

Electronic Supplementary Information

Liquid crystalline dihydroazulene photoswitches

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Synthesis – Experimentals

4-((5-Bromopentyl)oxy)benzonitrile (7a); A mixture consisting of 4-cyanophenol **6** (9.35 g, 78.5 mmol), 1,5-dibromopentane **5a** (27 mL, 198 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (16.70 g, 121 mmol) in acetone (200 mL) was heated to reflux point for 16 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was subjected to column chromatography (gradient elution of petroleum spirit to toluene) to afford **7a** (14.92 g, 71%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.50 (toluene). M.p. = 54.0-55.9 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.44 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.97-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.87–1.81 (m, 2H), 1.67–1.60 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 162.4, 134.1, 119.4, 115.3, 104.0, 68.1, 33.6, 32.5, 28.3, 24.8 ppm. MS (ESP +ve): *m/z* = 290 [(M+Na)⁺]. Analysis calcd (%) for C₁₂H₁₄BrNO (268.15): C 53.75, H 5.26, N 5.22; found: C 53.75, H 4.90, N 5.13.

4-((6-Bromohexyl)oxy)benzonitrile (7b); A mixture consisting of 4-cyanophenol **6** (3.50 g, 29.4 mmol), 1,6-dibromohexane **5b** (10 mL, 65.0 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (8.51 g, 61.6 mmol) in acetone (200 mL) was heated to reflux point for 16 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was subjected to column chromatography (gradient elution of petroleum spirit to toluene) to afford **7b** (5.75 g, 69%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.50 (toluene). M.p. = 44.0-46.5 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.43 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.90 (p, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (p, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.53-1.50 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 162.5, 134.1, 119.4, 115.3, 103.9, 68.3, 33.8, 32.7, 29.0, 28.0, 25.3 ppm. MS (ESP +ve): *m/z* = 282 [(M+H)⁺]. Analysis calcd (%) for C₁₃H₁₆BrNO (282.18): C 55.33, H 5.72, N 4.96; found: C 55.66, H 5.72, N 4.98.

4-((8-Bromooctyl)oxy)benzonitrile (7c); A mixture consisting of 4-cyanophenol **6** (5.49 g, 46.1 mmol), 1,8-dibromooctane **5c** (25.95 g, 95.4 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (9.40 g, 68.0 mmol) in acetone (200 mL) was heated to reflux point for 16 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was subjected to column chromatography (gradient elution; petroleum spirit to toluene) to afford **7c** (9.92 g, 69%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.50 (toluene). M.p. = 68.5-69.8 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.89-1.84 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.49–1.42 (m, 4H), 1.39-1.33 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 162.5, 134.1, 119.4, 115.3, 103.8, 68.5, 34.1, 32.9, 29.2, 29.1, 28.8, 28.2, 26.0 ppm. MS (ESP +ve): *m/z* = 310 [(M+H)⁺]. Analysis calcd (%) for C₁₅H₂₀BrNO (310.24): C 58.07, H 6.50, N 4.51; found: C 58.26, H 6.53, N 4.51.

4-((9-Bromononyl)oxy)benzonitrile (7d); A mixture consisting of 4-cyanophenol **6** (5.17 g, 43.4 mmol), 1,9-dibromononane **5d** (24.71 g, 86.4 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (8.97 g, 64.9 mmol) in acetone (200 mL) was heated to reflux point for 16 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was subjected to column chromatography (gradient elution; petroleum spirit to toluene) to afford **7d** (9.98 g, 71%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.50 (toluene). M.p. = 64.1-65.7 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.39 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.86-1.75 (m, 4H), 1.46-1.39 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.29 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 162.5, 134.0, 119.4, 115.2, 103.7, 68.4, 34.1, 32.8, 29.3, 29.2, 29.0, 28.7, 28.2, 25.9 ppm. MS (ESP +ve): *m/z* = 324 [(M+H)⁺]. Analysis calcd (%) for C₁₆H₂₂BrNO (324.26): C 59.27, H 6.84, N 4.32; found: C 59.52, H 6.93, N 4.32.

4-((10-Bromodecyl)oxy)benzonitrile (7e); A mixture consisting of 4-cyanophenol **6** (4.97 g, 41.7 mmol), 1,10-dibromodecane **5e** (30.68 g, 102 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (9.20 g, 66.6 mmol) in acetone (200 mL) was heated to reflux point for 16 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was subjected to column chromatography (gradient elution; petroleum spirit to toluene) to afford **7e** (11.00 g, 78%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.50 (toluene). M.p. = 73.2-74.7 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.77 (m, 4H), 1.48-1.40 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.28 (m, 8H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 162.6, 134.1, 119.5, 115.3, 103.8, 68.5, 34.2, 32.9, 29.5, 29.5, 29.4, 29.1, 28.9, 28.3, 26.1 ppm. MS (ESP +ve): *m/z* = 360 [(M+Na)⁺]. Analysis calcd (%) for C₁₇H₂₄BrNO (338.29): C 60.36, H 7.15, N 4.14; found: C 60.53, H 7.19, N 4.15.

4-((5-(4-Acetylphenoxy)pentyl)oxy)benzonitrile (9a); A mixture consisting of 4-hydroxyacetophenone **8** (2.69 g, 19.8 mmol), **7a** (4.48 g, 16.7 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (2.98 g, 21.6 mmol) in acetone (100 mL) was heated to reflux point for 24 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was passed through a short SiO₂ column (CH₂Cl₂) to afford **9a** (4.42 g, 82%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.39. M.p. = 100.8-102.8 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.92-1.87 (m, 4H), 1.70-1.64 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 196.9, 163.0, 162.4, 134.1, 130.7, 130.4, 119.4, 115.3, 114.2, 104.0, 68.2, 68.0, 29.0, 28.9, 26.5, 22.8 ppm. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₀H₂₂NO₃ [(M+H)⁺]: *m/z* = 324.1594; exp 324.1595. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₀H₂₁NO₃ (323.39): C 74.28, H 6.55, N 4.33; found: C 74.09, H 6.28, N 4.27.

4-((6-(4-Acetylphenoxy)hexyl)oxy)benzonitrile (9b); A mixture consisting of 4-hydroxyacetophenone **8** (2.26 g, 16.6 mmol), **7b** (4.00 g, 14.2 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (4.27 g, 30.9 mmol) in acetone (100 mL) was heated to reflux point for 24 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was passed through a short SiO₂ column (CH₂Cl₂) to afford **9b** (4.26 g, 89%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.33. M.p. = 99.5-101.3 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.87-1.82 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.55 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 196.9, 163.1, 162.5, 134.1, 130.7, 130.4, 119.4, 115.3, 114.2, 103.9, 68.3, 68.1, 29.2, 29.1, 26.5, 25.9, 25.9 ppm. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₁H₂₄NO₃ [(M+H)⁺]: *m/z* = 338.1751; exp 338.1751. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₁H₂₃NO₃ (337.42): C 74.75, H 6.87, N 4.15; found: C 74.60, H 6.73, N 3.99.

4-((8-(4-Acetylphenoxy)octyl)oxy)benzonitrile (9c); A mixture consisting of 4-hydroxyacetophenone **8** (2.61 g, 19.2 mmol), **7c** (4.94 g, 15.9 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (4.75 g, 34.4 mmol) in acetone (100 mL) was heated to reflux point for 24 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was passed through a short SiO₂ column (CH₂Cl₂) to afford **9c** (3.64 g, 63%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.35. M.p. = 91.1-92.3 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.84-1.78 (m, 4H), 1.50-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.41-1.38 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 196.9, 163.2, 162.5, 134.1, 130.7, 130.3, 119.4, 115.3, 114.2, 103.8, 68.5, 68.3, 29.4, 29.4, 29.2, 29.1, 26.5, 26.1, 26.0 ppm. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₃H₂₈NO₃Na ([M+Na]⁺): *m/z* = 388.1883; exp 388.1884. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₃H₂₇NO₃ (365.47): C 75.59, H 7.45, N 3.83; found: C 75.51, H 7.28, N 3.78.

4-((9-(4-Acetylphenoxy)nonyl)oxy)benzonitrile (9d); A mixture consisting of 4-hydroxyacetophenone **8** (2.47 g, 18.1 mmol), **7d** (4.96 g, 15.3 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (5.20 g, 37.6 mmol) in acetone (100 mL) was heated to reflux point for 24 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was passed through a short SiO₂ column (CH₂Cl₂) to afford **9d** (5.54 g, 95%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.35. M.p. = 86.4-87.2 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.83-1.77 (m, 4H), 1.49-1.43 (m, 4H), 1.39-1.35 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 196.9, 163.2, 162.6, 134.1, 130.7, 130.3, 119.5, 115.3, 114.3, 103.8, 68.5, 68.3, 29.6, 29.4, 29.4, 29.2, 29.1, 26.5, 26.1, 26.1 ppm. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₄H₃₀N₃O₂ ([M+H]⁺): *m/z* = 380.2220; exp 380.2221. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₄H₂₉NO₃ (379.50): C 75.96, H 7.70, N 3.69; found: C 75.82, H 7.68, N 3.55.

4-((10-(4-Acetylphenoxy)decyl)oxy)benzonitrile (9e); A mixture consisting of 4-hydroxyacetophenone **8** (2.51 g, 18.4 mmol), **7e** (5.16 g, 15.3 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (5.10 g, 36.9 mmol) in acetone (100 mL) was heated to reflux point for 24 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) and filtered. The solvent was removed from the filtrate and the crude residue was passed through a short SiO₂ column (CH₂Cl₂) to afford **9e** (5.12 g, 85%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.40. M.p. = 71.5-73.5 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.83-1.76 (m, 4H), 1.48-1.42 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.32 (m, 8H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 196.9, 163.2, 162.6, 134.1, 130.7, 130.3, 119.4, 115.3, 114.2, 103.8, 68.5, 68.4, 29.6, 29.4, 29.4, 29.2, 29.1, 26.5, 26.1, 26.1 ppm, 1C masked. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₅H₃₂NO₃ ([M+H]⁺): *m/z* = 394.2377; exp 394.2377. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₅H₃₁NO₃ (393.53): C 76.30, H 7.94, N 3.56; found: C 76.29, H 7.90, N 3.52.

2-(1-(4-((5-(4-Cyanophenoxy)pentyl)oxy)phenyl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13a); A biphasic mixture of **9a** (2.27 g, 7.02 mmol), malononitrile (1.66 g, 25.1 mmol), NH₄OAc (2.20 g, 28.5 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) and AcOH (4 mL) was heated using a Dean-Stark

apparatus for 3 h. The vessel was cooled, diluted with toluene (100 mL) and decanted into a separatory funnel and water (100 mL) was added. The phases were separated and the organic phase washed with water (3 x 100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic phase was dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was recrystallized from $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ to give **13a** (2.02 g, 77%), as a yellowish solid. $R_f=0.65$ (CH_2Cl_2). M.p. = 83.2-84.9, 95.6-100.3 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.60 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H) 6.97 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 1.92-1.87 (m, 4H), 1.70-1.64 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 174.1, 162.7, 162.4, 134.1, 130.0, 127.9, 119.4, 115.3, 115.0, 113.8, 113.5, 104.0, 82.0, 68.2, 28.9, 28.8, 23.9, 22.8 ppm, 1C masked. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): m/z = 372.1707; exp 372.1707. Analysis calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ (371.44): C 74.37, H 5.70, N 11.31; found: C 73.41, H 5.76, N 10.80.

2-(1-(4-((6-(4-Cyanophenoxy)hexyl)oxy)phenyl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13b); A biphasic mixture of **9b** (2.57 g, 7.62 mmol), malononitrile (1.85 g, 28.0 mmol), NH_4OAc (3.40 g, 44.1 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) and AcOH (4 mL) was heated using a Dean-Stark apparatus for 3 h. The vessel was cooled, diluted with toluene (100 mL) and decanted into a separatory funnel and water (100 mL) was added. The phases were separated and the organic phase washed with water (3 x 100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic phase was dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2) to give **13b** (2.42 g, 82%), as a white solid. $R_f=0.61$ (CH_2Cl_2). M.p. = 62.5-64.5 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.60 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H) 6.97 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 1.86-1.83 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.54 (m, 4H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 174.1, 162.8, 162.5, 134.1, 130.0, 127.9, 119.4, 115.3, 115.0, 113.8, 113.5, 103.9, 82.0, 68.3, 29.1, 29.1, 25.9, 25.9, 23.9 ppm, 1C masked. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): m/z = 386.1858; exp 386.1864. Analysis calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ (385.47): C 74.78, H 6.01, N 10.90; found: C 74.75, H 5.73, N 10.81.

2-(1-(4-((8-(4-Cyanophenoxy)octyl)oxy)phenyl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13c); A biphasic mixture of **9c** (2.53 g, 6.92 mmol), malononitrile (1.56 g, 23.6 mmol), NH_4OAc (2.88 g, 37.4 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) and AcOH (4 mL) was heated using a Dean-Stark apparatus for 3 h. The vessel was cooled, diluted with toluene (100 mL) and decanted into a separatory funnel and water (100 mL) was added. The phases were separated and the organic phase washed with water (3 x 100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic phase was dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CH_2Cl_2) to give **13c** (2.02 g, 71%), as a white solid. $R_f=0.62$ (CH_2Cl_2). M.p. = 67.0-67.7 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.64 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H) 7.00 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 1.87-1.81 (m, 4H), 1.54-1.48 (m, 4H), 1.46-1.41 ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 174.2, 162.8, 162.5, 134.1, 130.0, 127.7, 119.5, 115.2, 114.9, 113.9, 113.6, 103.7, 81.8, 68.4, 29.4, 29.1, 29.1, 26.0, 26.0, 24.0 ppm. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): m/z = 414.2176; exp 414.2177. Analysis calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ (413.52): C 75.52, H 6.58, N 10.16; found: C 75.13, H 6.29, N 10.19.

2-(1-(4-((9-(4-Cyanophenoxy)nonyloxy)phenyl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13d); A biphasic mixture of **9d** (3.11 g, 8.19 mmol), malononitrile (2.47 g, 37.4 mmol), NH₄OAc (6.15 g, 79.8 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) and AcOH (7 mL) was heated using a Dean-Stark apparatus for 3 h. The vessel was cooled, diluted with toluene (100 mL) and decanted into a separatory funnel and water (100 mL) was added. The phases were separated and the organic phase washed with water (3 x 100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂) to give **13d** (3.08 g, 88%), as a white solid. *R*_f=0.68 (CH₂Cl₂). M.p. = 87.1-88.1 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 1.83-1.77 (m, 4H), 1.49-1.43 (m, 4H), 1.39-1.35 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 174.2, 162.8, 162.5, 134.1, 130.0, 127.7, 119.5, 115.3, 115.0, 113.9, 113.6, 103.7, 81.8, 68.5, 68.5, 29.6, 29.4, 29.1, 29.1, 26.1, 26.0, 23.9 ppm, 1C masked. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₇H₂₉N₃O₂Na ([M+Na]⁺): *m/z* = 450.2157; exp 450.2153. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₇H₂₉N₃O₂ (427.55): C 75.85, H 6.84, N 9.83; found: C 75.50, H 6.81, N 9.80.

2-(1-(4-((10-(4-Cyanophenoxy)decyl)oxy)phenyl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13e); A biphasic mixture of **9e** (3.01 g, 7.65 mmol), malononitrile (2.39 g, 36.2 mmol), NH₄OAc (4.95 g, 64.2 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) and AcOH (6 mL) was heated using a Dean-Stark apparatus for 3 h. The vessel was cooled, diluted with toluene (100 mL) and decanted into a separatory funnel and water (100 mL) was added. The phases were separated and the organic phase washed with water (3 x 100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂) to give **13e** (2.80 g, 83%), as a white solid. *R*_f=0.65 (CH₂Cl₂). M.p. = 62.6-63.8 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 1.83-1.77 (m, 4H), 1.47-1.43 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.31 (m, 8H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 174.2, 162.8, 162.5, 134.1, 130.0, 127.7, 199.5, 115.3, 115.0, 113.9, 113.6, 103.7, 81.8, 68.5, 68.5, 29.6, 29.4, 29.1, 29.1, 26.1, 26.0, 23.9 ppm, 2Cs masked. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₈H₃₂N₃O₂ ([M+H]⁺): *m/z* = 442.2489; exp 442.2491. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₈H₃₁N₃O₂ (441.58): C, 76.16; H, 7.08; N, 9.52; found: C 76.30, H 7.07, N 9.50.

2-(1-(4'-(Octyloxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13f); A mixture of **9f** (5.57 g, 17.2 mmol), malononitrile (3.55 g, 53.7 mmol) and NH₄OAc (4.69 g, 60.8 mmol) in toluene (300 mL) and AcOH (6.5 mL, 113 mmol) was equipped with a Dean-Stark trap and heated to reflux point for 5 h. Additional malononitrile (2.13 g, 32.2 mmol), NH₄OAc (2.26 g, 29.3 mmol) and glacial AcOH (3.2 mL, 56 mmol) were added and the mixture heated an additional 2 h. A third portion of malononitrile (2.18 g, 33.0 mmol), NH₄OAc (2.39 g, 31.0 mmol) and glacial AcOH (3.2 mL, 56 mmol) was added and the mixture heated an additional 3 h. The contents of the vessel were allowed to cool to rt, washed with water (4 x 250 mL) and brine (1 x 250 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude residue was crystallized from CH₂Cl₂/heptane to give pure **13f** (4.60 g, 70%) as a white solid. *R*_f=0.56 (toluene). M.p. = 58.6–59.4 °C. ¹H NMR

(500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.68 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 1.84–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.51–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.40–1.26 (m, 8H), 0.90 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 174.7, 159.9, 145.2, 133.8, 131.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.1, 115.2, 113.2, 83.8, 68.3, 32.0, 29.5, 29.4, 29.4, 26.2, 24.1, 22.8, 14.3 ppm. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₅H₂₈N₂O_{Na} [(M+Na)⁺]: m/z = 395.2094; exp 395.2102. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₅H₂₈N₂O (372.51): C 80.61, H 7.58, N 7.52; found: C 80.67, H 7.67, N 7.38.

2-(1-(2',3'-Difluoro-4'-(octyloxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13g); A mixture of **9g** (4.62 g, 12.8 mmol), malononitrile (2.38 g, 36.0 mmol) and NH₄OAc (3.39 g, 44.0 mmol) in toluene (300 mL) and AcOH (4.8 mL, 84 mmol) was equipped with a Dean-Stark trap and heated to reflux point for 3 h. Additional malononitrile (2.76 g, 41.8 mmol), NH₄OAc (3.53 g, 45.8 mmol) and AcOH (4.8 mL, 84 mmol) were added and the mixture was refluxed for a further 2 h. TLC analysis indicated the presence of **9g** and therefore additional malononitrile (1.89 g, 28.6 mmol), NH₄OAc (1.98 g, 25.7 mmol) and AcOH (2.52 g, 2.4 mL, 41.9 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 2 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to rt, washed with water (4 x 250 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue crystallized from CH₂Cl₂/heptane to give **13g** (3.75 g, 72%) as a white solid. R_f =0.61 (toluene). M.p. = 59.5–60.4 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.65 (apparent s, 4H), 7.16–7.10 (ddd, J = 8.7, 8.2, 2.4, 1H), 6.83 (ddd, J = 9.1, 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 1.92–1.81 (m, 2H), 1.54–1.44 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.22 (m, 8H), 0.89 (t, J = 6.8, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 174.7, 149.1 (dd, J = 250, 11.4 Hz), 149.0 (dd, J = 8.1, 3.1 Hz), 141.9 (dd, J = 248.2, 14.8 Hz), 139.3, 134.9, 129.4, 129.4, 127.9, 123.8, 123.7, 123.7, 121.2, 121.1, 113.1, 112.9, 109.9, 84.7, 70.1, 31.9, 29.4, 29.4, 29.3, 26.0, 24.3, 22.8, 14.2 ppm. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for C₂₅H₂₇F₂N₂O [(M+H)⁺]: m/z = 409.2086; exp 409.2095. Analysis calcd (%) for C₂₅H₂₆F₂N₂O (408.49): C 73.51, H 6.42, N 6.86; found: C 73.33, H 6.30, N 6.78.

2-(1-(2,3-Difluoro-4-(octyloxy)phenyl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13h); A mixture consisting of **9h** (5.84 g, 20.6 mmol), malononitrile (3.83 g, 57.9 mmol) and NH₄OAc (5.44 g, 70.6 mmol) in toluene (250 mL) and AcOH (7.75 mL, 135 mmol) was heated using a Dean-Stark apparatus for 1 h. The reaction was not determined to be complete by TLC and malononitrile (3.98 g 60.3 mmol), NH₄OAc (5.32 g, 69.0 mmol) and AcOH (7.75 mL, 135 mmol) were added to the vessel and the mixture was refluxed for a further 2 h. Extra malononitrile (3.71 g, 56.2 mmol), NH₄OAc (5.45 g, 70.7 mmol) and AcOH (7.75 mL, 135 mmol) were again added and the reaction mixture was heated for 2 h and allowed to cool to rt. The reaction mixture was washed with water (4 x 240 mL) and brine (1 x 250 mL), dried with MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to the give pure **13h** (6.79 g, 99%) as an off-white solid. R_f =0.62 (toluene); M.p. = 59.1–60.5 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.13 (ddd, J = 9.9, 7.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (ddd, J = 9.9, 7.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.92–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.39 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.19 (m, 8H), 0.94–0.76 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 170.3 (dd, J = 2.5, 1.5 Hz), 151.9 (dd, J = 8.1, 3.7 Hz), 148.5 (dd, J = 254.3, 12.1 Hz), 141.6, (dd, J = 251.7, 13.8 Hz), 123.2 (dd, J = 4.5, 3.2 Hz), 117.4 (d, J = 10.6 Hz), 112.2, 112.1, 109.3 (dd, J = 3.1, 1.3 Hz),

87.3, 70.1, 31.8, 29.2, 29.2, 28.9, 25.8, 24.1 (d, $J = 4.6$ Hz), 22.7, 14.1 ppm; HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for $C_{19}H_{22}F_2N_2ONa$ $[(M+Na)^+]$: m/z : 355.1592, found $m/z = 355.1600$.

2-(1-(4-Octylphenyl)ethylidene)malononitrile (13i); A biphasic mixture consisting of **9i** (20.02 g, 86.16 mmol), malononitrile (15.39 g, 233.0 mmol) and NH_4OAc (22.03 g, 285.8 mmol) in toluene (250 mL) and AcOH (32.0 mL, 559 mmol) was heated using a Dean-Stark apparatus for 3 h. The vessel was allowed to cool to rt and the reaction mixture washed with water (5 x 200 mL), dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to give **13i** (24.16 g; 100%) as a white solid. $R_f=0.65$ (toluene). M.p. = 51.5–52.0 °C. 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 7.50$ (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 1.66–1.1.60 (m, 2H), 1.35–1.27 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 175.3, 148.5, 133.3, 129.3, 127.7, 113.3, 113.2, 83.7, 36.1, 32.0, 31.2, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 24.2, 22.8, 14.2$ ppm. HRMS (MALDI +ve) calcd for $C_{19}H_{24}N_2Na$ $[(M+Na)^+]$: $m/z = 303.1831$; exp 303.1838. Analysis calcd (%) for $C_{19}H_{24}N_2$ (280.42): C 81.38, H 8.63, N 9.99; found: C 81.60, H 8.62, N 10.05.

4-((5-Azidopentyl)oxy)benzonitrile (14a); To a solution of **7a** (2.04 g, 7.61 mmol) in DMSO (20 mL), under an argon atmosphere, was added NaN_3 (876 mg, 13.5 mmol) and the contents of the reaction vessel were heated to 50 °C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was poured into ice-water (ca. 50 g) and extracted with Et_2O (3 x 75 mL). The combined organics were washed with water (100 mL), dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and the volatiles removed in vacuo. Purification by flash column chromatography (1% EtOAc/toluene) gave **14a** (1.66 g, 95%) as a white solid. $R_f=0.41$. M.p. = 29.1–30.5 °C. 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 7.57$ (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.32 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.84 (p, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.68 (p, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.65–1.51 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 162.4, 134.1, 119.4, 115.3, 104.0, 68.1, 51.4, 28.7, 28.7, 23.5$ ppm. HRMS (ESP +ve) calcd for $C_{12}H_{14}N_4ONa$ $[(M+Na)^+]$: $m/z = 231.1060$; exp 253.1060.

4-((6-Azidohexyl)oxy)benzonitrile (14b); To a solution of **7b** (1.14 g, 4.04 mmol) in DMSO (20 mL), under an argon atmosphere, was added NaN_3 (550 mg, 8.46 mmol) and the contents of the vessel allowed to stir at 50 °C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was poured into ice-water (ca. 50 g) and extracted with Et_2O (3 x 75 mL). The combined organics were washed with water (100 mL), dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and the volatiles removed in vacuo. Purification by flash column chromatography (1% EtOAc/toluene) gave **14b** (870 mg, 88%) as a white solid. $R_f=0.42$. M.p. = 37.4–40.5 °C. 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 7.57$ (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.29 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.82 (p, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.64 (p, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.57–1.42 (m, 4H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 162.5, 134.1, 119.4, 115.3, 103.9, 68.3, 51.5, 29.0, 28.9, 26.6, 25.7$ ppm. HRMS (ESP +ve) calcd for $C_{13}H_{16}N_4ONa$ $[(M+Na)^+]$: $m/z = 267.1217$; exp 267.1216.

4-((8-Azidooctyl)oxy)benzonitrile (14c); To a solution of **7c** (1.56 g, 5.03 mmol) in DMSO (20 mL), under an argon atmosphere, was added NaN_3 (512 mg, 7.88 mmol) and the contents of the vessel were allowed to stir at 50 °C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was poured into ice-water (ca. 50 g) and extracted with Et_2O (3 x 75 mL). The combined organics were washed with water (100 mL), dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered and the volatiles

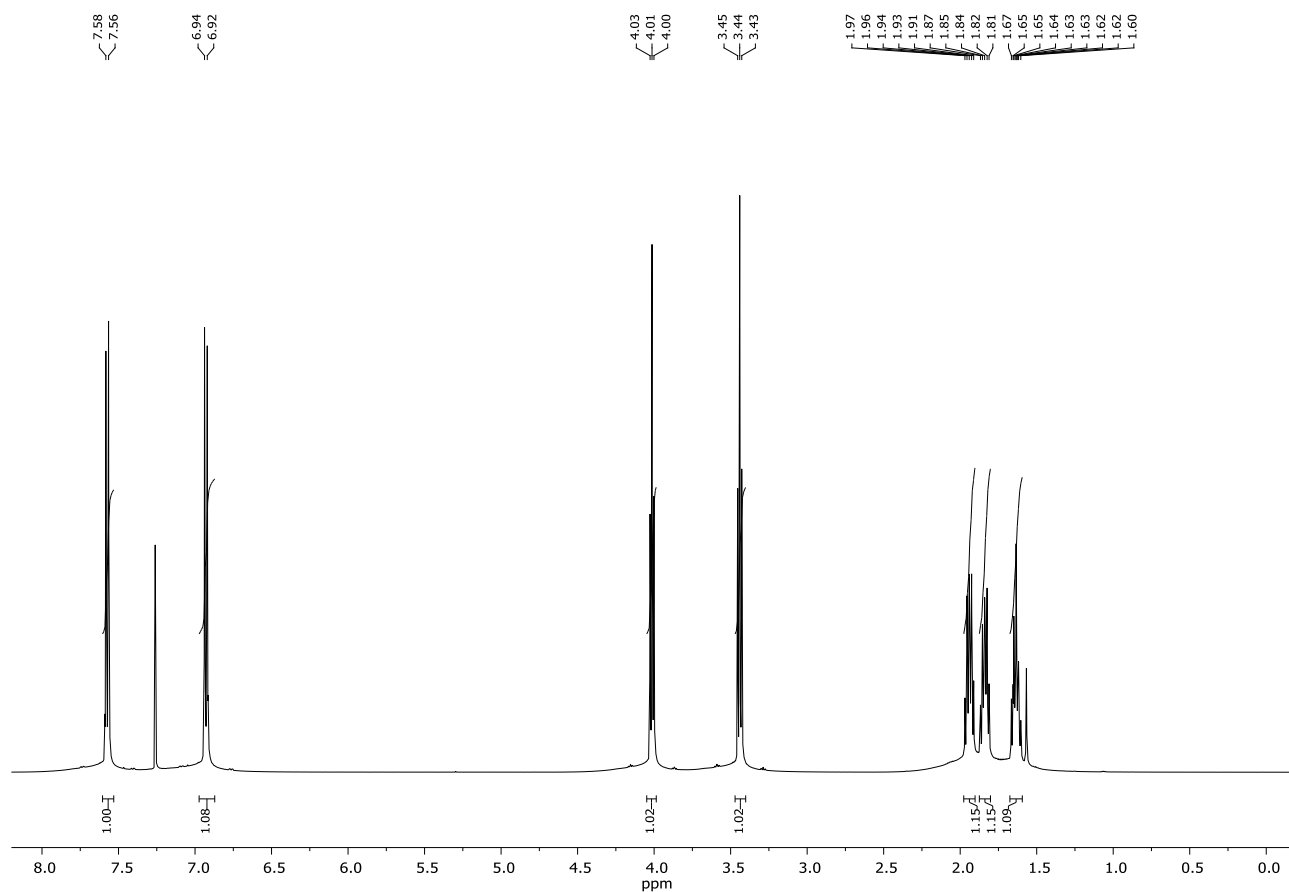
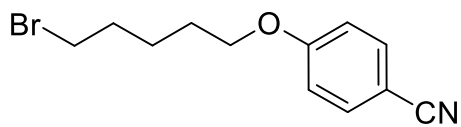
removed in vacuo. Purification by flash column chromatography (1% EtOAc/toluene) afforded **14c** (966 mg, 71%) as a white solid. $R_f=0.44$. M.p. = 33.9-36.5 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.26 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (p, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.63–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.16 (m, 8H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 162.5, 134.1, 119.4, 115.3, 103.8, 68.5, 51.6, 29.3, 29.2, 29.1, 28.9, 26.8, 26.0 ppm. HRMS (ESP +ve) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{ONa}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$): m/z = 295.1529; exp 295.1530.

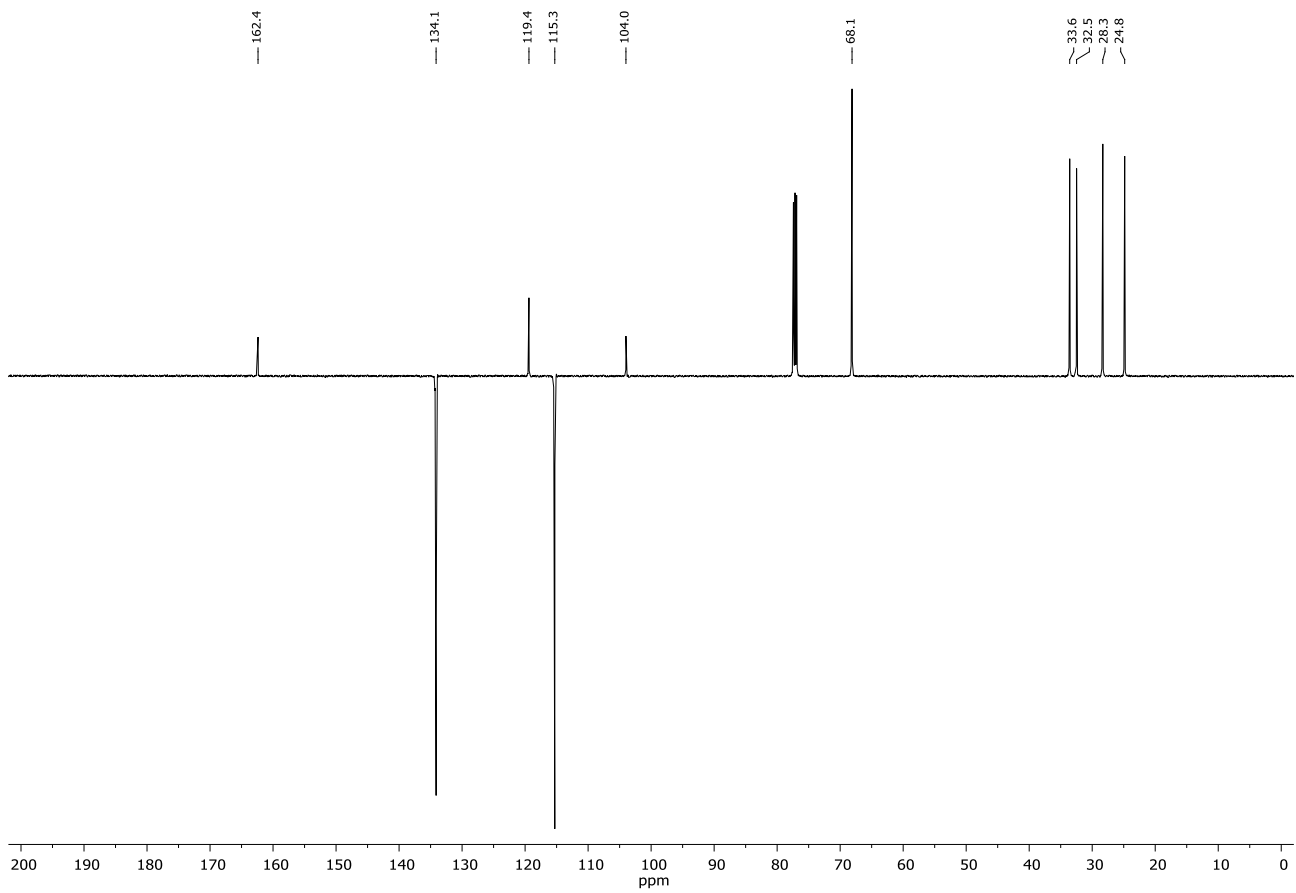
4-((9-Azidononyl)oxy)benzonitrile (14d); To a solution of **7d** (3.35 g, 10.3 mmol) in DMSO (20 mL), under an argon atmosphere, was added NaN_3 (1.01 g, 15.5 mmol) and the contents of the vessel allowed to stir at 50 °C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was poured into ice-water (ca. 50 g) and extracted with Et_2O (3 x 75 mL). The combined organics were washed with water (100 mL), dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and the volatiles removed in vacuo. Purification by flash column chromatography (1% EtOAc/toluene) gave **14d** (2.52 g, 85%) as a white solid. $R_f=0.49$. M.p. = 42.5-43.2 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, J = 6.56 Hz, 2H), 3.26 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (t, J = 6.56 Hz, 2H), 1.60 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.51–1.25 (m, 10H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 162.6, 134.1, 119.5, 115.3, 103.8, 68.5, 51.6, 29.5, 29.3, 29.2, 29.1, 29.0, 26.8, 26.0 ppm. HRMS (ESP +ve) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_4\text{ONa}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$): m/z = 309.1687; exp 309.1686.

4-((10-Azidodecyl)oxy)benzonitrile (14e); To a solution of **7f** (3.40 g, 10.1 mmol) in DMSO (20 mL), under an argon atmosphere, was added NaN_3 (982 mg, 15.1 mmol) and the contents of the vessel allowed to stir at 50 °C for 2 h. The cooled reaction mixture was poured into ice-water (ca. 50 g) and extracted with Et_2O (3 x 75 mL). The combined organics were washed with water (100 mL), dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and the volatiles removed in vacuo. Purification by flash column chromatography (1% EtOAc/toluene) gave **14f** (2.68 g, 89%) as a white solid. $R_f=0.49$. M.p. = 46.7-47.7 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.57 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.26 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (p, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.60 (p, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.48–1.31 (m, 12H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 162.4, 134.0, 119.3, 115.2, 103.7, 68.4, 51.5, 29.4, 29.4, 29.3, 29.1, 29.0, 28.8, 26.7, 25.9 ppm. HRMS (ESP +ve) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_4\text{ONa}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$): m/z = 323.1842; exp 323.1842.

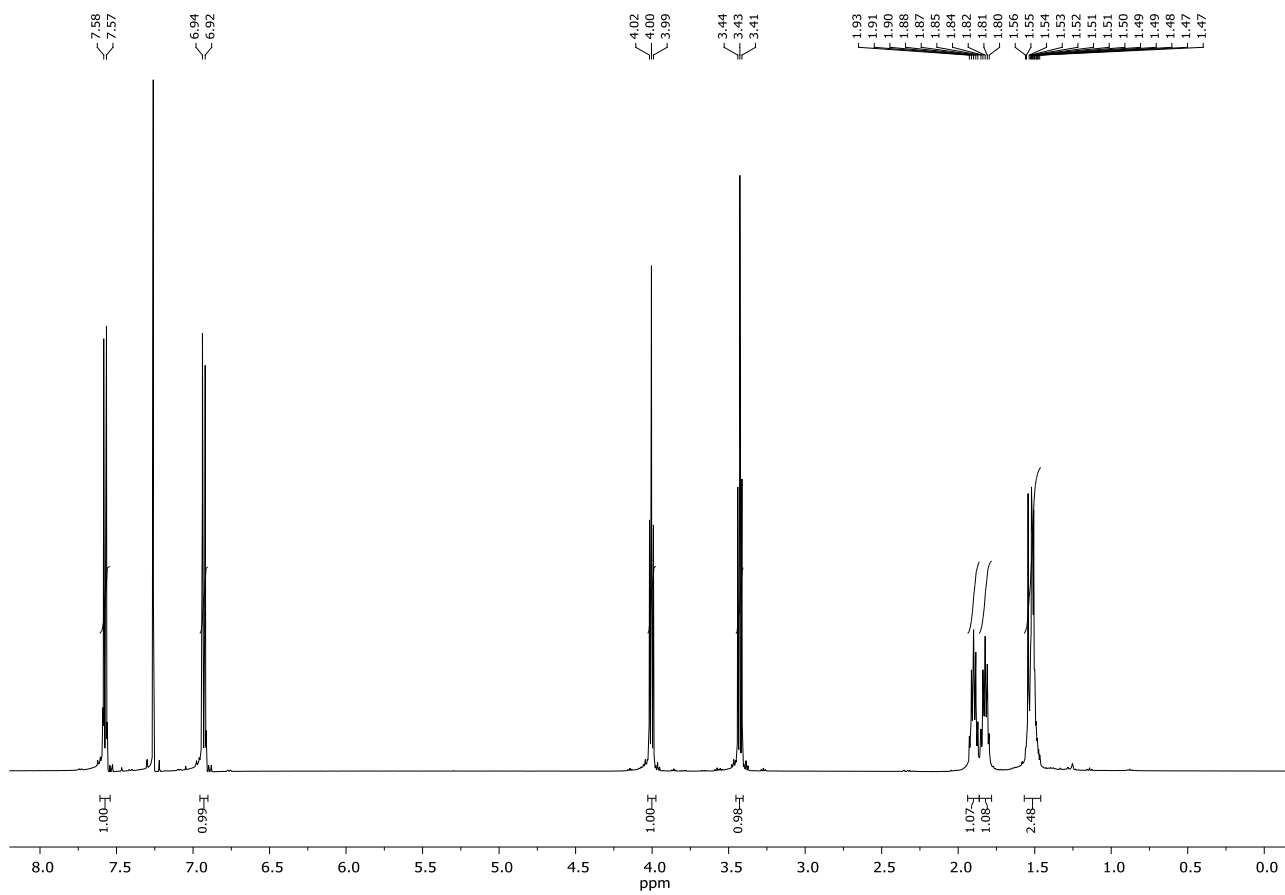
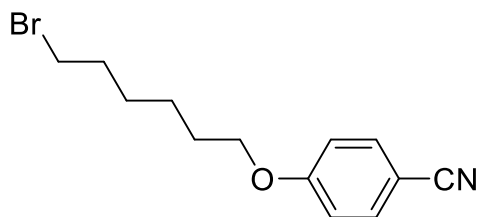
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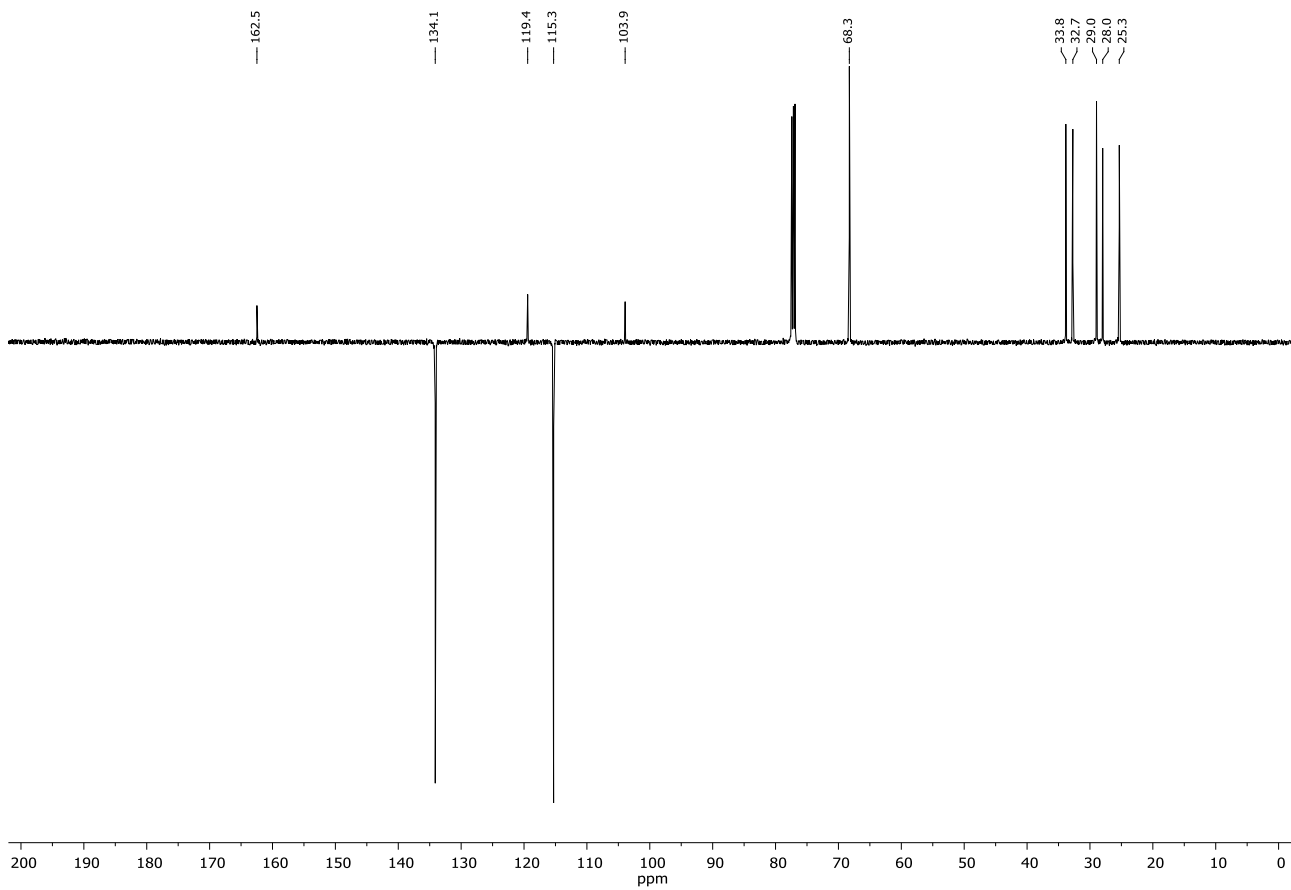
Compound 7a



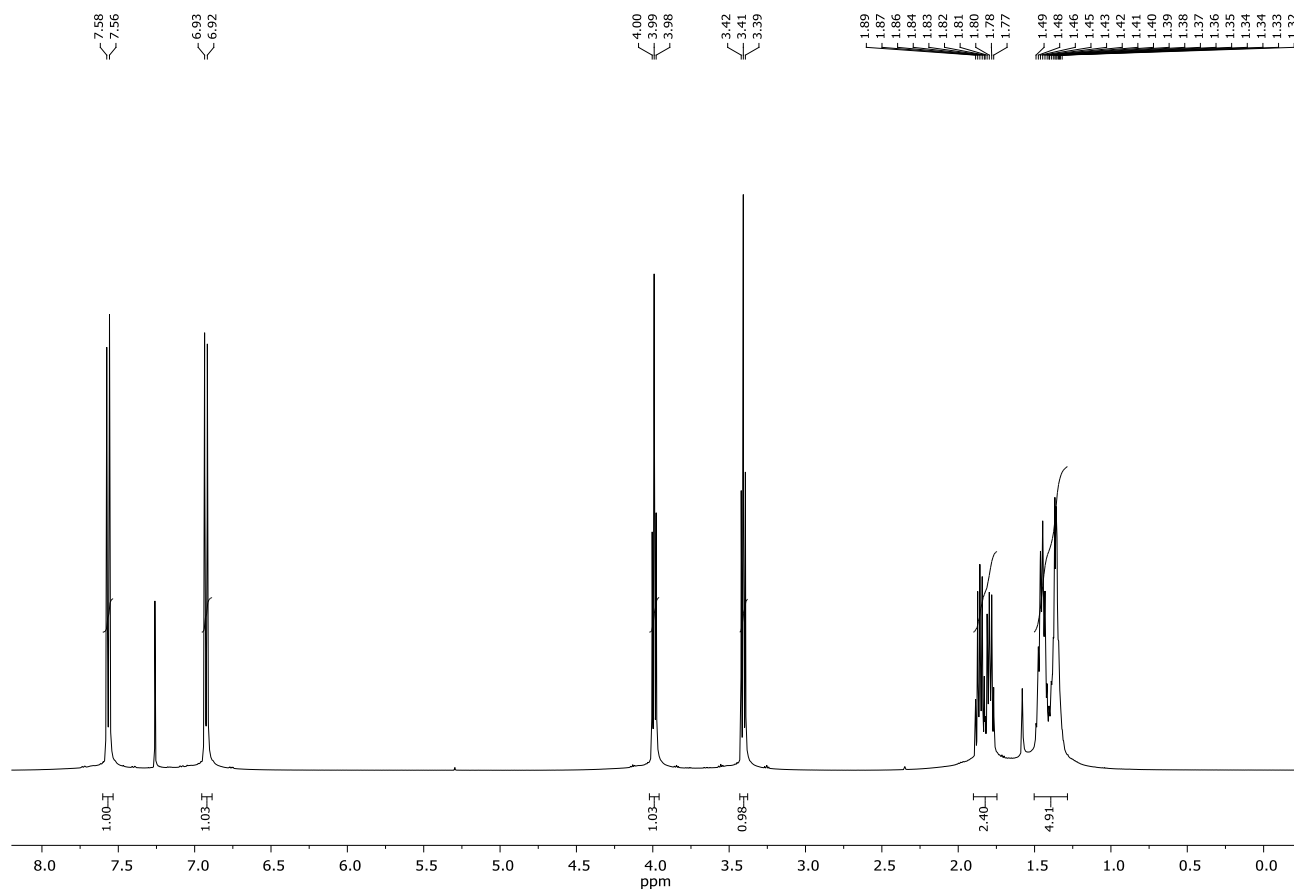
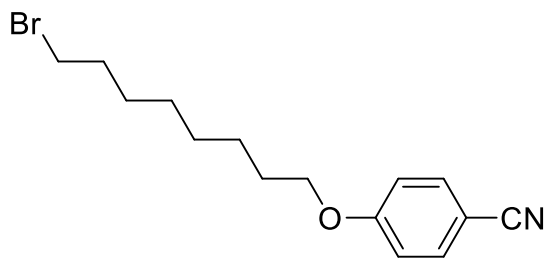


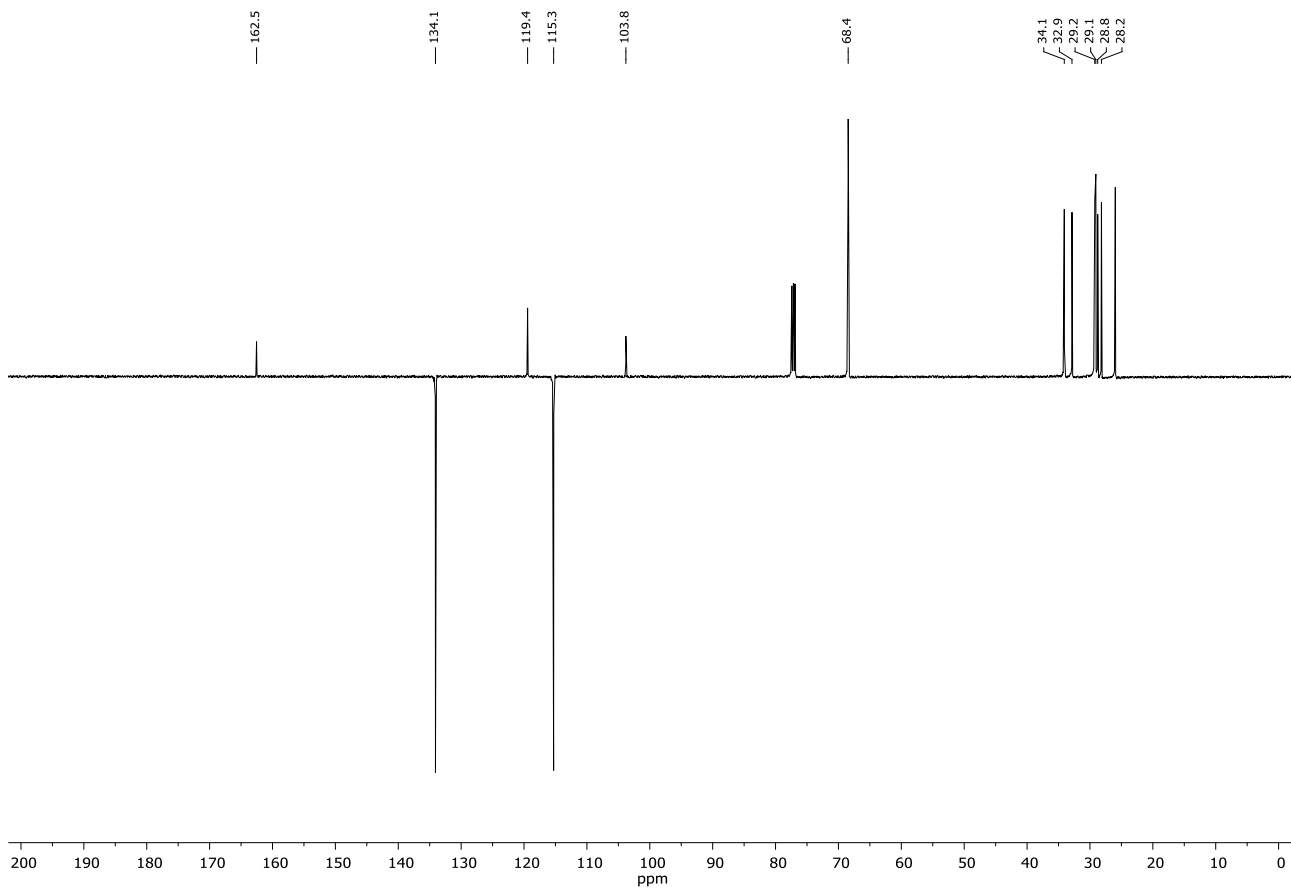
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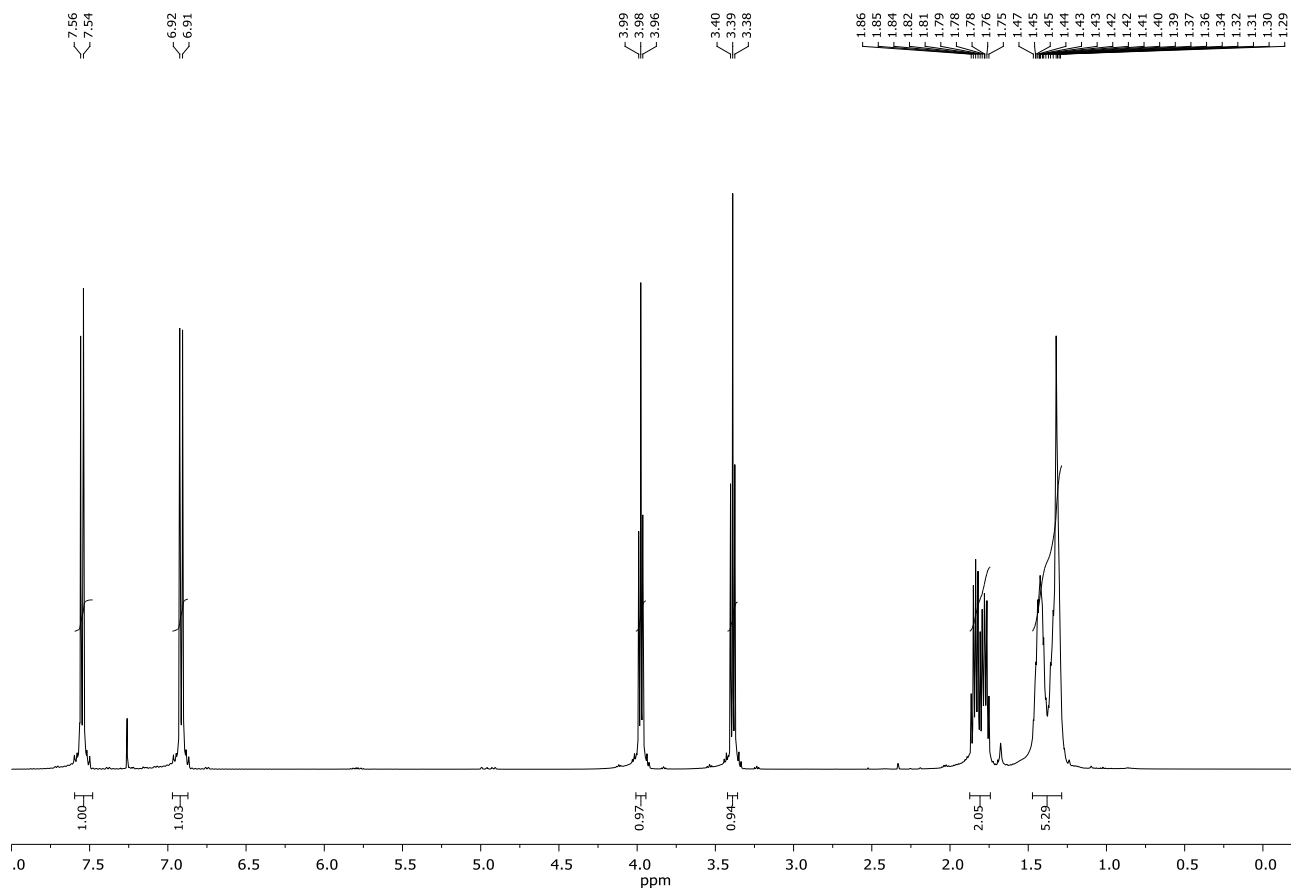
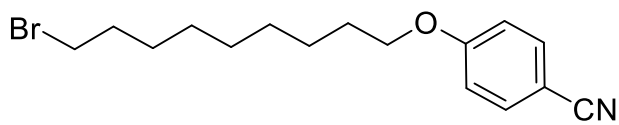


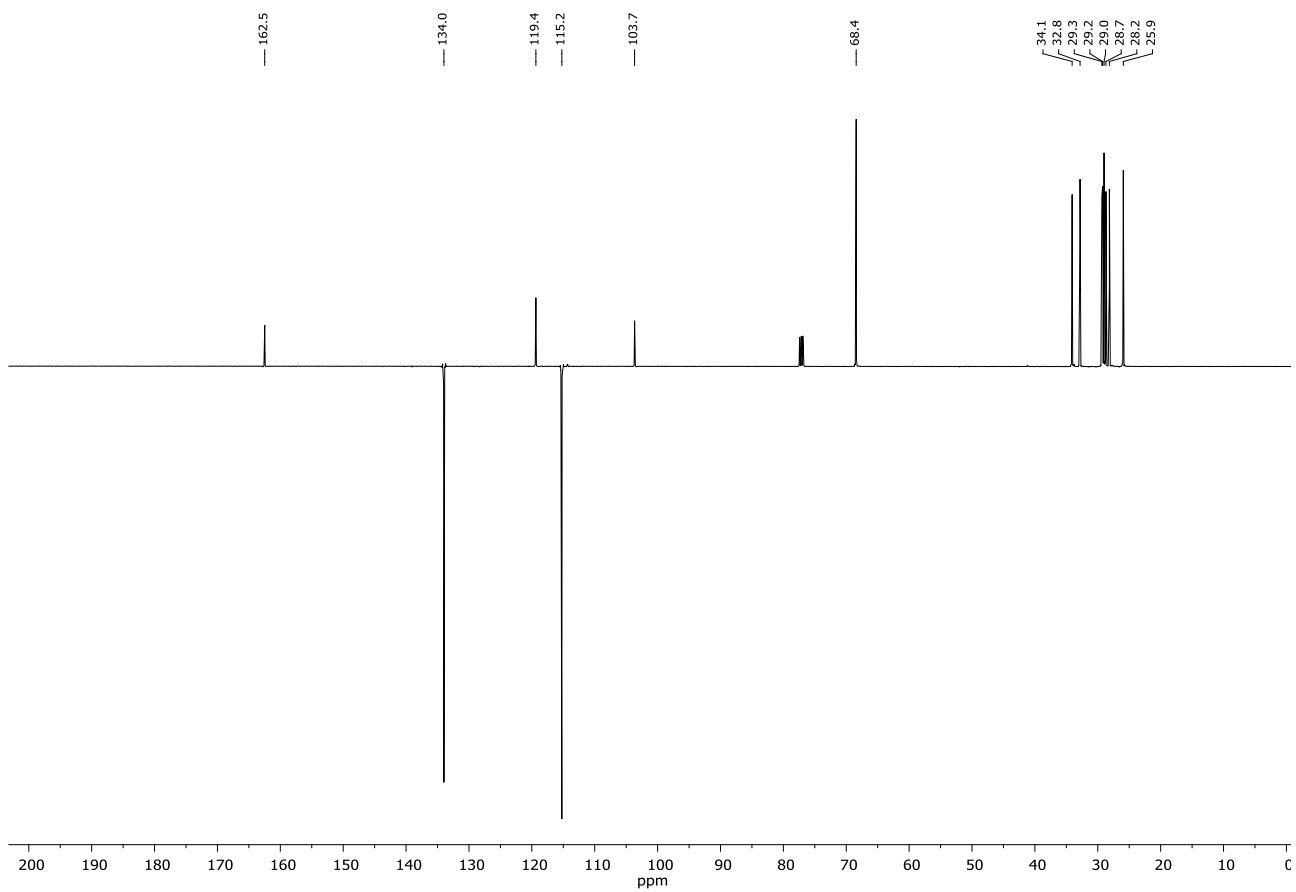
Compound 7c



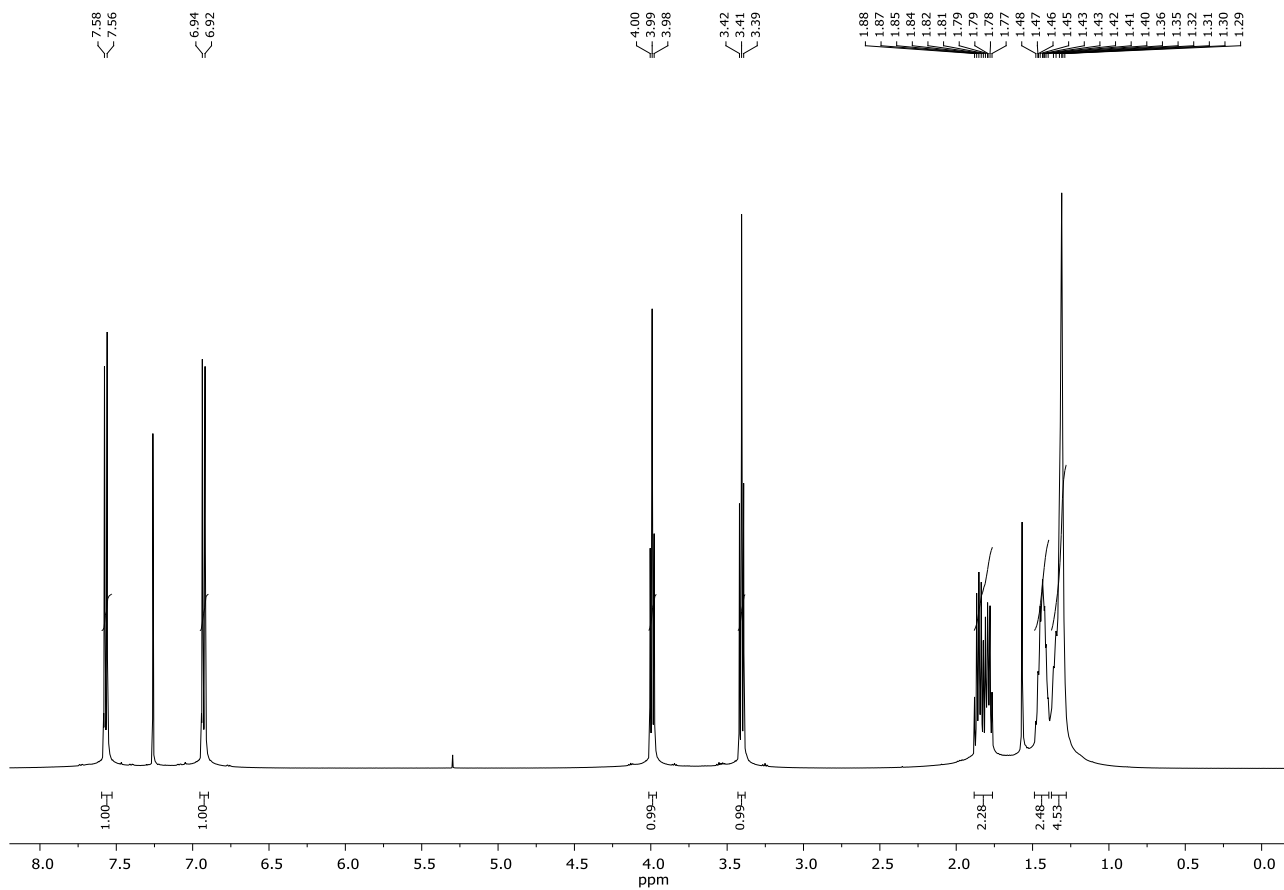
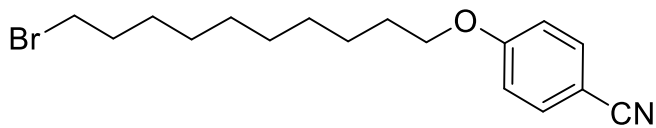


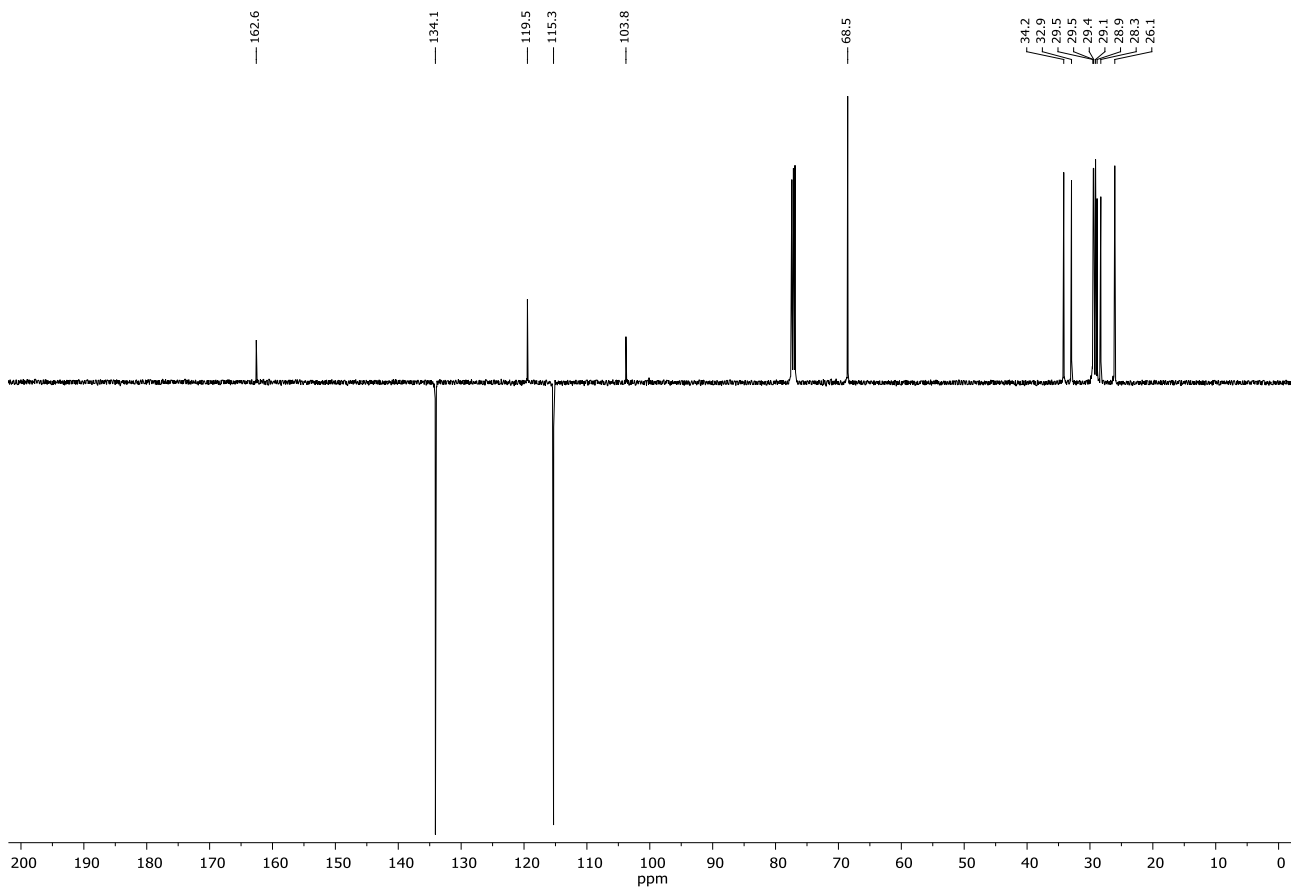
Compound 7d



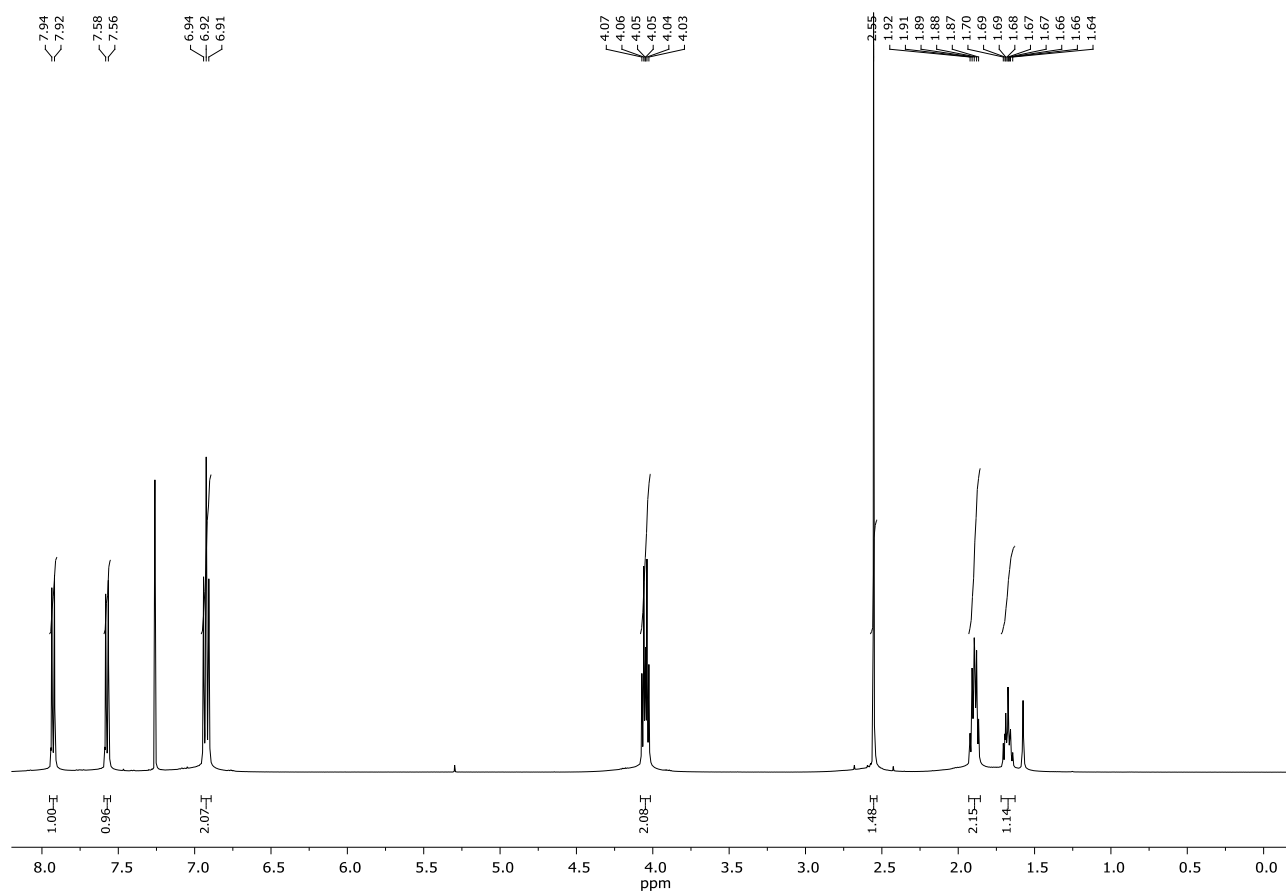
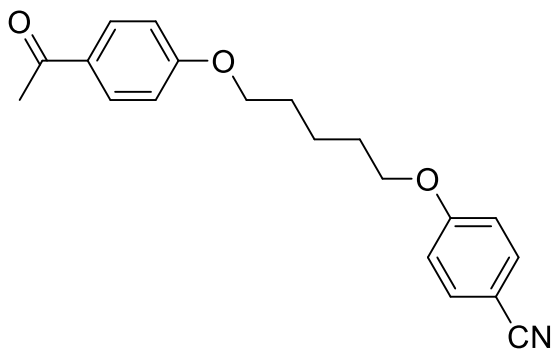


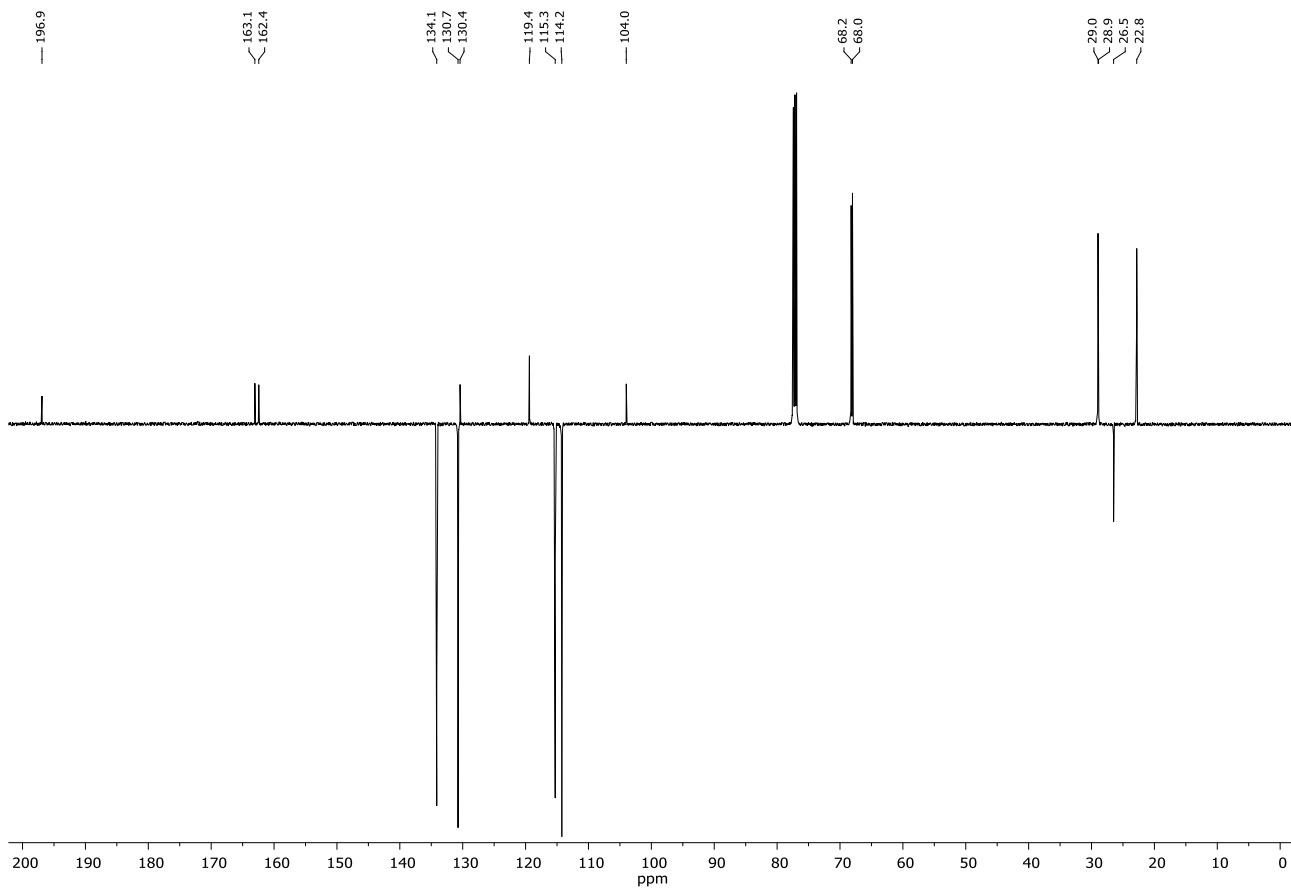
Compound 7e



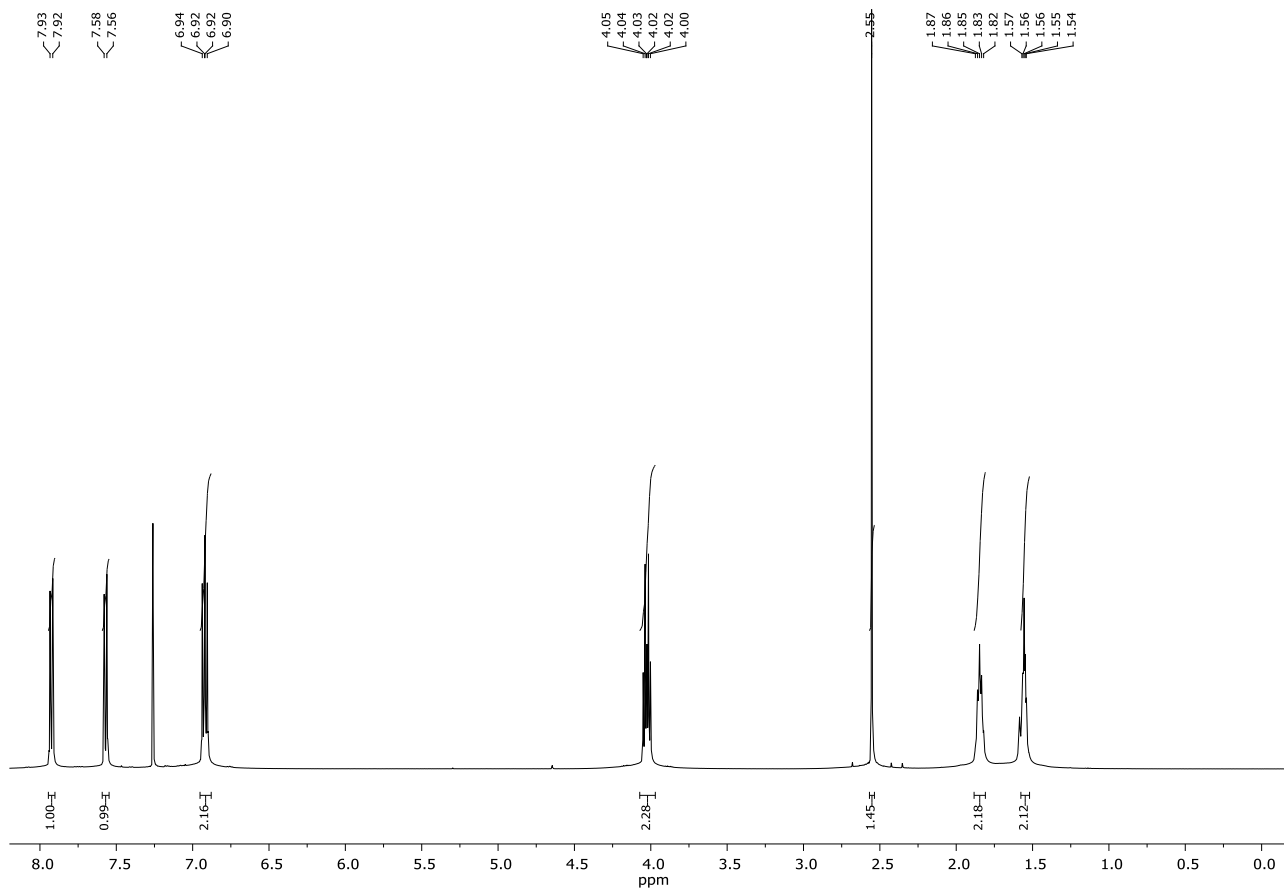
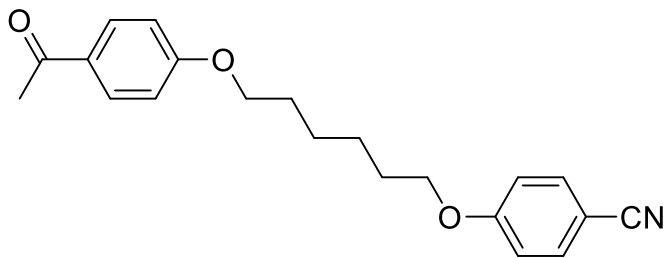


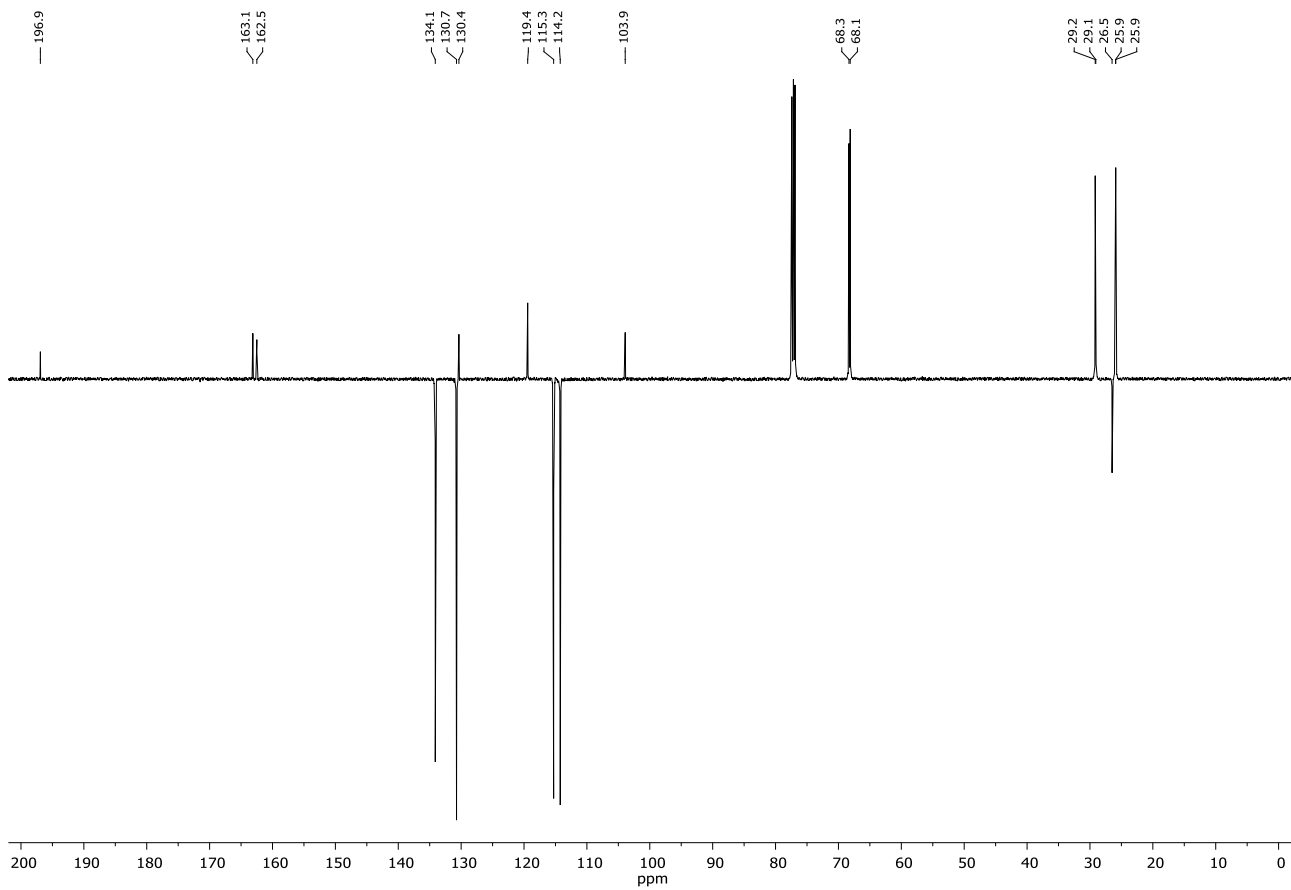
Compound 9a



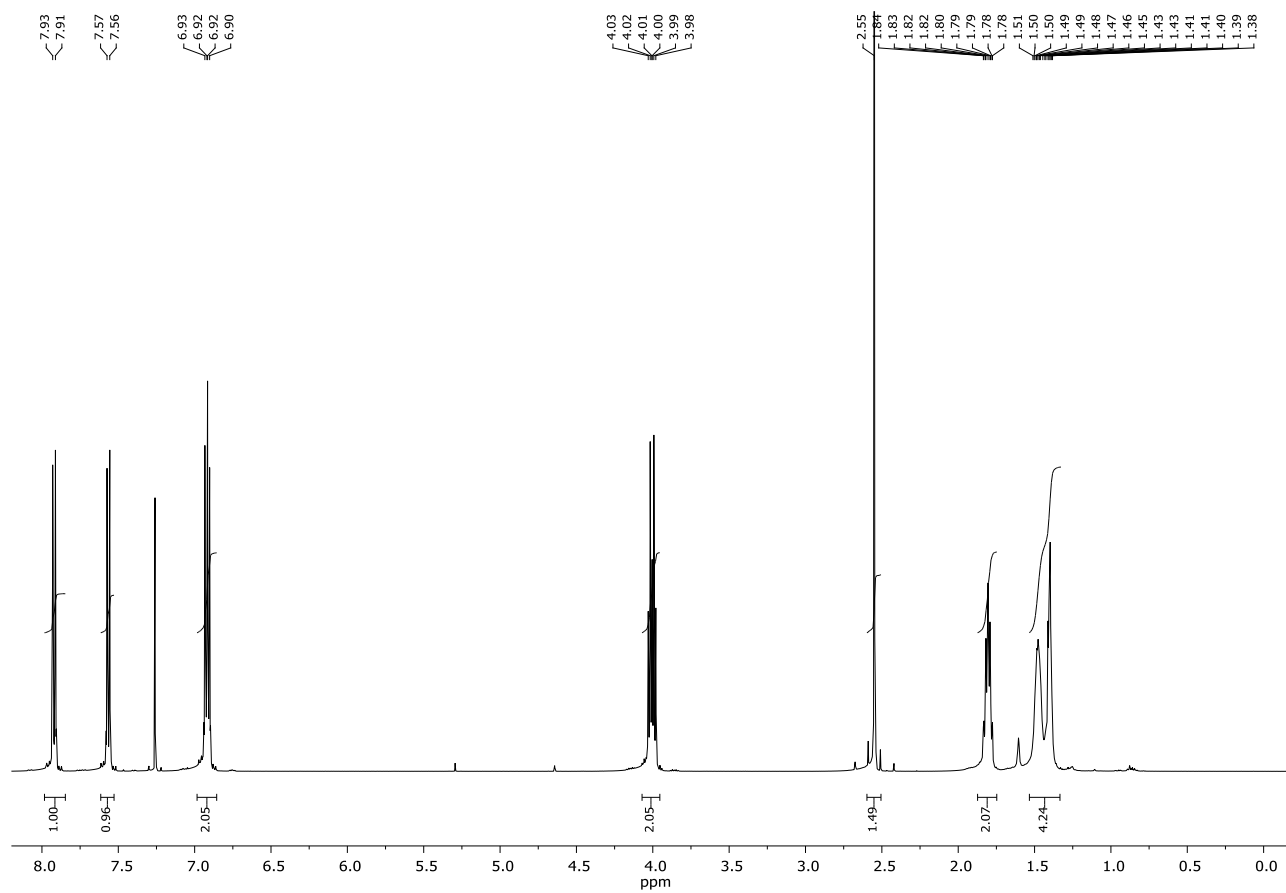
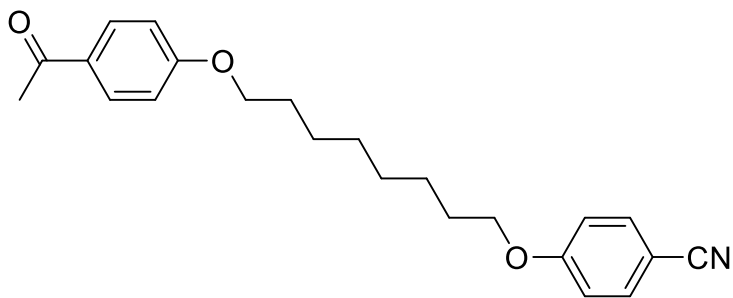


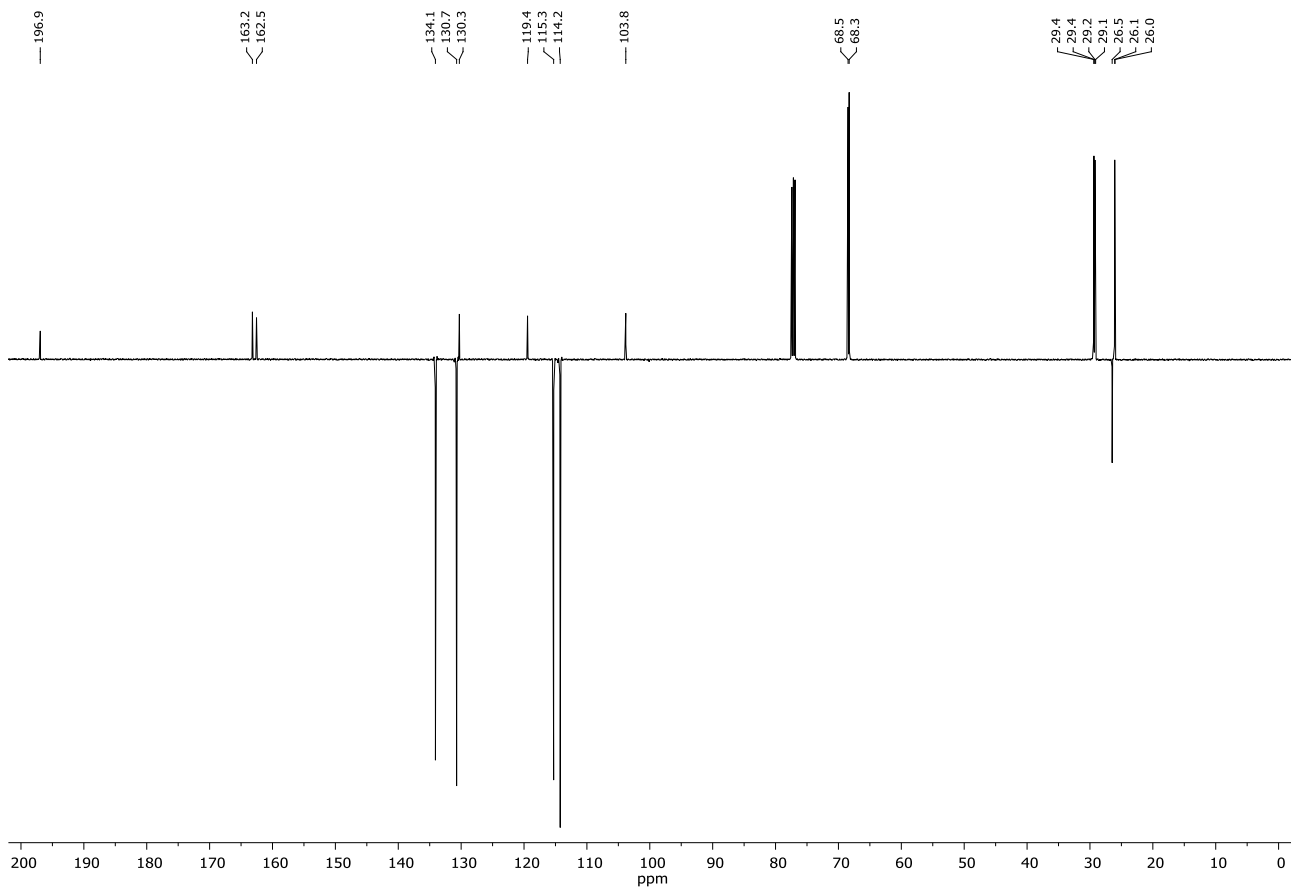
Compound 9b



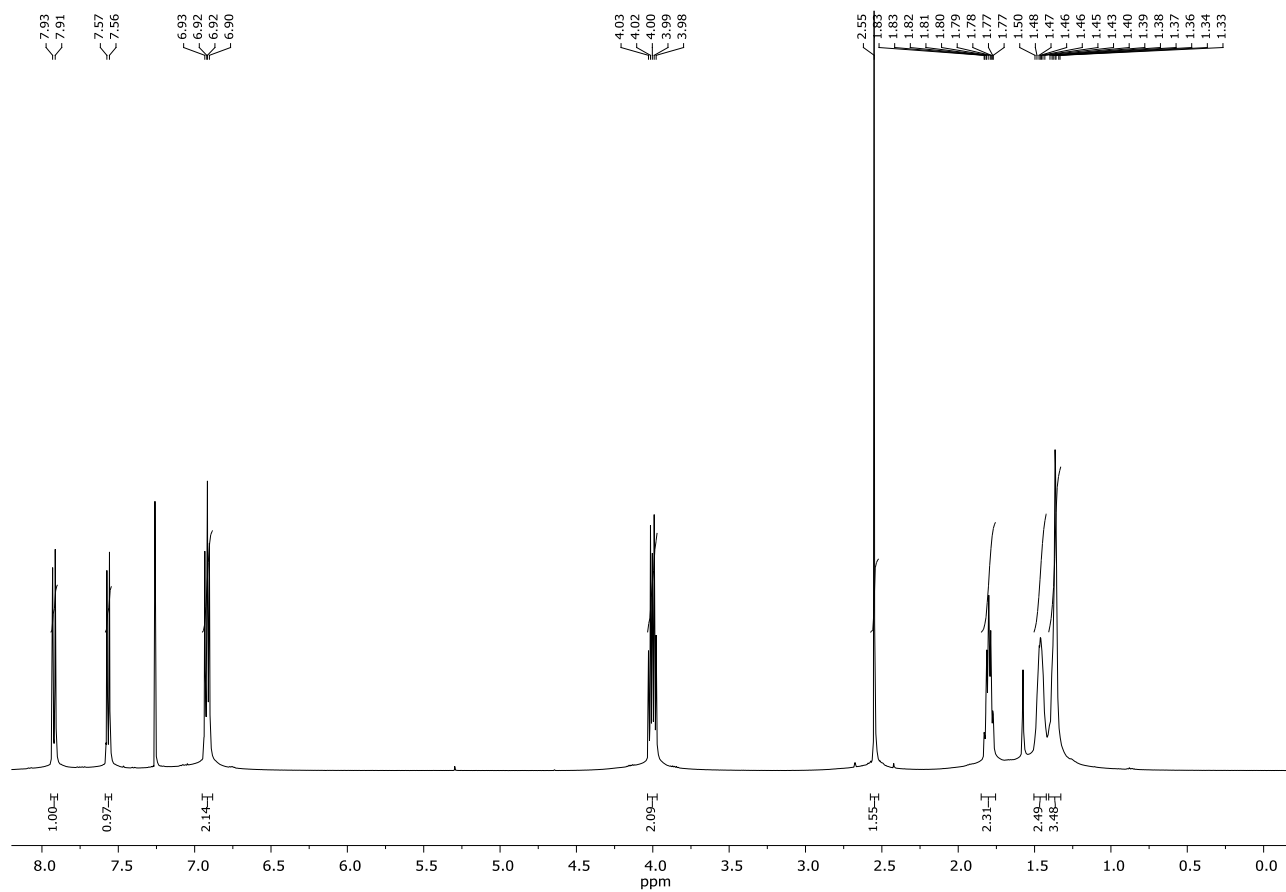
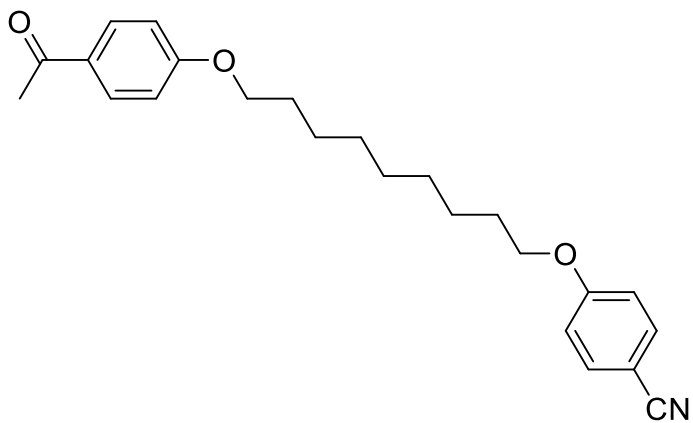


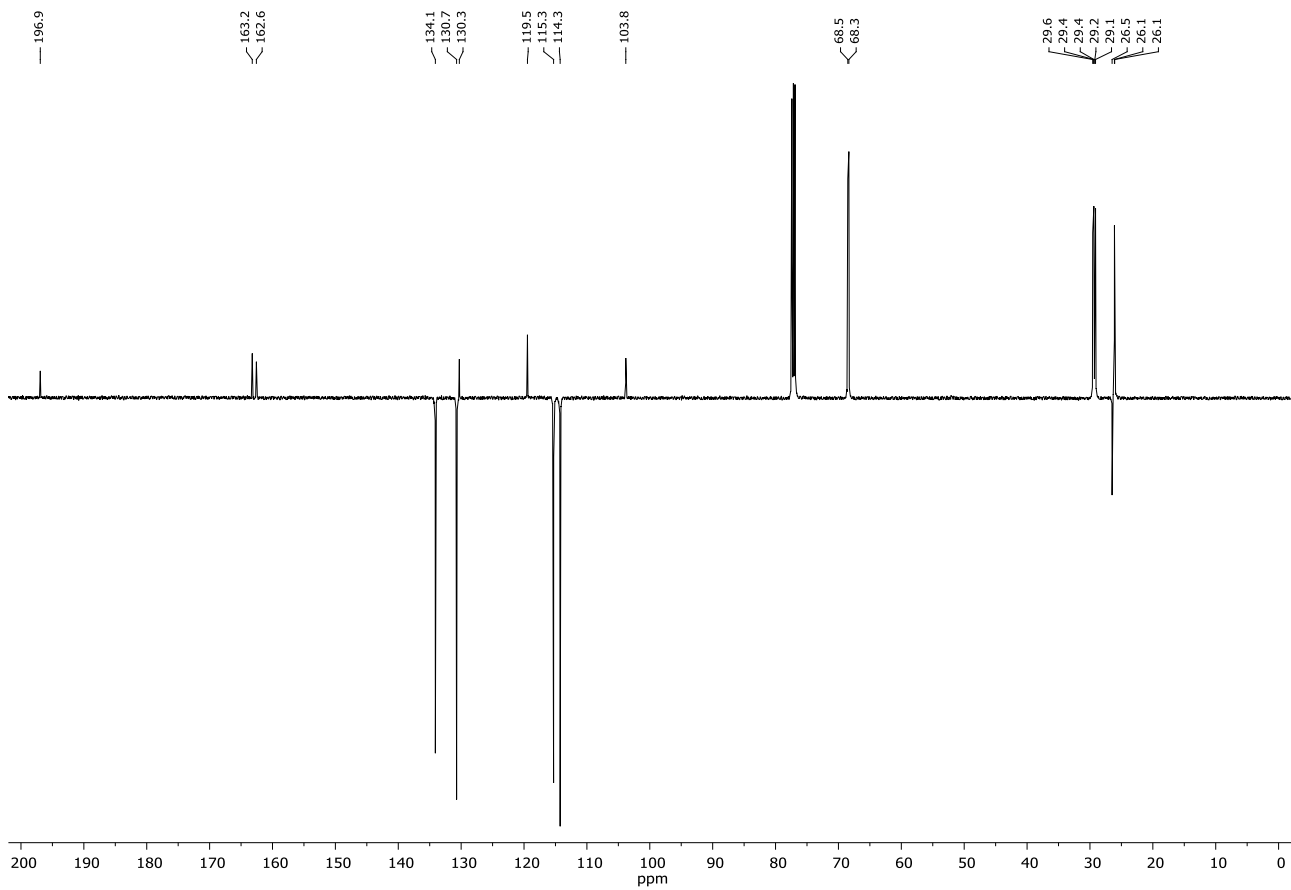
Compound 9c



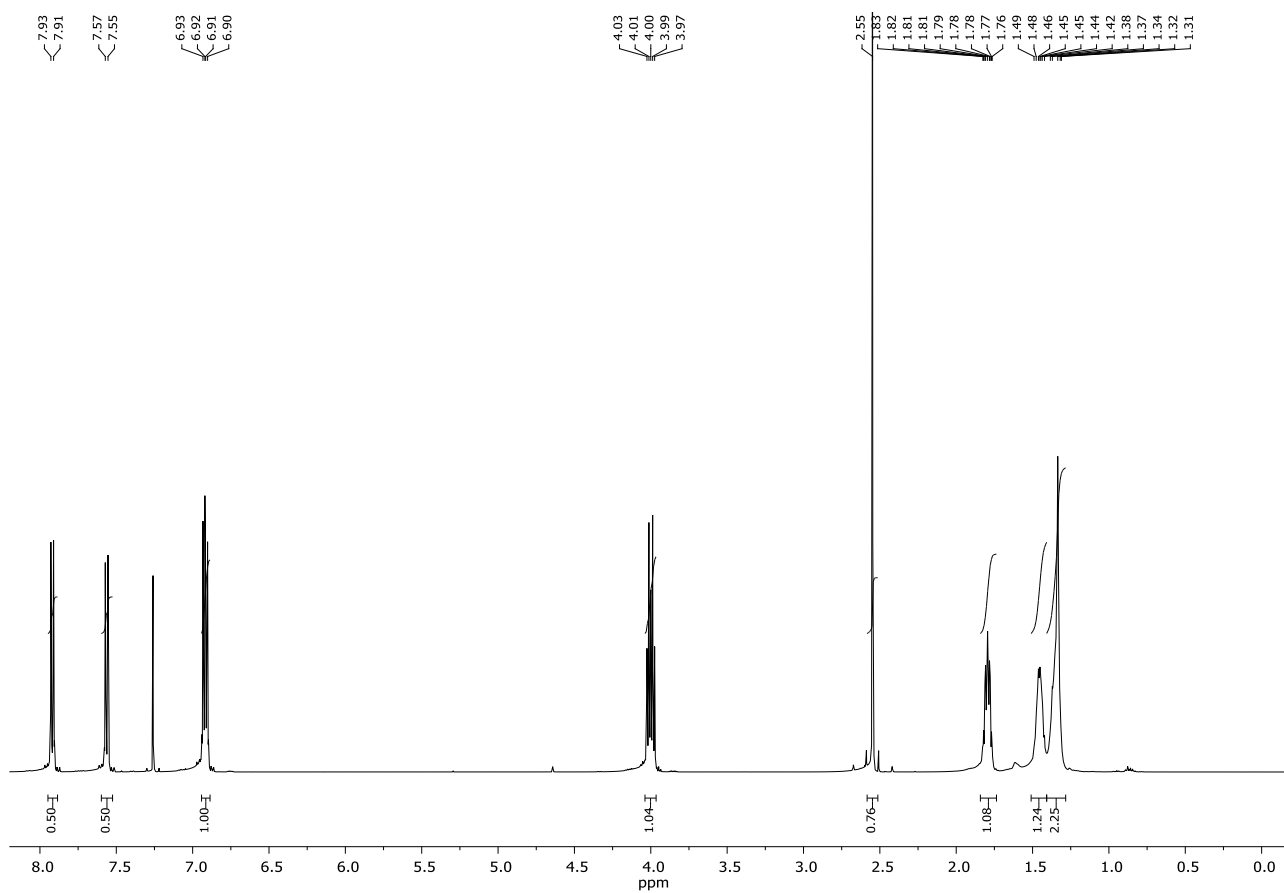
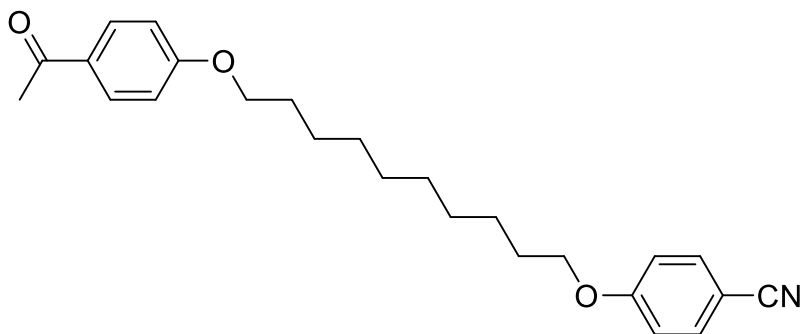


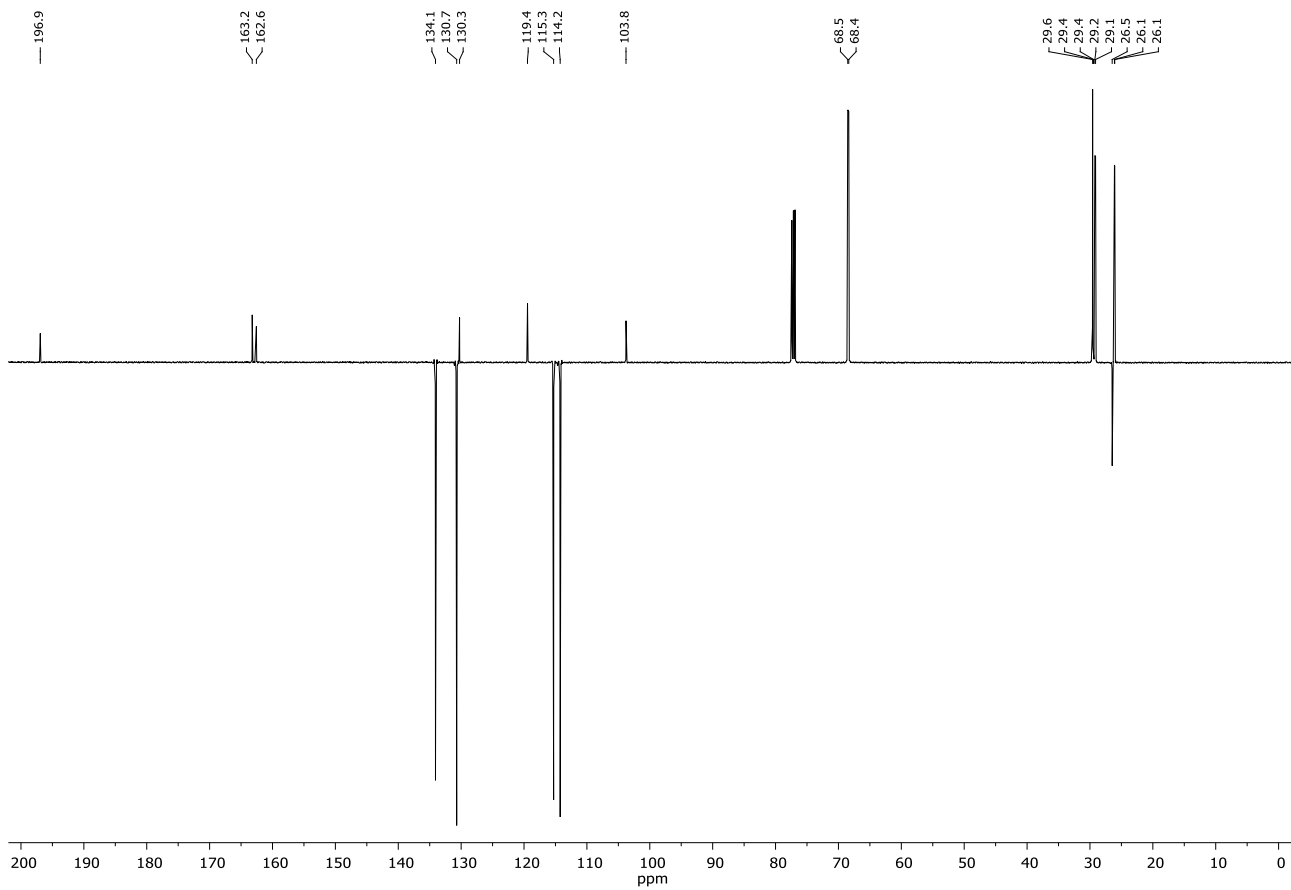
Compound 9d



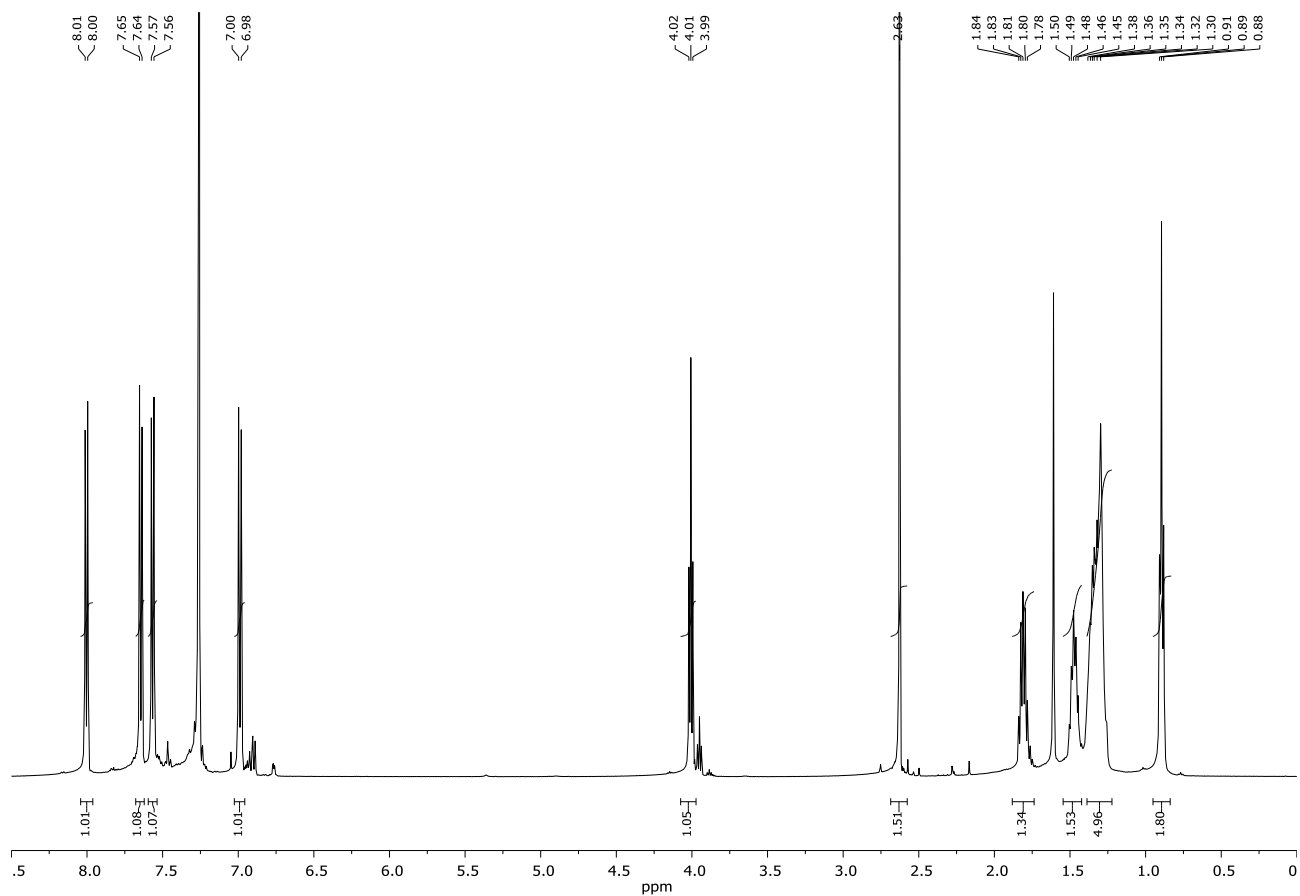
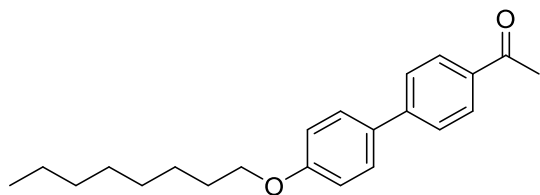


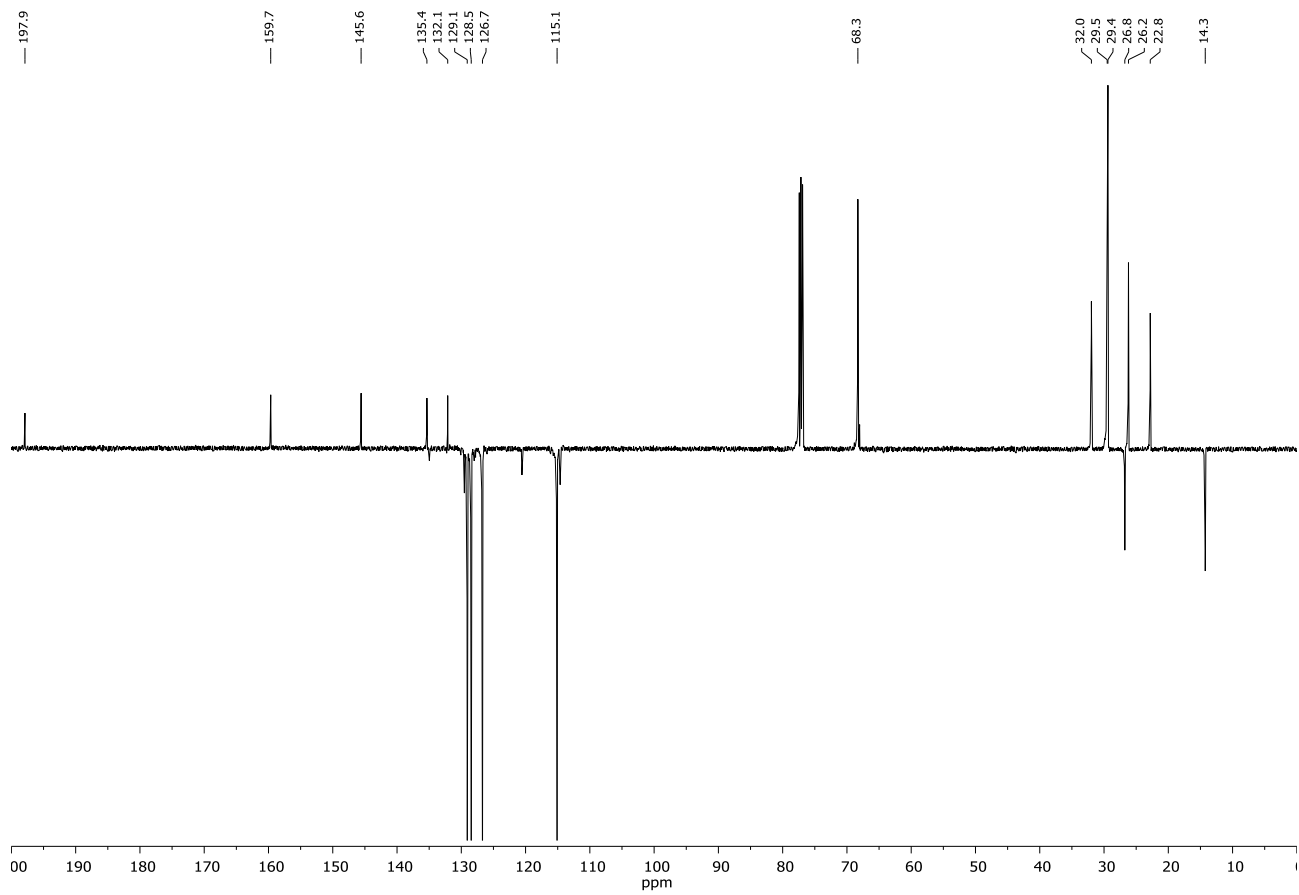
Compound 9e



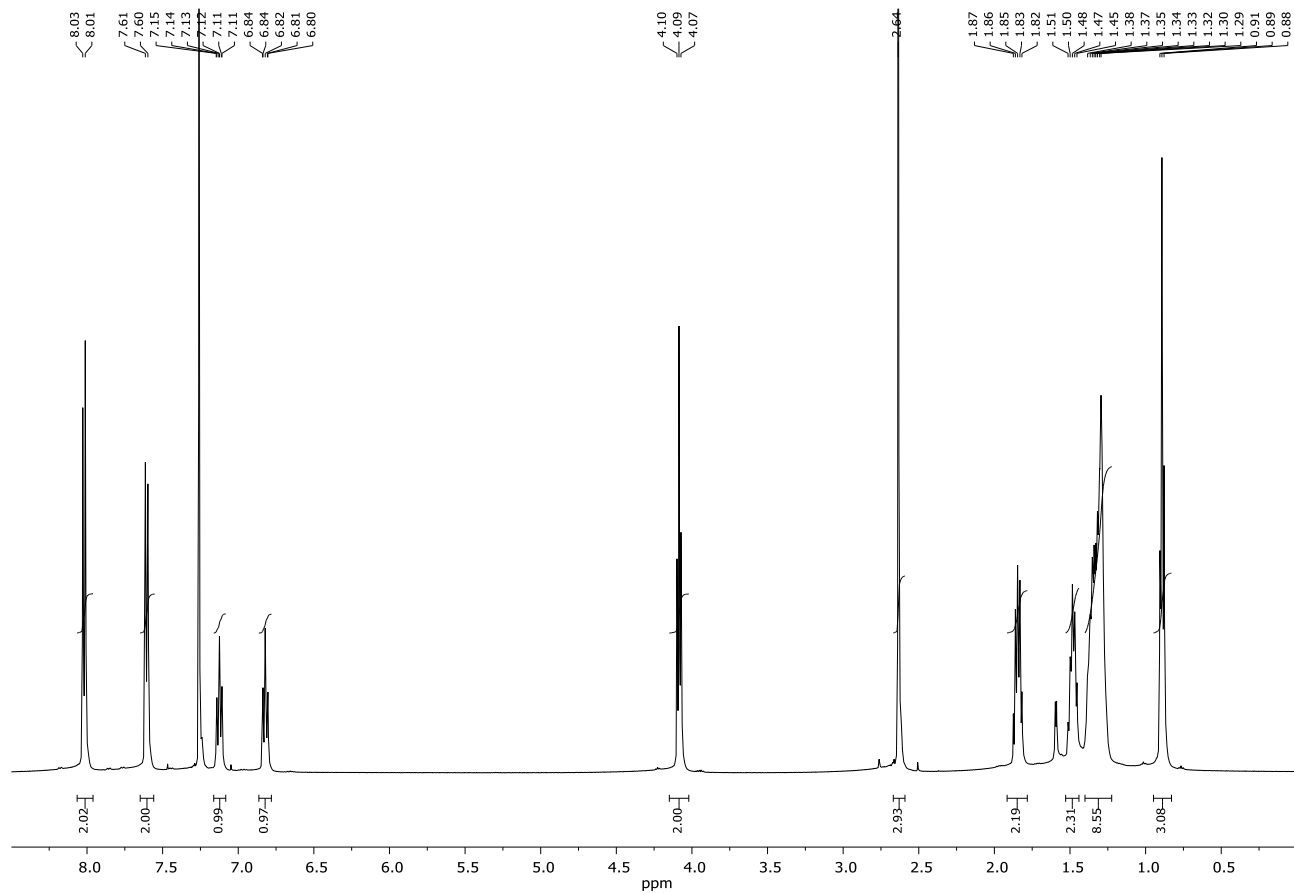
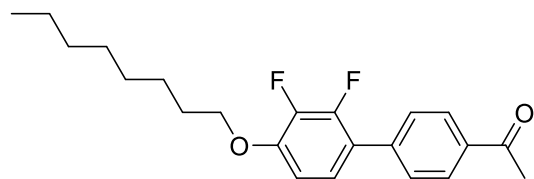


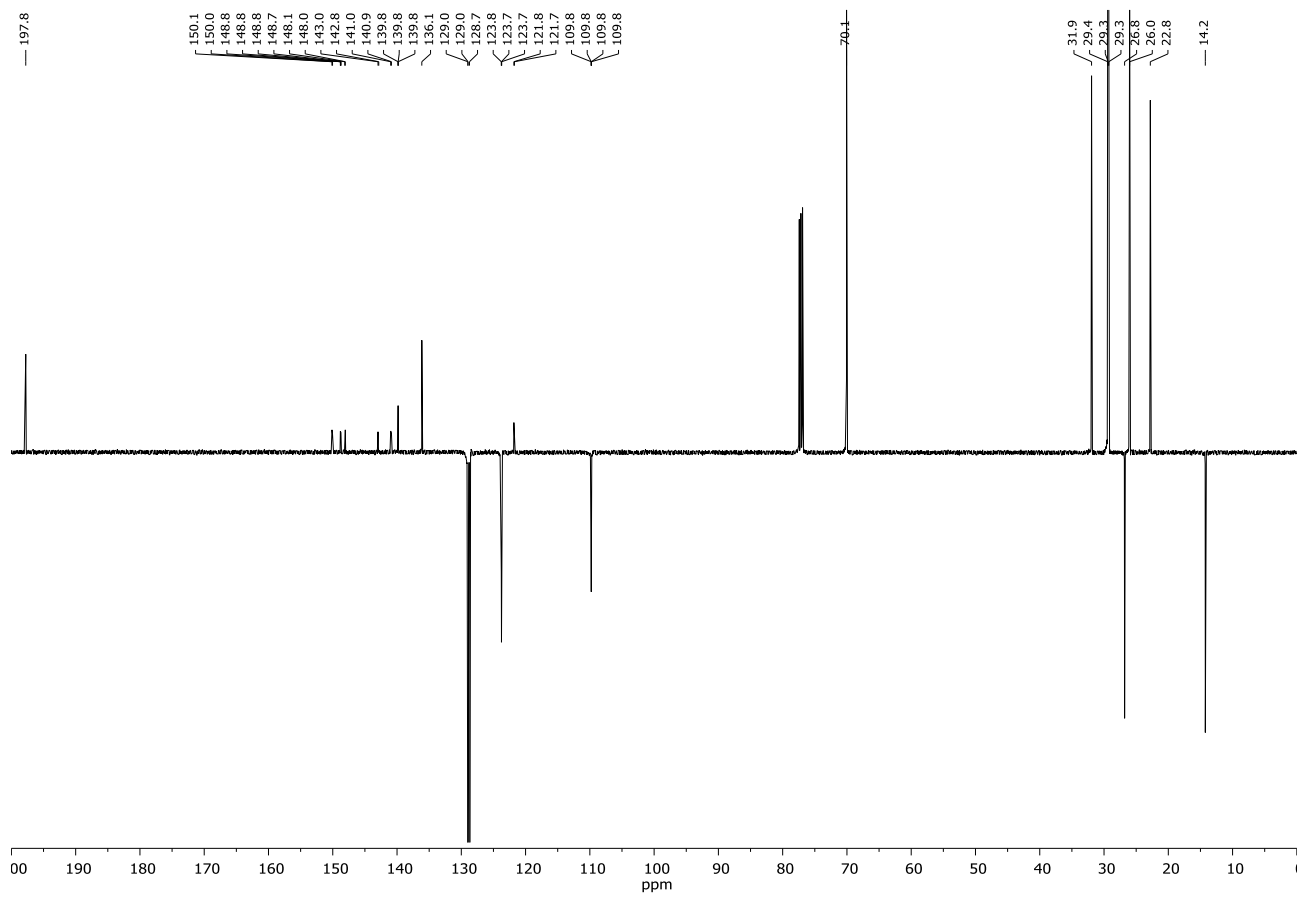
Compound 9f



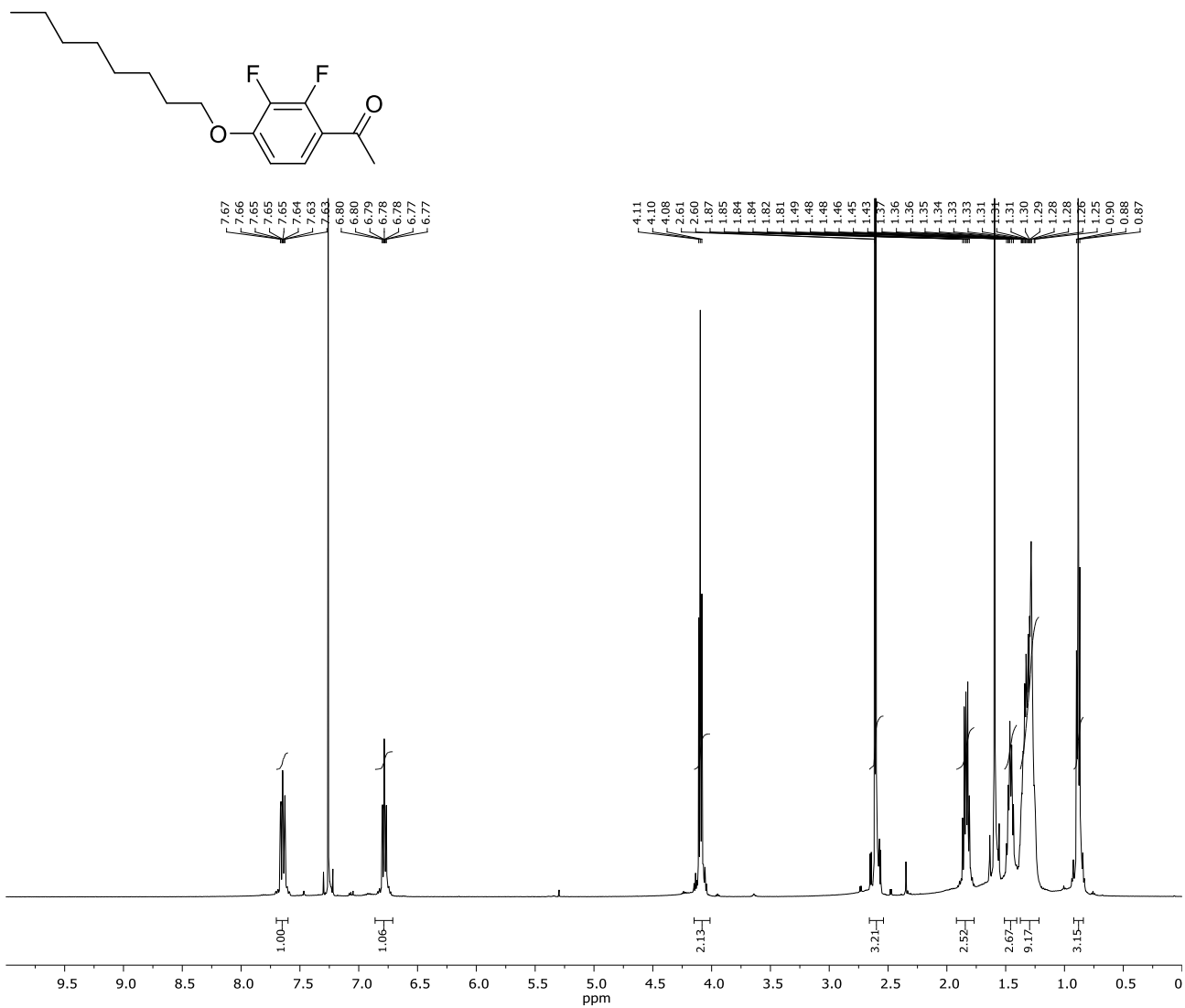


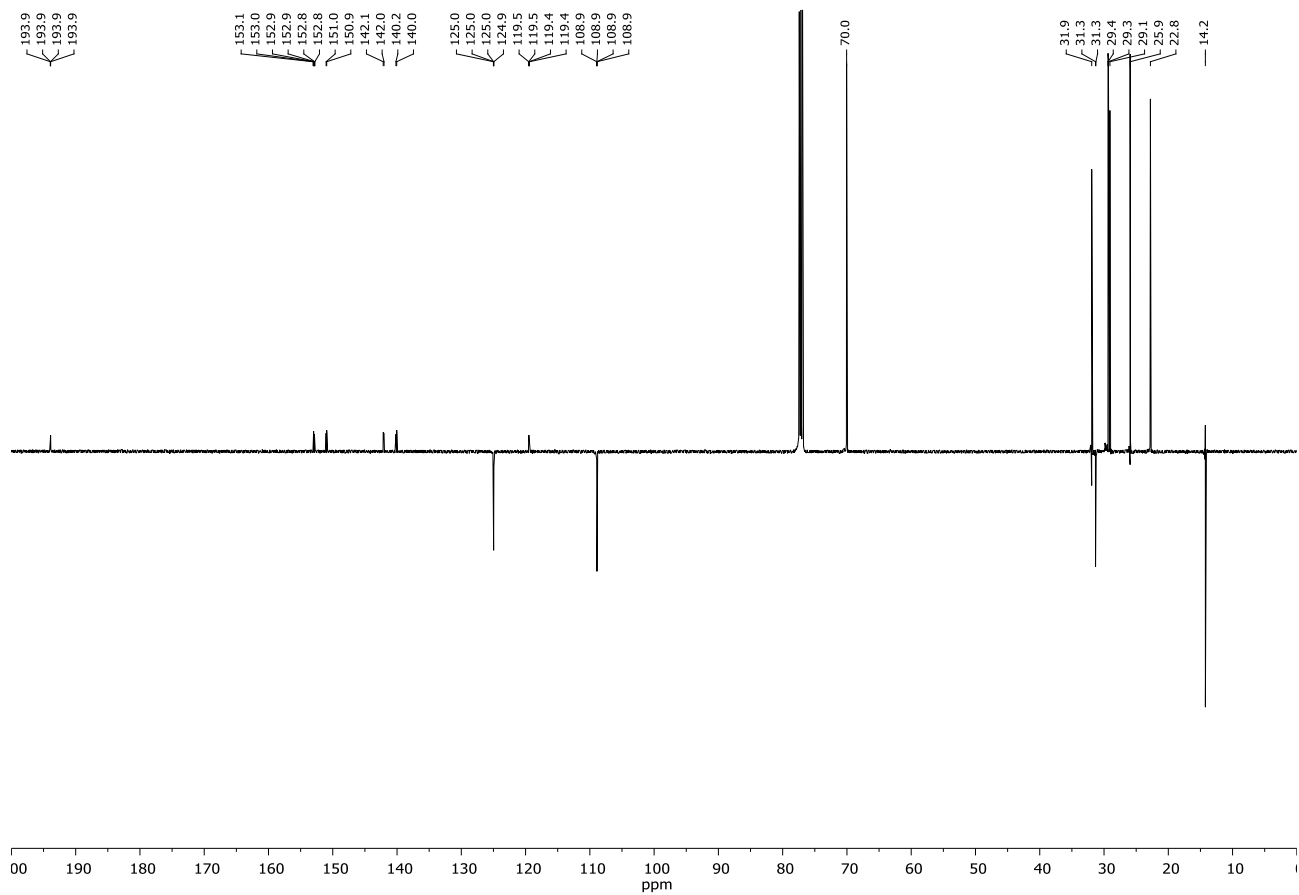
Compound 9g



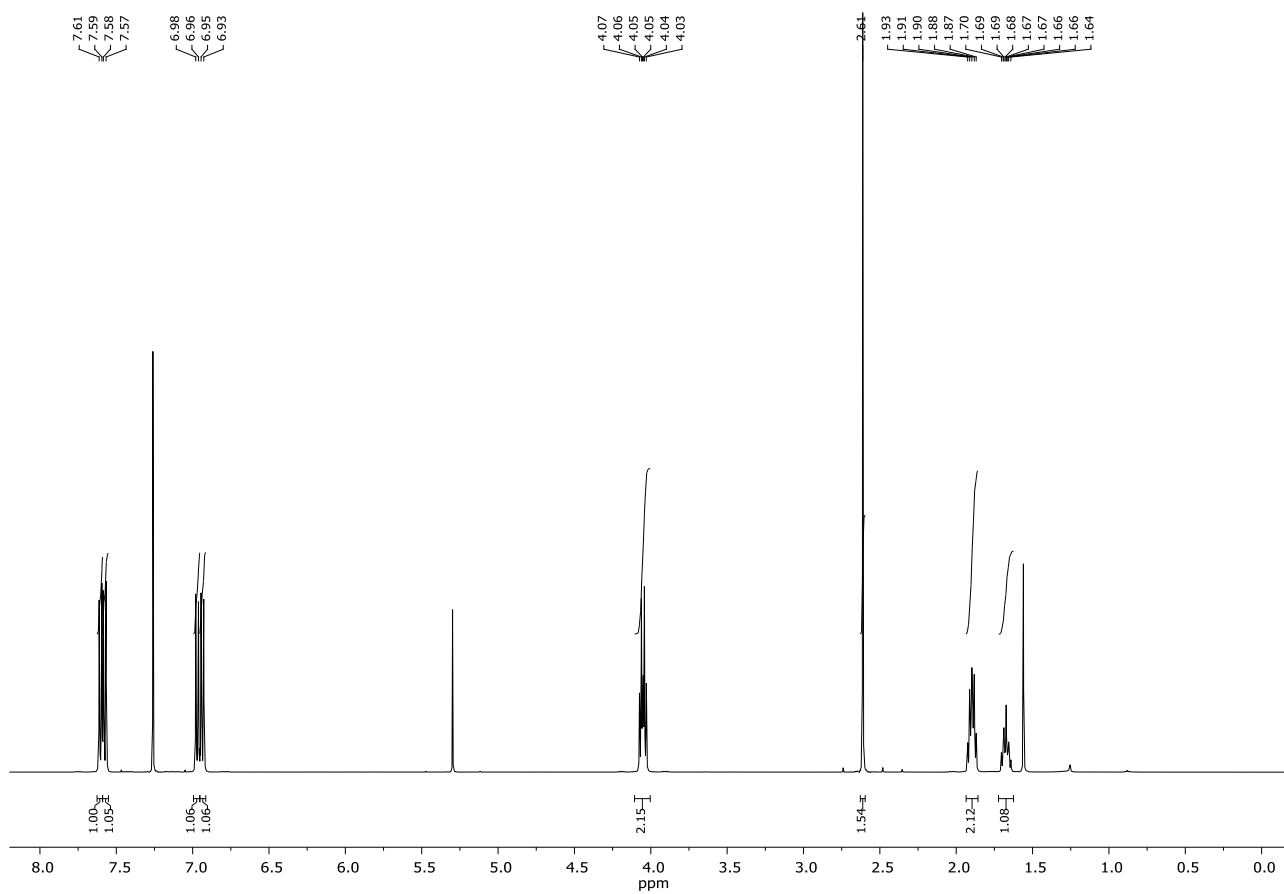
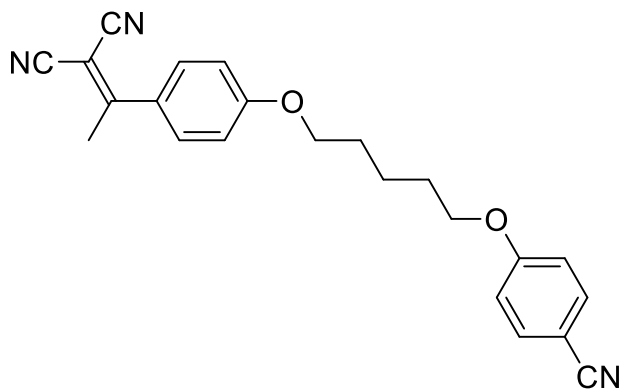


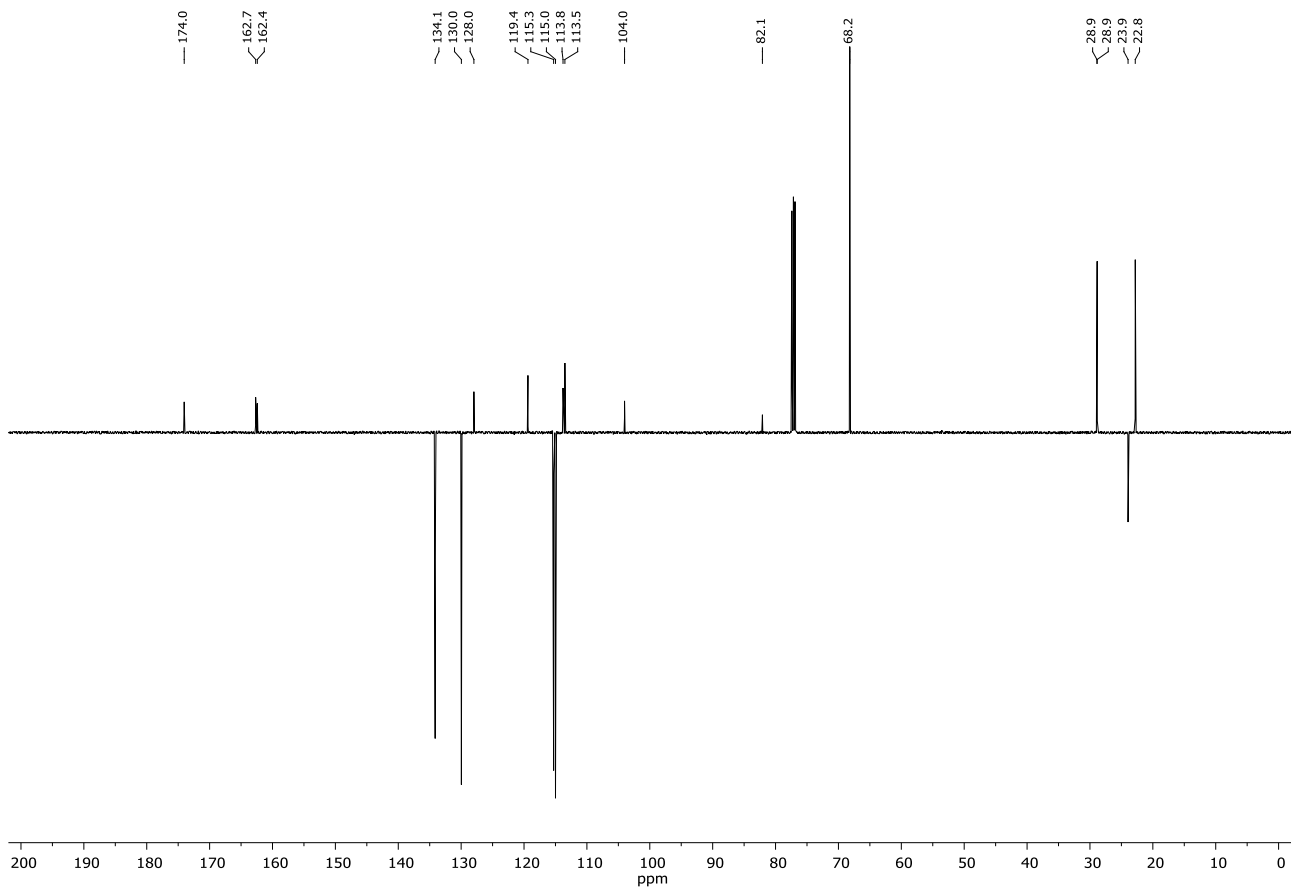
Compound 9h



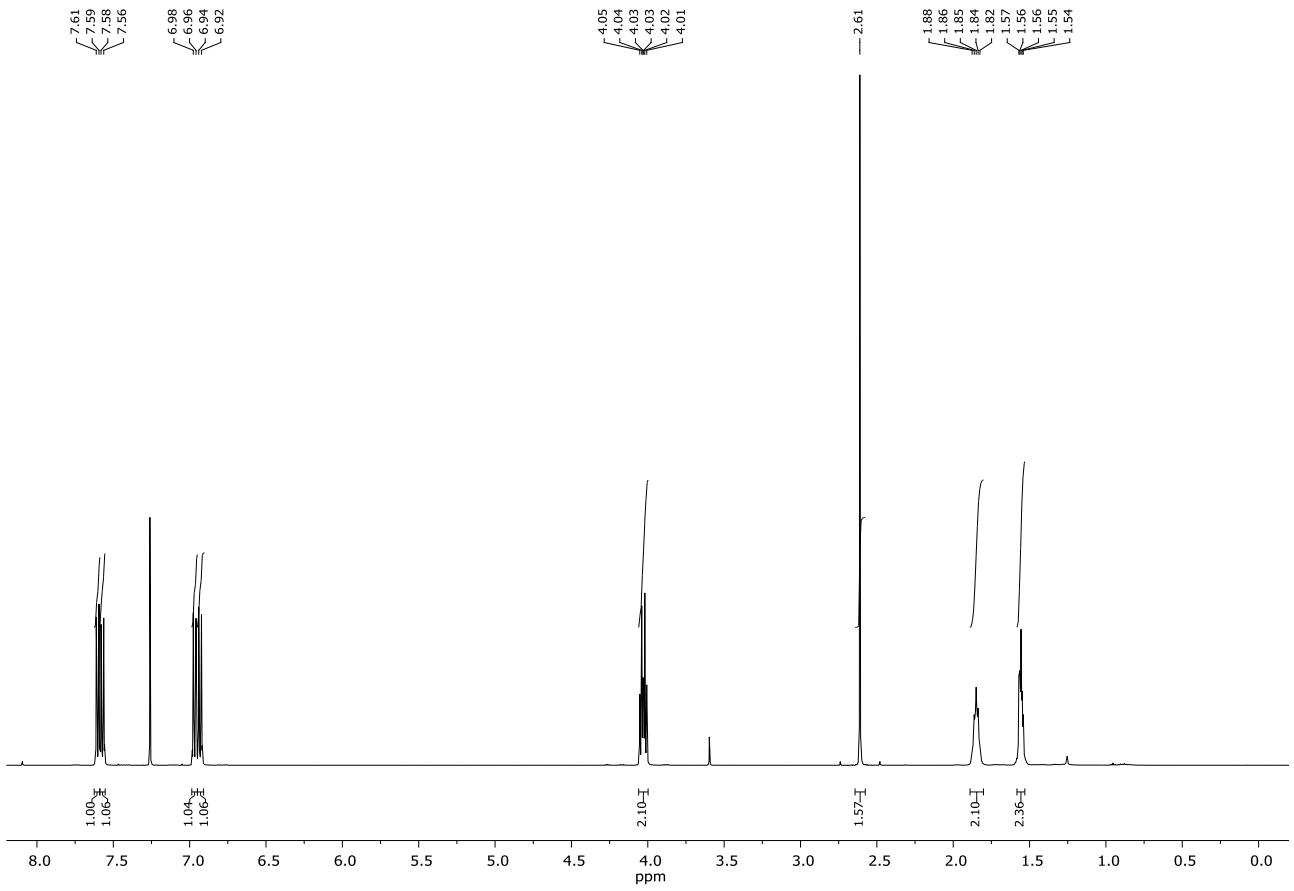
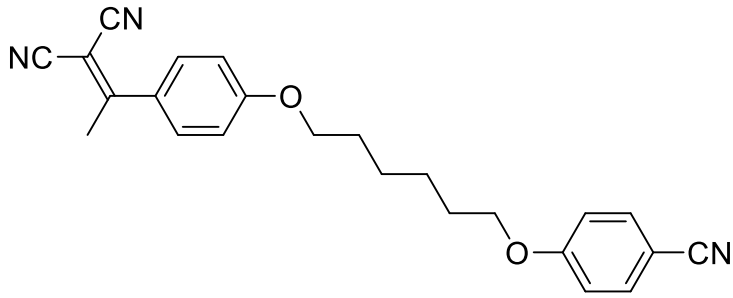


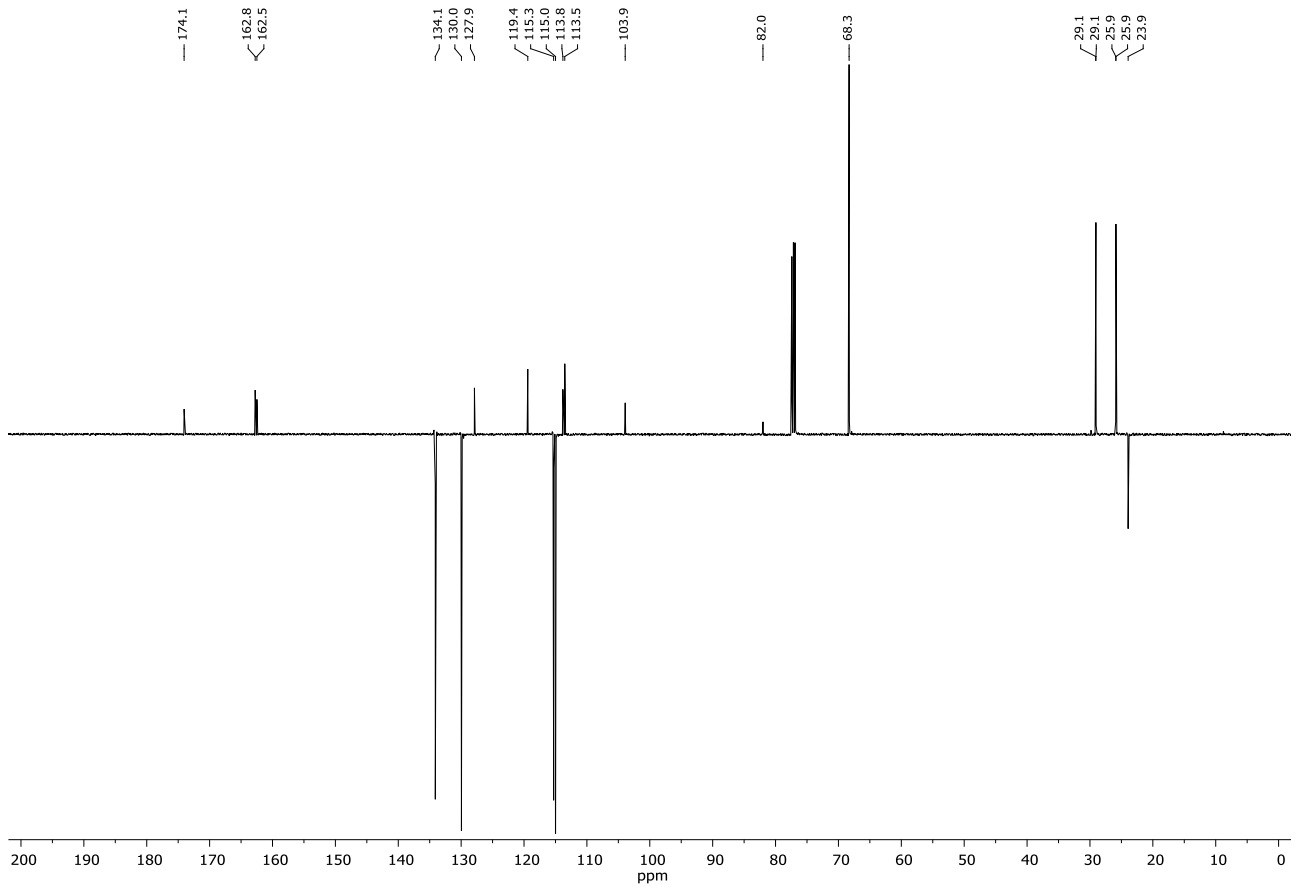
Compound 13a



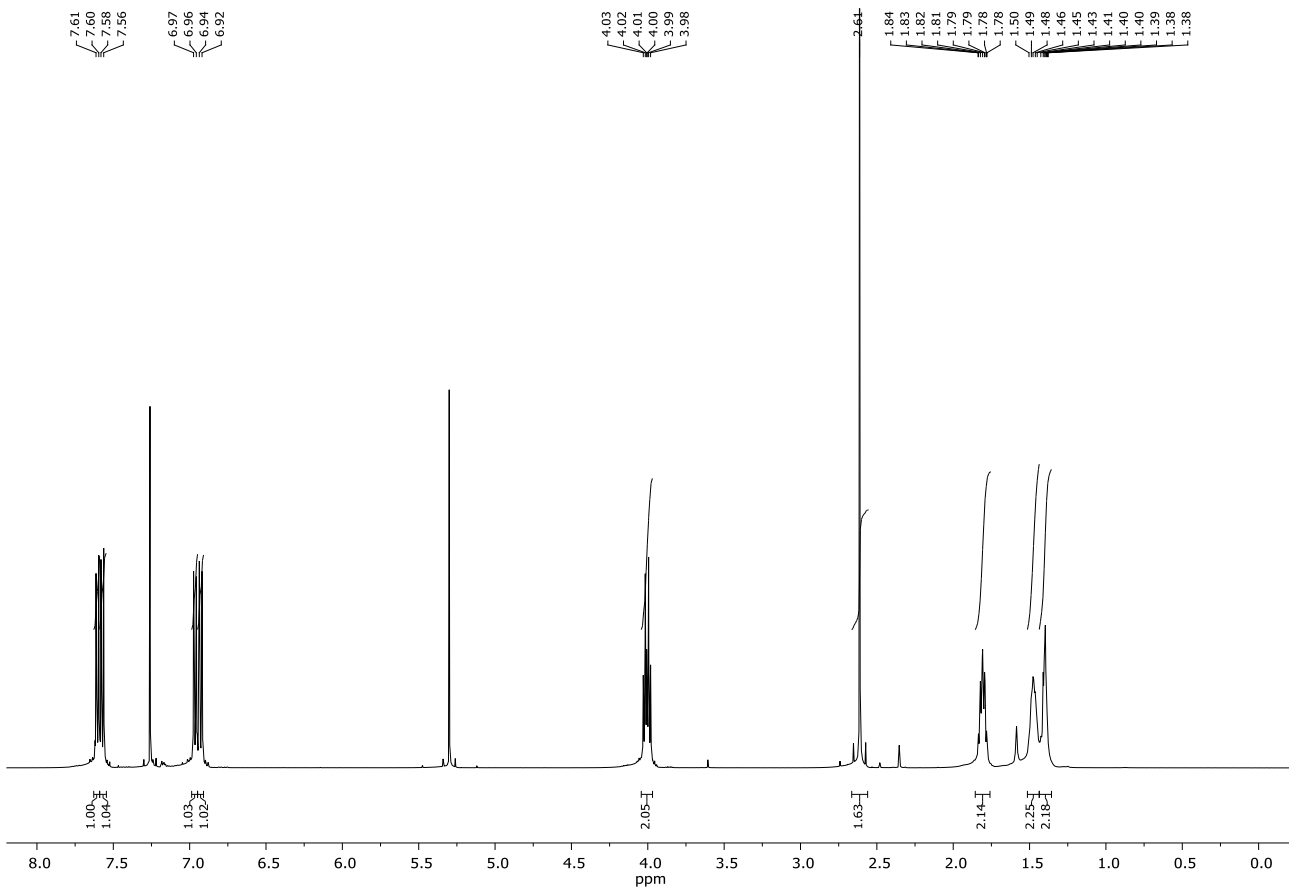
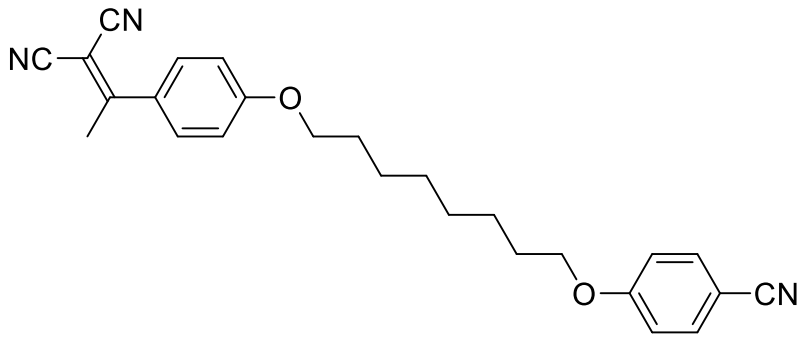


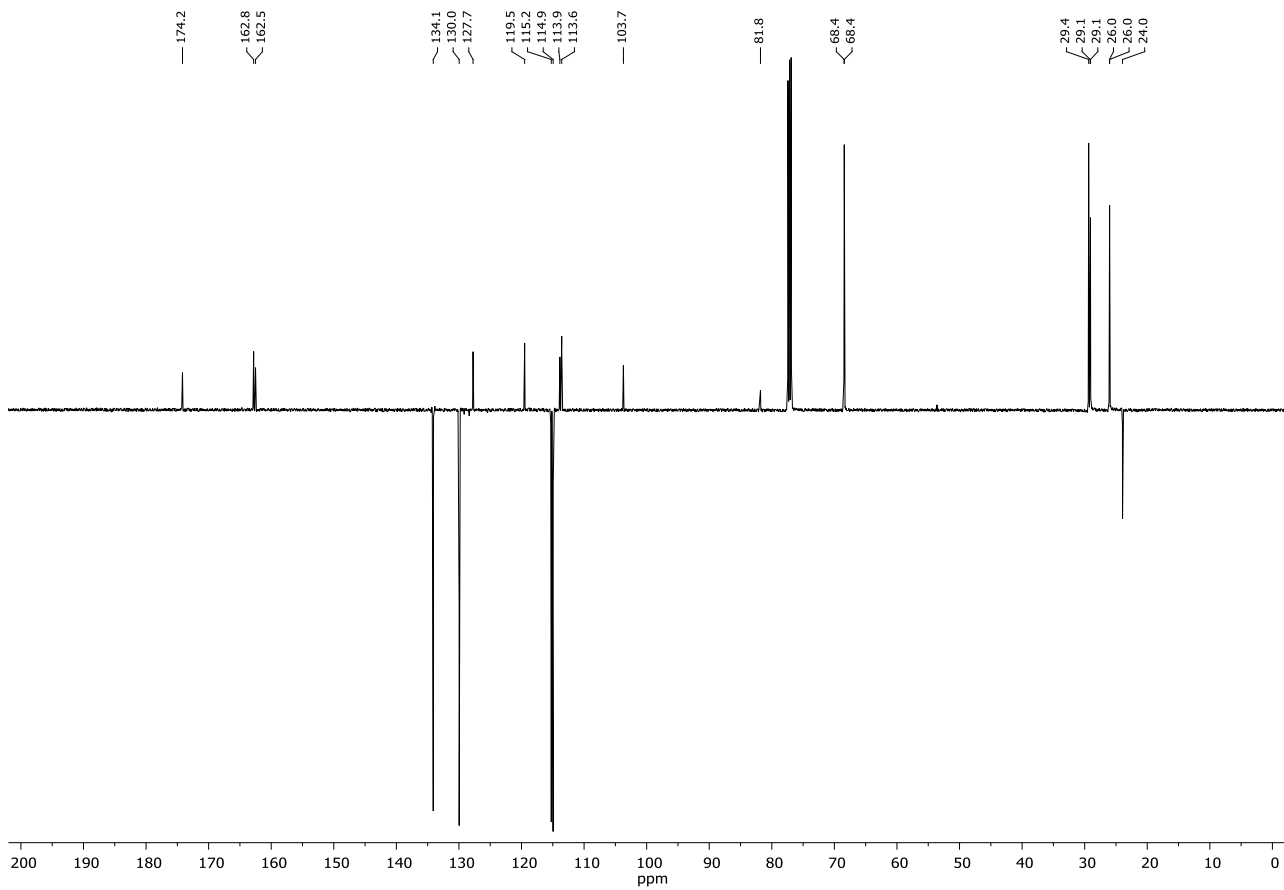
Compound 13b



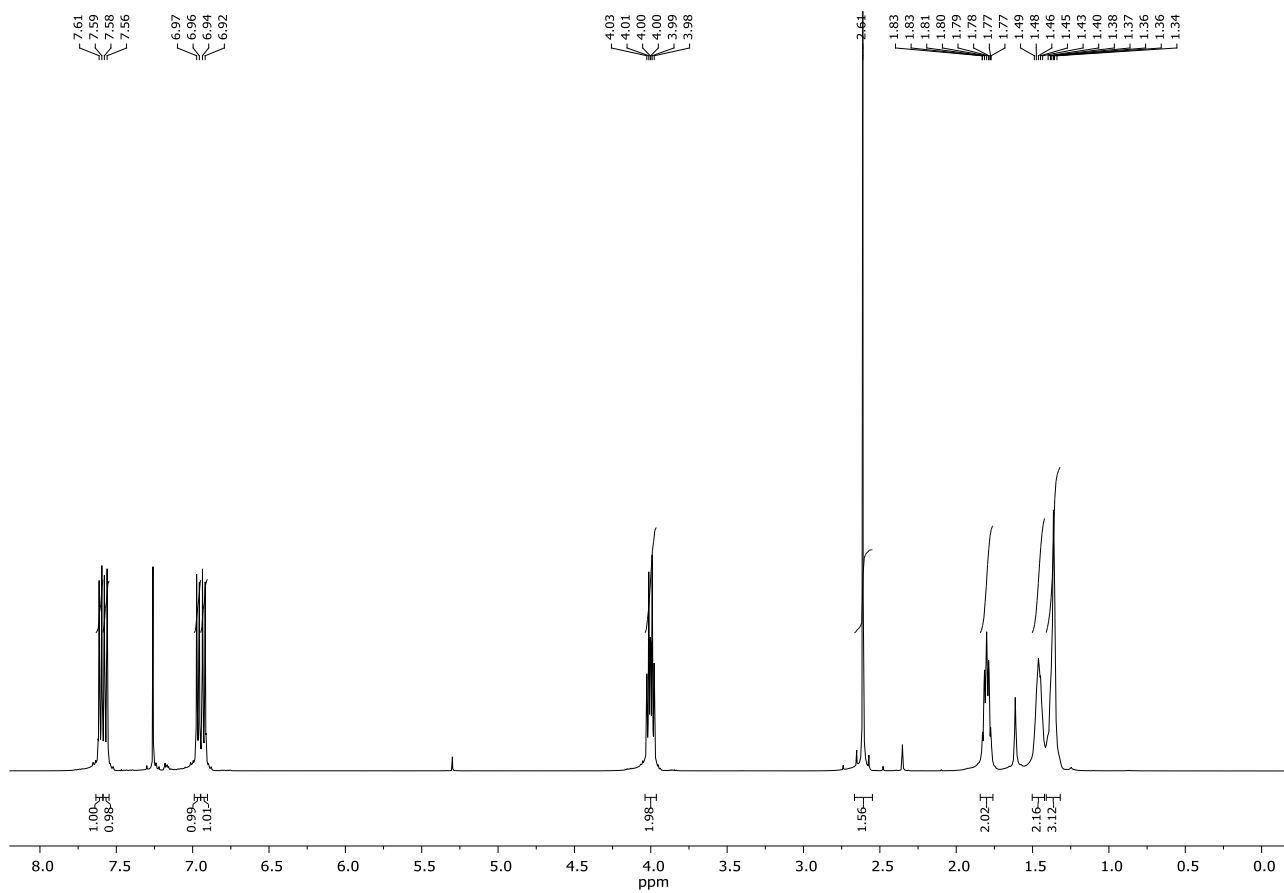
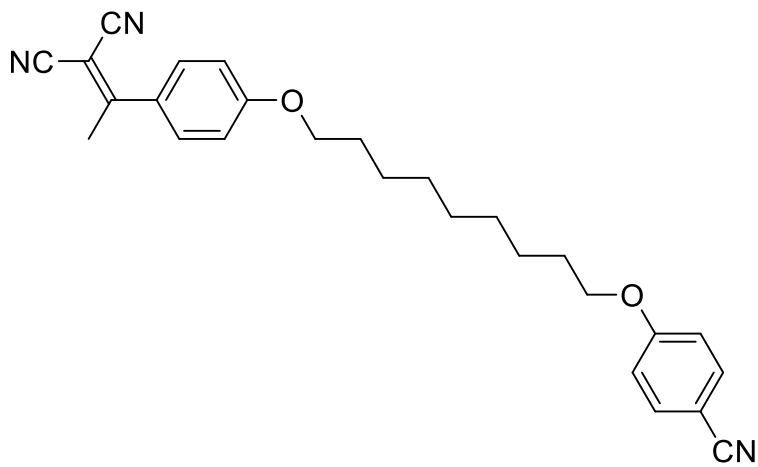


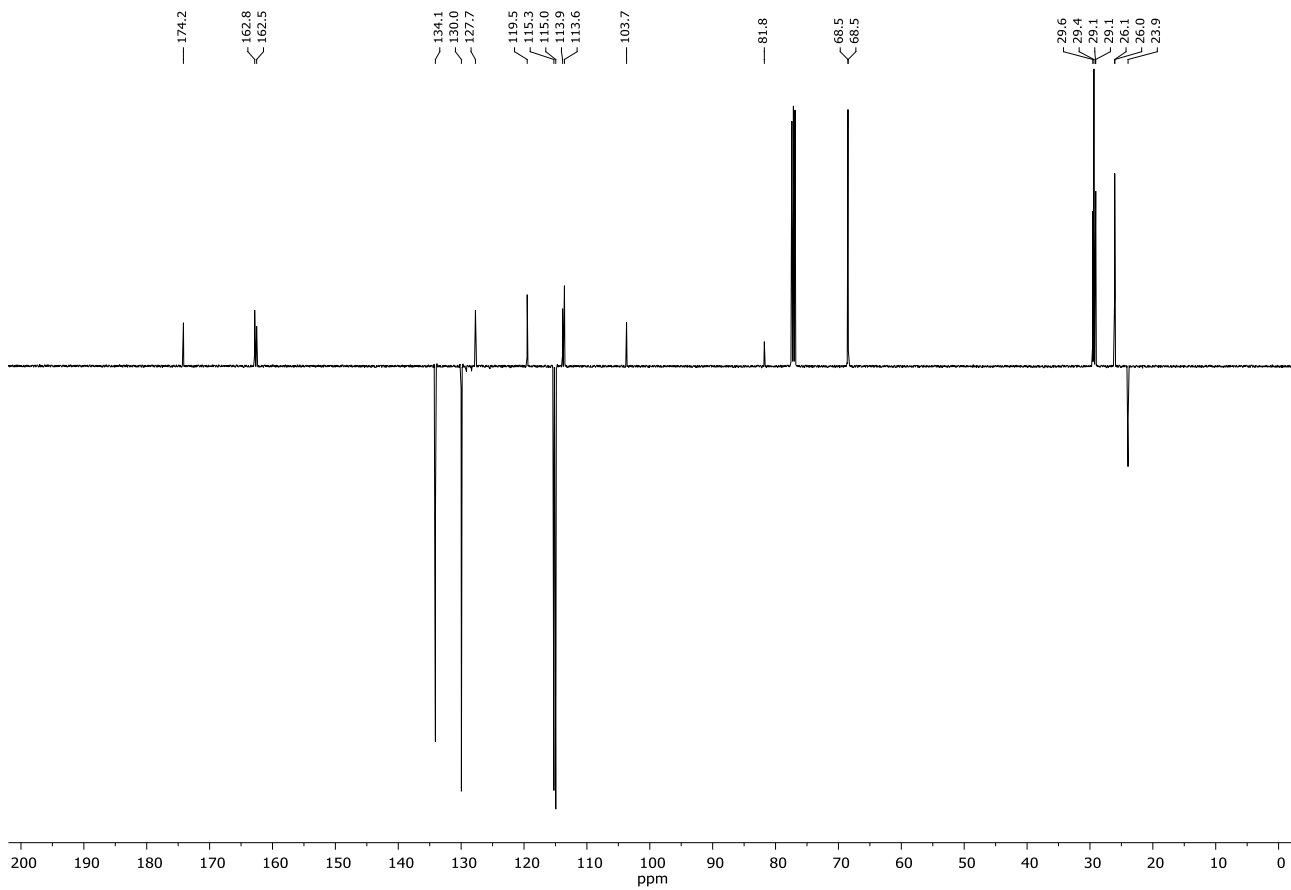
Compound 13c



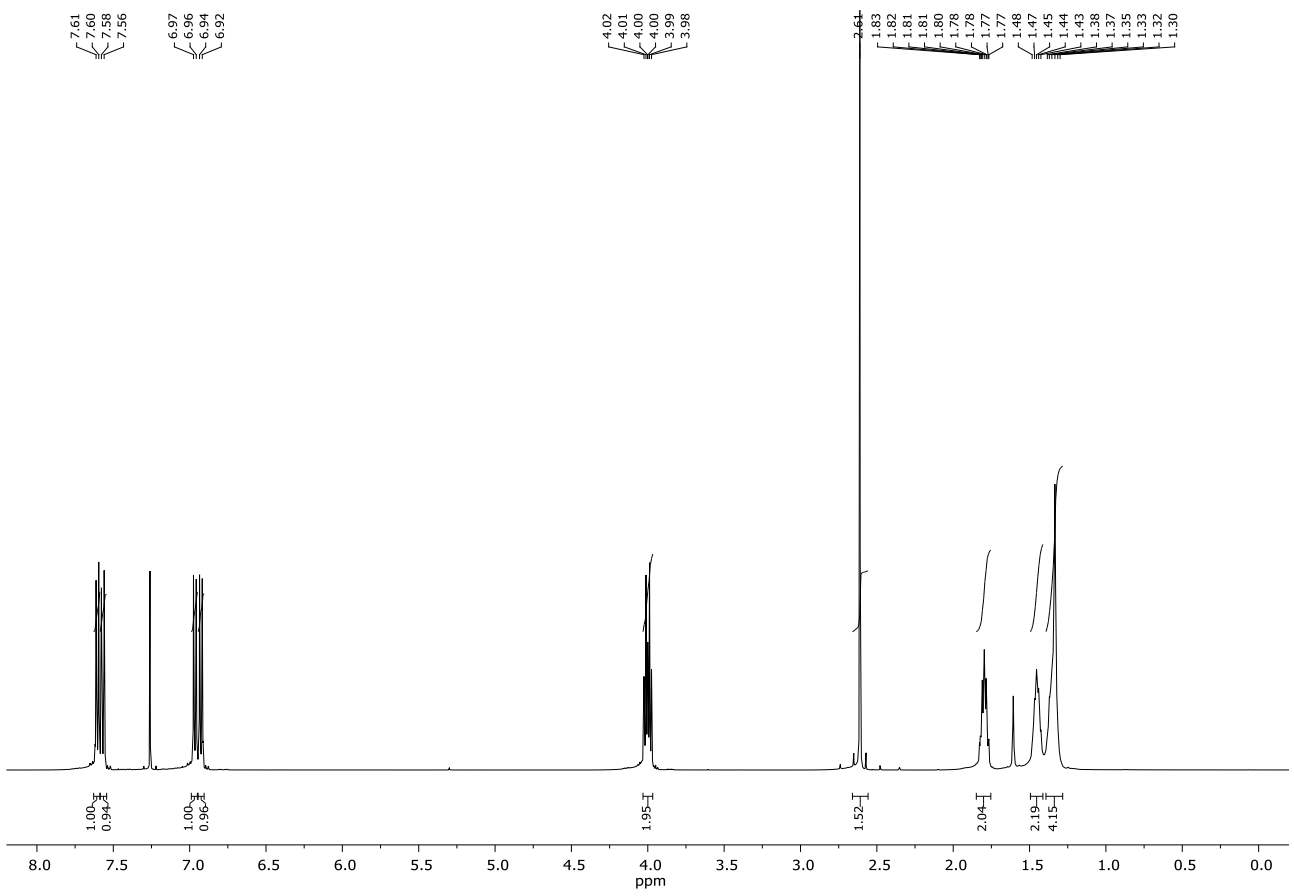
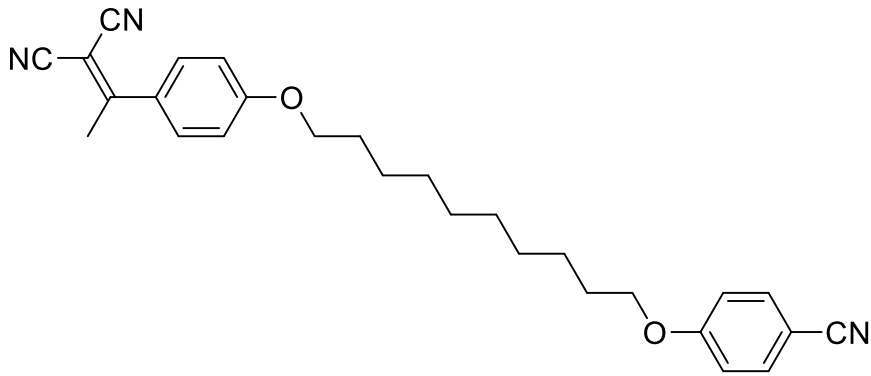


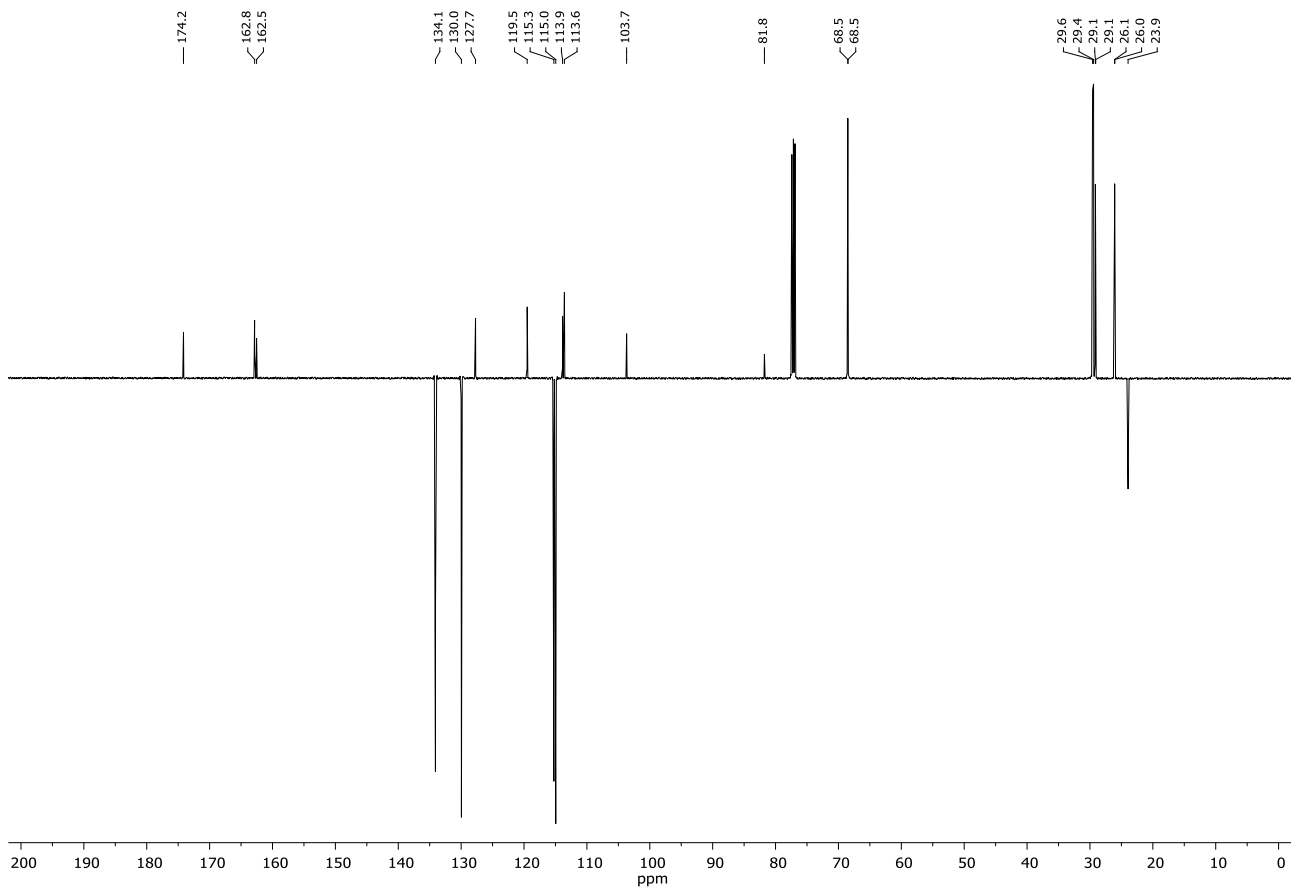
Compound 13d



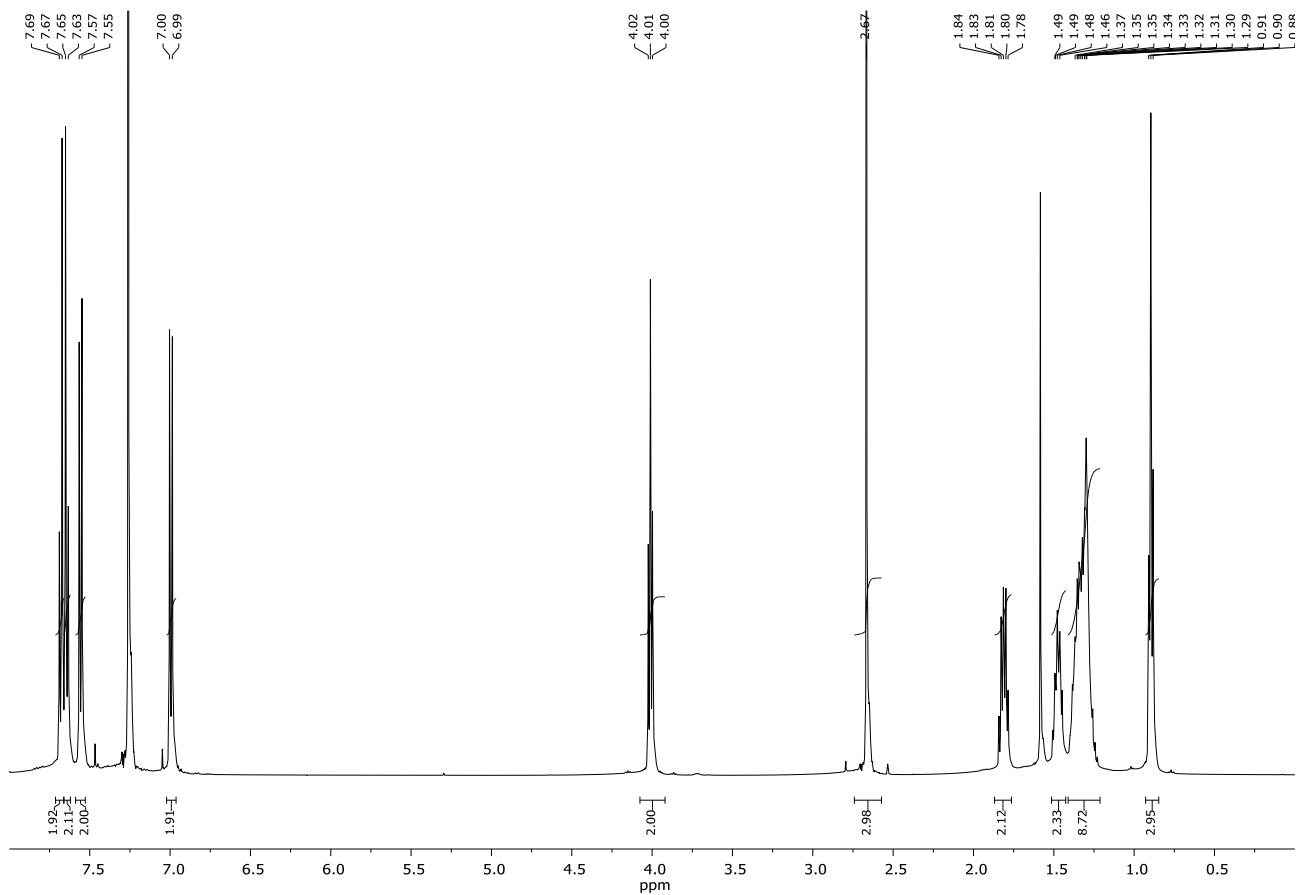
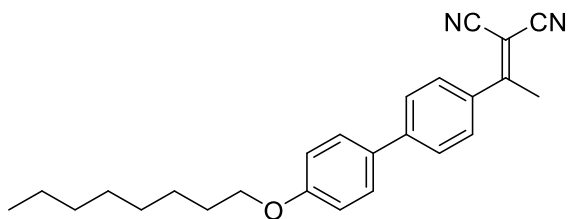


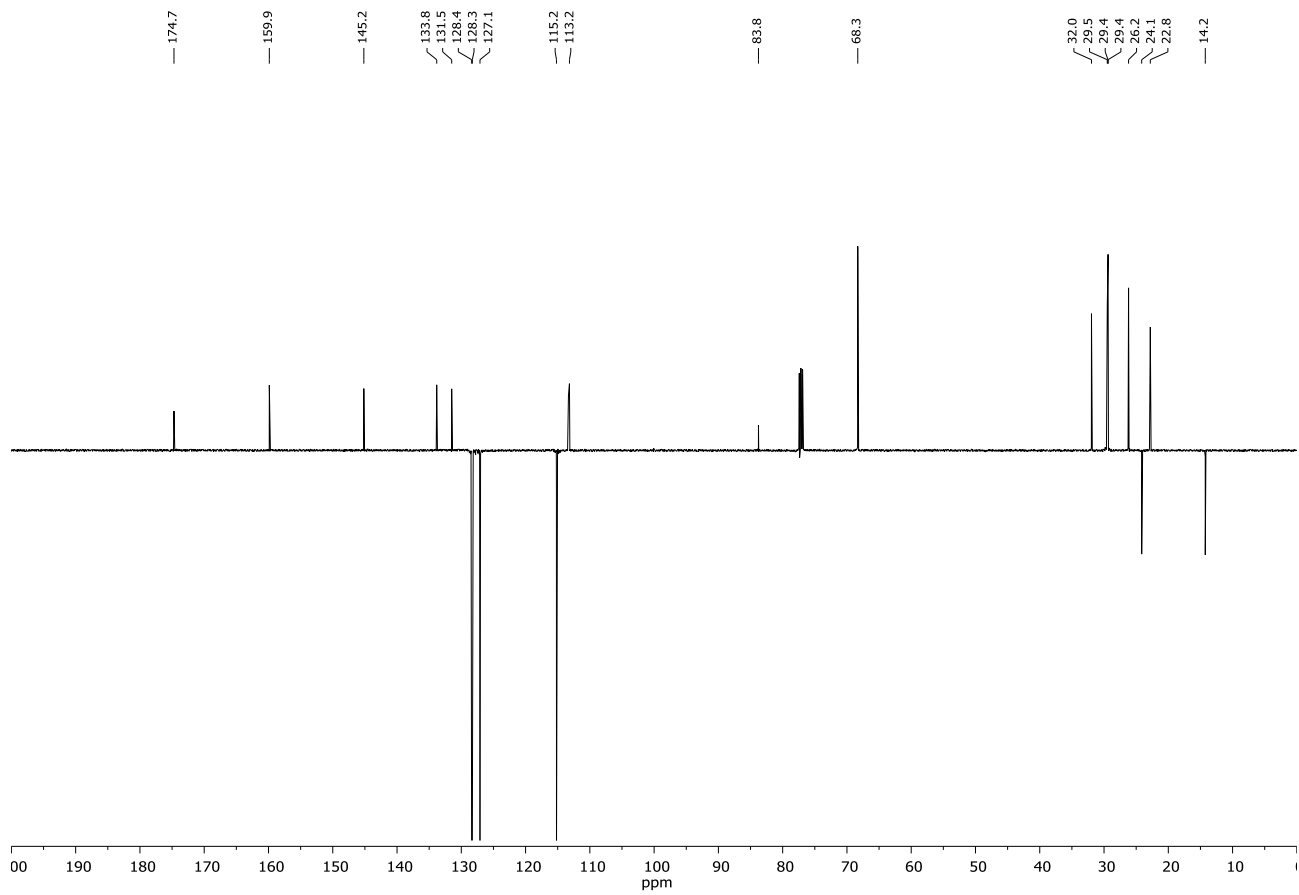
Compound 13e



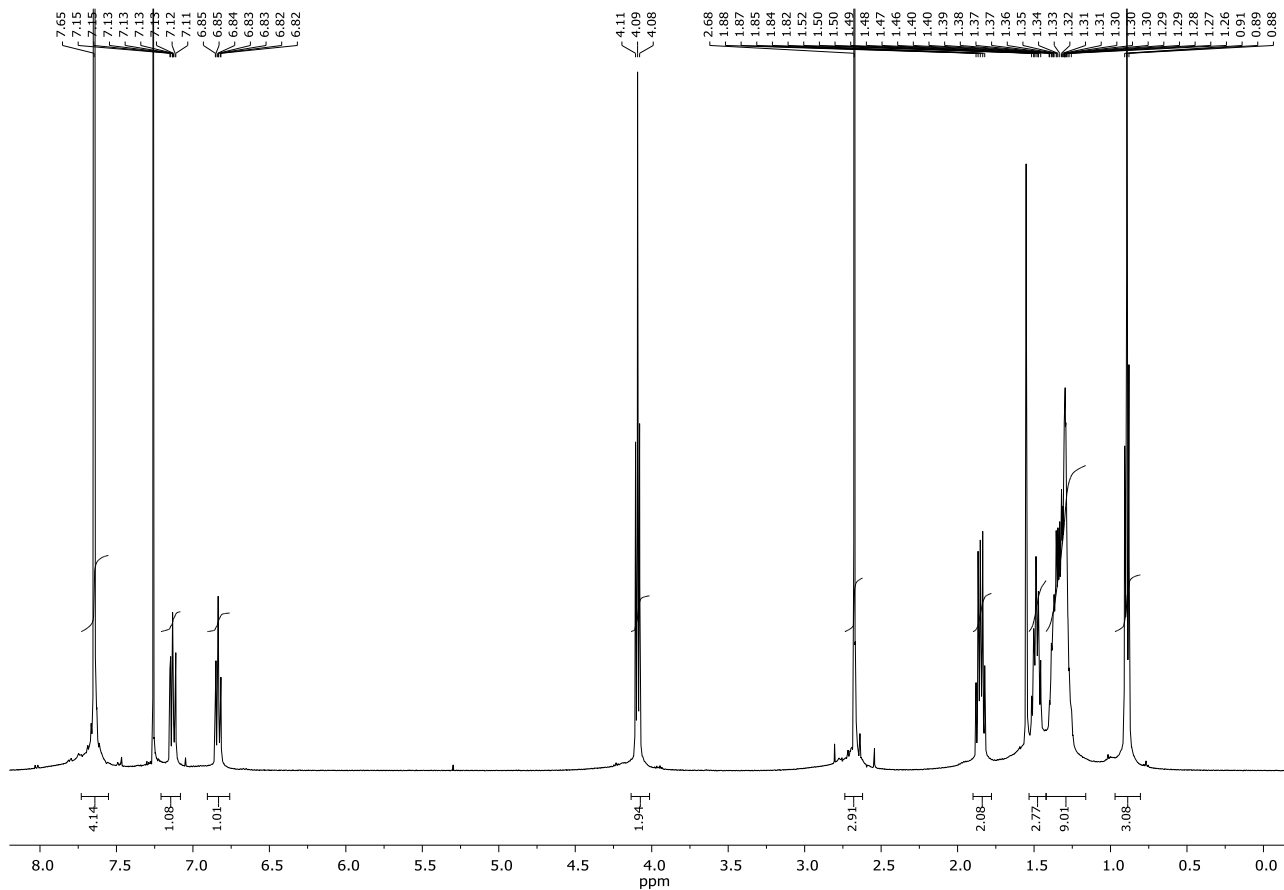
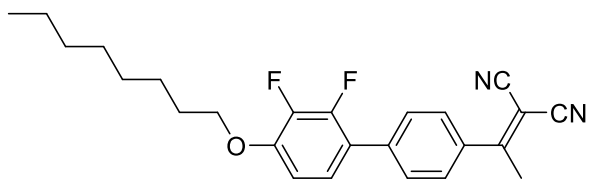


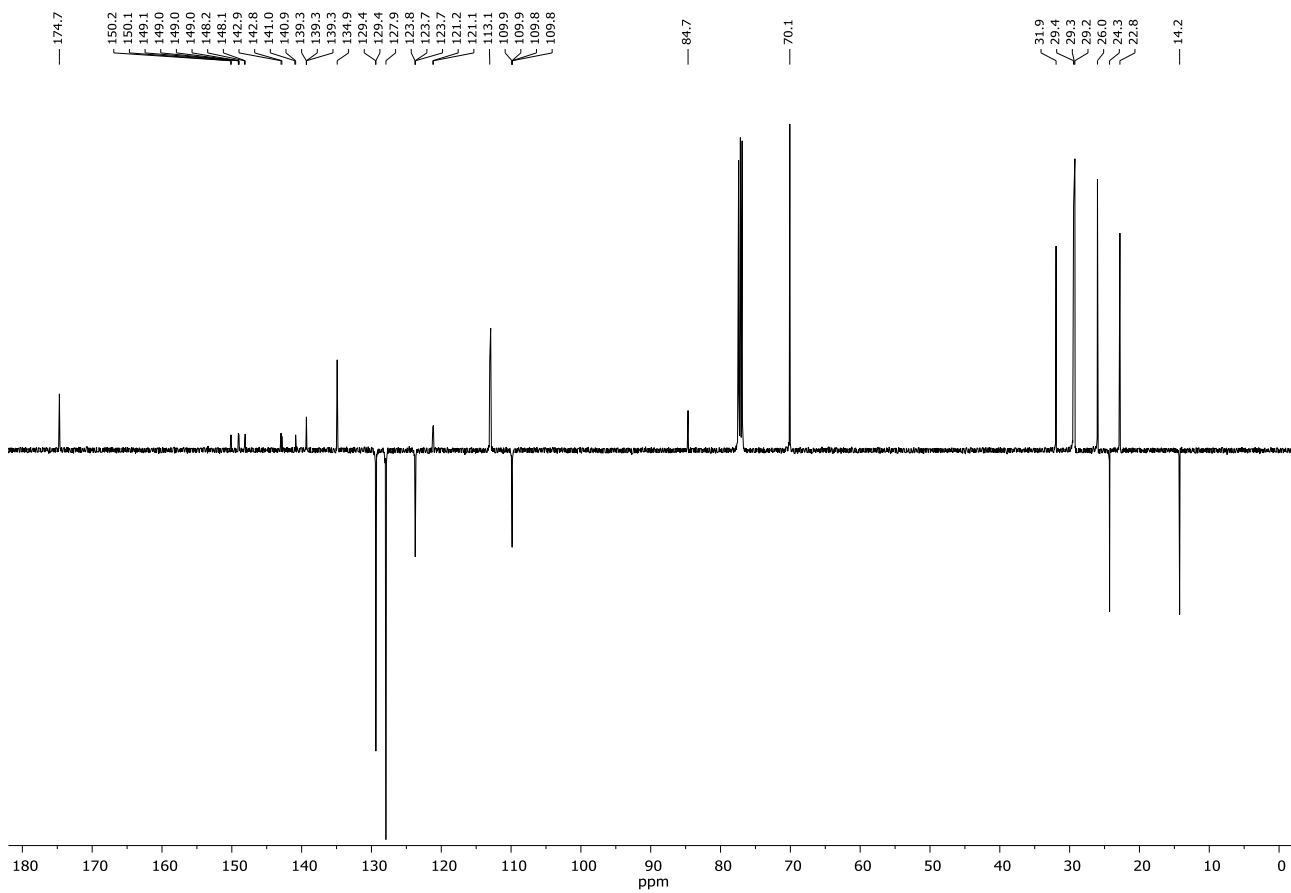
Compound 13f



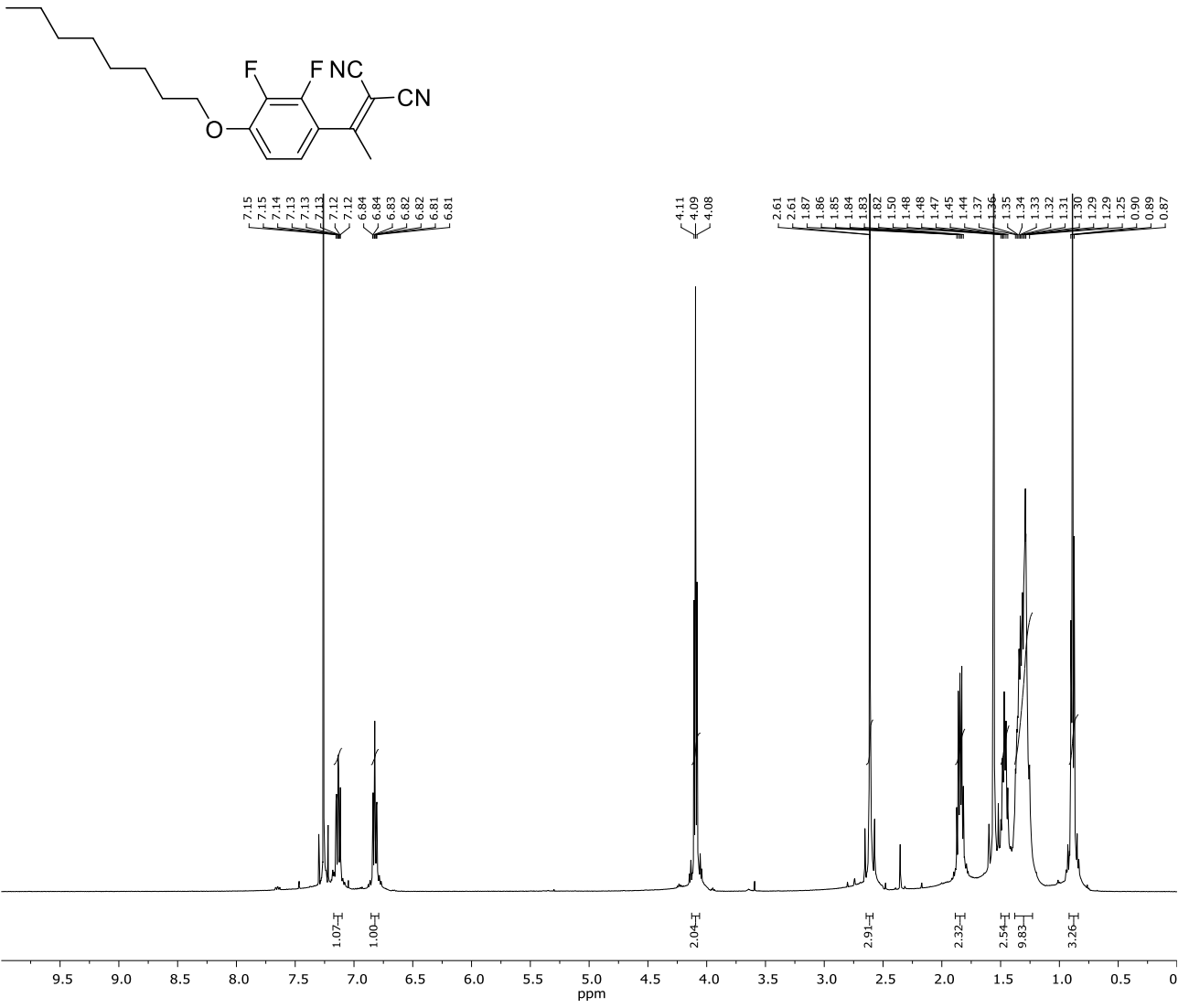


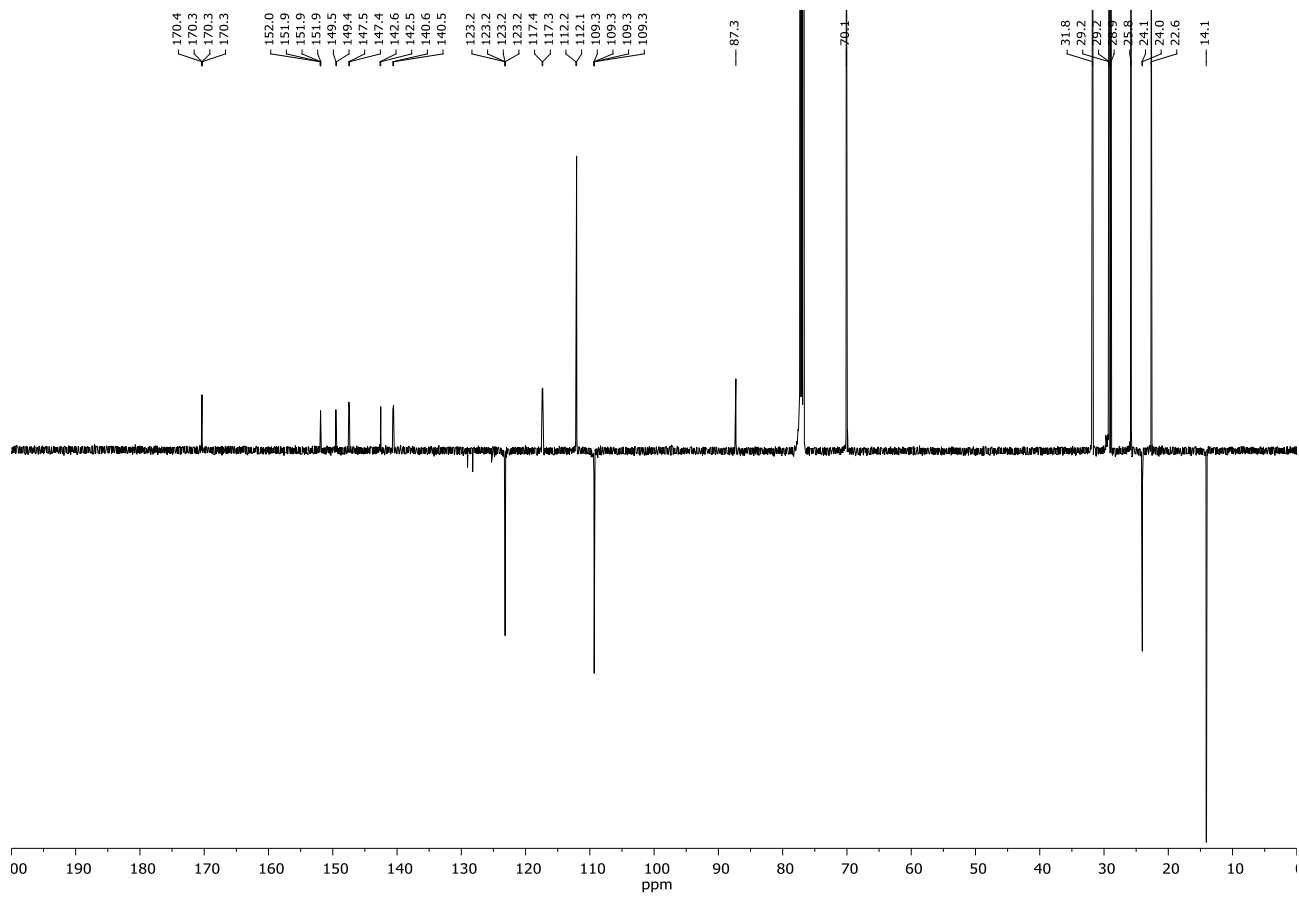
Compound 13g



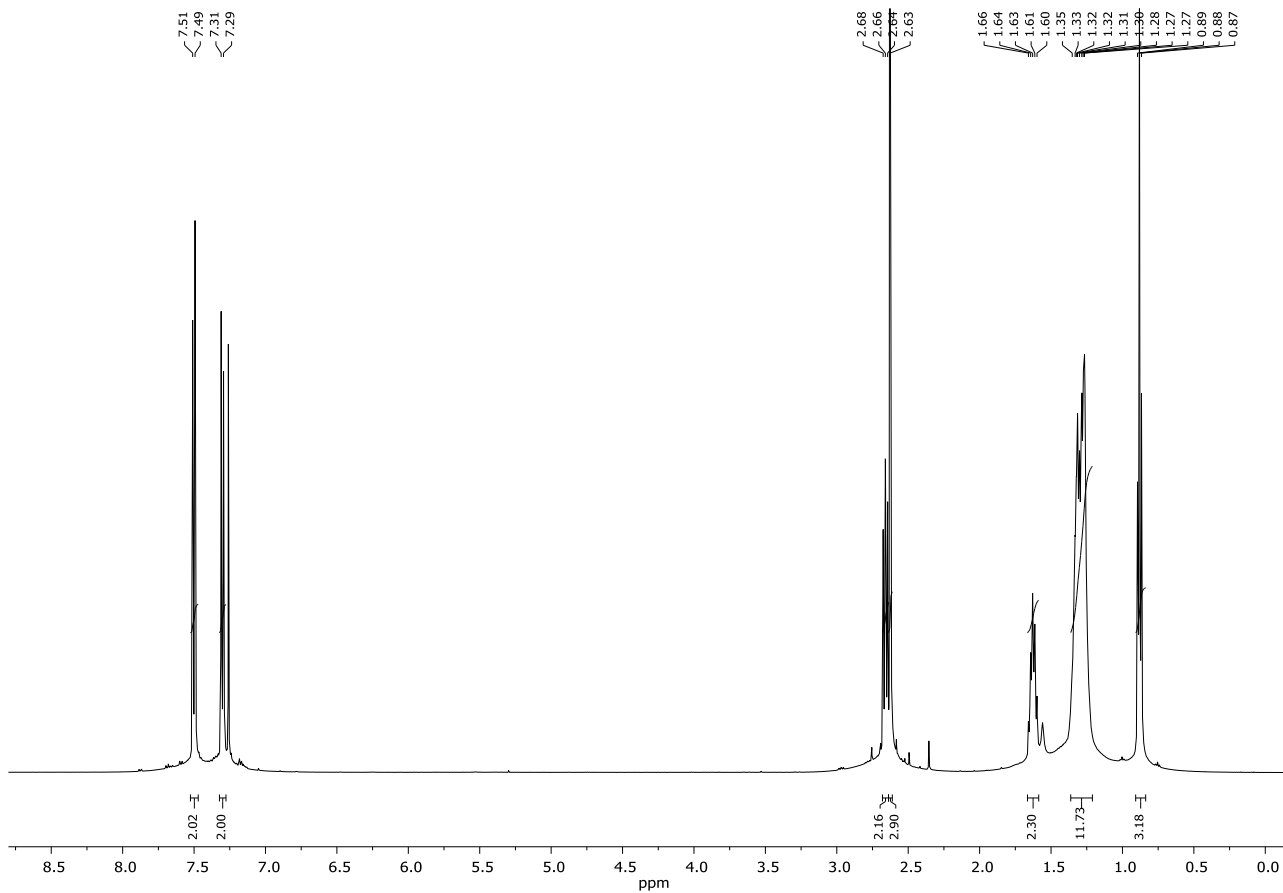
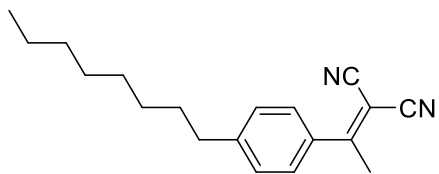


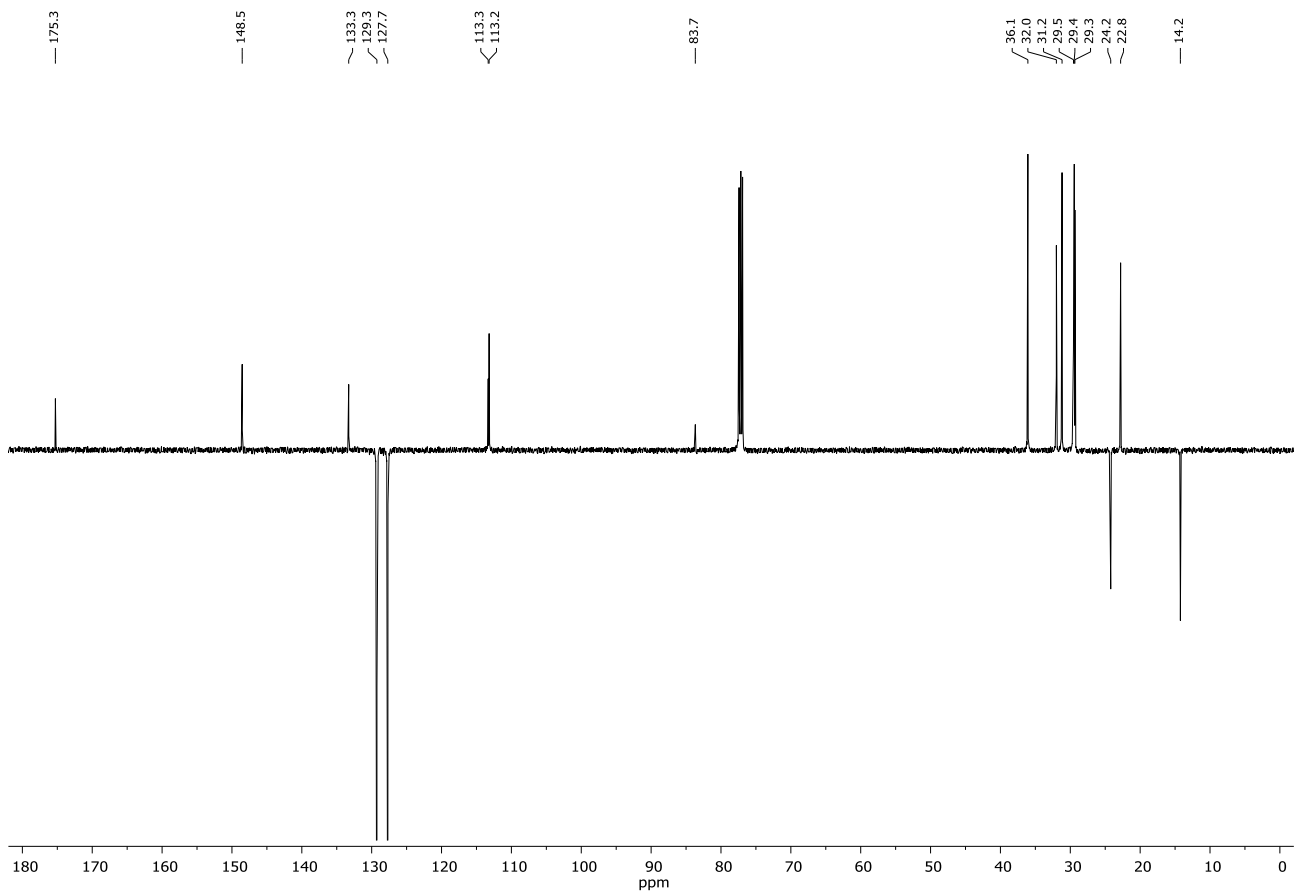
Compound 13h



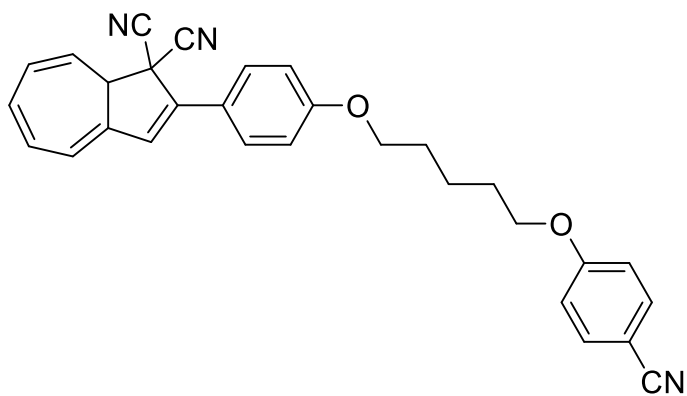


Compound 13i





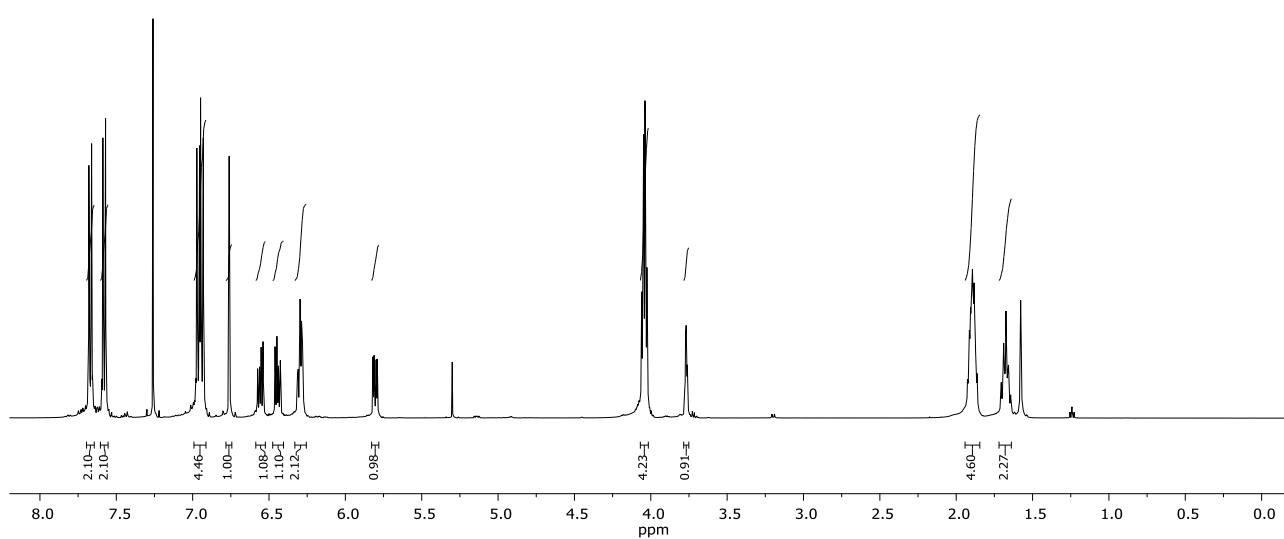
Compound 3a

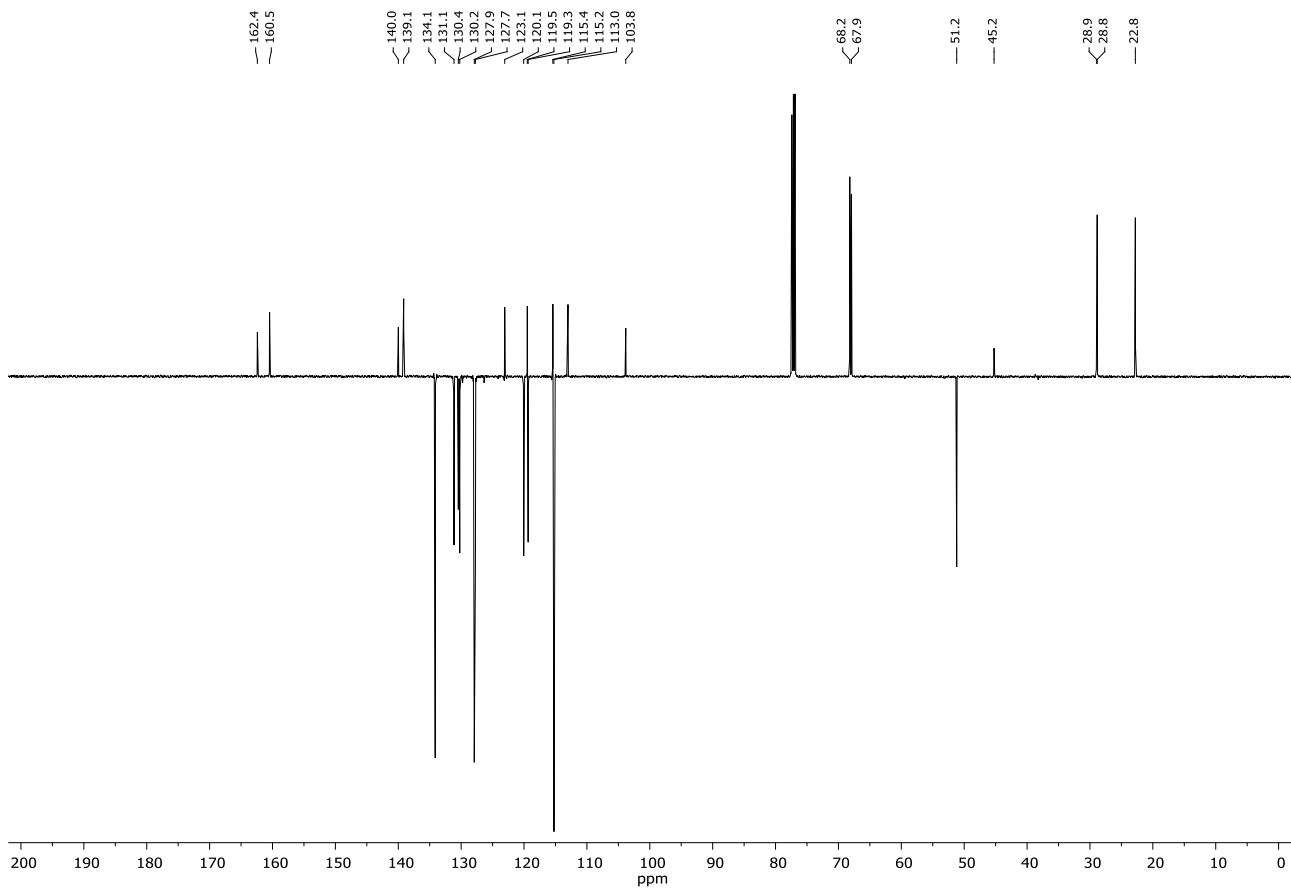


7.68
7.66
7.59
7.57
6.97
6.95
6.93
6.76
6.57
6.56
6.55
6.54
6.46
6.45
6.44
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6.31
6.30
6.30
6.29
6.28
5.82
5.81
5.80
5.79

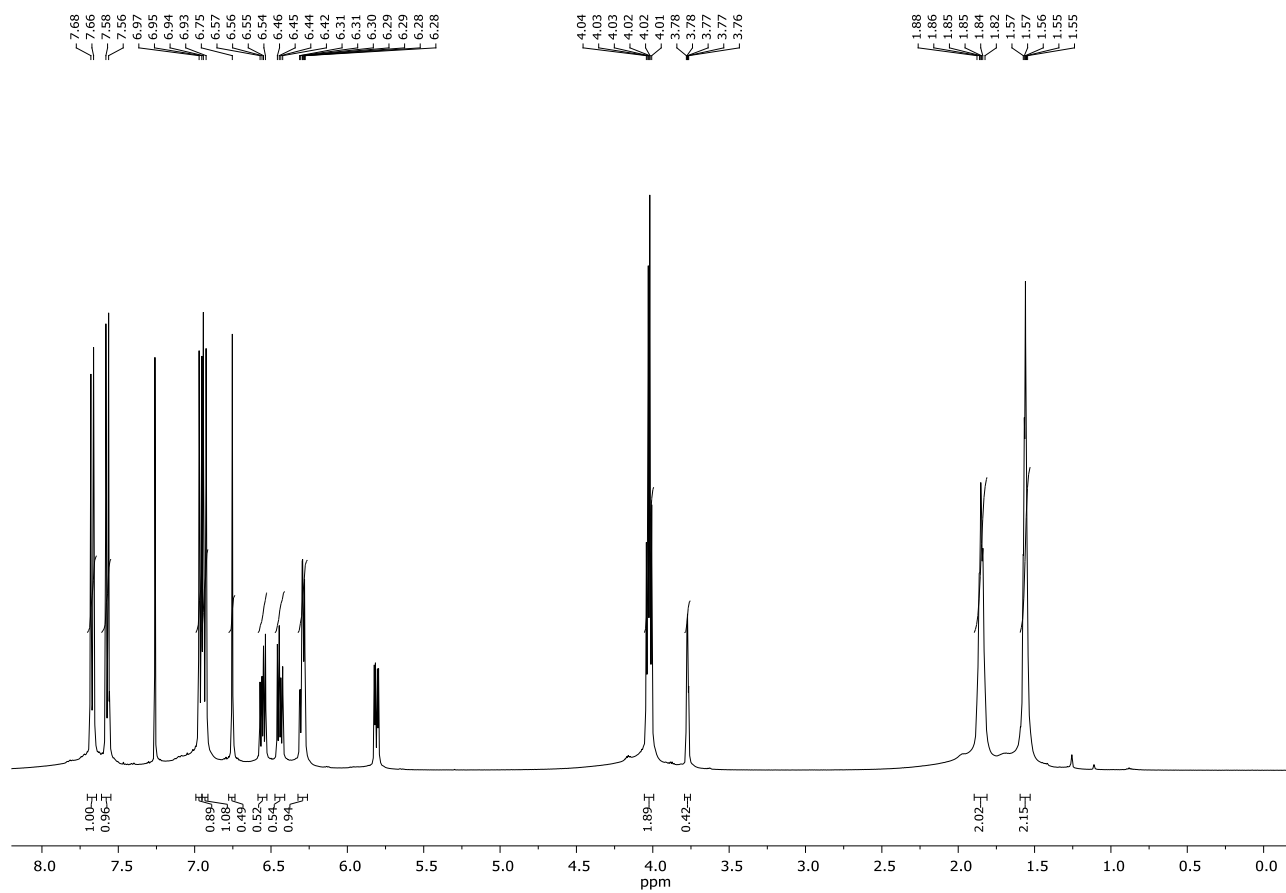
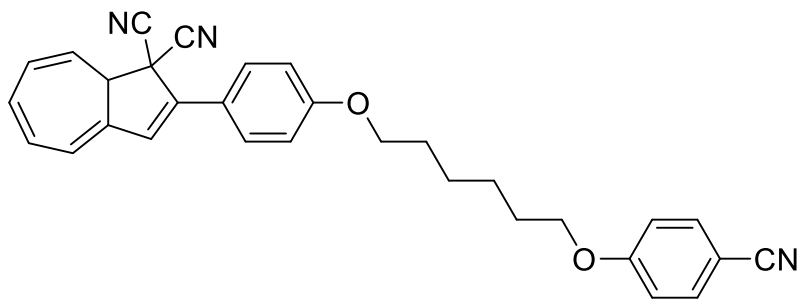
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4.04
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4.03
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3.77
3.76

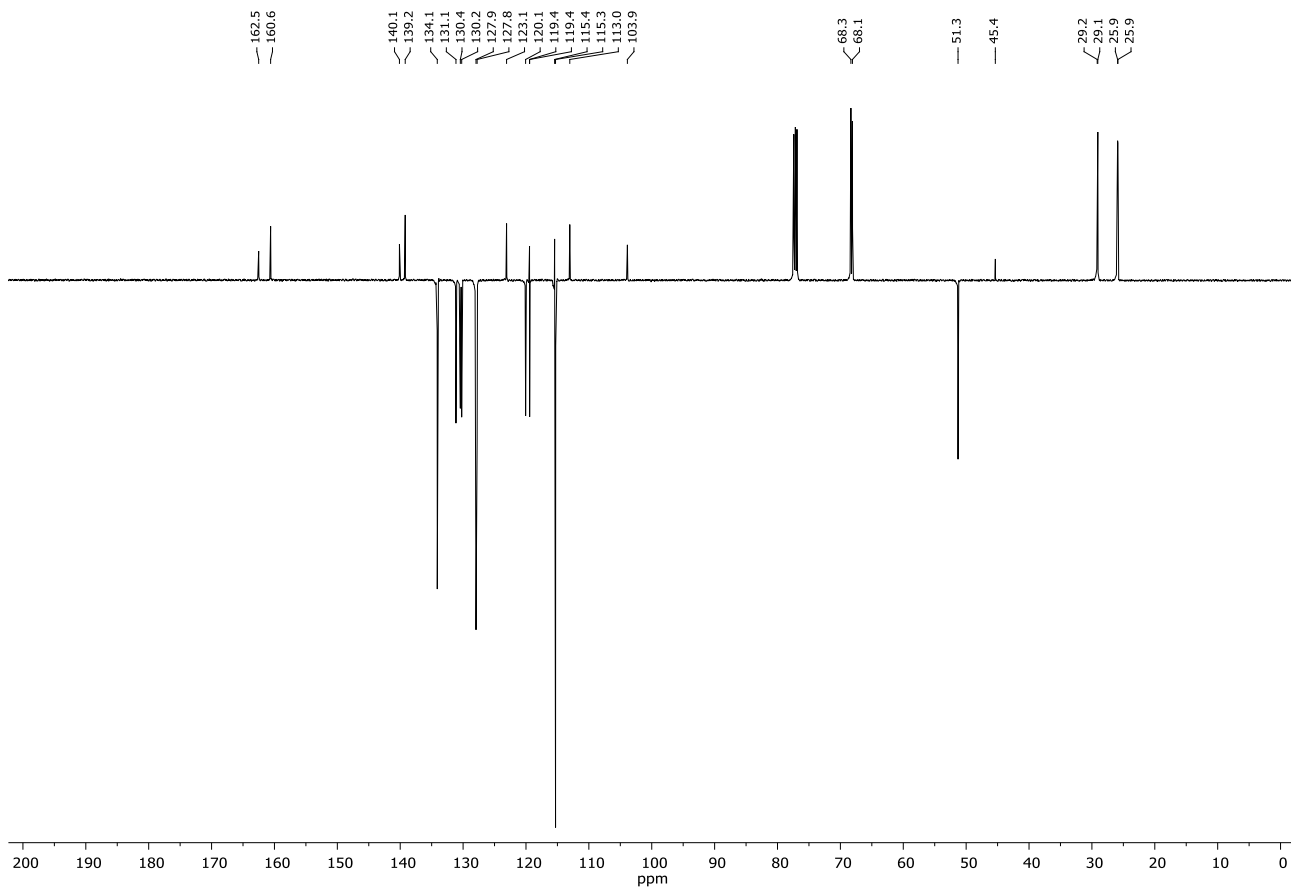
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1.88
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1.68
1.67
1.67
1.66
1.66
1.64



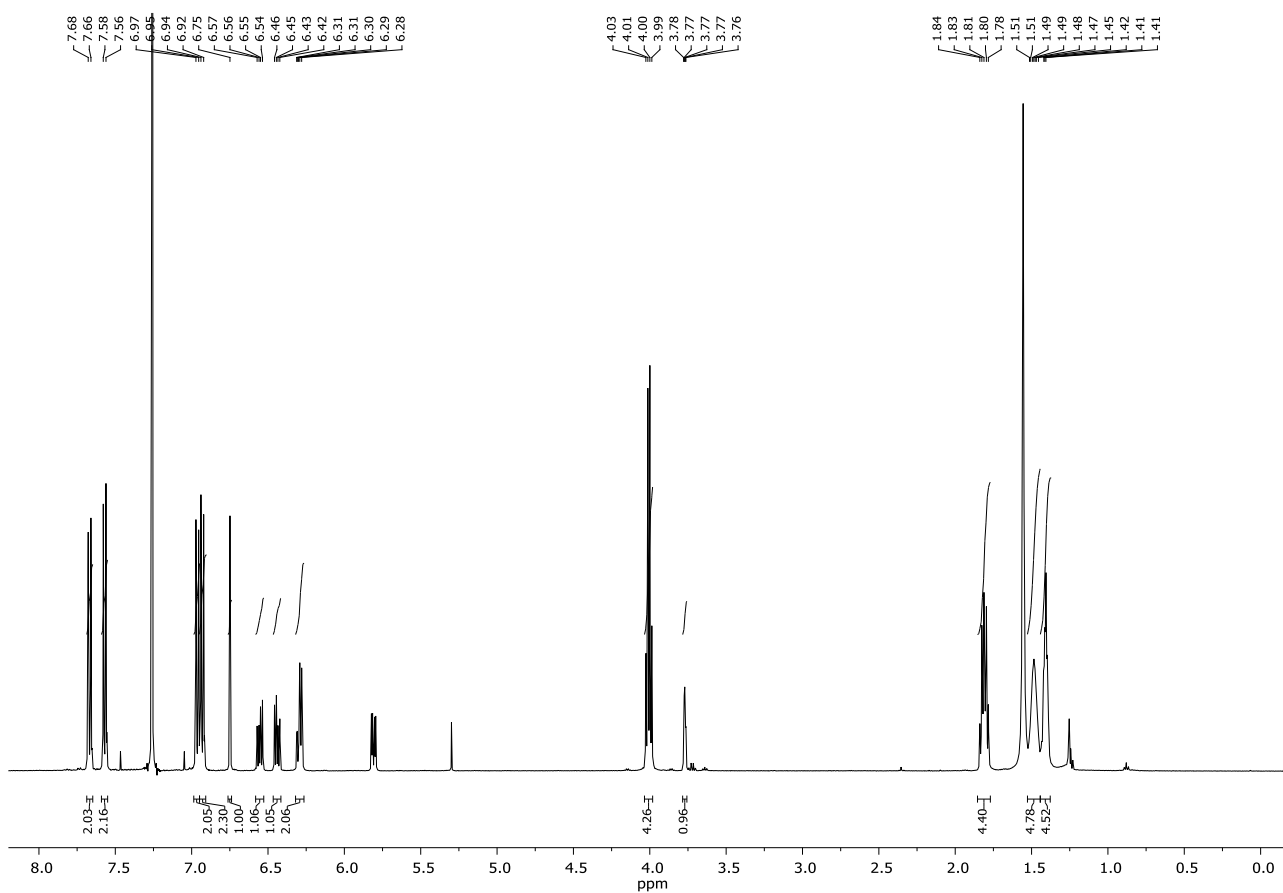
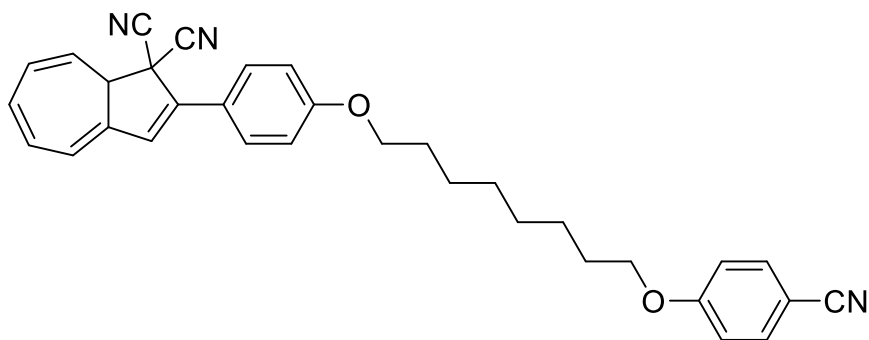


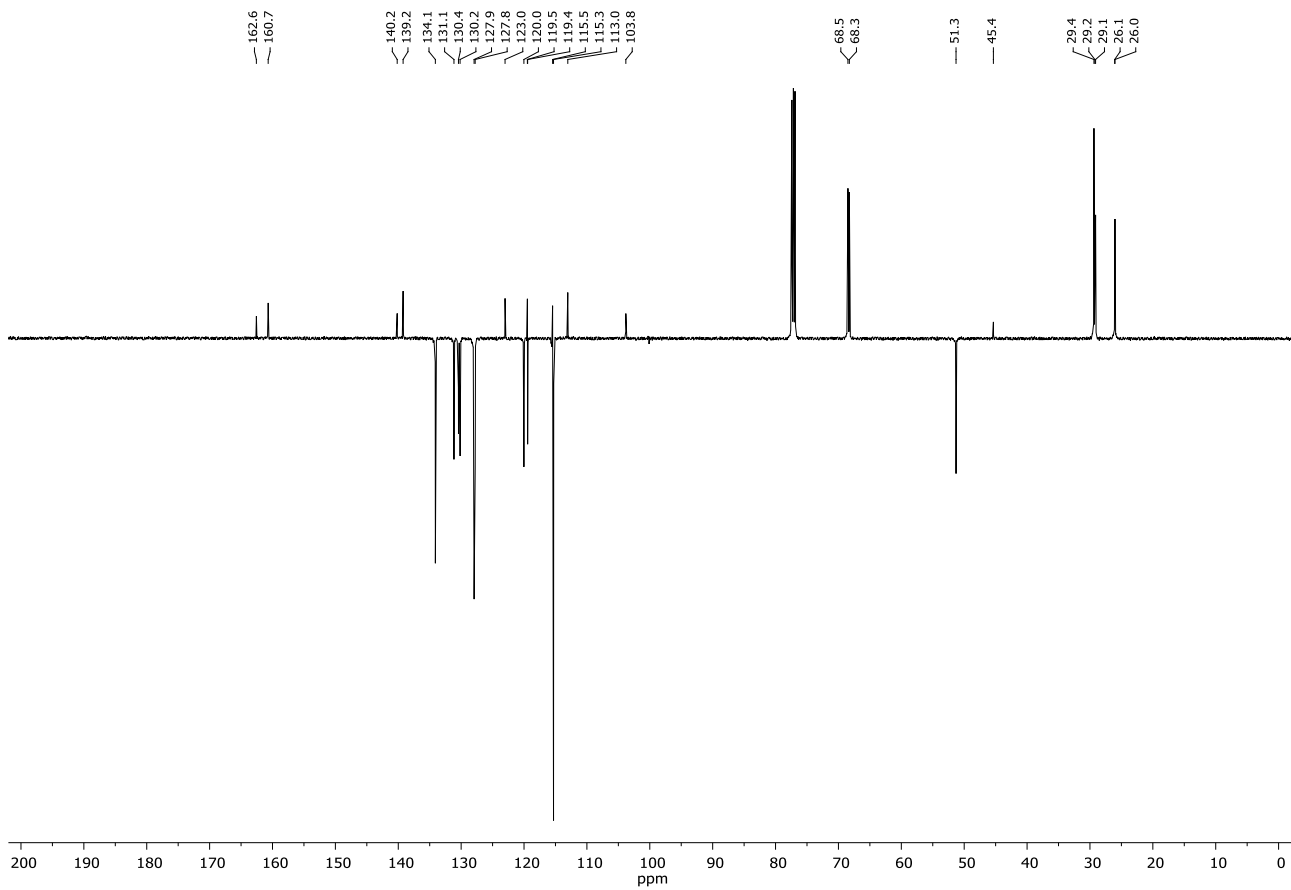
Compound 3b



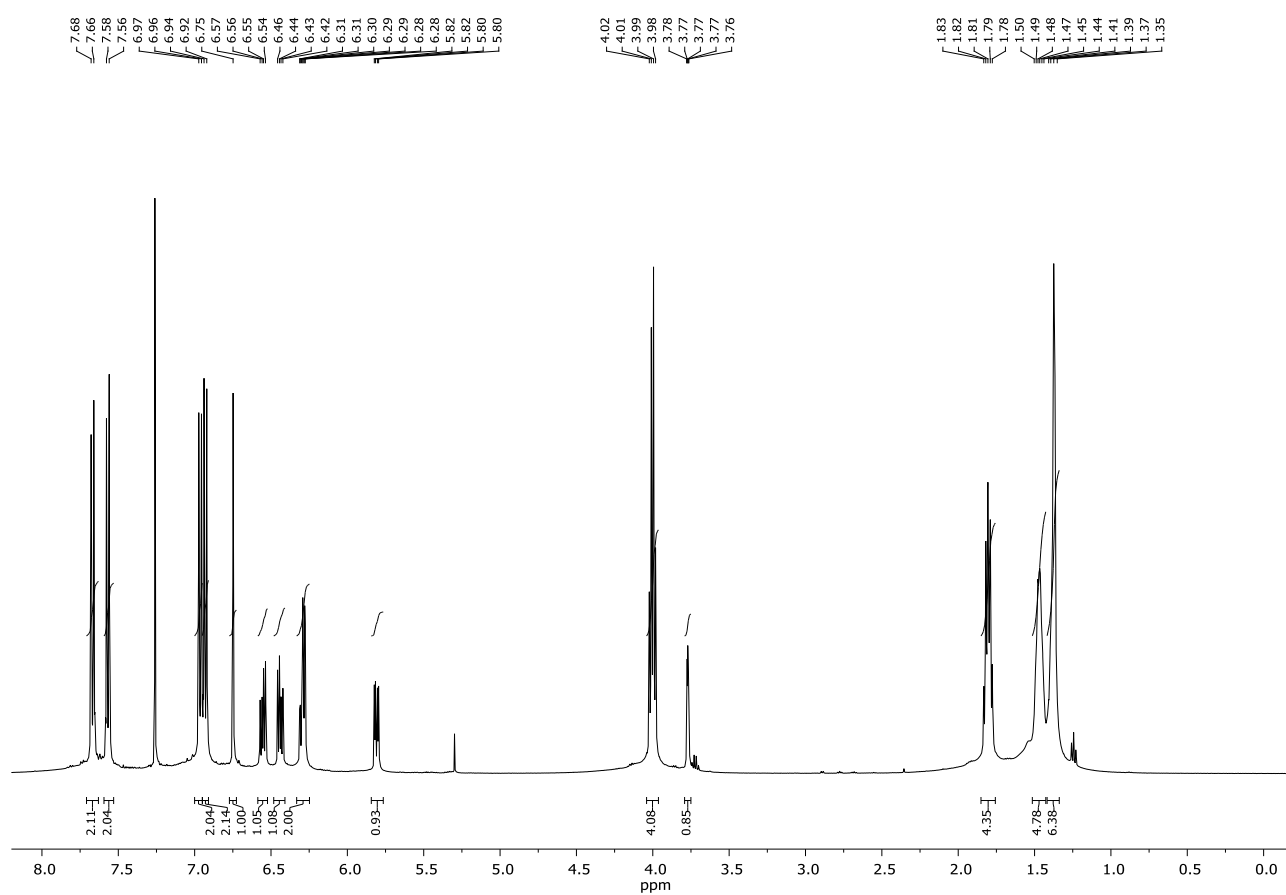
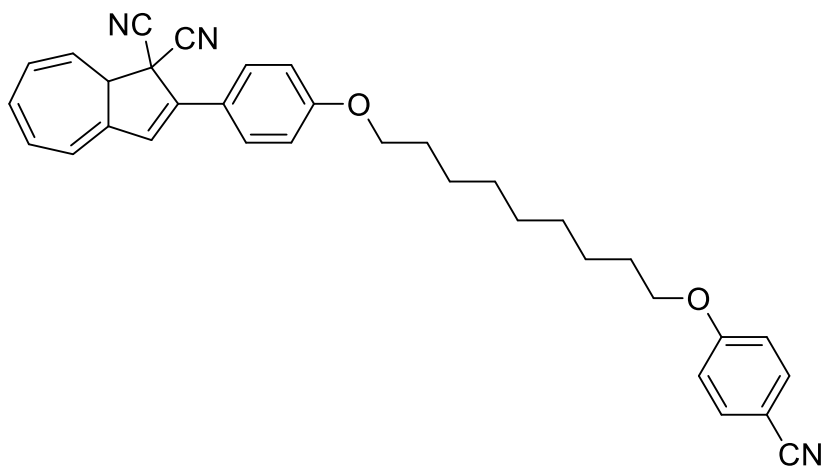


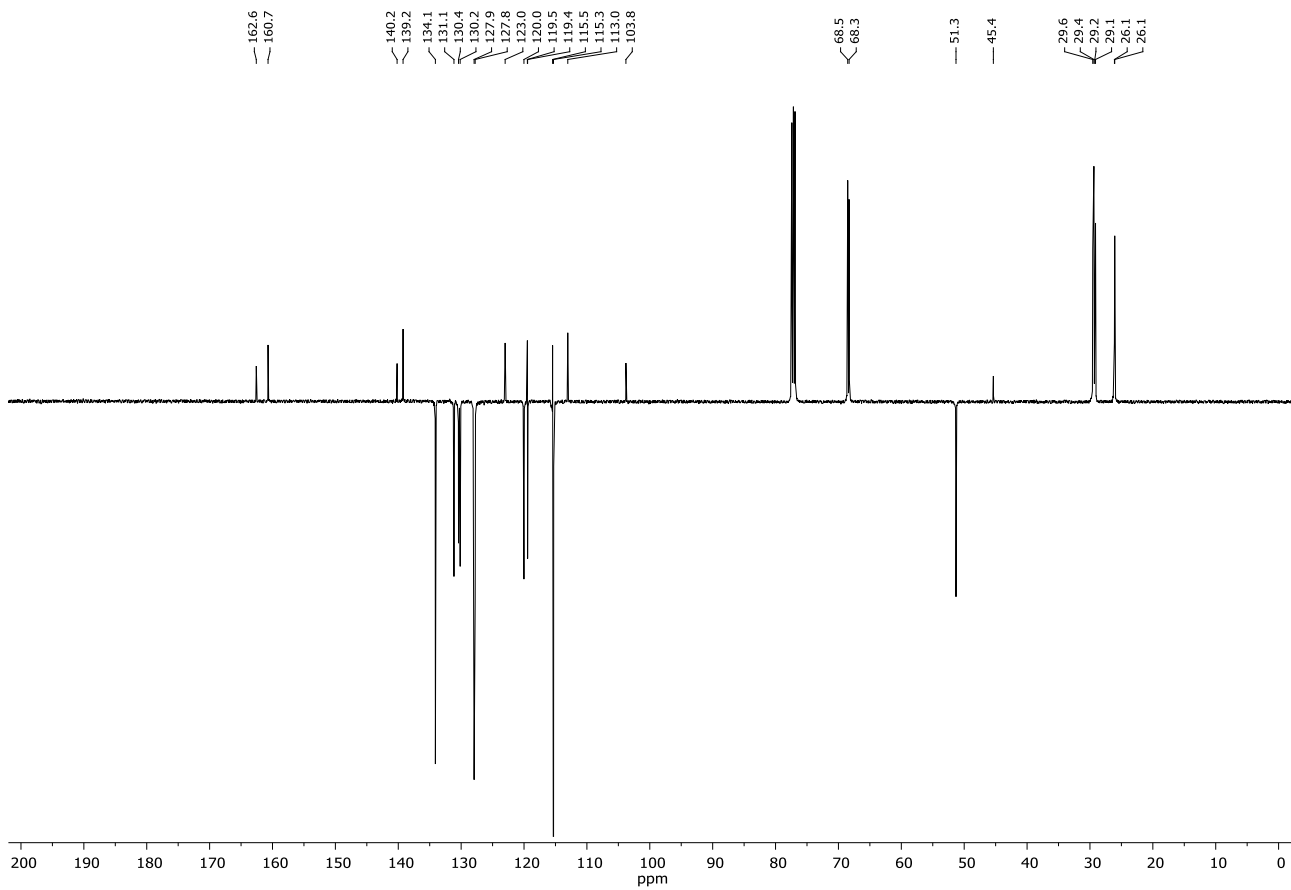
Compound 3c



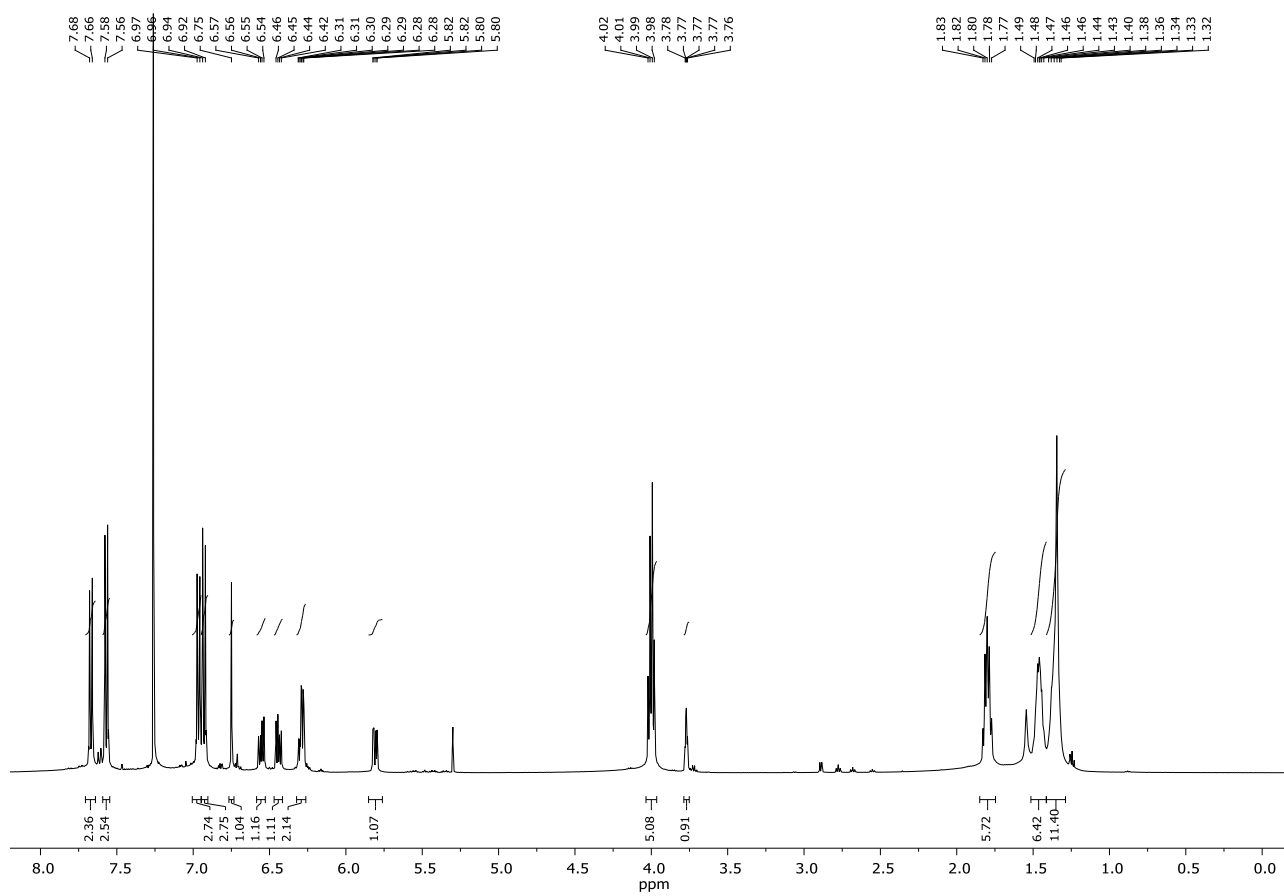
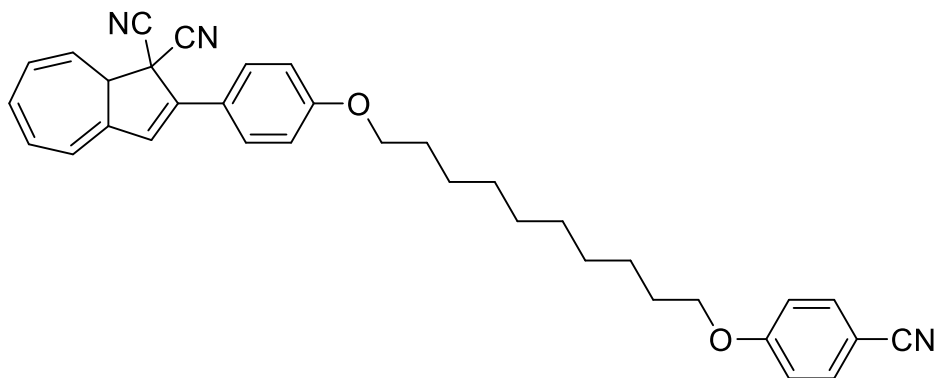


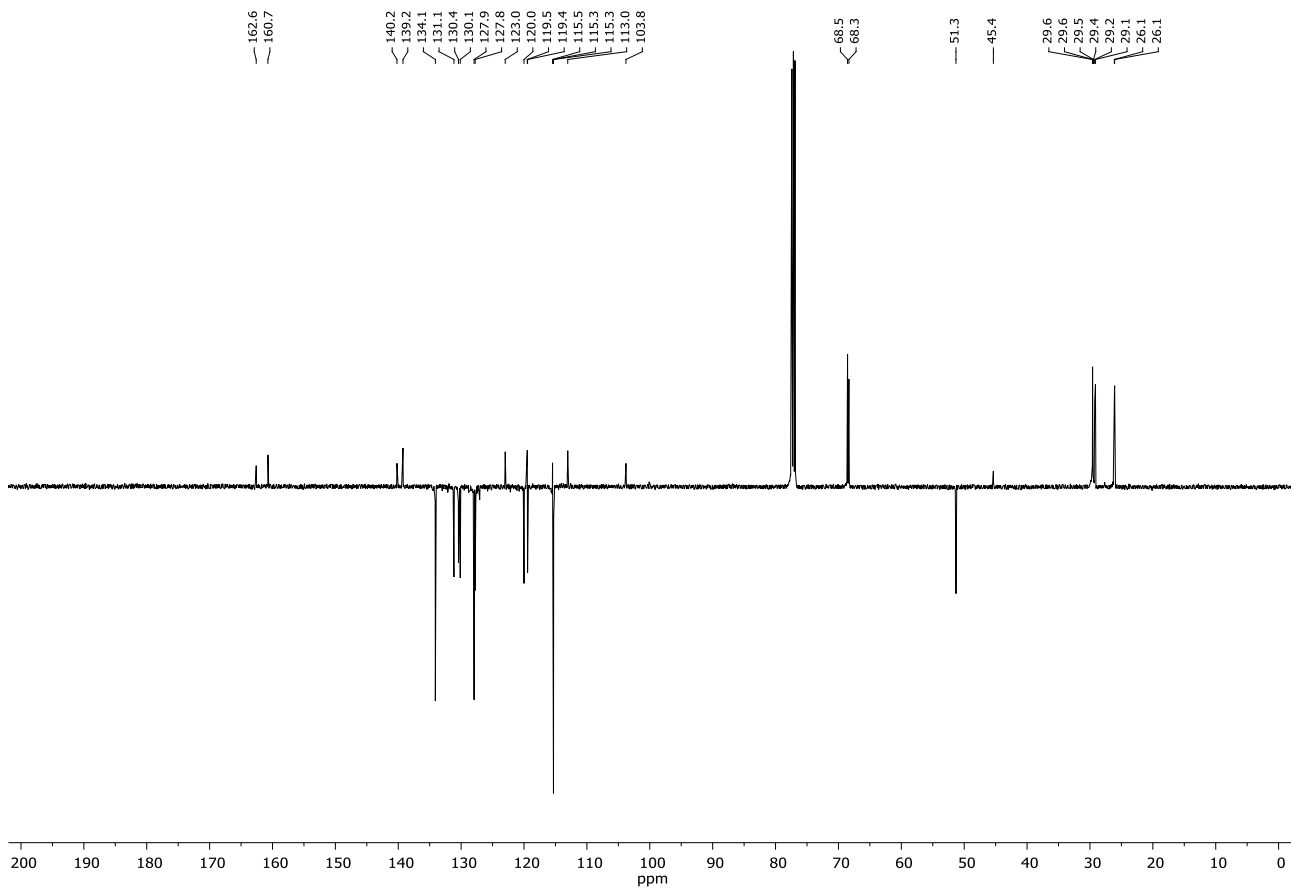
Compound 3d

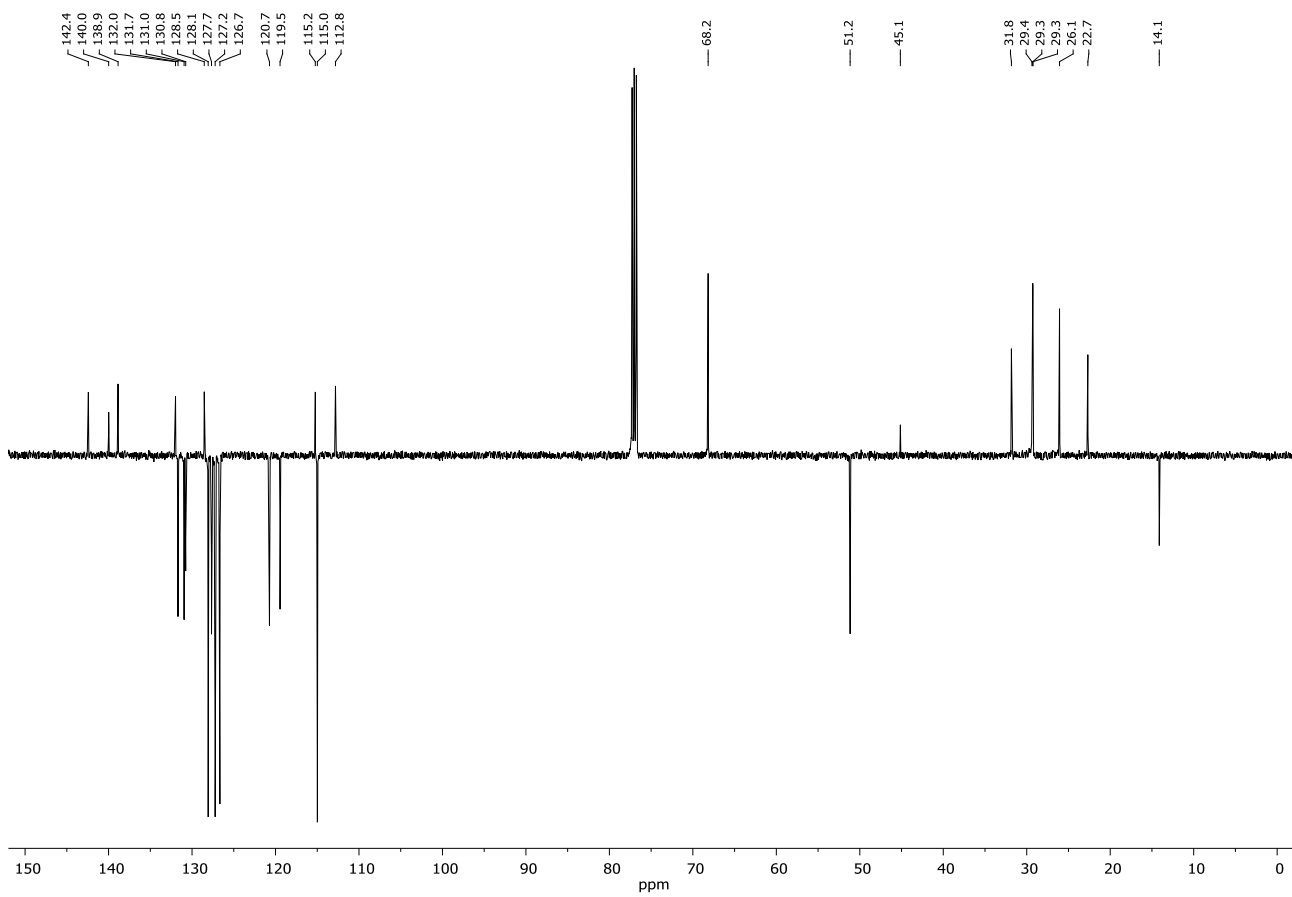


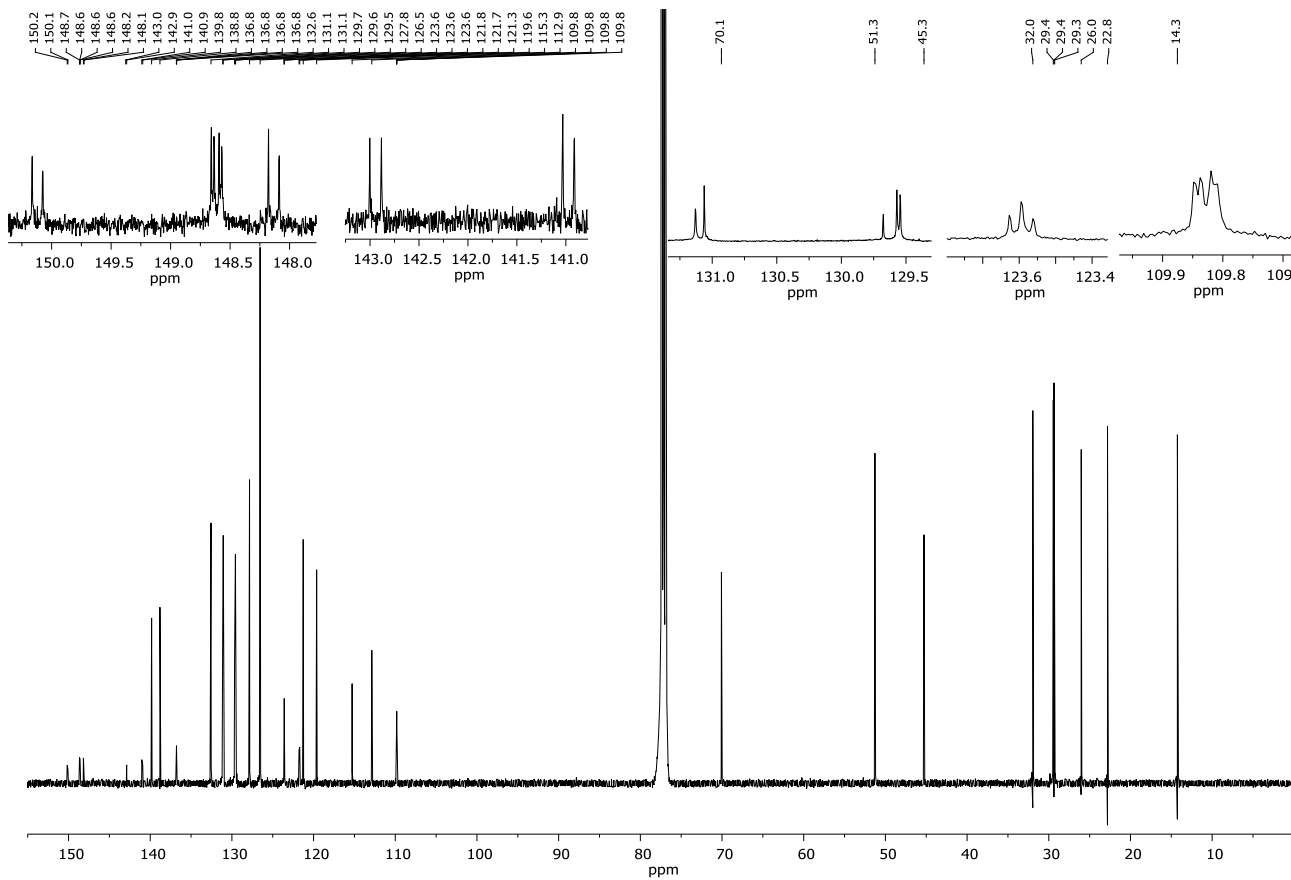
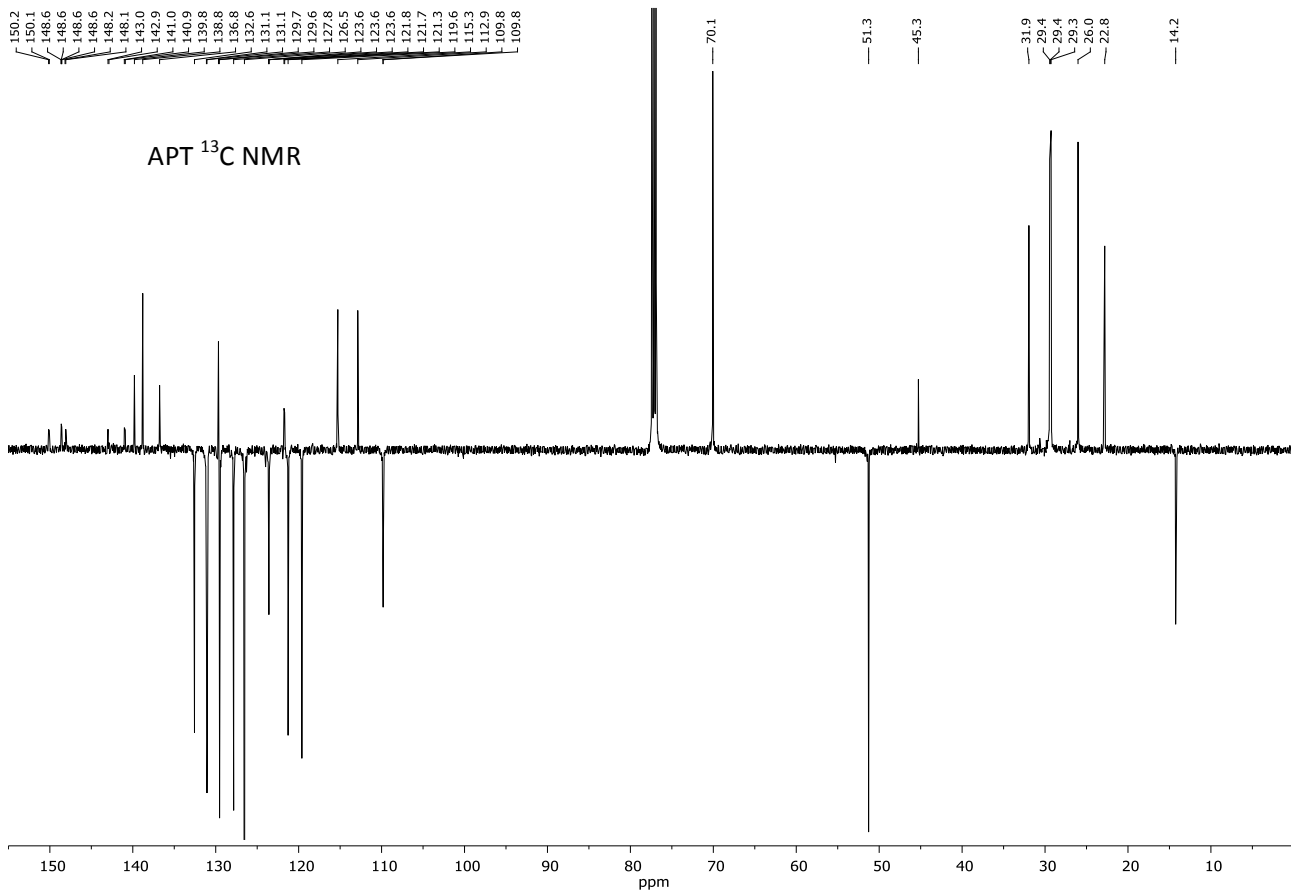


Compound 3e

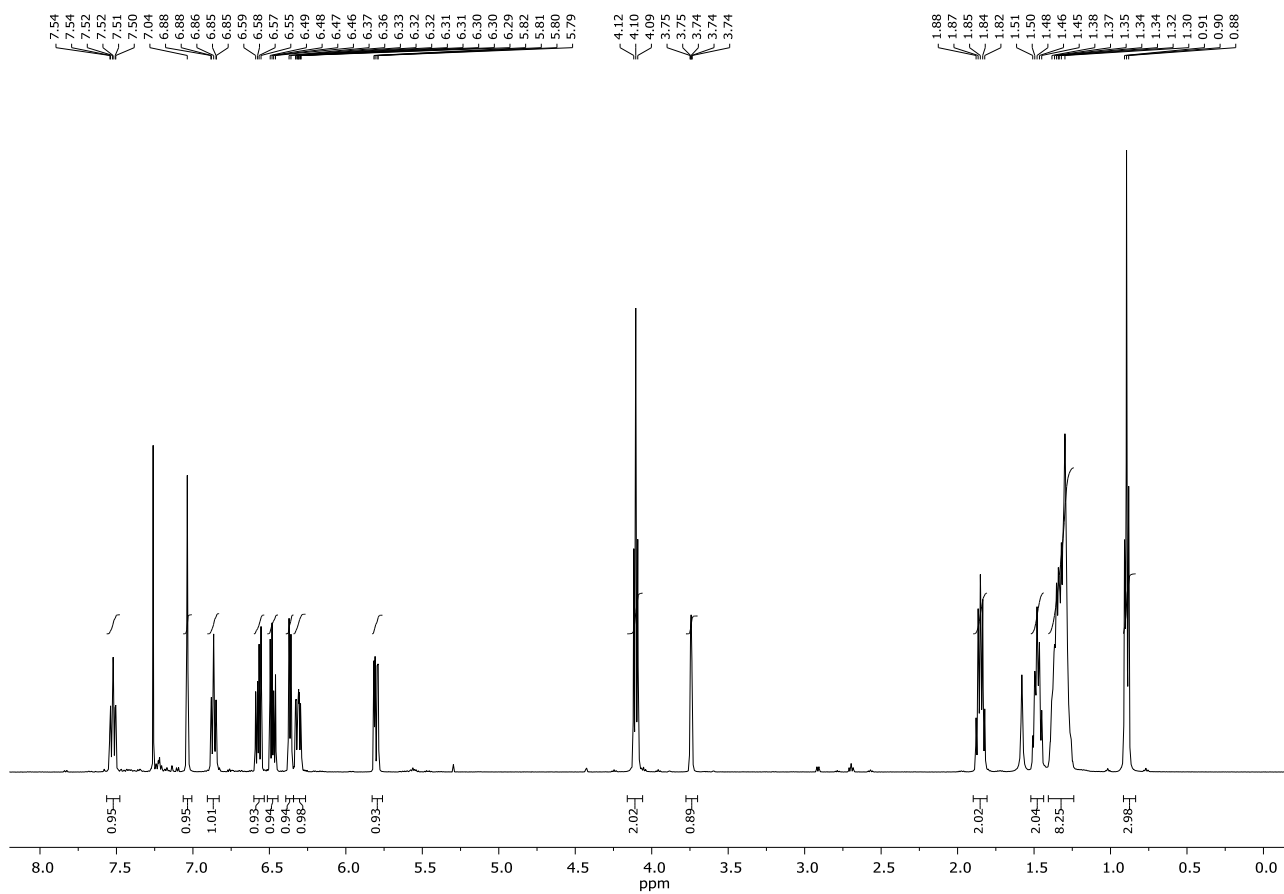


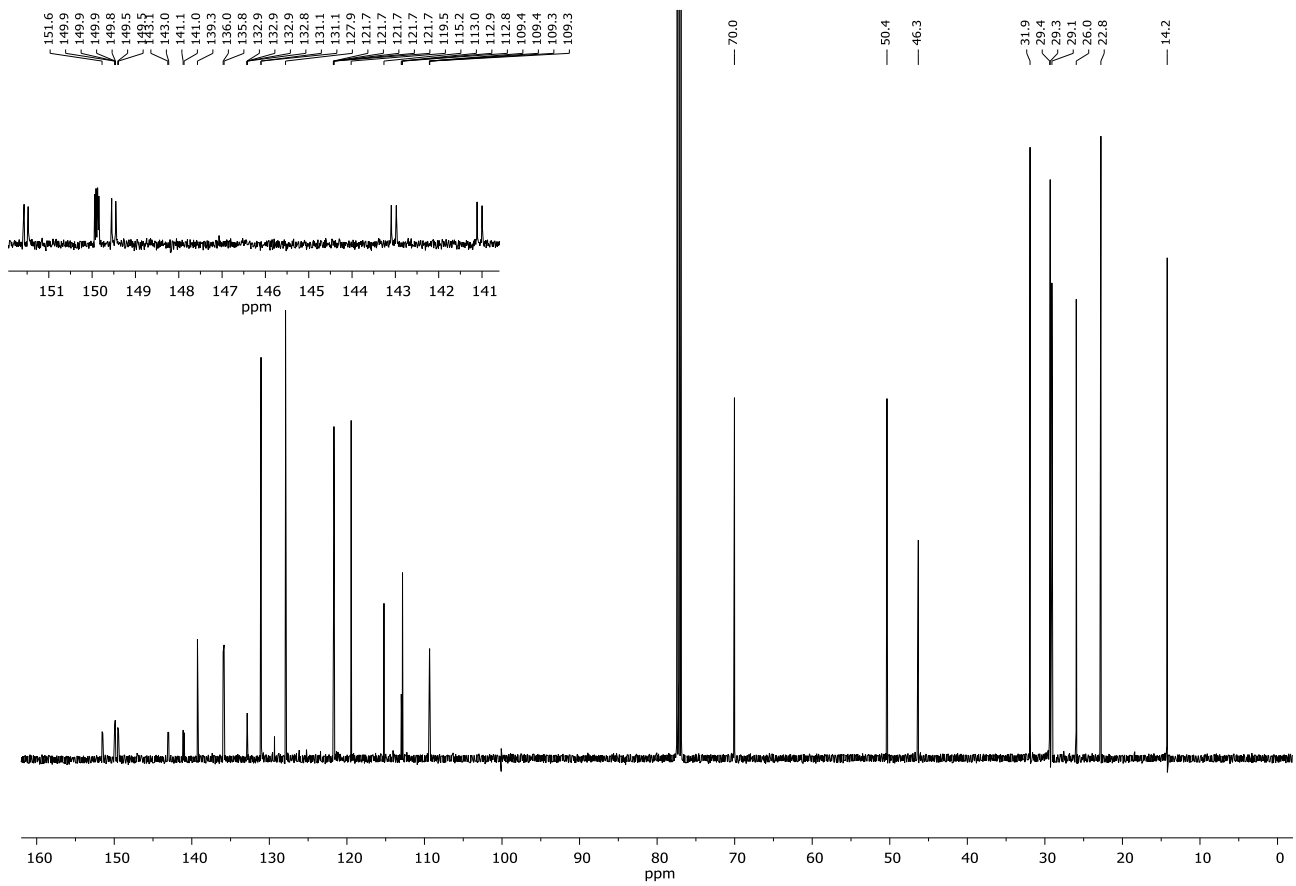




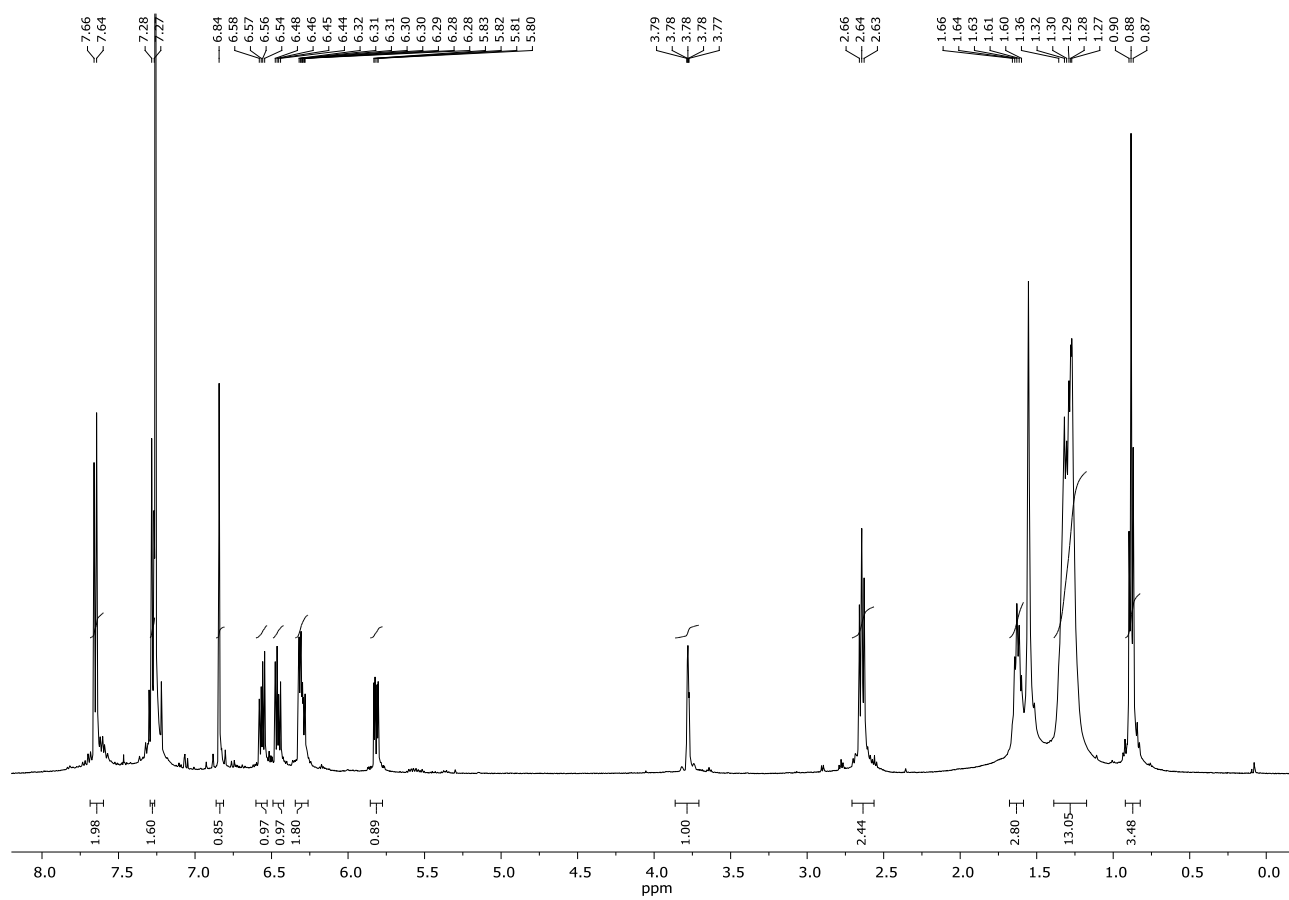
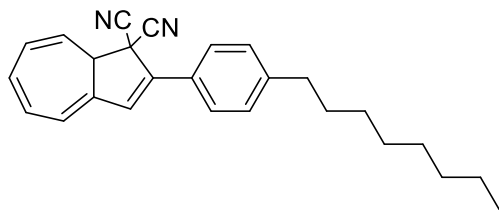


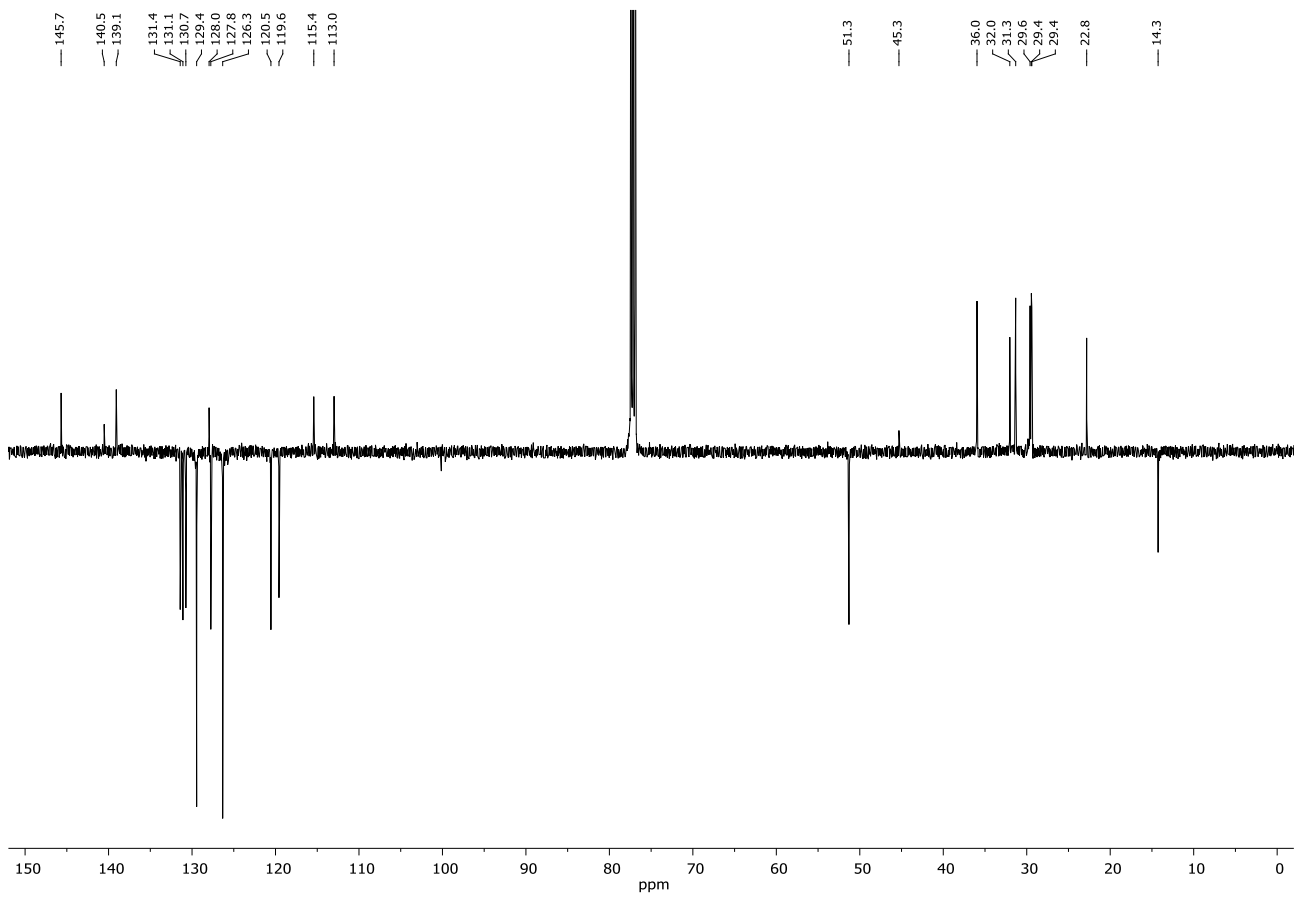
Compound 3h



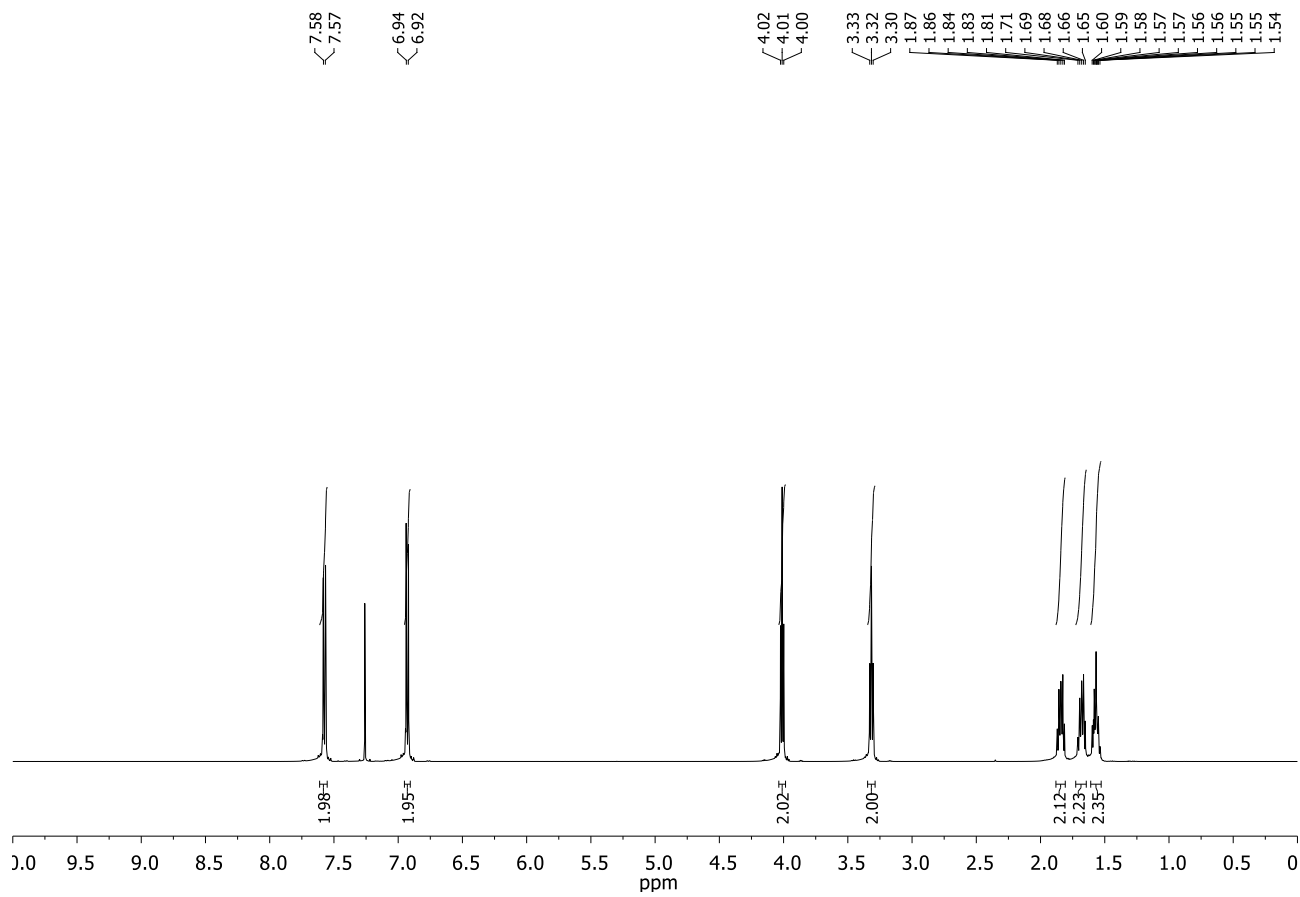
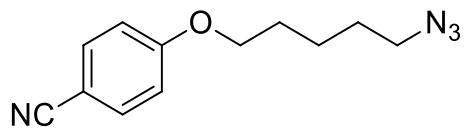


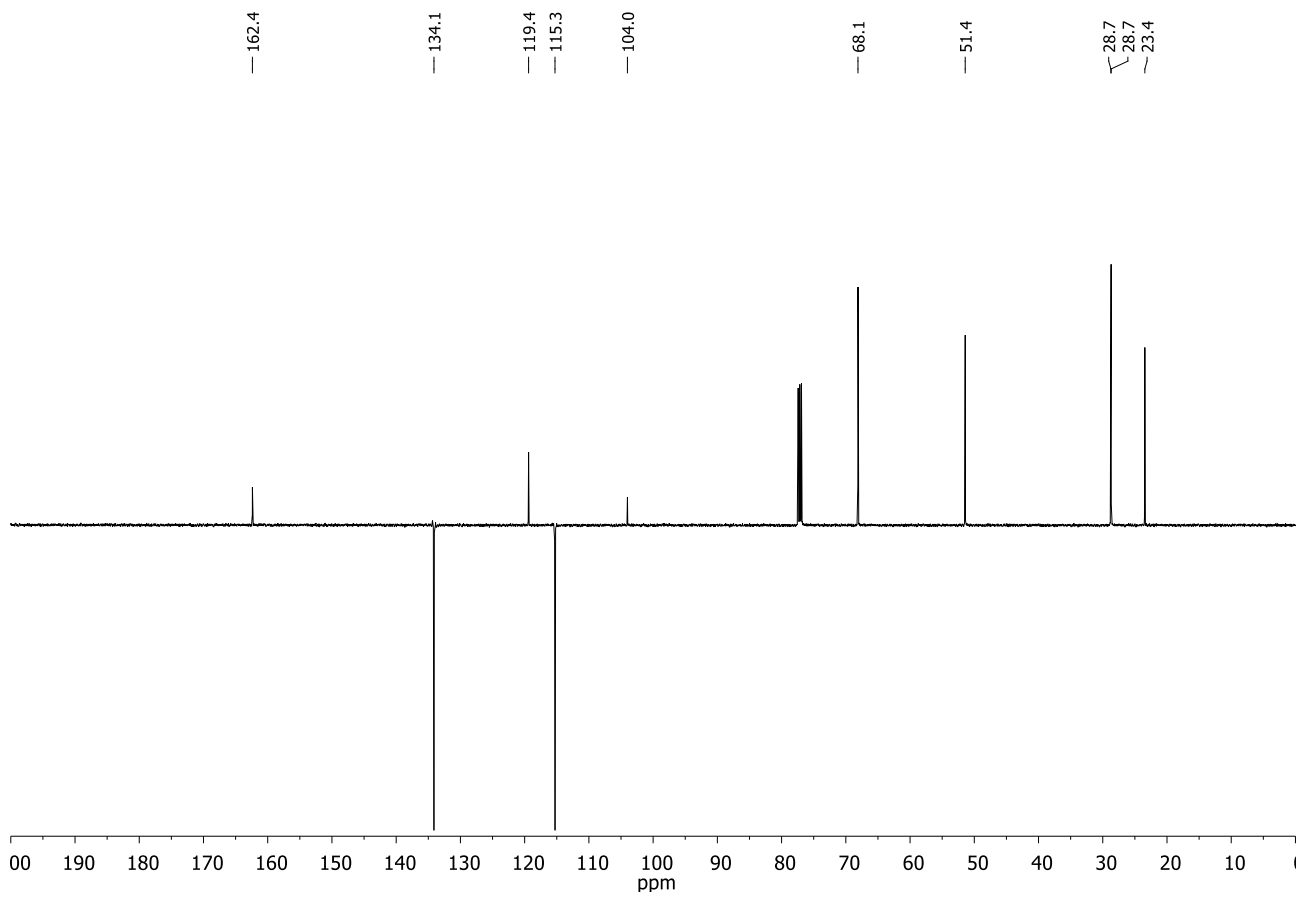
Compound 3i



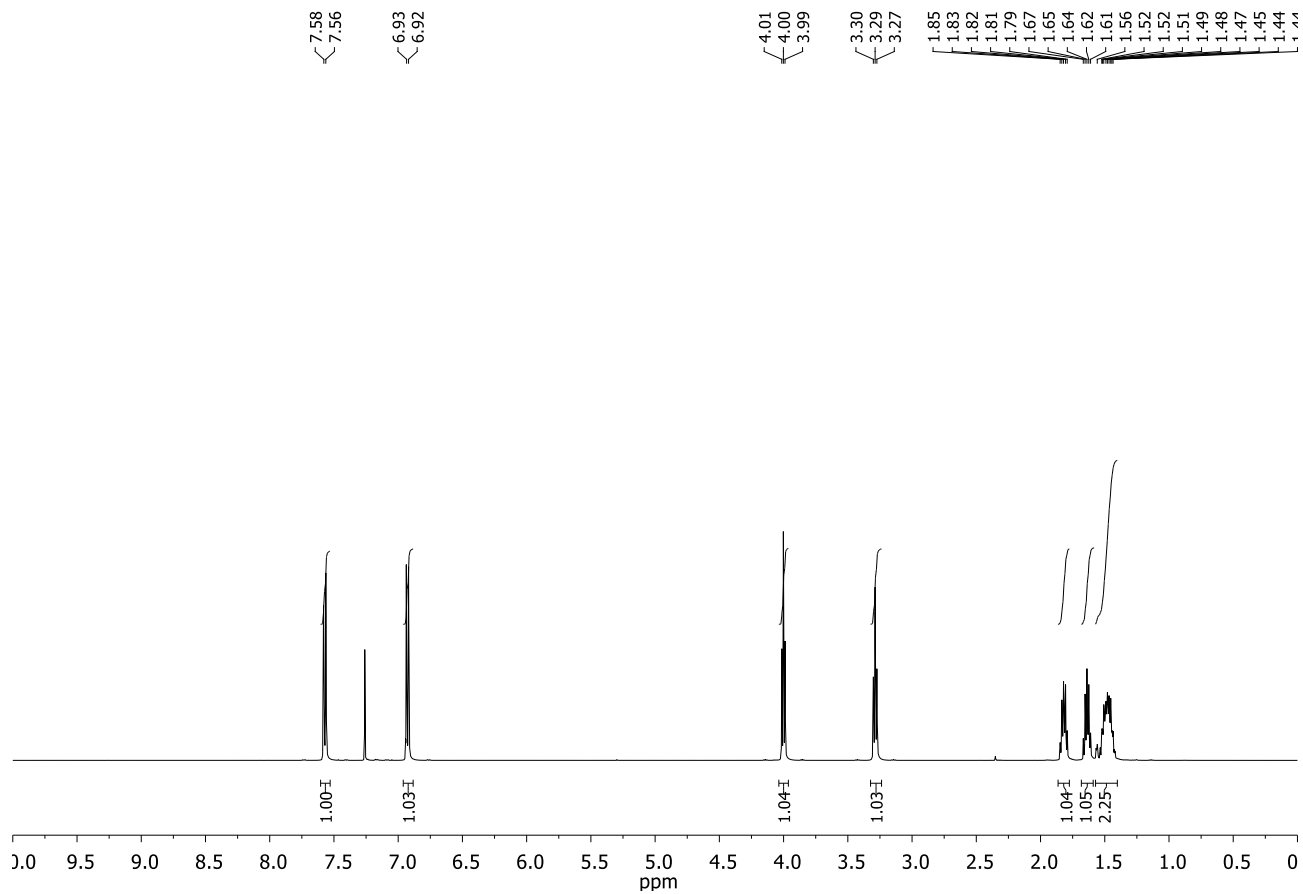
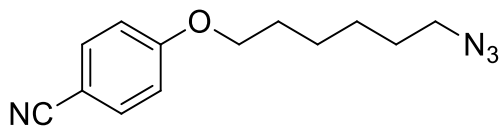


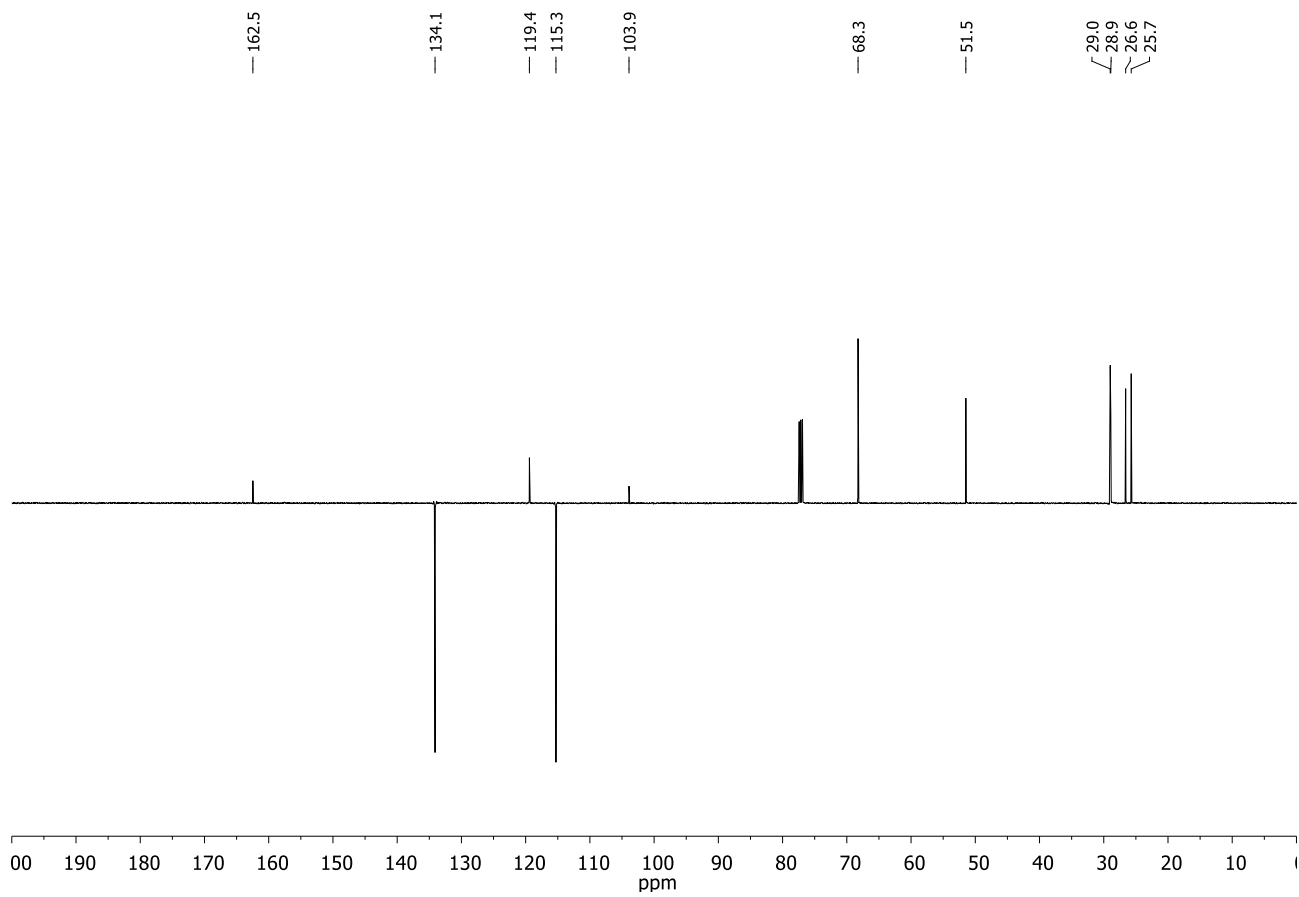
Compound 14a



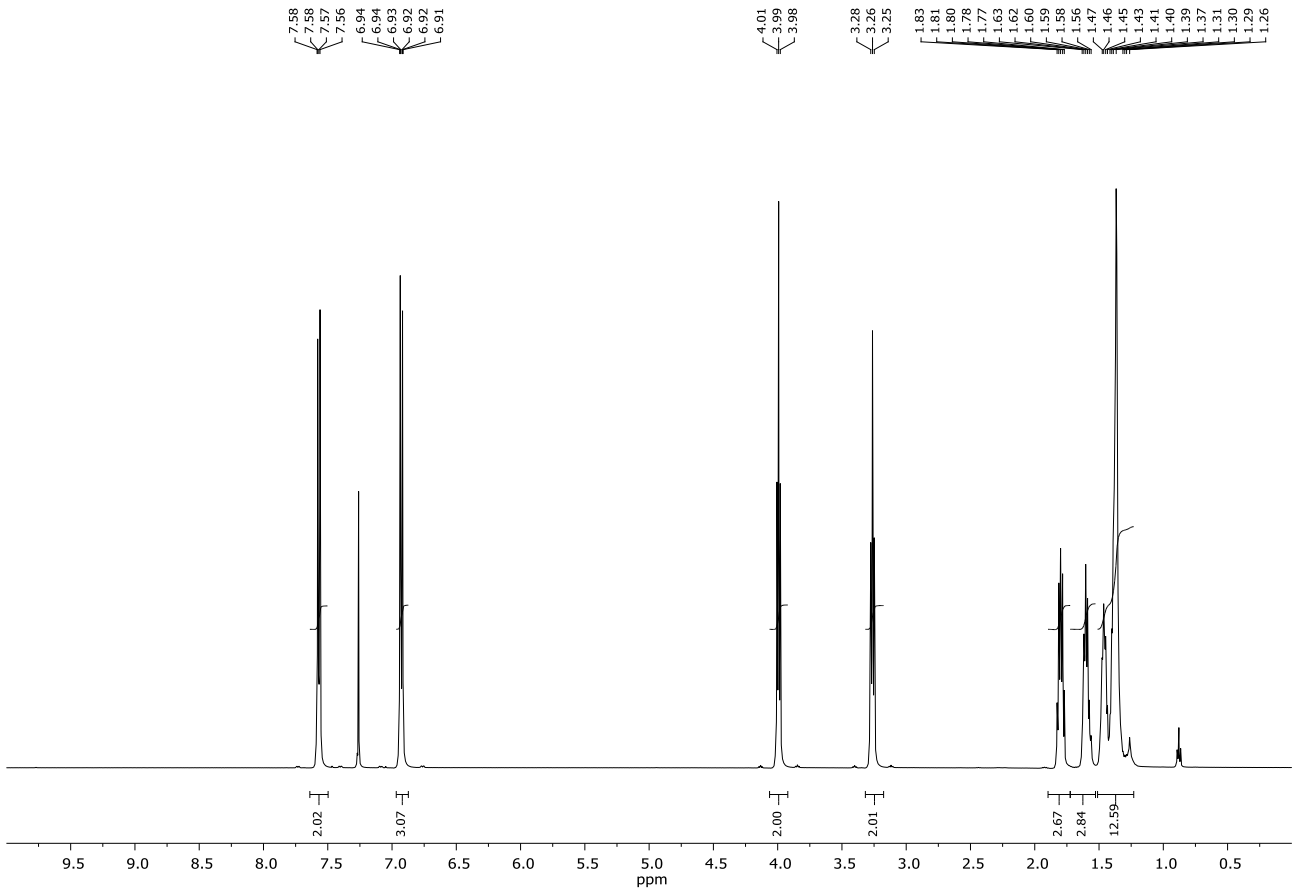
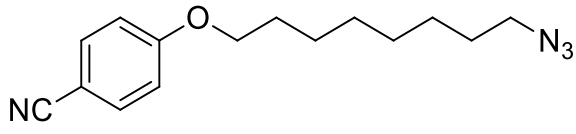


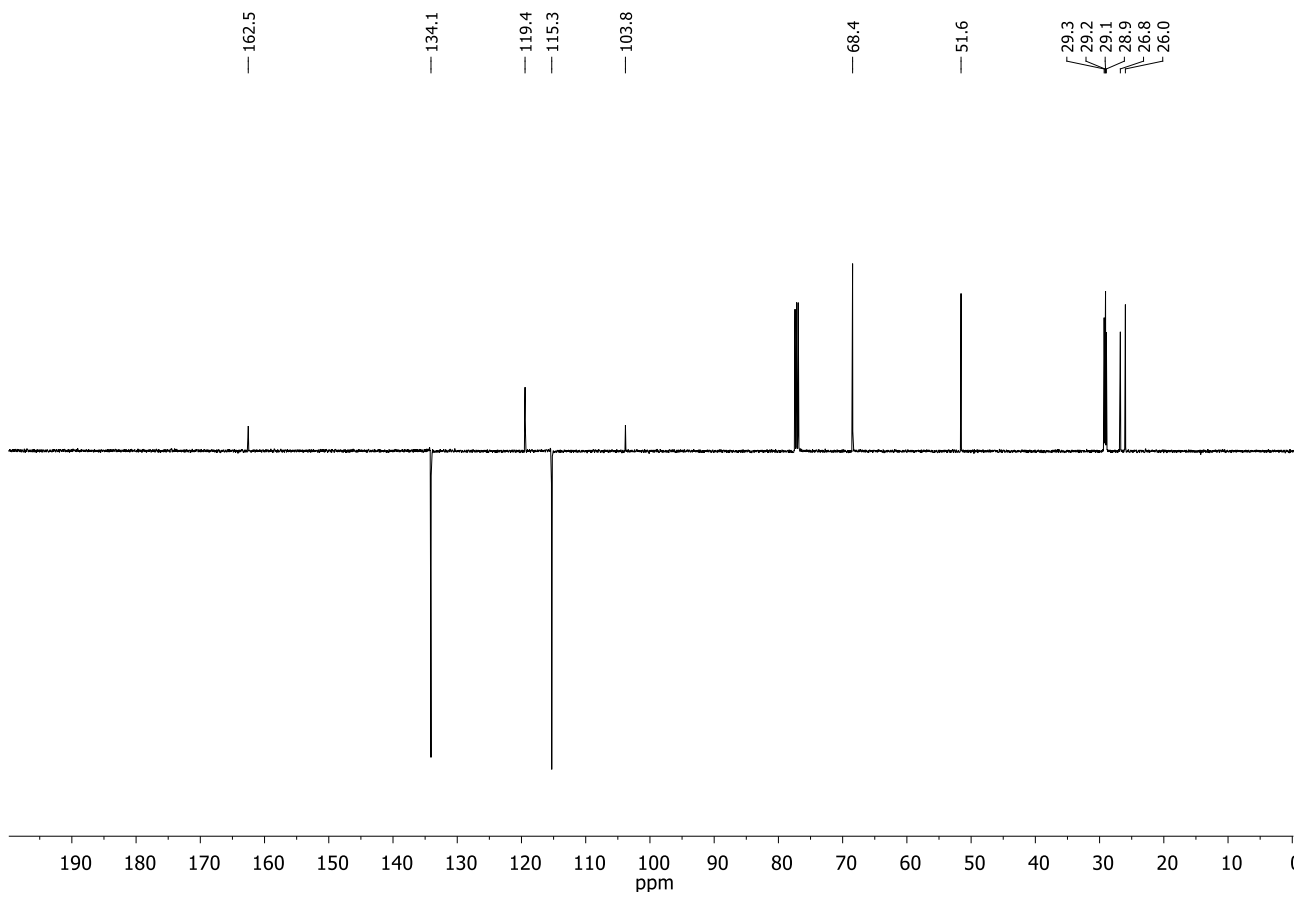
Compound 14b



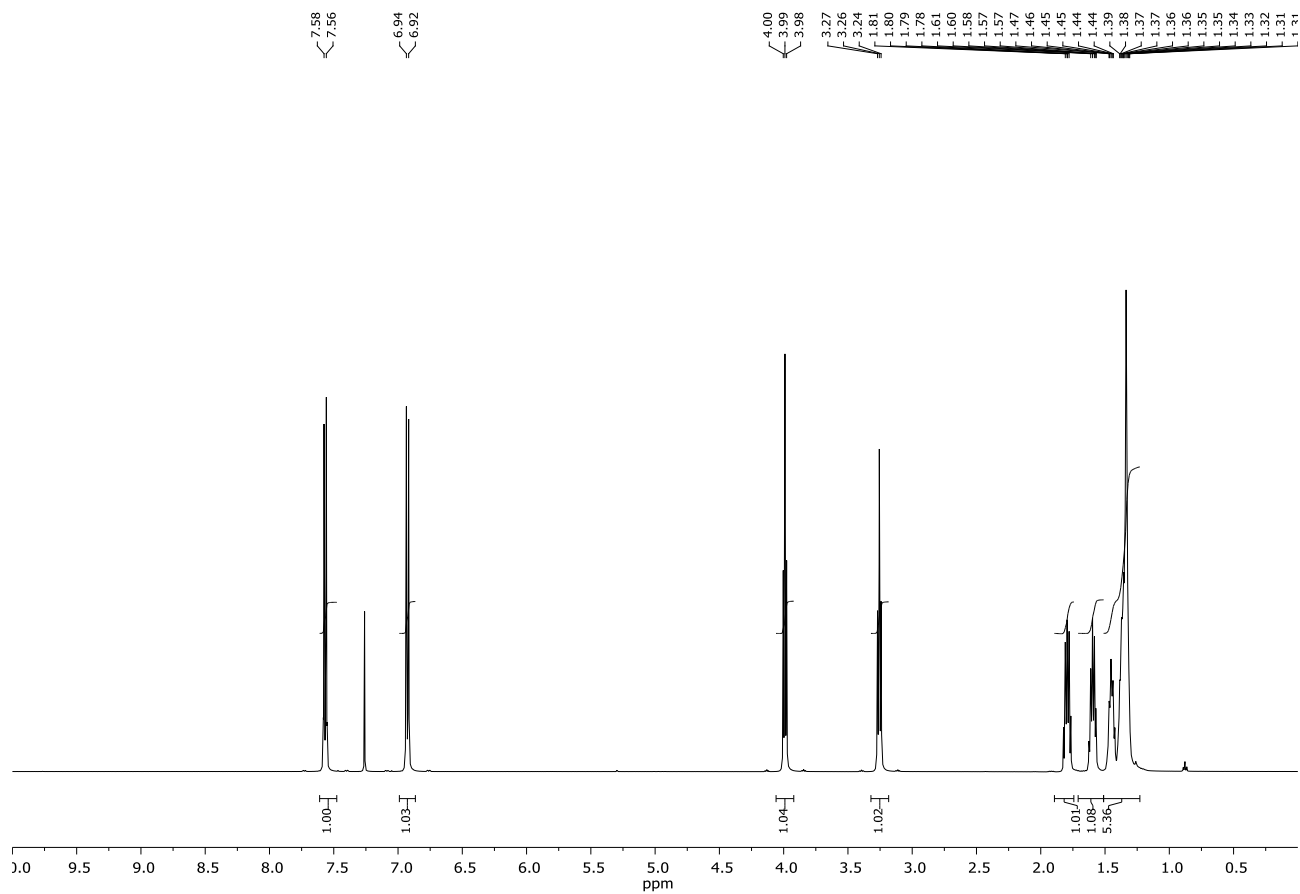
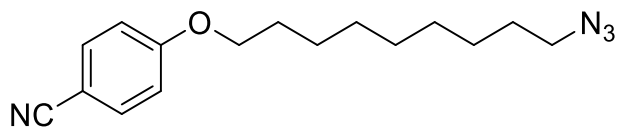


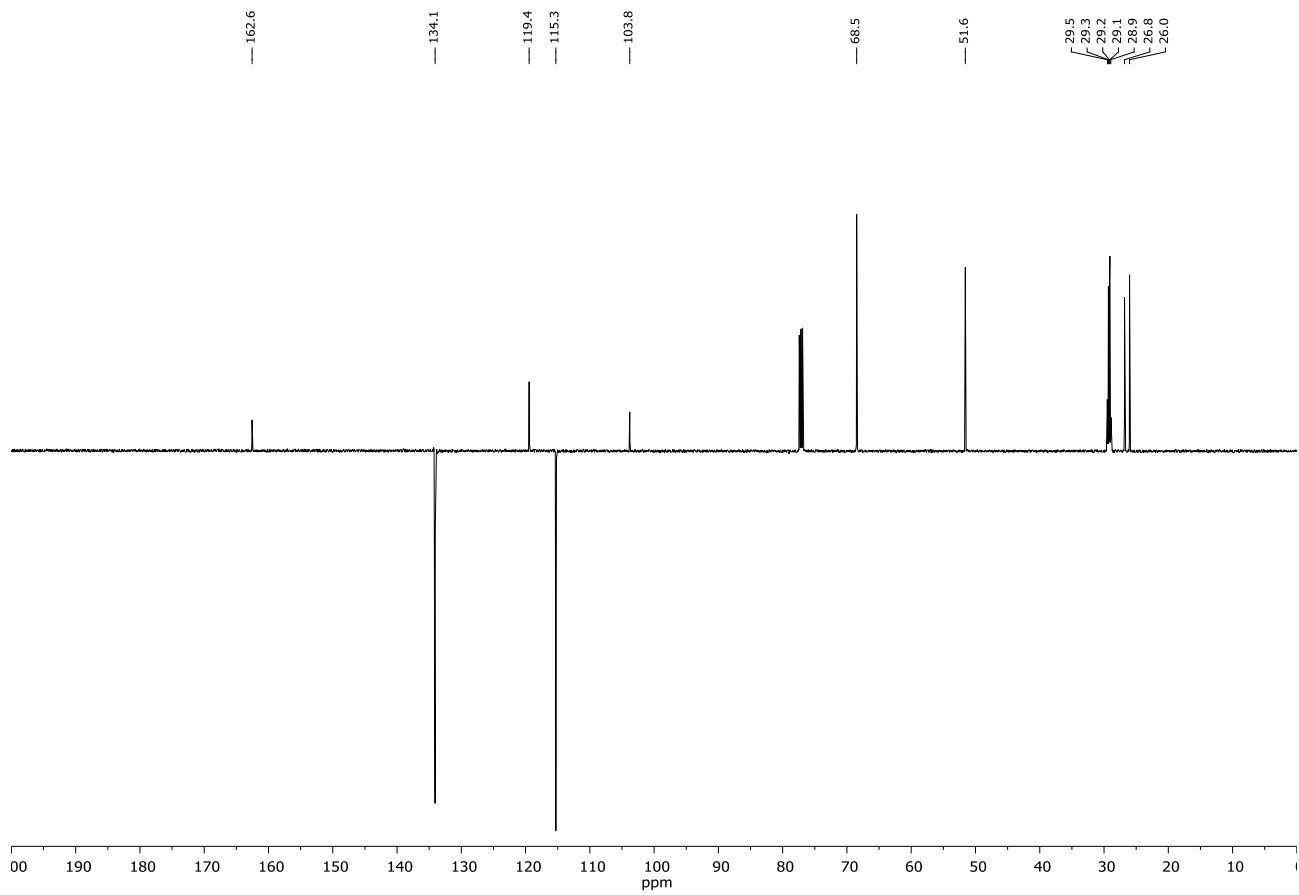
Compound 14c



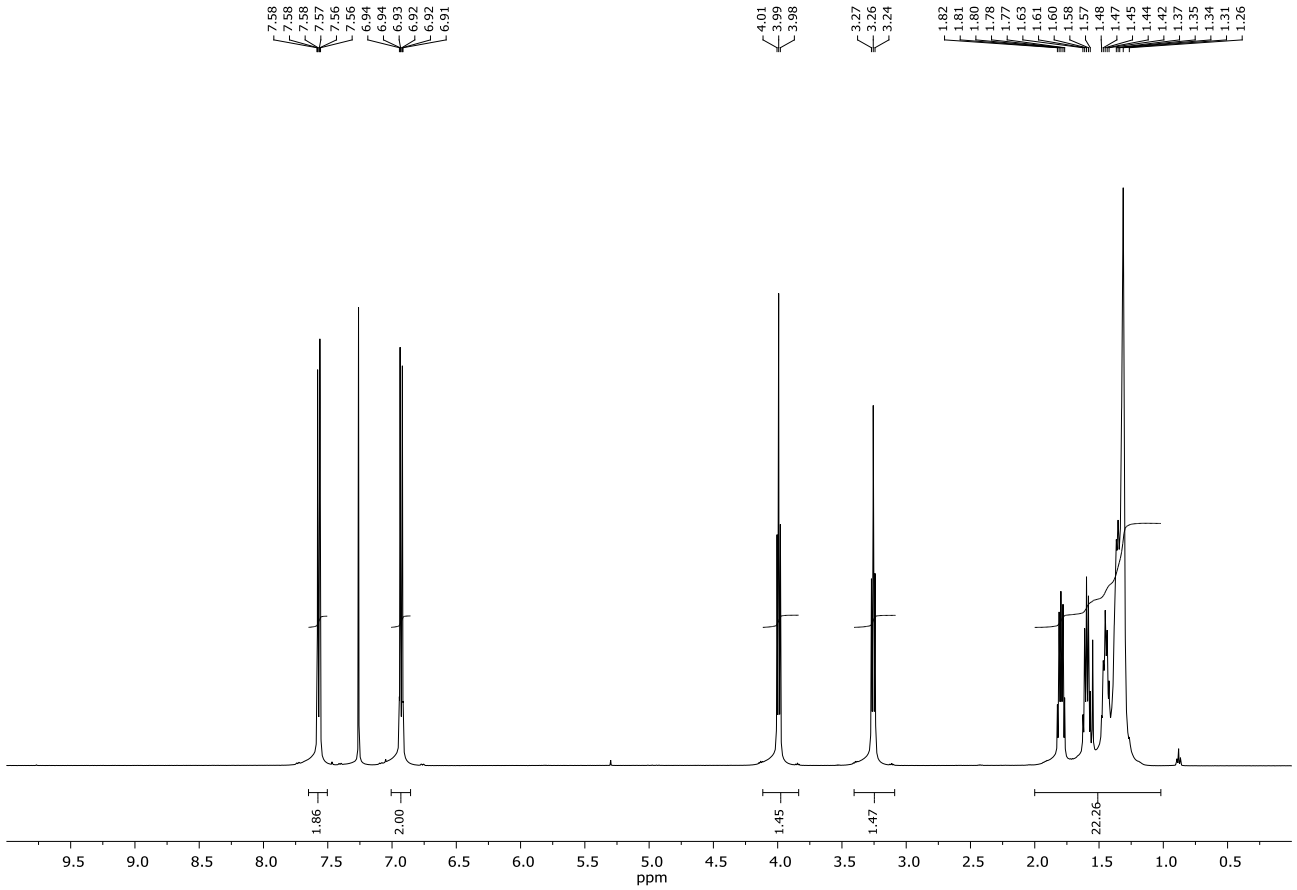
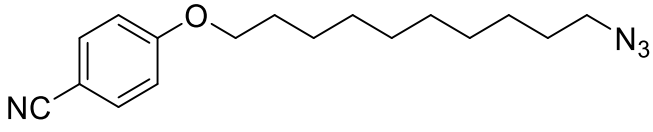


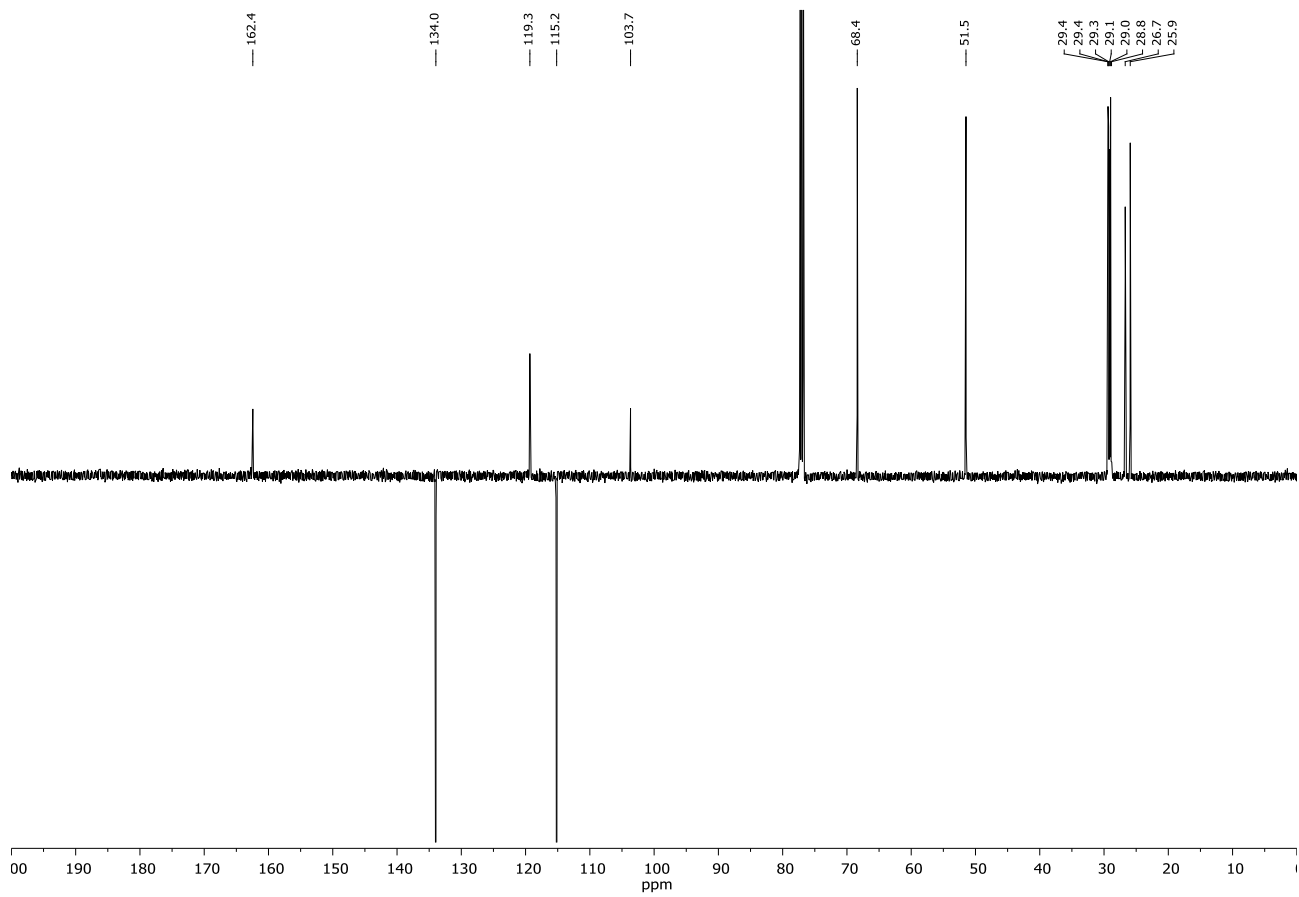
Compound 14d



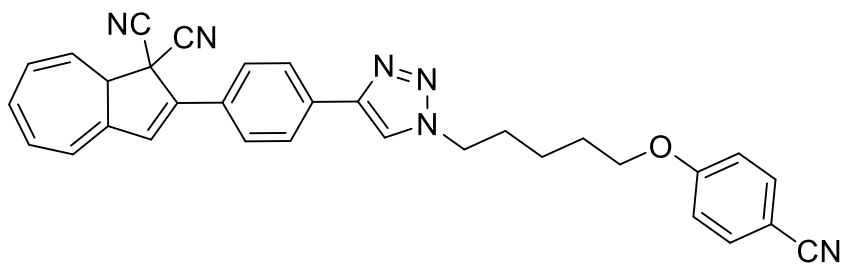


Compound 14e

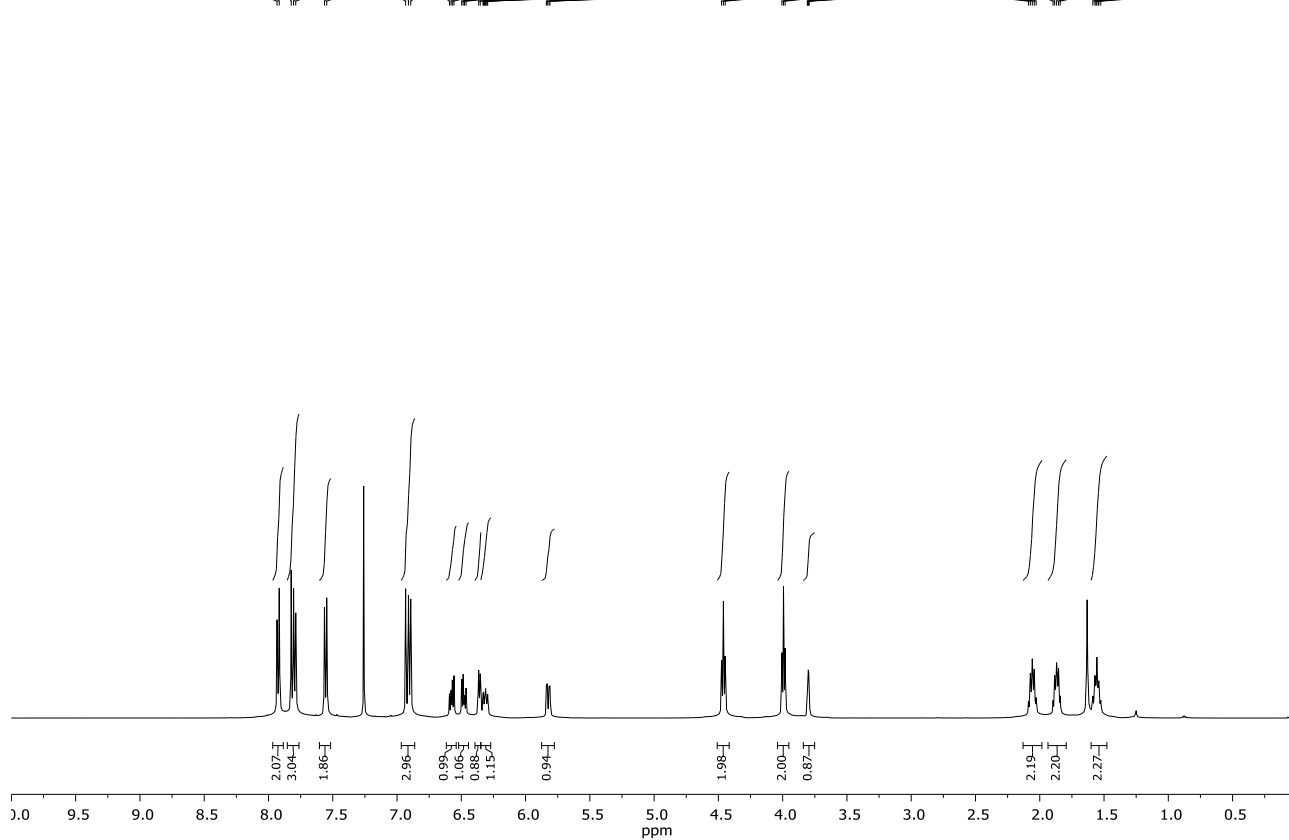


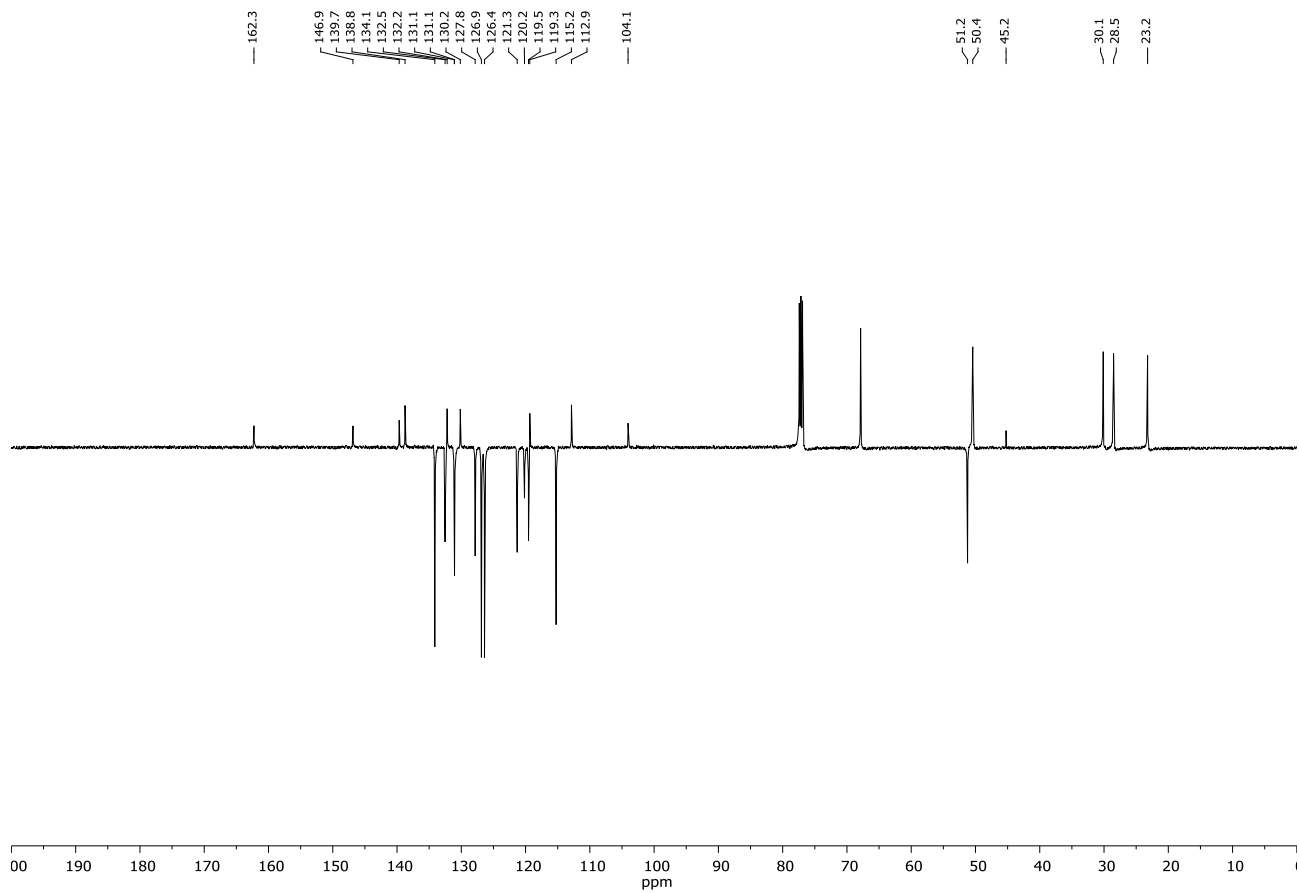


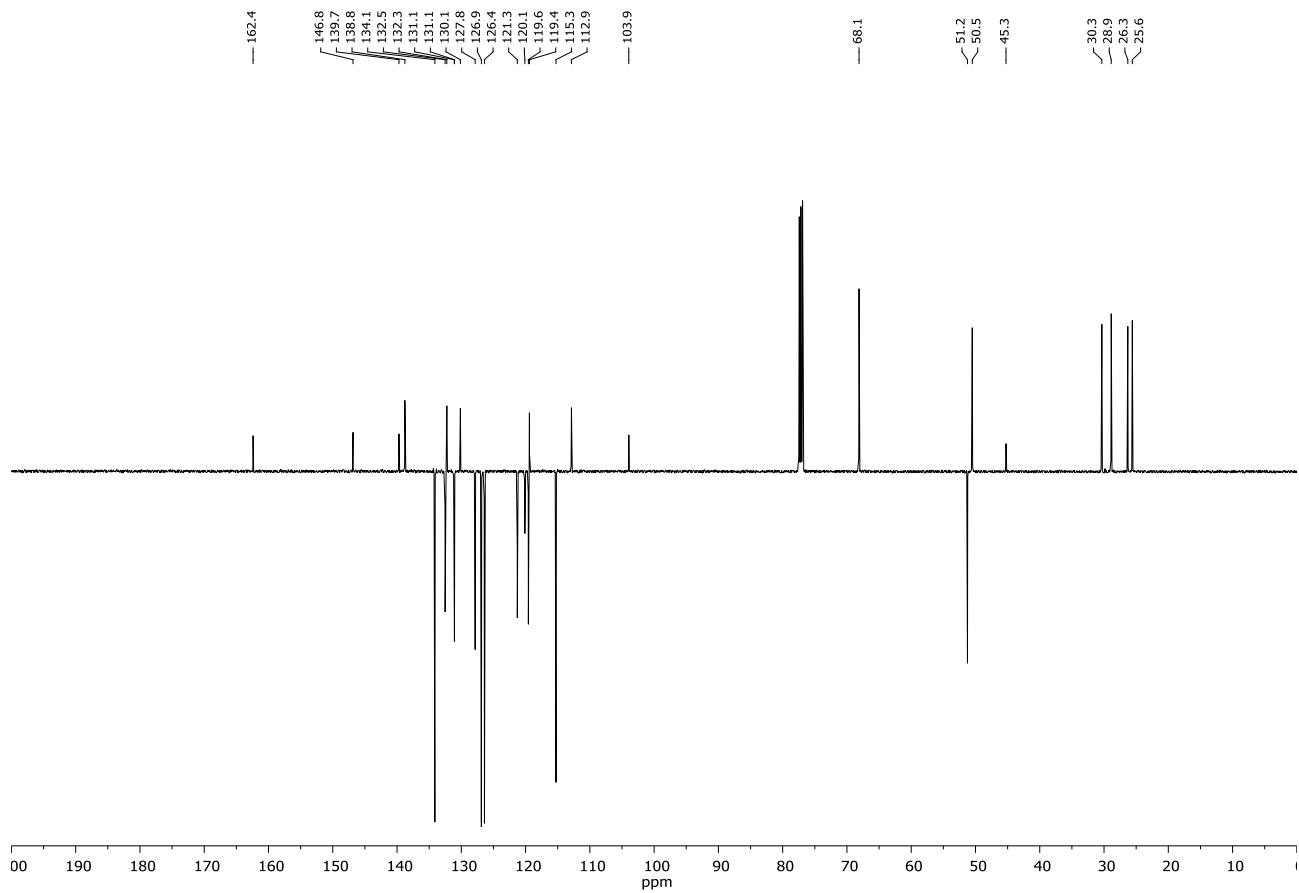
Compound 4a



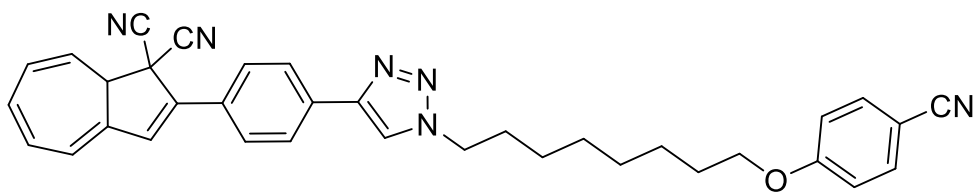
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6.57
6.56
6.50
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6.48
6.46
6.36
6.35
6.33
6.33
6.32
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6.31
6.30
6.29
5.84
5.83
5.82
5.81
4.48
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2.06
2.04
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1.53







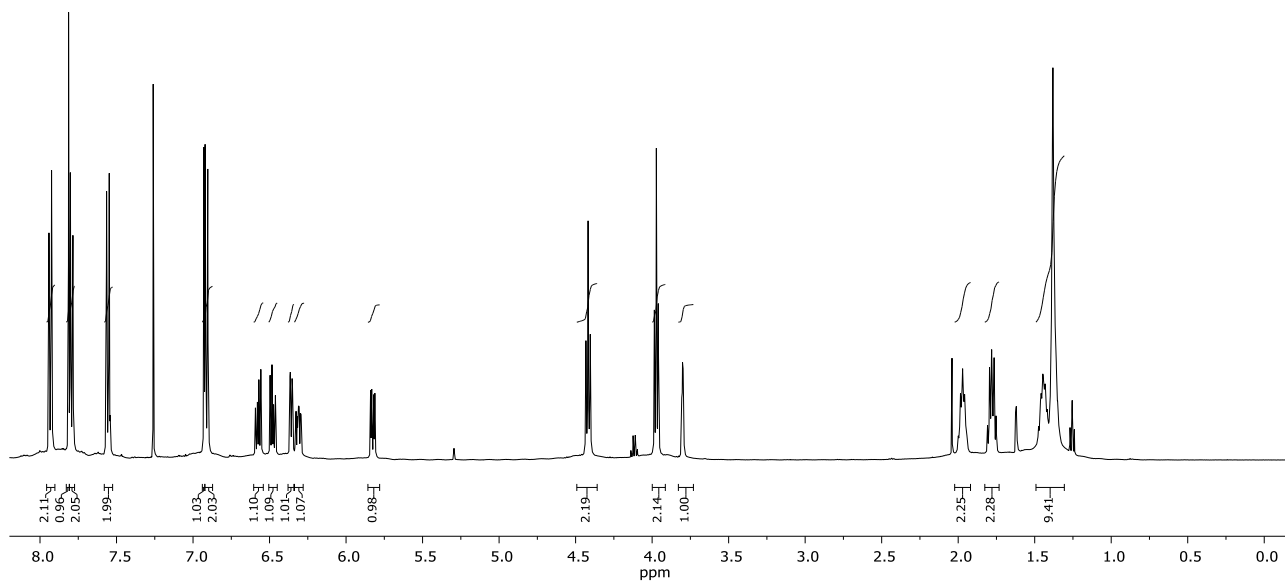
Compound 4c

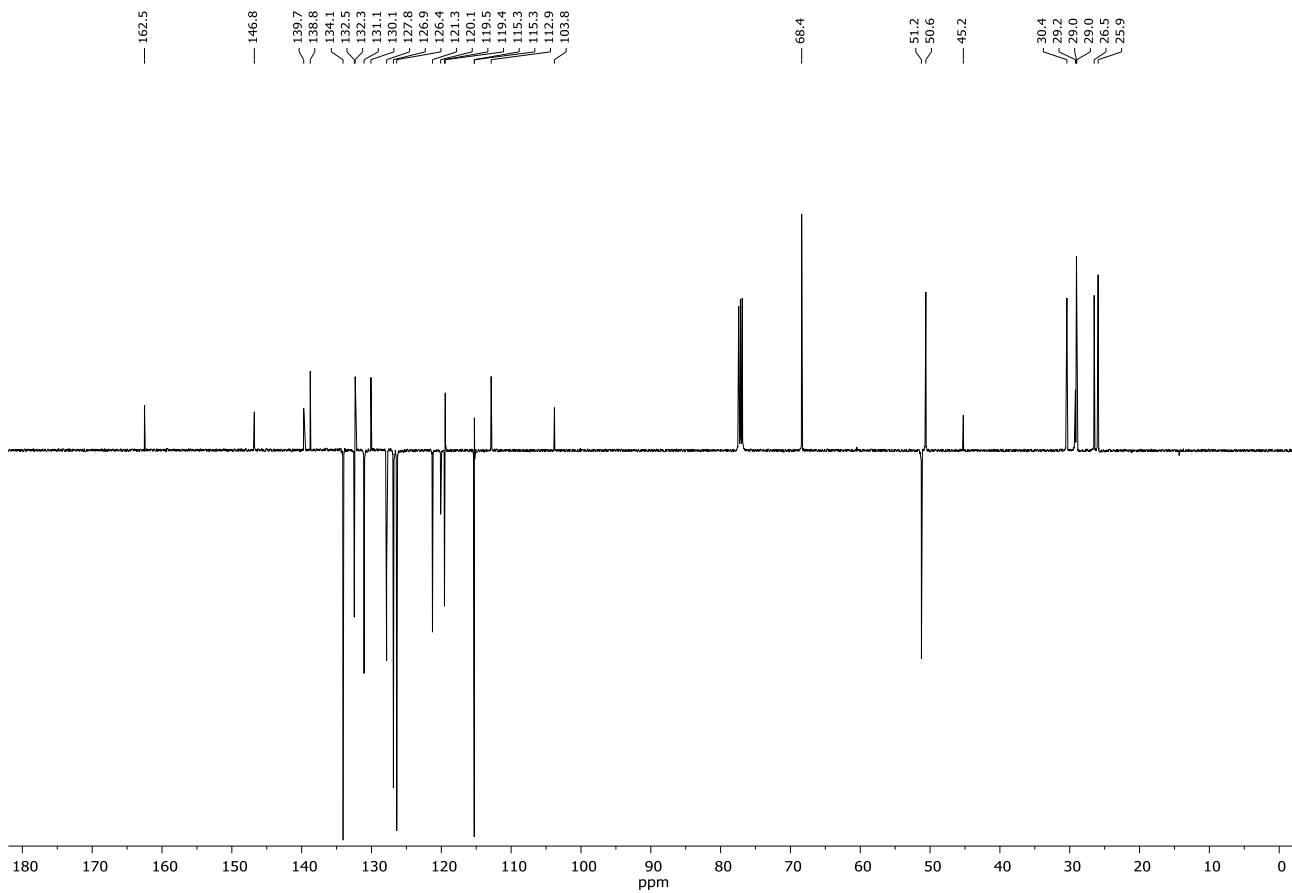


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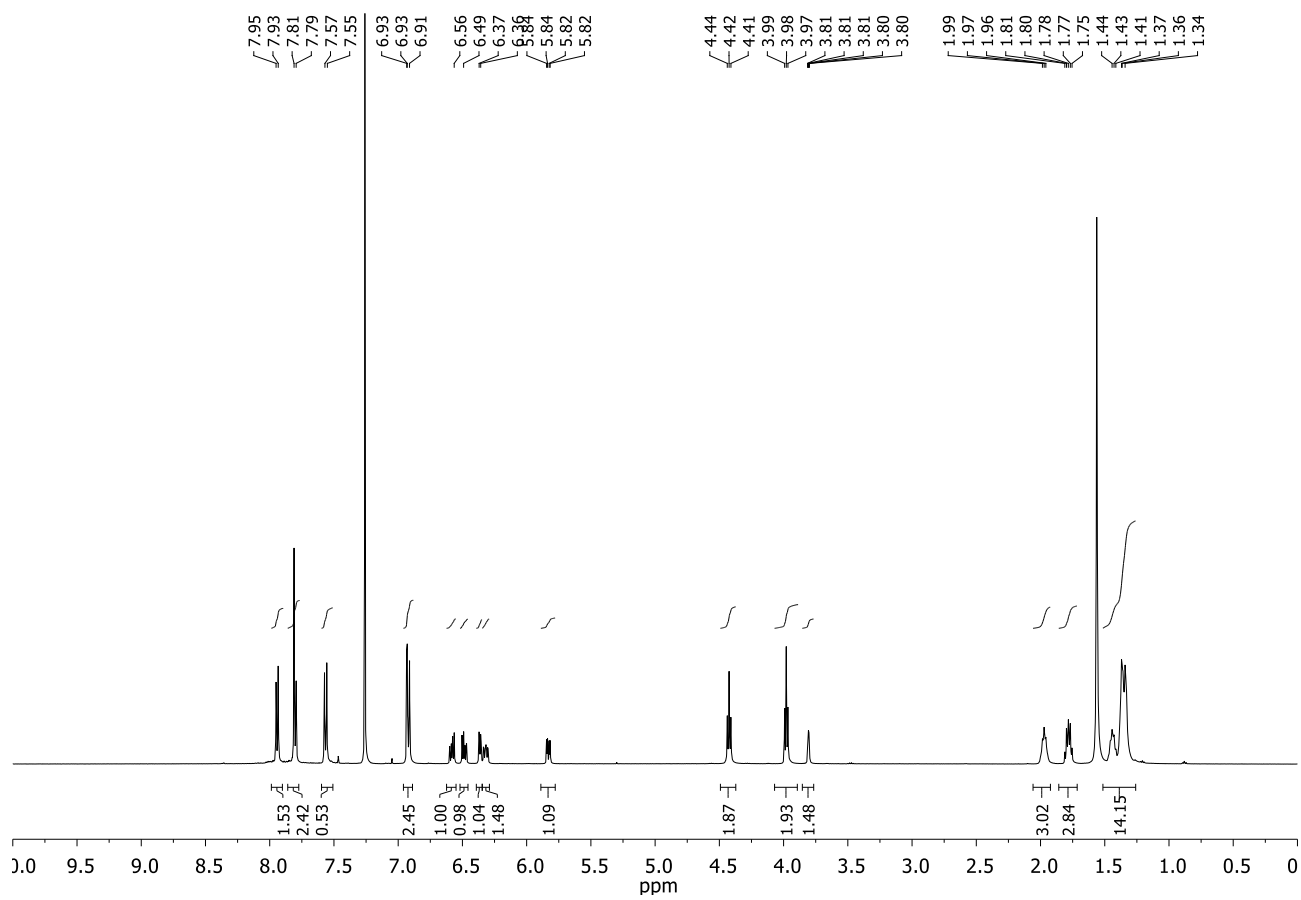
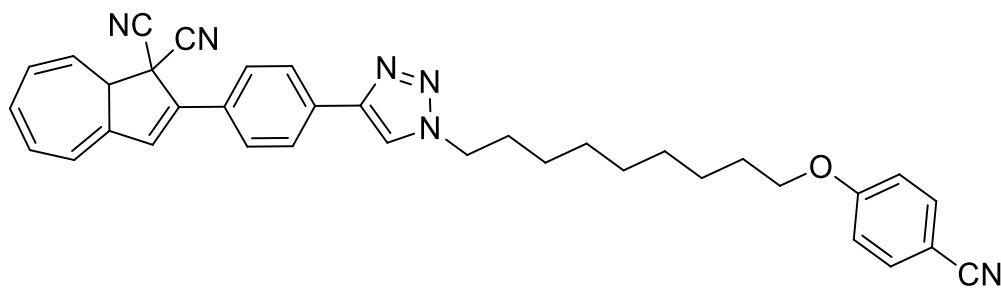
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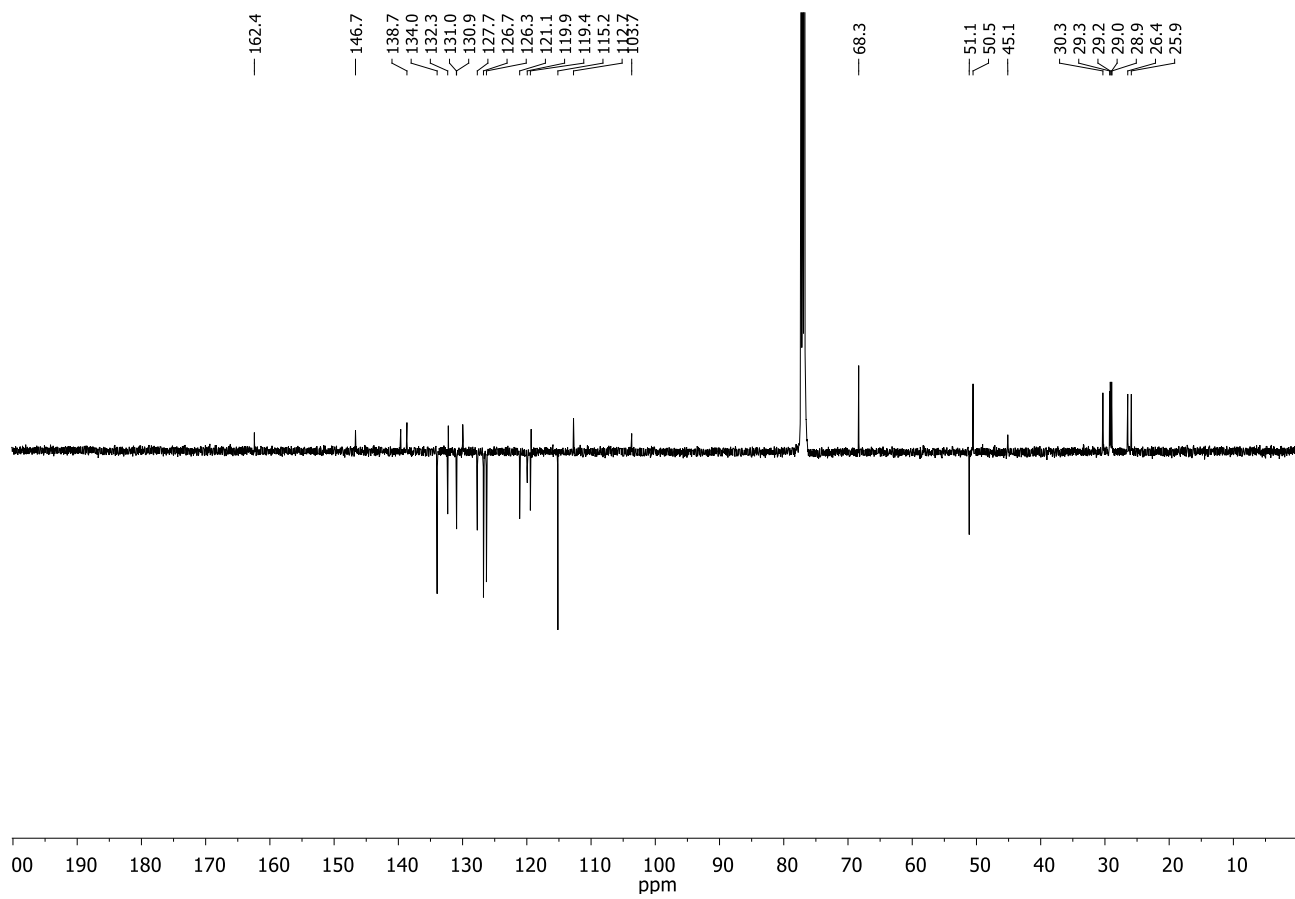
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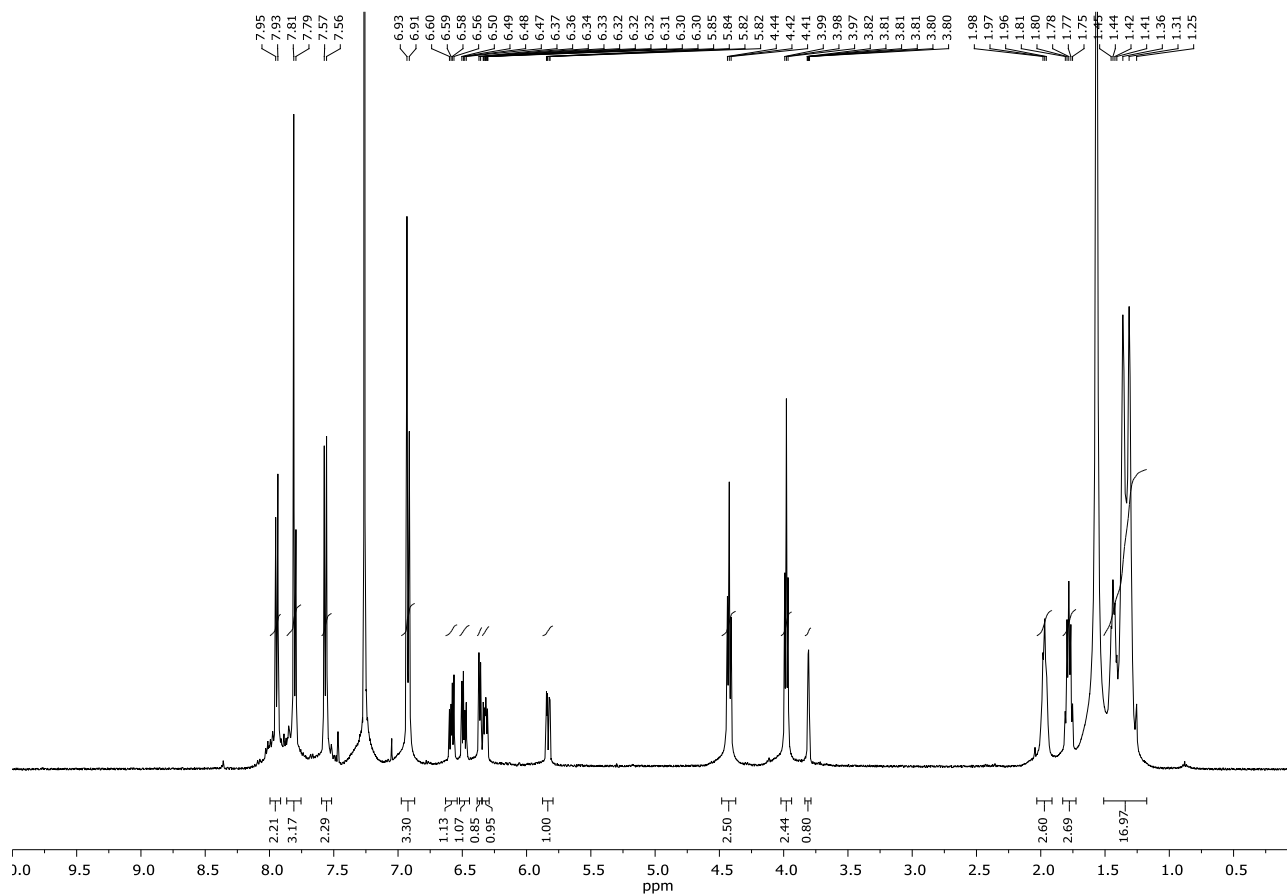
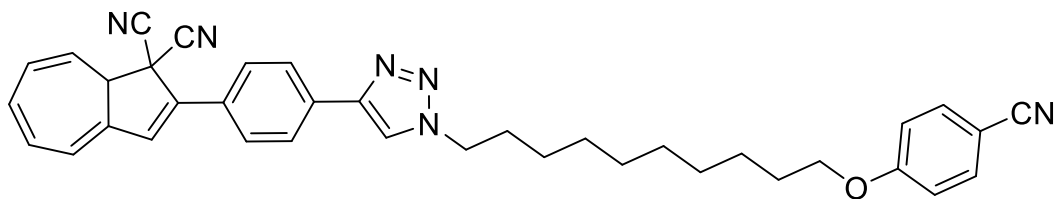


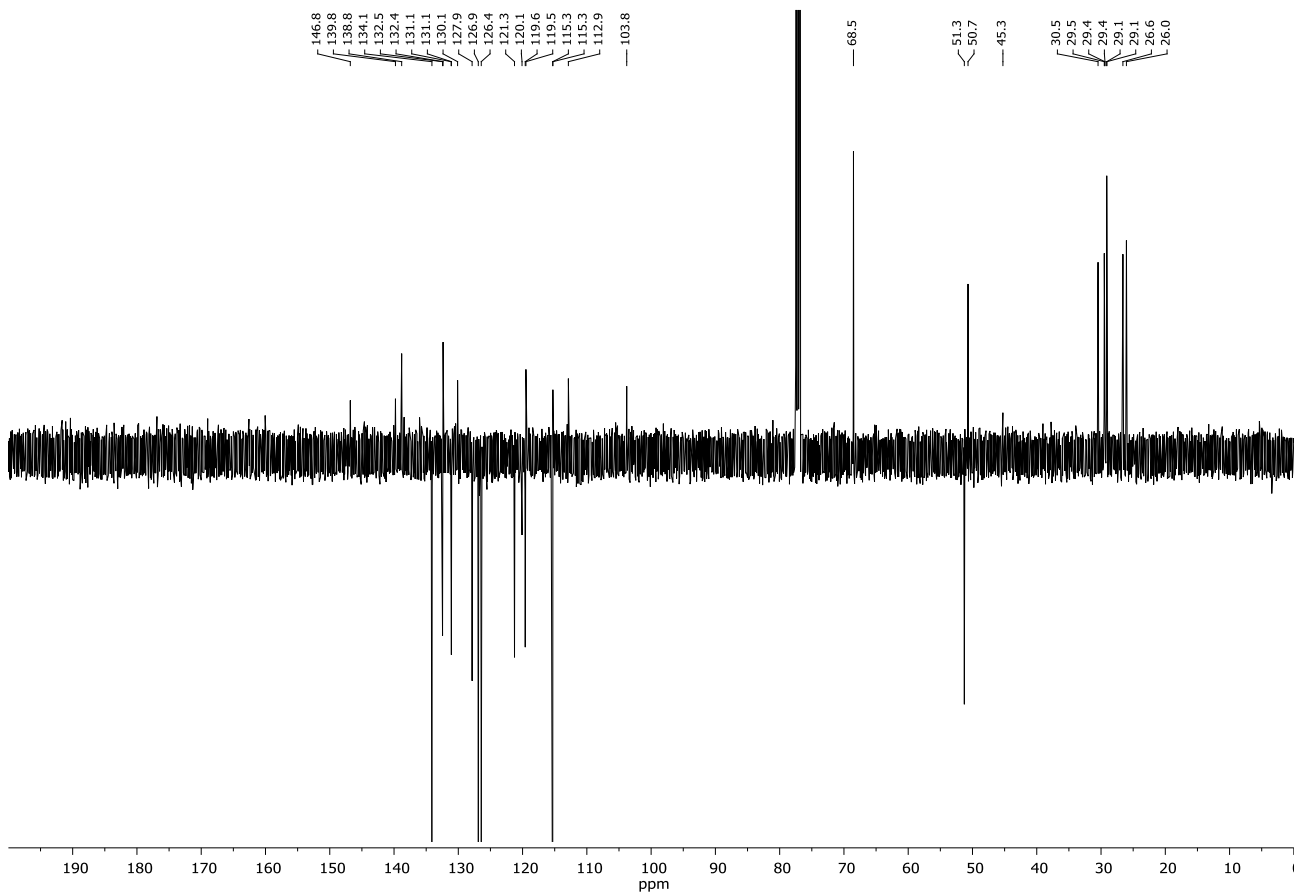
Compound 4d



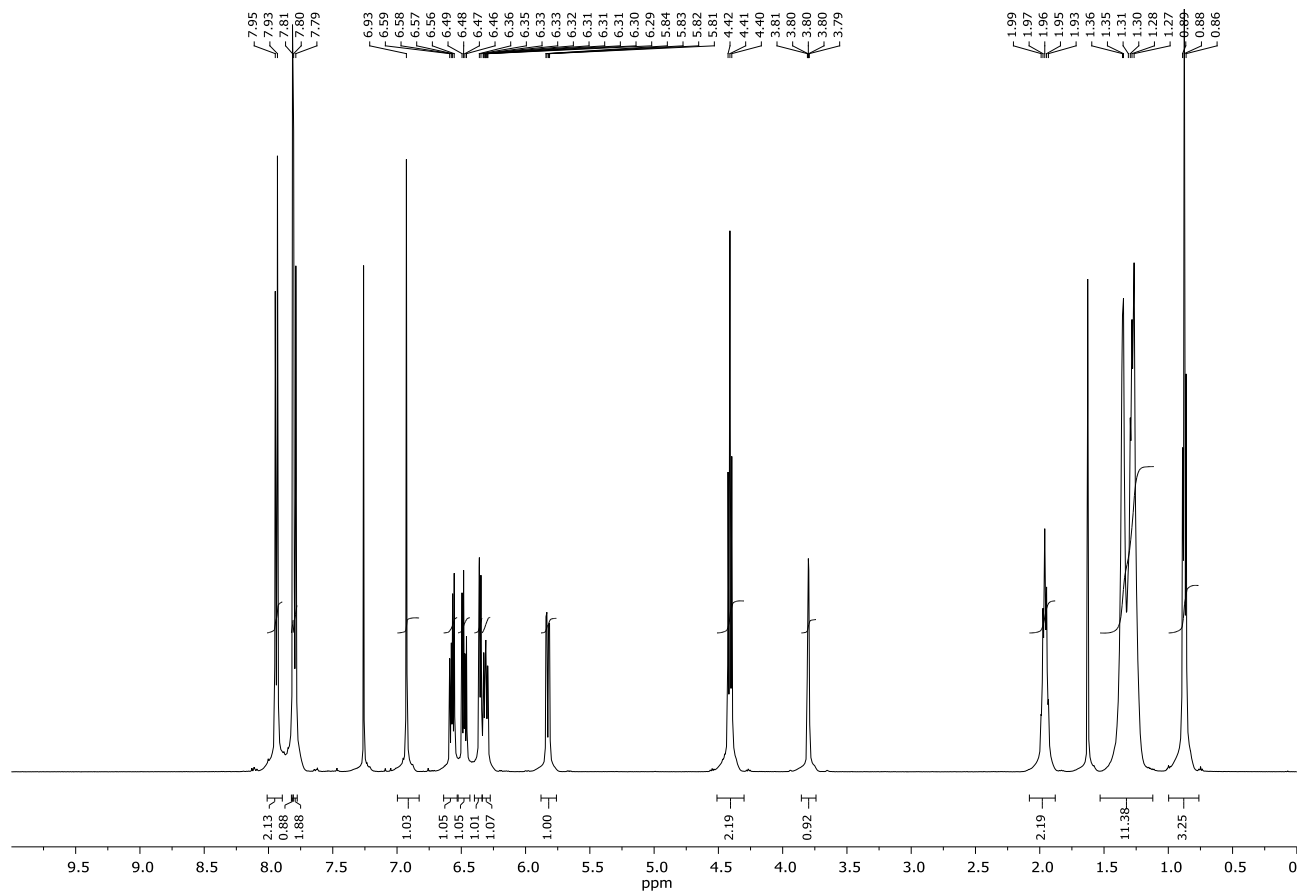
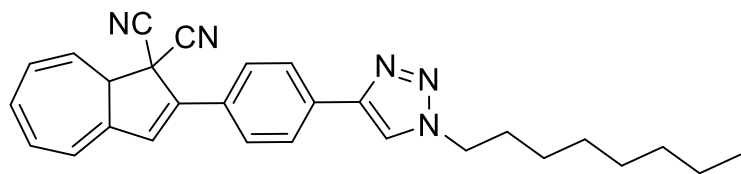


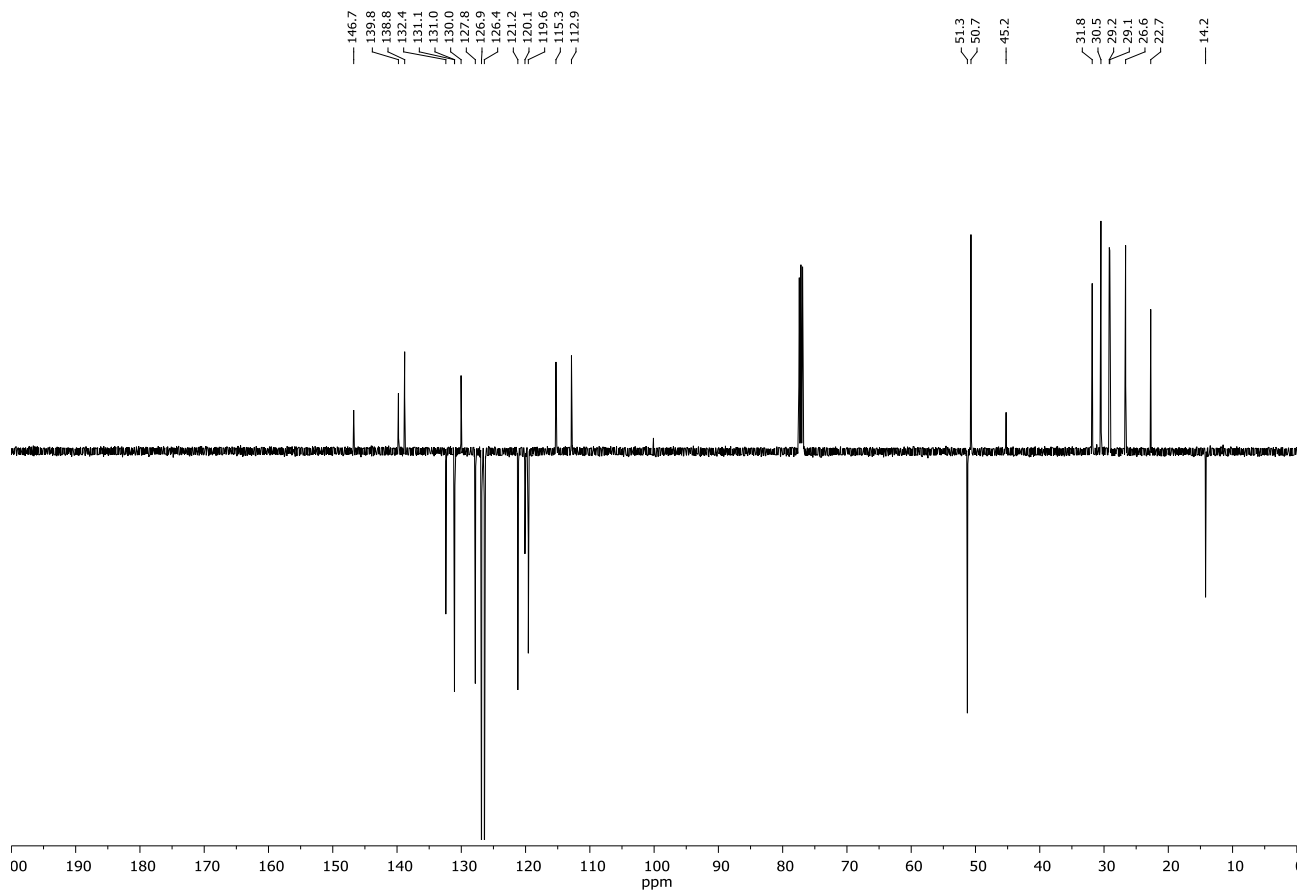
Compound 4e



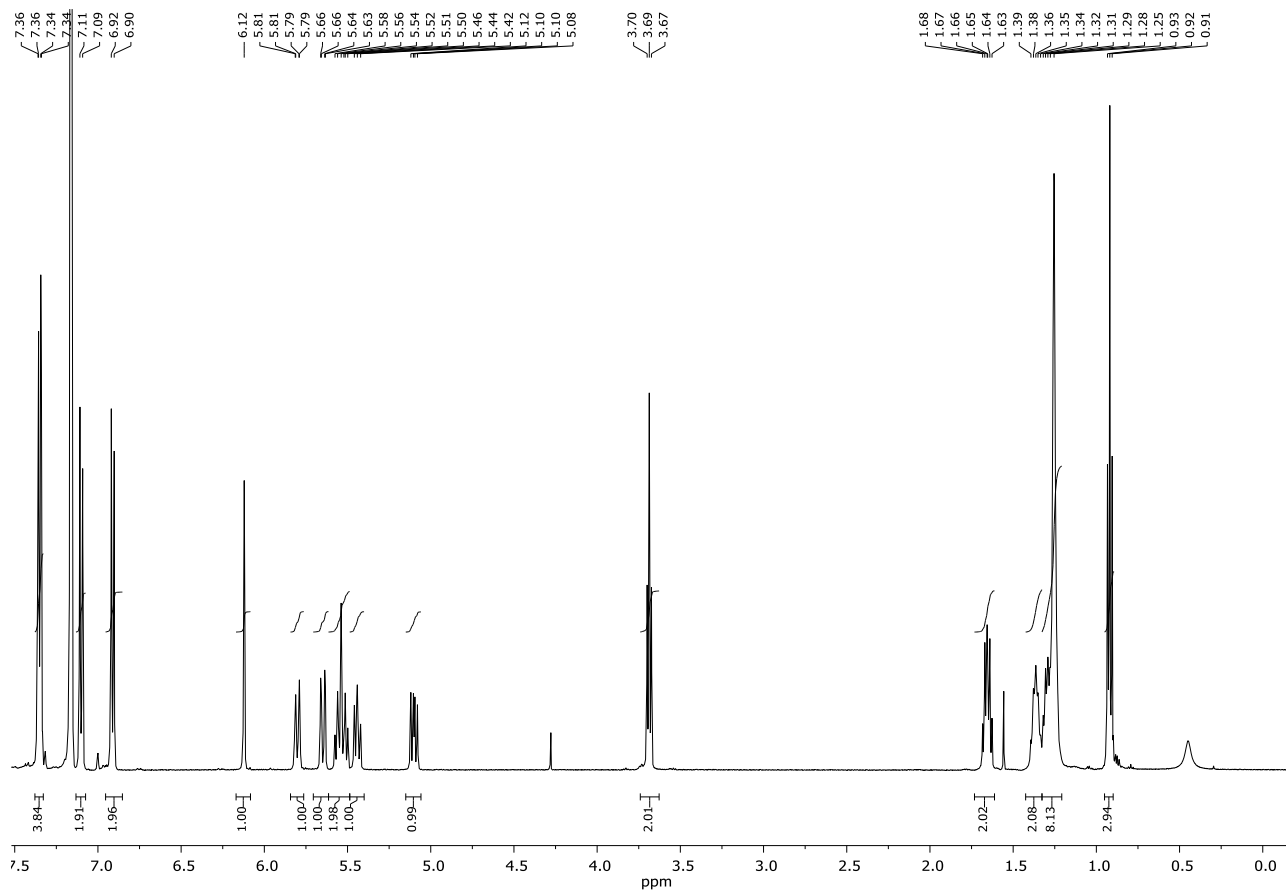
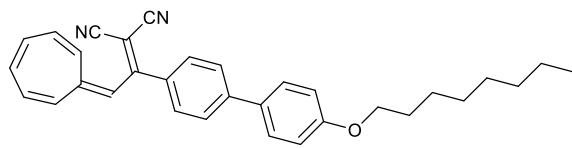


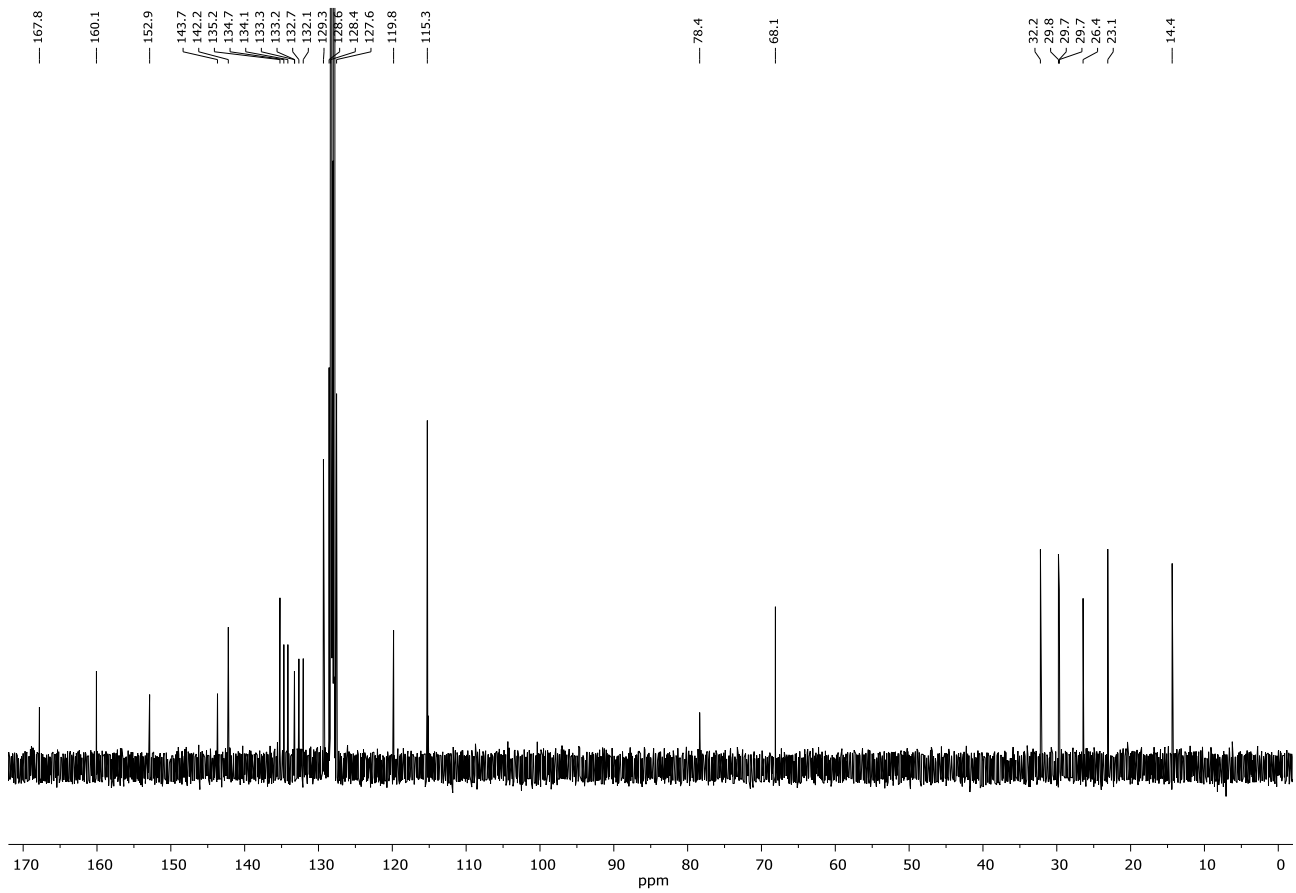
Compound 4J



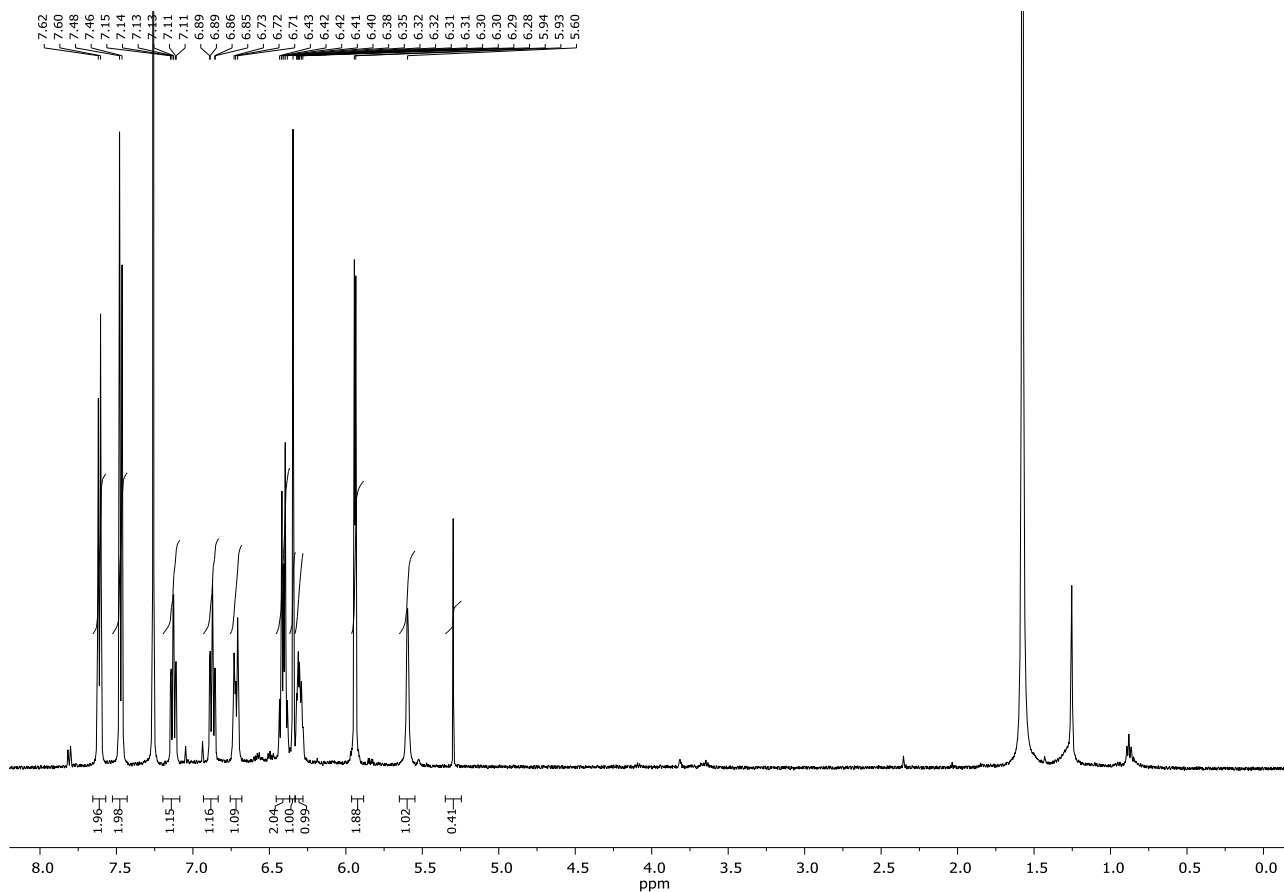
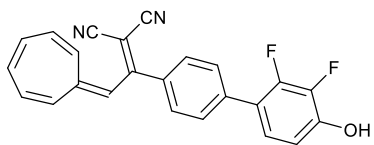


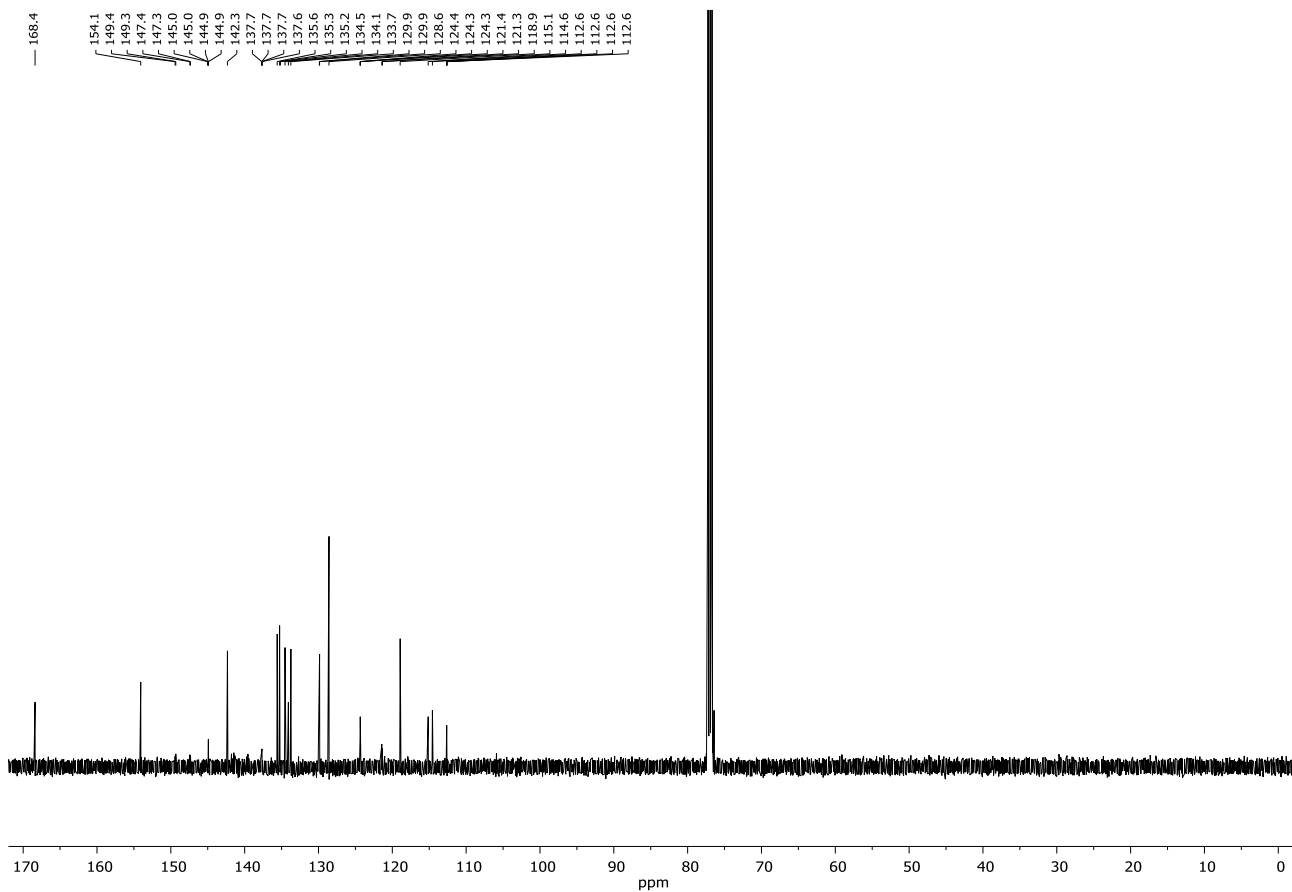
Compound 17





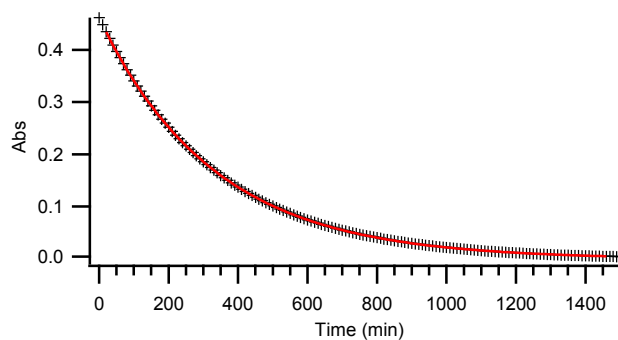
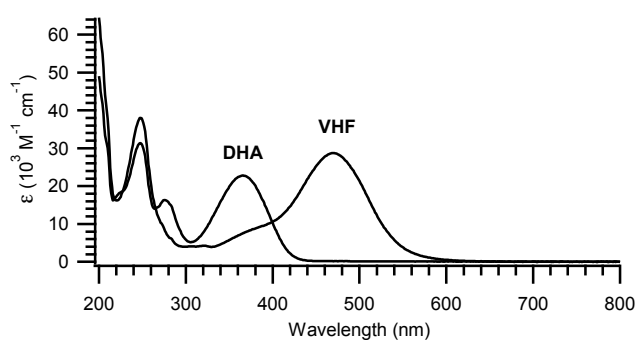
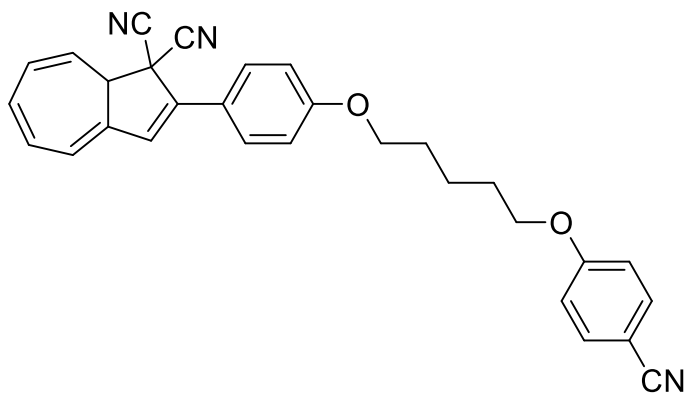
Compound 18



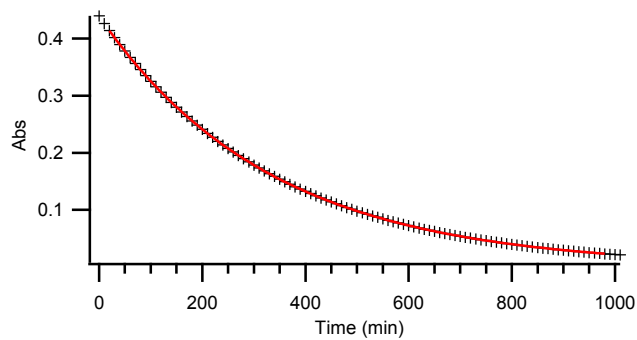
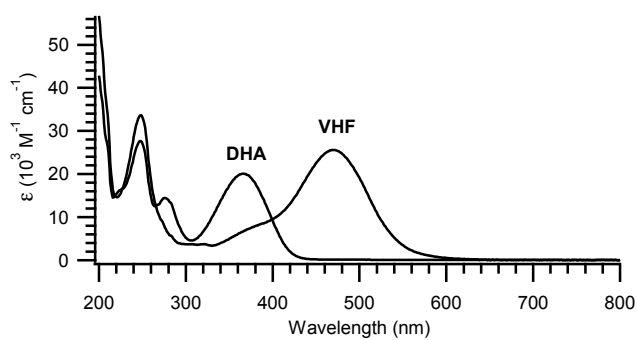
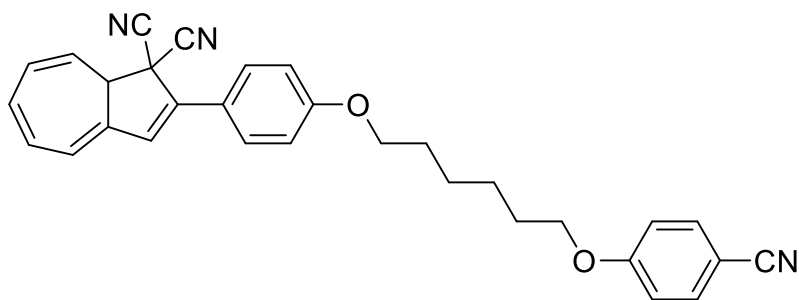


UV-Vis Absorption Spectra and Decay of VHF Absorbance at $\lambda_{\text{max,VHF}}$ in MeCN at 25°C

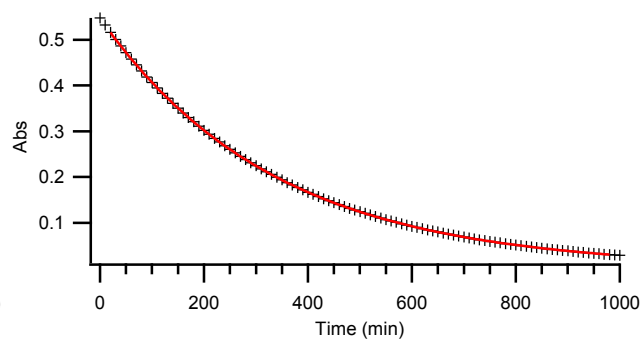
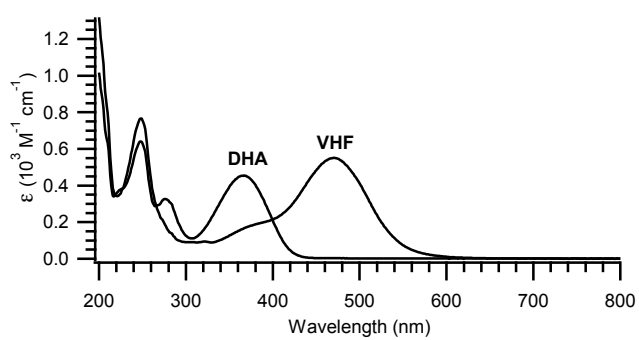
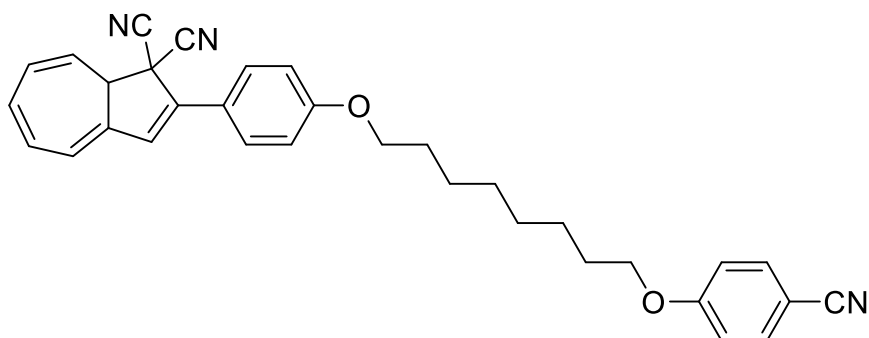
Compound 3a



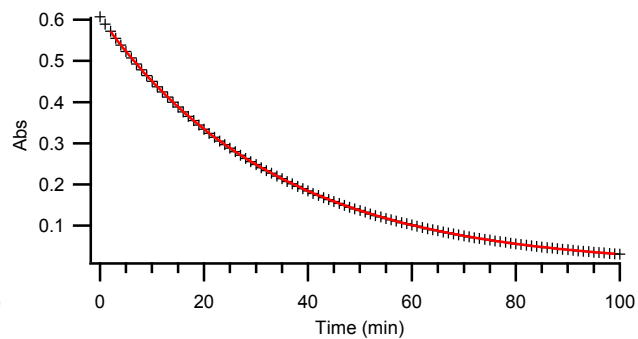
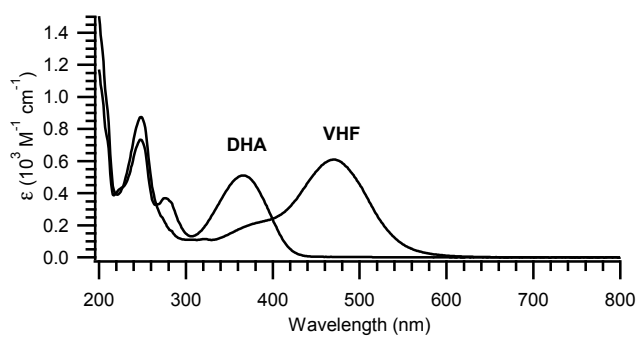
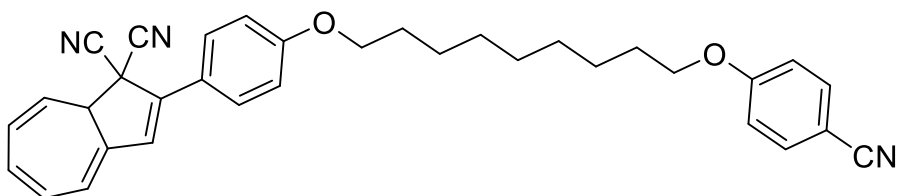
Compound 3b



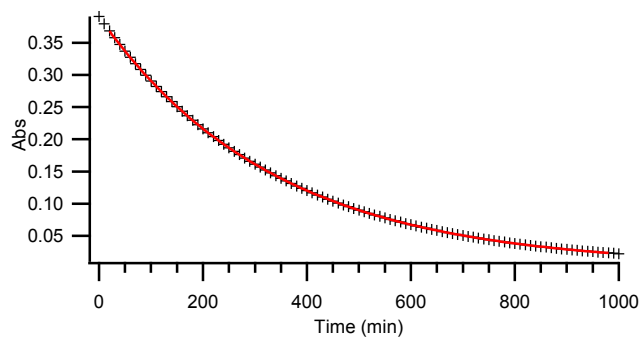
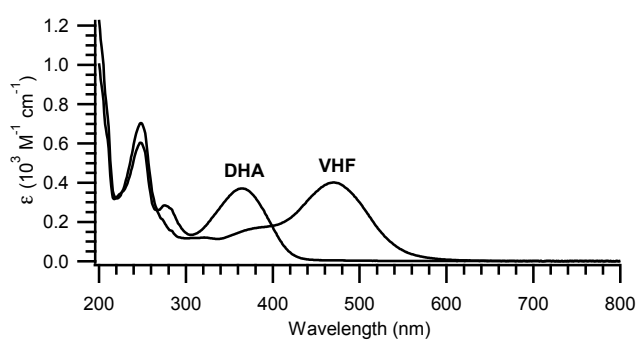
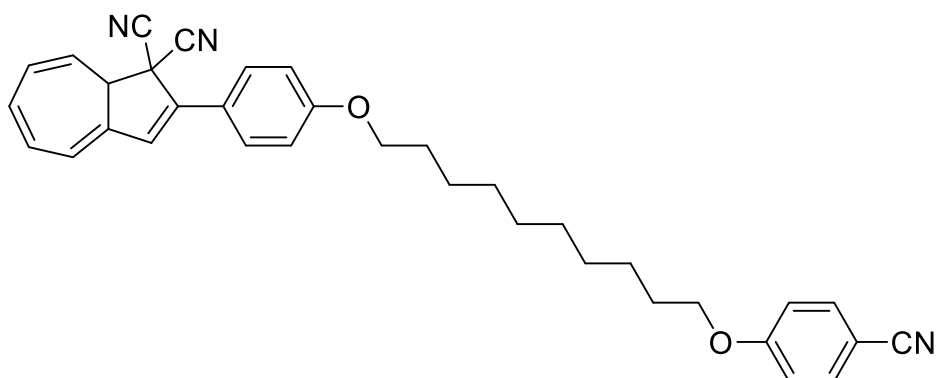
Compound 3C



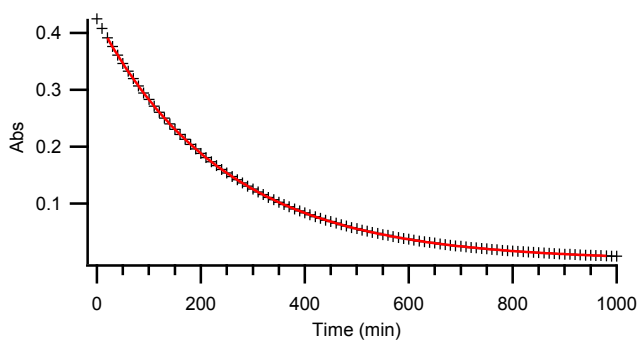
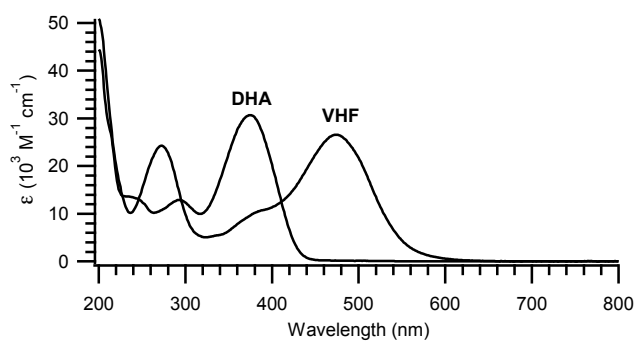
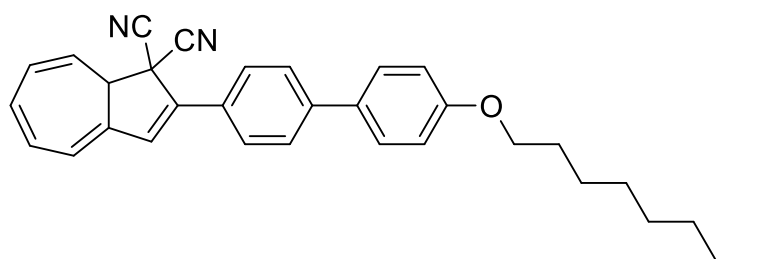
Compound 3d



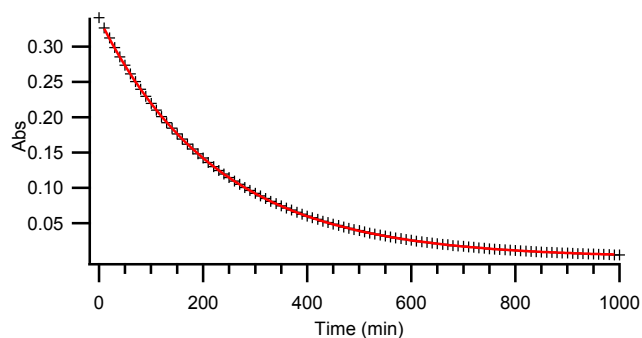
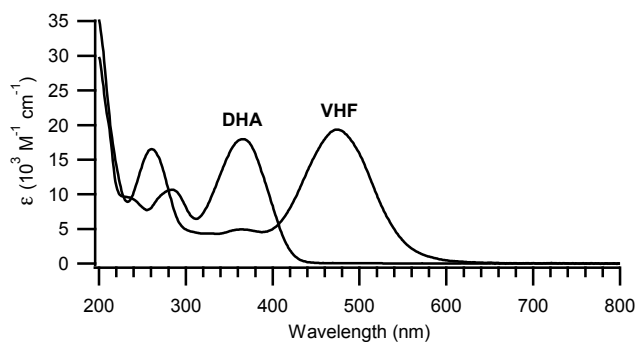
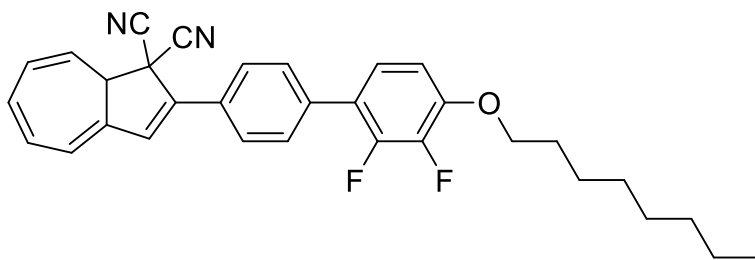
Compound 3e



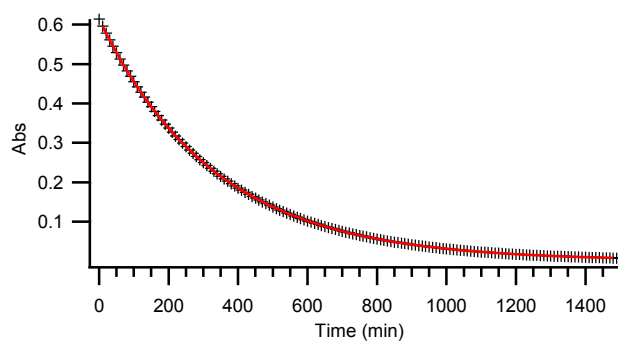
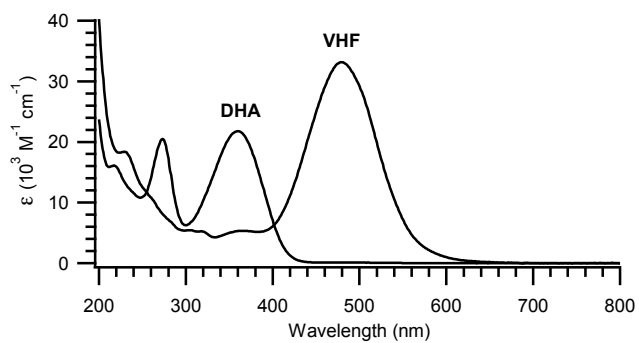
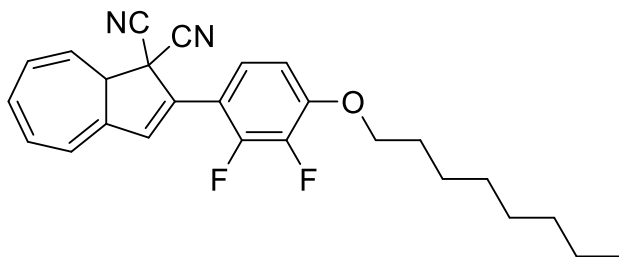
Compound 3f



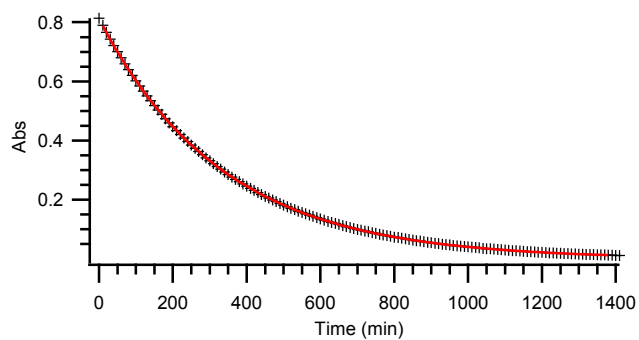
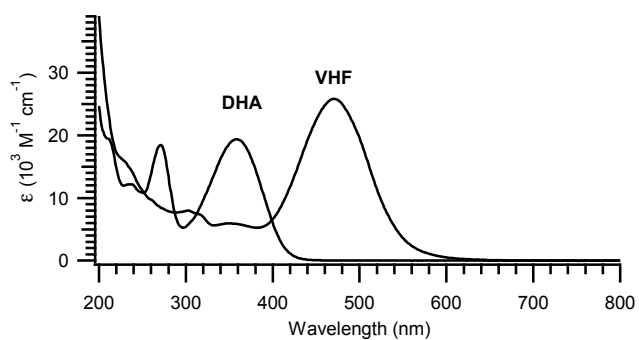
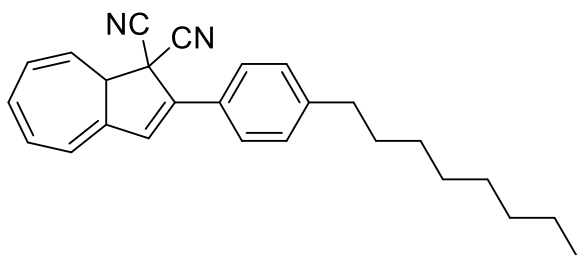
Compound 3g



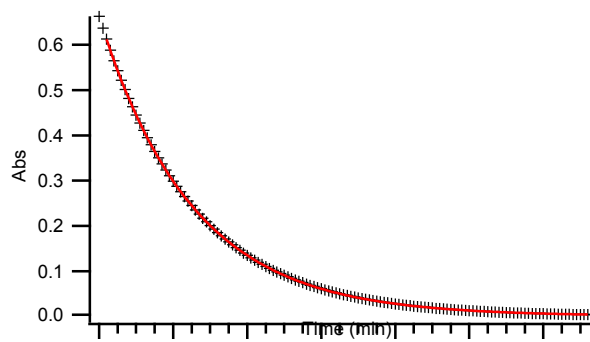
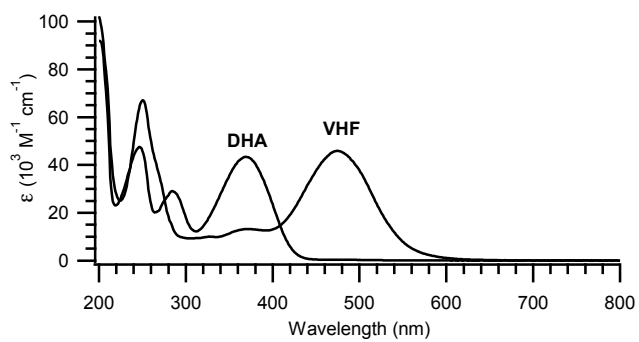
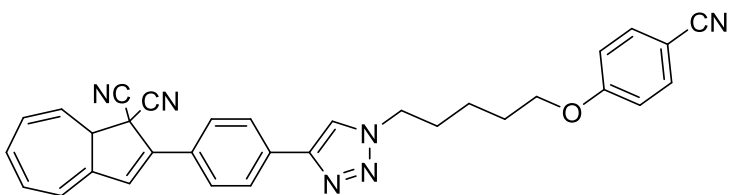
Compound 3h



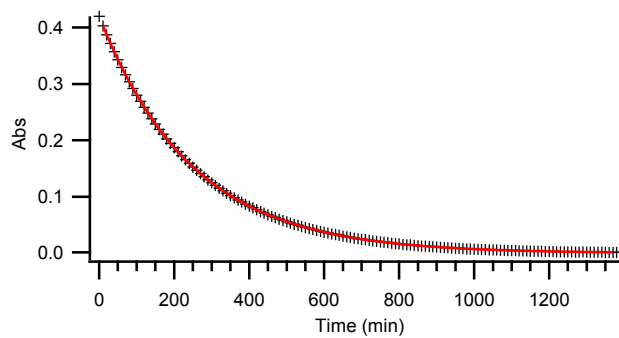
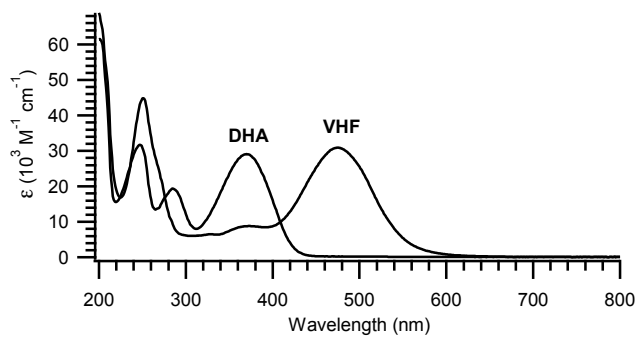
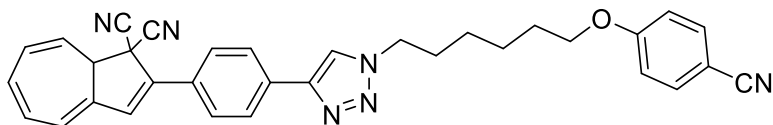
Compound 3i



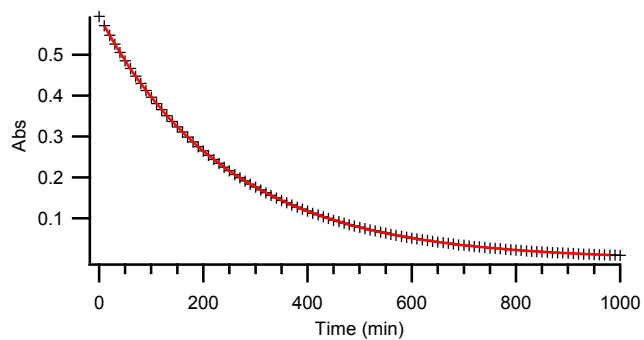
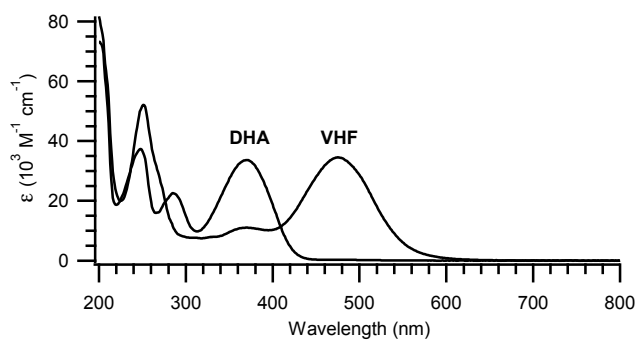
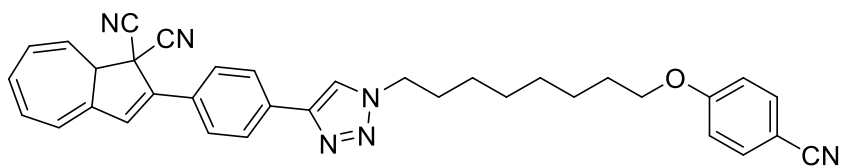
Compound 4a



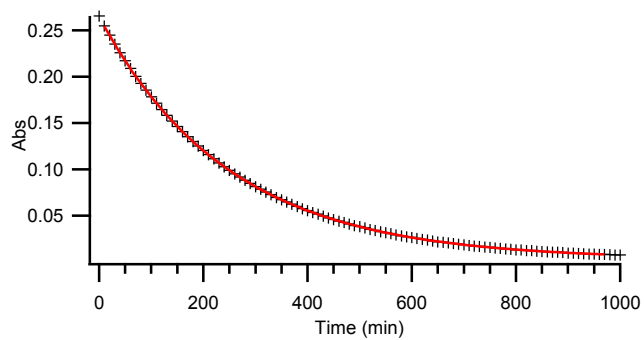
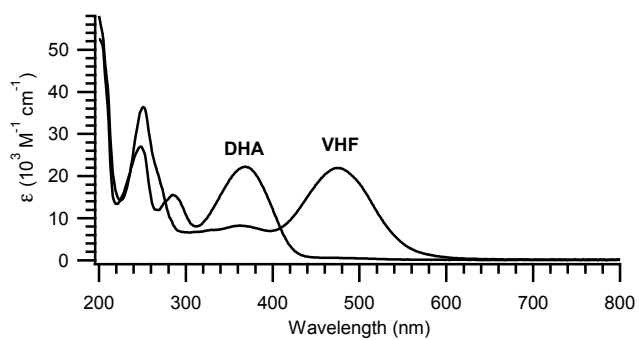
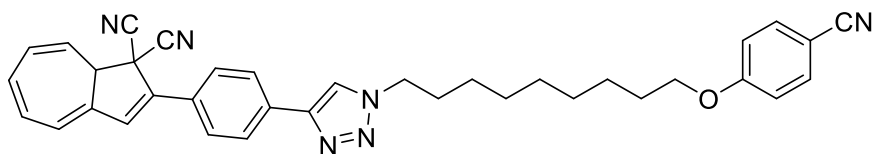
Compound 4b



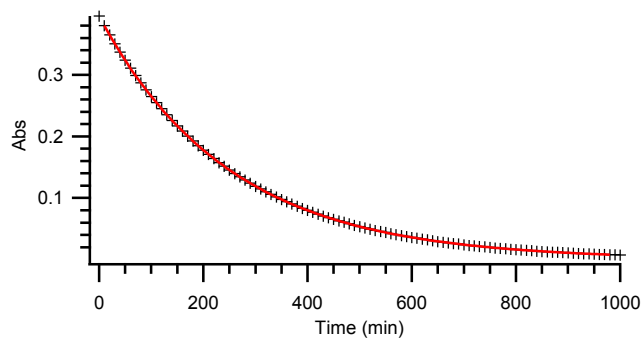
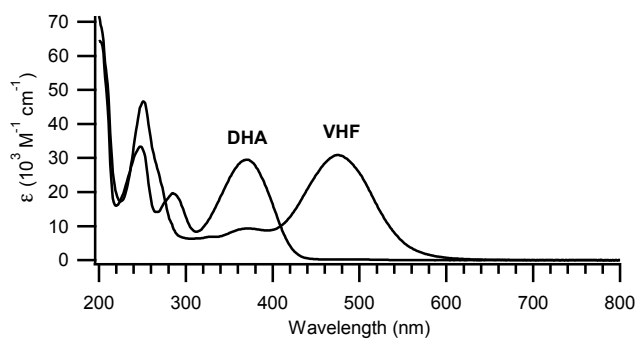
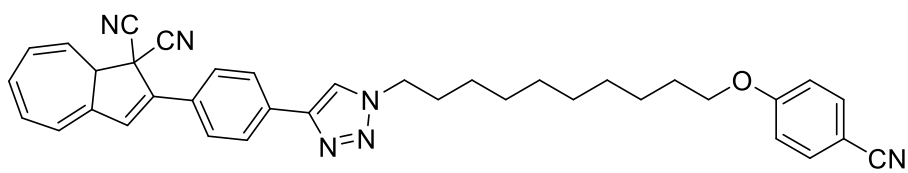
Compound 4c



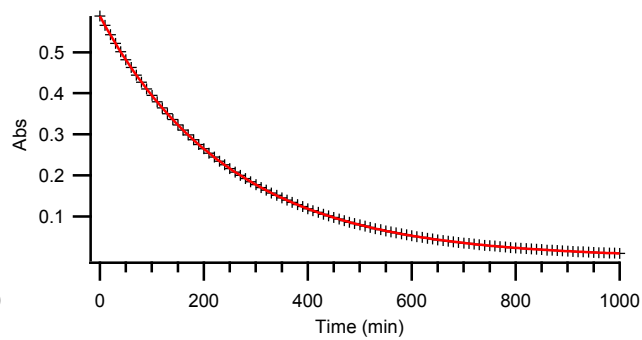
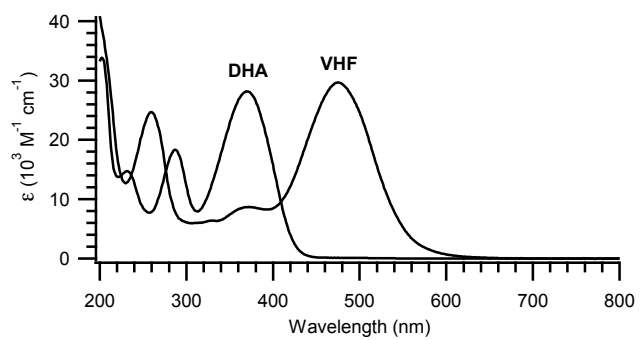
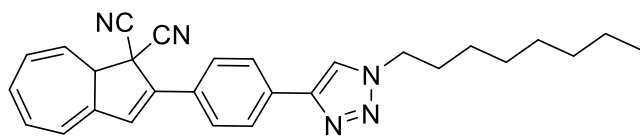
Compound 4d



Compound 4e

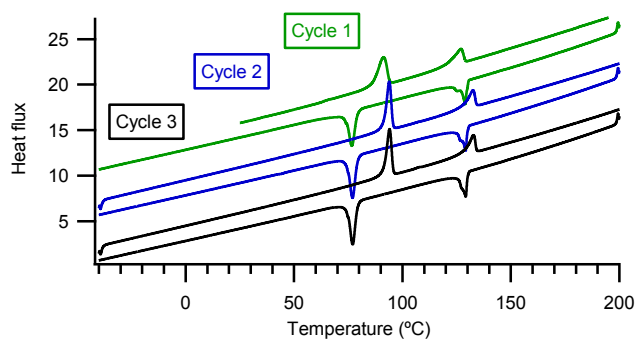
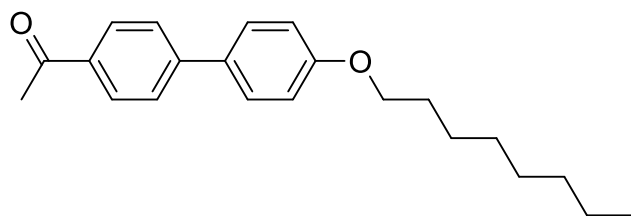


Compound 4j

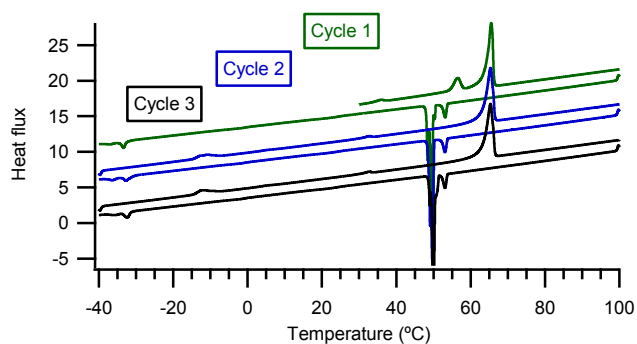
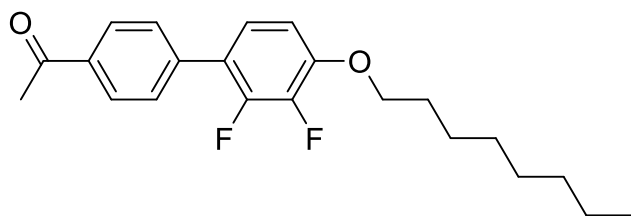


DSC Thermograms

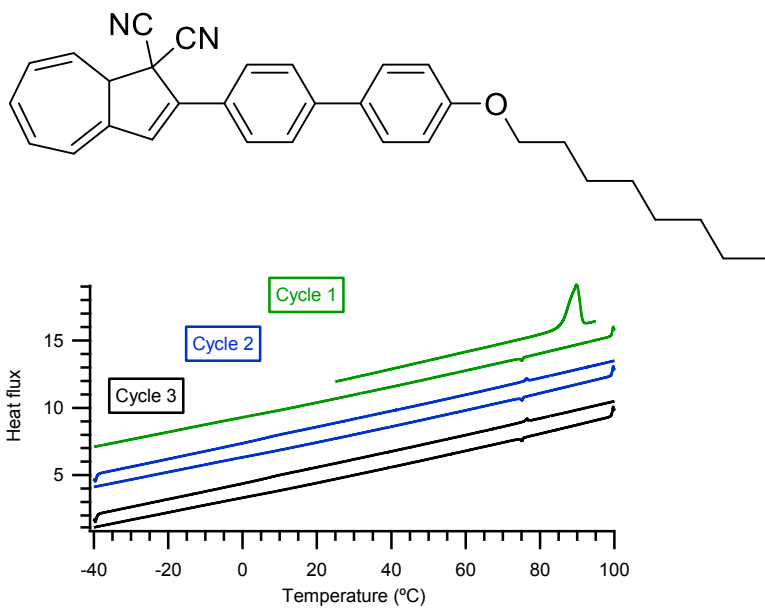
Compound 9f



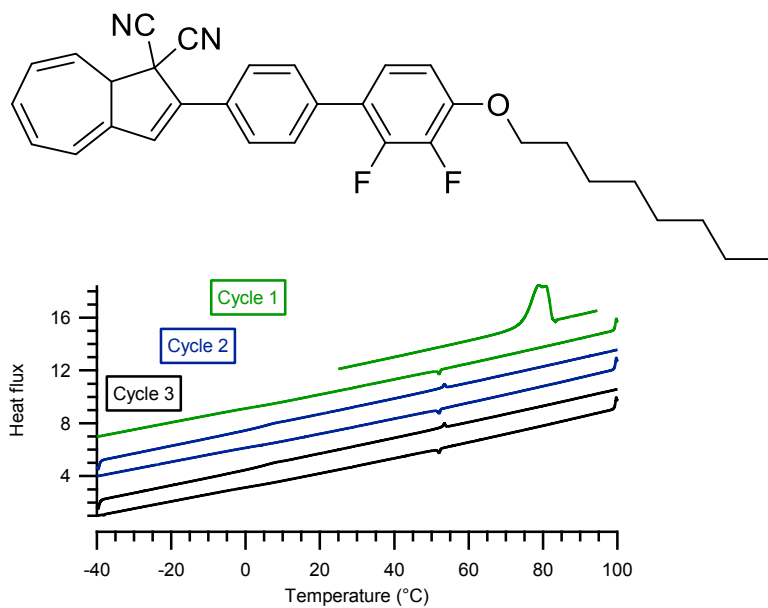
Compound 9g



Compound 3f



Compound 3g

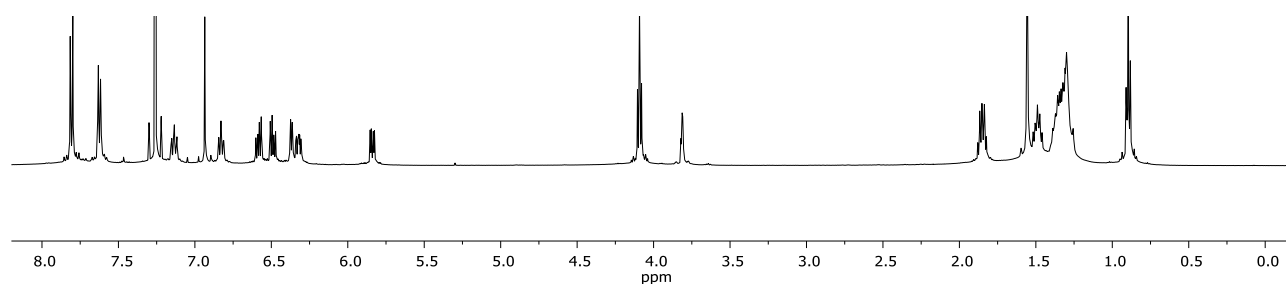


Conversion of **3g** to the corresponding VHF in the nematic phase

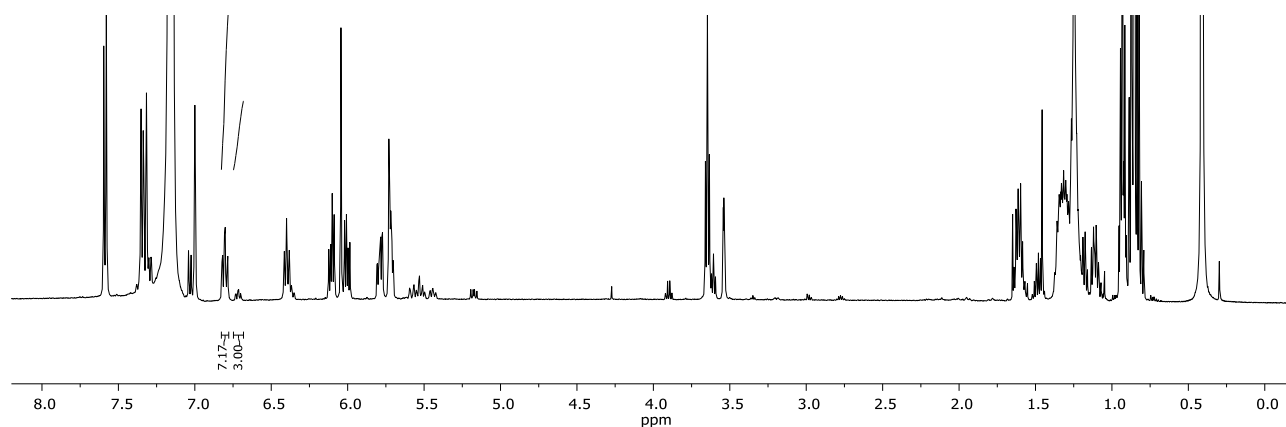
– NMR Characterization

Compound **3g** (spectrum a) was heated to over the melt and allowed to cool back to 40 °C, where **3g** in the nematic phase was exposed to UV irradiation at 365 nm (TLC lamp) for 1 hour, after which time, the sample was dissolved in C₆D₆ (spectrum b) and checked for VHF content. This solvent was chosen in order to retard the back reaction. In addition **3g** was treated in the same manner, but instead exposed to the TLC lamp for 24 hours (spectrum c).

a) Pure **3g** in CDCl₃



b) **3g** irradiated at 40 °C in the nematic phase for 1h



c) **3g** irradiated at 40 °C in the nematic phase for 24h

