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Supporting Information

Ethers as Hydrogen Sources in BF₃ OEt₂ Promoted Reduction of Diphenylmethyl Alcohols, Ethers and Esters to Hydrocarbons

Jiaqiang Li,^a Qing Liu,^a Hang Shen,^a Ruofeng Huang,^a Xiaohui Zhang,^a Yan Xiong*^{ab} and Changguo Chen*^a

(Email: xiong@cqu.edu.cn; cgchen@cqu.edu.cn)

^a School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Chongqing University, Chongqing 400044, China

^b Chongqing Institute of Green and Intelligent Technology, Chinese Academy of Science, Chongqing 400714, China

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1. General information

All reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere of argon unless otherwise noted. All solvents were distilled from deep purple sodium benzophenone ketyl. Commercial reagents were purchased from the suppliers and used without further purification, unless otherwise noted. Liquid reagents were transferred with stainless steel syringes. NMR spectra were recorded on a 500 spectrometer (500 MHz for 1 H, 125 MHz for 13 C) with deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃) as a solvent at 20-25 $^{\circ}$ C. 1 H NMR spectra were reported in parts per million using TMS (δ = 0.00 ppm) as an internal standard. 13 C NMR spectra were reported in parts per million using solvent CDCl₃ (δ = 77.2 ppm) as an internal standard. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) was carried out on a UPLC-Q-ToF MS spectrometer. Unless otherwise specified, column chromatography and thin-layer chromatography (TLC) which was used to monitor the reactions were performed on silica gel.

2. General experimental procedures

2.1 Standard procedures under air conditions.

OH
$$\frac{BF_{3} \cdot OEt_{2} (1.2 \text{ eq.})}{THF (1.0 \text{ M}), 120 \text{ oC, } 2 \text{ h}}$$
(1)

To a round-bottom flask, diphenylmethanol (1a, 184.2 mg, 1.0 mmol), BF₃ OEt₂ (151.4 μ L, 1.2 mmol) and 1.0 mL of THF were added. Then the resulting mixture was stirred under open-flask condition at 120 °C (oil bath temp.) for 2 h. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether) to give colorless diphenylmethane (2a, 30.5 mg, 18% yield).

2.2 Standard procedures under argon condition.

$$R_{1} \xrightarrow{\text{II}} R_{2} \xrightarrow{\text{BF}_{3} \cdot \text{OEt}_{2} (1.2 \text{ eq.}), H_{2} \text{O} (0.48 \text{ eq.})} R_{1} \xrightarrow{\text{II}} R_{2} \qquad (2)$$

$$\text{Butyl ether, Ar, reflux, 2 h}$$

To a three-necked flask, diphenylmethanols (1, 1.0 mmol), H₂O (8.64 μ L, 0.48 mmol), 1.0 mL of distilled butyl ether and BF₃ OEt₂ (151.4 μ L, 1.2 mmol) were added successively. Then the resulting mixture was stirred under an argon atmosphere at 160 °C (oil bath temp.) for 2 h. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether) to give desired products (2). (For all the yields, please see the main text.)

2.3 General procedures of deuterated experiment

p-tolyl Ph
$$\frac{BF_3 \cdot OEt_2 (1.2 \text{ eq.}), H_2O (0.48 \text{ eq.})}{THF-d_8, Ar, reflux, 2 h}$$
 p-tolyl Ph (3)

To a three-necked flask, alcohols (**1m**) (1.0 mmol), H₂O (8.64 μ L, 0.48 mmol), 1.0 mL of deuterated THF and BF₃ OEt₂ (151.4 μ L, 1.2 mmol) were added. Then the resulting mixture was stirred under an argon atmosphere at 120 °C (oil bath temp.) for 2 h. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether) to give colorless liquid (**2m**') with 48% yield.

2.4 General procedures for preparation substrates by Grignard reaction

To a three-necked flask, magnesium (7.0 mmol), distilled THF (6 mL) and bromobenzene (5 mmol) were added under argon atmosphere. After stirring for 1 h, aldehyde (5 mmol) were added dropwisely to the prepared phenyl magnesium bromide in Ar atmosphere at 0 °C, and stirred at room temperature overnight. Then the reaction was quenched by saturated NH₄Cl (aq.), extracted by EtOAc, dried over MgSO₄, evaporated in vacuum, and further purified by flash chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1, v/v) to afford the corresponding alcohols (10, 1u, 1w, and 1x) with 52-71% yields.

3. Experiment data

Table 1. Detailed optimization of reaction conditions. [a]

Entry	BF ₃ OEt ₂ (eq.)	H ₂ O (eq.)	$T(^{\circ}\mathbb{C})^{[b]}$	Solvent	Yield (%) ^[c]
1	1.2	-	rt.	THF	8^d
2	1.2	-	120	THF	18^d
3	1.2	-	120	THF	53
4	1.2	0.24	120	THF	58
5	1.2	0.36	120	THF	55
6	1.2	0.48	120	THF	62

7 1.2 0.60 120 THF 8 1.2 0.72 120 THF 9 1.2 0.96 120 THF 10 0.2 0.48 120 THF 11 0.6 0.48 120 THF	52 53 48 20 52
9 1.2 0.96 120 THF 10 0.2 0.48 120 THF	48 20 52
10 0.2 0.48 120 THF	20 52
	52
11 0.6 0.48 120 THF	
	<i>c</i> 1
12 0.8 0.48 120 THF	61
13 1.0 0.48 120 THF	63
14 1.5 0.48 120 THF	52
15 1.2 0.48 100 THF	51
16 1.2 0.48 120 THF	62
17 1.2 0.48 120 CHCl ₃	42
18 1.2 0.48 120 CH ₂ Cl ₂	22
19 1.2 0.48 120 DME	30
20 1.2 0.48 120 Dioxane	22
21 1.2 0.48 120 DMF	trace
22 1.2 0.48 120 DMSO	2
23 1.2 0.48 120 MTBE	/[e]
24 1.2 0.48 120 Isopropyl ether	/[e]
25 1.2 0.48 120 Et_2O	53
26 1.2 0.48 120 2-methyl THF	55
27 1.2 0.48 80 Butyl ether	68
28 1.2 0.48 100 Butyl ether	80
29 1.2 0.48 120 Butyl ether	83
30 1.2 0.48 140 Butyl ether	84
31 1.2 0.48 160 Butyl ether	87

[a] Conditions: $\mathbf{1a}$ (1.0 mmol), BF₃ OEt₂ (specified), H₂O (specified), temperature (specified) in solvent (1.0 mL) under argon for 2 h. [b] The temperature of oil bath. [c] Isolated yields. [d] Reactions were conducted under air condition. [e] Complex reaction.

Table 2. Preparation of diarylmethanols (1) from diarylketones. [a]

$$R_{1} \xrightarrow{\text{I}} R_{2} \xrightarrow{\text{NaBH}_{4}} R_{1} \xrightarrow{\text{I}} R_{2}$$

Ketones	Diarylmethanols	Yield (%)	Ketones	Diarylmethanols	Yield (%)
	OH	99	Br F	OH Br F	99
	OH	97	cı cı	CI	99
Br	OH	94	O F	OH F	95

[a] Conditions: a mixture of ketones (5-10 mmol) and NaBH₄ (1.4 eq.) in 10-20 mL MeOH was stirred at 0 $^{\circ}$ C for 1-3 hours. Then the residual was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ and chromatographed on silica gel after the solvent is evaporated.

Table 3. Preparation of diarylmethly ethers (3) from diarylmethanols (1a).^[a]

Alcohols	Ethers (3)	Yield (%)	Alcohols	Ethers (3)	Yield (%)
МеОН	Ph O Ph	92	Ph OH	Ph Ph O Ph	79
EtOH	Ph O Ph	90	OH	Ph O Ph	92
₩ OH	Ph Ph	87	но	HO Ph	76
ОН	Ph	94			

[a] Conditions: a mixture of $\bf 1a$ (6-10 mmol) and BF₃ OEt₂ (5 mol%) in 6-10 mL $\bf 5$ was stirred under 100 °C for 7 hours. Then the residual was chromatographed on silica gel after the solvent is evaporated.

4. Characterization data for all products

Diphenylmethane (2a)
Colorless liquid; 146.5 mg, 87% yield; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 6H), 3.97 (s, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.3, 129.1, 128.6, 126.2, 42.1; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{12}$ [M + H] $^{+}$ 169.1017, found 169.1019.

Colorless liquid; 174.0 mg, 93% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 4H), 6.95 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3,94 (s, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.6 (d, J = 245.3 Hz), 141.1, 136.9 (d, J = 3.1Hz), 130.4 (d, J = 7.75 Hz), 129.0, 128.7, 126.3, 115.4 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 41.3; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}F[M+H]^+$ 187.0923, found 187.0912.

4, 4'-Difluorodiphenylmethane (2c)

Colorless liquid; 171.1 mg, 84% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.11 $(t, J = 6.0 \text{ Hz}, 4\text{H}), 6.97 (t, J = 8.5 \text{ Hz}, 4\text{H}), 3.91 (s, 2\text{H}); {}^{13}\text{C NMR} (125)$ MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.6 (d, J = 242.8 Hz), 136.7 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 130.4 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 115.5 (d, J = 3.0 Hz) 21.1 Hz), 40.4; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}F_2$ [M + H]⁺ 205.0829, found 205.0835.

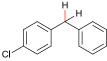
3, 4 -Difluorodiphenylmethane (2d)

Colorless liquid; 184.6 mg, 90% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.98-6.93 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.88 (m, 1H), 3,92 (s, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.5 (dd, $J_I = 246.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 12.8$ Hz), 149.1 (dd, $J_1 = 244.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 12.4$ Hz), 140.3, 138.3 (t, J = 4.3 Hz), 129.0, 128.8, 126.7, 124.8 (t, J = 2.5 Hz), 117.8 (d, J = 16.9 Hz), 117.2 (d, J = 17.0 Hz), 41.2; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}F_2$ [M - H]⁻ 205.0829, found 203.0816.



2-Fluorodiphenylmethane (2e)

Colorless liquid; 134.8 mg, 72% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, 7.22-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.13 (t, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.00 (m, 2H),3.99 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.1 (d, J = 243.8 Hz), 140.0, 131.2 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 129.0, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 126.4, 124.2 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 115.5 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 35.0; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}F[M+H]^+$ 187.0923, found 187.0913.



4-Chlorodiphenylmethane (2f)

Colorless liquid; 172.3 mg, 85% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J =7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H); 3.94 (s, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.7, 139.8, 132.1, 130.4, 129.0, 128.7, 126.5, 41.4; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}C1$ [M + H]⁺ 203.0628, found 203.0612.



2-Chlorodiphenylmethane (2g)

Colorless liquid; 141.5 mg, 70% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.13 (m, 6H), 4.10 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.7, 138.9, 134.4, 131.2, 129.7, 129.1, 128.6, 127.8, 127.0, 126.4, 39.4; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}Cl$ $[M+H]^+$ 203.0628, found 203.0626.

2, 4-Dichlorodiphenylmethane (2h)

Colorless liquid; 124.4 mg, 53% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39, (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29, (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.1, 137.5, 135.0, 132.8, 131.9, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 127.3, 126.6, 38.8; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}Cl_2 [M + H]^+ 237.0238$, found 237.0244.

4-Bromodiphenylmethane (2i)

Colorless liquid; 231.9 mg, 94% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d,J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H); 3.91 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.6, 140.3, 131.7, 130.8, 129.0, 128.7, 126.5, 120.1, 41.5; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}Br\ [M\ +\ H]^+$ 247.0122, found 247.0107.



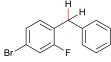
2-Bromodiphenylmethane (2j)

Colorless liquid; 173.0 mg, 70% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, 7.28 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.0 Hz,1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H); 4.11 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.5, 139.7, 133.0, 131.3, 129.2, 128.7, 128.1, 127.6, 126.4, 125.1, 41.9; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}Br$ [M + H]⁺ 247.0122, found 247.0120.



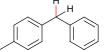
1-Chloro-6-fluorodiphenylmethane (2k)

Colorless liquid; 149.5 mg, 68% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27-7.25, (m, 4H), 7.18, (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.10 (m, 1H), 6.98 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H),4.15 (s, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.7 (d, J = 246.3 Hz), 138.9, 135.6 (d, J = 5.8 Hz), 128.7, 128.6, 128.3 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 127.1 (d, J = 18.6 Hz), 126.5, 125.5 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 114.2 (d, J = 18.6 Hz), 128.7 (d, J = 18.6 Hz), 126.5, 125.5 (d, J = 18.6 Hz), 114.2 (d, J = 18.6 Hz), 128.7 (d, J = 18= 22.9 Hz), 32.2 (d, J = 2.6 Hz); HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}CIF [M + H]^+$ 221.0533, found 221.0531.



2-Fluoro-4-bormodiphenylmethane (21)

 $(t, J = 6.5 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 7.21-7.16, (m, 5H), 6.98 (t, J = 8.0, 1H), 3.92 (s, 2H); {}^{13}\text{C}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9 (d, J = 248.6 Hz), 139.3, 132.2 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 128.9, 128.8, 127.5 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 127.4, 126.6, 120.2 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 119.1 (d, J = 25.4 Hz), 34.6; HRMS (APCI)calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}BrF [M + H]^+ 265.0028$, found 265.0033.



4-Methyl-diphenylmethane (2m)

Colorless liquid; 168.8 mg, 93% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (t, $J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}, 7.20-7.17 \text{ (m, 3H)}, 7.10-7.06 \text{ (m, 4H)}, 3.93 \text{ (s, 2H)}, 2.30 \text{ (s 3H)}; {}^{13}\text{C NMR} (125)$ MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.6, 138.2, 135.7, 129.3, 129.04, 128.98, 128.6, 126.1, 41.7, 21.2; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{14}H_{14}$ [M + H]⁺ 183.1174, found 183.1177.

3, 4-Difluorodiphenylmethane (2n)

Yellow liquid; 54.0 mg, 24% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.08 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.0, 4H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR

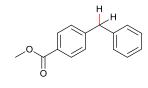
Colorless liquid; 155.1 mg, 59% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27,

 $(125 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 158.1, 133.9, 129.9, 114.0, 55.4, 40.3; \text{HRMS (APCI) calcd for } C_{15}H_{16}O_2 \text{ [M]}$ + H]⁺ 229.1229, found 229.1214.

4-Trifluoromethyldiphenylmethane (20)

Colorless liquid; 70.0 mg, 30% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H)2H), 4.03 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.4, 140.2, 129.4, 129.1,

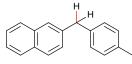
128.9, 128.5, 126.7, 125.6 (m), 123.4, 41.9; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{14}H_{11}F_{3}$ [M]⁺ 236.0813, found 236.0809.



Diphenylmethane-4-carboxylic acid methyl este (2p)

Yellow liquid; 90.0 mg, 40% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.21(t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H);

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 146.7, 140.3, 130.0, 129.1, 128.8, 128.3, 126.5, 52.2, 42.1; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{15}H_{14}O_2$ [M + H]⁺ 227.1072, found 227.1060.



2-(4-Methylbenzyl)naphthalene (2q)

Colorless liquid; 177.0 mg, 76% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78-7.73, (m, 3H), 7.62, (s, 1H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.09 (m, 4H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.1, 138.1, 135.8, 133.8, 132.2, 129.4, 129.1, 128.2, 127.81, 127.79, 127.7, 127.2, 126.1, 125.5, 41.9, 21.2; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{18}H_{16}$ [M + H]⁺ 233.1330, found 233.1334.



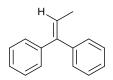
Triphenylmethane (2r/2s)

Colorless liquid; 234.0 mg, 95% yield (**2p**); 222.9 mg, 91% yield (**2q**); ¹H NMR $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 7.28 \text{ (t, } J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}, 6\text{H}), 7.20 \text{ (t, } J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{H}), 7.11 \text{ (d, } J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{H}), 7.11 \text{ (d, } J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{H}), 7.11 \text{ (d, } J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{Hz})$ = 7.0, 6H), 5.55 (s, 1H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.1, 129.6, 128.5, 126.5, 57.0; HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{19}H_{16}$ [M + H]⁺ 245.1330, found 245.1330.



Adamantine (2t)

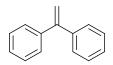
White solid 40.1 mg, 29% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.87 (s, 4H), 1.75 (t, J = 3.5 Hz, 12H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 38.0, 28.5.



Prop-1-ene-1,1-diyldibenzene (2w)

White solid; 99% yield (2w); 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.5, 2H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 5H), 6.17 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.76 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.2,

142.6, 140.2, 130.2, 128.3, 128.2, 127.4, 127.0, 126.9, 124.3, 15.9. HRMS (APCI) calcd for $C_{15}H_{14}$ $[M + H]^+$ 195.1174, found 195.1165.



Ethene-1,1-diyldibenzene (2x)

Colorless liquid; 99.0 mg, 55% yield (2x); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.26 (m, 10H), 5.46 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.2, 141.7, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 114.5.

4-Methyl-diphenylmethane (2m')

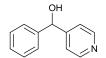
Colorless liquid; 87.0 mg, 48% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, 7.19-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 4H), 3.92 (d, J = 10.0 Hz 1H),2.30 (s 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.6, 138.2, 135.7, 129.3, 129.04,

128.98, 128.6, 126.2, 41.4 (m), 21.2.



Phenyl(thiophen-2-yl)methanol (1u)

Yellow solid; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 6.95-6.93 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H).

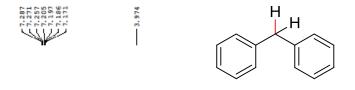


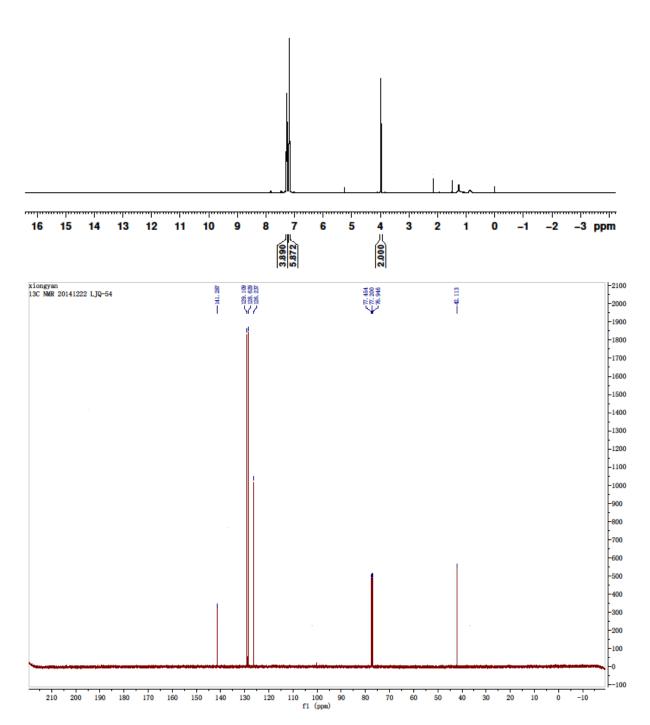
Phenyl(pyridin-4-yl)methanol (1v)

White solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39-8.37 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 3H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 4.26 (s, 1H).

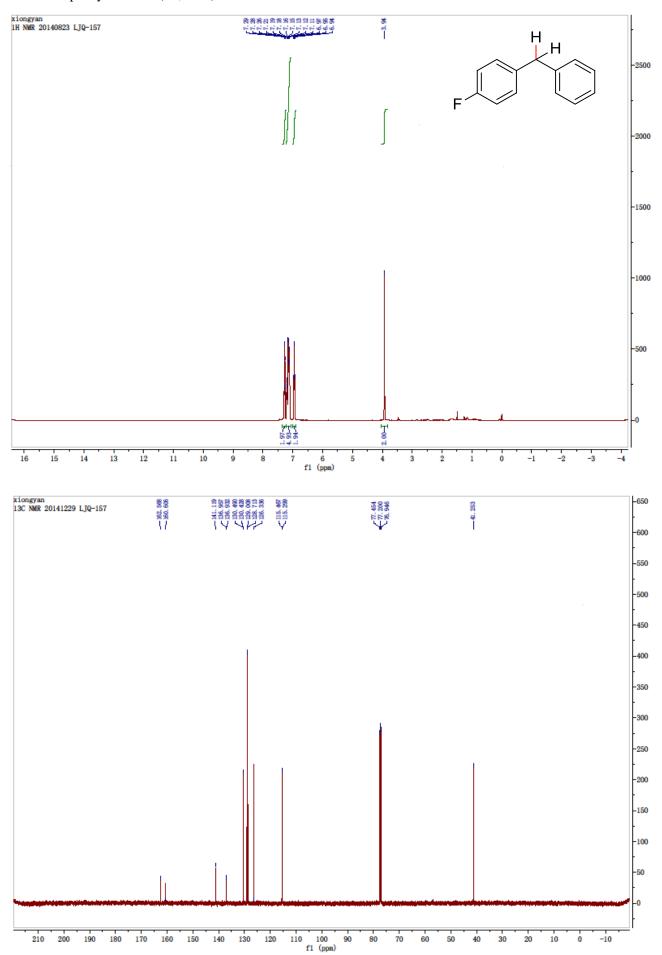
5. ¹H and ¹³C spectra

Diphenylmethane (2a, 87%).

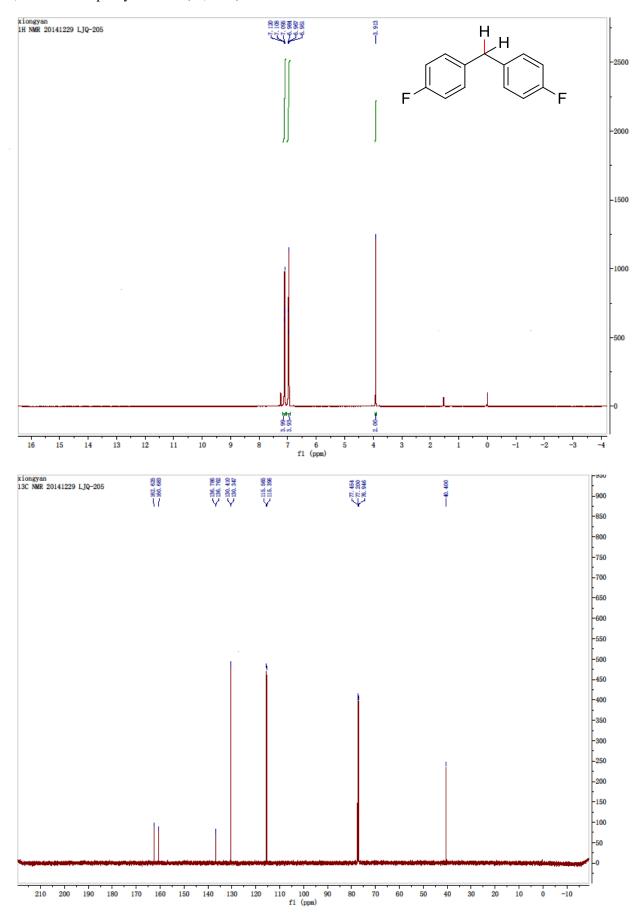




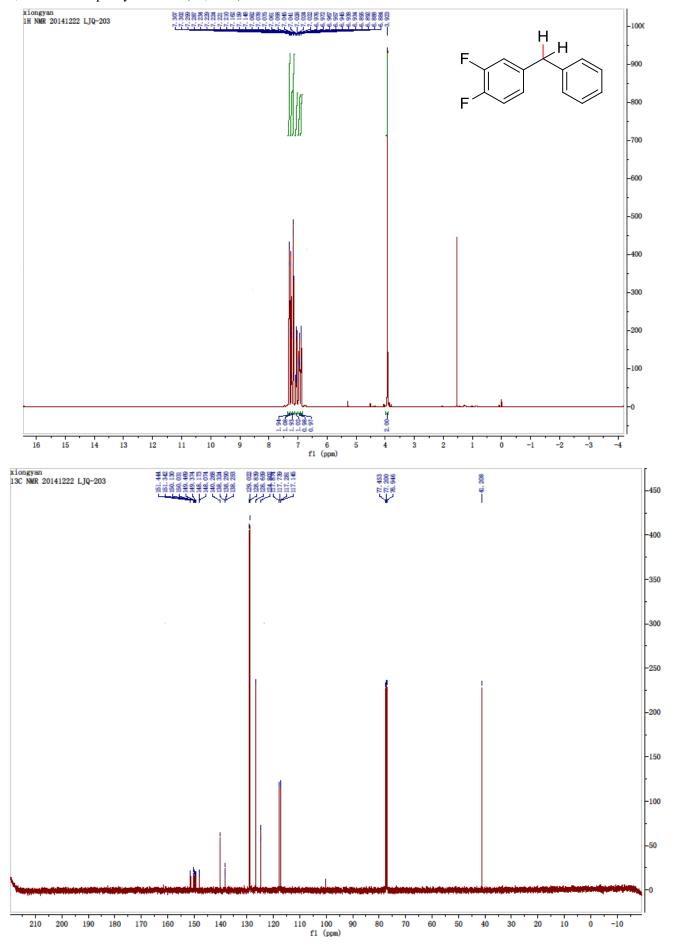
4-Fluorodiphenylmethane (2b, 93%)

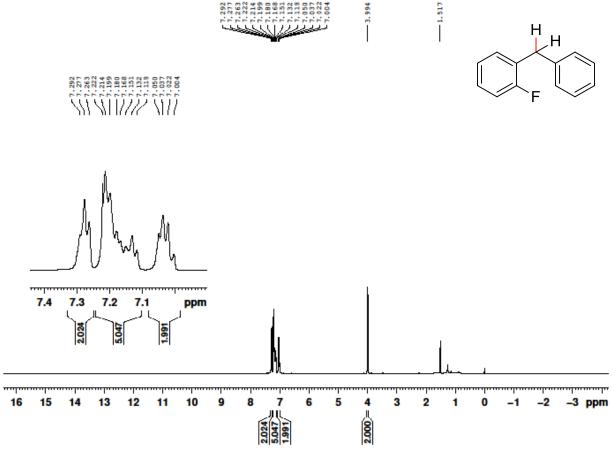


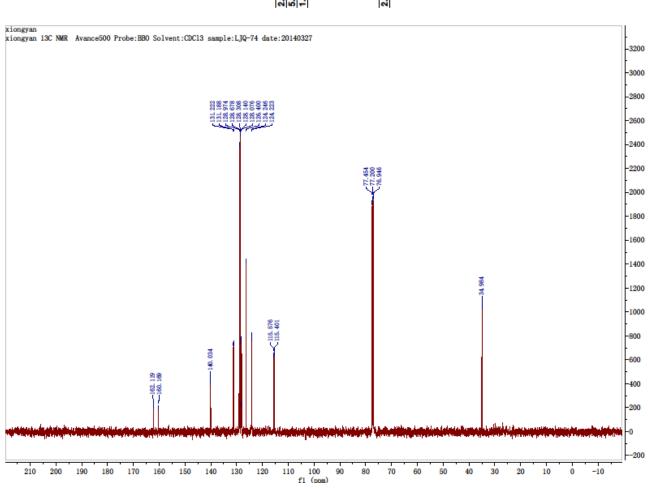
4, 4'-Difluorodiphenylmethane (2c, 84%)



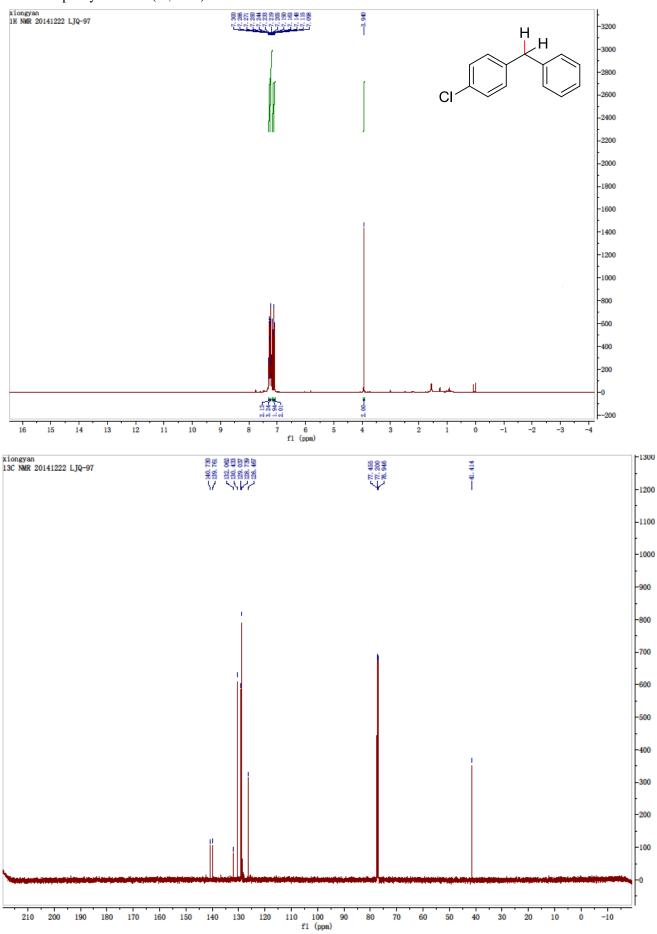
3, 4 -Difluorodiphenylmethane (2d, 90%)

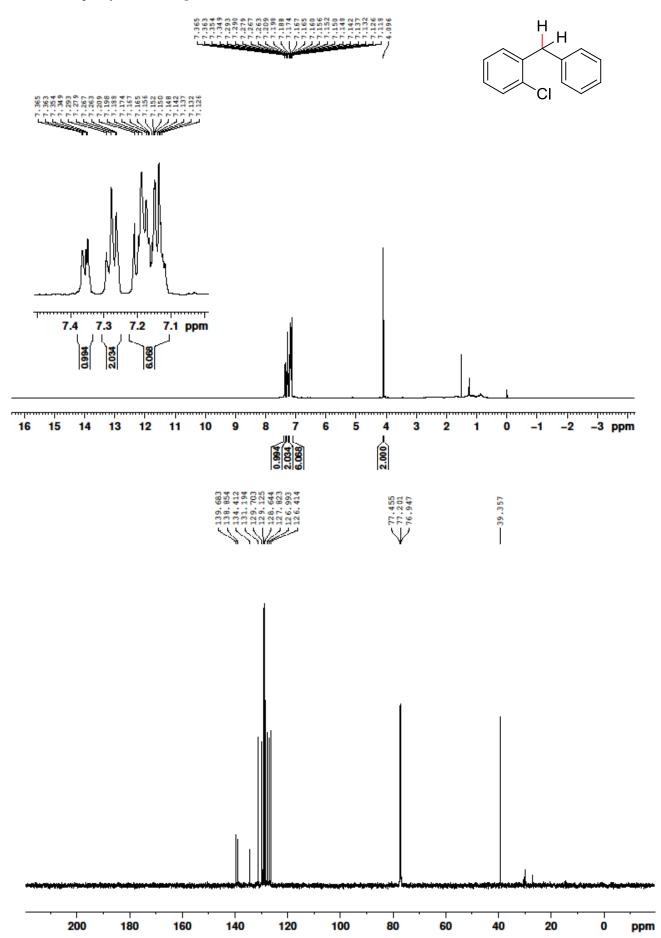




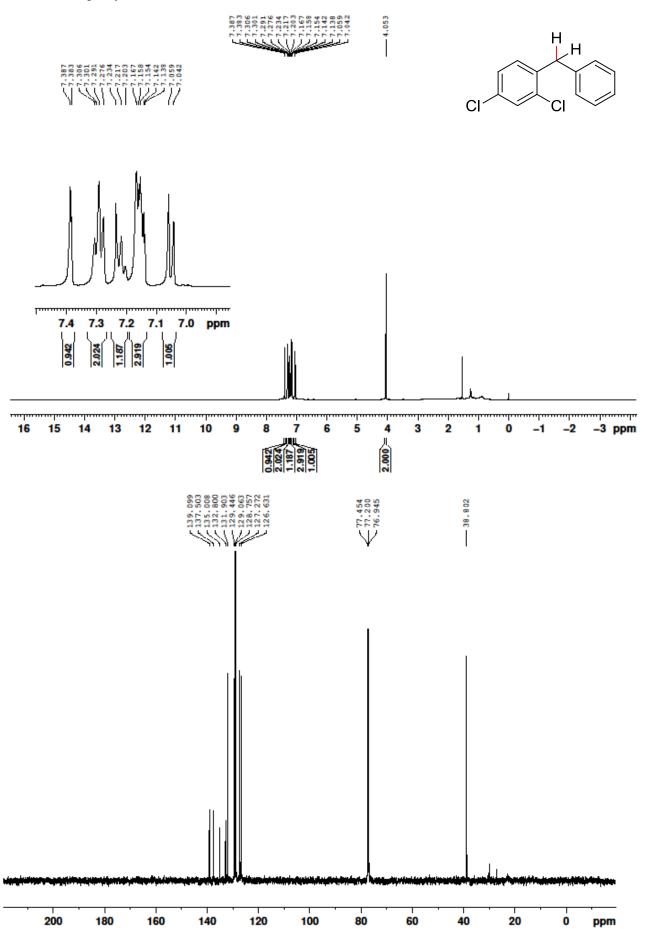


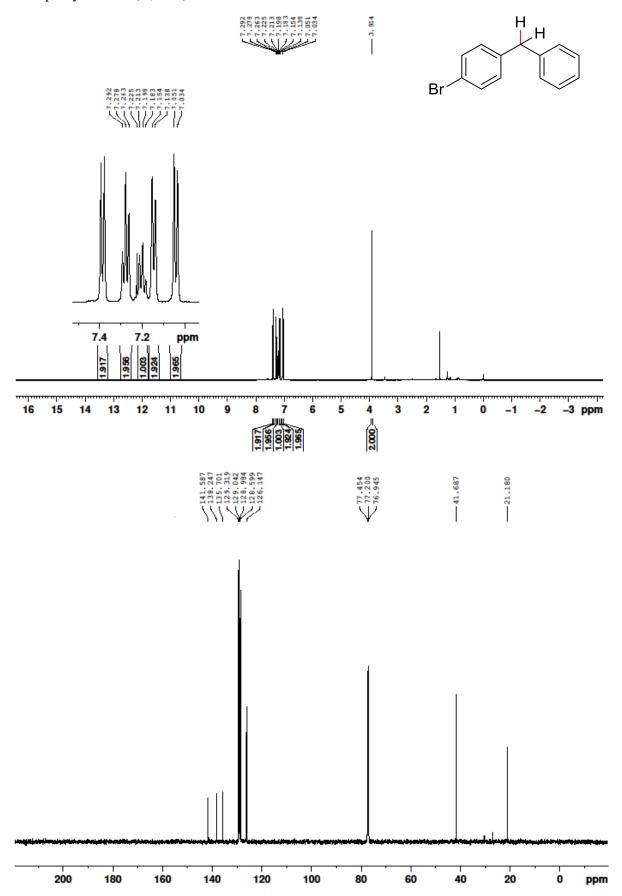
4-Chlorodiphenylmethane (2f, 85%)

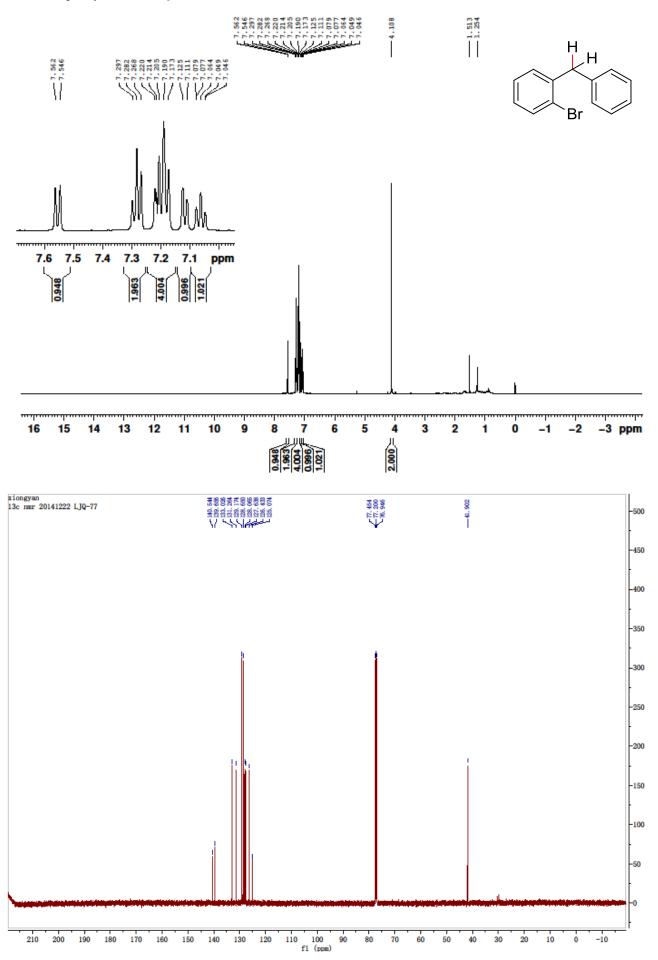




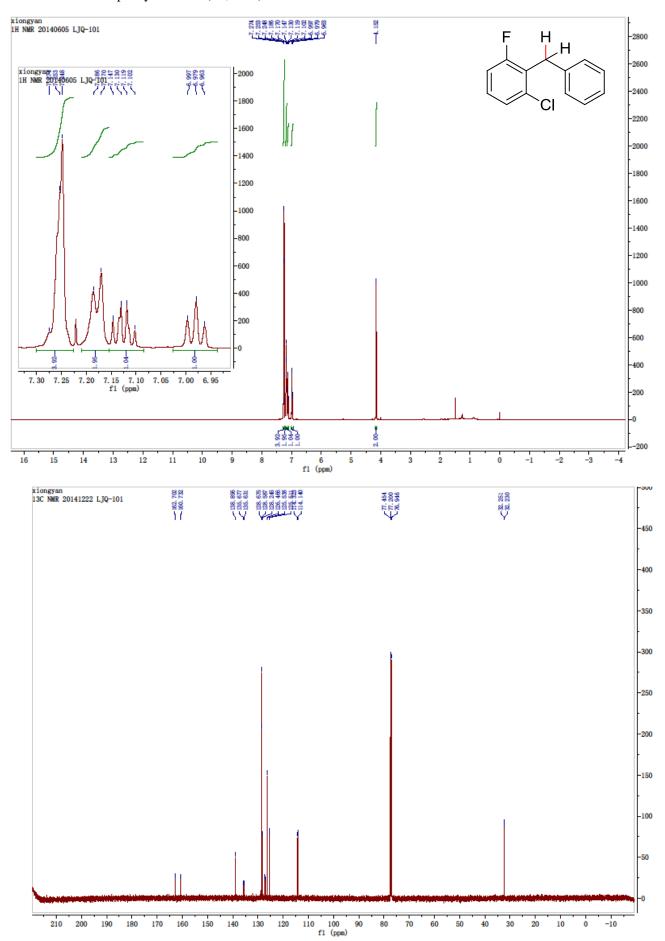
2, 4-Dichlorodiphenylmethane (2h, 53%)



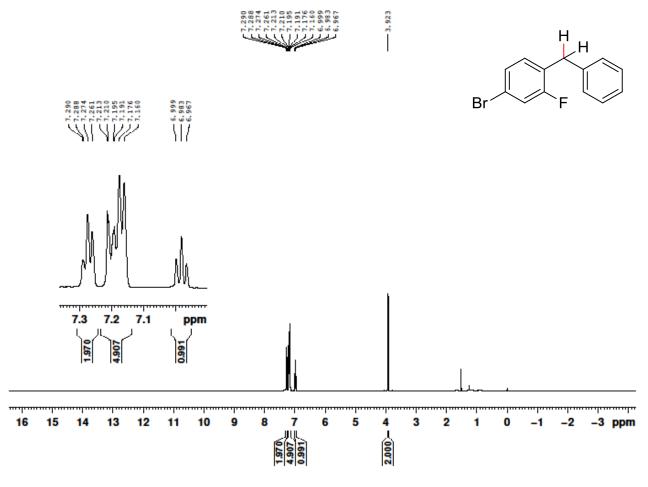


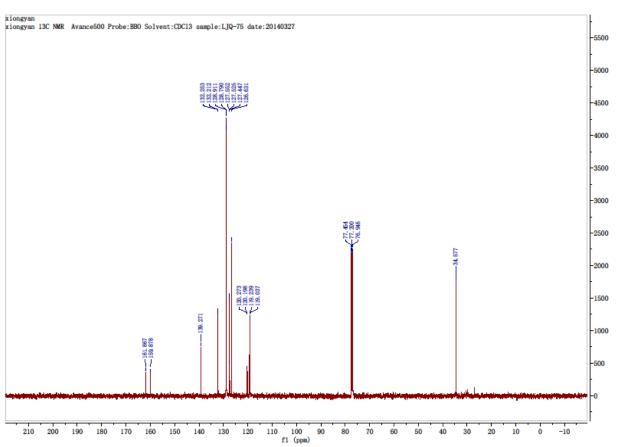


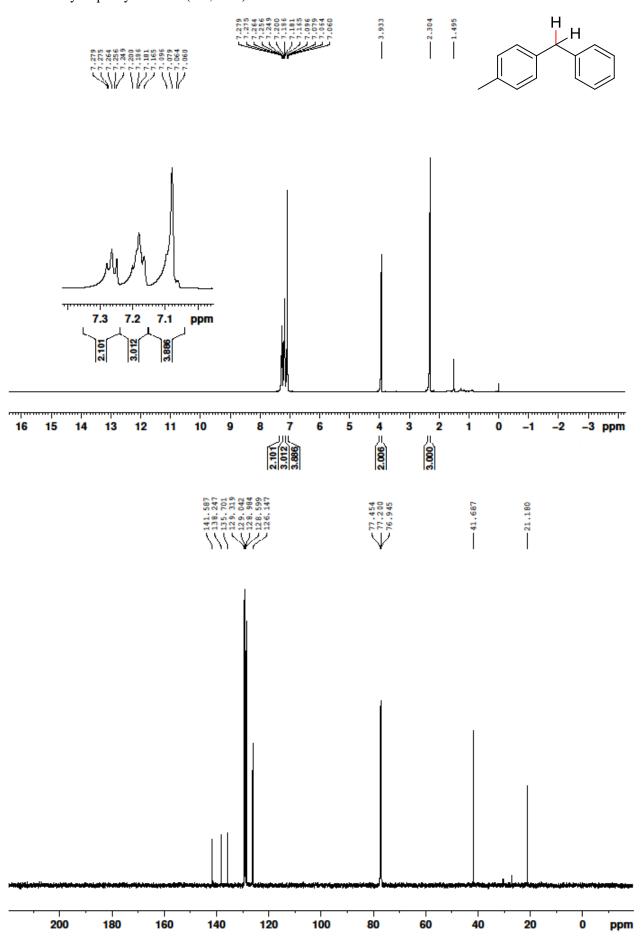
1-Chloro-6-fluorodiphenylmethane (2k, 68%)



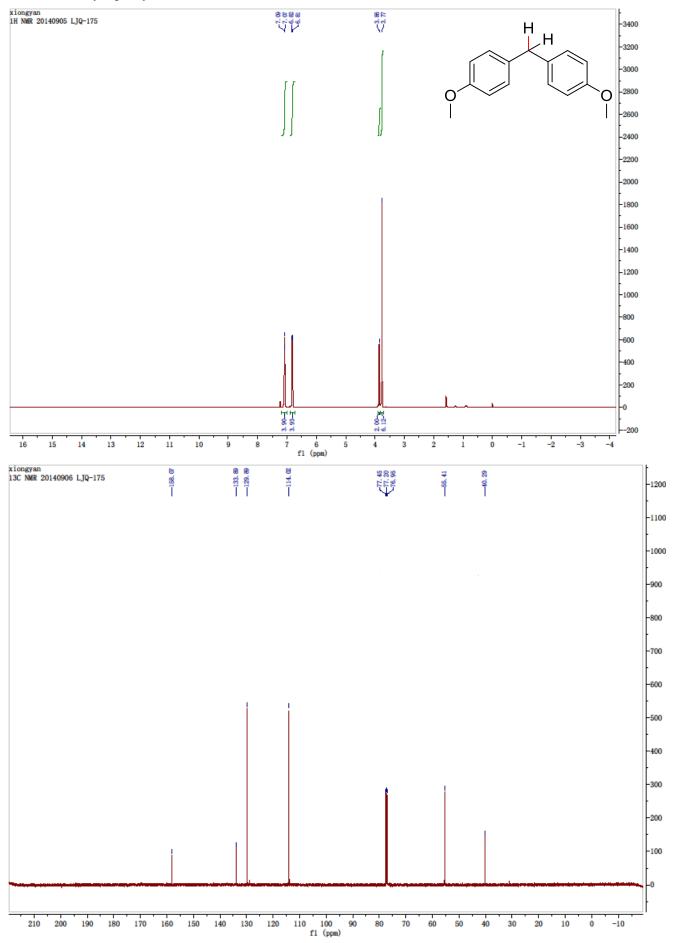
2-Fluoro-4-bormodiphenylmethane (21, 59%)



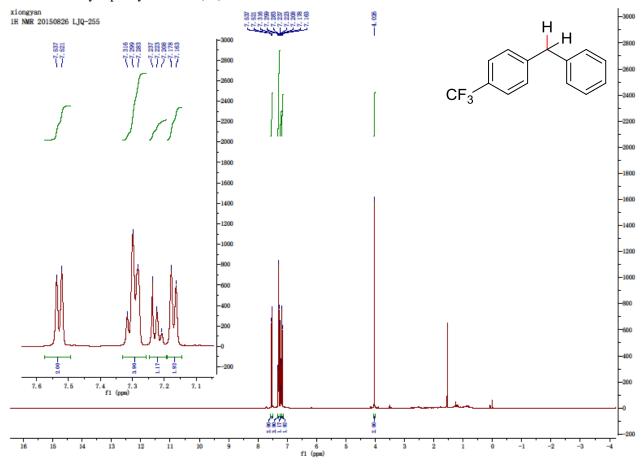


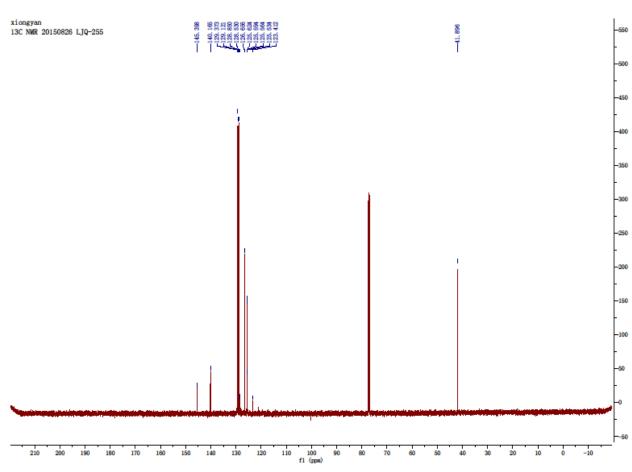


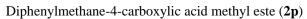
4, 4'-Dimethoxyldiphenylmethane (2n, 24%)

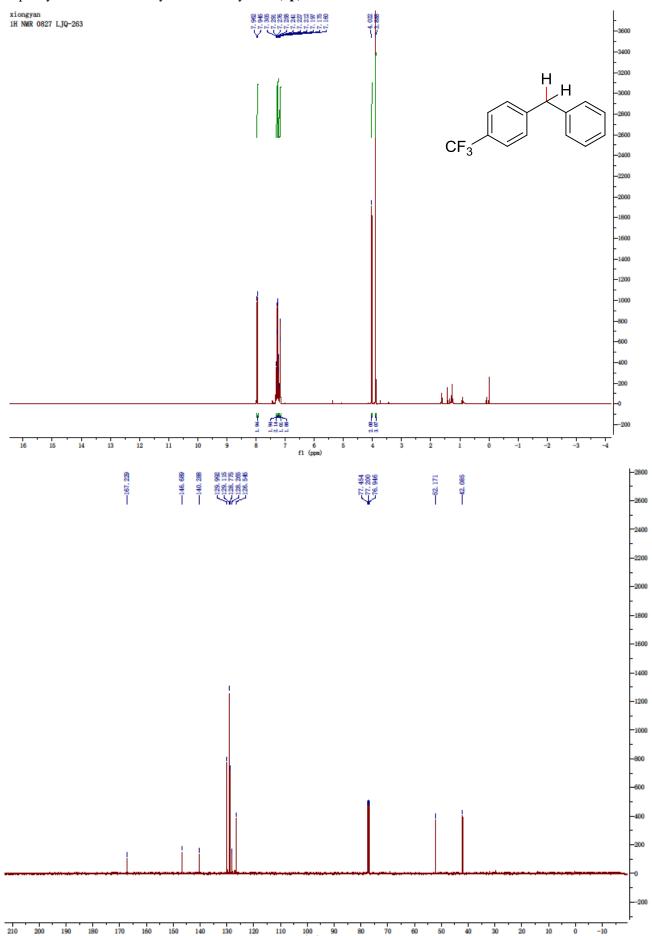


4-Trifluoromethyldiphenylmethane (20)

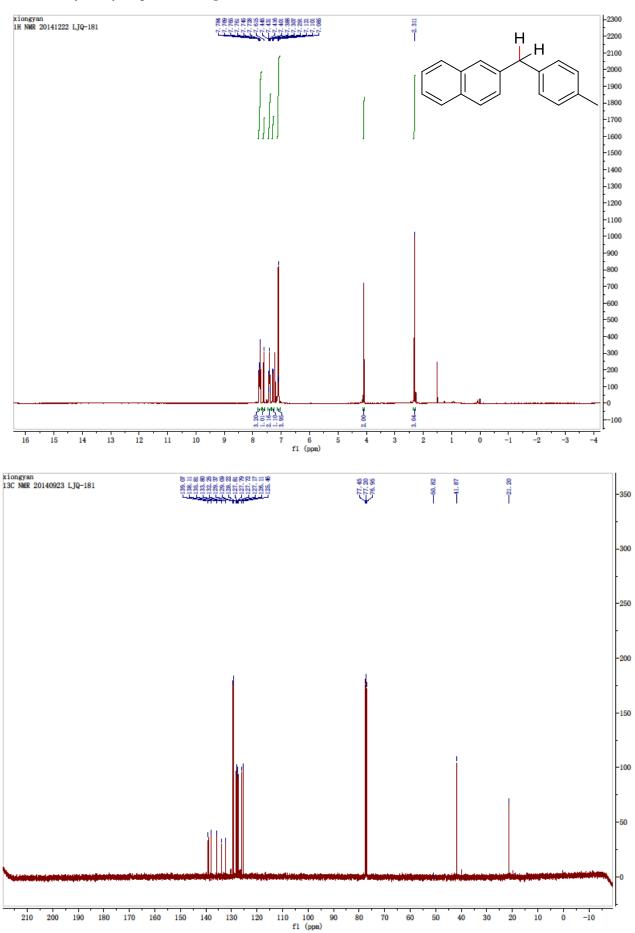


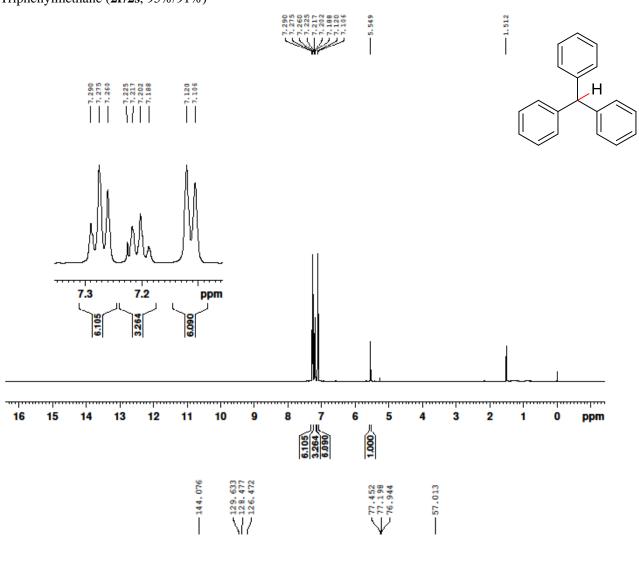


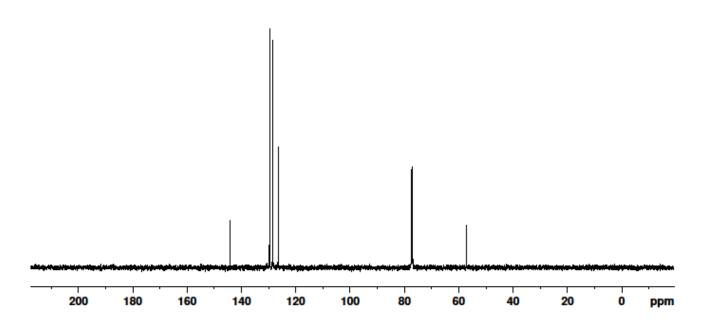


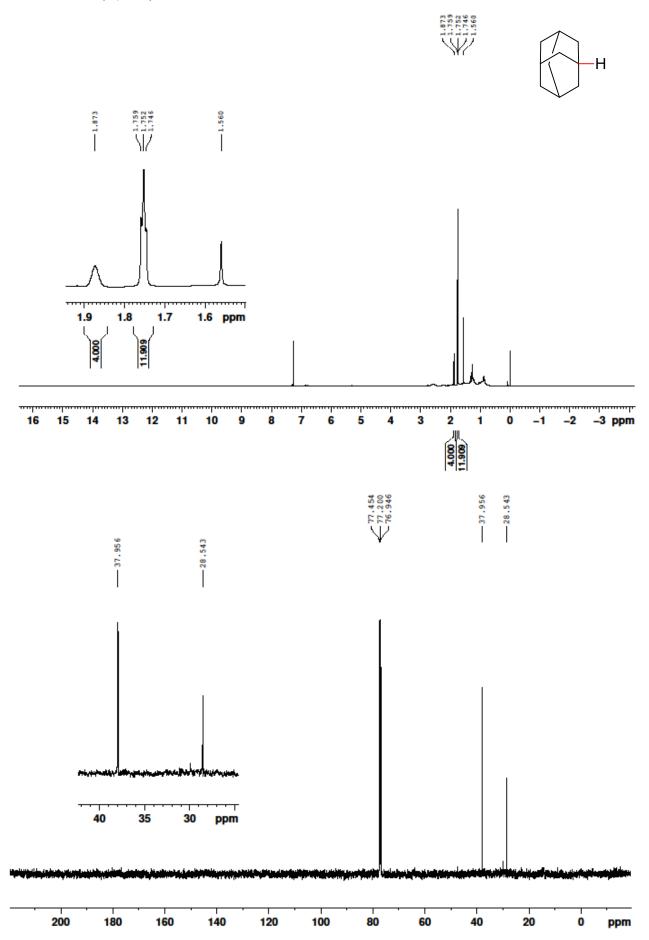


2-(4-Methylbenzyl)naphthalene (2q, 76%)

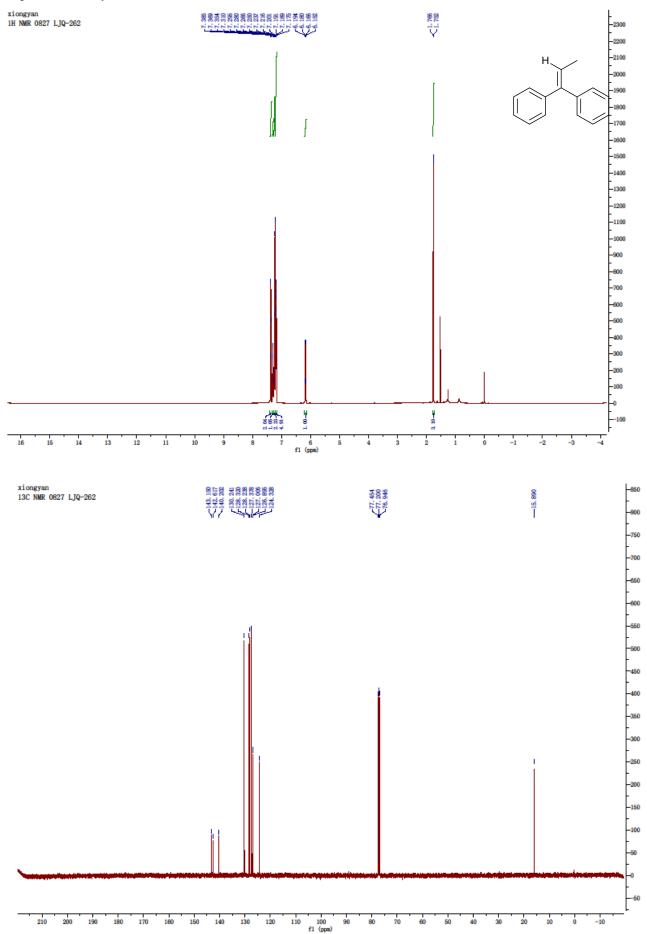


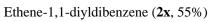


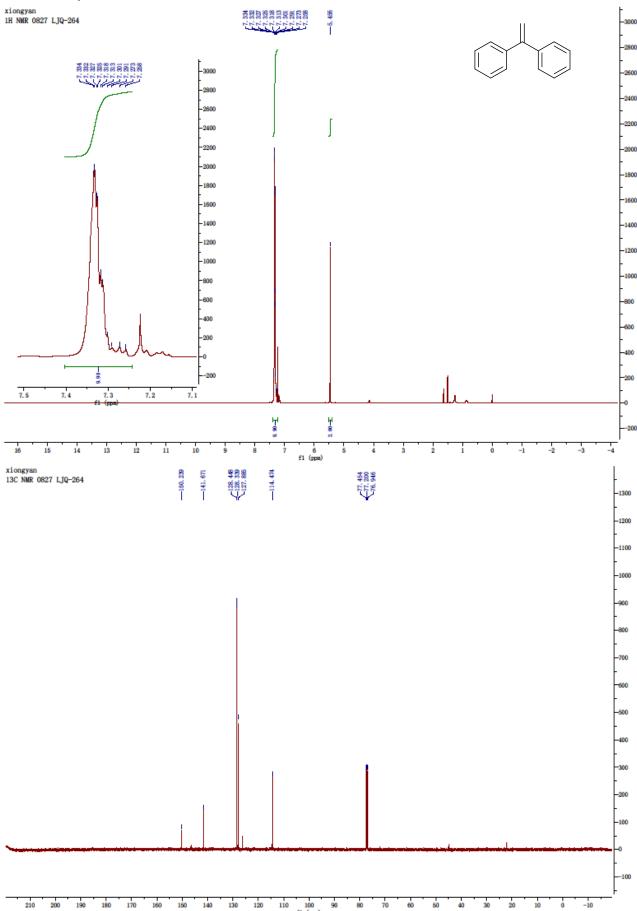




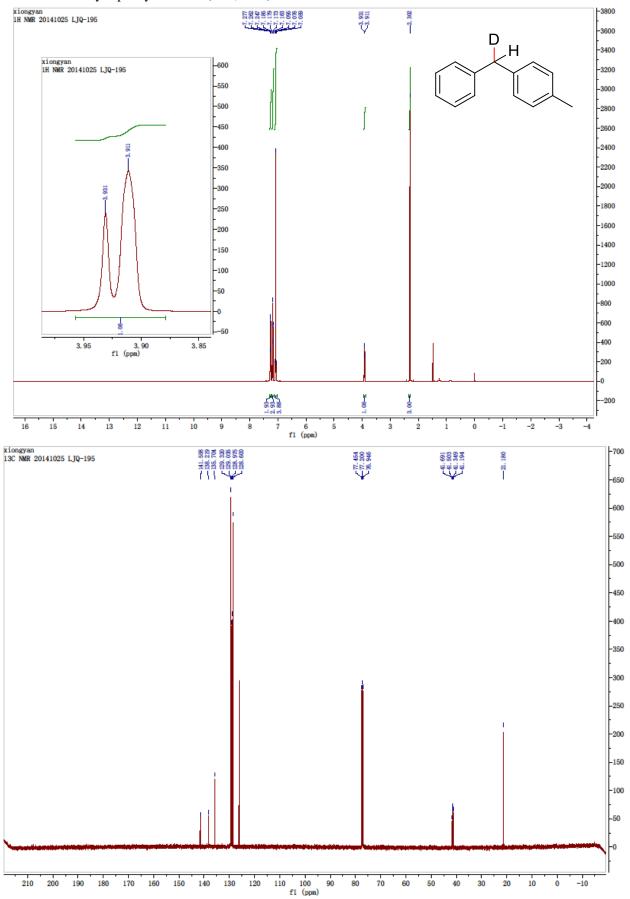
Prop-1-ene-1,1-diyldibenzene (2w, 99%)



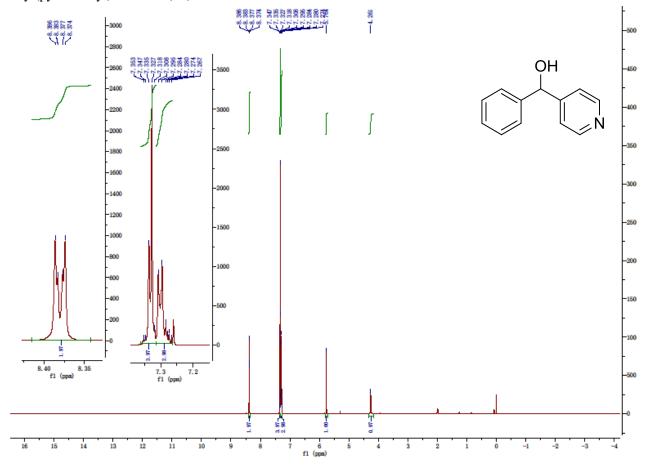




Deuterated 4-methyldiphenylmethane (2m', 48%)



Phenyl(pyridin-4-yl)methanol (1u)



Phenyl(thiophen-2-yl)methanol (1v)

