

## Electronic Supplementary Information

Representative spectral data for:

### **Solvent-free mechanochemical synthesis of arylcyanomethylenequinone oximes from phenylacetonitriles and 4-unsubstituted nitroaromatic compounds using KF/nano- $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ as catalyst**

Zhi Hong,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Jian-Jun Li,<sup>a,b</sup> Guang Chen,<sup>c</sup> Hua-Jiang Jiang,<sup>c</sup> Xiao-Feng Yang,<sup>c</sup> Heng Pan,<sup>c</sup> and Wei-Ke Su<sup>\*a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> National Engineering Research Center for Process Development of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, Collaborative Innovation Center of Yangtze River Delta Region Green Pharmaceuticals, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou 310014, Zhejiang Province, P. R. China. E-mail: pharmlab@zjut.edu.cn

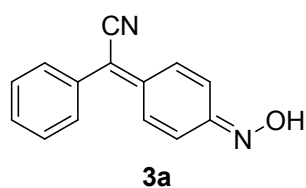
<sup>b</sup> College of Pharmaceutical Science, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou 310014, Zhejiang Province, P. R. China. E-mail: pharmlab@zjut.edu.cn

<sup>c</sup> School of Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering, Taizhou University, Taizhou 318000, Zhejiang Province, P. R. China

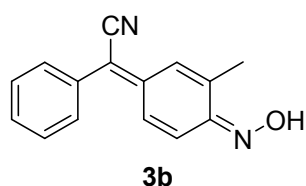
### **Contents**

1. The date of products ( <b>3a</b> to <b>3s</b> , <b>5a</b> to <b>5c</b> ).....	S2
2. The NMR spectra of products ( <b>3a</b> to <b>3s</b> , <b>5a</b> to <b>5c</b> ).....	S8
3. X-ray diffraction of <b>3b</b> .....	S24
4. The variable-temperature <sup>1</sup> H NMR spectra of <b>3b</b> in acetone- $\text{d}_6$ (25 °C to -50 °C).....	S25
5. References.....	S29

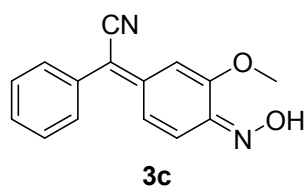
## 1. The date of products (3a to 3s, 5a to 5c)



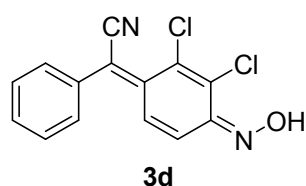
**$\alpha$ -[4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3a):** Yield: 1.84 g (83%). Orange powder, m.p.: 158.9-159.4 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S4]</sup> 160-161 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.85 (brs, 1H, =N-OH), 7.56-7.47 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.42-7.19 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.07-6.87 (m, 2H, ArH). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3224.8, 3067.6, 3022.2, 2192.9, 1510.2, 1442.7, 1343.3, 992.3, 758.9, 698.2. m/z (EI): 221 (M-1, 100), 222 (14).



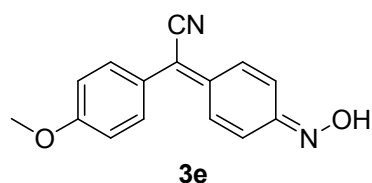
**$\alpha$ -[3-methyl-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3b):** Yield: 2.01 g (85%). Orange powder, m.p.: 160.4-161.9 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S5]</sup> 161 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.76 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.55-7.46 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.40-7.27 (dd,  $J_1=J_2=10$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.24-6.80 (m, 2H, ArH), 2.13 (d,  $J=48.8$ Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3267.2, 3157.3, 2924.8, 2199.7, 1558.4, 1514.0, 1440.7, 1000.0, 757.0, 740.6. m/z (EI): 235 (M-1, 100), 236 (7).



**$\alpha$ -[3-methoxy-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3c):** Yield: 2.17 g (86%). Orange powder, m.p.: 185.3-186.5 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S5]</sup> 186 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.81 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.59-7.44 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.37-7.23 (dd,  $J_1=J_2=10$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.17-6.84 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.42-6.29 (dd,  $J_1=1.6$ Hz,  $J_2=1.2$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.78 (d,  $J=76$ Hz, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3145.7, 3058.9, 2982.7, 2338.5, 2193.9, 1613.3, 1556.4, 1416.6, 1213.1, 1010.6, 837.0, 693.4. m/z (EI): 251 (M-1, 100), 252 (7).

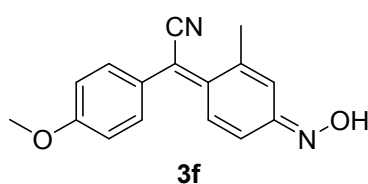


**$\alpha$ -[2,3-dichloro-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3d):** Yield: 2.27 g (78%). Yellow powder, m.p.: 167.9-168.8 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S5]</sup> 168 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 13.52 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.57-7.42 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.22 (d,  $J=10.4$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.77 (d,  $J=10.4$ Hz, 1H, ArH). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3193.9, 3029.0, 2197.7, 1562.2, 1506.3, 1489.9, 1396.4, 1331.8, 1034.7, 820.7, 697.2. m/z (EI): 289 (M-1, 100), 291 (71), 293 (18).

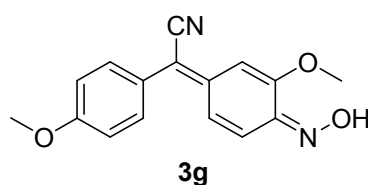


**4-methoxy- $\alpha$ -[4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3e):** Yield: 2.25 g (89%). Yellow powder, m.p.: 162.7-164.1 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S4]</sup> 161 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.68 (brs, 1H, =N-

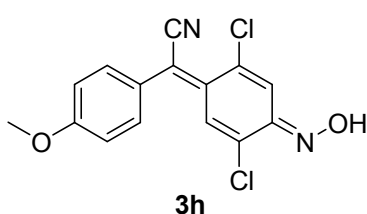
OH), 6.85-7.49 (m, 8H, ArH), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3252.0, 2964.6, 2198.9, 1597.1, 1508.3, 1257.6, 1180.4, 979.8, 842.9. m/z (EI): 251 (M-1, 100), 252 (8).



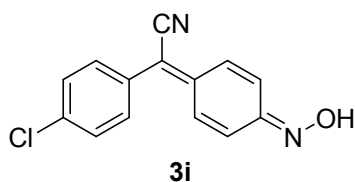
**4-methoxy- $\alpha$ -[2-methyl-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3f):** Yield: 2.02 g (76%). Yellow powder, m.p.: 172.9-174.0 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.52 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.39-7.32 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.17-7.01 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.89-6.65 (m, 2H, ArH), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.55 (d, J=16Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 160.42, 150.58, 142.85, 137.66, 134.27, 131.87, 130.89, 128.93, 128.05, 121.55, 119.98, 117.71, 115.03, 109.44, 55.87, 23.09. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3244.3, 3076.5, 2966.5, 2189.2, 1602.9, 1573.9, 1510.3, 1269.2, 1180.4, 827.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 267.2798 found 267.2801.



**4-methoxy- $\alpha$ -[3-methoxy-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3g):** Yield: 2.60 g (92%). Orange powder, m.p.: 192.5-193.9 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.73 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.53 (d, J=8Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.39 (d, J=8Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.33-7.22 (dd, J<sub>1</sub>=J<sub>2</sub>=10Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.14-6.86 (m, 3H, ArH), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.78 (d, J=62.8Hz, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 160.32, 155.75, 145.72, 142.30, 131.65, 131.40, 127.95, 125.66, 120.00, 119.06, 115.15, 107.86, 101.82, 99.82, 55.84, 55.63. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3424.4, 3218.0, 3148.6, 2363.6, 2193.9, 1613.3, 1557.4, 1507.3, 1254.6, 1015.5, 835.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 283.2788 found 283.2792.

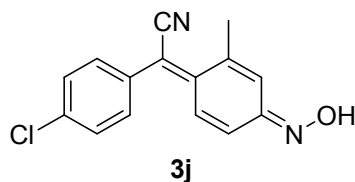


**4-methoxy- $\alpha$ -[2,5-dichloro-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3h):** Yield: 2.41 g (75%). Orange powder, m.p.: 169.0-171.4 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S5]</sup> 178 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 13.56 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.48-7.35 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.12-7.01 (dd, J<sub>1</sub>=J<sub>2</sub>=8.8Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.90 (s, 1H, ArH), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3184.5, 3066.8, 2968.5, 2200.8, 1600.9, 1537.3, 1506.4, 1259.5, 1028.1, 835.2, 752.2. m/z (EI): 319 (M-1, 100), 321 (69), 323 (11).

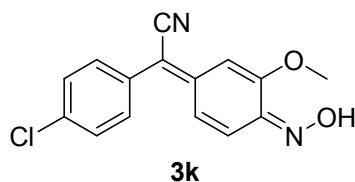


**4-chloro- $\alpha$ -[4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3i):** Yield: 2.31 g (90%). Yellow powder, m.p.: 188.1-189.6 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S4]</sup> 188-189 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR

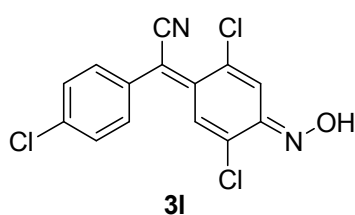
(DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.88 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.62-6.88 (m, 8H, ArH). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3182.6, 2200.8, 1541.1, 1519.9, 1398.4, 1093.6, 1008.8, 829.4. *m/z* (EI): 255 (M-1, 100), 257 (31).



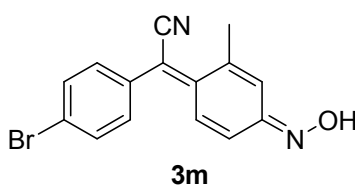
**4-chloro- $\alpha$ -[2-methyl-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3j):** Yield: 1.92 g (71%). Light yellow powder, m.p.: 179.2-180.3 °C (Lit.,<sup>[SS]</sup> 173 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.63 (d, *J*=24 Hz, 1H, =N-OH), 7.46-7.61 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.10-7.37 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.63-6.82 (m, 2H, ArH), 2.58-2.54 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub>= *J*<sub>2</sub>=1.2Hz, 2H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.57-1.53 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub>= *J*<sub>2</sub>=0.8Hz, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3159.4, 3039.8, 2883.6, 2195.0, 1587.4, 1558.5, 1491.0, 1398.4, 1006.8, 829.4, 765.7. *m/z* (EI): 269 (M-1, 100), 271 (28).



**4-chloro- $\alpha$ -[3-methoxy-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3k):** Yield: 2.44 g (85%). Light yellow powder, m.p.: 202.3-204.4 °C (Lit.,<sup>[SS]</sup> 205 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.88 (brs, 1H, =N-OH), 7.62-7.56 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.47 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.37 (d, *J*=10 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.23 (d, *J*=10.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.16-6.82 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.4-6.25 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub>=*J*<sub>2</sub>=1.6Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.79 (d, *J*=66.8Hz, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3219.2, 3076.5, 2920.2, 2197.0, 1612.5, 1560.4, 1450.3, 1421.5, 1213.2, 1014.6, 835.2. *m/z* (EI): 285 (M-1, 100), 287 (27).

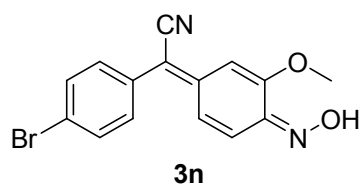


**4-chloro- $\alpha$ -[2,5-dichloro-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3l):** Yield: 2.64 g (81%). Light yellow powder, m.p.: 182.6-183.1 °C (Lit.,<sup>[SS]</sup> 184 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 13.73 (d, *J*=8.8Hz, 1H, =N-OH), 7.63-7.36 (m, 5H, ArH), 6.80 (s, 1H, ArH). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3200.0, 3080.3, 2197.0, 1579.7, 1537.3, 1055.1, 1037.7, 833.3, 765.7. *m/z* (EI): 323 (93), 325 (M, 100), 327 (25).

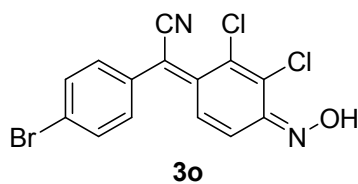


**4-bromo- $\alpha$ -[2-methyl-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3m):** Yield: 2.71 g (86%). Yellow powder, m.p.: 166.3-167.3 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.66 (d, *J*=22.8Hz, 1H, =N-OH), 7.73-7.66 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.41-7.09 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.95-6.62 (m, 2H, ArH), 2.55 (d, *J*=15.6Hz, 2H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.55 (d, *J*=14.8Hz, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 143.90,

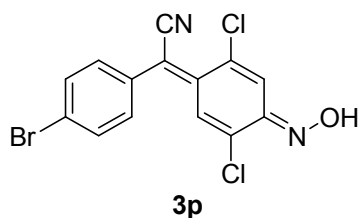
137.54, 135.17, 132.61, 132.50, 132.42, 130.42, 127.38, 123.26, 121.08, 120.33, 118.20, 108.15, 23.00, 22.26. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3249.8, 3088.8, 2198.7, 1581.5, 1558.4, 1395.4, 1077.2, 1001.0, 818.7, 788.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}+\text{H}^+$ : 316.0136 found 316.0139.



**4-bromo- $\alpha$ -[3-methoxy-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3n):** Yield: 2.65 g (80%). Orange powder, m.p.: 205.6-207.4 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.88 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.73-7.70 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.54 (d,  $J=8.4\text{Hz}$ , 1H, ArH), 7.40 (d,  $J=8.4\text{Hz}$ , 1H, ArH), 7.37-7.24 (dd,  $J_1=J_2=10\text{ Hz}$ , 1H, ArH), 7.15-6.82 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.40-6.25 (dd,  $J_1=J_2=1.6\text{ Hz}$ , 1H, ArH), 3.79 (d,  $J=65.6\text{ Hz}$ , 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 156.33, 145.69, 143.84, 132.67, 132.55, 132.21, 131.92, 127.80, 125.34, 123.02, 119.60, 106.46, 101.66, 99.46, 55.80. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3212.2, 3075.3, 2195.8, 1612.4, 1582.5, 1419.5, 1212.2, 1013.5, 837.0, 802.3, 733.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2+\text{H}^+$ : 332.0126 found 332.0128.

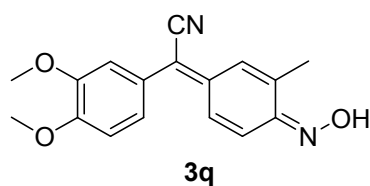


**4-bromo- $\alpha$ -[2,3-dichloro-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3o):** Yield: 2.59 g (70%). Orange powder, m.p.: 182.1-184.3 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 13.63 (brs, 1H, =N-OH), 7.76-7.66 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.47-7.40 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.19 (d,  $J=10\text{Hz}$ , 1H, ArH), 6.75 (d,  $J=10.4\text{Hz}$ , 1H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 148.21, 139.88, 135.11, 134.80, 132.73, 132.59, 132.39, 131.95, 128.83, 128.64, 124.13, 119.50, 118.03, 111.58. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3191.4, 3137.4, 2197.0, 1579.8, 1507.4, 1484.3, 1391.7, 1080.2, 1040.6, 1007.9, 870.9, 824.6, 758.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_7\text{BrCl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{H}^+$ : 369.9106 found 369.9111.

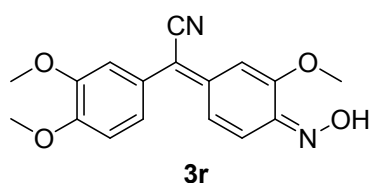


**4-bromo- $\alpha$ -[2,5-dichloro-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3p):** Yield: 2.78 g (75%). Orange powder, m.p.: 181.6-183.5 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 13.76 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.75 (d,  $J=8.4\text{Hz}$ , 2H, ArH), 7.47 (d,  $J=8\text{Hz}$ , 3H, ArH), 6.81 (s, 1H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 146.42, 139.16, 134.33, 132.85, 132.79, 132.74, 132.46, 132.42, 131.92, 126.88, 124.40, 121.14, 119.01, 111.27. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3197.2, 3082.4, 2197.0, 1576.9, 1539.3, 1479.5, 1279.8, 1054.1, 1037.8, 950.0, 890.2, 829.4, 762.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd

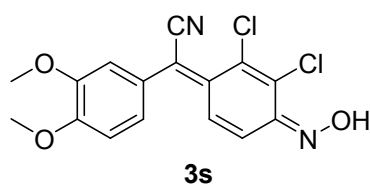
for  $C_{14}H_7BrCl_2N_2O+H^+$ : 369.9106 found 369.9113.



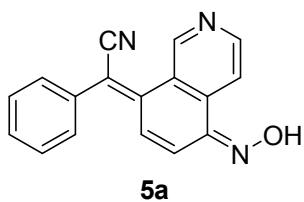
**3,4-dimethoxy- $\alpha$ -[3-methyl-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3q):** Yield: 2.58 g (87%). Orange powder, m.p.: 181.2-182.0 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.64 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.37-6.89 (m, 6H, ArH), 3.82 (d,  $J=3.2$ Hz, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.80 (d,  $J=2$ Hz, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.13 (d,  $J=37.6$ Hz, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}C$  NMR(DMSO- $d_6$ , 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 150.86, 150.33, 149.31, 141.57, 138.85, 129.58, 127.42, 126.09, 125.61, 123.16, 119.45, 113.17, 112.41, 109.98. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3248.1, 3014.7, 2935.7, 2197.0, 1595.1, 1518.0, 1261.5, 1143.8, 989.5, 852.5, 806.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{16}N_2O_3+Na^+$ : 319.2643 found 319.2637.



**3,4-dimethoxy- $\alpha$ -[3-methoxy-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3r):** Yield: 2.75 g (88%). Orange powder, m.p.: 187.4-187.7 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.71 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.32-7.21 (dd,  $J_1=J_2=10$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.15-7.05 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.99-6.92 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.39 (s, 1H, ArH), 3.85-3.71 (m, 9H, OCH<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 155.72, 150.12, 145.74, 142.34, 127.96, 125.85, 122.94, 119.00, 112.36, 108.10, 101.84, 100.09, 56.19, 56.08, 56.05, 55.76, 55.67. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3142.0, 3010.9, 2935.7, 2189.2, 1593.2, 1556.6, 1514.1, 1460.1, 1423.5, 1257.6, 1219.0, 995.3, 862.2, 814.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{16}N_2O_4+Na^+$ : 335.2633 found 335.2628.

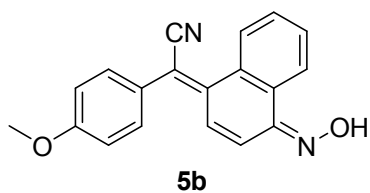


**3,4-dimethoxy- $\alpha$ -[2,3-dichloro-4-(hydroxyimino)-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]benzeneacetonitrile (3s):** Yield: 2.49 g (71%). Deep red powder, m.p.: 196.9-198.5 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 13.41 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 7.39-7.04 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.90 (d,  $J=10.4$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}C$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 56.21, 112.48, 113.36, 113.84, 117.45, 119.82, 123.89, 127.86, 129.07, 129.55, 134.34, 138.84, 148.30, 149.34, 150.90. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3120.6, 3021.3, 2942.2, 2190.0, 1597.9, 1572.8, 1514.2, 1444.6, 1266.2, 1075.2, 823.5, 725.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{12}Cl_2N_2O_3+Na^+$ : 373.1829 found 373.1834.



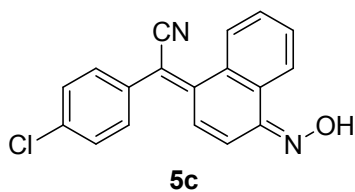
**$\alpha$ -[5-(hydroxyimino)-8-isoquinolyl]benzeneacetonitrile (5a):**

Yield: 1.91 g (70%). Brown powder, m.p.: 232.4-236.4 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 13.03 (s, 1H, =N-OH), 9.97-7.95 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.66-6.97 (m, 6H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 150.39, 149.36, 148.08, 146.09, 140.24, 138.17, 134.69, 131.87, 130.37, 129.78, 129.49, 124.30, 121.16, 119.16, 116.53, 112.20, 109.69. IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3130.5, 2187.3, 1606.7, 1539.2, 1437.0, 1398.4, 991.4, 808.2, 700.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O+H<sup>+</sup>: 274.2733 found 274.2735.



**4-methoxy- $\alpha$ -[4-(hydroxyimino)-1(4H)-naphthalenyldene]benzeneacetonitrile (5b):**

Yield: 2.15 g (71%). Yellow powder, m.p.: 191.9-194.2 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S5]</sup> 193-194 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.43 (d, J=8.8Hz, 1H, =N-OH), 8.78-8.80 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.12-8.27 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.63-7.66 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.30-7.50 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.00-7.19 (m, 3H, ArH), 3.83 (d, J=8.0Hz, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3244.3, 2916.4, 2193.1, 1604.8, 1508.3, 1261.5, 1174.7, 960.6, 823.6, 760.1. m/z (EI<sup>-</sup>): 301 (M-1, 100), 302 (10).

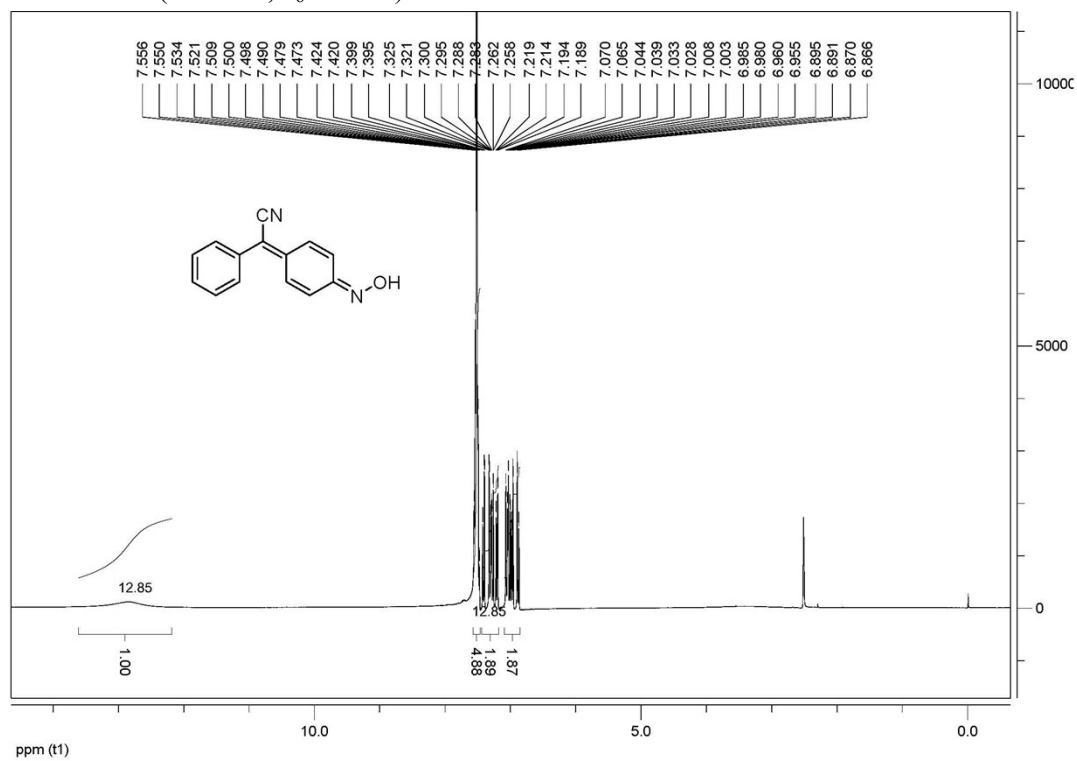


**4-chloro- $\alpha$ -[4-(hydroxyimino)-1(4H)-naphthalenyldene]benzeneacetonitrile (5c):**

Yield: 2.48 g (75%). Light yellow powder, m.p.: 195.3-197.6 °C (Lit.,<sup>[S5]</sup> 195-196 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz),  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.54 (d, J=12.4Hz, 1H, =N-OH), 8.81-8.79 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.28-8.14 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.68-6.92 (m, 8H, ArH). IR (KBr),  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3240.4, 3009.0, 2193.1, 1587.4, 1506.4, 1487.1, 1398.4, 1091.7, 958.6, 825.5, 754.2. m/z (EI<sup>-</sup>): 305 (M-1, 100), 307 (27).

## 2. The NMR spectra of products (3a to 3s, 5a to 5c)

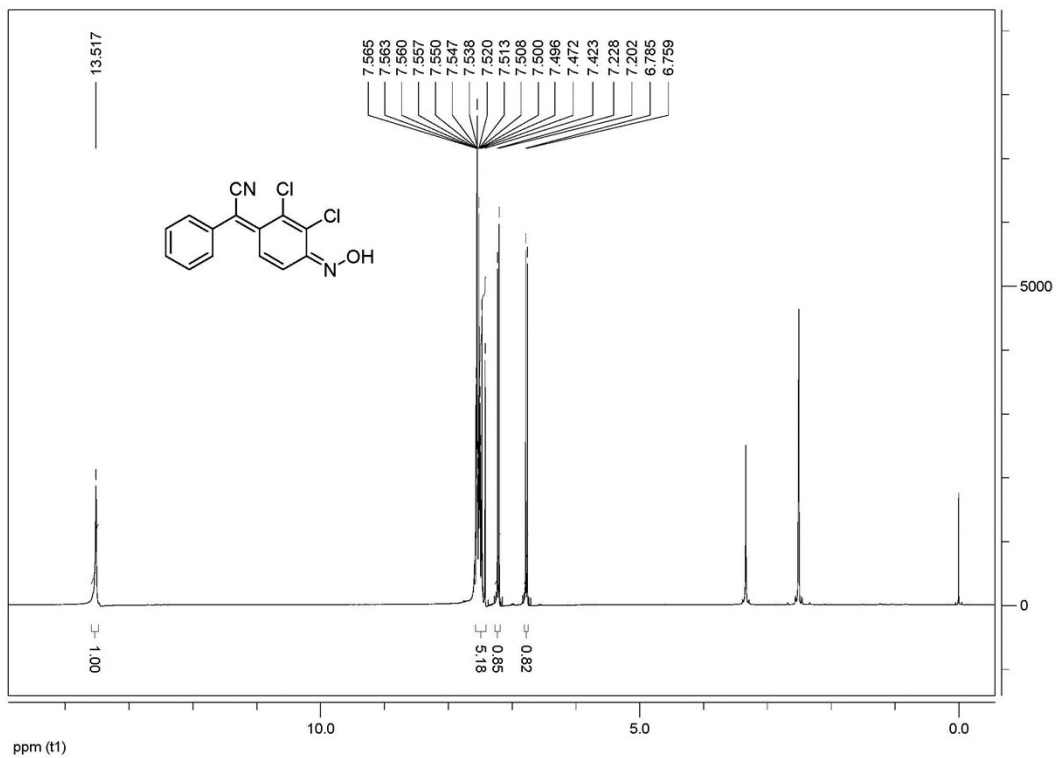
### 3a $^1\text{H}$ NMR(400MHz, $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



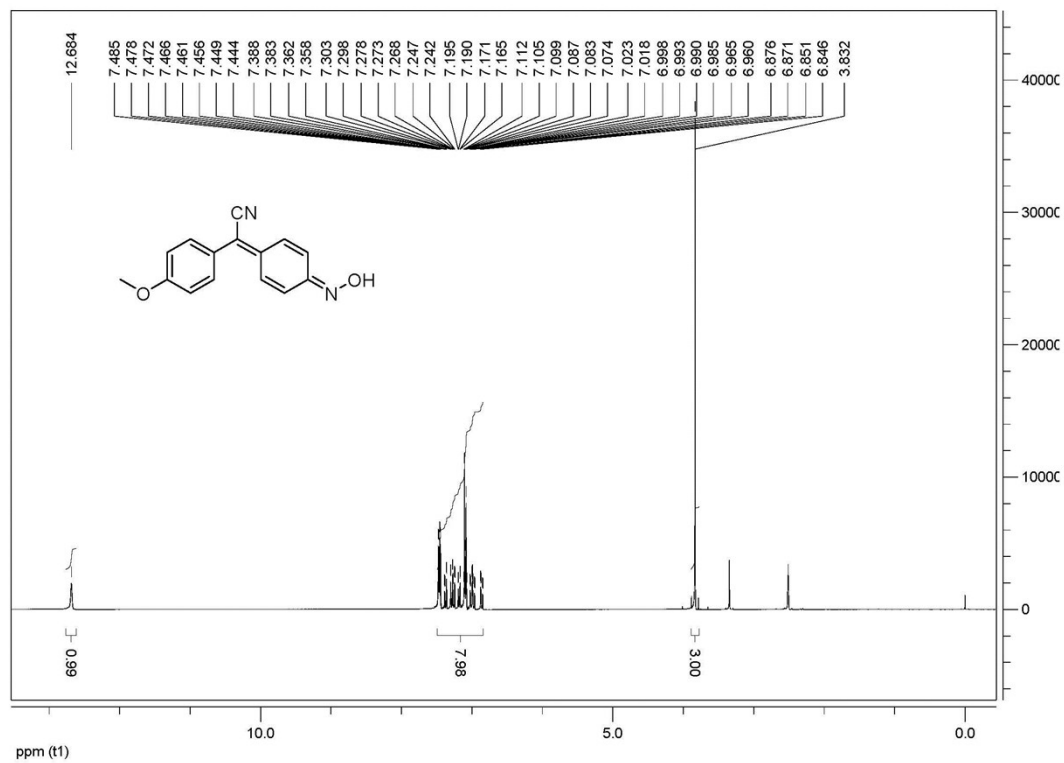
### 3b $^1\text{H}$ NMR(400MHz, $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



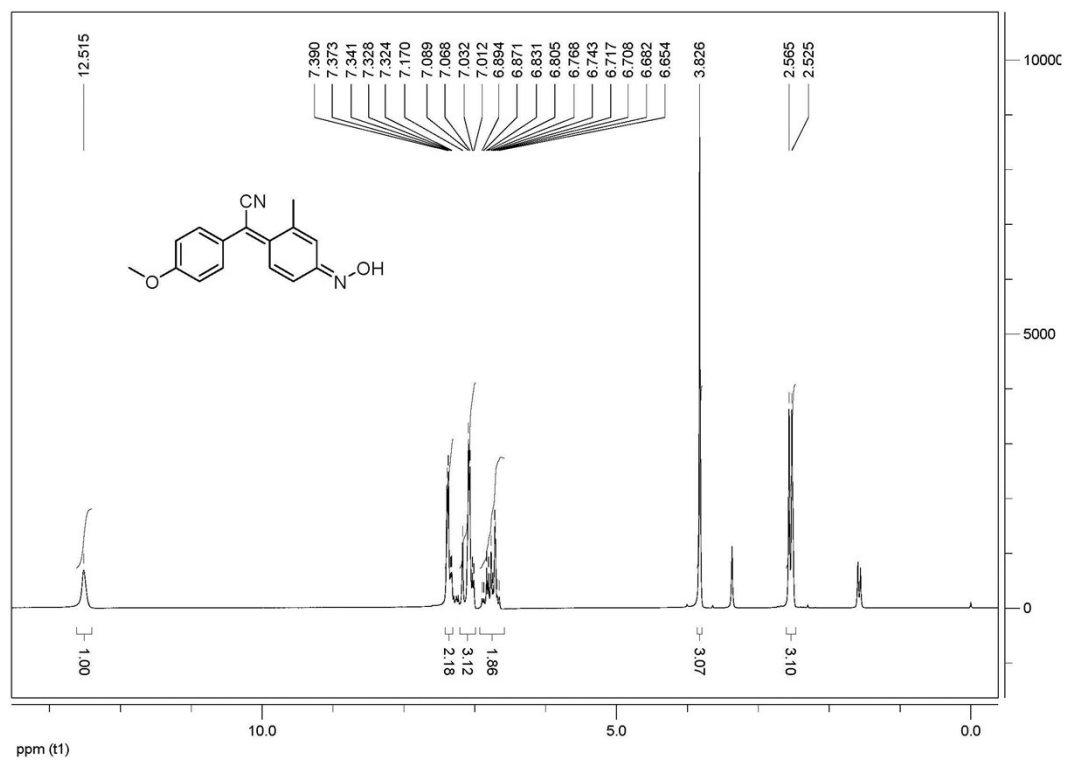




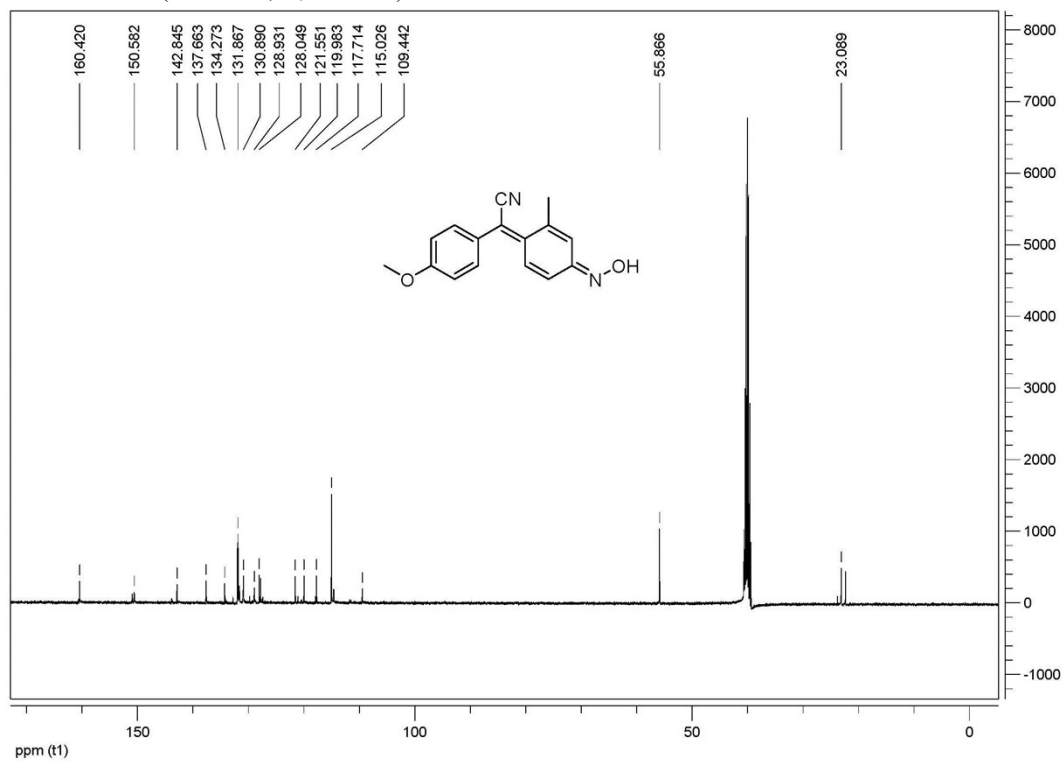
**3e**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



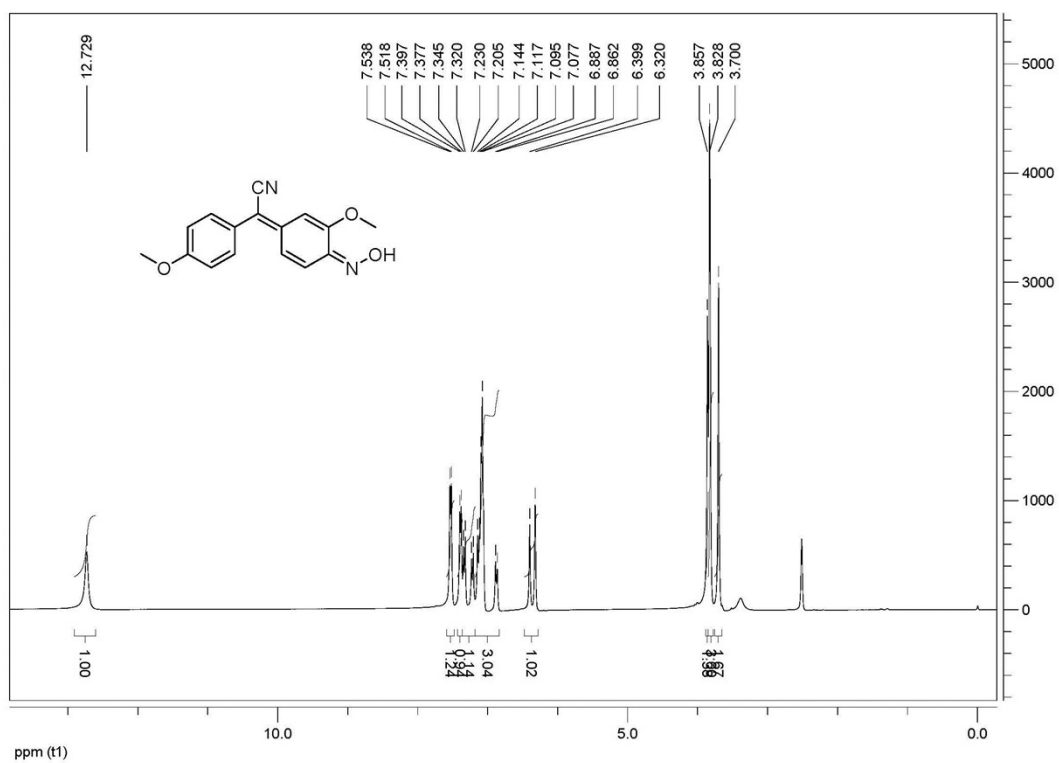
**3f**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



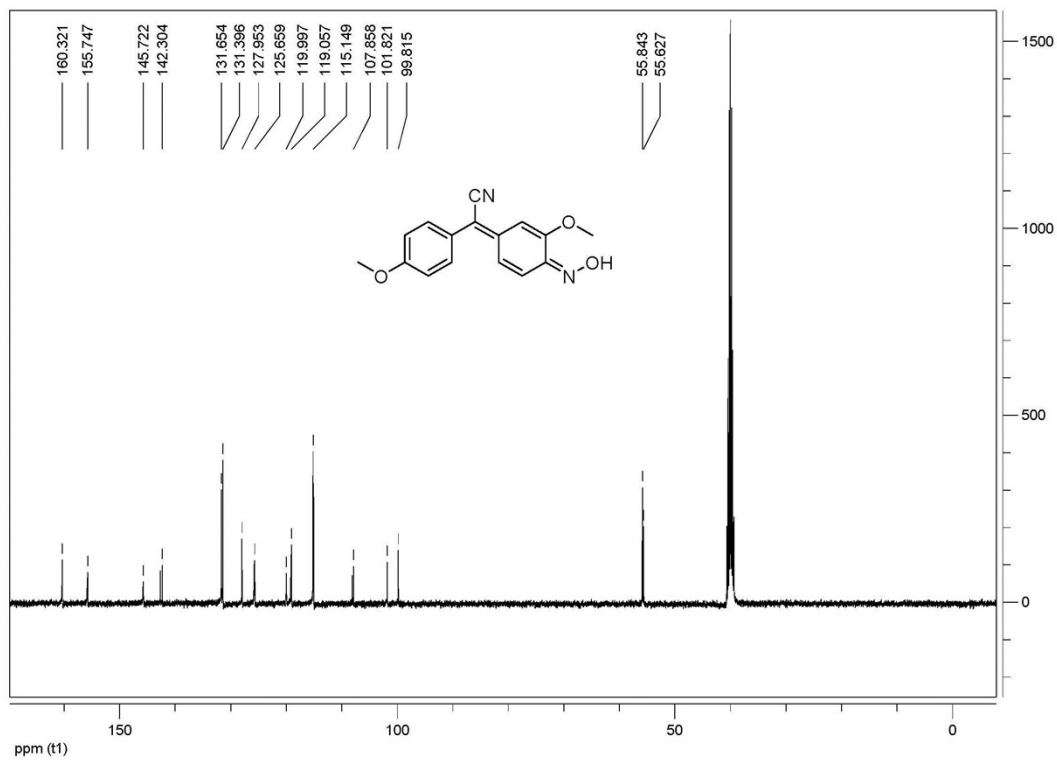
**3f**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR(100MHz,  $\text{d}_6$ -DMSO)



**3g**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $\text{d}_6$ -DMSO)

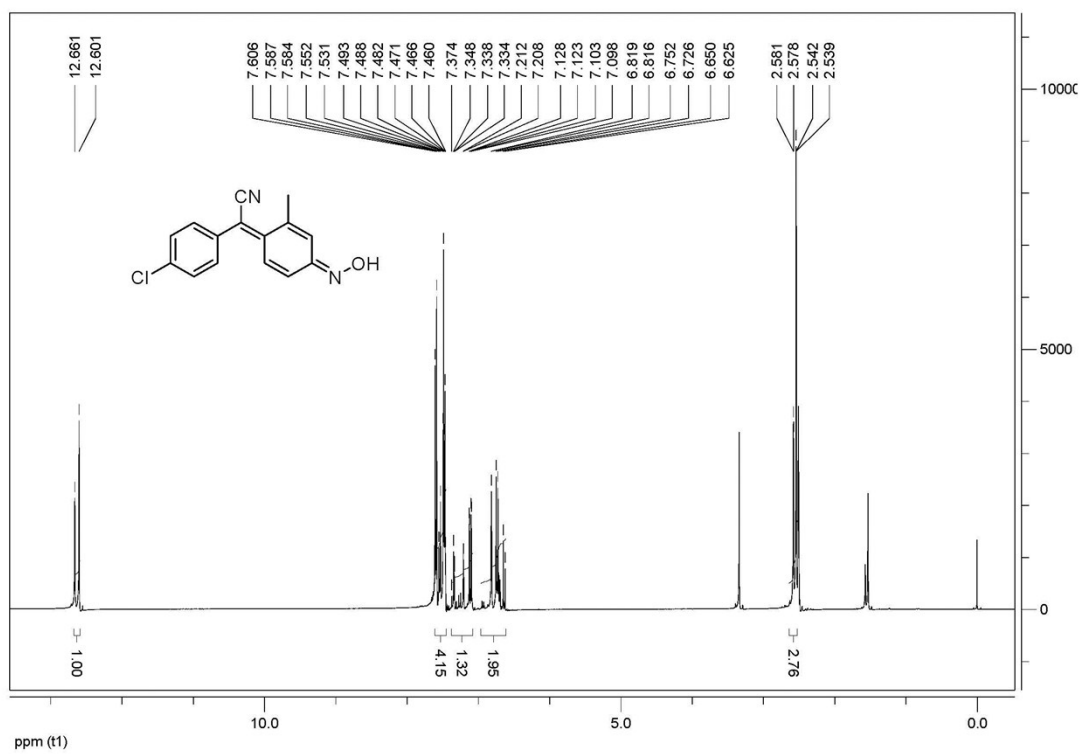


**3g** <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO)

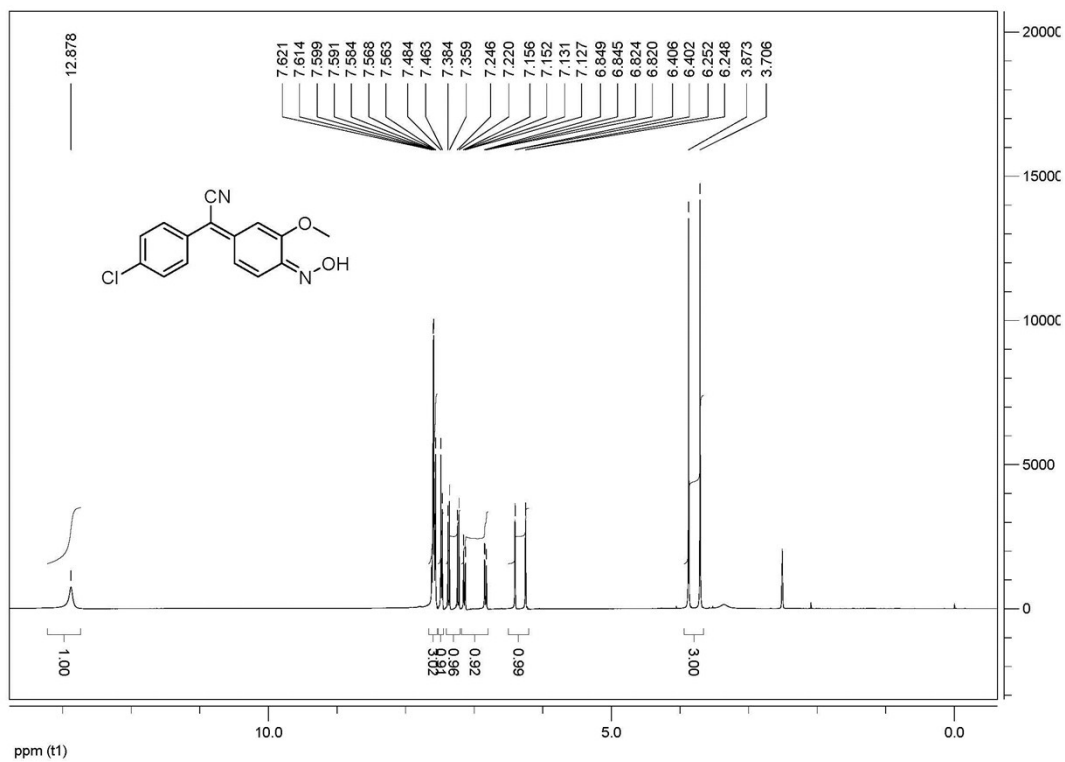


**3h** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO)

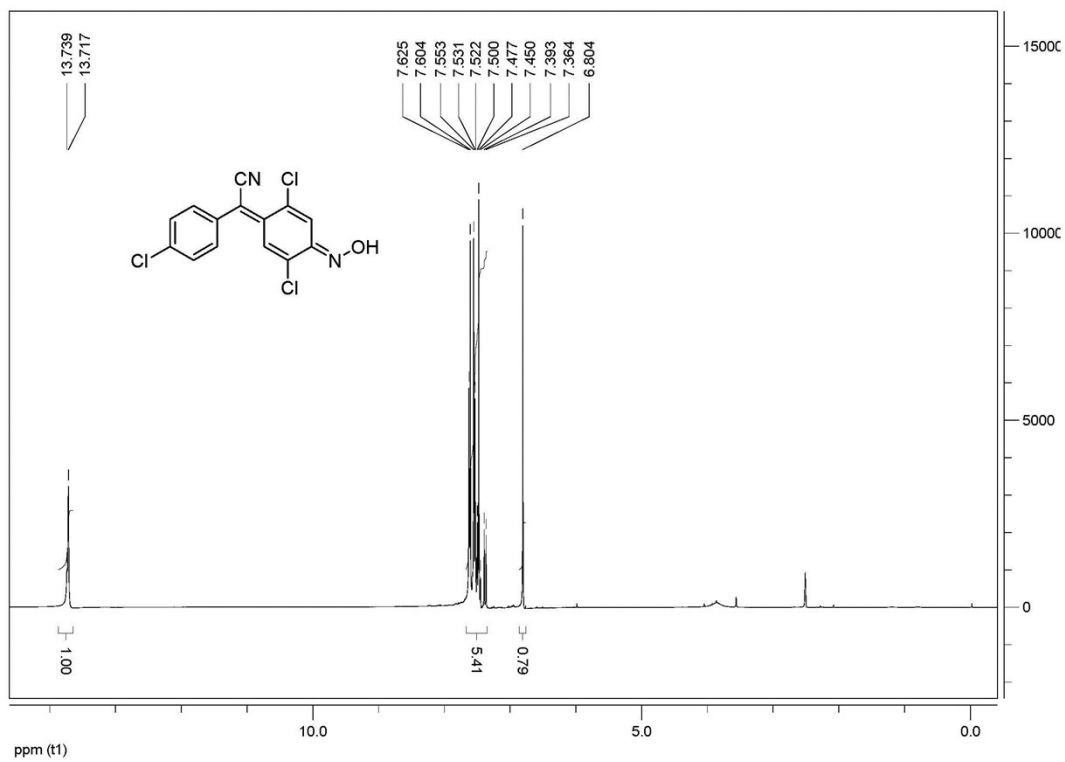




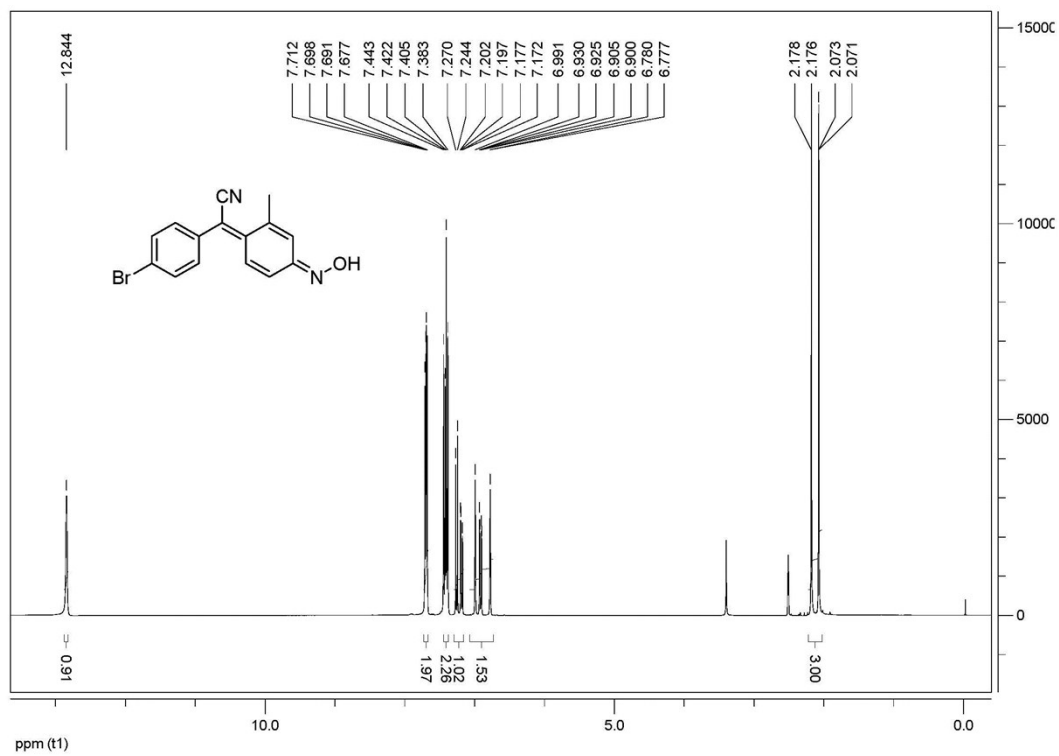
3k <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO)



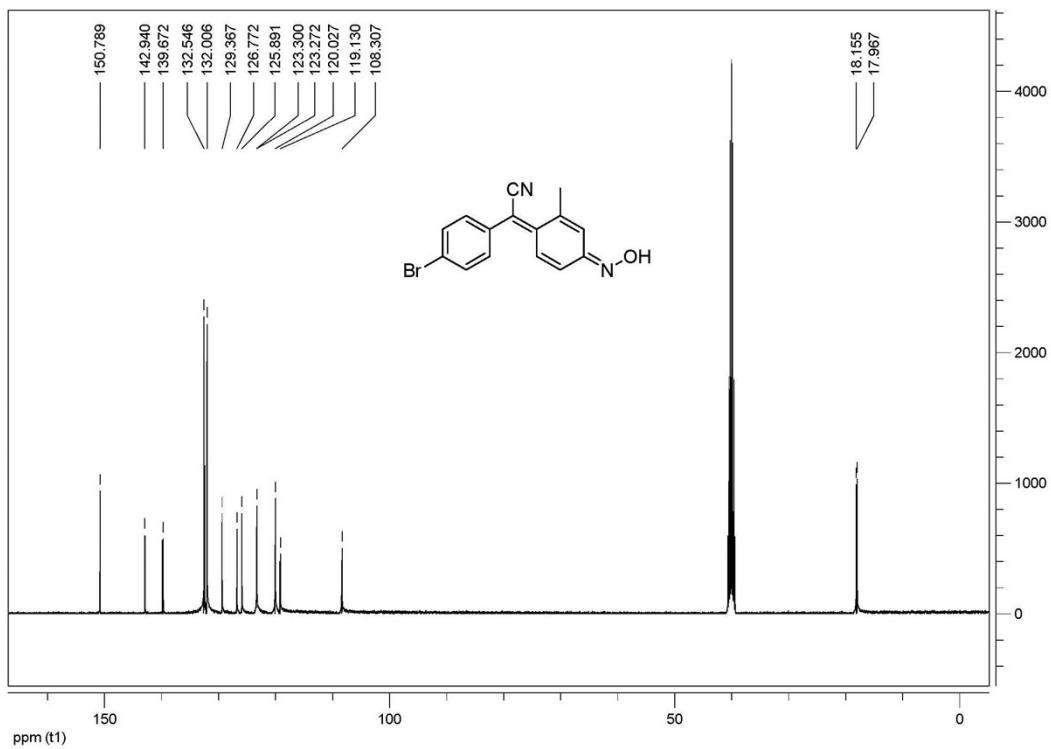
3l <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO)



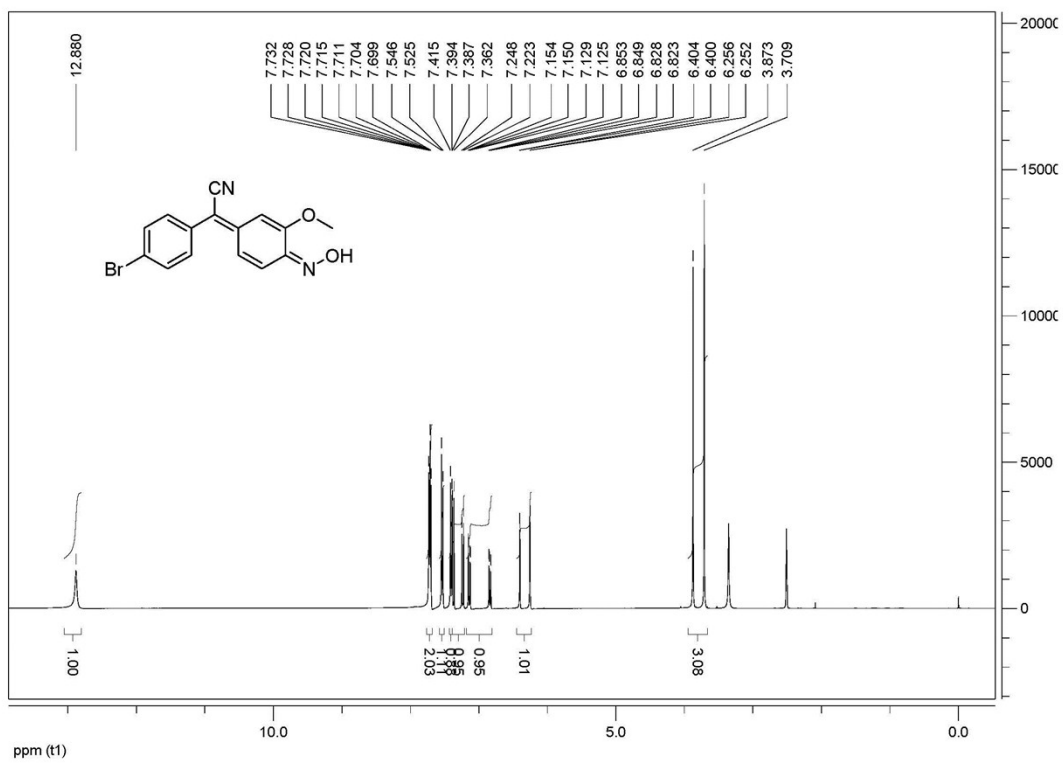
**3m** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO)



**3m** <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO)

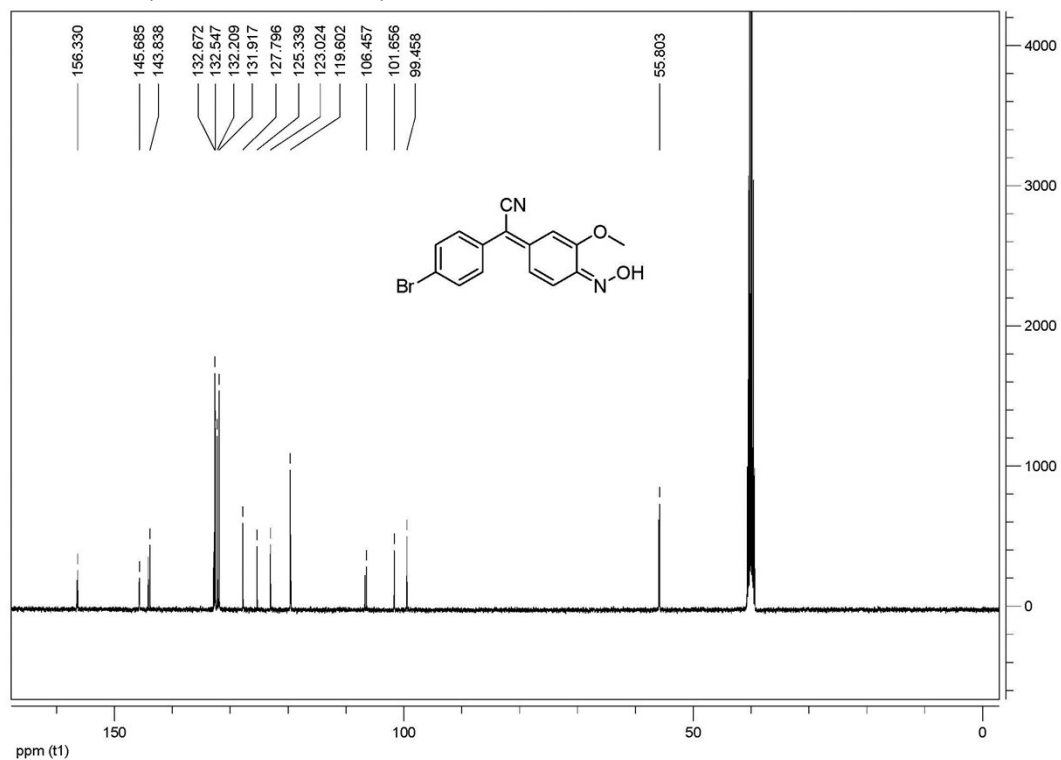


**3n** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO)

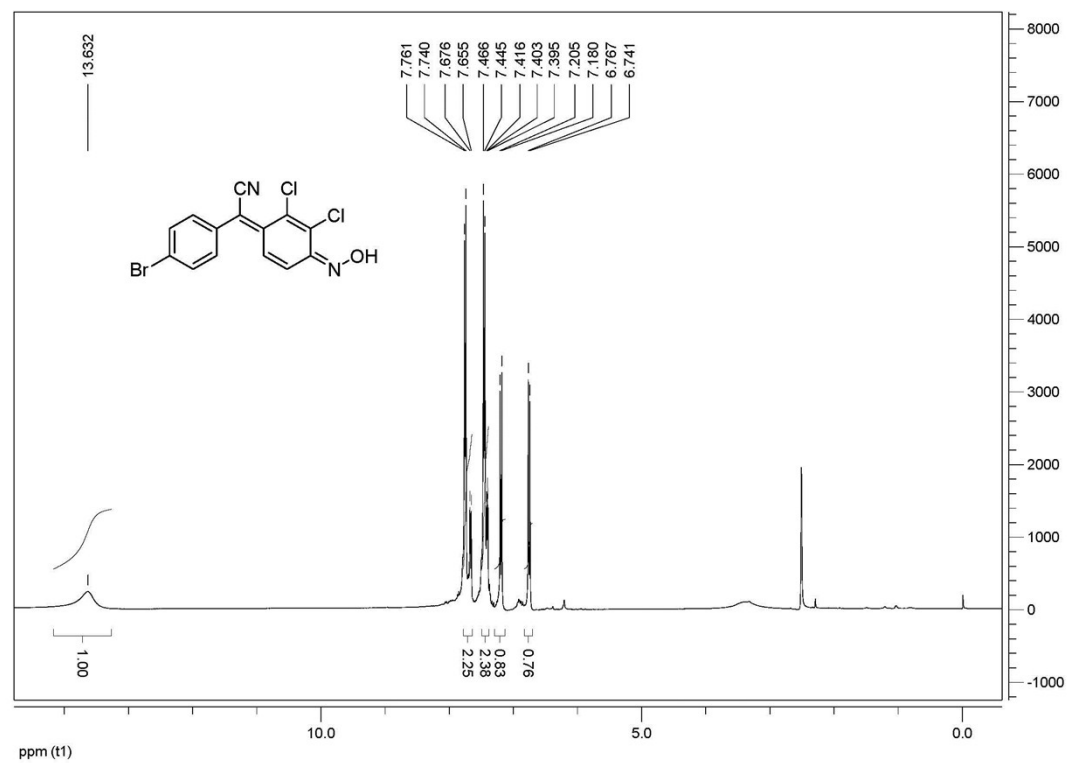




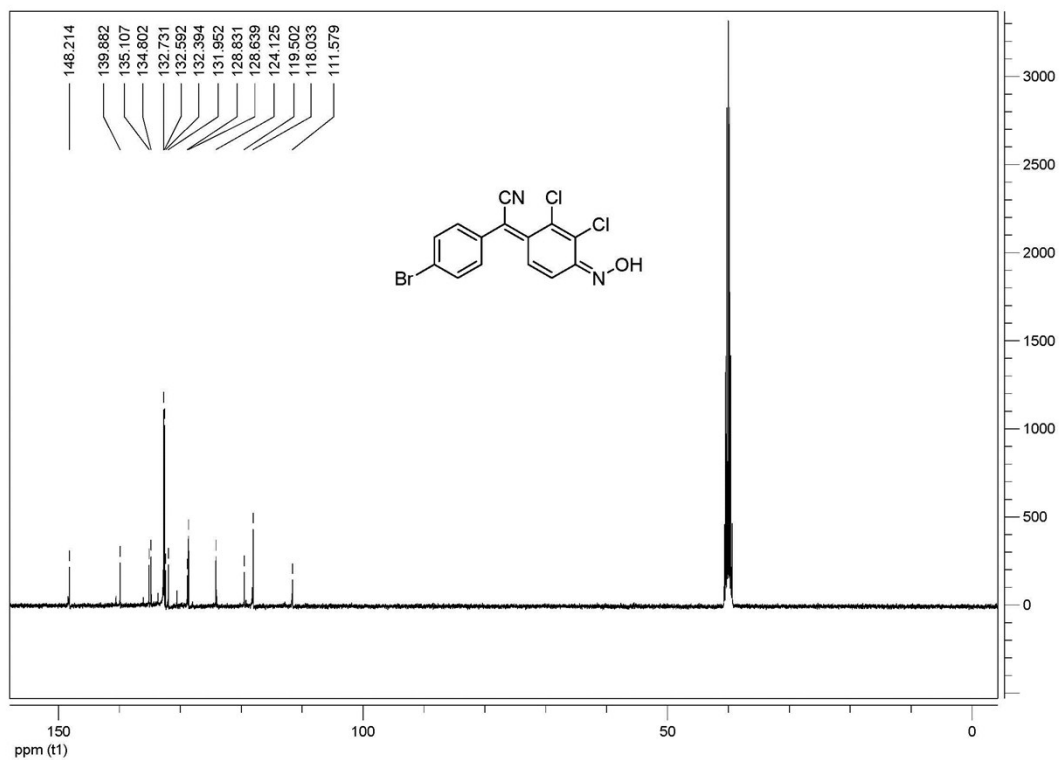
**3n**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR(100MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



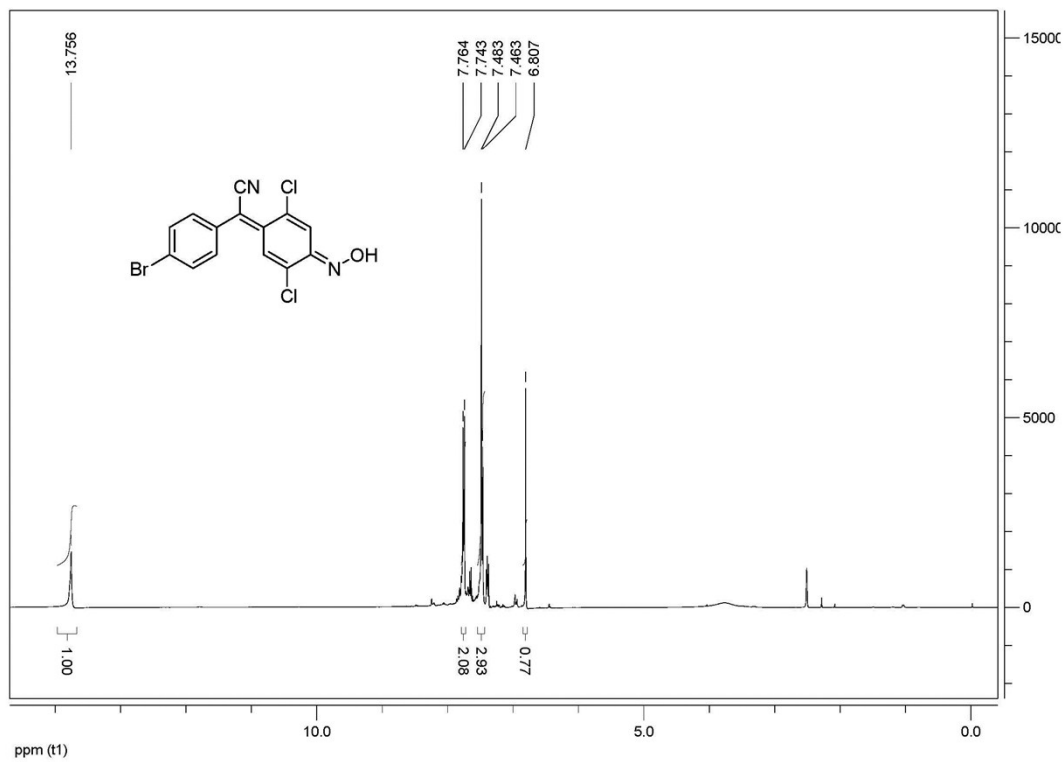
**3o**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



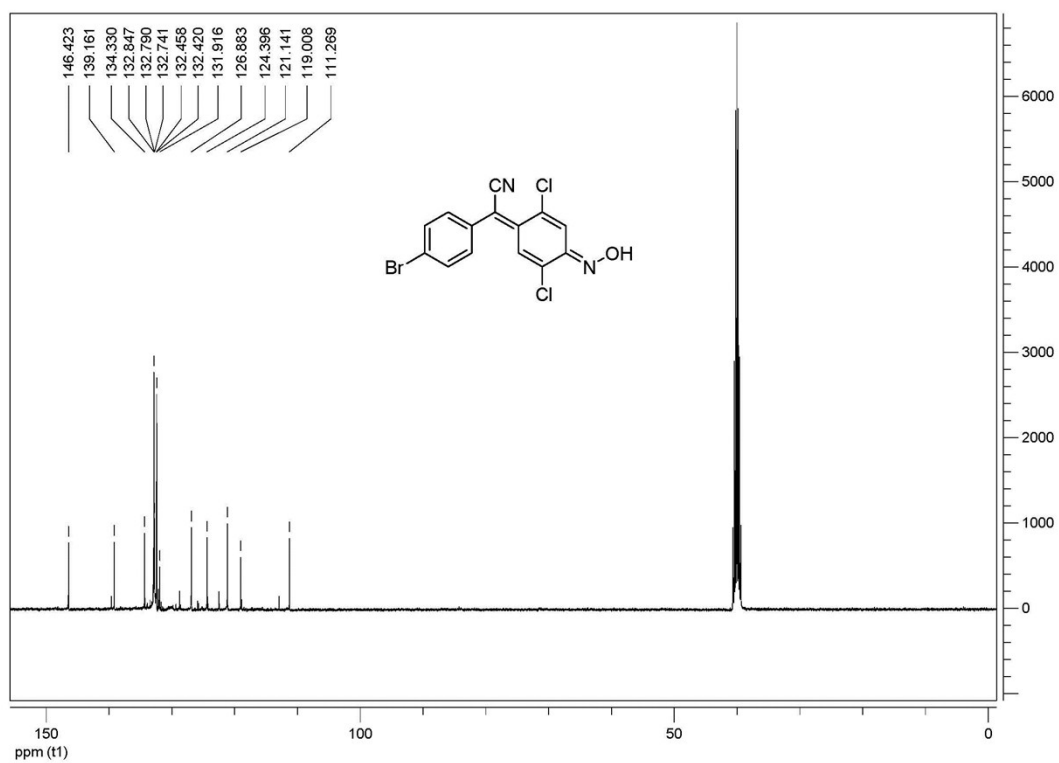
**3o**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR(100MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



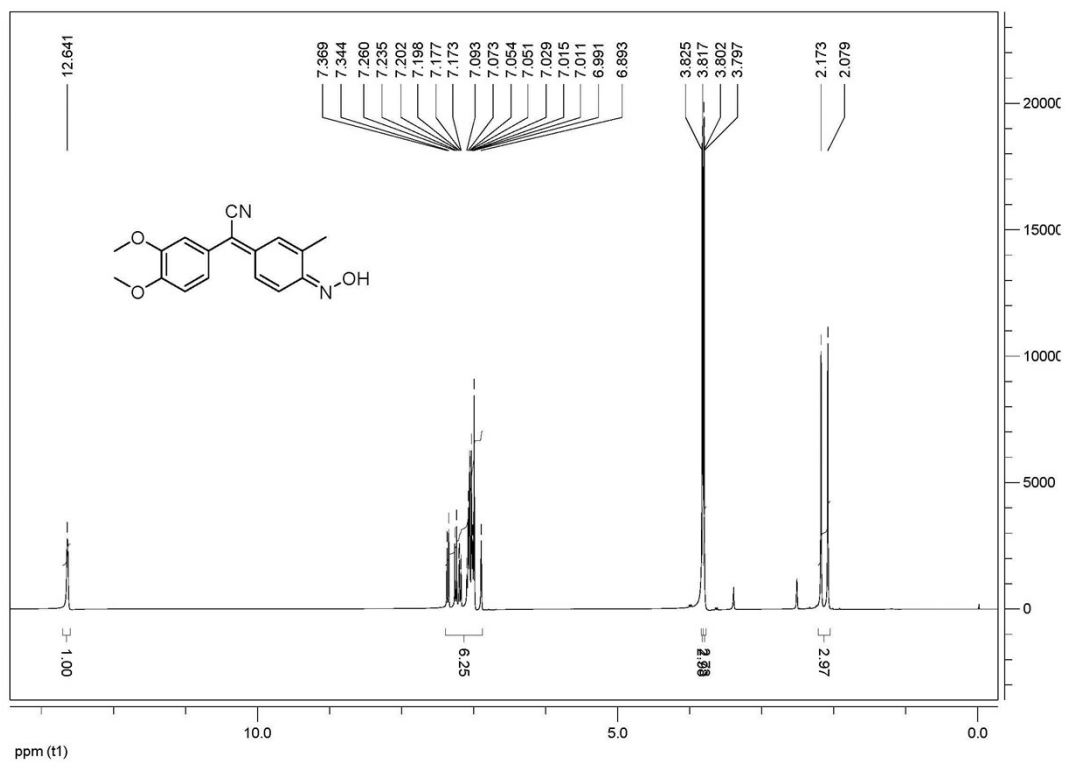
**3p**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO)



**3p**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR(100MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO)

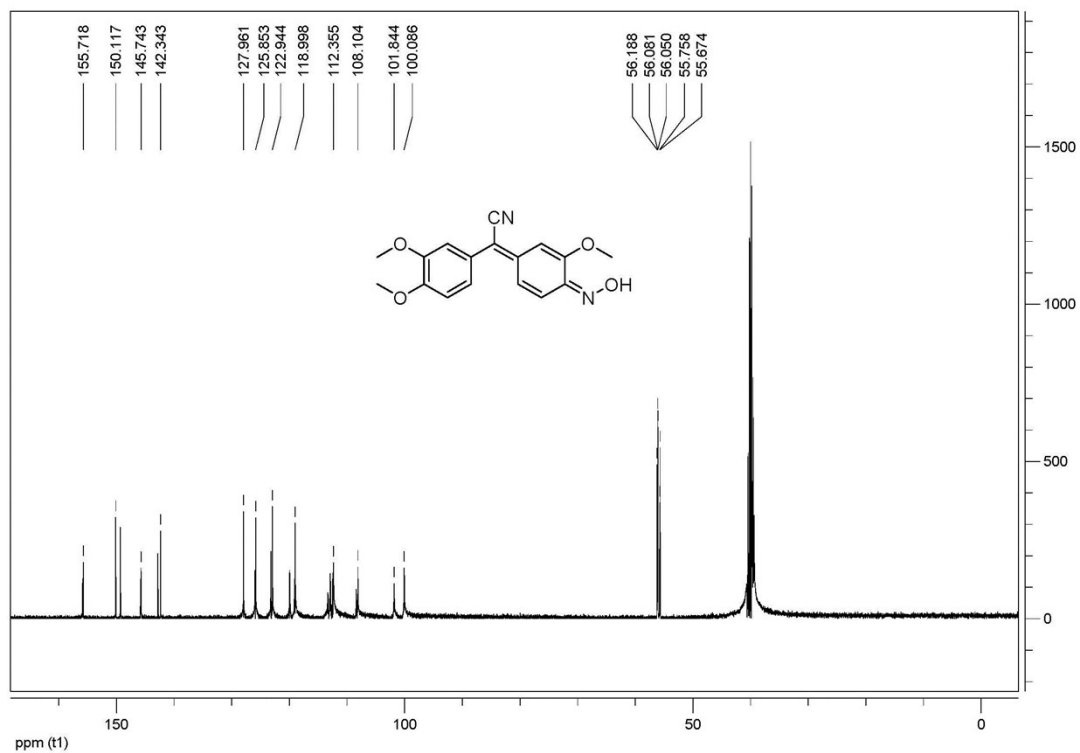


3q  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO)

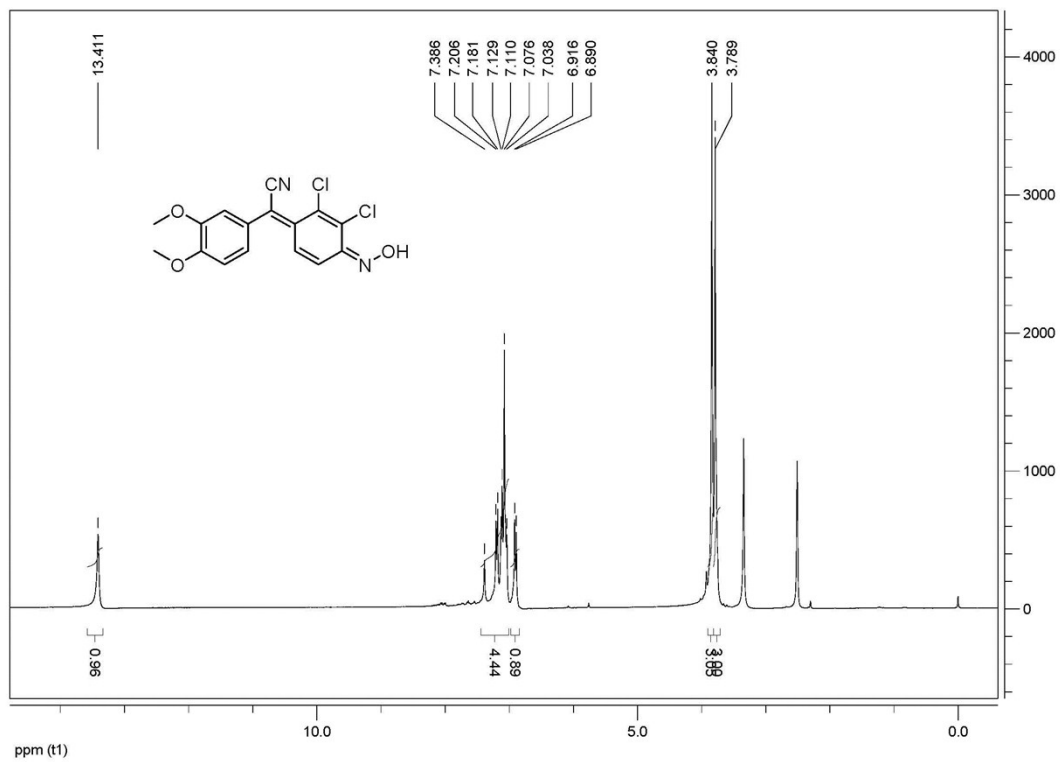


3q  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR(100MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO)

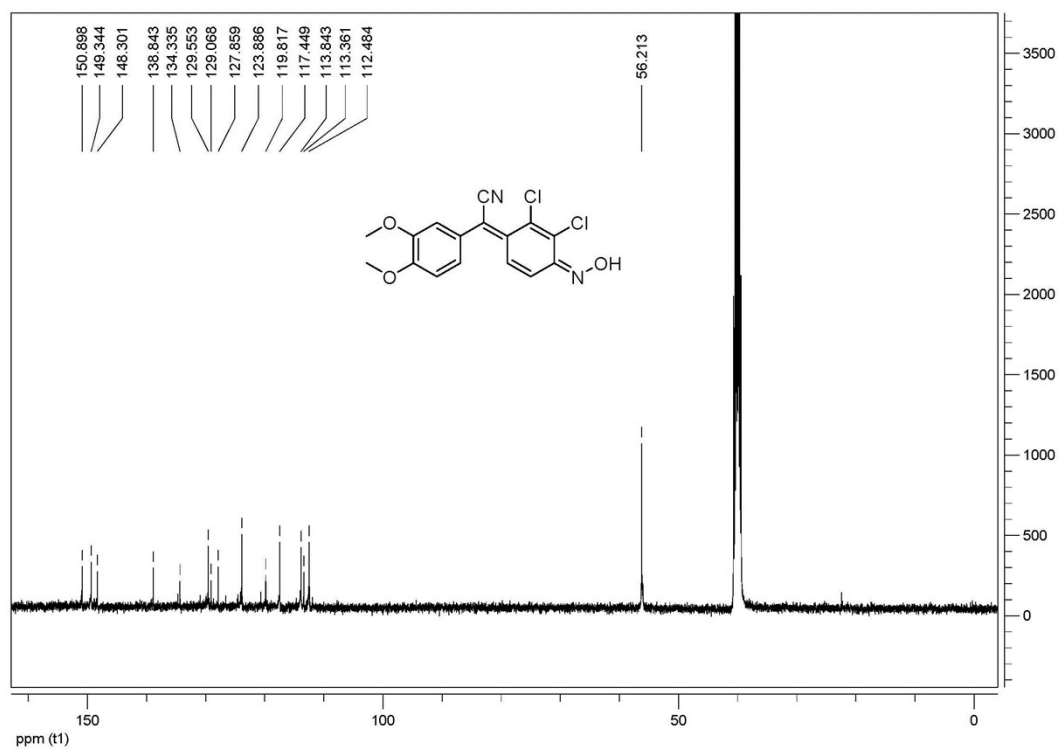




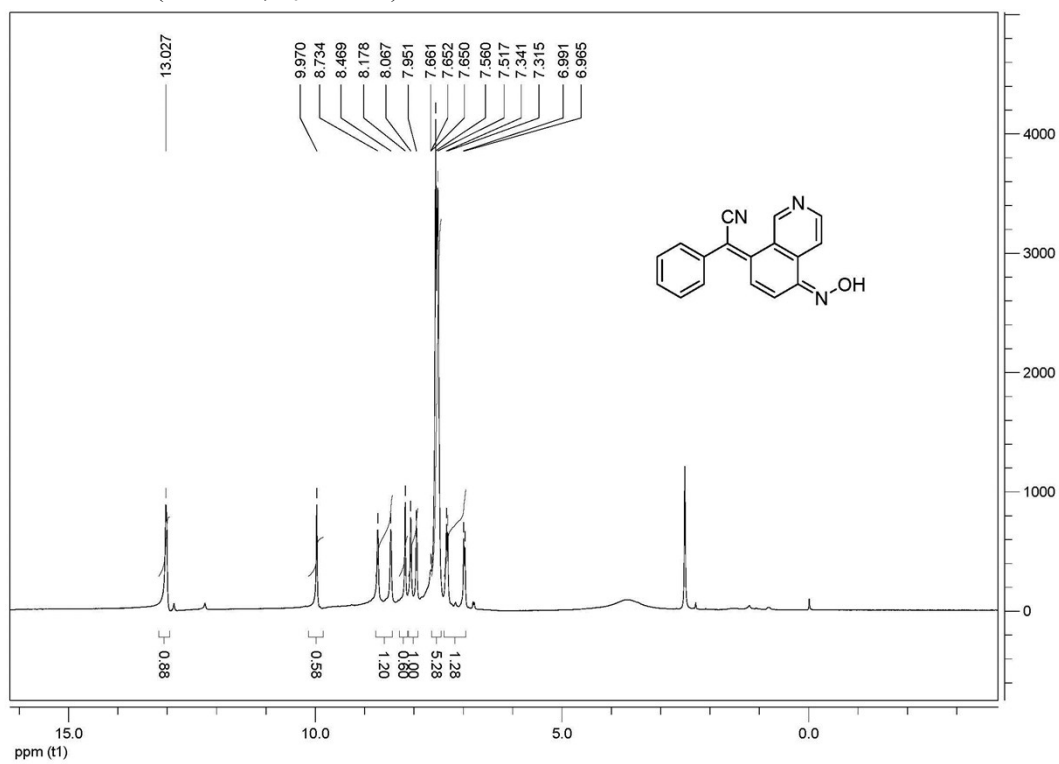
3s  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



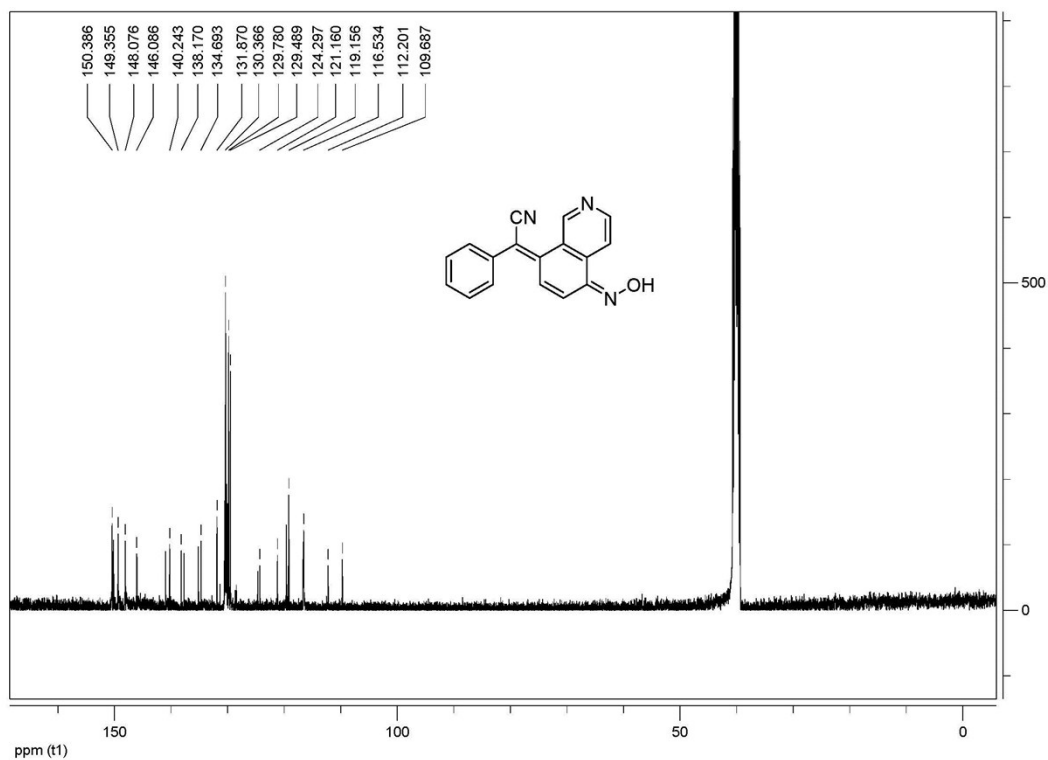
3s  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR(100MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



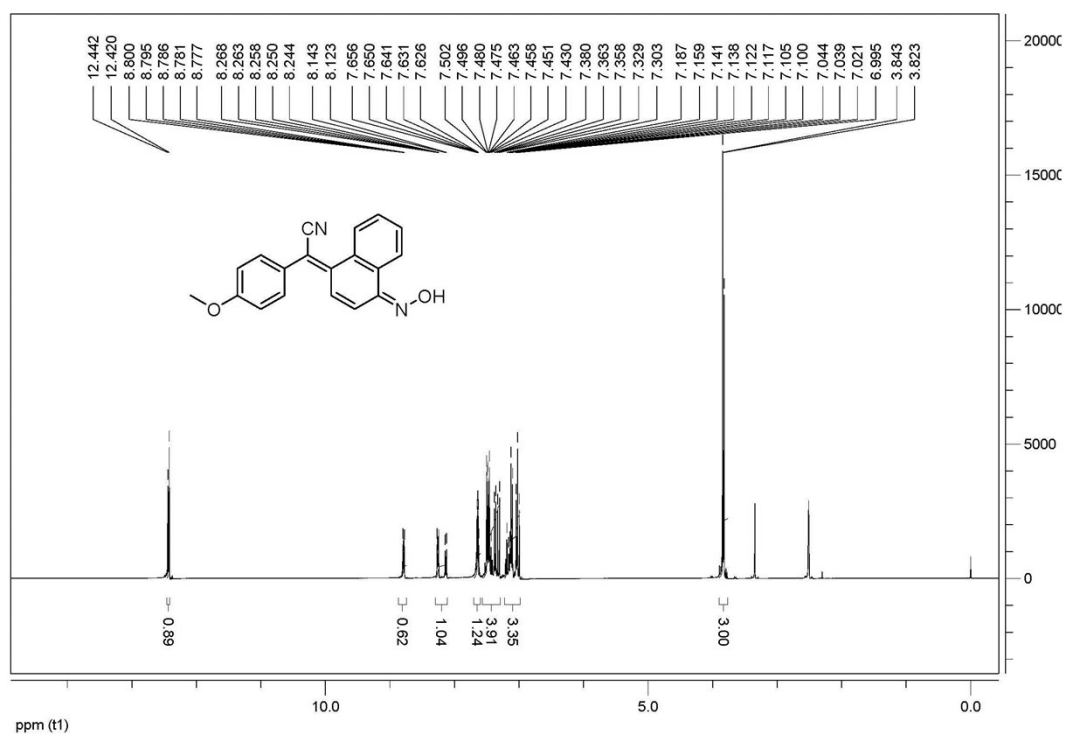
**5a**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



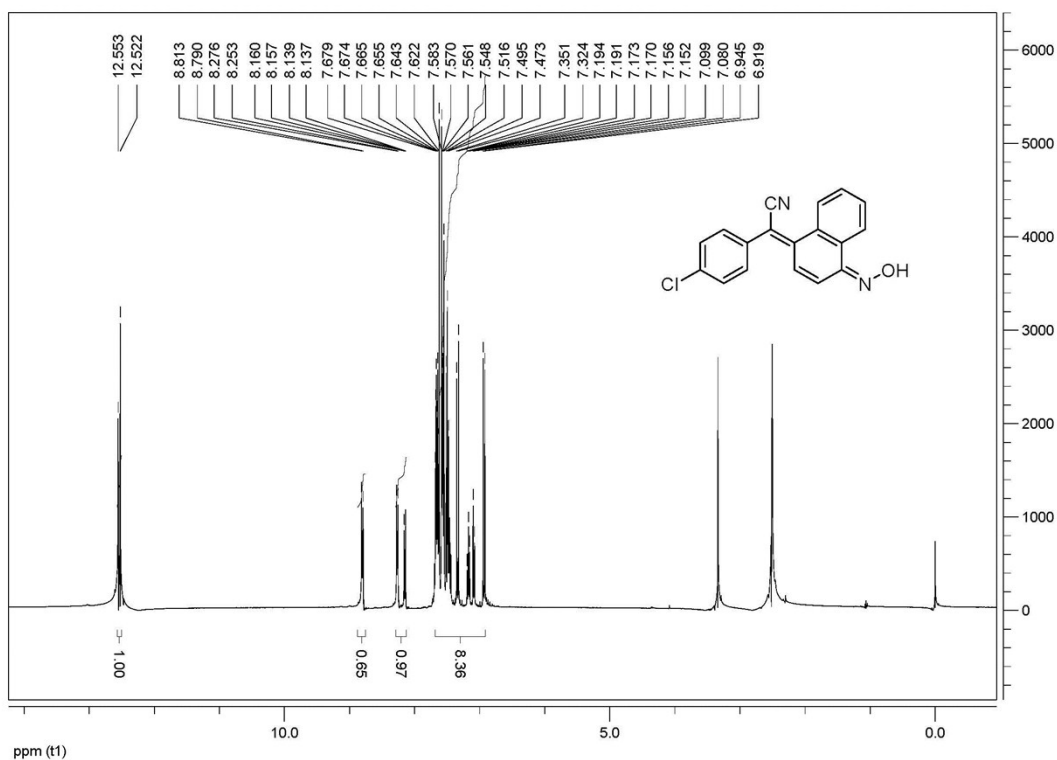
**5a**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR(100MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



**5b**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



**5c**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz,  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ )



### 3. X-ray diffraction of **3b**

For the compound **3b**, an Oxford CrysAlisPro diffractometer with a CCD area detector was employed for data collection using Mo- $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ). By using the CRYCALISPRO software<sup>[S1]</sup> the data collection and reduction were performed. The structures were solved by direct methods (SHELXS-97<sup>[S2]</sup>) and refined by fullmatrix least-squares on  $F^2$  (SHELXL<sup>[S2]</sup>) and finally checked using the PLATON software<sup>[S3]</sup> integrated in the WinGX software suite. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and the hydrogen atoms were located and freely refined. The absorptions were corrected based on gaussian integration over a multifaceted crystal model. All DIAMOND2 plots are shown with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level and hydrogen atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radius.

Table S1 Crystallographic data and refinement parameters of compound **3b**

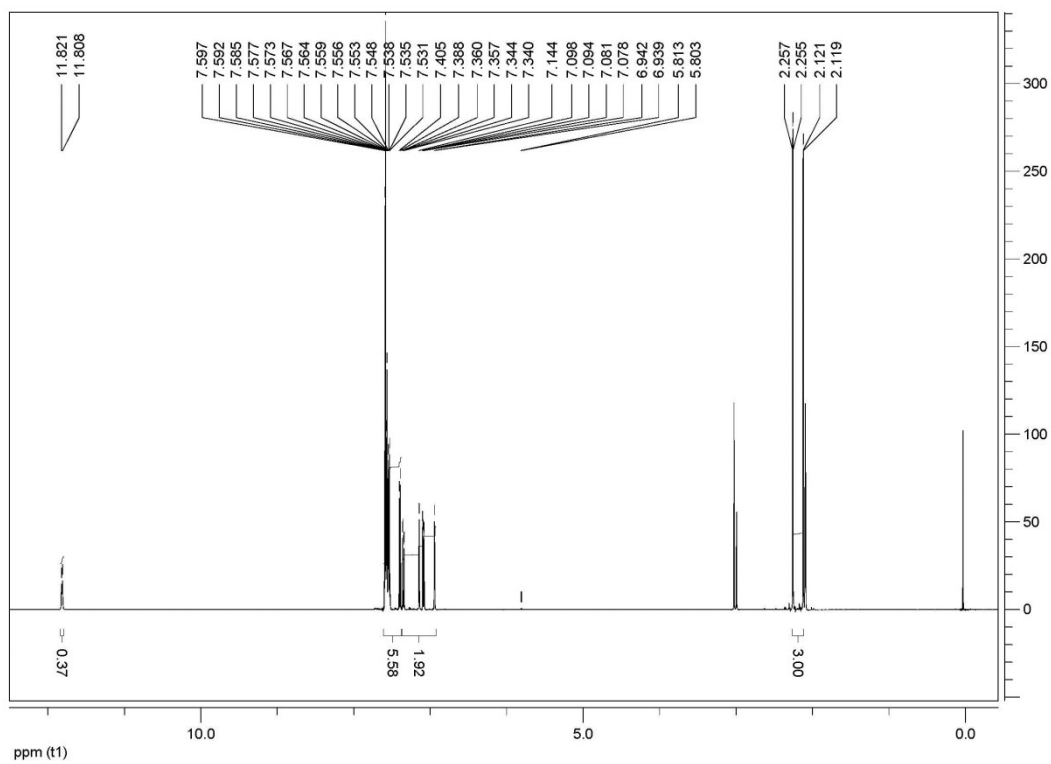
Empirical formula	$C_{15}H_{12}N_2O$	
Formula weight	236.27	
Temperature	296(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 $\text{\AA}$	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 21/c	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 6.958(5) \text{ \AA}$	$\alpha = 90^\circ$ .
	$b = 3.937(3) \text{ \AA}$	$\beta = 91.278(9)^\circ$
	$c = 45.96(3) \text{ \AA}$	$\gamma = 90^\circ$ .



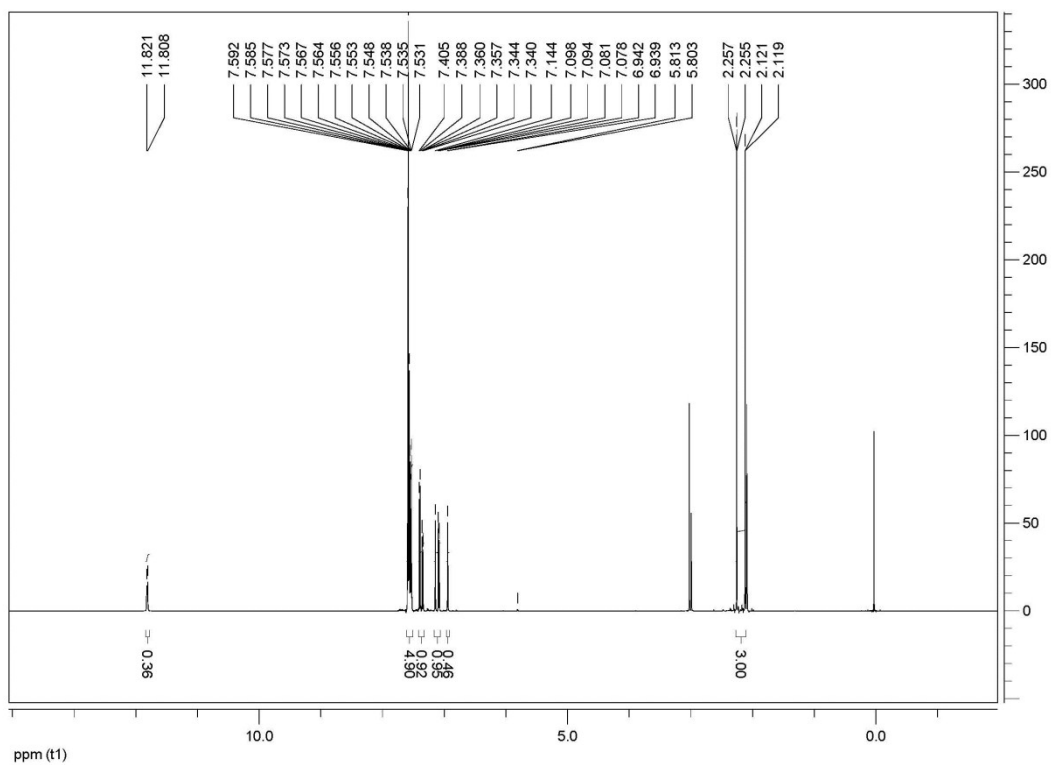
Volume	1258.6(16) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	4
Density (calculated)	1.247 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.080 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	496
Crystal size	0.54 x 0.12 x 0.10 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	1.773 to 27.410°
Index ranges	-8<=h<=8, -5<=k<=5, -59<=l<=52
Reflections collected	9322
Independent reflections	2791 [R(int) = 0.0501]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.2%
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.992 and 0.982
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	2791 / 204 / 250
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.033
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0784, wR2 = 0.2199
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1307, wR2 = 0.2605
Extinction coefficient	0.028(7)
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.345 and -0.280 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

#### 4. The variable-temperature <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **3b** in acetone-d<sub>6</sub> (25 °C to -50 °C)

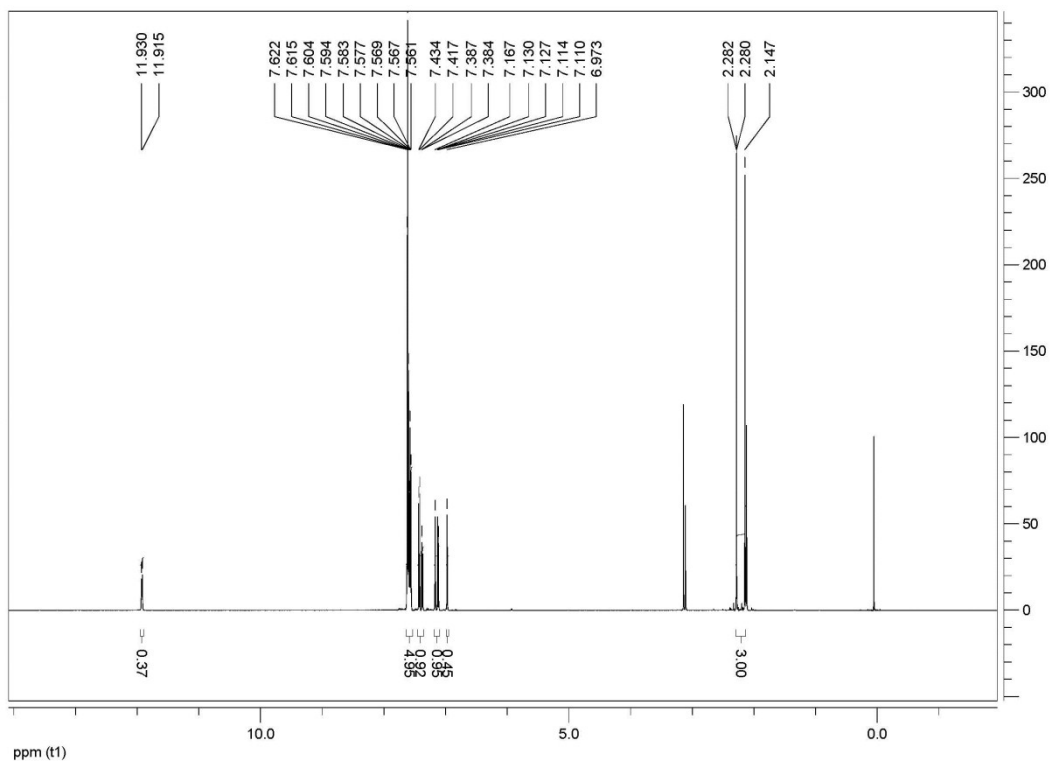
a. <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) spectra of **3b** at 25 °C



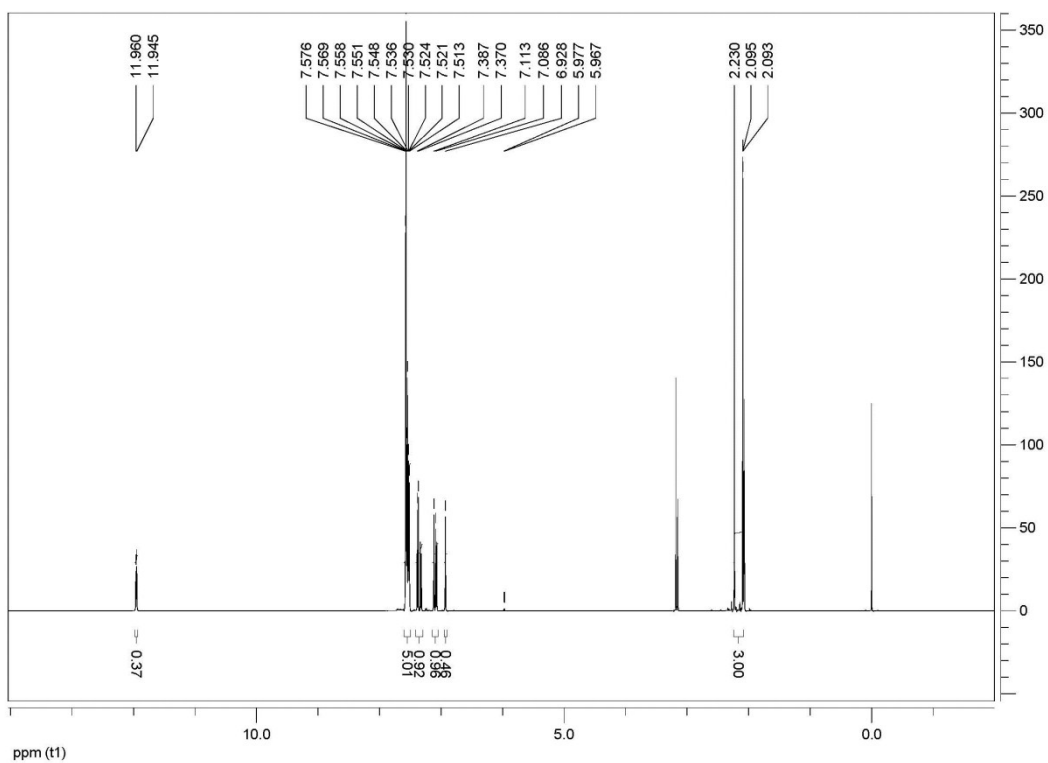
b.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) spectra of **3b** at 10 °C



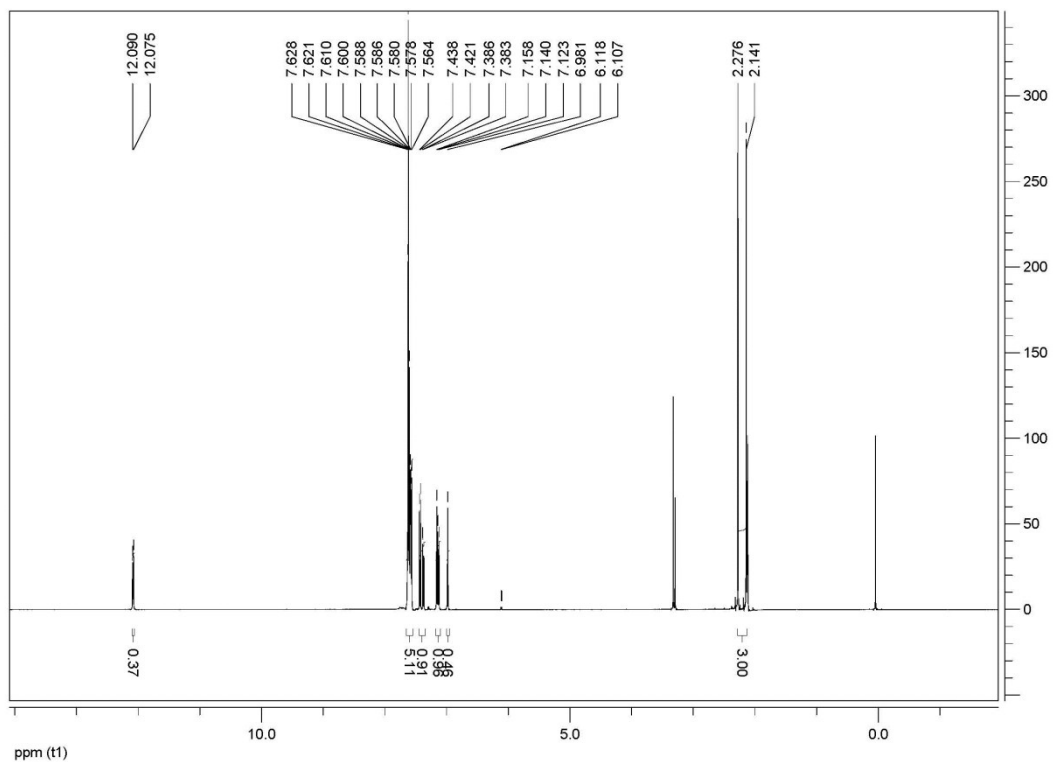
c.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) spectra of **3b** at 0 °C



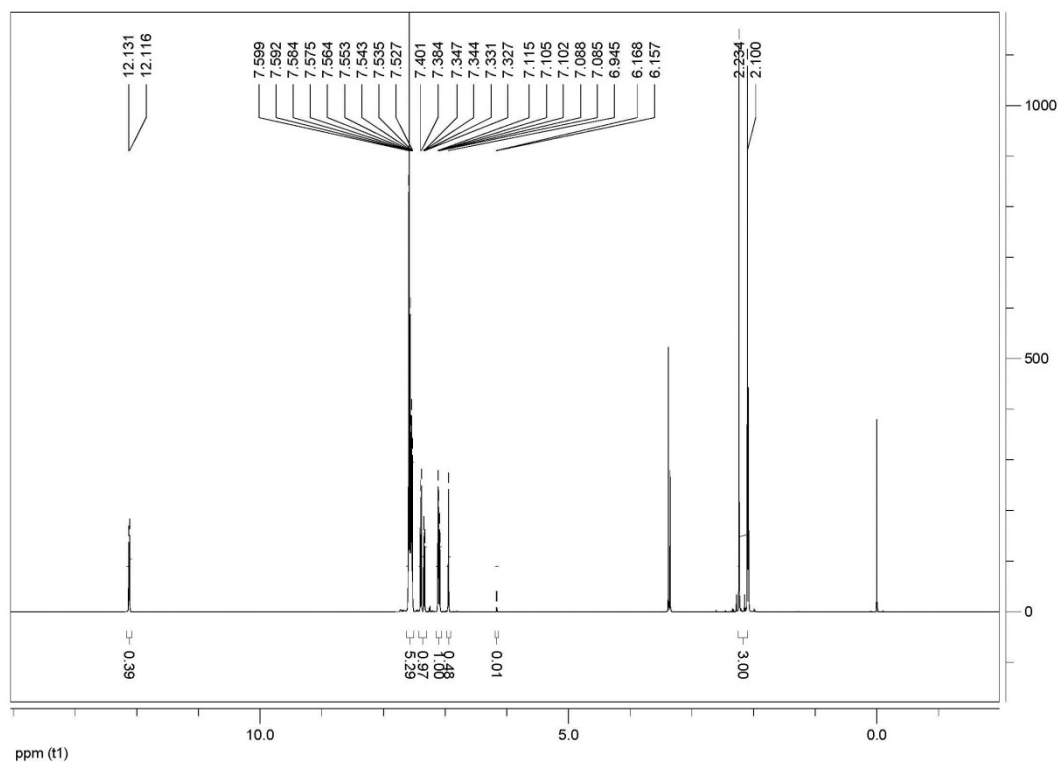
d.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) spectra of **3b** at -10 °C



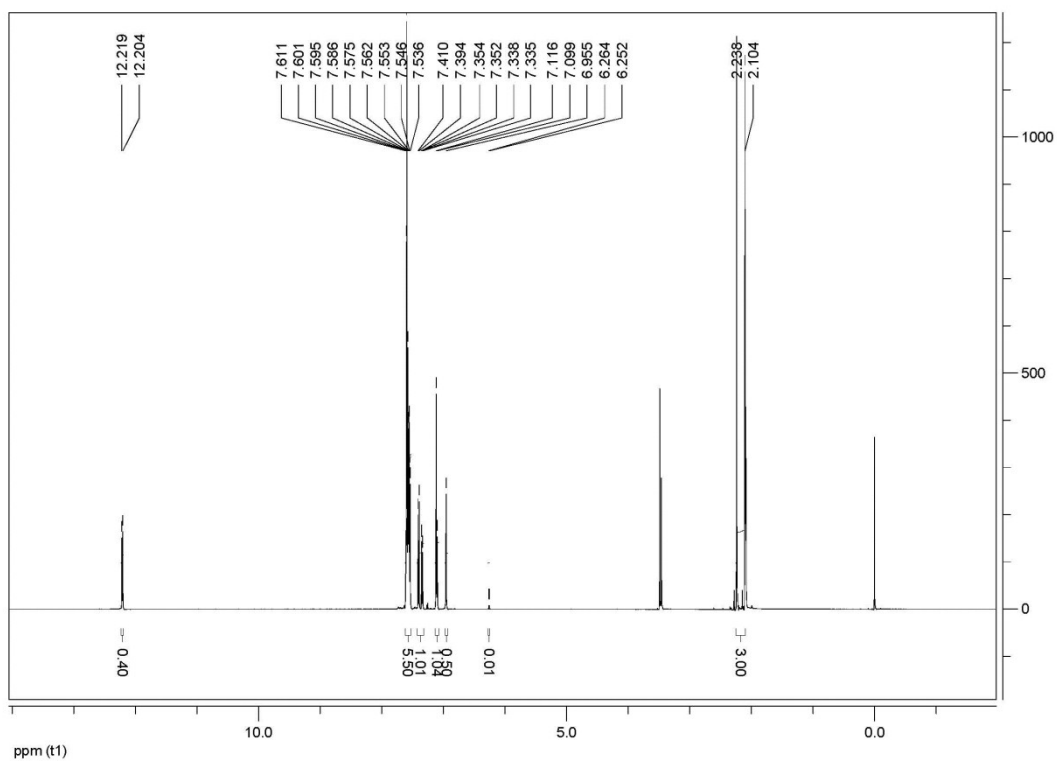
e.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) spectra of **3b** at -20 °C



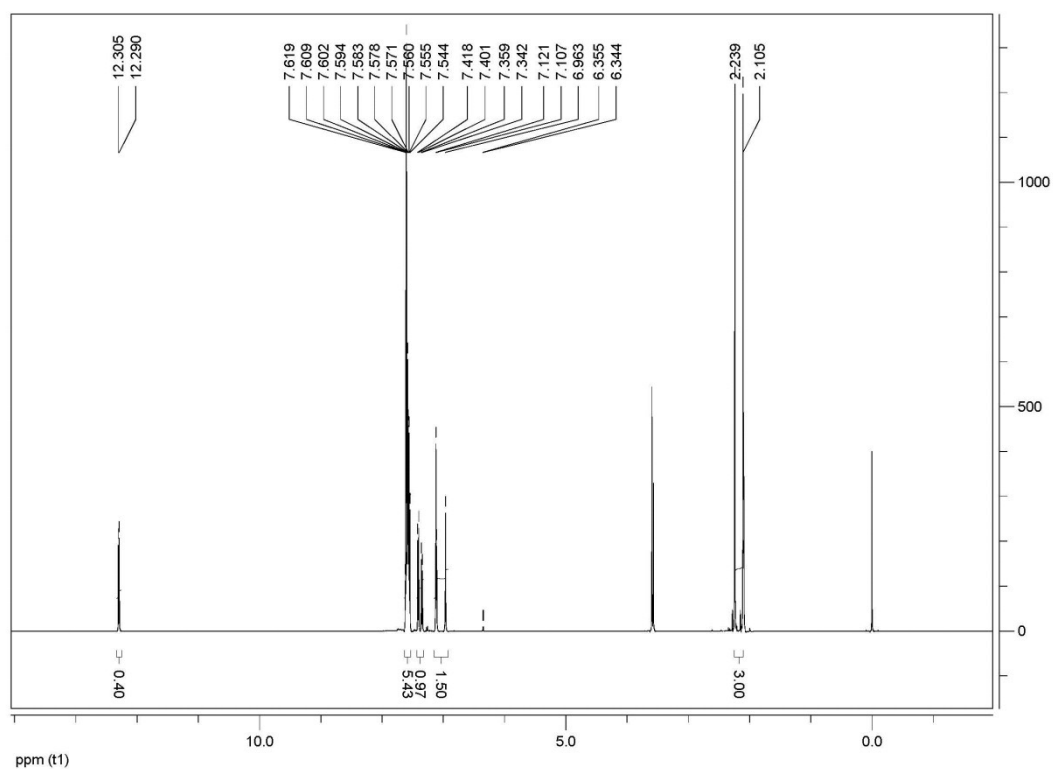
f.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz, acetone- $\text{d}_6$ ) spectra of **3b** at  $-30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$



g.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz, acetone- $\text{d}_6$ ) spectra of **3b** at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$



h.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400MHz, acetone- $\text{d}_6$ ) spectra of **3b** at  $-50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$



## 5. References

- [S1] CrysAlisPro, Oxford Diffraction Ltd., version 171.33.41, **2009**.
- [S2] a) G. M. Sheldrick, SHELX-97, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, **1997**; b) G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Crystallogr., Sect. A **2008**, 64, 112–122.
- [S3] A. L. Spek, PLATON, A Multipurpose Crystallographic Tool, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, **1999**.
- [S4] R. B. Davis, L. C. Pizzini, J. D. Benigni, J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1960**, 82, 2913-2915.
- [S5] R. B. Davis, L. C. Pizzini, E. J. Bara, J. Org. Chem. **1961**, 26, 4270-4274.