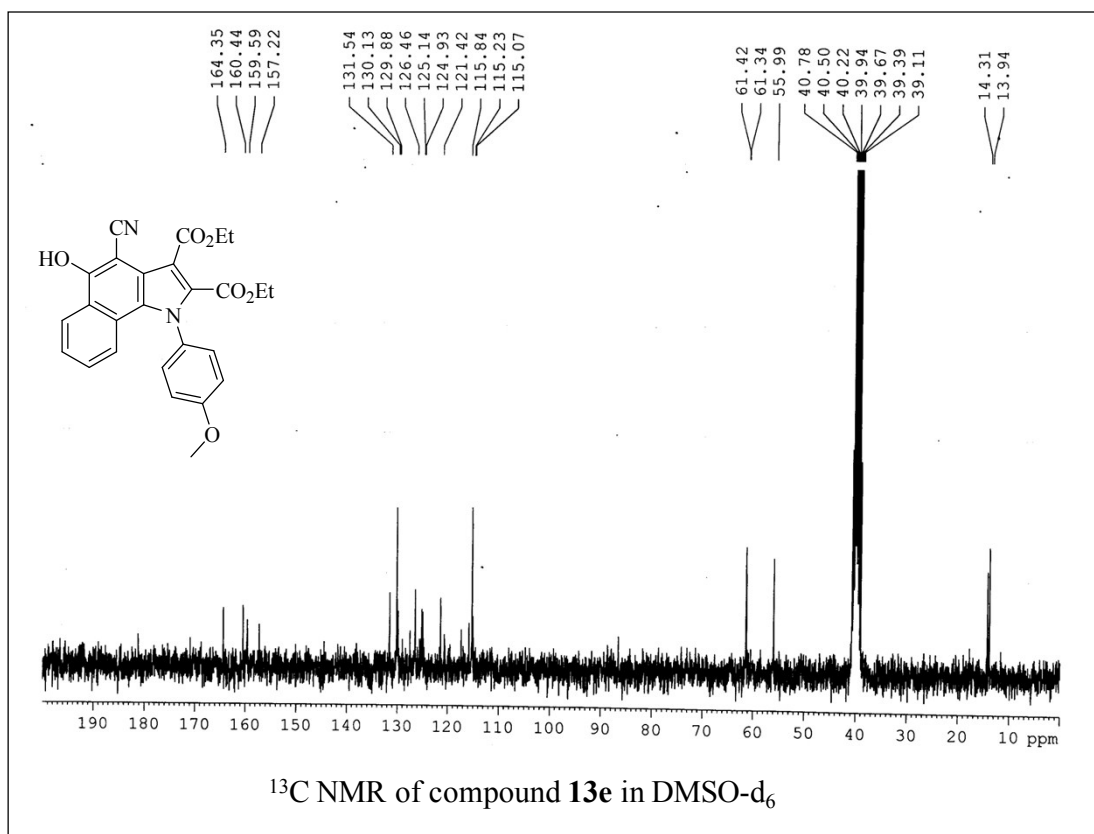
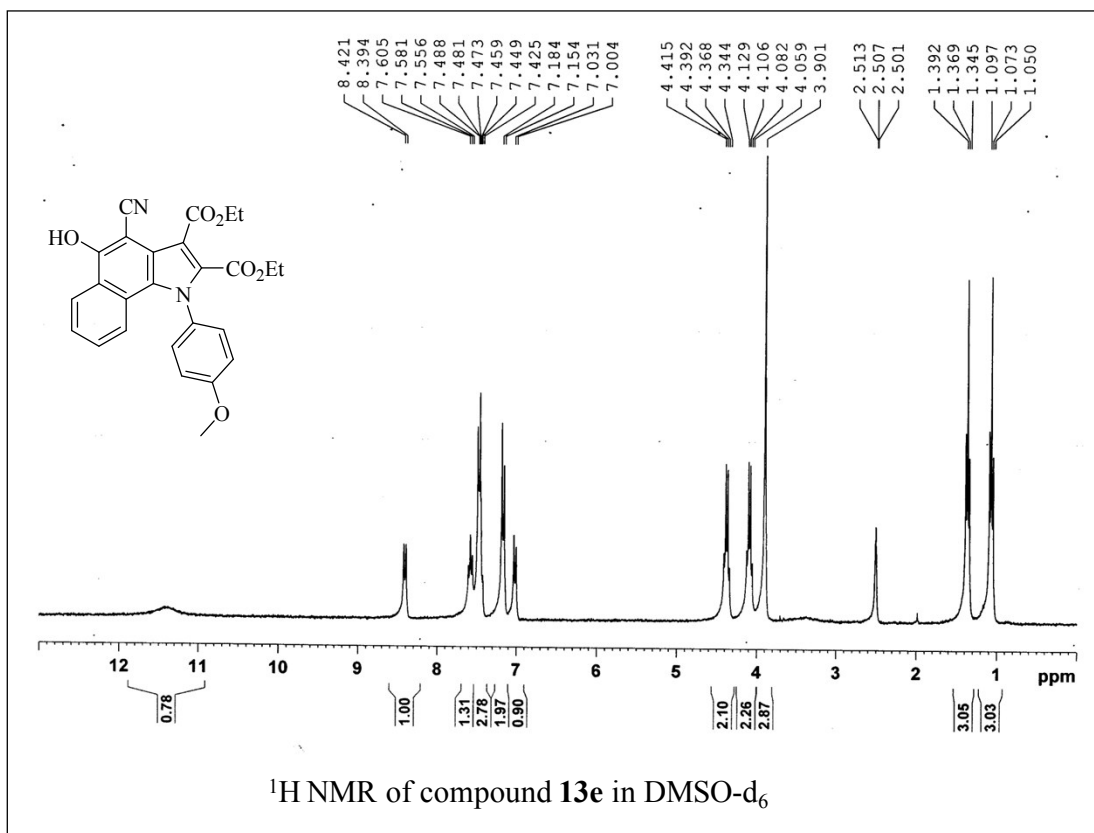


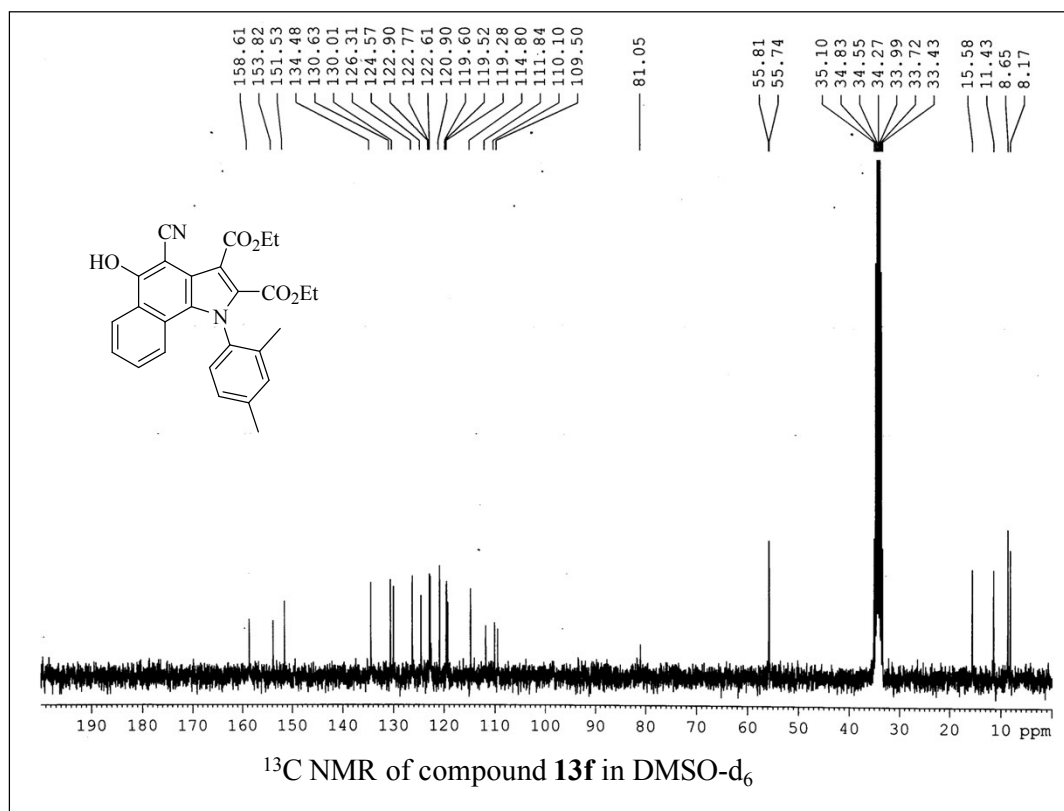
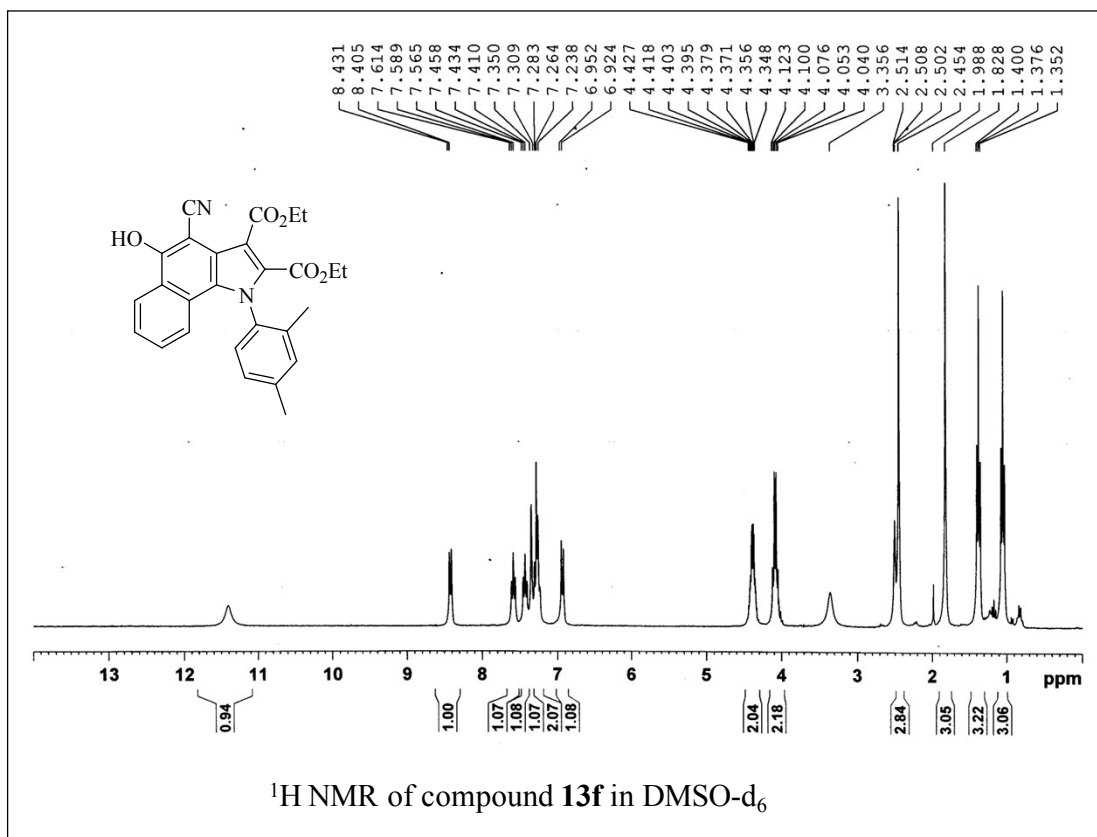


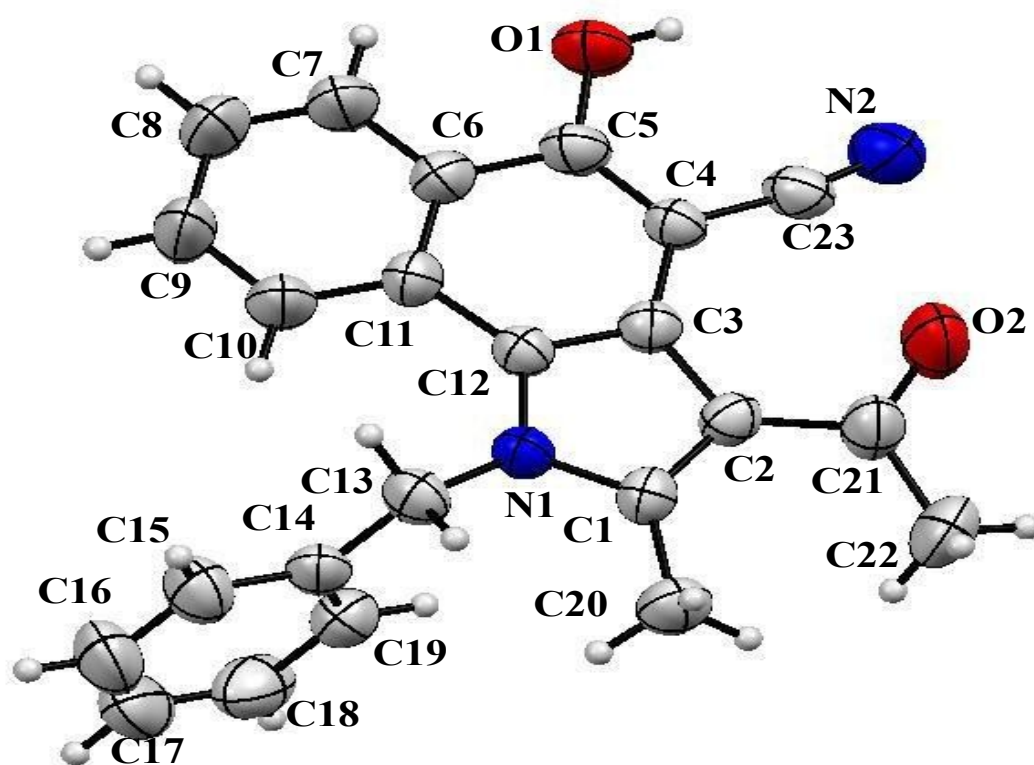






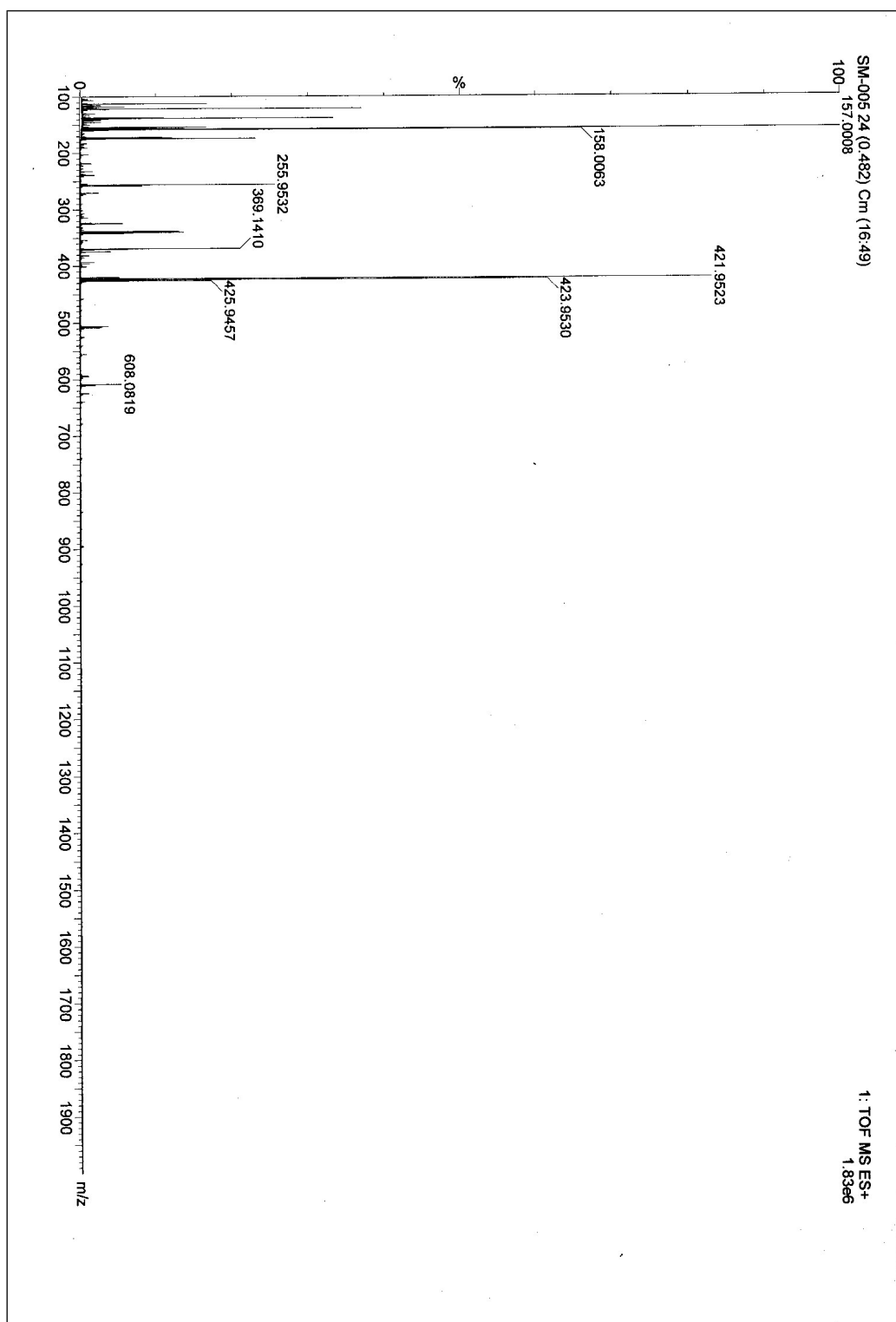






**Fig S9.** Crystal Structure of **11g** (CCDC 1025252)





**Fig S10.** Mass spectrum of complex between **11u** &  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ion