

Supporting Information

Copper-Catalyzed Difluoromethylation of Propargylamide-Substituted Indoles: Synthesis of mono- and bis-Difluoromethylated Indoloazepinones Derivatives

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1. General Remarks

Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel and analytical TLC was performed with silica gel GF254 plates. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker advance III 400 spectrometer in CDCl₃ at 400 MHz (¹H NMR), 100 MHz (¹³C NMR), 376 MHz (¹⁹F NMR). Data collections for crystal structure were performed at room temperature (293 K) using MoK α radiation on a Bruker APEXII diffractometer. High-resolution massspectral analysis (HRMS) data were measured on a Bruker Apex II. All difluoromethylated products were further characterized by high resolution mass spectra (HRMS). Commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification.

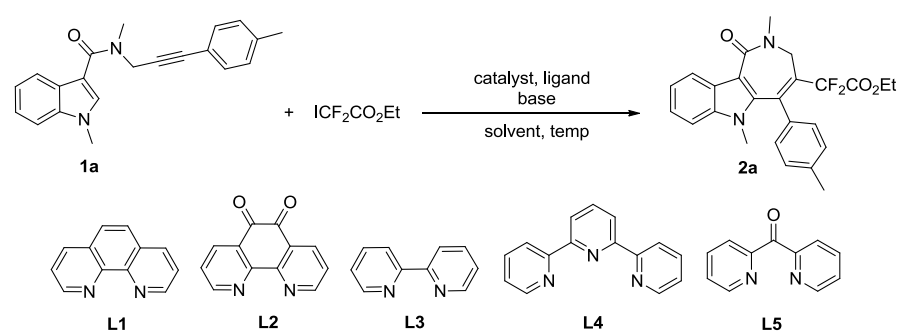
2. General Experimental Procedure for Synthesis of Product 2 or 6

In a dried tube, substrates **1(5)** (0.2 mmol), CuCl (10 mol %, 2.0 mg), 1,10-Phen (20 mol %, 7.2 mg), and Cs₂CO₃ (0.5 mmol, 163.0 mg) was added, The tube was evacuated and back filled with argon (repeated three times). Anhydrous DCE (2 mL) and ethyl difluoroiodoacetate (0.5 mmol, 63.9 μ L) was added, the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 48 h. The resulting reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, appropriate mixture of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to afford **2(6)**.

3. General Experimental Procedure for Synthesis of Product 3 and 4

In a dried tube, corresponding substrates **2** (0.1 mmol), CuCl (10 mol %, 1.0 mg), 1,10-Phen (20 mol %, 3.6 mg), and Cs₂CO₃ (0.25 mmol, 81.5 mg) was added, The tube was evacuated and back filled with argon (repeated three times). Anhydrous DCE (1 mL) and ethyl difluoroiodoacetate (0.8 mmol, 102.3 μ L) was added, the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 72 h. The resulting reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, appropriate mixture of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to afford **3** and **4**.

4. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions^a



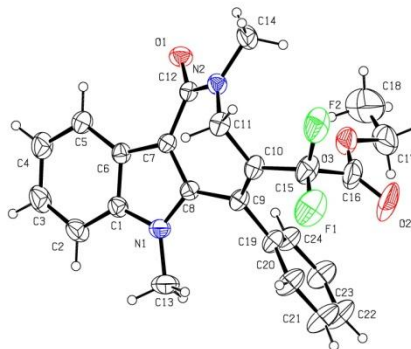
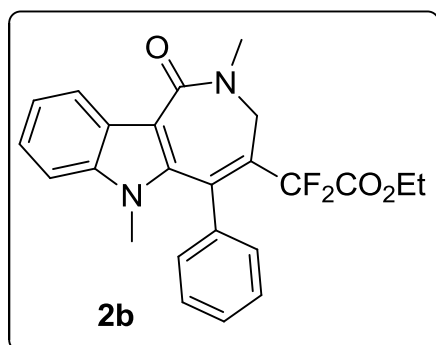
entry	cat. (mol %)	ligand	base (equiv)	solvent	yield ^b (%)
1	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	K ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	27
2	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Na ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	trace
3	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	42
4	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	C ₅ OAc (2.0)	MeCN	33
5	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	CsF (2.0)	MeCN	trace
6	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	KHCO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	trace

7	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	KOH (2.0)	MeCN	trace
8	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	<i>t</i> -BuONa (2.0)	MeCN	0
9	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	K ₃ PO ₄ (2.0)	MeCN	trace
10	CuCl ₂ (10)	L2	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	37
11	CuCl ₂ (10)	L3	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	12
12	CuCl ₂ (10)	L4	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	30
13	CuCl ₂ (10)	L5	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	11
14	CuCl ₂ (10)	DBU	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	7
15	CuCl ₂ (10)	NEt ₃	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	MeCN	trace
16	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	THF	27
17	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	acetone	38
18	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DMF	trace
19	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	toluene	trace
20	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	NMP	8
21	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	CH ₃ NO ₂	trace
22	CuCl ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	51
23	CuBr (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	56
24	CuI (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	50
25	CuBr ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	47
26	Cu(OTf) ₂ (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	33
27	Cu(PPh ₃) ₃ Br (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	27
28	CuCl (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	58
29	CuCl (5)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	46
30	CuCl (20)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.0)	DCE	54
32	CuCl (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.5)	DCE	62
33	CuCl (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (3.0)	DCE	51
35 ^c	CuCl (10)	L1	Cs₂CO₃ (2.5)	DCE	68
36 ^d	CuCl (10)	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.5)	DCE	61
37 ^{c,e}	—	L1	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2.5)	DCE	trace
38 ^{c,f}	CuCl (10)	L1	—	DCE	0

^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), ethyl difluoroiodoacetate (0.4 mmol), catalyst, ligand and base in anhydrous solvent (2 mL) with stirring at 60 °C under argon for 48 h. ^bIsolated yield.

^cICF₂CO₂Et (0.5 mmol), ^dICF₂CO₂Et (0.6 mmol), ^eWithout copper catalyst. ^fWithout base.

5. Crystallographic data of 2b, 3a and 4f



Bond precision: C-C = 0.0030 Å

Wavelength=1.54184

Cell: a=12.2175(2)

b=15.8782(3)

c=22.0697(4)

alpha=90

beta=90

gamma=90

Temperature: 291 K

	Calculated
Volume	4281.34(13)
Space group	P b c a
Hall group	-P 2ac 2ab
Moiety formula	C24 H22 F2 N2 O3
Sum formula	C24 H22 F2 N2 O3
Mr	424.44
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.317
Z	8
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.827
F000	1776.0
F000'	1782.05
h,k,lmax	14,19,26
Nref	4041
Tmin,Tmax	0.773,0.813
Tmin'	0.767

	Reported
Volume	4281.35(12)
Space group	P b c a
Hall group	-P 2ac 2ab
Moiety formula	C24 H22 F2 N2 O3
Sum formula	C24 H22 F2 N2 O3
Mr	424.44
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.317
Z	8
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.827
F000	1776.0
h,k,lmax	14,19,26
Nref	3993
Tmin,Tmax	0.873,1.000

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.873 Tmax=1.000
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.988

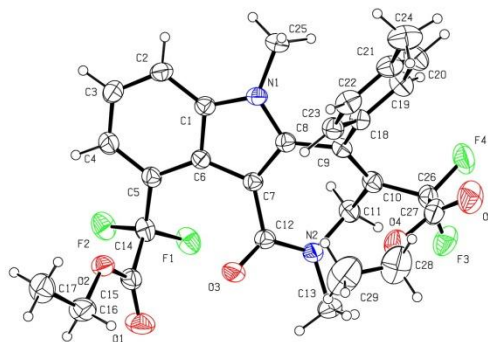
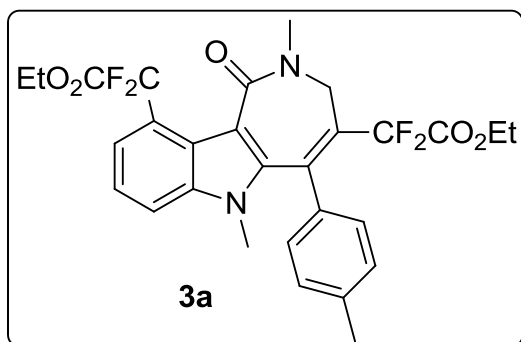
Theta(max)= 69.710

R(reflections)= 0.0485(3110)

wR2(reflections)= 0.1408(3993)

S = 1.026

Npar= 283



Bond precision: C-C = 0.0044 Å

Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=12.4966(6) b=9.7777(4) c=22.6334(12)
 alpha=90 beta=100.263(4) gamma=90
 Temperature: 291 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	2721.3(2)	2721.3(2)
Space group	P 21/c	P 1 21/c 1
Hall group	-P 2ybc	-P 2ybc
Moiety formula	C ₂₉ H ₂₈ F ₄ N ₂ O ₅	C ₂₉ H ₂₈ F ₄ N ₂ O ₅
Sum formula	C ₂₉ H ₂₈ F ₄ N ₂ O ₅	C ₂₉ H ₂₈ F ₄ N ₂ O ₅
Mr	560.53	560.53
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.368	1.368
Z	4	4
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.112	0.112
F000	1168.0	1168.0
F000'	1168.75	
h, k, lmax	15, 12, 27	15, 12, 27
Nref	5358	5349
Tmin, Tmax	0.981, 0.984	0.810, 1.000
Tmin'	0.981	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.810 Tmax=1.000
 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.998

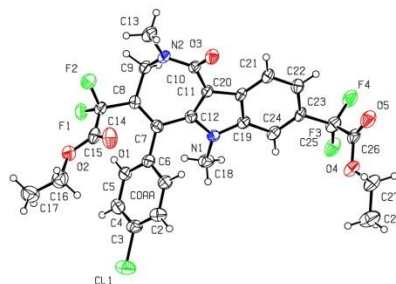
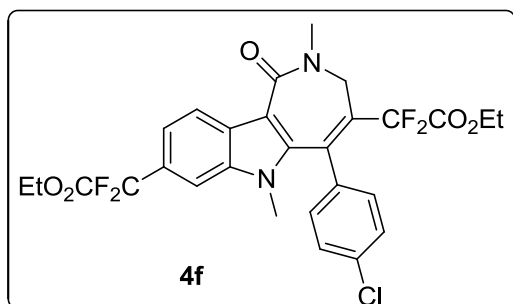
Theta(max)= 26.020

R(reflections)= 0.0573(3083)

wR2(reflections)= 0.1605(5349)

S = 1.027

Npar= 366



Bond precision: C-C = 0.0072 Å

Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=12.8985(11) b=14.8772(11) c=27.961(3)
 alpha=90 beta=97.992(8) gamma=90
 Temperature: 293 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	5313.4(8)	5313.5(8)
Space group	P 21/c	P 1 21/c 1
Hall group	-P 2ybc	-P 2ybc
Moiety formula	C28 H25 Cl F4 N2 O5	C28 H25 Cl F4 N2 O5
Sum formula	C28 H25 Cl F4 N2 O5	C28 H25 Cl F4 N2 O5
Mr	580.95	580.95
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.452	1.452
Z	8	8
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.214	0.214
F000	2400.0	2400.0
F000'	2402.68	
h, k, lmax	15, 18, 34	15, 18, 34
Nref	10463	10440
Tmin, Tmax	0.957, 0.970	0.470, 1.000
Tmin'	0.950	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.470 Tmax=1.000
 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.998

Theta(max)= 26.020

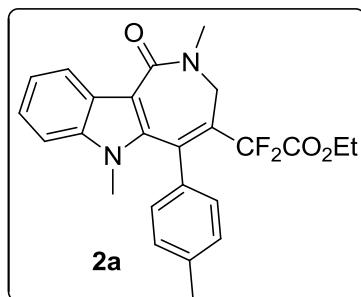
R(reflections)= 0.0888(5031)

wR2(reflections)= 0.2627(10440)

S = 1.041

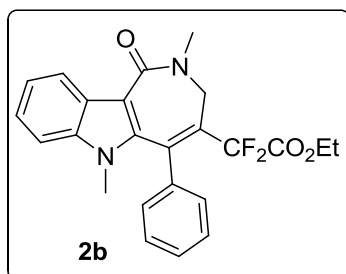
Npar= 729

6. Characterization data of 2a-2t



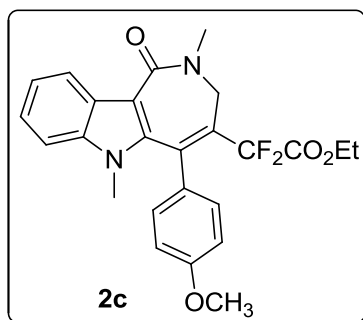
ethyl

2-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(p-tolyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2a**): 59.3 mg, 68% yield, white solid. Mp = 180-182 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.61-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.90 (m, 1H), 4.00-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.14-4.18 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.51 (m, 3H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.7, 162.4 (dd, *J* = 32.0 Hz, *J* = 37.0 Hz), 139.6, 139.1 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 138.4, 138.3, 132.6, 130.2, 129.2, 128.4 (dd, *J* = 23.0 Hz, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 126.3, 124.6, 122.8, 121.7, 115.6, 112.3 (dd, *J* = 241.0 Hz, *J* = 249.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.9, 47.2 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 34.2, 32.0, 21.3, 13.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.01 (d, *J* = 285.8 Hz, 1F), -95.18 (d, *J* = 285.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₄F₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 439.1828, found: 439.1834.



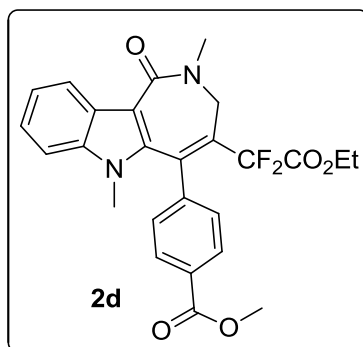
ethyl

2-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2b**): 54.2 mg, 64% yield, white solid. Mp = 172-174 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.64-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.83 (m, 1H), 4.01-4.06 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.19 (m, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 7.21-7.61 (m, 7H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.5, 162.2 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, *J* = 36.0 Hz), 138.9 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 138.2, 138.1, 135.3, 129.4, 128.5 (dd, *J* = 23.0 Hz, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 128.4, 126.1, 124.6, 122.6, 121.7, 115.5, 112.1 (dd, *J* = 241.0 Hz, *J* = 249.0 Hz), 109.1, 62.9, 47.1 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 34.1, 31.9, 13.4; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.26 (d, *J* = 286.1 Hz, 1F), -95.16 (d, *J* = 286.5 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₂F₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 425.1671, found: 425.1674.



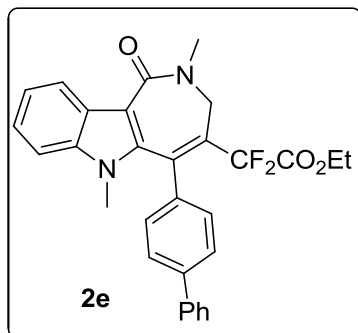
ethyl

2,2-difluoro-2-(5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)acetate (**2c**): 59.0 mg, 65% yield, white solid. Mp = 158-160 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.10 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.64-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.86-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.99-4.04 (m, 1H), 4.14-4.18 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 3H), 7.22-7.37 (m, 4H), 8.34 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.7, 162.5 (dd, J = 31.0 Hz, J = 37.0 Hz), 160.5, 138.8 (t, J = 8.0 Hz), 138.5, 138.4, 131.8, 128.1 (dd, J = 24.0 Hz, J = 30.0 Hz), 127.7, 126.3, 124.6, 122.8, 121.8, 115.6, 113.9, 112.3 (d, J = 240.0 Hz, J = 249.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.9, 55.3, 47.1 (d, J = 7.0 Hz), 34.3, 32.0, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.30 (d, J = 286.1 Hz, 1F), -95.07 (d, J = 285.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 455.1777, found: 455.1780.



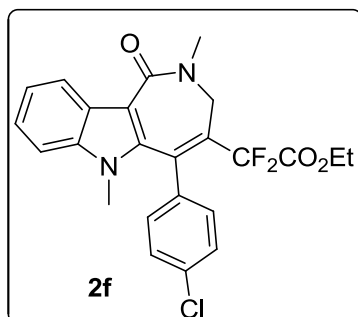
methyl

4-(4-(2-ethoxy-1,1-difluoro-2-oxoethyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-5-yl)benzoate (**2d**): 50.0 mg, 52% yield, white solid. Mp = 166-168 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.15 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.74-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.93-3.97 (m, 4H), 4.03-4.08 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.20 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.39 (m, 3H), 8.05 (s, 2H), 8.35 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.2, 164.6, 162.4 (dd, J = 32.0 Hz, J = 36.0 Hz), 140.1, 138.4, 138.0 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 137.6, 130.9, 129.6, 129.5 (dd, J = 24.0 Hz, J = 28.0 Hz), 126.2, 125.0, 122.9, 122.0, 116.0, 112.2 (dd, J = 245.0 Hz, J = 249.0 Hz), 109.3, 63.3, 52.4, 47.5 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 34.4, 32.2, 26.9, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -86.11 (d, J = 282.0 Hz, 1F), -89.27, -96.54 (dd, J = 3.8 Hz, J = 282.4 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 483.1726, found: 483.1725.



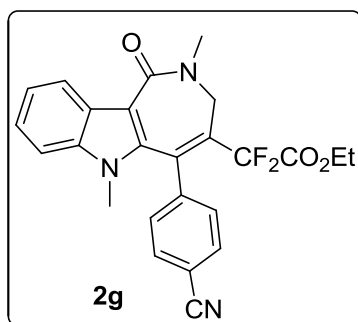
ethyl

2-(5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2e**): 46.8 mg, 47% yield, white solid. Mp = 180-182 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.09 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.74 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.90 (m, 1H), 4.04-4.09 (m, 1H), 4.17-4.21 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.48 (m, 6H), 7.62-7.64 (m, 4H), 8.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.8, 162.5 (dd, J = 33.0 Hz, J = 37.0 Hz), 142.2, 139.6, 138.7 (t, J = 8.0 Hz), 138.4, 138.3, 134.4, 131.0, 129.0, 128.9 (dd, J = 23.0 Hz, J = 29.0 Hz), 128.0, 127.0, 127.0, 126.3, 124.8, 122.9, 121.9, 115.8, 112.4 (dd, J = 241.0 Hz, J = 249.0 Hz), 109.31, 63.1, 47.4 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 34.4, 32.2(26.9), 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.39 (d, J = 285.8 Hz, 1F), -96.54 (dd, J = 3.8 Hz, J = 285.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 501.1984, found: 501.1982.



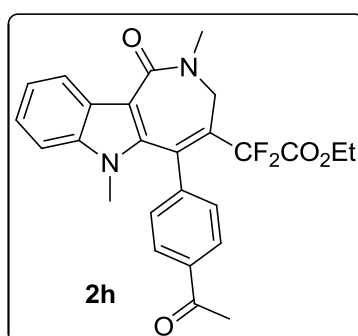
ethyl

2-(5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2f**): 49.5 mg, 54% yield, white solid. Mp = 162-164 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.15 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.76-3.84 (m, 1H), 3.91-4.05 (m, 2H), 4.14-4.18 (m, 1H), 6.87-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.37 (m, 6H), 8.34 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.6, 162.5 (dd, J = 31.0 Hz, J = 36.0 Hz), 138.4, 137.8 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 137.8 135.8, 134.0, 131.7, 129.2 (dd, J = 24.0 Hz, J = 28.0 Hz), 128.8, 126.2, 125.0, 122.9, 122.0, 116.0, 112.2 (dd, J = 244.0 Hz, J = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 63.23, 47.40 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 34.4, 32.2, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -85.20 (d, J = 283.1 Hz, 1F), -96.21 (dd, J = 3.8 Hz, J = 282.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClF}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 459.1282, found: 459.1286.



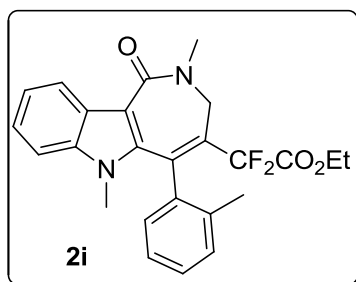
ethyl

2-(5-(4-cyanophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2g**): 42.8 mg, 48% yield, white solid. Mp = 134-136 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.21 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.90-3.98 (m, 1H), 4.02-4.08 (m, 2H), 4.14-4.17 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.68 (s, 3H), 8.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.4, 162.5 (dd, J = 32.0 Hz, J = 36.0 Hz), 140.4, 138.5, 137.1 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 137.1, 132.2, 130.9, 130.2 (t, J = 25.0 Hz), 126.2, 125.3, 123.0, 122.2, 117.9, 116.3, 114.7 (t, J = 249.0 Hz), 113.2, 109.3, 63.5, 47.6 (dd, J = 3.0 Hz, J = 6.0 Hz), 34.5, 32.3, 13.7; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -87.53 (d, J = 278.2 Hz, 1F), -97.59 (d, J = 278.6 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_2\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 450.1624, found: 450.1625.



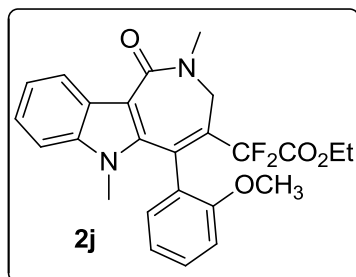
ethyl

2-(5-(4-acetylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2h**): 57.7 mg, 62% yield, white solid. Mp = 286-288 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.78-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.93-4.01 (m, 1H), 4.03-4.08 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.19 (m, 1H), 7.01-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.96 (s, 2H), 8.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.1, 164.5, 162.4 (dd, J = 32.0 Hz, J = 36.0 Hz), 140.3, 138.4, 137.9 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 137.5, 137.3, 130.6, 129.5 (dd, J = 24.0 Hz, J = 26.0 Hz), 128.3, 126.2, 125.0, 122.9, 122.0, 116.0, 112.2 (dd, J = 246.0 Hz, J = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 63.3, 47.5 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 34.4, 32.2, 26.7, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -86.45 (d, J = 281.2 Hz, 1F), -96.21 (dd, J = 3.8 Hz, J = 281.2 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 467.1777, found: 467.1782.



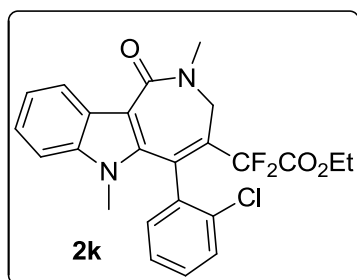
ethyl

2-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(o-tolyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2i**): 54.0 mg, 62% yield, white solid. Mp = 162-164 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.60-3.68 (m, 1H), 3.74-3.82 (m, 1H), 4.04-4.21 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.48 (m, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.5, 162.3 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, *J* = 36.0 Hz), 138.7 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 138.2, 137.7 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 134.1, 132.6 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 130.6, 130.3, 130.1, 129.6 (dd, *J* = 24.0 Hz, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 126.3, 125.8, 124.7, 123.1, 121.9, 115.6, 112.2 (dd, *J* = 240.0 Hz, *J* = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.9, 46.9 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 34.2, 32.0, 19.5, 13.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -85.54 (d, *J* = 286.1 Hz, 1F), -94.38-95.15 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₄F₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 439.1828, found: 439.1831.



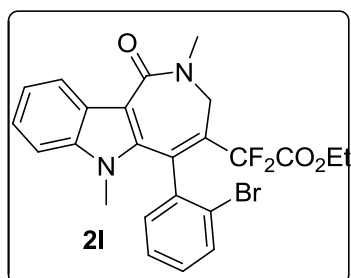
ethyl

2,2-difluoro-2-(5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)acetate (**2j**): 54.7 mg, 60% yield, white solid. Mp = 184-186 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.11-1.30 (m, 3H), 3.05-3.07 (m, 3H), 3.30-3.32 (m, 3H), 3.34-3.83 (m, 3H), 3.99-4.20 (m, 4H), 6.67-7.07 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.45 (m, 3H), 8.32-8.36 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.9, 162.9 (t, *J* = 35.0 Hz), 156.5, 139.4, 138.1, 133.3 (d, *J* = 53.0 Hz), 130.8, 130.5, 130.1 (dd, *J* = 22.0 Hz, *J* = 25.0 Hz), 126.3, 124.7, 124.4, 122.7, 121.6, 120.7, 115.3, 112.6 (t, *J* = 242.0 Hz), 110.3, 109.1, 62.8, 55.0, 48.5, 34.3, 31.2, 13.8; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -85.22- -102.78 (m, 2F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₄F₂N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺: 455.1777, found: 455.1775.



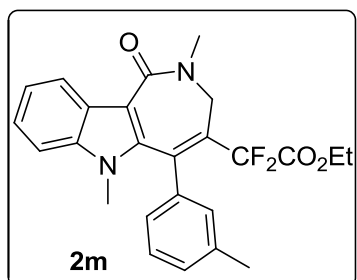
ethyl

2-(5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2k**): 53.3 mg, 58% yield, white solid. Mp = 170-172 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.18-1.34 (m, 3H), 3.09-3.15 (m, 3H), 3.31-3.34 (m, 3H), 3.77-4.25 (m, 4H), 6.87-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.62 (m, 1H), 8.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.6, 162.3, 138.3, 137.0, 135.0, 134.2, 133.6, 131.2, 130.2, 130.1, 129.5, 127.0, 126.5, 124.8, 123.1, 121.9, 116.3, 112.1 (dd, J = 243.0 Hz, J = 252.0 Hz), 109.2, 63.2, 47.0, 34.6, 32.0, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -85.49- -103.31 (m, 2F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClF}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 459.1282, found: 459.1288.



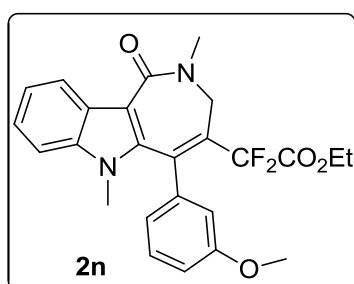
ethyl

2-(5-(2-bromophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2l**): 52.2 mg, 52% yield, white solid. Mp = 148-150 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.20-1.34 (m, 3H), 3.08-3.19 (m, 3H), 3.30-3.34 (m, 3H), 3.82-4.23 (m, 4H), 6.87-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.60-7.67 (m, 1H), 8.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.6, 164.2 (t, J = 34.0 Hz), 138.3, 137.8 (d, J = 7.0 Hz), 136.9, 135.5, 134.4, 133.5, 131.2, 130.3, 127.5, 126.5, 124.8, 123.9, 123.1, 121.9, 116.9, 112.0 (t, J = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 63.3, 47.0 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 34.3, 32.0, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -85.69- -102.65 (m, 2F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{BrF}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 503.0776, found: 503.0780.



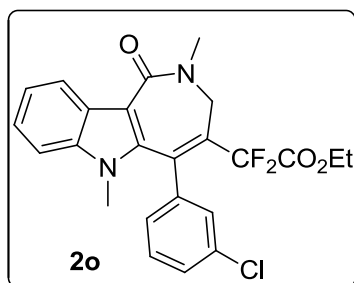
ethyl

2-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(*m*-tolyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-*b*]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2l**): 35.2 mg, 40% yield, white solid. Mp = 154-156 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.09 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.57-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.89 (m, 1H), 4.00-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.19 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.38 (m, 6H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.8, 162.4 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, *J* = 36.0 Hz), 139.2 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 138.4, 138.3, 138.2, 135.4, 130.2, 128.8, 128.5, 126.3, 124.7, 122.8, 121.8, 115.6, 112.3 (dd, *J* = 242.0 Hz, *J* = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.9, 47.2 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 34.3, 32.1(26.9), 21.2, 13.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.20 (d, *J* = 286.5 Hz, 1F), -94.15- 95.54 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₄F₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 439.1828, found: 439.1829.



ethyl

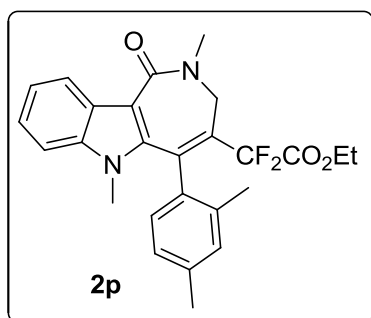
2,2-difluoro-2-(5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-*b*]indol-4-yl)acetate (**2l**): 28.1 mg, 31% yield, white solid. Mp = 162-164 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.68-3.70 (m, 3H), 3.84-3.93 (m, 2H), 4.00-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.19 (m, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 6.94-6.95 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.38 (m, 5H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.8, 162.4 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, *J* = 36.0 Hz), 162.2, 159.6, 156.4, 139.0 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 138.4, 138.0, 136.7, 129.7, 128.9 (dd, *J* = 24.0 Hz, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 126.3, 124.8, 122.9, 121.9, 115.7, 112.3 (dd, *J* = 241.0 Hz, *J* = 249.0 Hz), 109.3, 63.0, 55.4, 47.4 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 34.3, 32.0, 13.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -83.82- -85.13 (m, 1F), -94.74 (dd, *J* = 3.8 Hz, *J* = 286.9 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₄F₂N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺: 455.1777, found: 455.1779.



ethyl

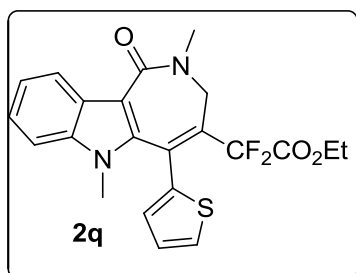
2-(5-(3-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-*b*]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2o**): 32.0 mg, 35% yield, white solid. Mp = 110-112 °C. ¹H

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.18 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 1H), 3.93-4.05 (m, 2H), 4.15-4.18 (m, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 7.23-7.52 (m, 6H), 8.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.5, 162.4 (dd, J = 32.0 Hz, J = 37.0 Hz), 138.4, 134.6 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 137.5, 137.3, 134.6, 129.9, 129.6, 129.4, 126.2, 125.0, 122.9, 122.0, 116.0, 112.2 (dd, J = 244.0 Hz, J = 248.0 Hz), 109.3, 63.3, 47.4 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 34.4, 32.3(26.9), 13.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.61- -86.67 (m, 1F), -95.89- -96.66 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₂₁ClF₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 459.1282, found: 459.1286.



ethyl

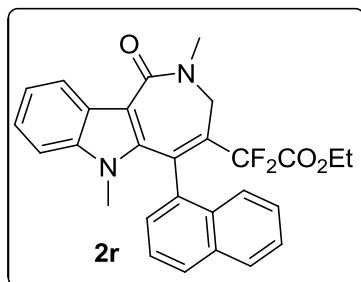
2-(5-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2p**): 50.5 mg, 56% yield, white solid. Mp = 144-146 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.60-3.68 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.83 (m, 1H), 4.03-4.11 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.20 (m, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 7.09-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.35 (m, 3H), 8.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.6, 162.4 (dd, J = 31.0 Hz, J = 36.0 Hz), 140.1, 138.8 (dd, J = 7.0 Hz, J = 9.0 Hz), 138.2, 137.9, 137.5 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 130.6 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 131.3, 131.2, 129.4 (dd, J = 24.0 Hz, J = 30.0 Hz), 126.4, 126.3, 124.7, 123.0, 121.9, 115.4, 112.3 (dd, J = 240.0 Hz, J = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.8, 47.9 (d, J = 7.0 Hz), 34.2, 32.0, 21.2, 19.4, 13.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -85.27 (d, J = 285.8 Hz, 1F), -94.25- -95.01 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₆H₂₆F₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 453.1984, found: 453.1986.



ethyl

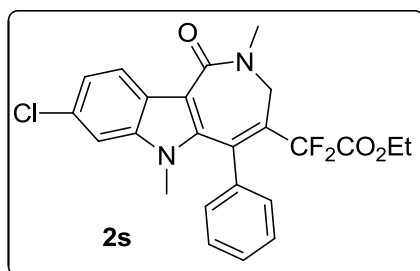
2-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(thiophen-2-yl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2q**): 40.4 mg, 47% yield, white solid. Mp = 164-166 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.13 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 3.74-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.93-4.03 (m, 2H), 4.18-4.21 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.50 (m, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.6,

162.1 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 38.0$ Hz), 138.5, 137.7, 136.6, 132.4 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz), 131.6 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 130.2 (dd, $J = 22.0$ Hz, $J = 30.0$ Hz), 130.2, 127.2, 126.1, 124.9, 122.8, 121.9, 115.5, 112.2 (dd, $J = 240.0$ Hz, $J = 251.0$ Hz), 109.4, 63.1, 46.8 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 34.2, 31.3(26.8), 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -81.01 (d, $J = 287.3$ Hz, 1F), -95.83 (dd, $J = 4.1$ Hz, $J = 287.3$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 431.1235, found: 431.1234.



ethyl

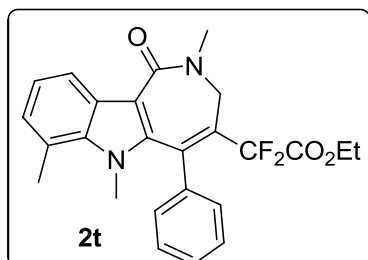
2-(2,6-dimethyl-5-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2r**): 39.9 mg, 42% yield, white solid. Mp = 206-208 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.70 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.46-2.54 (m, 1H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 3.27-3.31 (m, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 4.15-4.20 (m, 1H), 4.26-4.30 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.41 (dd, $J = 2.8$ Hz, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.7, 161.9 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 36.0$ Hz), 138.3, 137.9 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 137.8, 133.3, 132.0 (t, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 131.9, 131.0, 130.8, 130.7, 130.5, 128.3, 127.6, 126.6, 125.1, 124.9, 124.7, 123.1, 121.9, 115.0, 112.3 (dd, $J = 238.0$ Hz, $J = 248.0$ Hz), 109.2, 62.4, 47.0 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 34.3 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 31.9(26.9), 13.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.29 (d, $J = 289.1$ Hz, 1F), -93.98 (dd, $J = 2.6$ Hz, $J = 289.5$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 475.1828, found: 475.1286.



ethyl

2-(8-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**2s**): 58.6 mg, 64% yield, white solid. Mp = 156-158 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.10 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 3.00 (s, 3H), 3.62-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.89 (m, 1H), 4.00-4.06 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.20 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.58 (m, 7H), 8.35 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.3, 162.3 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 36.0$ Hz), 138.9 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 138.8, 135.2, 130.8, 129.7,

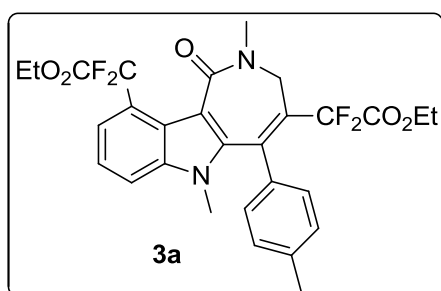
129.0 (dd, $J = 24.0$ Hz, $J = 29.0$ Hz), 128.6, 124.8, 123.9, 122.6, 115.8, 112.2 (dd, $J = 242.0$ Hz, $J = 249.0$ Hz), 109.3, 63.0, 47.3 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 34.3, 32.2, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.61 (d, $J = 286.1$ Hz, 1F), -95.38 (dd, $J = 4.1$ Hz, $J = 286.1$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClF}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 459.1282, found: 459.1283.



ethyl

2,2-difluoro-2-(2,6,7-trimethyl-1-oxo-5-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indol-4-yl)acetate (**2t**): 44.0 mg, 50% yield, white solid. Mp = 150-152 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.08 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.58-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.88 (m, 1H), 4.03-4.08 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.19 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.42 (m, 7H), 8.22 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.6, 162.3 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 36.0$ Hz), 139.6, 139.1 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 137.8, 135.8, 130.4, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9 (t, $J = 5.0$ Hz), 128.5, 127.8, 127.2, 121.8, 121.0, 116.0, 112.3 (dd, $J = 241.0$ Hz, $J = 250.0$ Hz), 63.0, 47.4 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 35.4, 34.4, 20.4, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.60 (d, $J = 286.5$ Hz, 1F), -95.17 (dd, $J = 4.1$ Hz, $J = 286.5$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 439.1828, found: 439.1830.

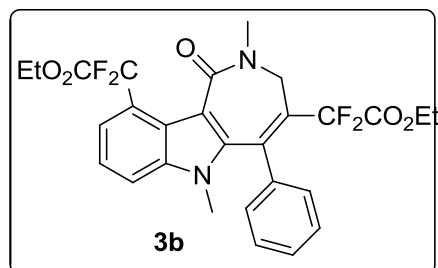
7. Characterization data of 3 and 4



diethyl

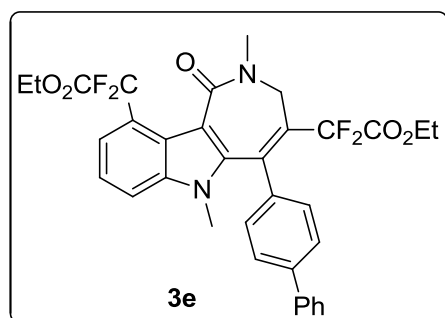
2,2'-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(p-tolyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,10-diyl) bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**3a**): white solid. Mp = 190-192 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.07 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.43 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 3.59-3.67 (m, 1H), 3.79-3.87 (m, 1H), 4.09-4.20 (m, 2H), 4.34-4.42 (m, 1H), 4.51-4.59 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.2 (t, $J = 34.0$ Hz), 164.1, 162.4 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 36.0$ Hz), 139.8, 139.3, 138.6 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz),

138.4, 132.5, 131.7 (dd, $J = 23.0$ Hz, $J = 30.0$ Hz), 130.4, 129.3, 128.4 (t, $J = 25.0$ Hz), 123.9, 121.8 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 121.2 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 121.1 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 116.1, 112.2, 117.0-109.7 (m, 4F), 62.9, 62.4, 47.0 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 34.0, 32.4, 21.3, 14.1, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.23 (d, $J = 287.3$ Hz, 1F), -94.76 (d, $J = 285.4$ Hz, 1F), -95.09 (dd, $J = 3.0$ Hz, $J = 287.3$ Hz, 1F), -97.60 (d, $J = 285.8$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{28}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 561.2007, found: 561.2010.



diethyl

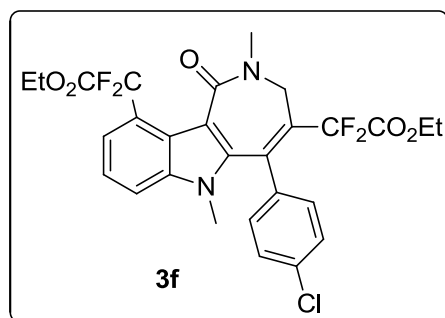
2,2'-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,10-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**3b**): white solid. Mp = 214-216 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.07 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.44 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 3.23 (d, $J = 0.4$ Hz, 3H), 3.59-3.67 (m, 1H), 3.79-3.87 (m, 1H), 4.11-4.22 (m, 2H), 4.35-4.43 (m, 1H), 4.51-4.59 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.64 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.2 (t, $J = 34.0$ Hz), 164.1, 162.3 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 37.0$ Hz), 139.3, 138.5 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 138.2, 135.4, 132.0 (dd, $J = 24.0$ Hz, $J = 29.0$ Hz), 130.6, 129.6, 128.6, 126.9 (t, $J = 25.0$ Hz), 123.9, 121.8 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz), 121.3 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 121.2 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 116.2, 112.2, 116.9-109.8 (m, 4F), 63.0, 62.4, 47.0 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 34.0, 32.4, 14.0, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.53 (d, $J = 287.3$ Hz, 1F), -94.76 (d, $J = 285.8$ Hz, 1F), -95.22 (d, $J = 286.9$ Hz, 1F), -97.60 (d, $J = 285.8$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 547.1851, found: 547.1849.



diethyl

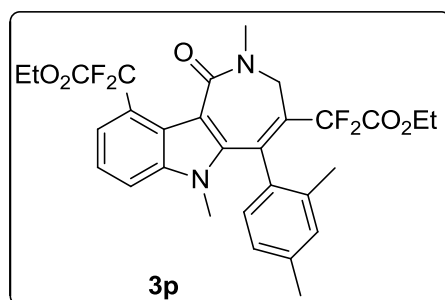
2,2'-(5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,10-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**3e**): white solid. Mp = 206-208 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.44 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.79-3.87 (m, 1H), 4.13-4.23 (m, 2H), 4.35-4.43 (m, 1H), 4.52-4.60 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.49 (m, 7H), 7.62-7.65 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.2 (t, $J = 34.0$ Hz), 164.1, 162.4 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 36.0$ Hz), 142.2,

139.5, 139.3, 138.2, 138.2 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 134.3, 131.1 (dd, $J = 23.0$ Hz, $J = 29.0$ Hz), 131.0, 129.0, 128.1, 127.0, 127.0, 124.0, 121.8 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 121.3 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 121.2 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 116.3, 112.2, 117.0-109.8 (m, 4F), 63.1, 62.4, 47.1 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 34.1, 32.5(26.9), 14.1, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.55 (d, $J = 286.9$ Hz, 1F), -94.81 (d, $J = 285.8$ Hz, 1F), -95.05 (d, $J = 287.3$ Hz, 1F), -97.53 (d, $J = 285.7$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{30}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 623.2164, found: 623.2162.



diethyl

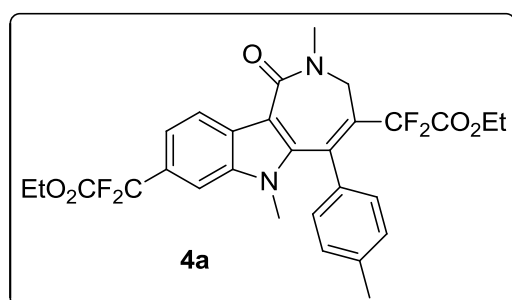
2,2'-(5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,10-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**3f**): white solid. Mp = 138-140 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.12 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.43 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 3.73-3.81 (m, 1H), 3.88-3.96 (m, 1H), 4.10-4.20 (m, 2H), 4.34-4.42 (m, 1H), 4.51-4.59 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.1 (t, $J = 34.0$ Hz), 163.9, 162.3 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 35.0$ Hz), 139.3, 137.8, 137.3 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 135.9, 133.9, 132.4 (dd, $J = 24.0$ Hz, $J = 29.0$ Hz), 131.8, 128.9, 126.9 (t, $J = 25.0$ Hz), 124.2, 121.8 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 121.4 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 121.3 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 116.4, 112.2, 116.9-109.7 (m, 4F), 63.3, 62.4, 47.1 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 34.1, 32.6(26.9), 14.0, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.30 (d, $J = 285.0$ Hz, 1F), -94.85 (d, $J = 285.8$ Hz, 1F), -96.08 (d, $J = 284.6$ Hz, 1F), -97.61 (d, $J = 286.1$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClF}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 581.1461, found: 581.1460.



diethyl

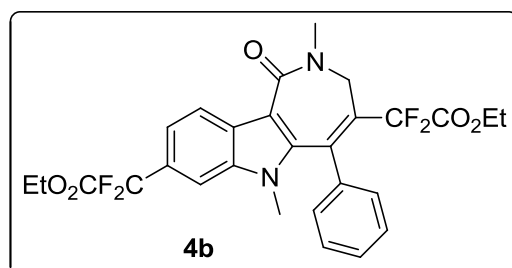
2,2'-(5-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,10-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**3p**): white solid. Mp = 184-186 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.09 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.38 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.57-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.73-3.81 (m, 1H),

4.13-4.22 (m, 2H), 4.35-4.53 (m, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.61 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.0, 163.9 (t, $J = 34.0$ Hz), 162.3 (dd, $J = 31.0$ Hz, $J = 35.0$ Hz), 140.2, 139.0, 138.1 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 137.7, 137.4, 132.7 (dd, $J = 23.0$ Hz, $J = 26.0$ Hz), 132.6 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 131.3, 131.1, 127.0 (t, $J = 24.0$ Hz), 126.5, 123.8, 121.9 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz), 121.3 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 121.1 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 116.1, 112.1, 116.9-109.8 (m, 4F), 62.9, 62.4, 47.0 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 34.0, 32.4, 21.3, 14.1, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.29 (d, $J = 286.2$ Hz, 1F), -93.71- -95.28 (m, 2F), -98.06 (d, $J = 285.0$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{30}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 575.2164, found: 575.2163.



diethyl

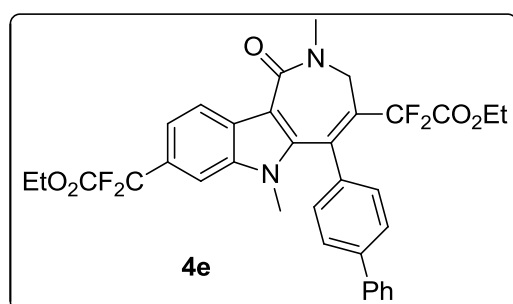
2,2'-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(p-tolyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,8-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**4a**): white solid. Mp = 156-158 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06-1.12 (m, 3H), 1.28-1.32 (m, 3H), 2.38 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3H), 3.07-3.20 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.60-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.91 (m, 1H), 3.99-4.09 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.21 (m, 1H), 4.26-4.36 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.51 (m, 2H), 8.39-8.59 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.4(164.1), 164.2 (t, $J = 35.0$ Hz), 162.6-161.9 (m) 141.6, 140.3, 140.0 (t, $J = 20.0$ Hz), 139.2-138.8 (m), 137.6, 135.3, 132.7 (d, $J = 33.0$ Hz), 130.2, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9 (d, $J = 70$ Hz), 128.0, 126.7, 123.3 120.7, 124.8-106.9 (m, 4F), 63.4-63.0 (m), 47.2 (dd, $J = 8.0$ Hz, $J = 11.0$ Hz), 36.7-34.3 (m), 32.3 (26,9), 21.3 ($J = 2.0$ Hz), 13.9 ($J = 3.0$ Hz), 13.5 ($J = 3.0$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.29- -84.88 (m, 1F), -88.42- -89.97 (m, 1F), -94.88- -95.93(m, 1F), -101.88- -103.42 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{28}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 561.2007, found:561.2010.



diethyl

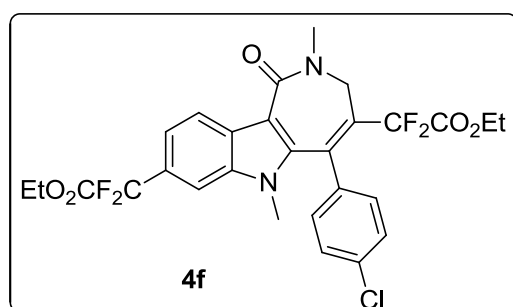
2,2'-(2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,8-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**4b**): white solid. Mp = 160-162 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06-1.12 (m, 3H), 1.28-1.32 (m, 3H), 3.06-3.19 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H),

3.59-3.71 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.90 (m, 1H), 4.01-4.11 (m, 1H), 4.17-4.23 (m, 1H), 4.27-4.35 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.51 (m, 6H), 8.40-8.59 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.4(164.1), 164.2 (d, $J = 34.0$ Hz), 162.2 (t, $J = 40.0$ Hz), 141.5, 140.0, 137.7, 135.4, 151.1, 130.1 (d, $J = 24.0$ Hz), 129.8, 129.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 126.7, 123.3, 120.7, 125.0-106.9 (m, 4F), 63.5-63.1 (m), 47.3 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 36.7-34.4 (m), 32.3, 13.9 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 13.6 ($J = 2.0$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.54- -85.15 (m, 1F), -88.37- -90.07 (m, 1F), -94.95- -95.95 (m, 1F), -101.91- -103.50 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 547.1851, found: 547.1850.



diethyl

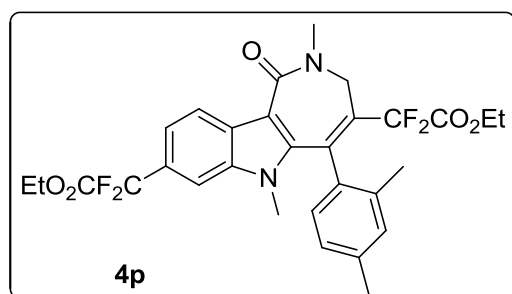
2,2'-(5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,8-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**4e**): white solid. Mp = 168-170 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06-1.12 (m, 3H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 3.13-3.26 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.54-3.76 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.91 (m, 1H), 4.03-4.13 (m, 1H), 4.18-4.24 (m, 1H), 4.27-4.35 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.60-7.62 (m, 4H), 8.41-8.61 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.4(164.1), 164.2 (d, $J = 34.0$ Hz), 162.4-161.6 (m), 142.4, 142.2, 141.5, 139.6, 139.5, 138.7, 137.7, 135.3, 134.4, 134.0, 130.8, 129.0 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 129.0, 128.1, 128.0, 127.0 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 126.9 (d, $J = 43.0$ Hz), 123.3, 120.8, 124.9-106.9 (m, 4F), 63.5-63.1 (m), 47.3 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 36.7-34.4 (m), 32.3(26.9), 13.9 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 13.6 ($J = 2.0$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.65- -85.25 (m, 1F), -88.40- -89.95 (m, 1F), -94.78- -95.84 (m, 1F), -101.85- -103.38 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{30}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 623.2164, found: 623.2163.



diethyl

2,2'-(5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,8-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**4f**): white solid. Mp = 158-160 °C. ^1H NMR (400

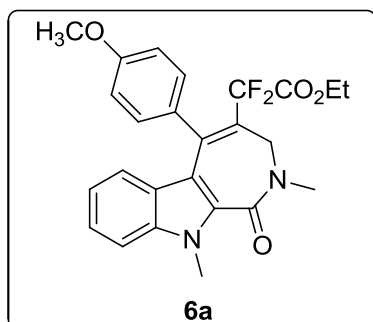
MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12-1.18 (m, 3H), 1.28-1.33 (m, 3H), 3.11-3.23 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.74-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.92-4.01 (m, 1H), 4.03-4.10 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.21 (m, 1H), 4.27-4.37 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.52 (m, 6H), 8.39-8.59 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.2(163.9), 164.2 (d, *J* = 34.0 Hz), 162.3 (t, *J* = 40.0 Hz), 145.4, 141.1, 139.6, 137.8 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz), 136.0 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz), 135.4, 133.9, 133.6, 131.6, 130.3 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 129.0, 128.8, 126.8, 123.4, 120.9, 125.2-106.9 (m, 4F), 63.5-63.2 (m), 47.4 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 36.9-34.5 (m), 32.5 (26.9), 13.9 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 13.6 (*J* = 2.0 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.44- -86.05 (m, 1F), -89.25 (s, 1F), -95.84- -96.88 (m, 1F), -101.97- -103.45 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₅ClF₄N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺: 581.1461, found: 581.1460.



diethyl

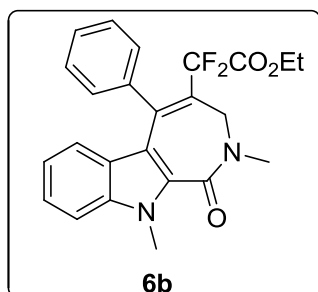
2,2'-(5-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazepino[4,3-b]indole-4,8-diyl)bis(2,2-difluoroacetate) (**4p**): white solid. Mp = 184-186 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.09-1.14 (m, 3H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.46-1.49 (m, 3H), 2.34-2.56 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 3.08-3.21 (m, 3H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.58-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.73-4.81 (m, 1H), 4.02-4.14 (m, 1H), 4.17-4.23 (m, 1H), 4.26-4.35 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.94 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.50 (m, 3H), 8.39-8.59 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.4 (d, *J* = 34.0 Hz), 164.2(163.9), 162.3 (dd, *J* = 24.0 Hz, *J* = 36.0 Hz), 141.4, 140.4 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 139.7, 138.8-138.5(m), 137.5, 137.3 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 135.2, 132.7 (dd, *J* = 4.0 Hz, *J* = 38.0 Hz), 131.4 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 131.0 (d, *J* = 25.0 Hz), 130.4 (d, *J* = 23.0 Hz), 128.9 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 128.1, 126.9, 126.6 d, *J* = 20.0 Hz), 123.5, 120.7, 125.0-106.8 (m, 4F), 63.4-62.9 (m), 47.0-46.8 (m), 36.9-34.3 (m), 32.2 (26.9), 21.2 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 19.4 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 13.9 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 13.5 (*J* = 3.0 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.48- -86.12 (m, 1F), -88.16- -90.30 (m, 1F), -94.25- -95.38 (m, 1F), -101.80- -103.51 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₀H₃₀F₄N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺: 575.2164, found: 575.2162.

8. Characterization data of 6a-6i and 7b



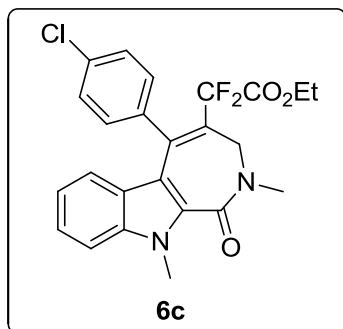
ethyl

2,2-difluoro-2-(5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)acetate (**6a**): 56.4 mg, 62% yield, white solid. Mp = 290-292 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.64-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.86-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.99-4.04 (m, 1H), 4.00-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.14-4.18 (m, 1H), 6.87-7.03 (m, 3H), 7.07-7.37 (m, 4H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.7, 162.4 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, *J* = 37.0 Hz), 160.5, 138.9 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 138.5, 138.4, 131.8, 128.2 (dd, *J* = 23.0 Hz, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 127.7, 126.3, 124.6, 122.8, 121.8, 115.6, 113.9, 112.4 (dd, *J* = 240.0 Hz, *J* = 249.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.9, 55.3, 47.2 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 34.3, 32.0, 13.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -83.33 (d, *J* = 285.8 Hz, 1F), -95.10 (dd, *J* = 4.5 Hz, *J* = 285.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₄F₂N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺: 455.1777, found: 455.1773.



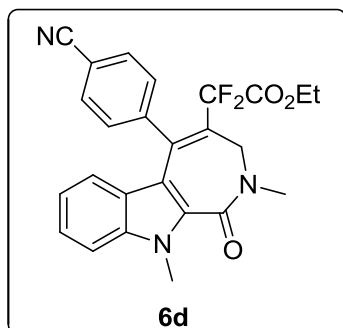
ethyl

2-(2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-phenyl-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**6b**): 50.5 mg, 60% yield, white solid. Mp = 190-192 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.61-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.90 (m, 1H), 4.02-4.07 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.20 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.41 (m, 6H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.7, 162.4 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, *J* = 35.0 Hz), 139.1 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 138.4, 138.2, 135.5, 139.5, 128.6, 127.7, 127.2, 126.3, 124.8, 122.9, 121.9, 115.7, 112.3 (dd, *J* = 243.0 Hz, *J* = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 63.0, 47.3 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 34.3, 32.0, 13.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.32 (d, *J* = 285.8 Hz, 1F), -95.28 (dd, *J* = 4.5 Hz, *J* = 285.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₂F₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 425.1671, found: 425.1676.



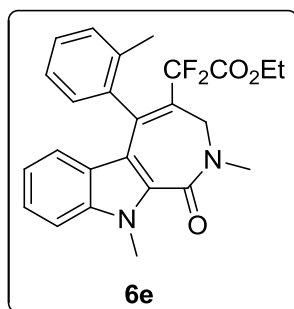
ethyl

2-(5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**6c**): 37.6 mg, 41% yield, white solid. Mp = 184-186 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.52 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.77-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.90-3.98 (m, 1H), 4.00-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.14-4.18 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.38 (m, 5H), 8.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.6, 162.3 (dd, J = 31.0 Hz, J = 36.0 Hz), 138.4, 139.1 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 137.8, 135.7, 134.0, 131.6, 129.2 (dd, J = 23.0 Hz, J = 28.0 Hz), 128.8, 126.2, 125.0, 122.9, 122.0, 116.0, 112.2 (dd, J = 243.0 Hz, J = 249.0 Hz), 109.2, 63.2, 47.4 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 34.4, 32.0(26.9), 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -85.23 (d, J = 282.8 Hz, 1F), -96.23 (dd, J = 3.8 Hz, J = 283.1 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClF}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 459.1282, found: 459.1284.



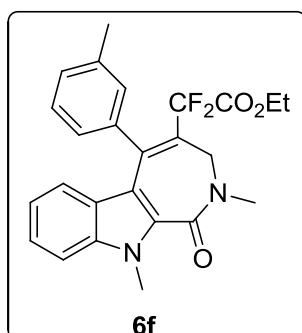
ethyl

2-(5-(4-cyanophenyl)-2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**6d**) 33.3 mg, 37% yield, white solid. Mp = 198-200 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.21 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.91-3.98 (m, 1H), 4.02-4.08 (m, 2H), 4.14-4.17 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.68 (m, 3H), 8.34 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.4, 162.4 (dd, J = 33.0 Hz, J = 37.0 Hz), 140.4, 138.5, 137.2 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 137.1, 132.1, 130.9, 130.1 (dd, J = 24.0 Hz, J = 26.0 Hz), 126.2, 125.3, 123.0, 122.2, 117.9, 116.3, 113.2, 112.2 (dd, J = 248.0 Hz, J = 250.0 Hz), 109.3, 63.5, 47.6 (d, J = 4.0 Hz), 34.5, 32.3(26.9), 13.7; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -87.54 (d, J = 278.2 Hz, 1F), -97.59 (dd, J = 3.8 Hz, J = 278.2 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 450.1624, found: 450.1625.



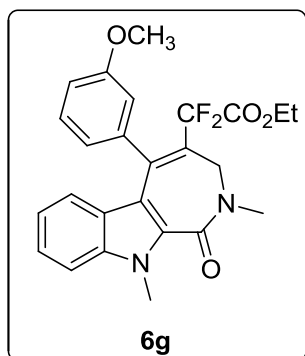
ethyl

2-(2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(o-tolyl)-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**6e**): 50.8 mg, 58% yield, white solid. Mp = 134-136 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.07-1.20 (m, 3H), 2.07-2.31 (m, 3H), 2.64-3.31 (m, 3H), 2.97-3.04 (m, 3H), 3.59-4.22 (m, 4H), 6.42-6.97 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.42 (m, 5H), 5.96 and 8.34 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.7, 162.4 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, *J* = 37.0 Hz), 150.7, 140.9 (t, *J* = 65.0 Hz), 139.2 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 138.4 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz), 138.3, 135.4, 130.2, 128.9 140.9 (d, *J* = 34.0 Hz), 128.4, 127.6 (t, *J* = 18.0 Hz), 126.3, 124.6, 122.8, 127.8, 115.6, 112.3 (dd, *J* = 241.0 Hz, *J* = 249.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.9, 47.3 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 34.3(29.3), 32.0(26.9), 21.2, 13.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.27(d, *J* = 286.1 Hz, 1F), -94.28- -101.70 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₄F₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 439.1828, found: 439.1834.



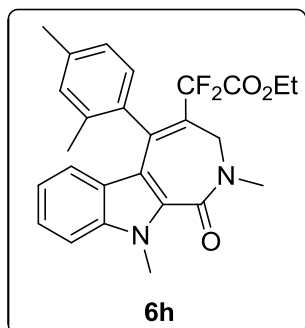
ethyl

2-(2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(m-tolyl)-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**6f**): 36.0 mg, 41% yield, white solid. Mp = 170-172 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.62-3.67 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.81 (m, 1H), 4.05-4.10 (m, 1H), 4.18-4.22 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.48 (m, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.5, 162.4 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, *J* = 35.0 Hz), 138.7 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 138.2, 137.7, 137.7, 134.2, 132.6 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 130.6, 130.1, 129.6 (dd, *J* = 24.0 Hz, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 126.3, 125.8, 124.8, 123.1, 121.9, 115.6, 112.3 (dd, *J* = 240.0 Hz, *J* = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.9, 47.2 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 34.2, 32.0, 21.3, 13.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -85.58(d, *J* = 285.8 Hz, 1F), -94.42- -95.19 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₄F₂N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 439.1828, found: 439.1827.



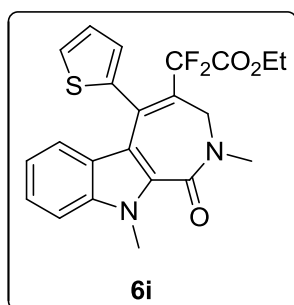
ethyl

2,2-difluoro-2-(5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)acetate (**6g**): 40.8 mg, 45% yield, white solid. Mp = 188-190 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.11 (s, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.71 (m, 3H), 3.81-3.90 (m, 2H), 4.00-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.18 (m, 1H), 6.45-7.04 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.37 (m, 4H), 8.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.8, 162.4 (dd, J = 31.0 Hz, J = 35.0 Hz), 159.6, 150.7, 140.6, 138.9 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 138.4, 138.0, 136.7, 129.7, 129.1 (t, J = 25.0 Hz), 128.7 (dd, J = 7.0 Hz, J = 16.0 Hz), 126.3, 124.7, 122.8, 121.9, 115.7, 112.3 (dd, J = 242.0 Hz, J = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 63.0, 55.4, 47.3 (d, J = 7.0 Hz), 34.3, 32.0, 13.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.89- -85.14 (m, 1F), -94.42- -95.19 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 455.1777, found: 455.1776.



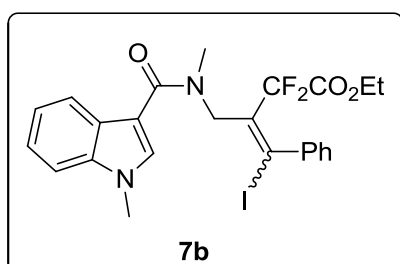
ethyl

2-(5-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**6h**): 45.3 mg, 50% yield, white solid. Mp = 160-162 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.14 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.52 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.62-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.84 (m, 1H), 4.05-4.10 (m, 1H), 4.18-4.22 (m, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.37 (m, 4H), 8.37 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.6, 162.4 (dd, J = 32.0 Hz, J = 36.0 Hz), 140.1, 138.8 (t, J = 8.0 Hz), 138.2, 137.9, 137.5, 132.6 (d, J = 4.0 Hz), 131.3, 131.2, 129.4 (dd, J = 24.0 Hz, J = 30.0 Hz), 126.4, 126.4, 124.7, 123.1, 121.9, 115.4, 112.3 (dd, J = 240.0 Hz, J = 250.0 Hz), 109.2, 62.8, 46.9 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 34.2 (d, J = 1.0 Hz), 32.0(26.9), 21.2, 19.5, 13.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -85.28 (d, J = 285.8 Hz, 1F), -94.26- -95.02 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 453.1984, found: 453.1981.



ethyl

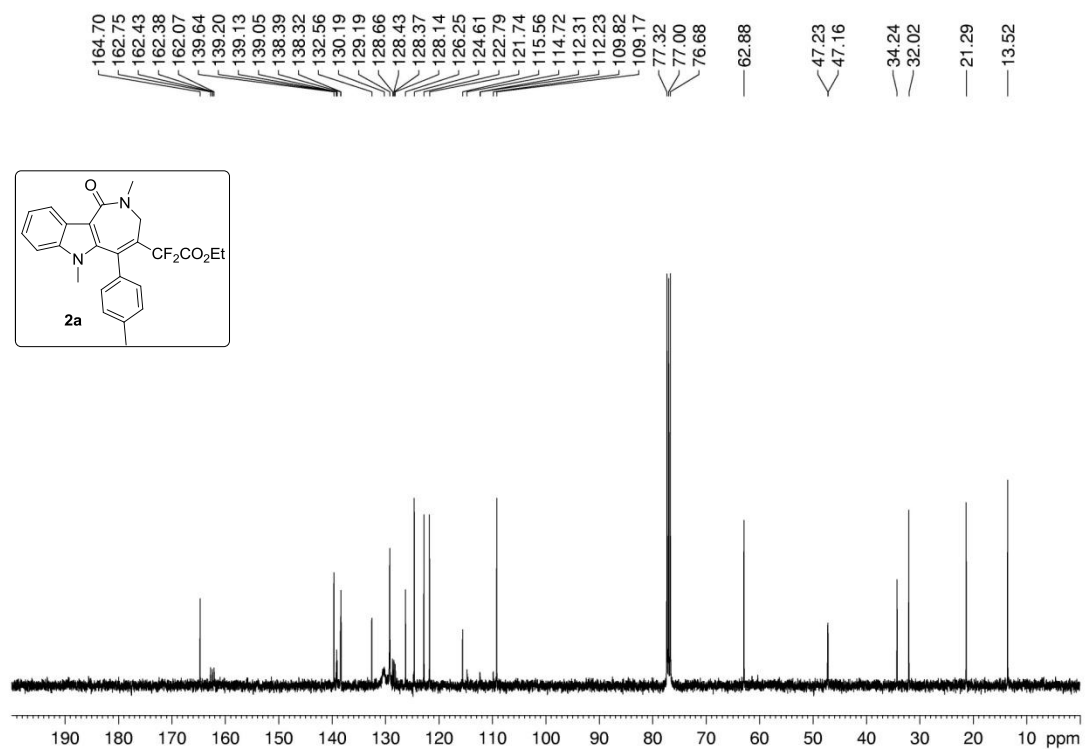
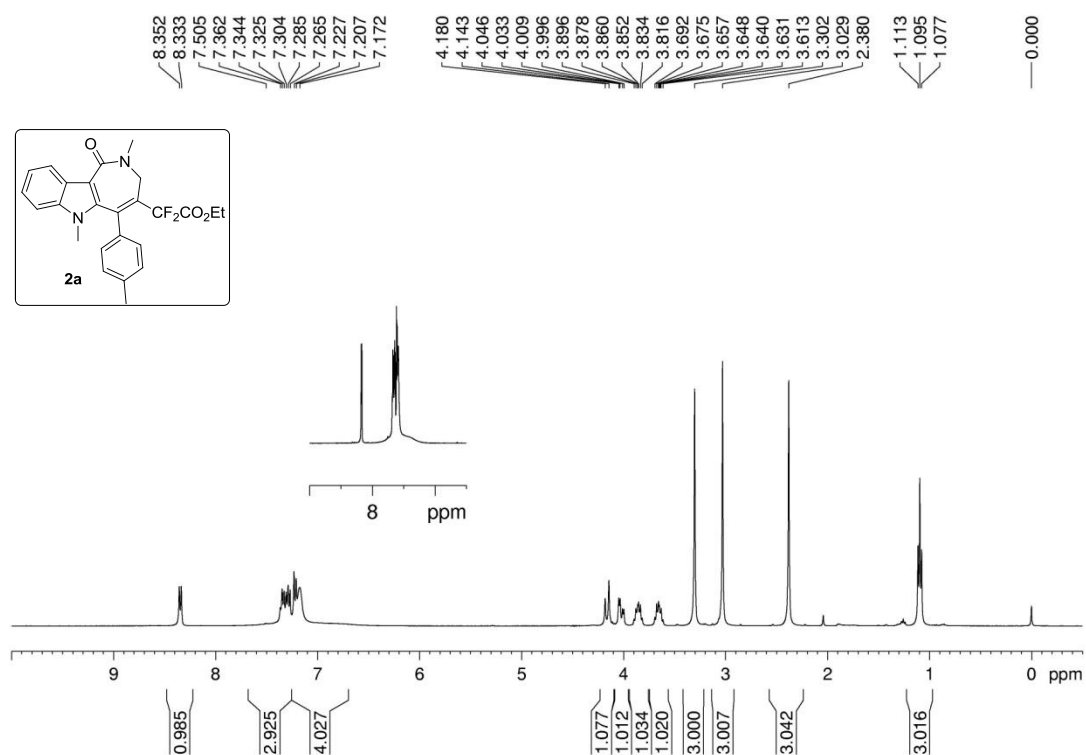
2-(2,10-dimethyl-1-oxo-5-(thiophen-2-yl)-1,2,3,10-tetrahydroazepino[3,4-b]indol-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (**6i**): 26.8 mg, 31% yield, white solid. Mp = 128-130 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.13 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.74-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.94-4.04 (m, 2H), 4.18-4.21 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J = 0.8 Hz, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.6, 162.1 (dd, J = 31.0 Hz, J = 37.0 Hz), 138.5, 137.7, 136.6, 132.4 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 131.7 (dd, J = 6.0 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz), 130.3 (dd, J = 22.0 Hz, J = 32.0 Hz), 130.2, 127.2, 126.2, 124.9, 122.8, 122.0, 115.6, 112.2 (dd, J = 240.0 Hz, J = 250.0 Hz), 109.4, 63.1, 46.9 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 34.3, 31.3, 13.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -81.01 (d, J = 287.3 Hz, 1F), -95.44- -96.21 (m, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 431.1235, found: 431.1236.

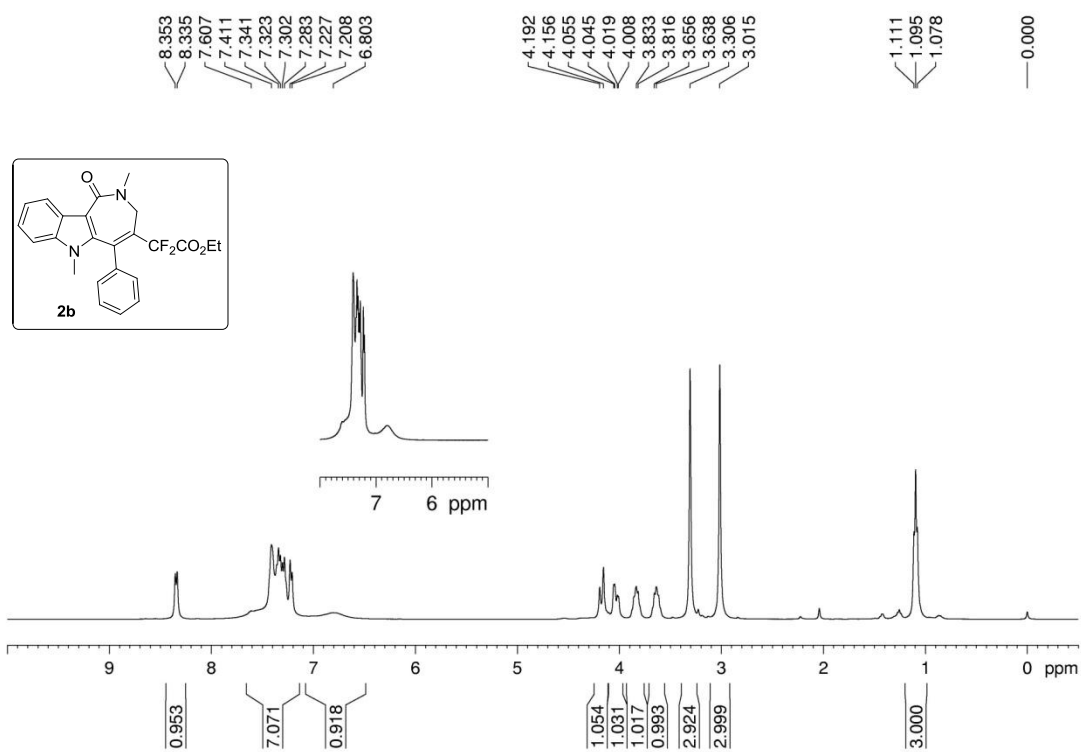
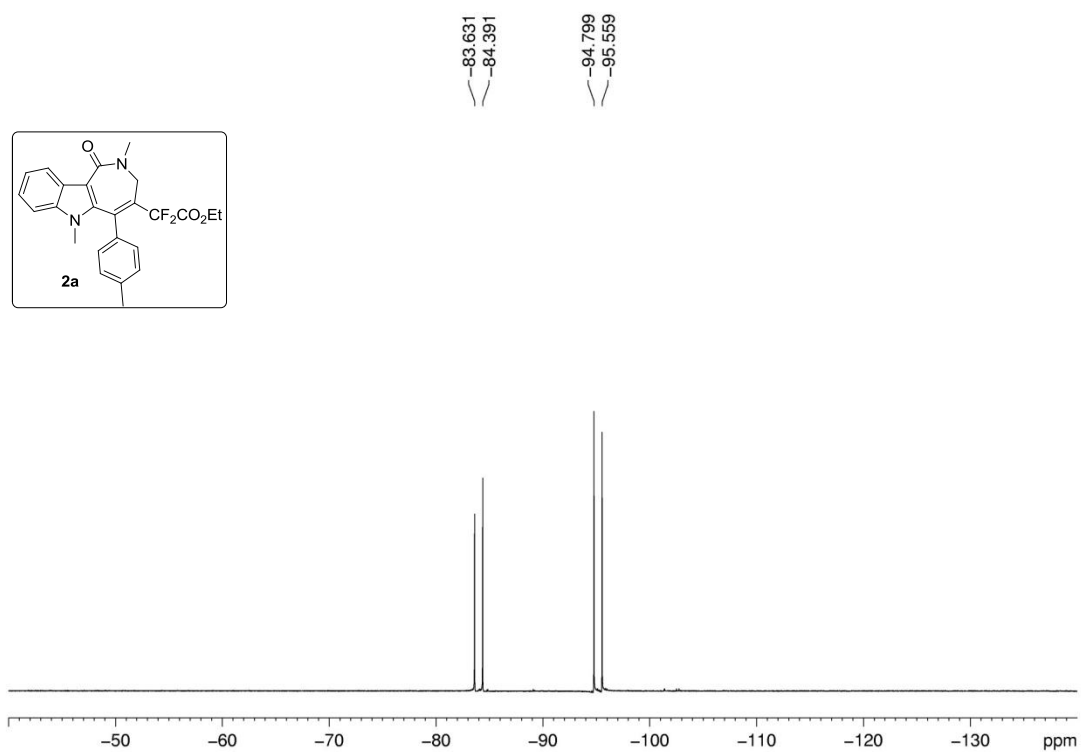


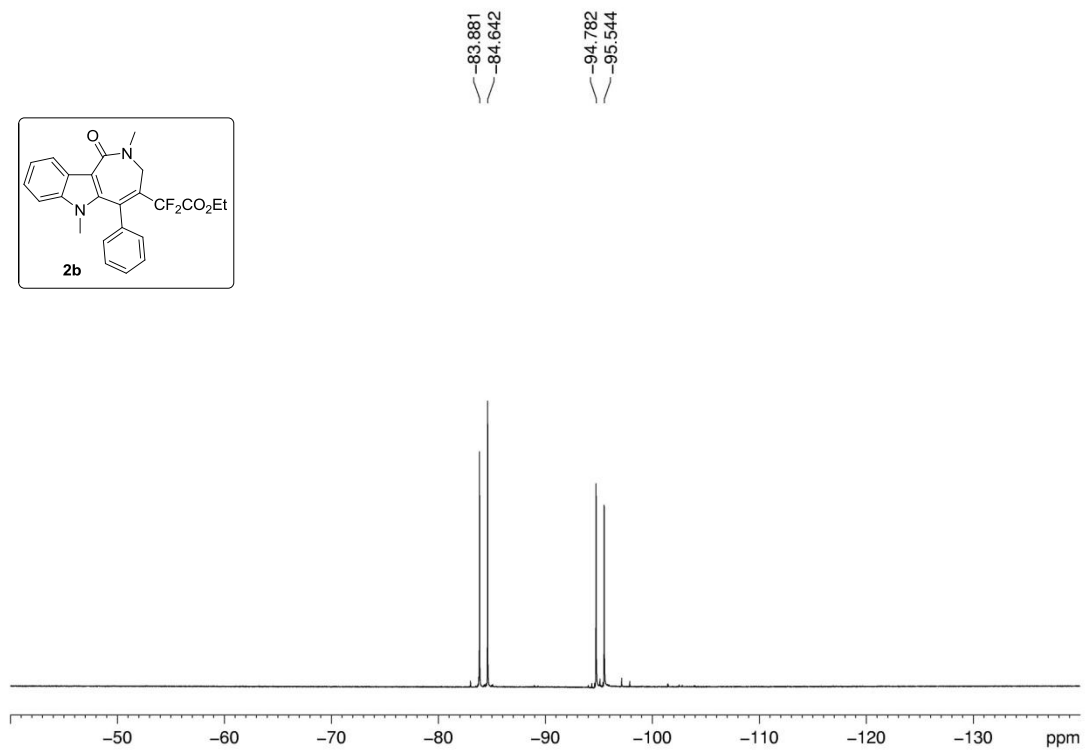
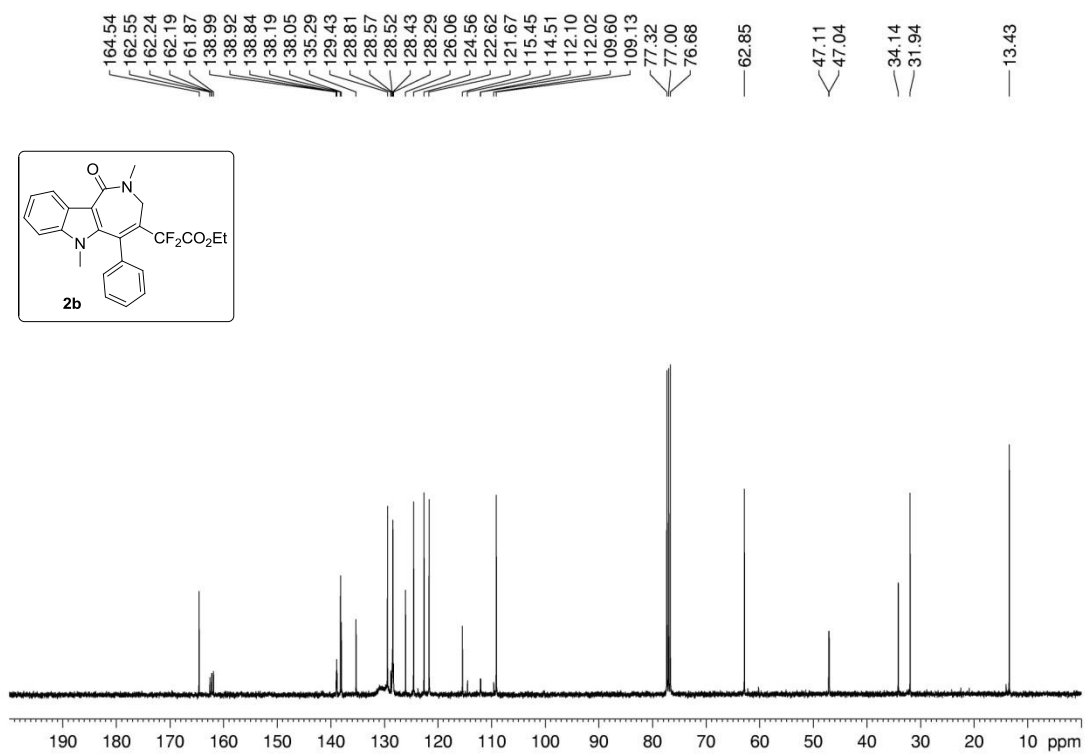
(E/Z)-ethyl

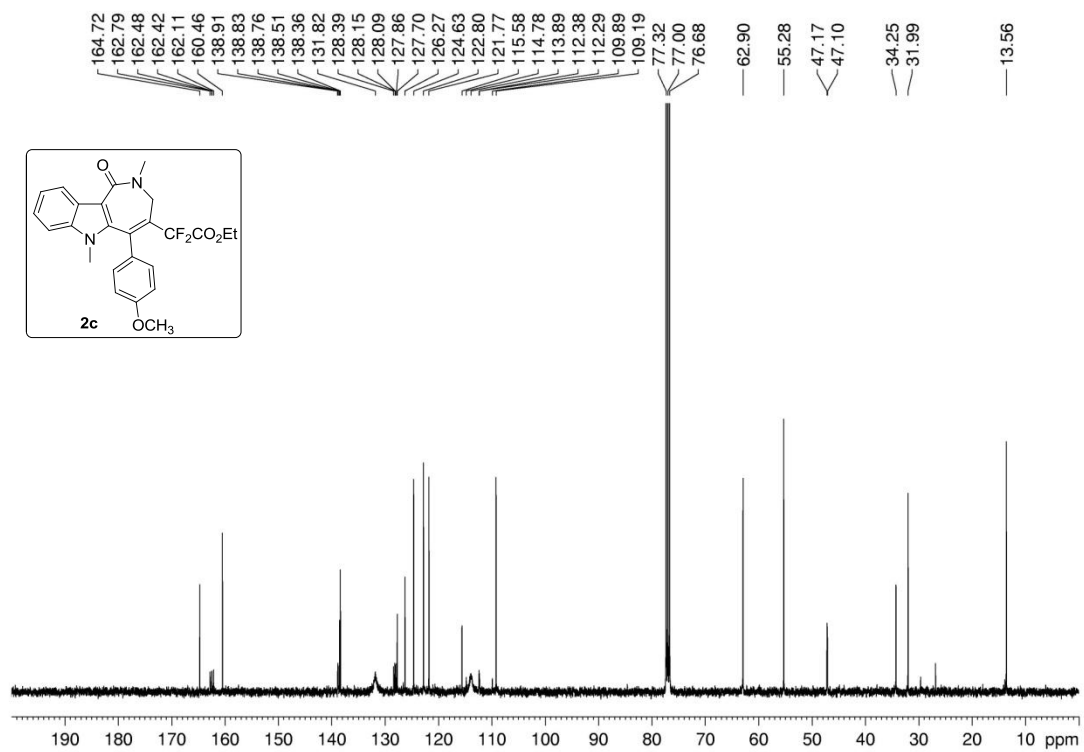
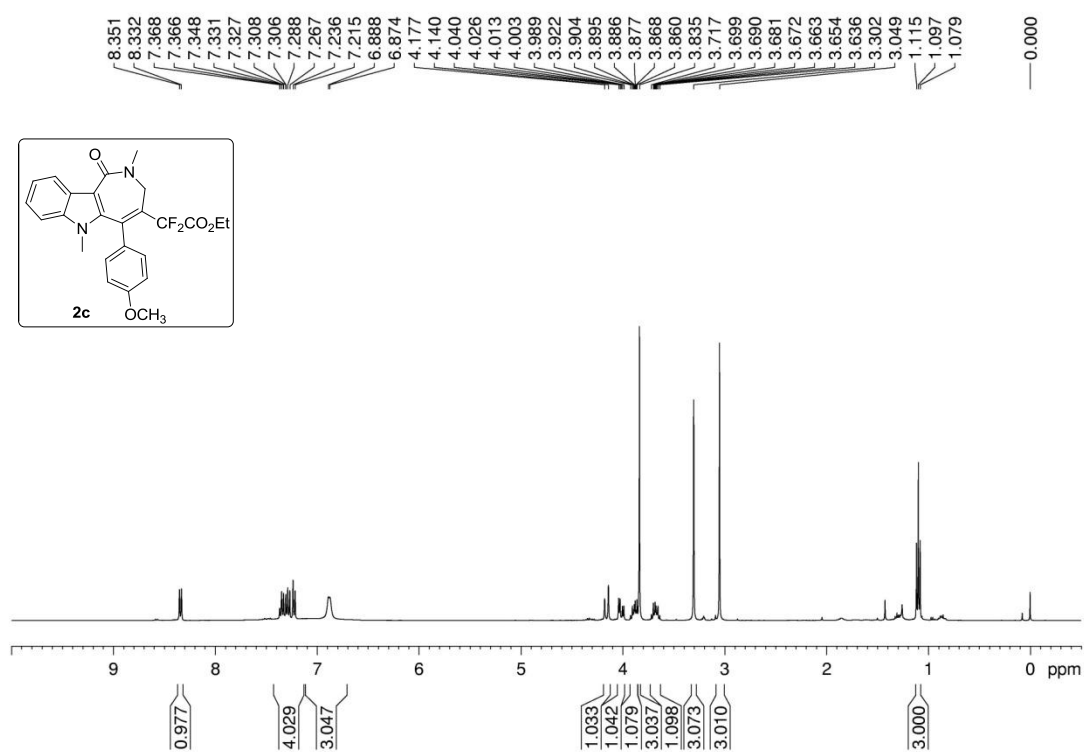
3-((N,1-dimethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxamido)methyl)-2,2-difluoro-4-iodo-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (**7b**): 11.0 mg, 10% yield, yellow solid. Mp = 130-132 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 3.99 (dd, J = 6.8 Hz, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 4.21-4.26 (m, 2H), 6.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64-6.71 (m, 3H), 6.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.26 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.7, 162.1 (t, J = 33.0 Hz), 138.5, 151.6, 143.8 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 141.2, 131.9, 129.8 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 128.6 (d, J = 17.0 Hz), 127.3 (d, J = 25.0 Hz), 118.8, 114.3 (d, J = 251.0 Hz), 110.5, 108.5 (d, J = 7.0 Hz), 107.4, 107.0 (d, J = 7.0 Hz), 99.3, 76.1-74.4 (m), 63.0-59.8 (m), 34.9 (34.3), 29.9 (29.7), 14.2 (13.2); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -98.21 (d, J = 286.5 Hz, 1F), -102.97 (d, J = 286.5 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{I}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 553.0794, found: 553.0791.

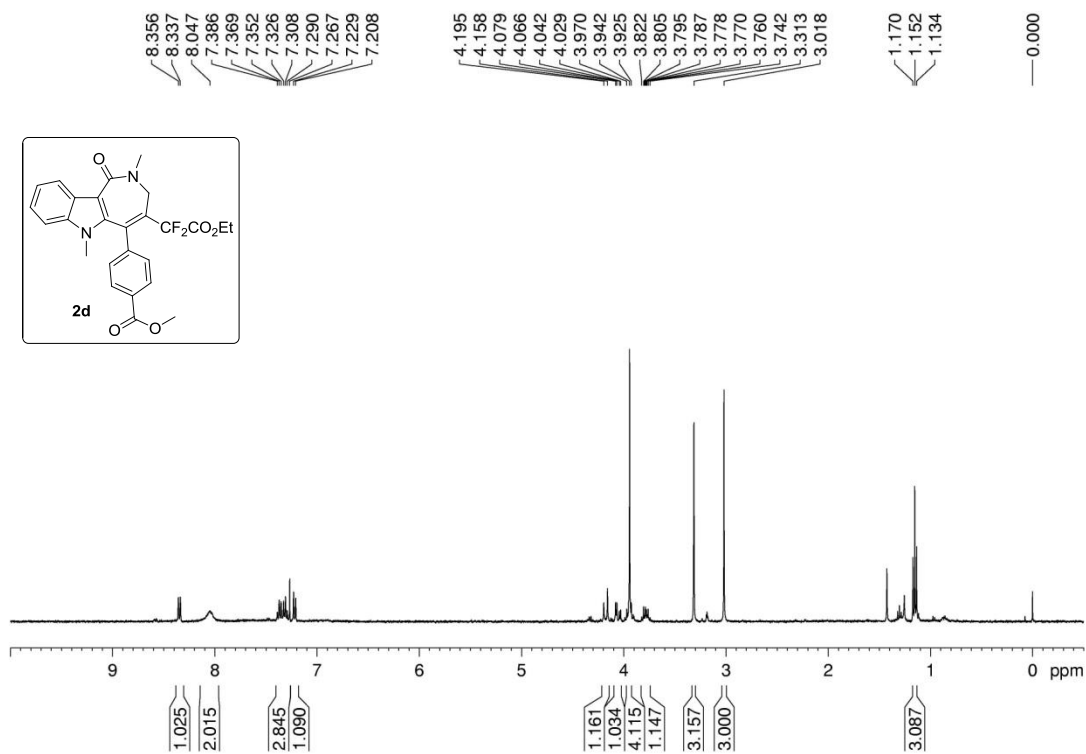
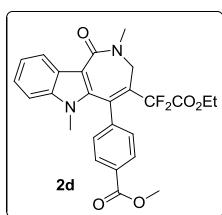
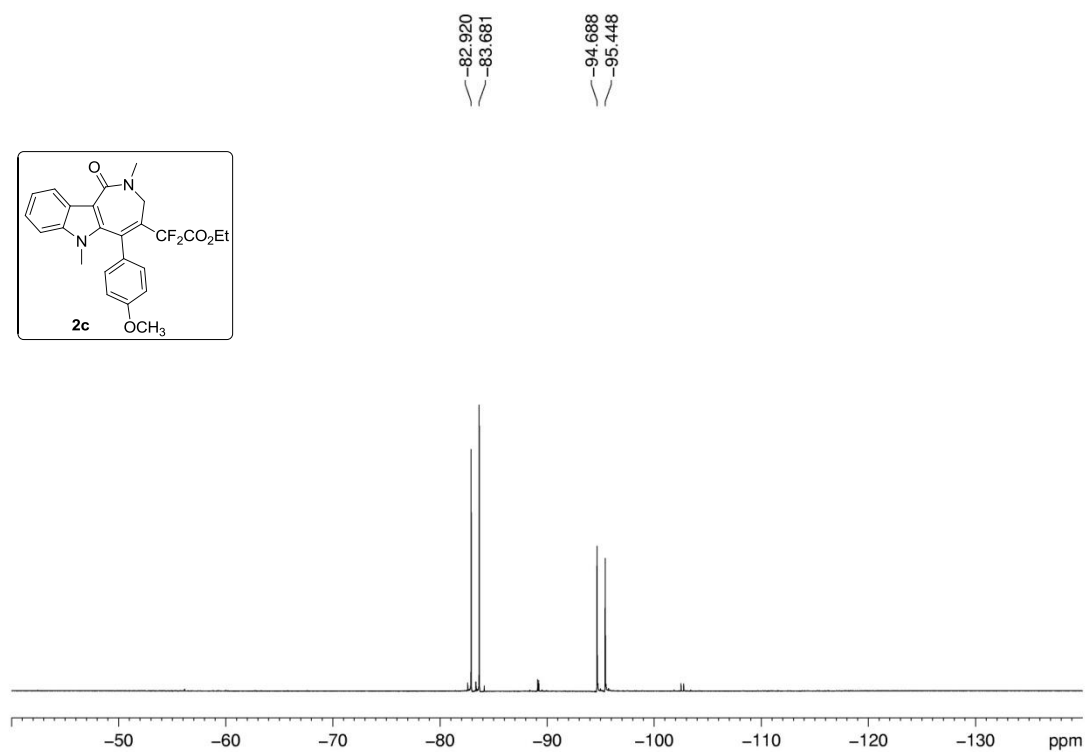
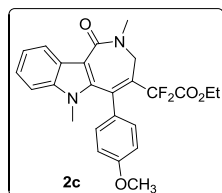
9. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR spectra of 2a-2t

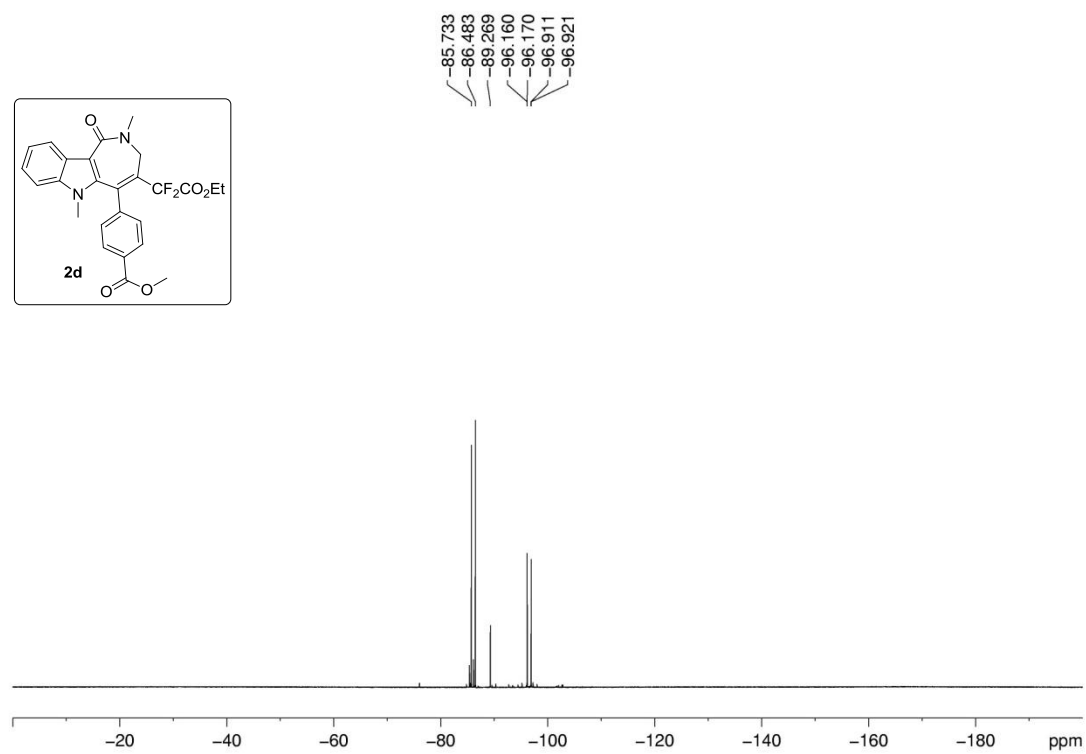
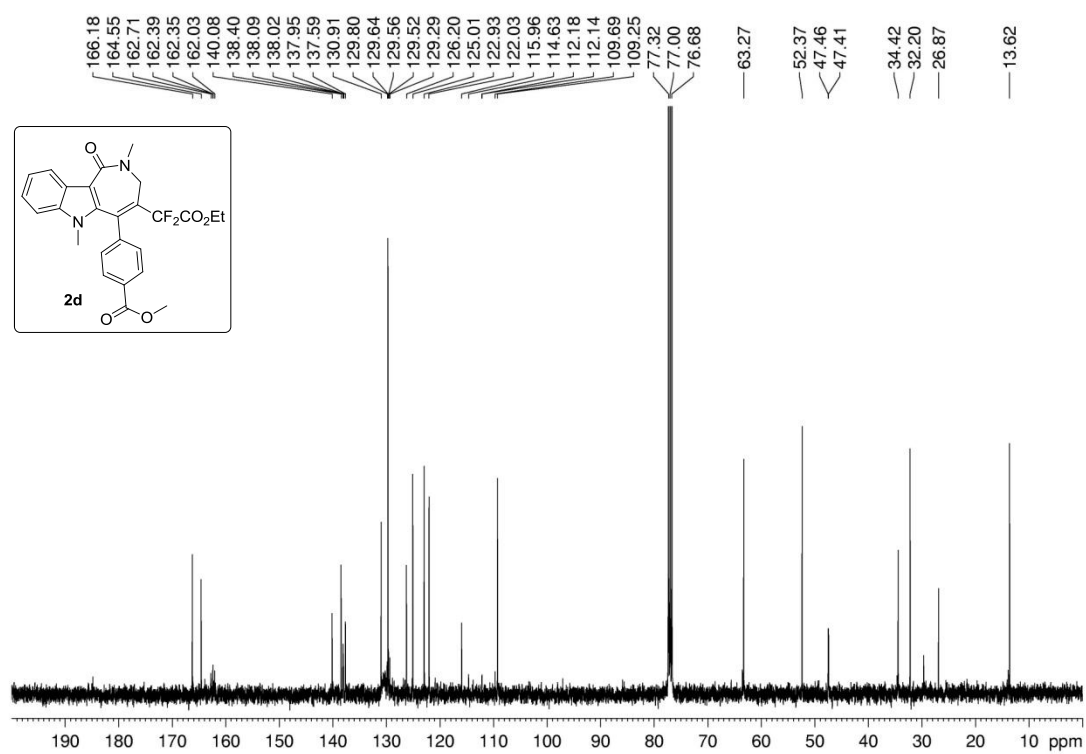


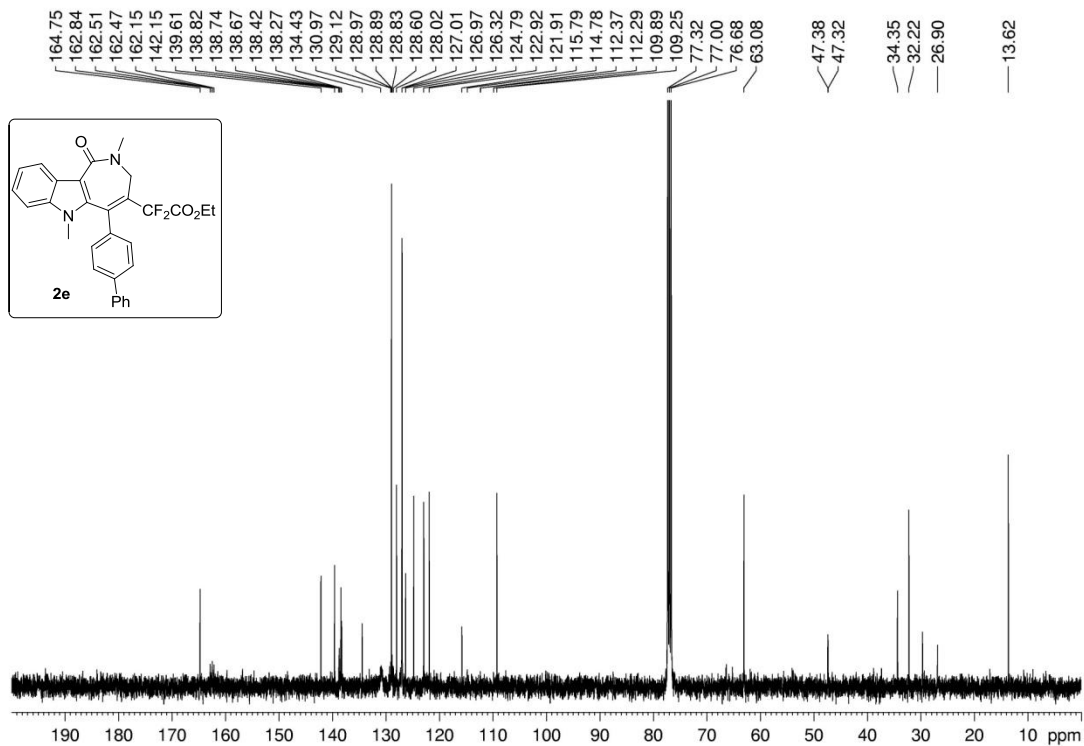
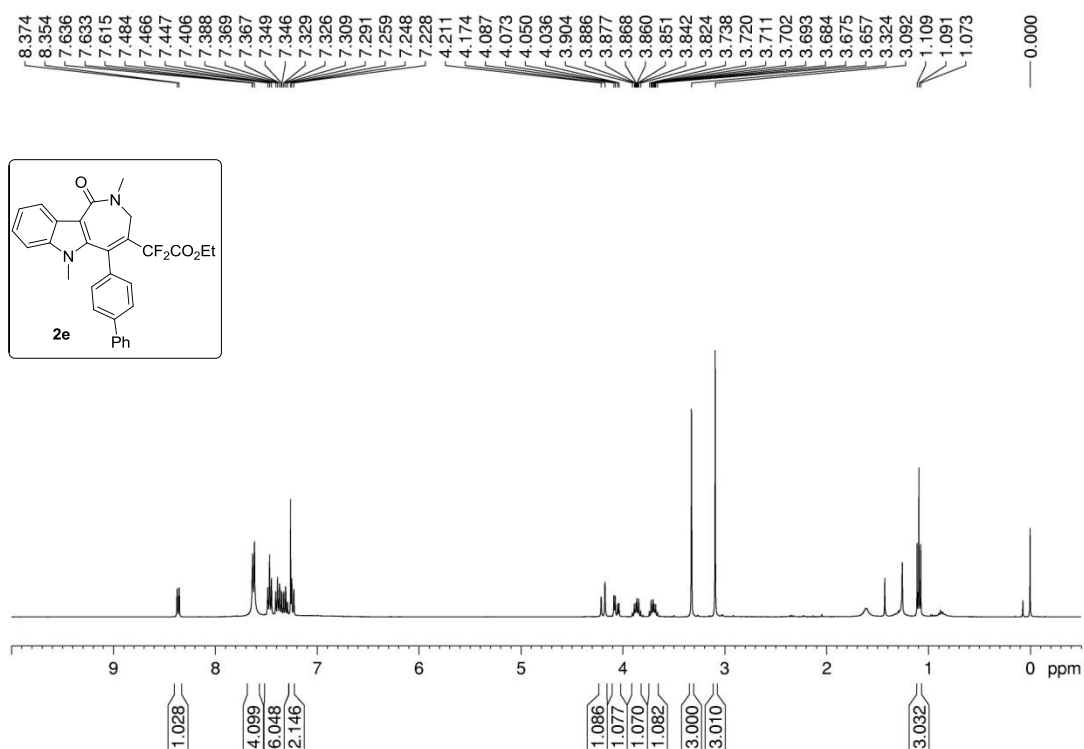


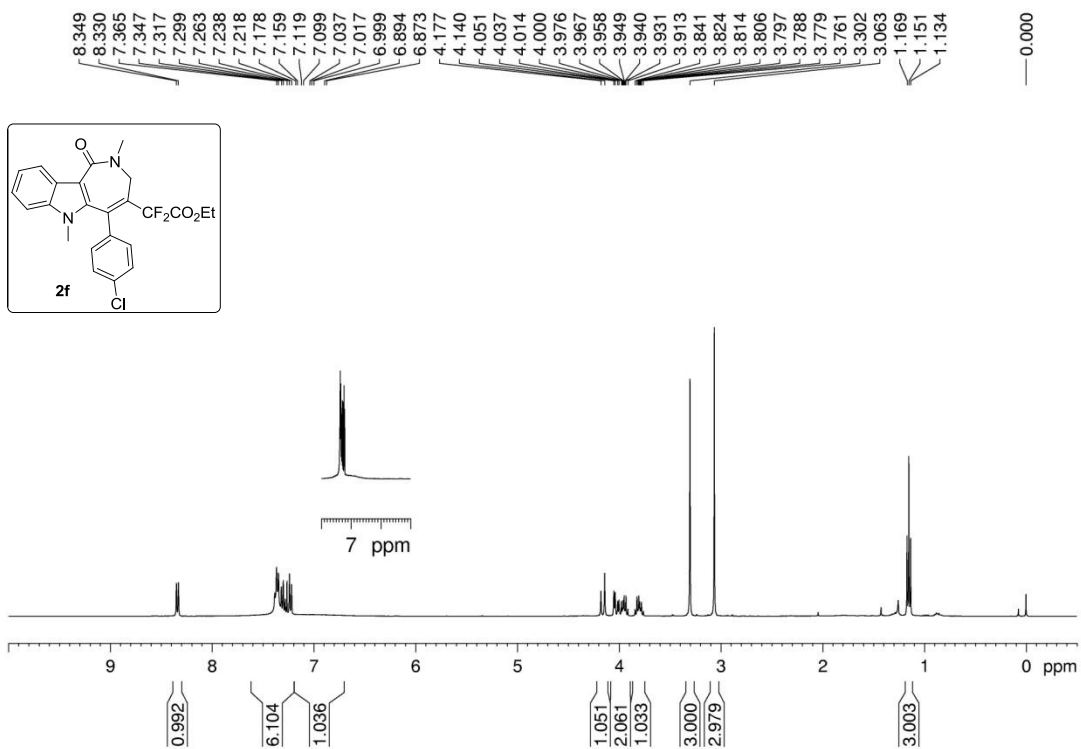
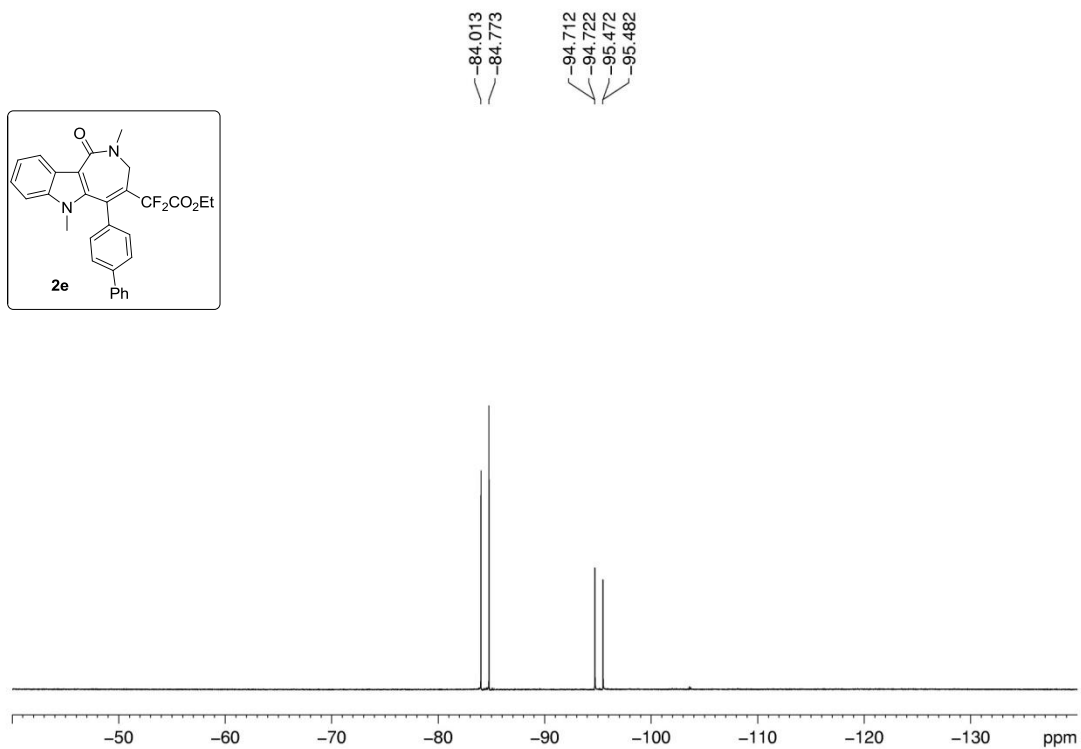
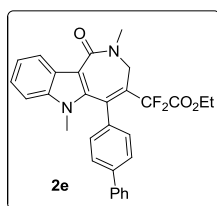


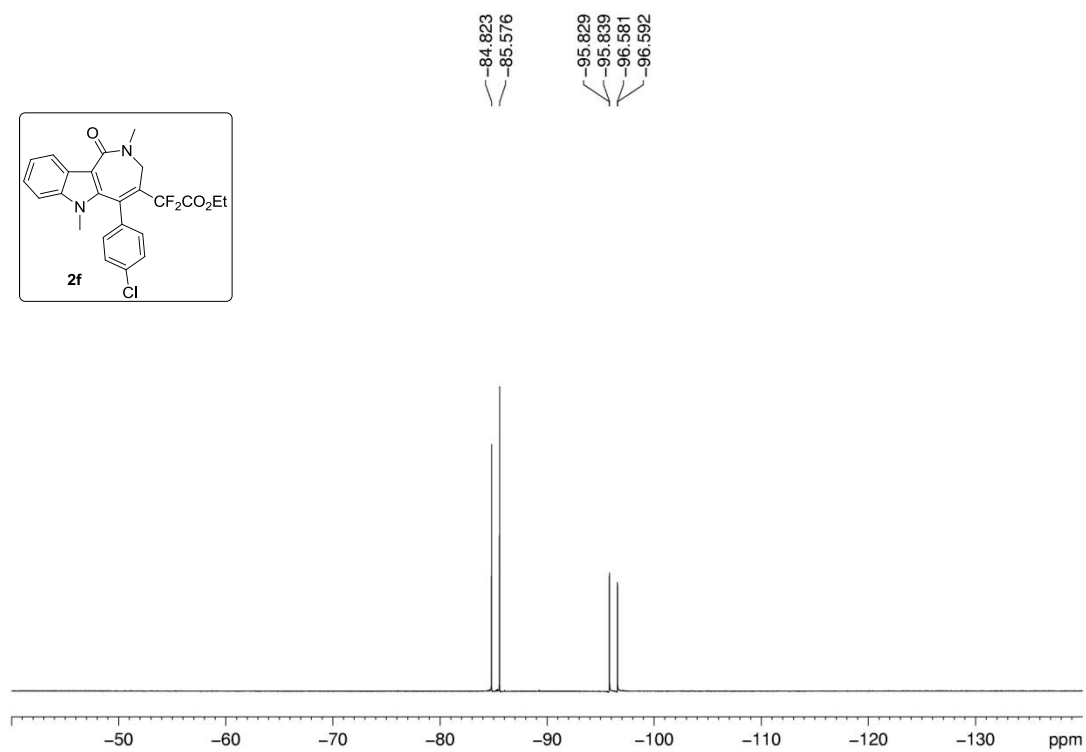
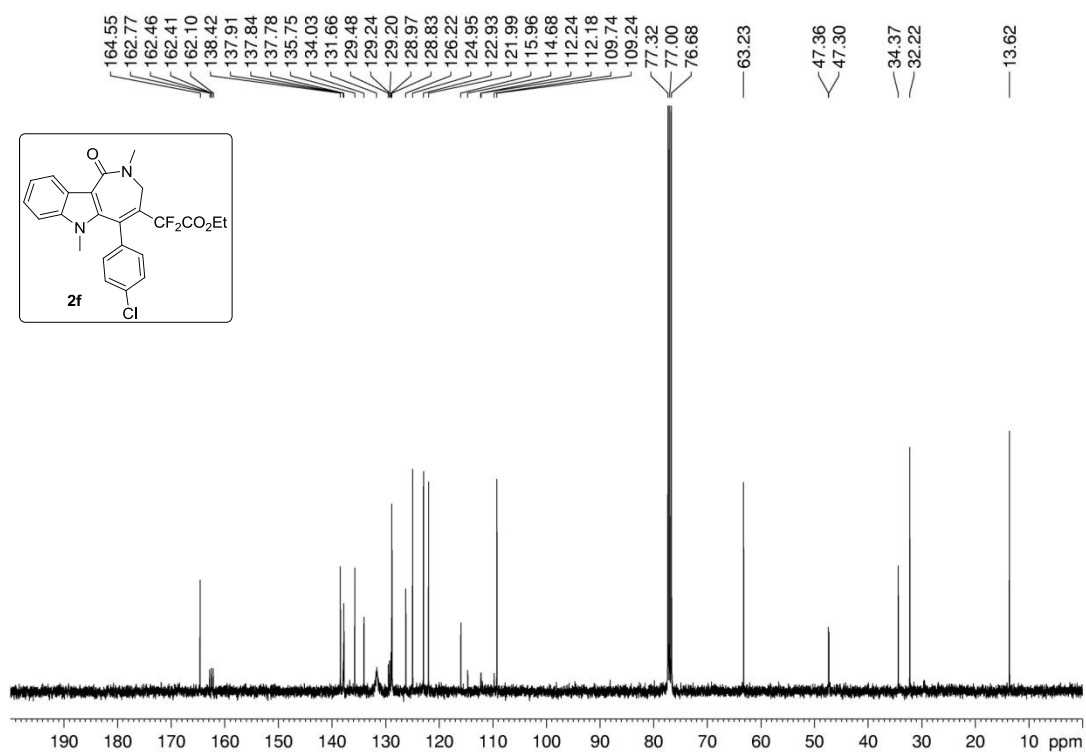


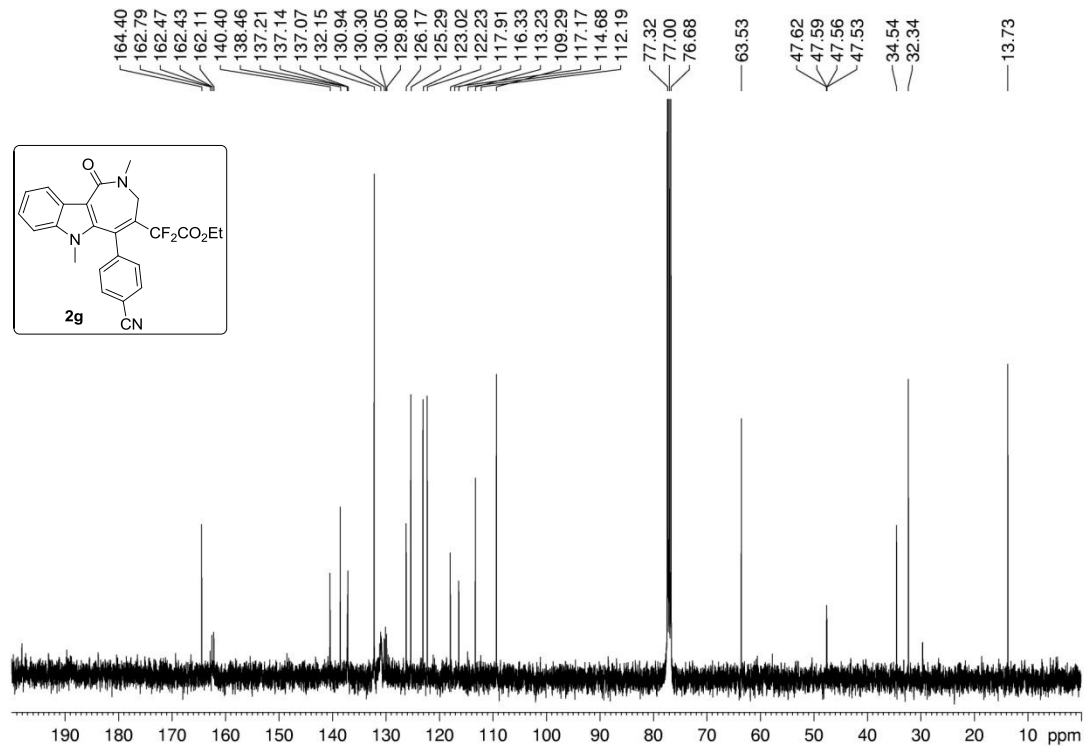
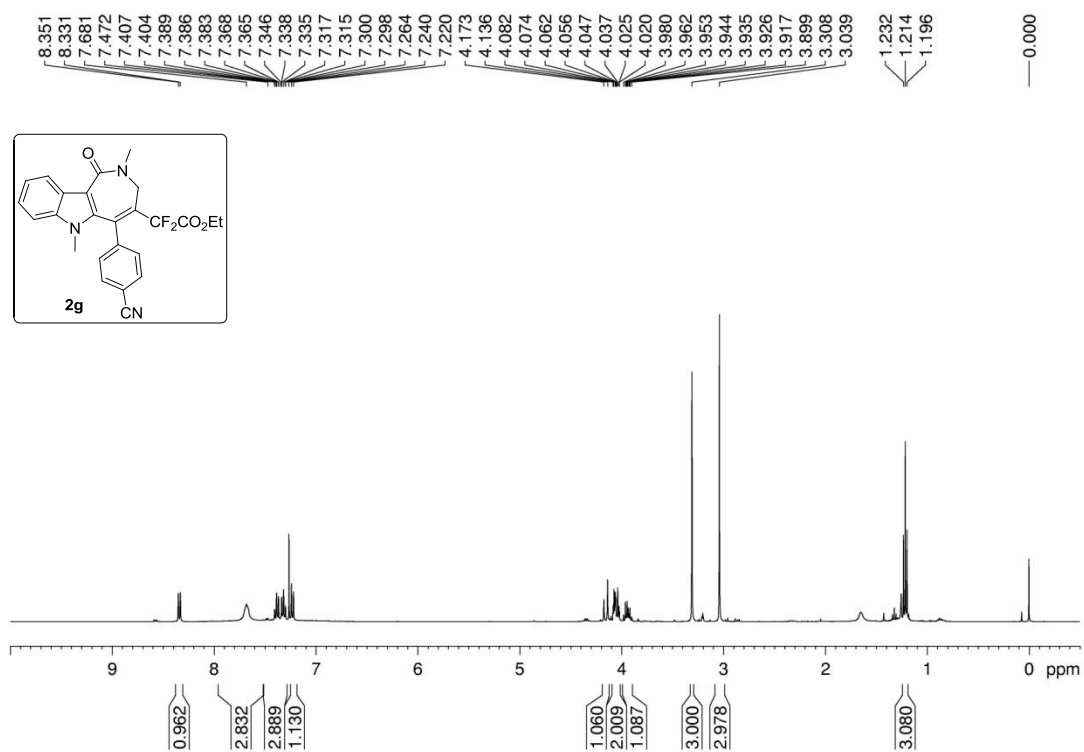


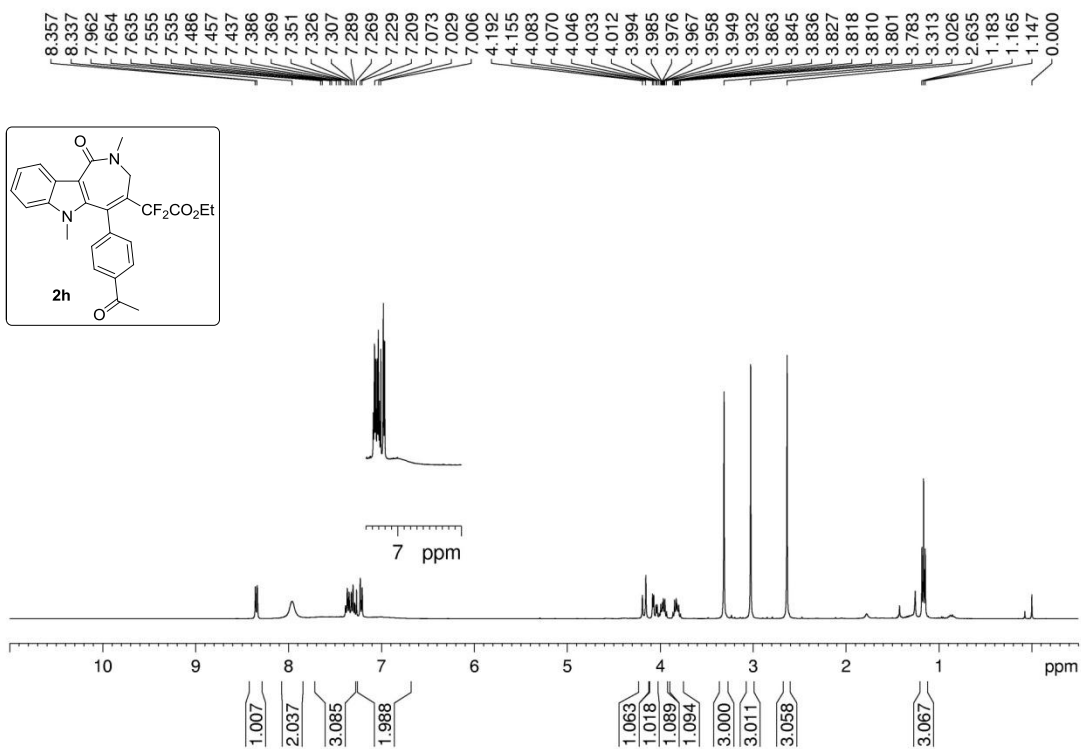
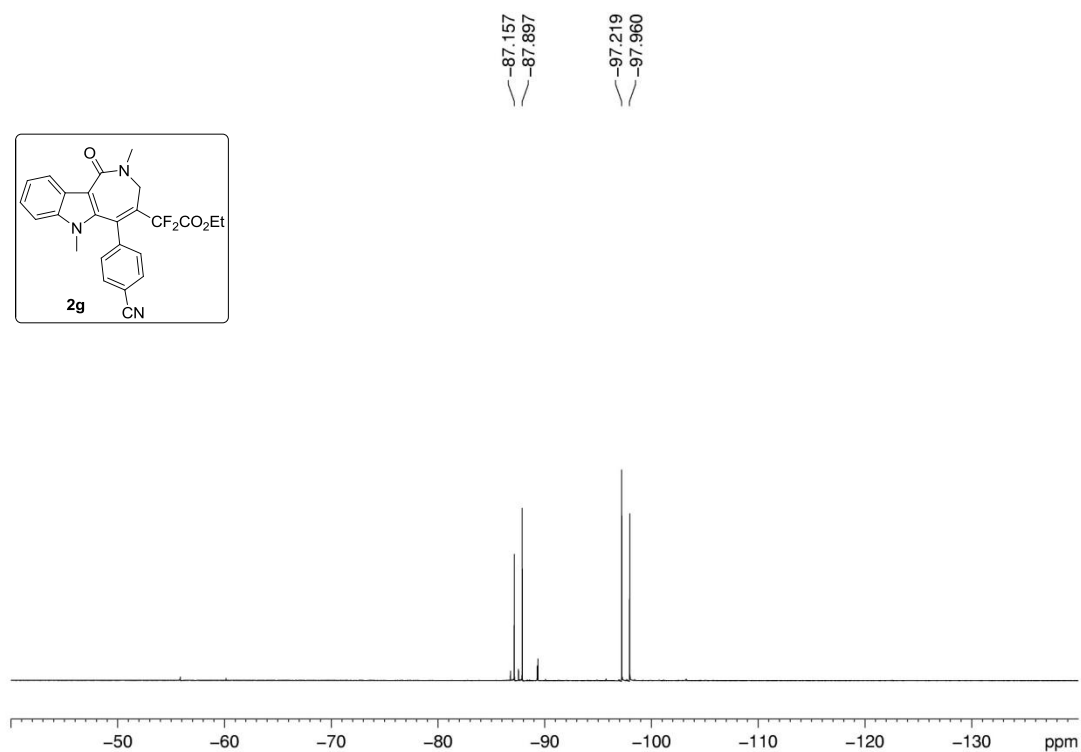
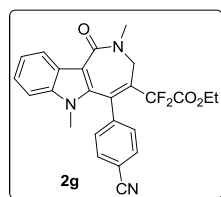


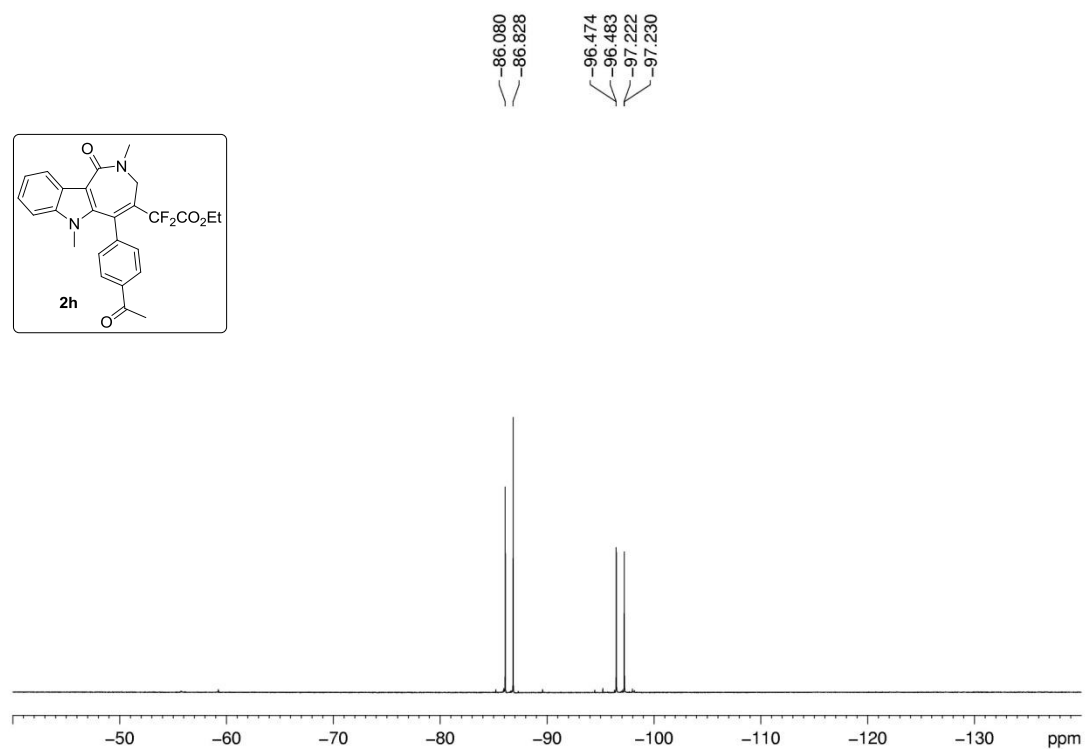
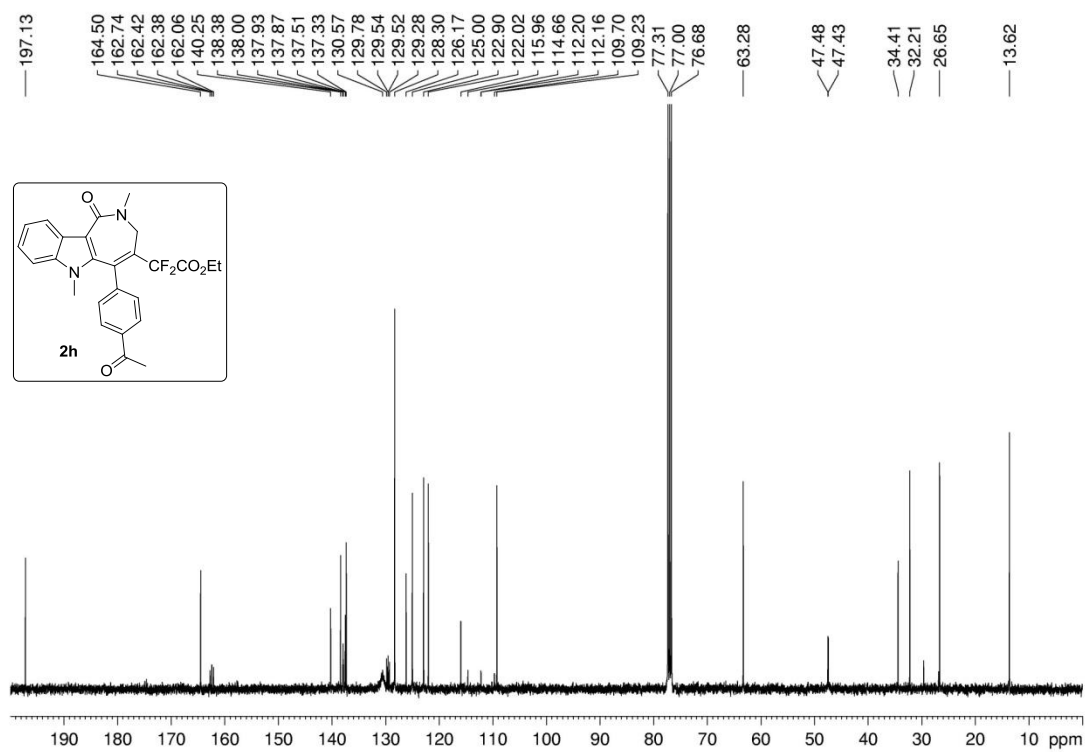


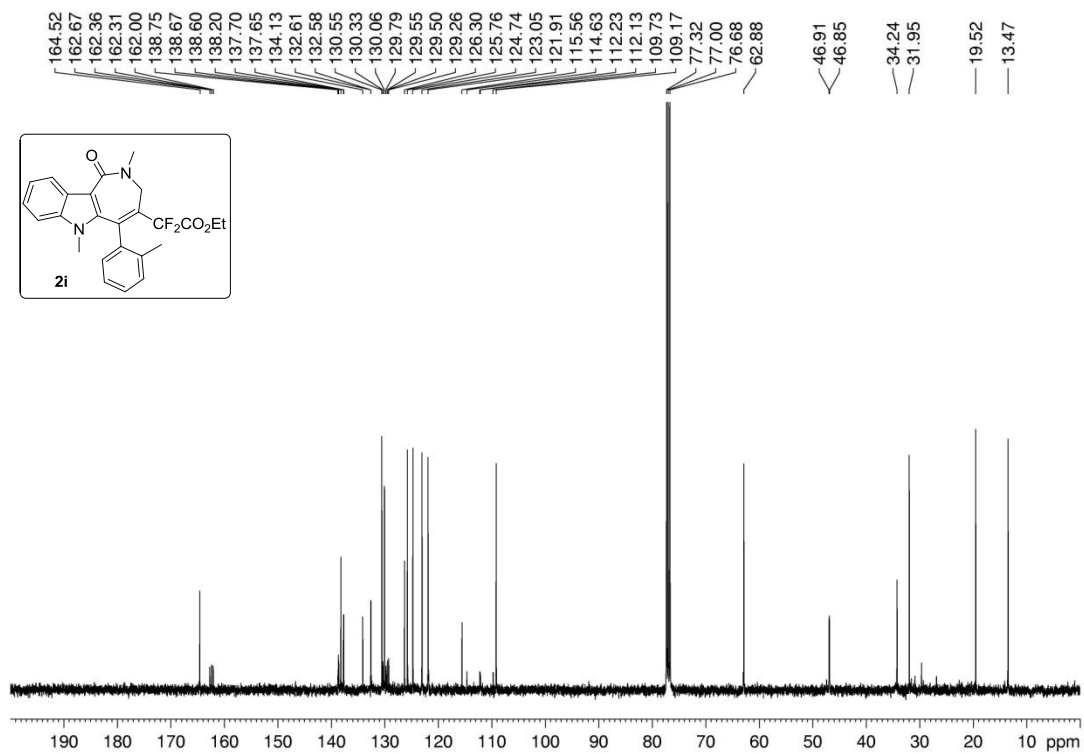
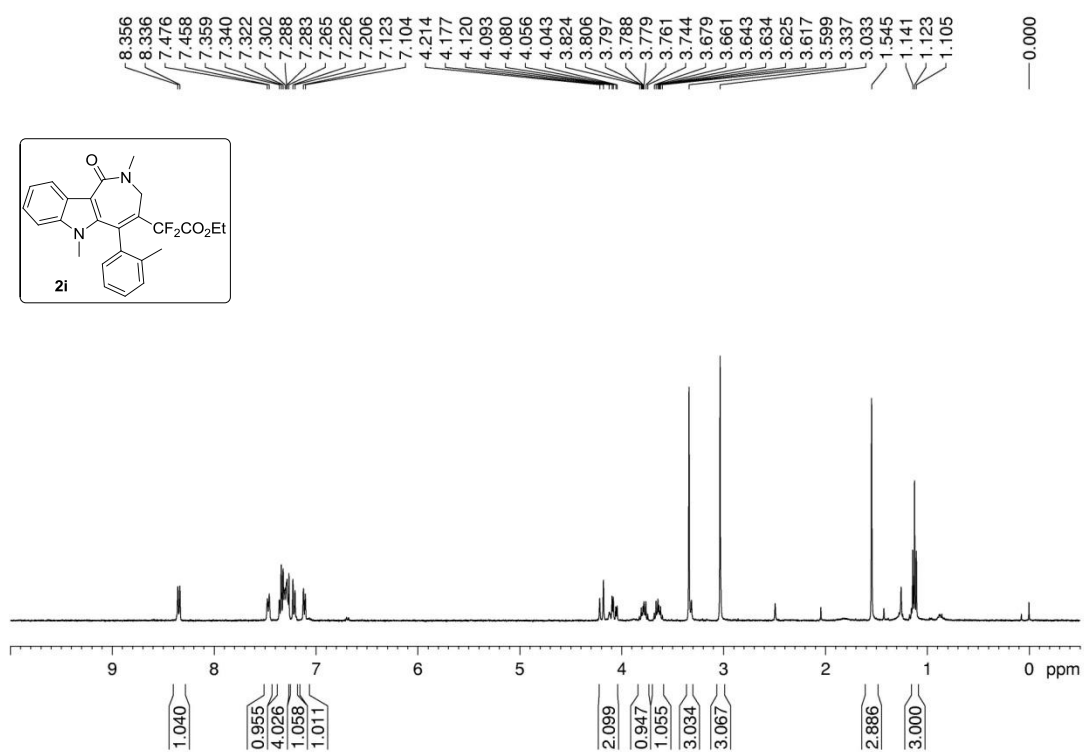


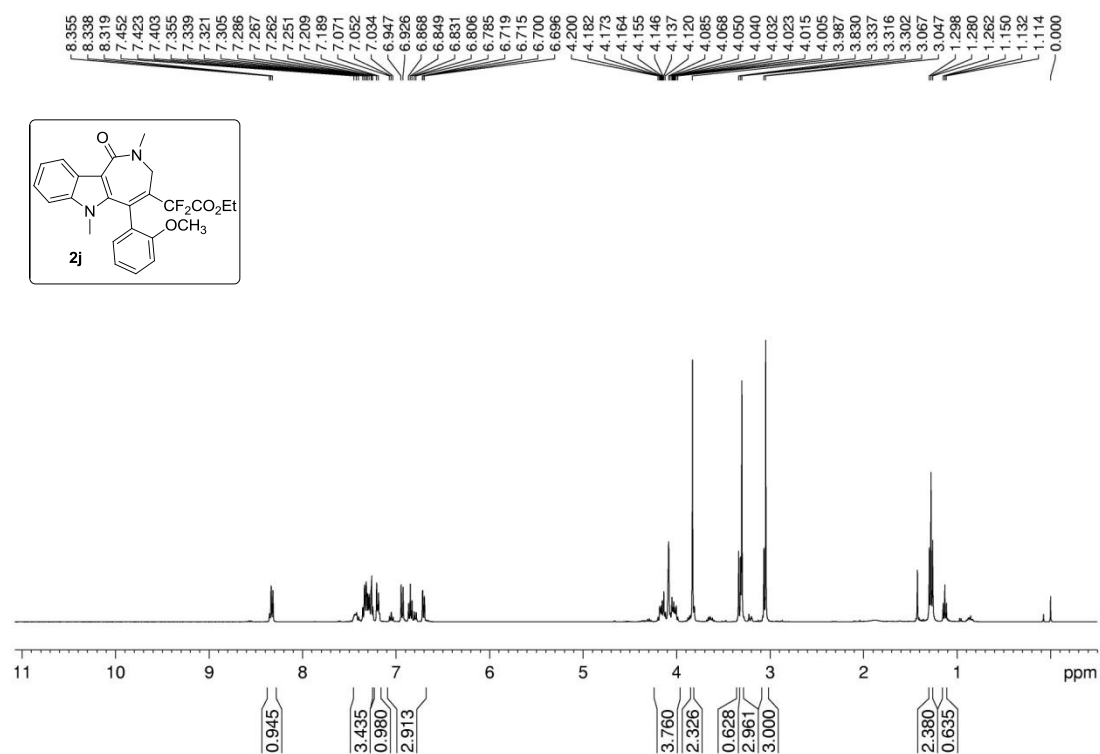
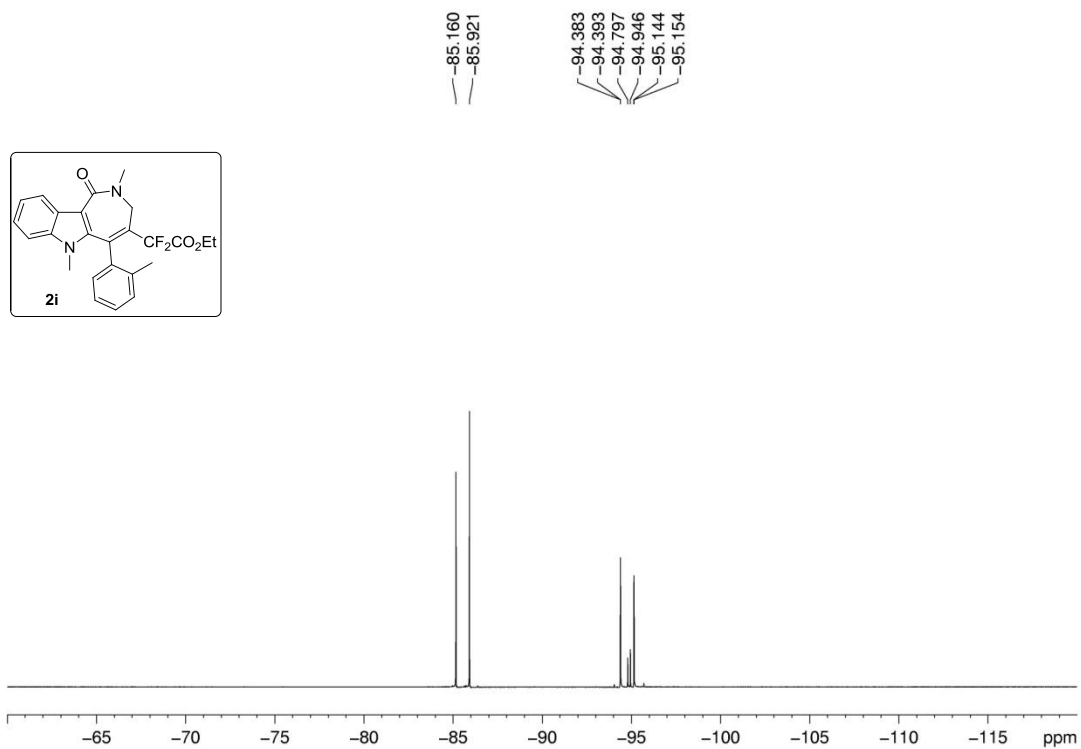


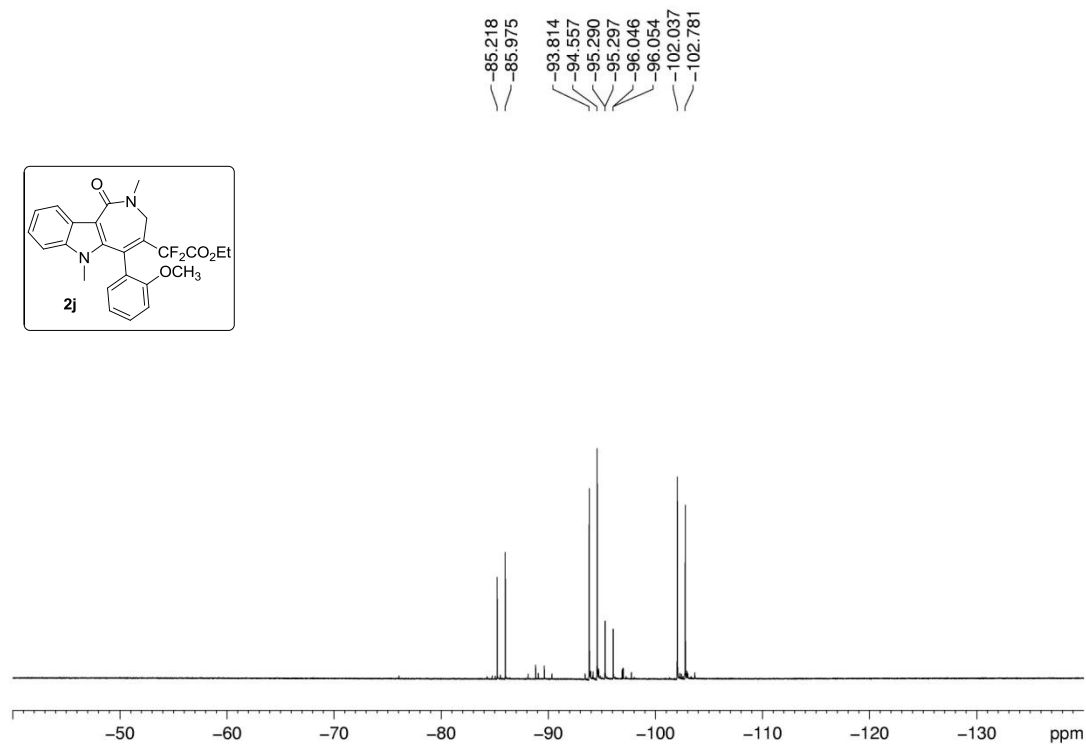
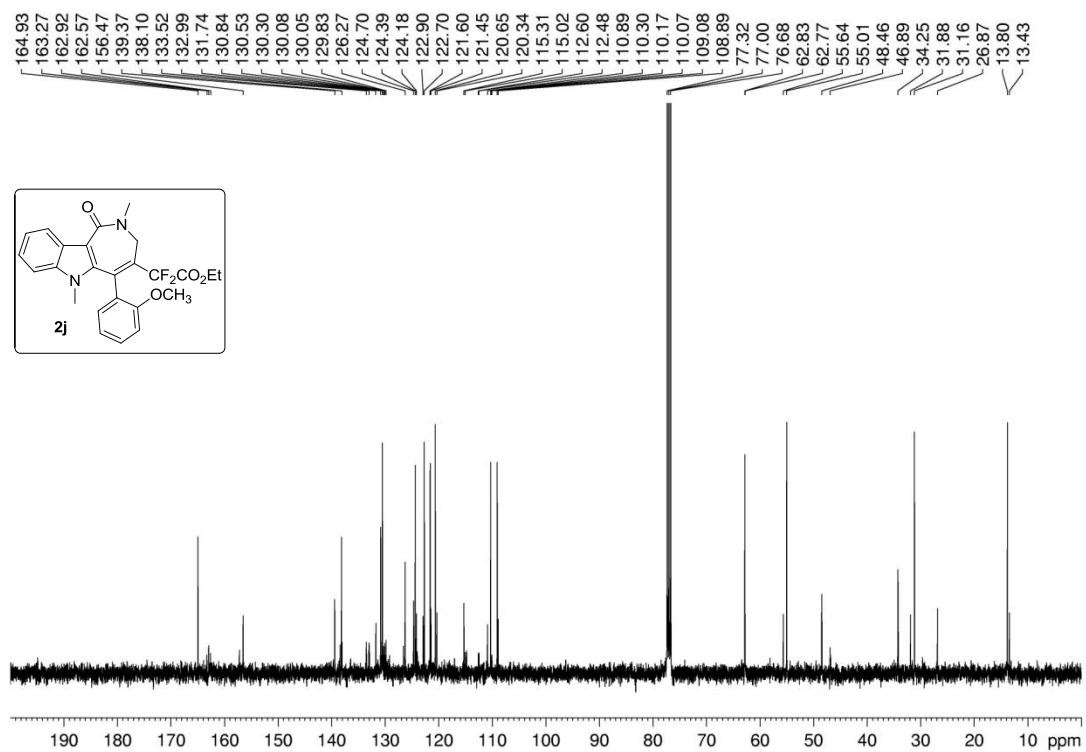


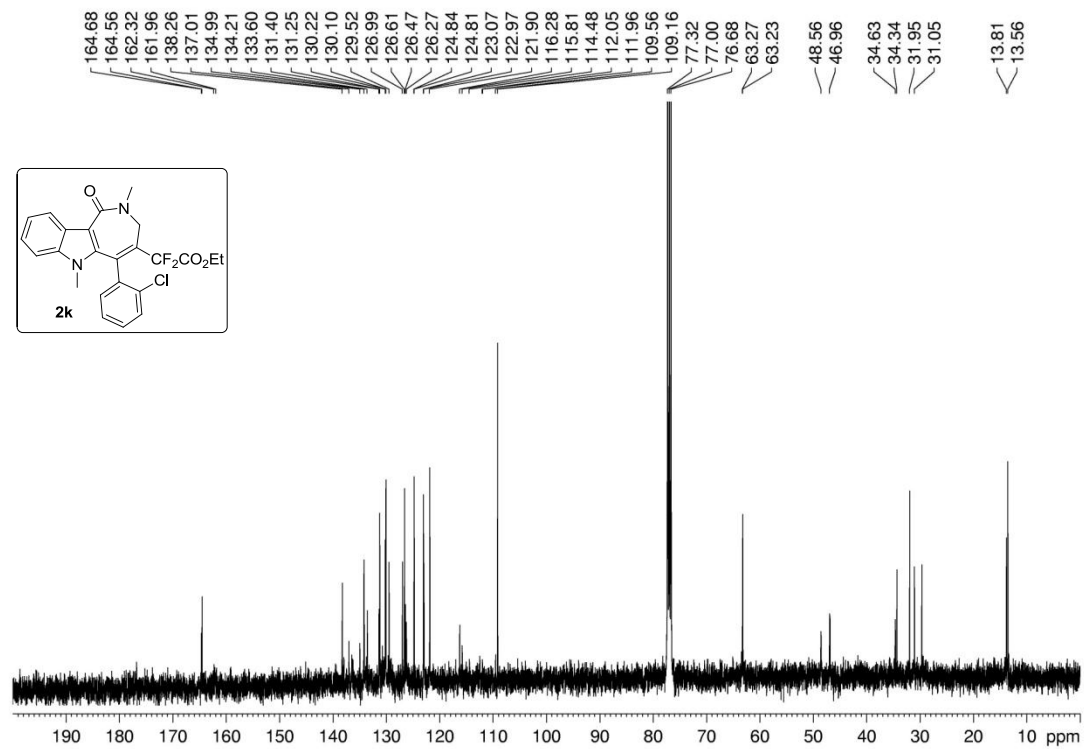
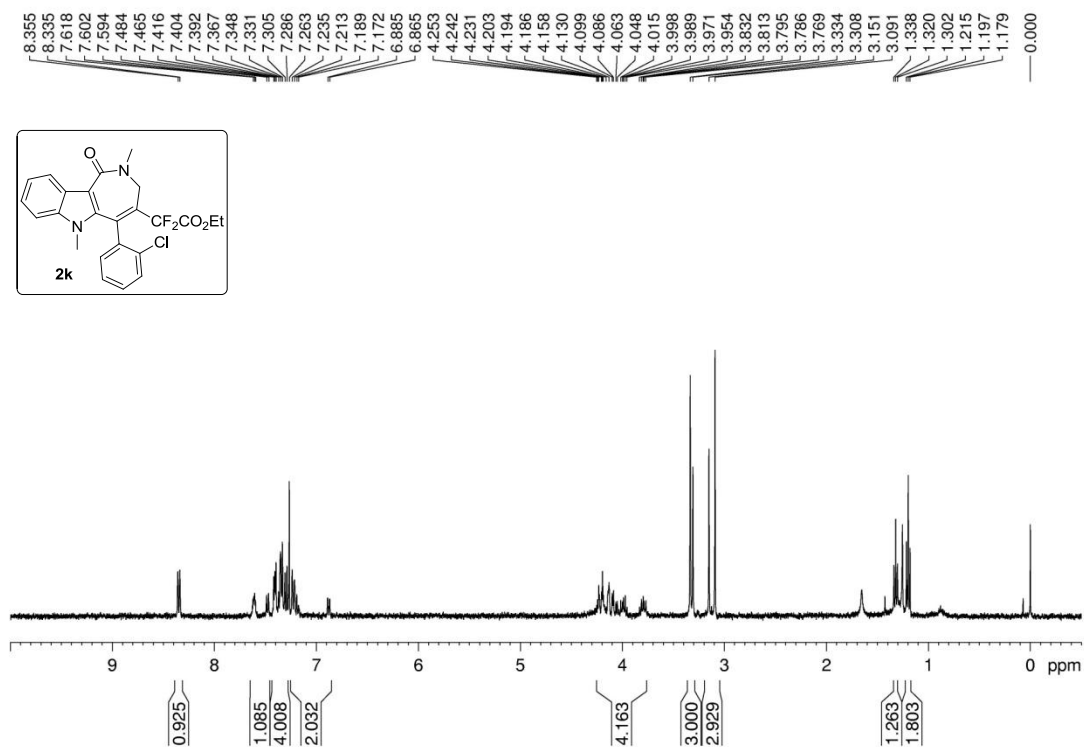


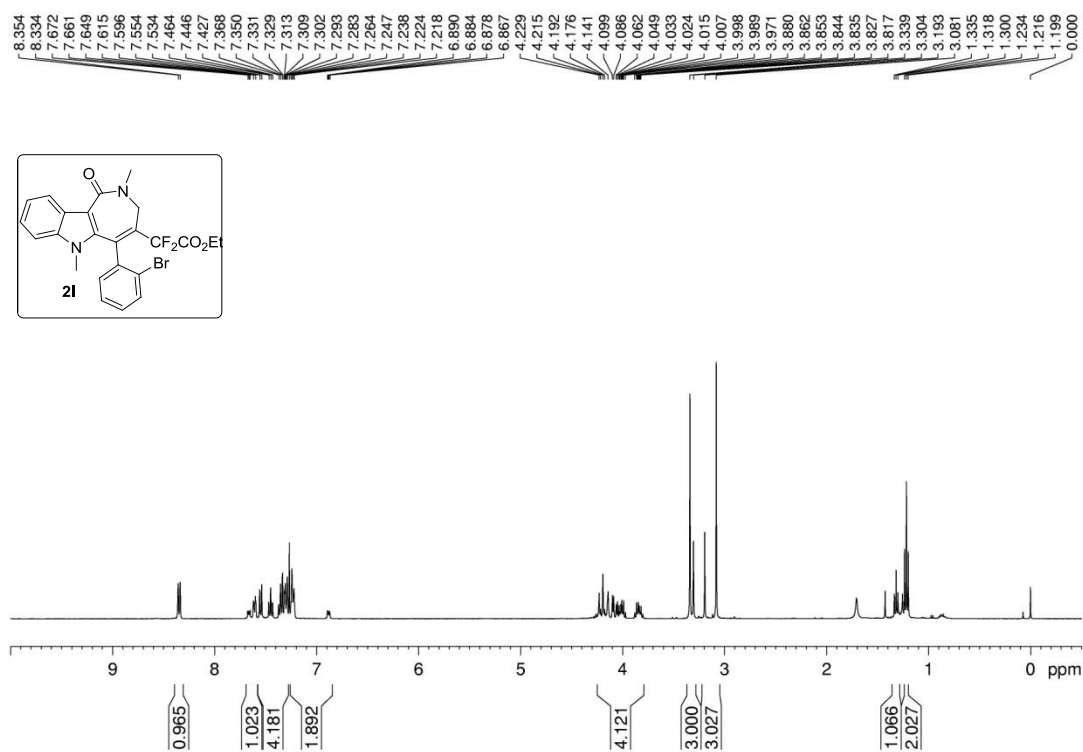
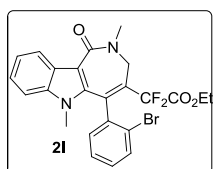
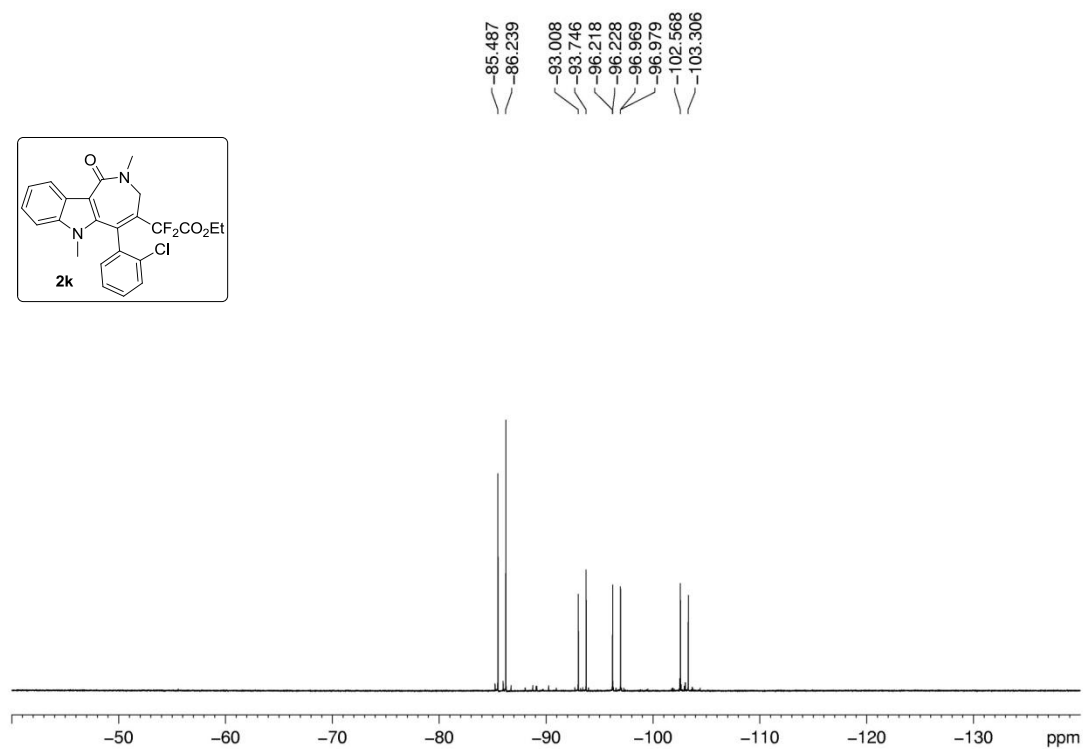
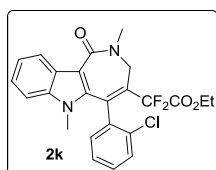


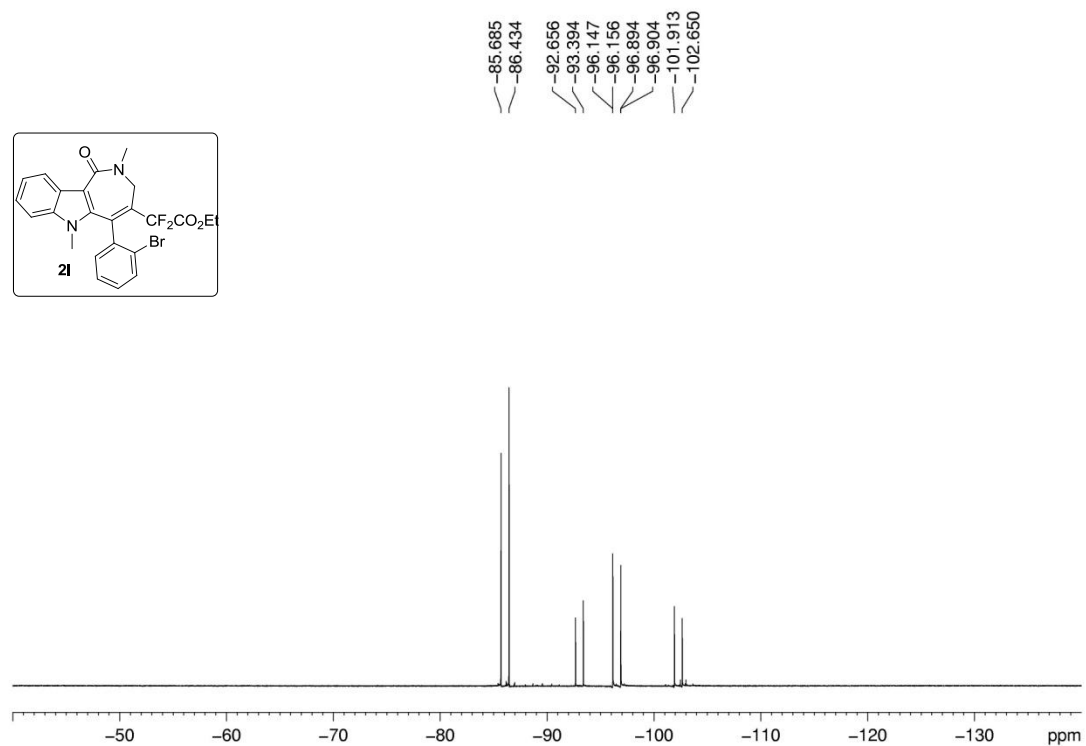
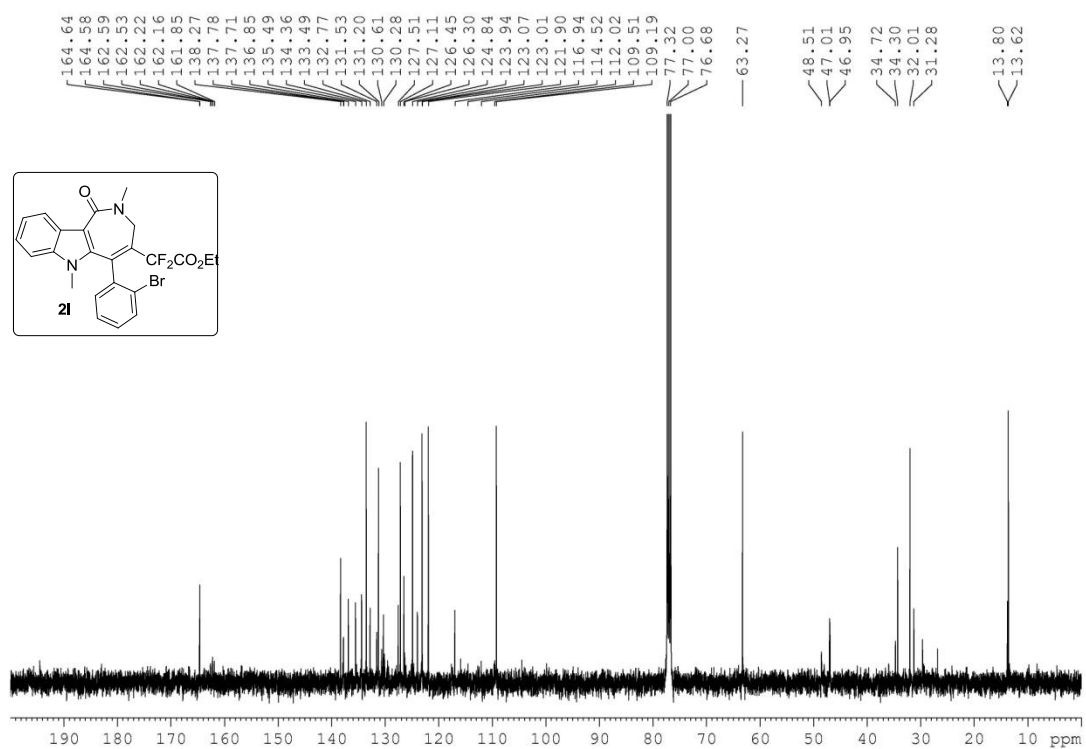


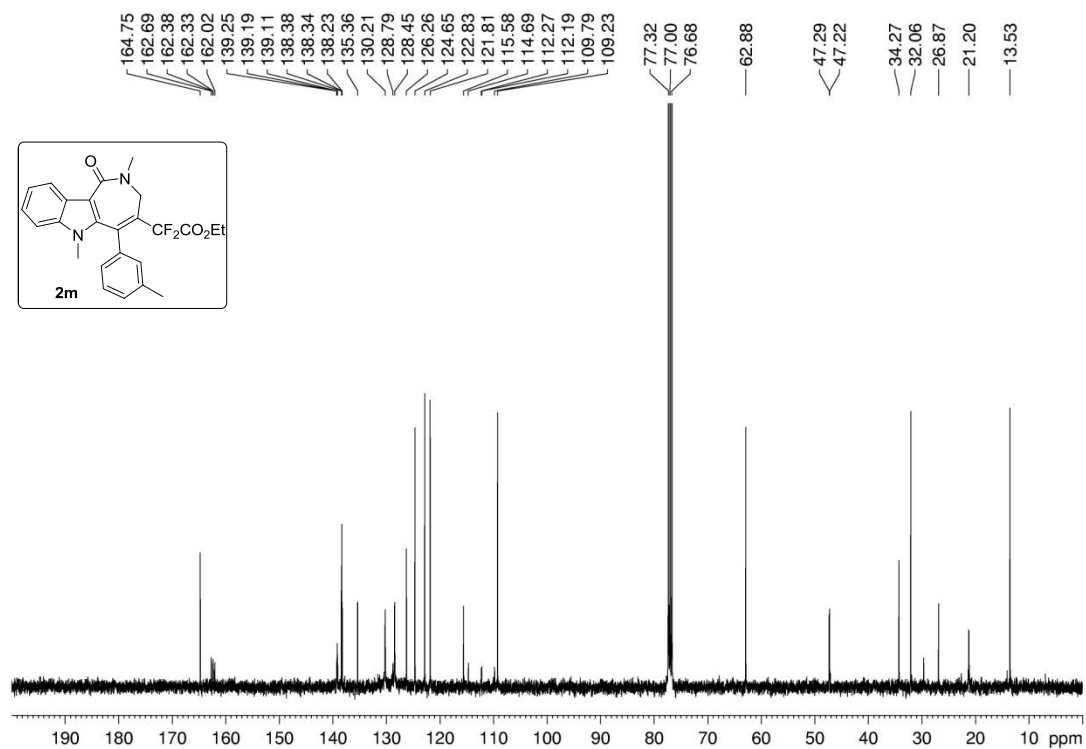
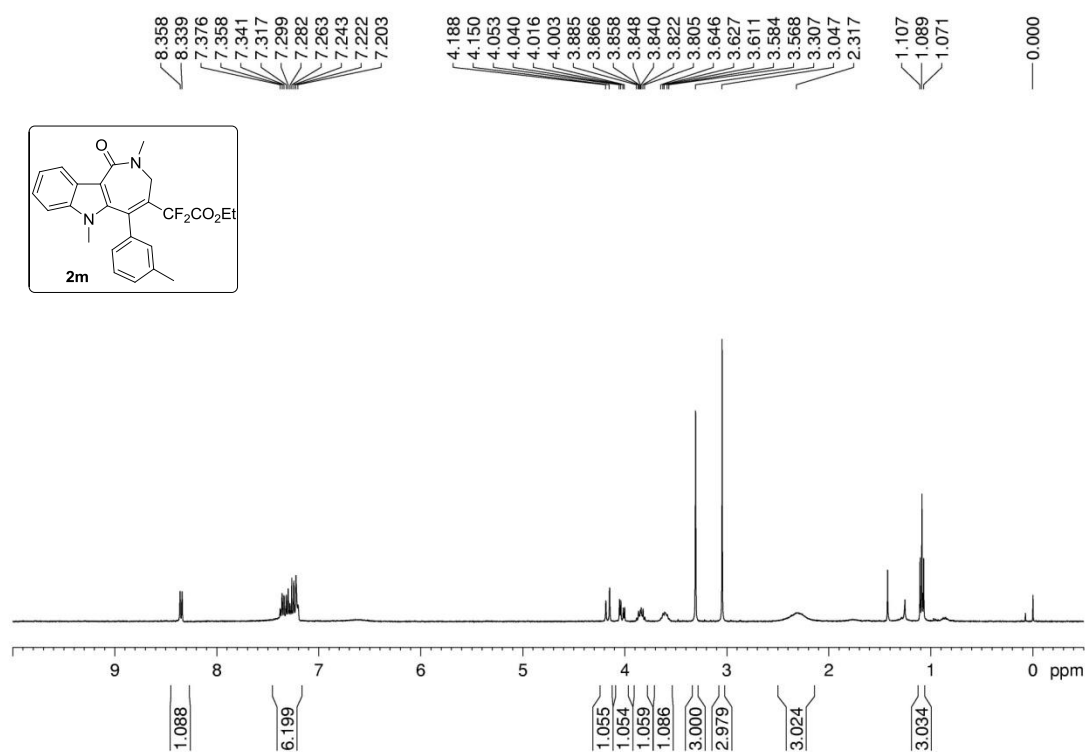


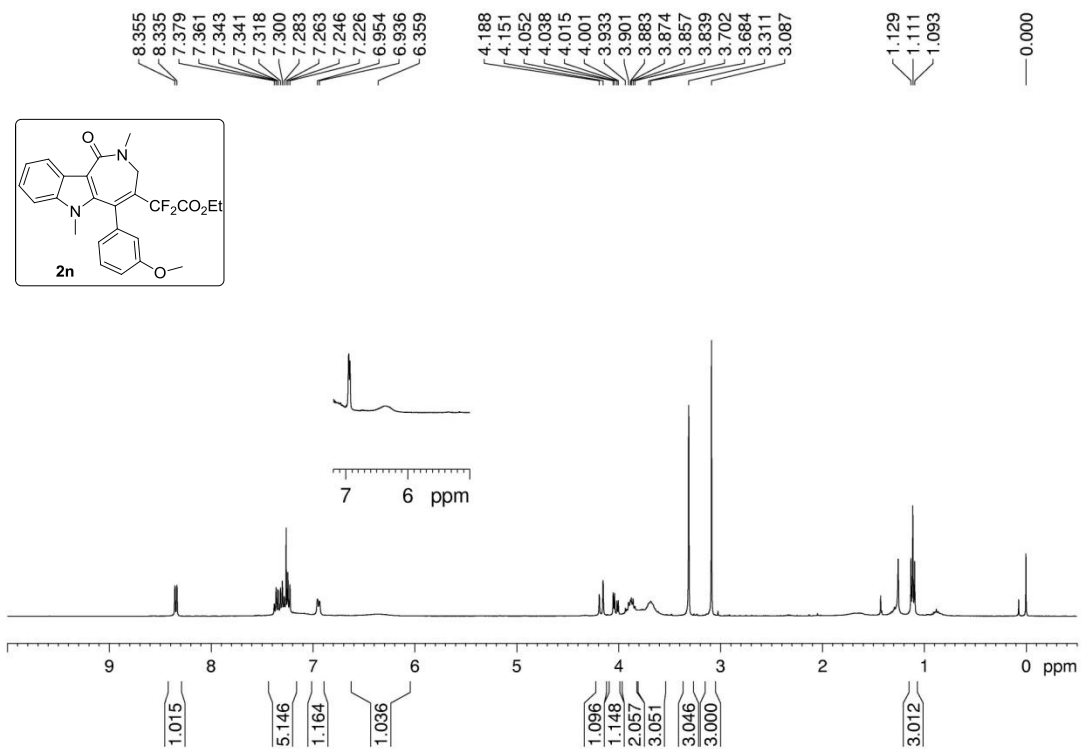
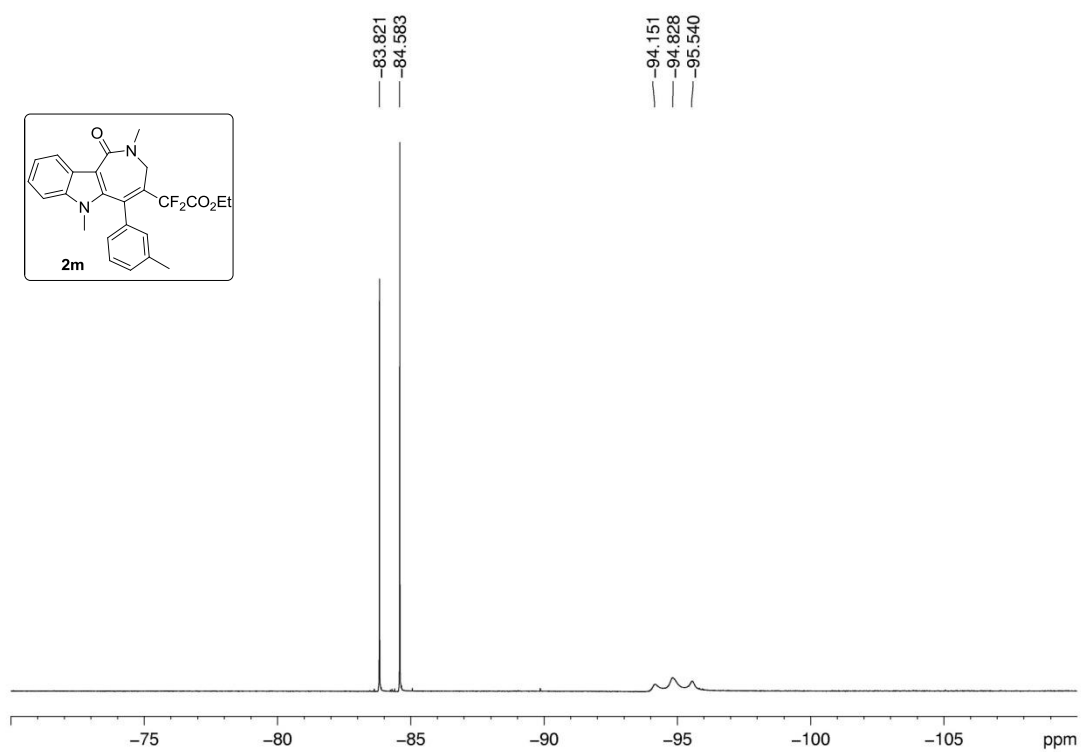


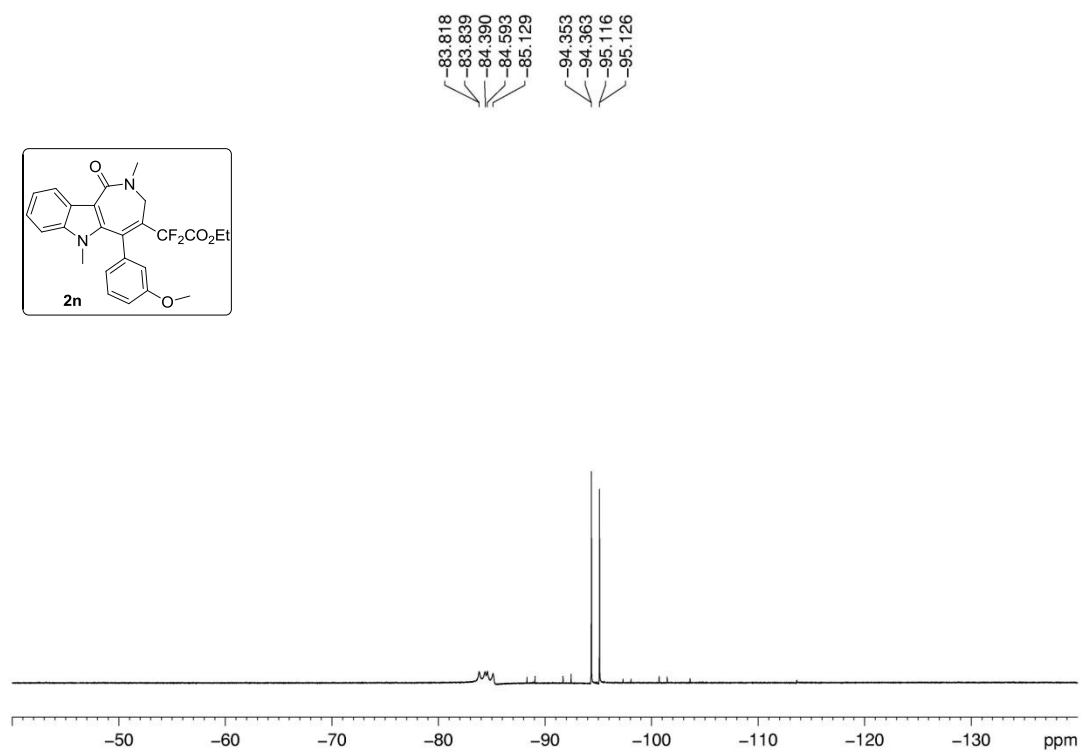
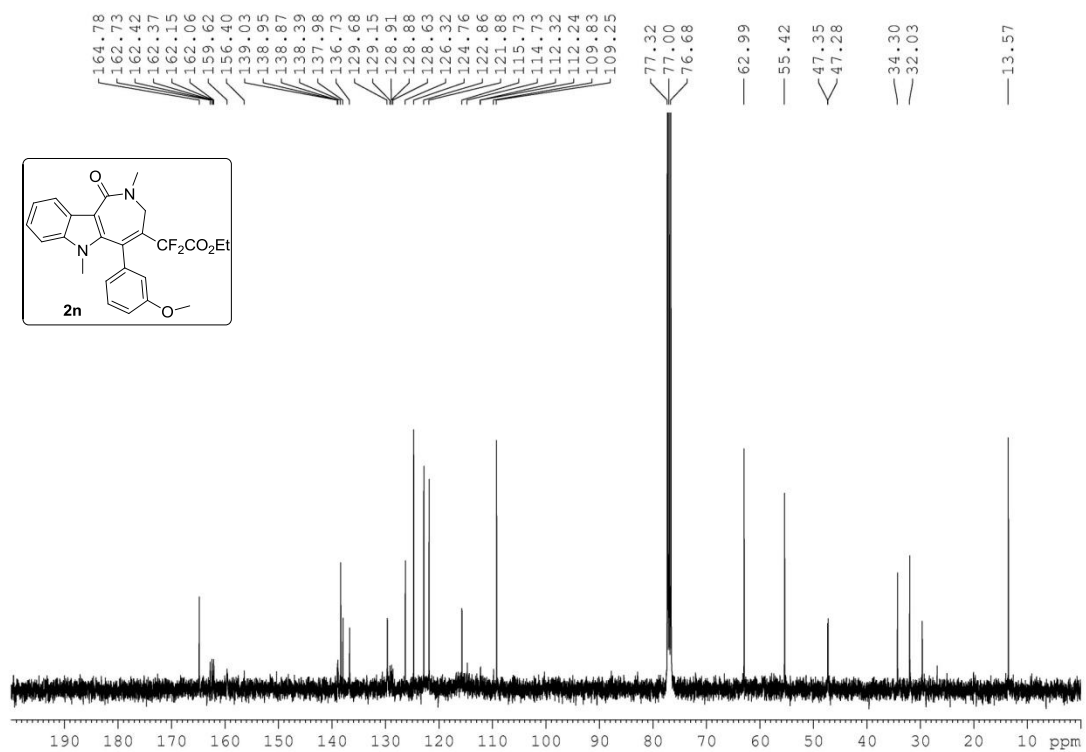


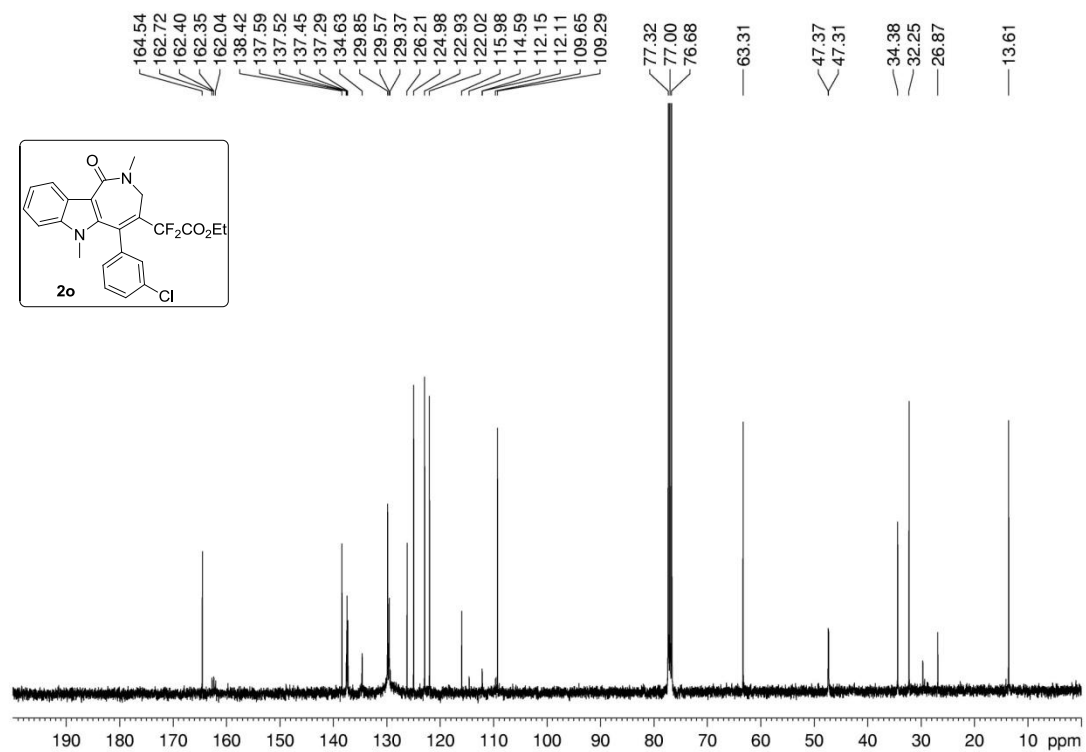
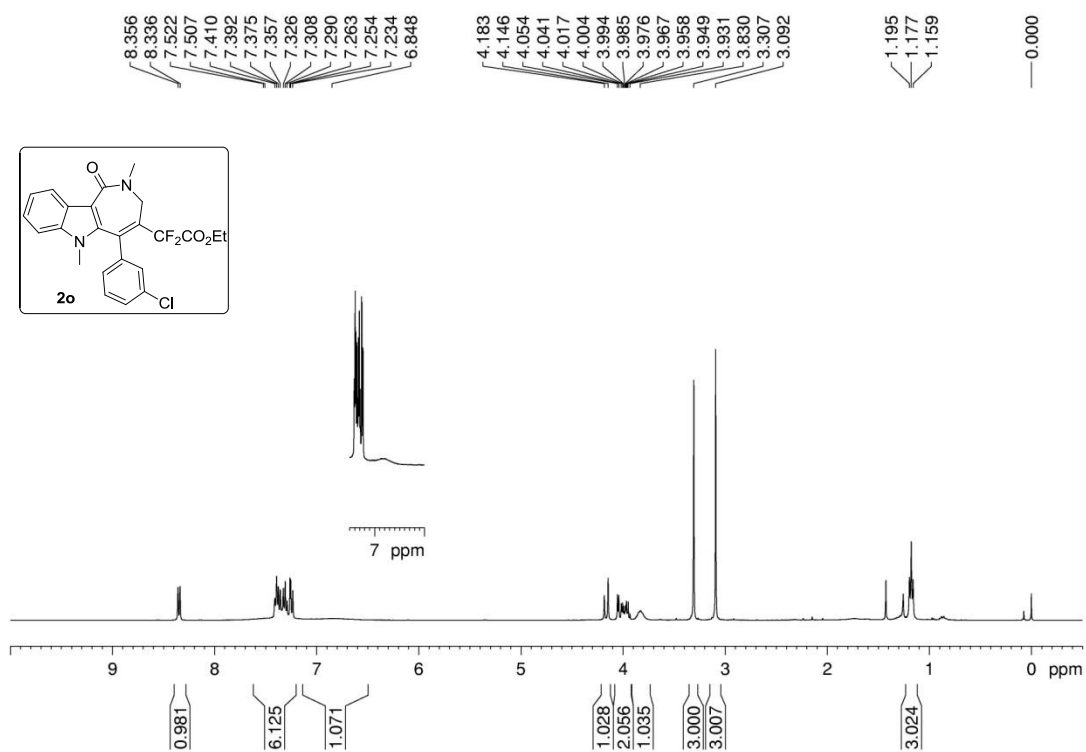


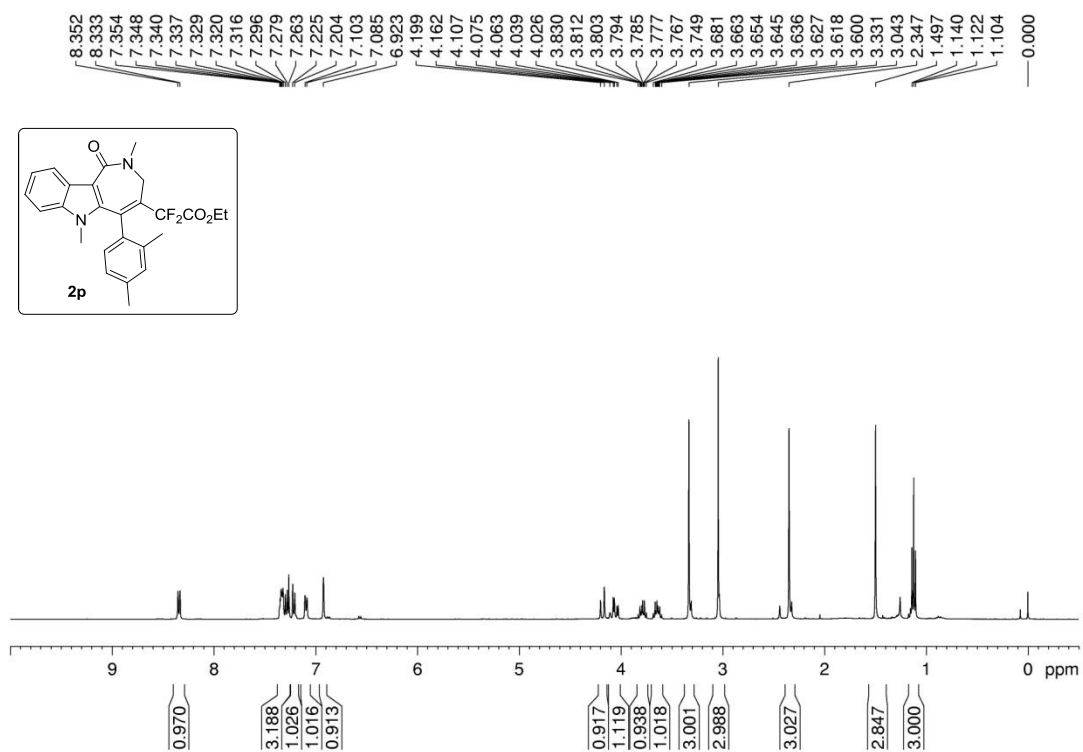
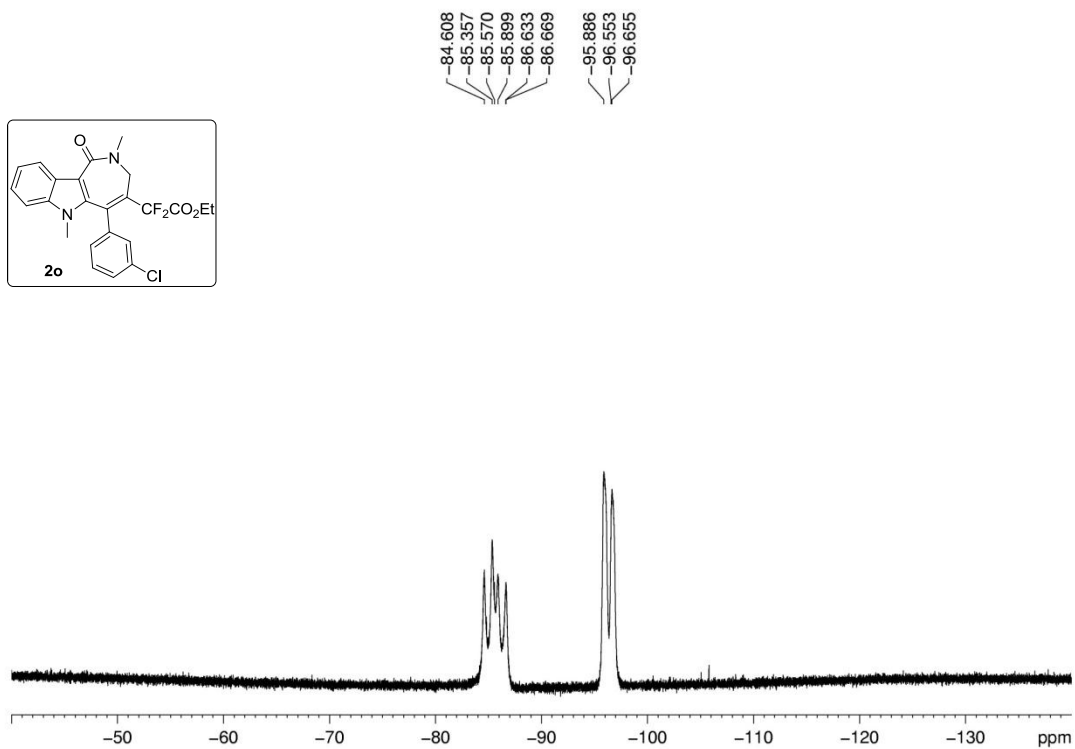


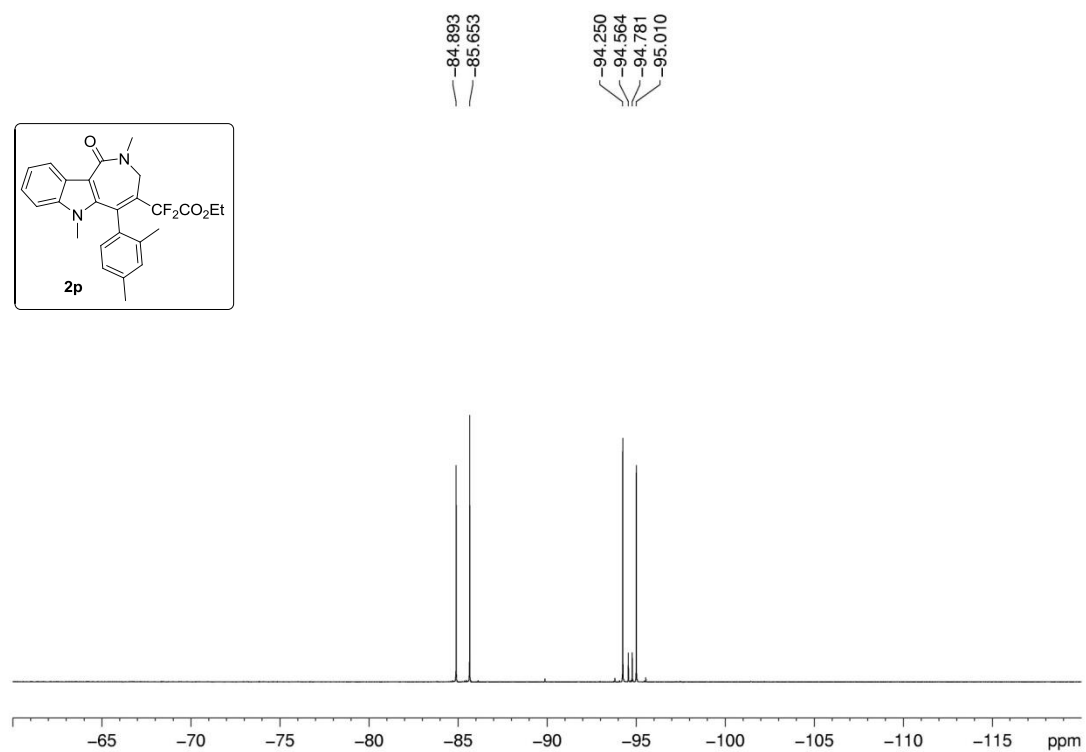
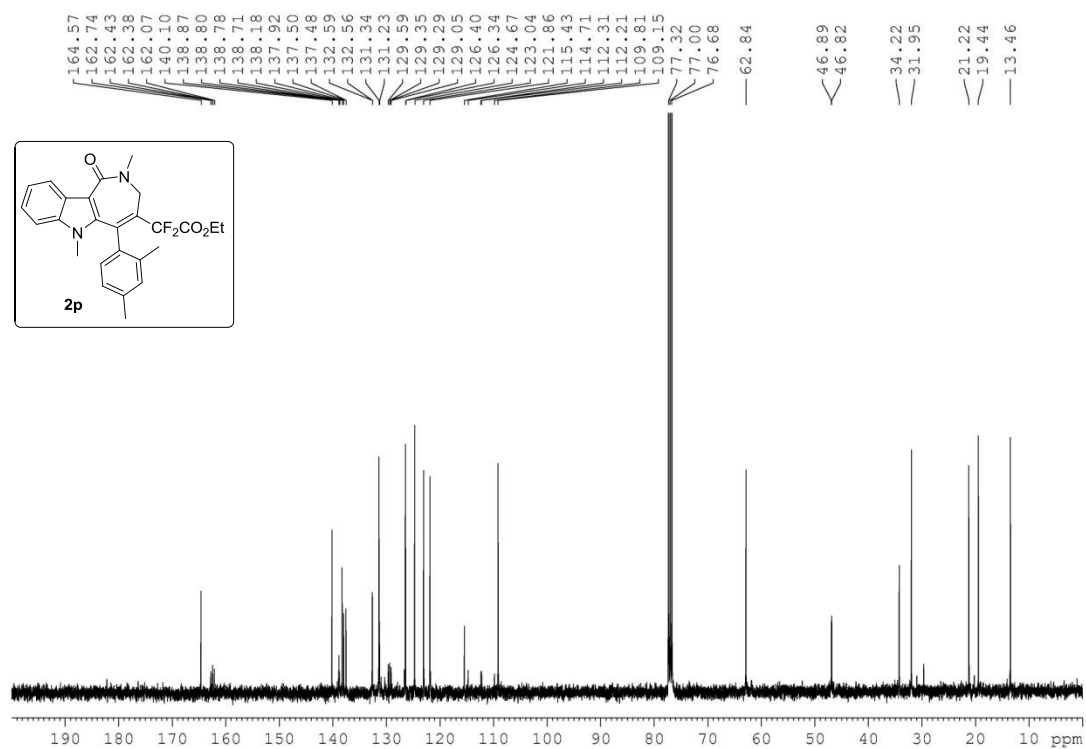


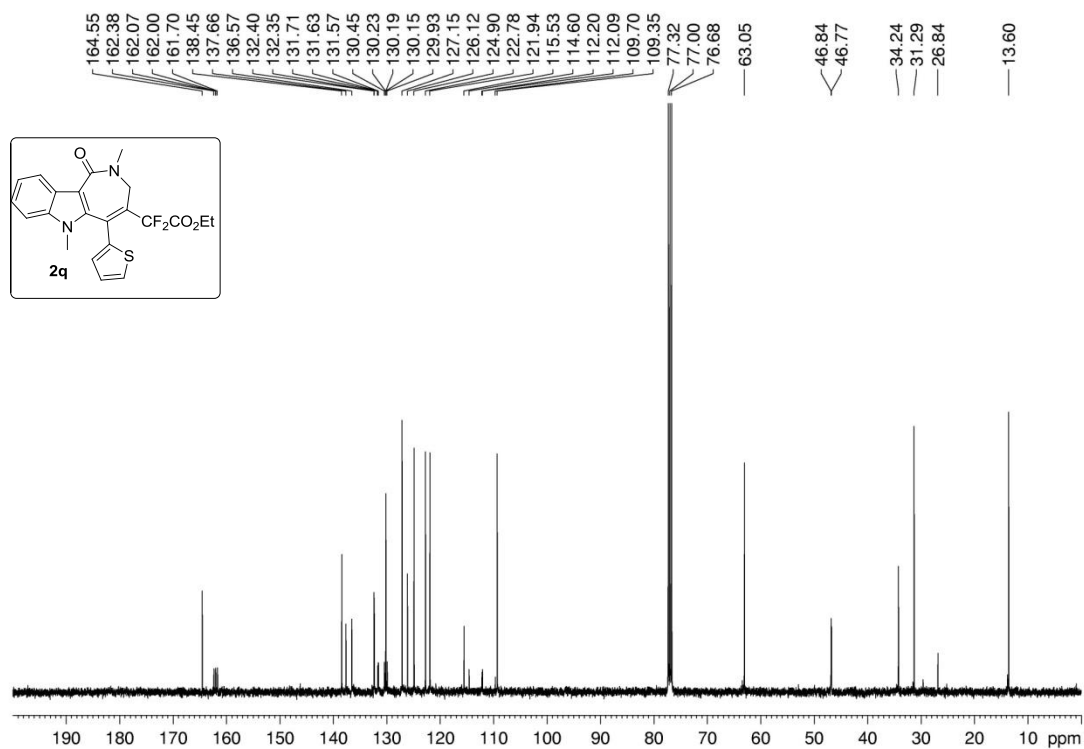
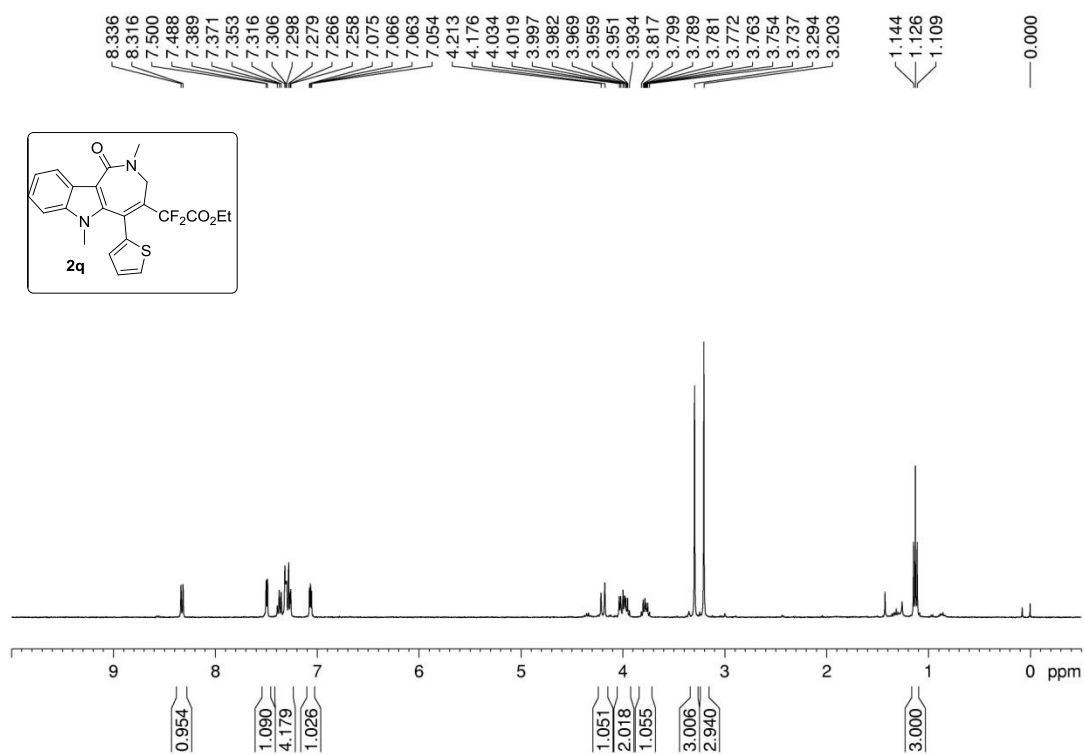


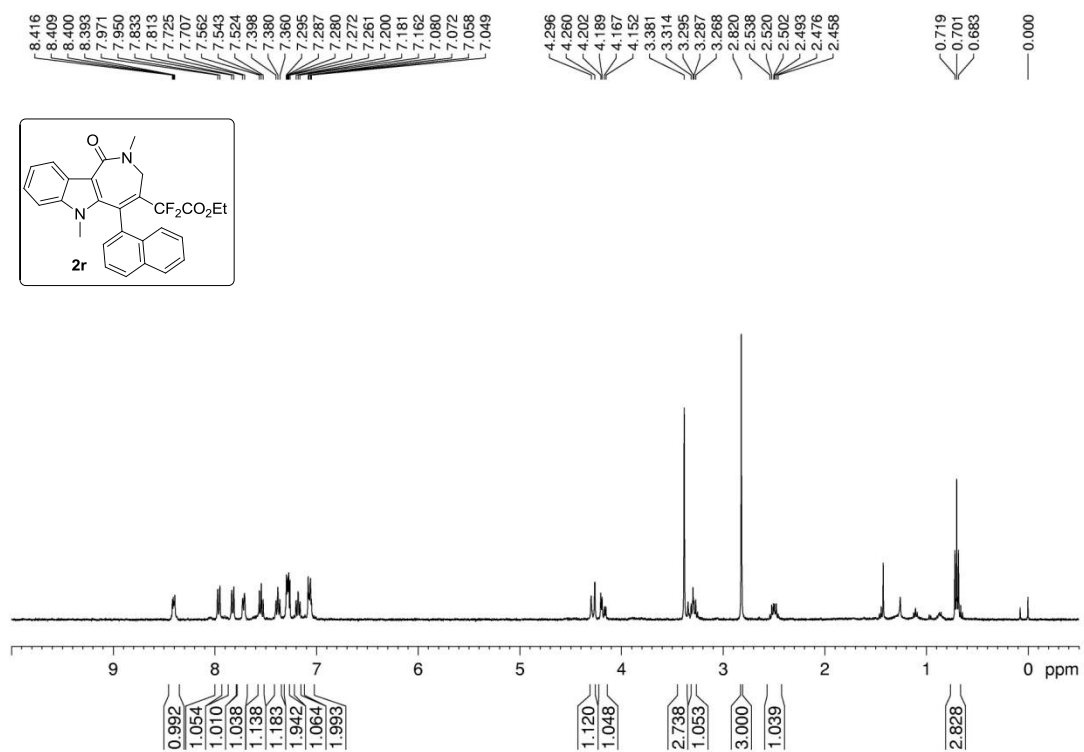
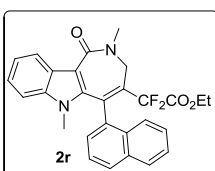
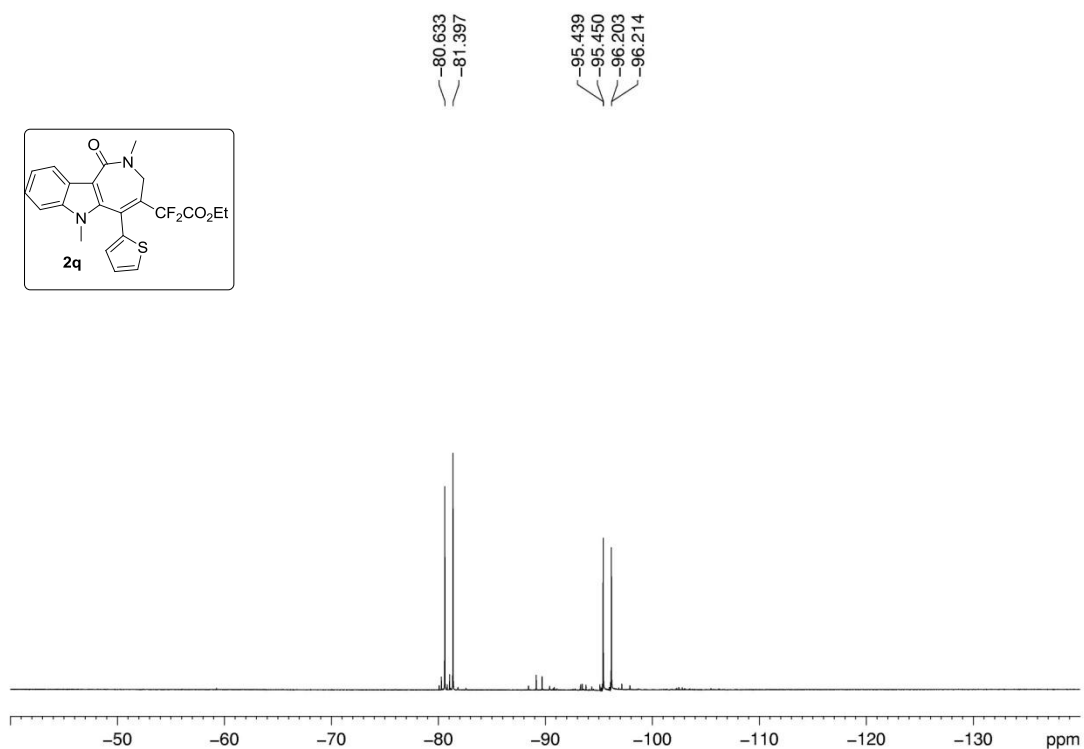
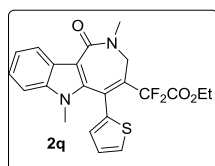


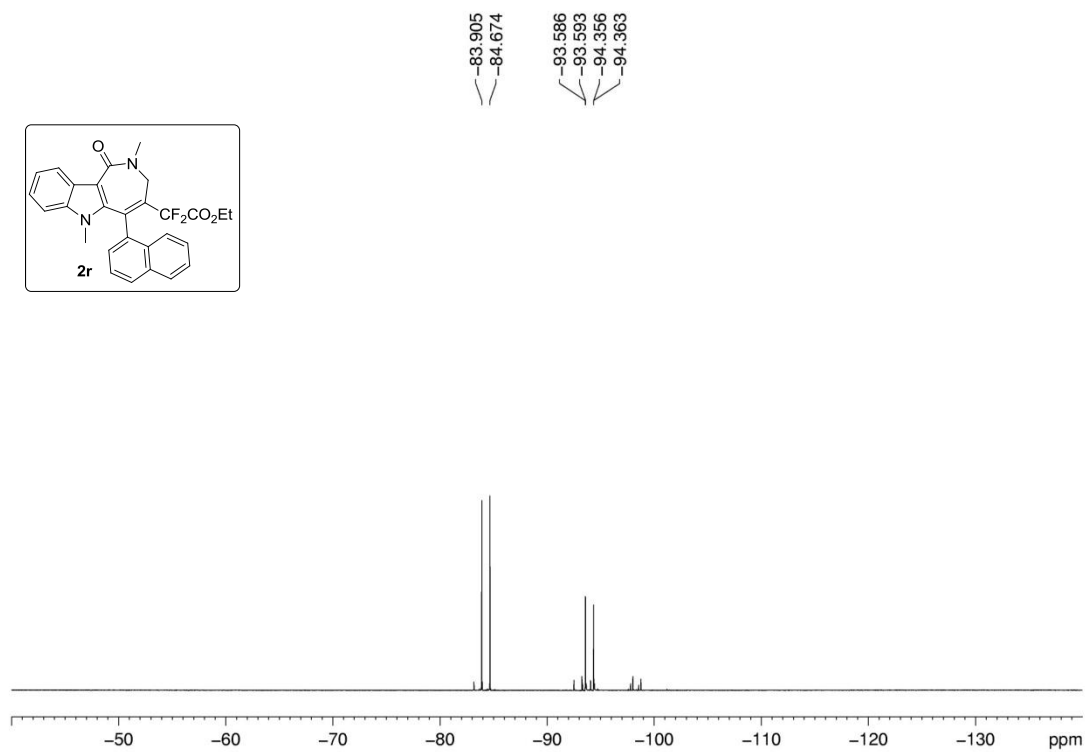
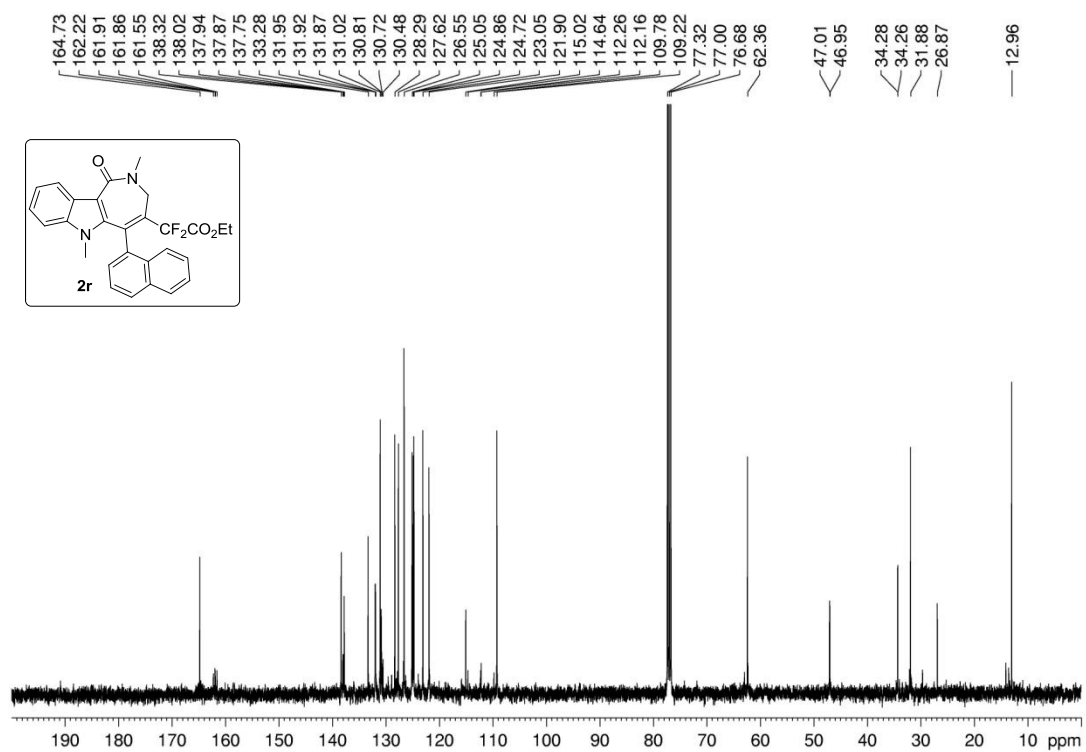


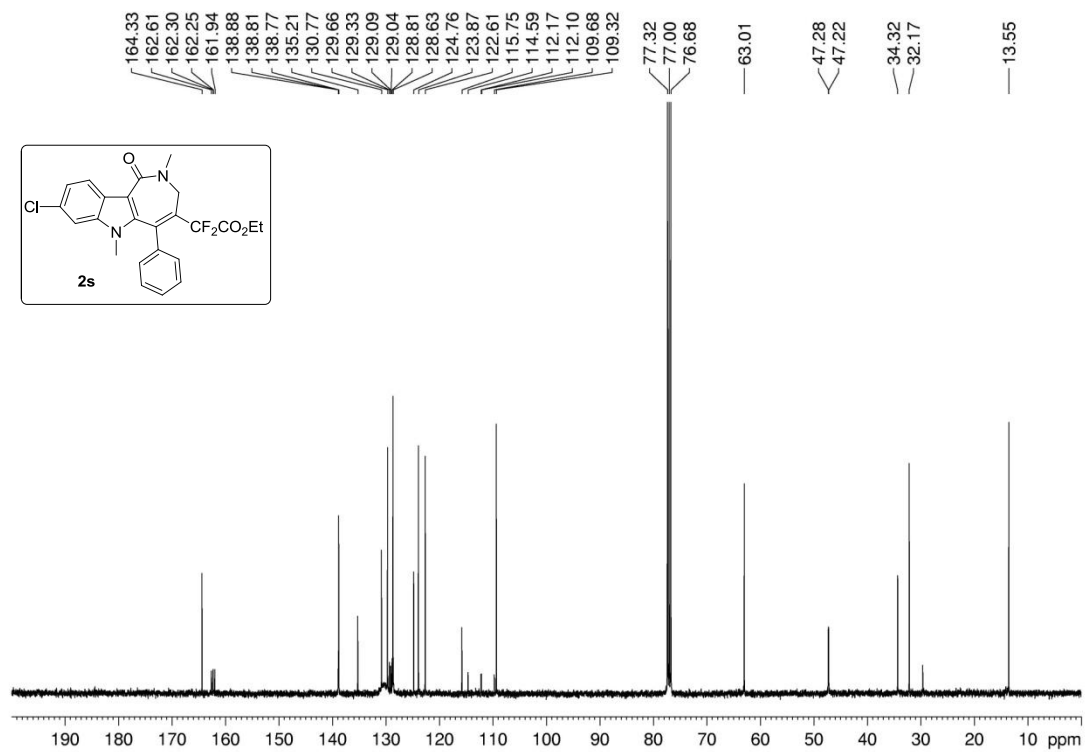
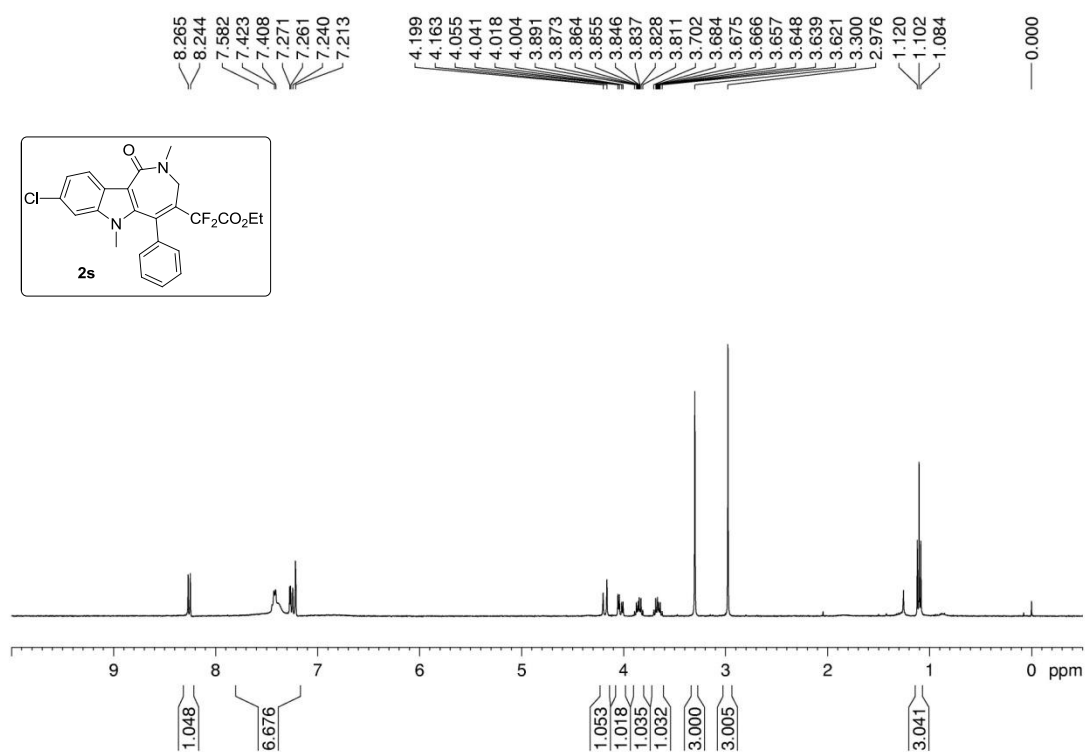


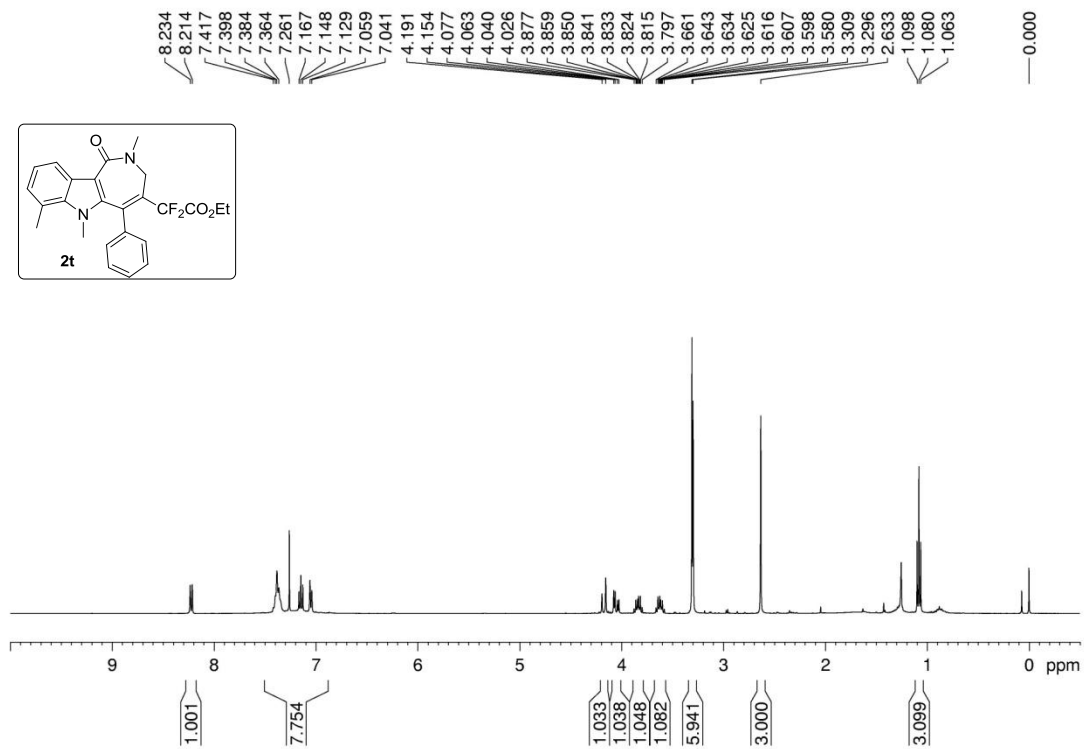
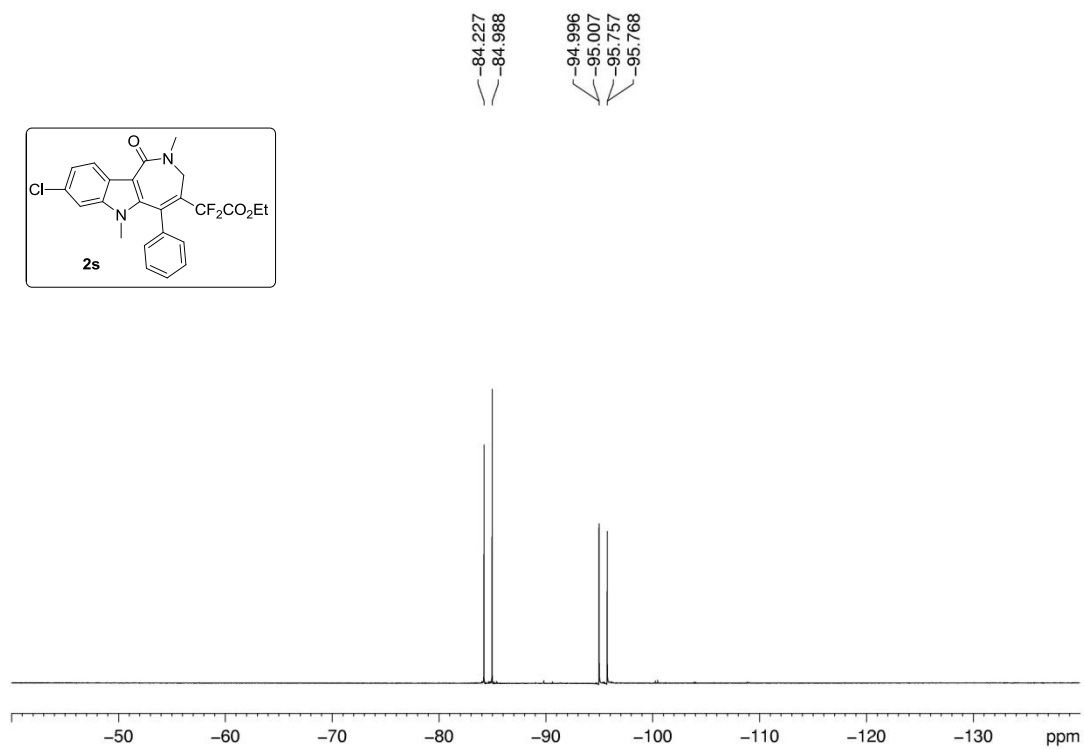


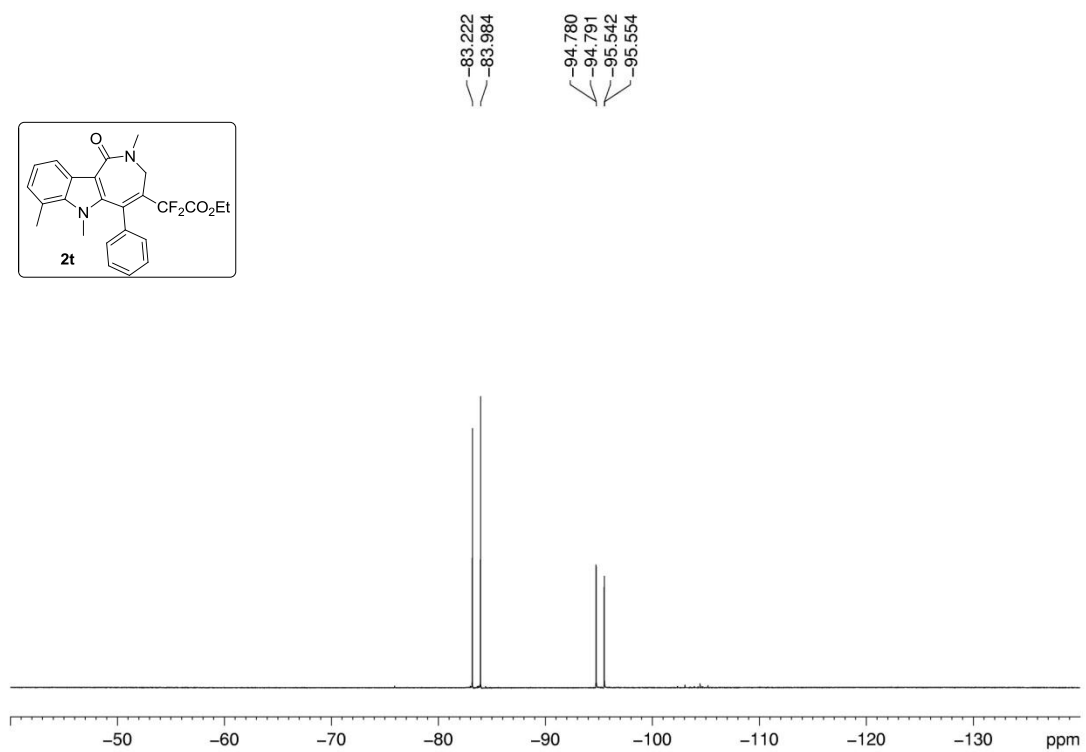
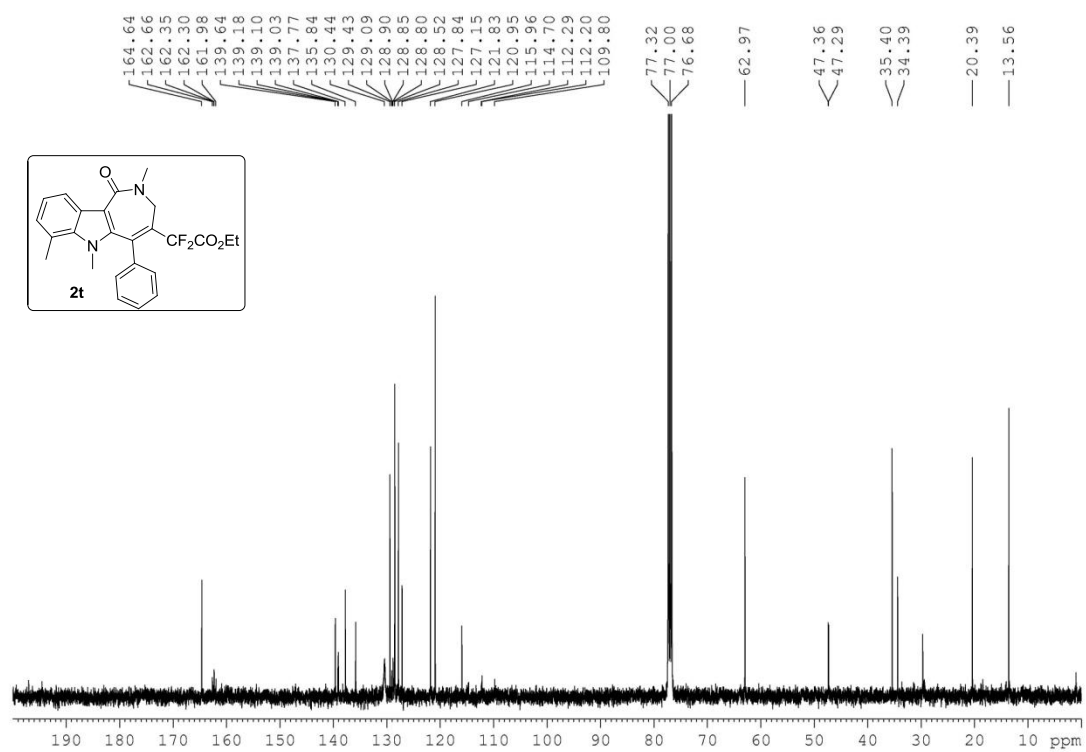




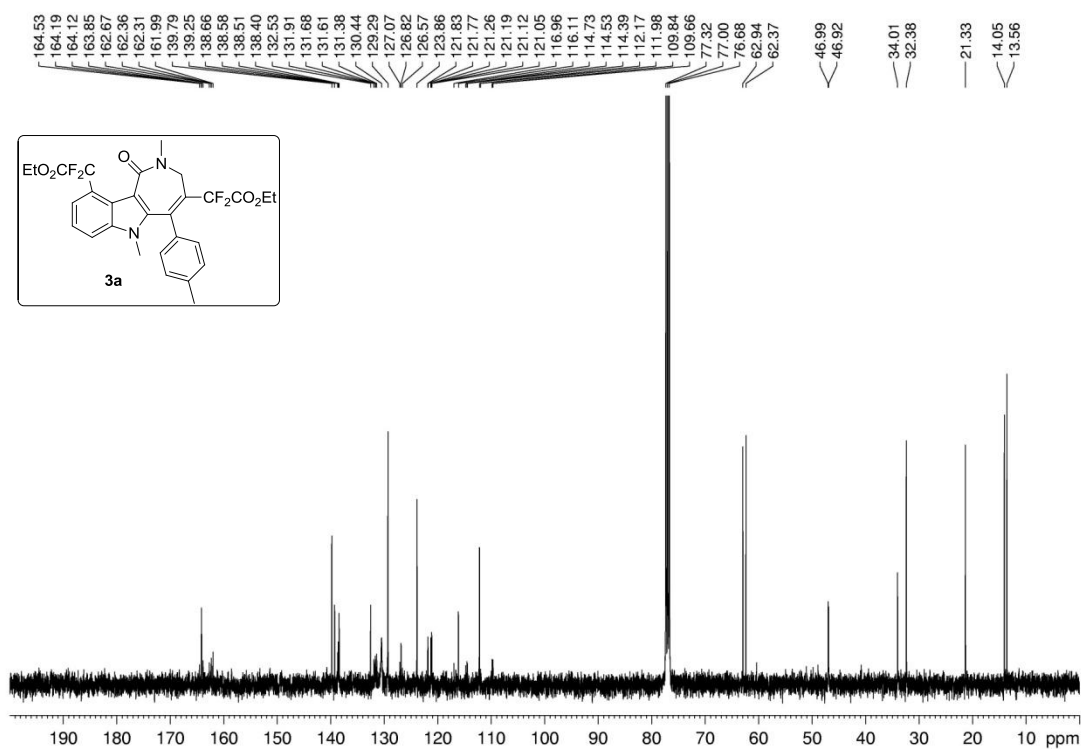
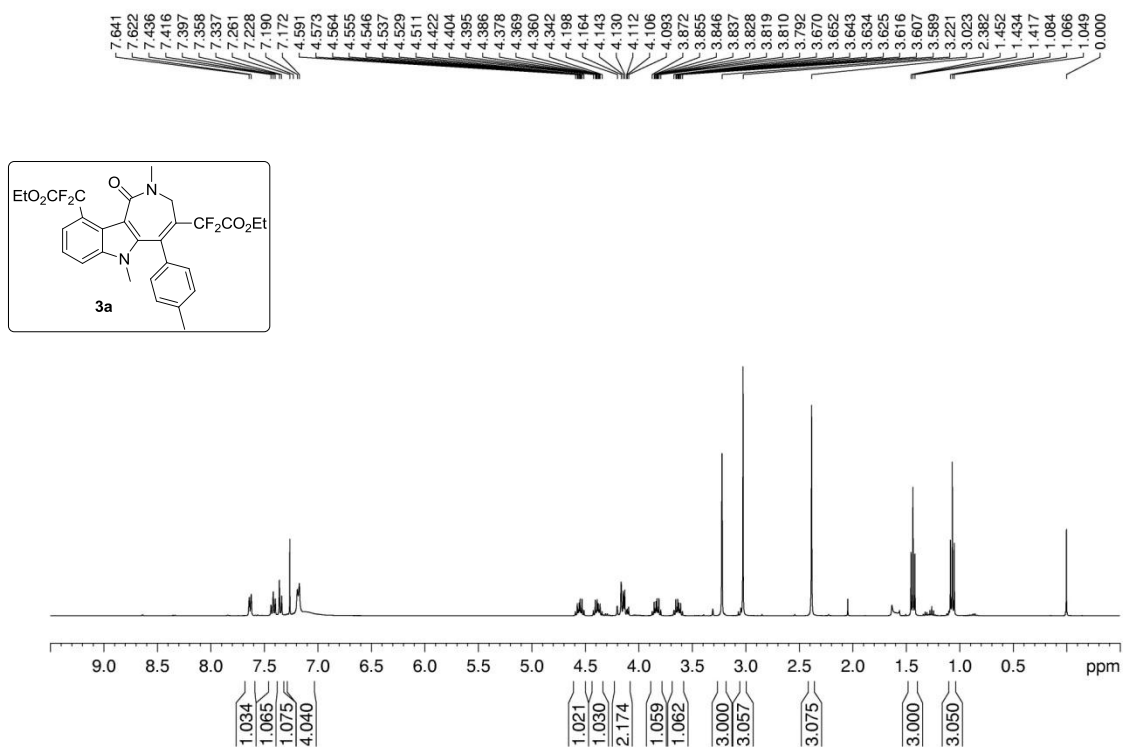


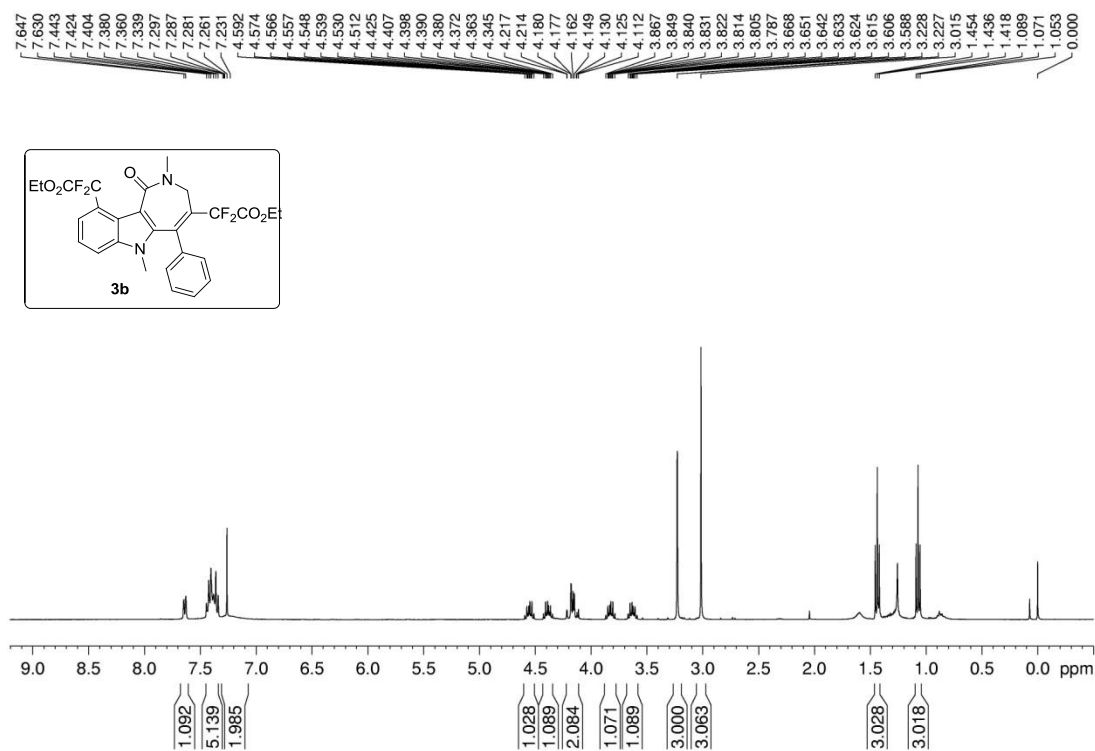
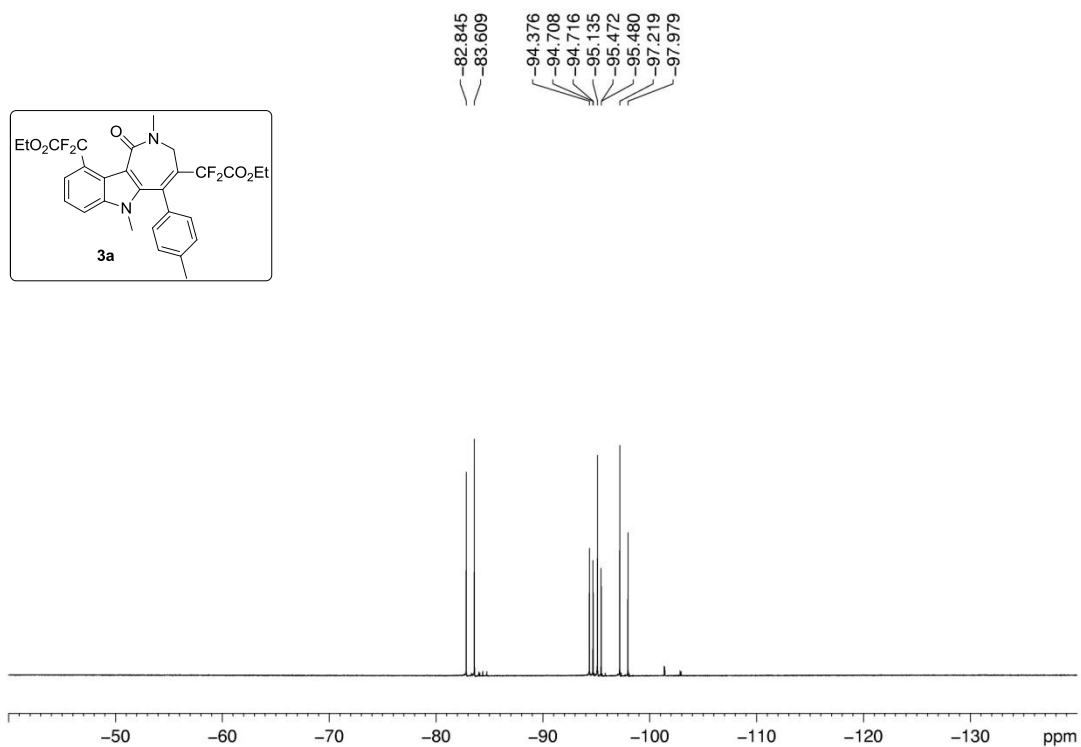


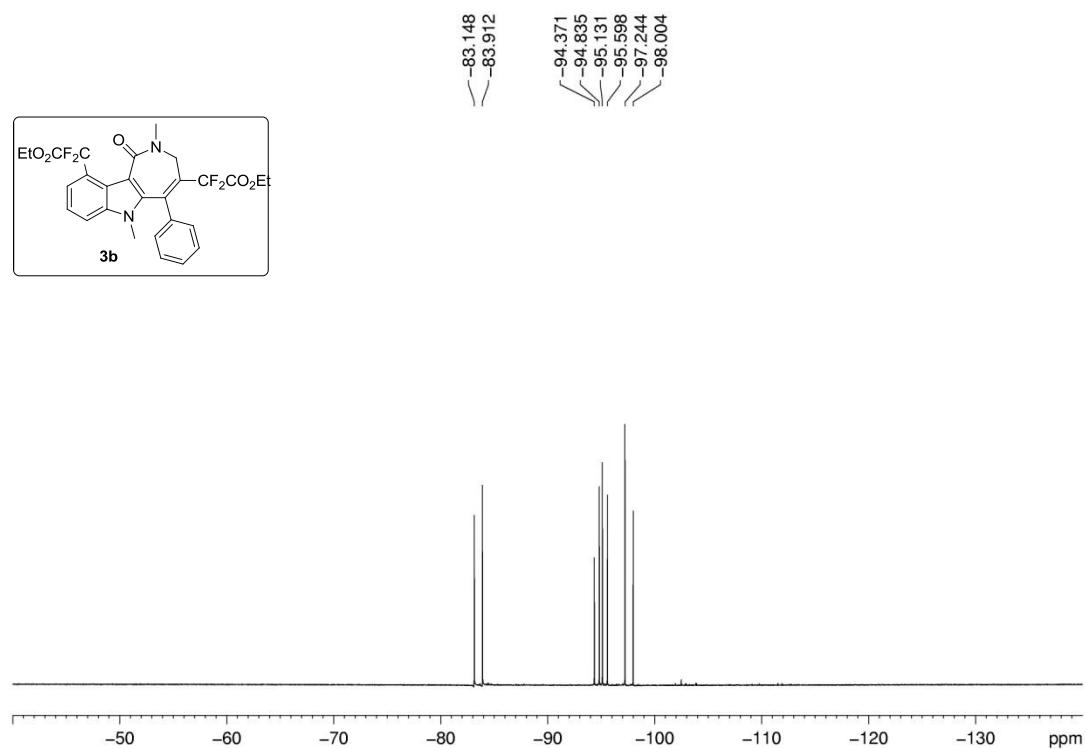
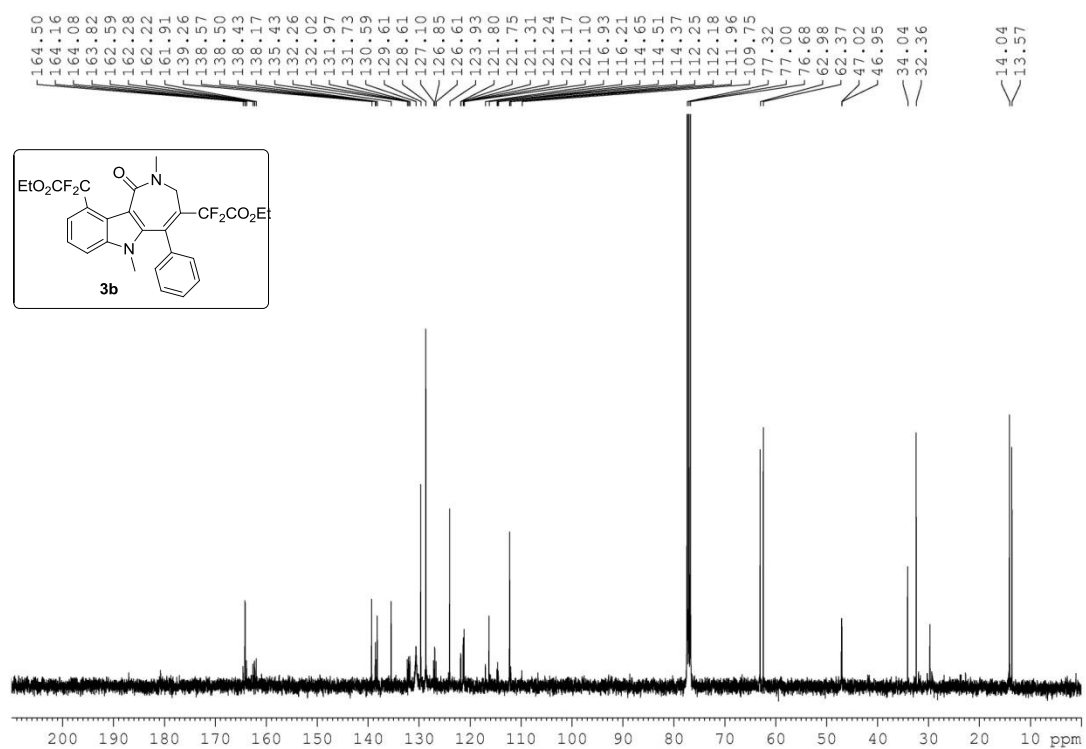


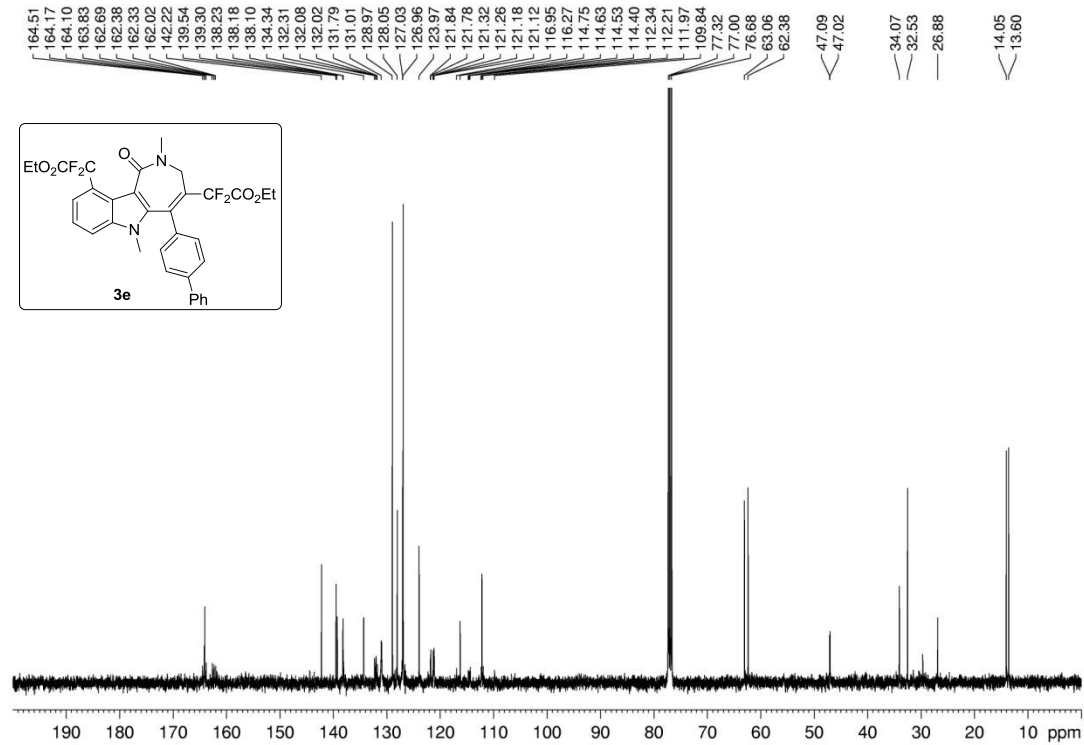
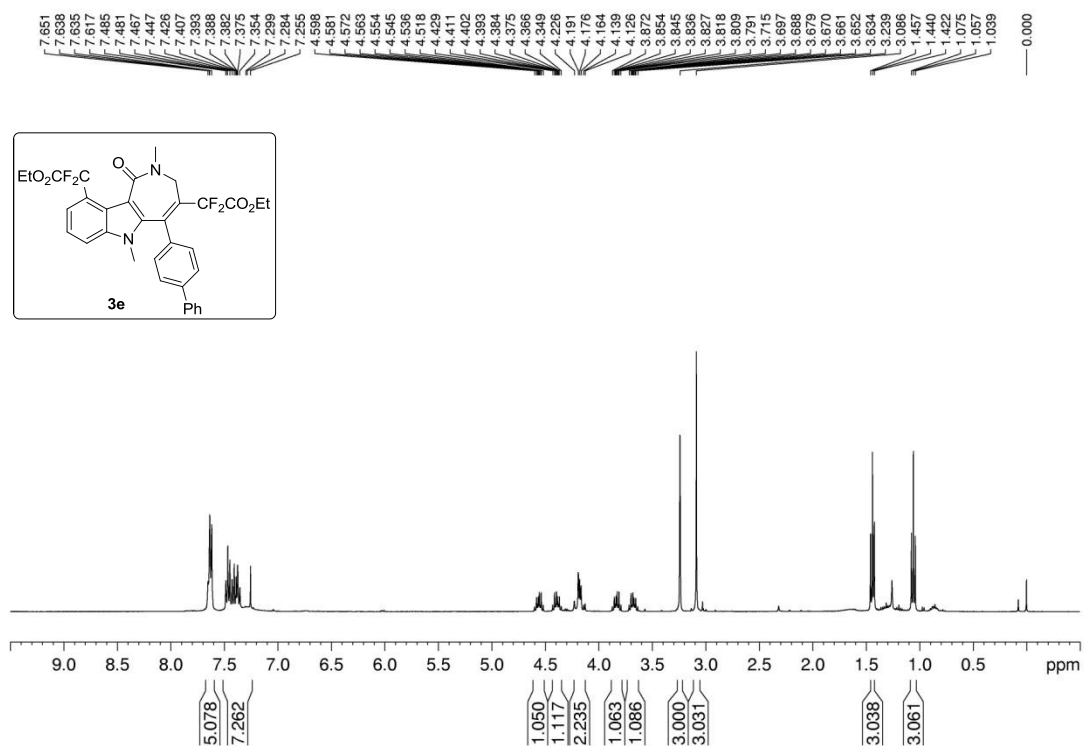


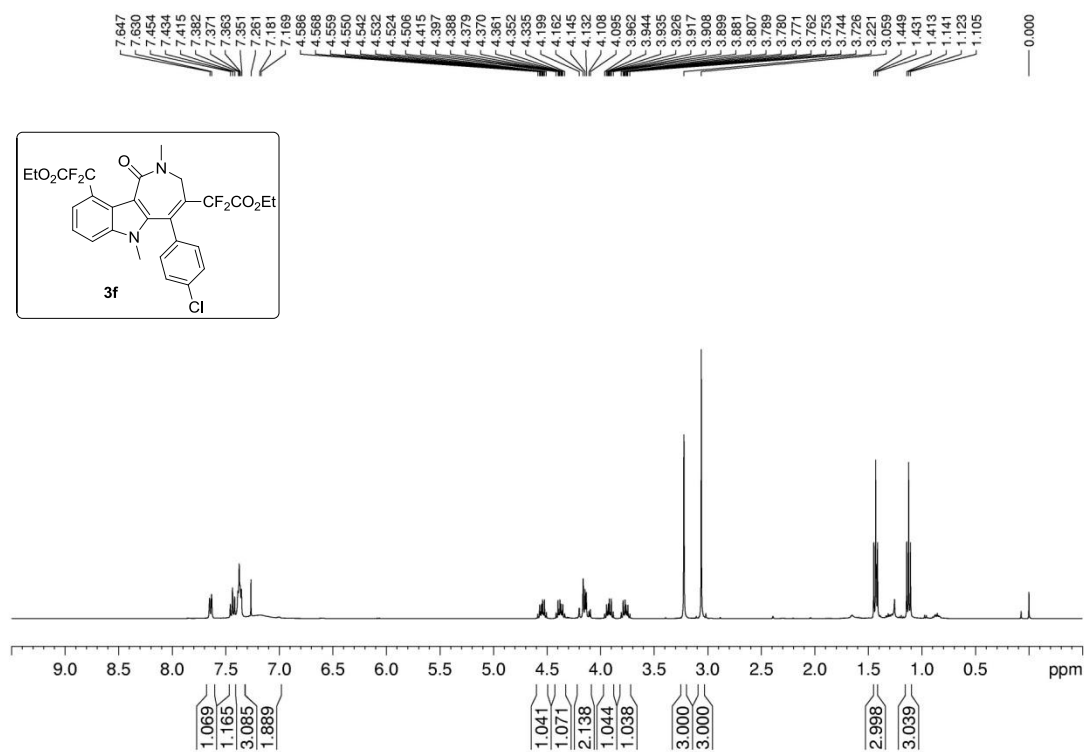
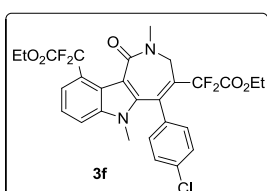
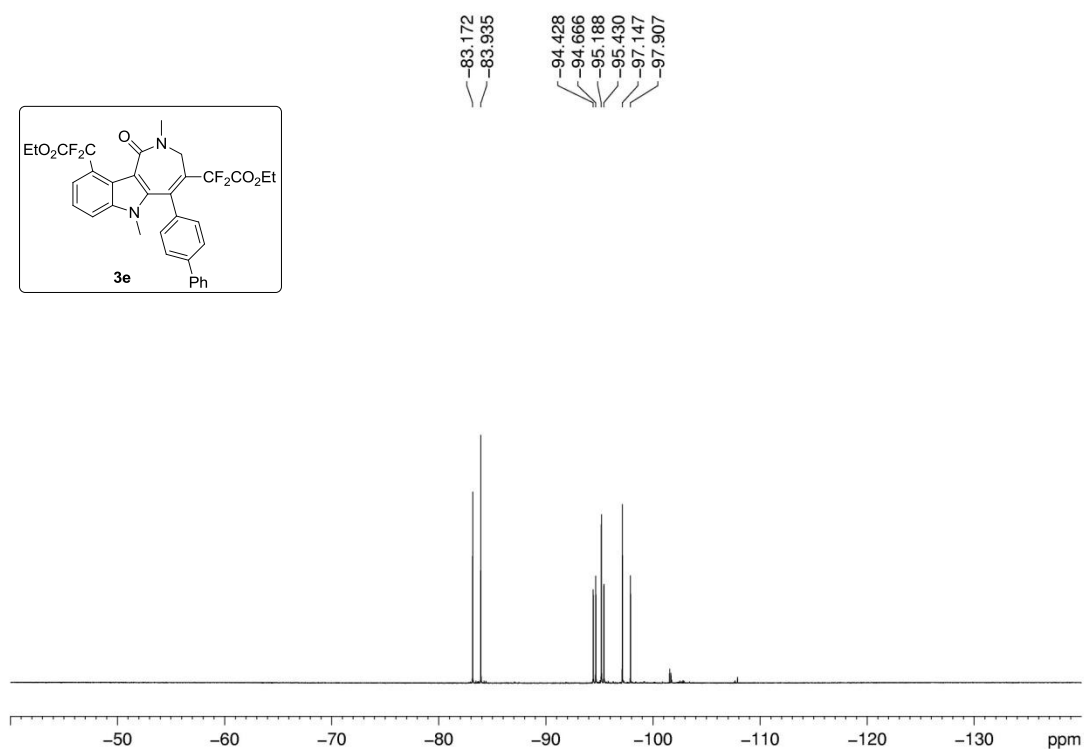
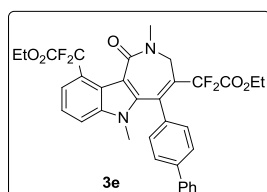
10. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR spectra of 3 and 4

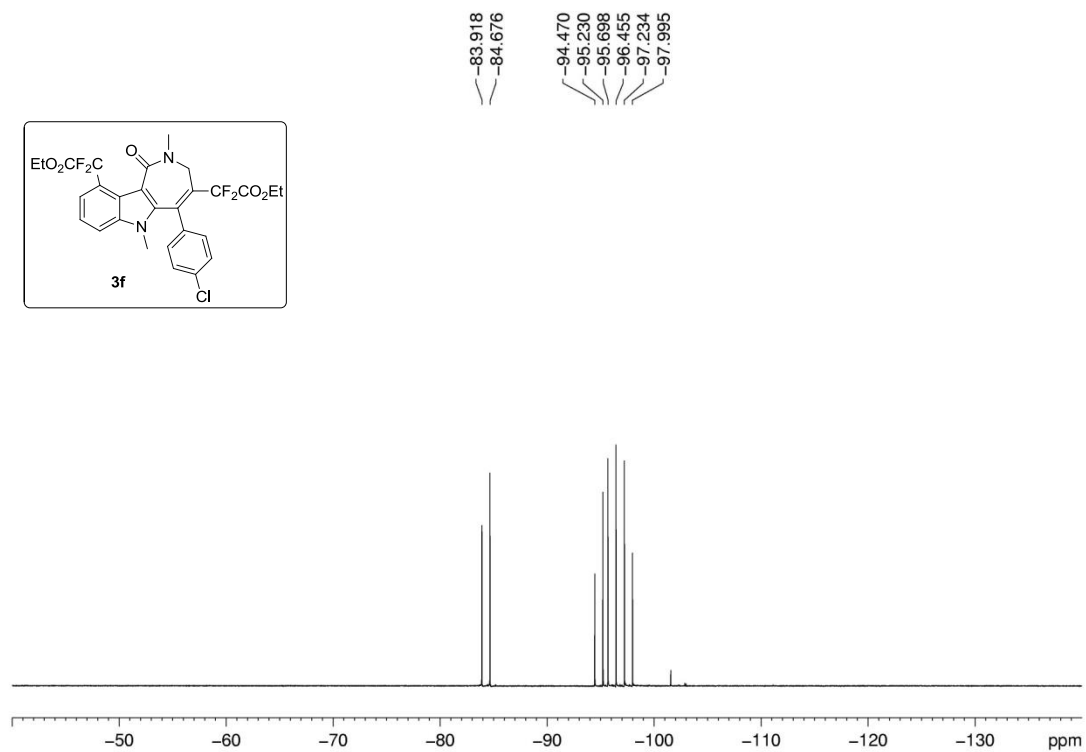
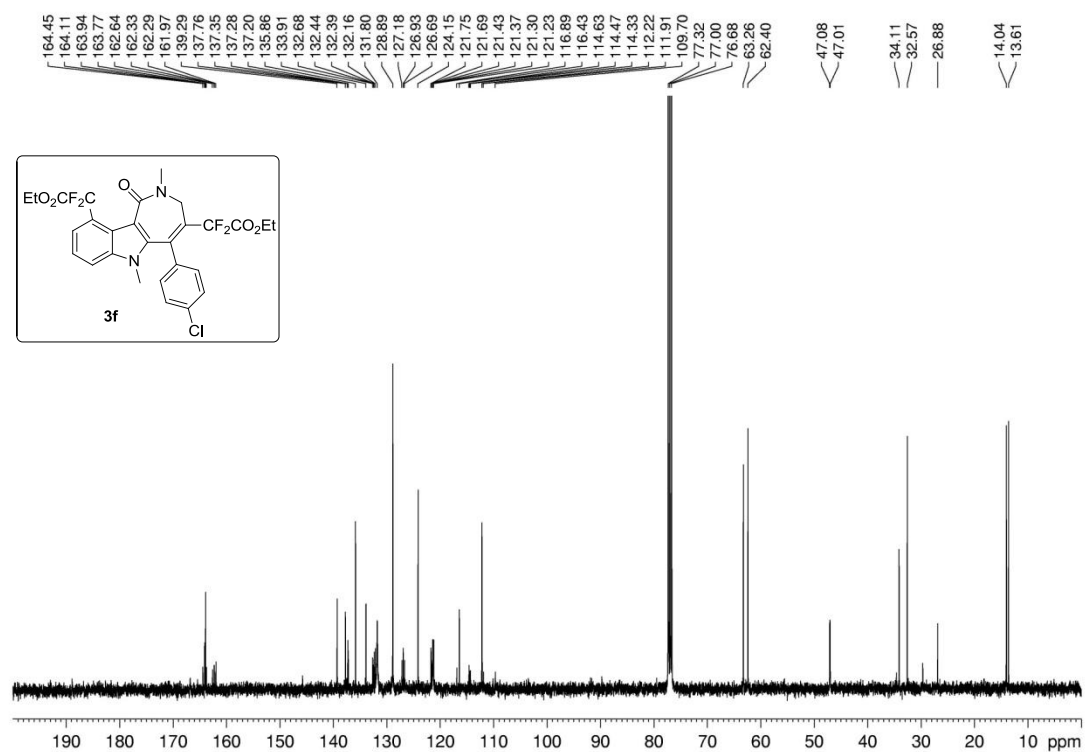


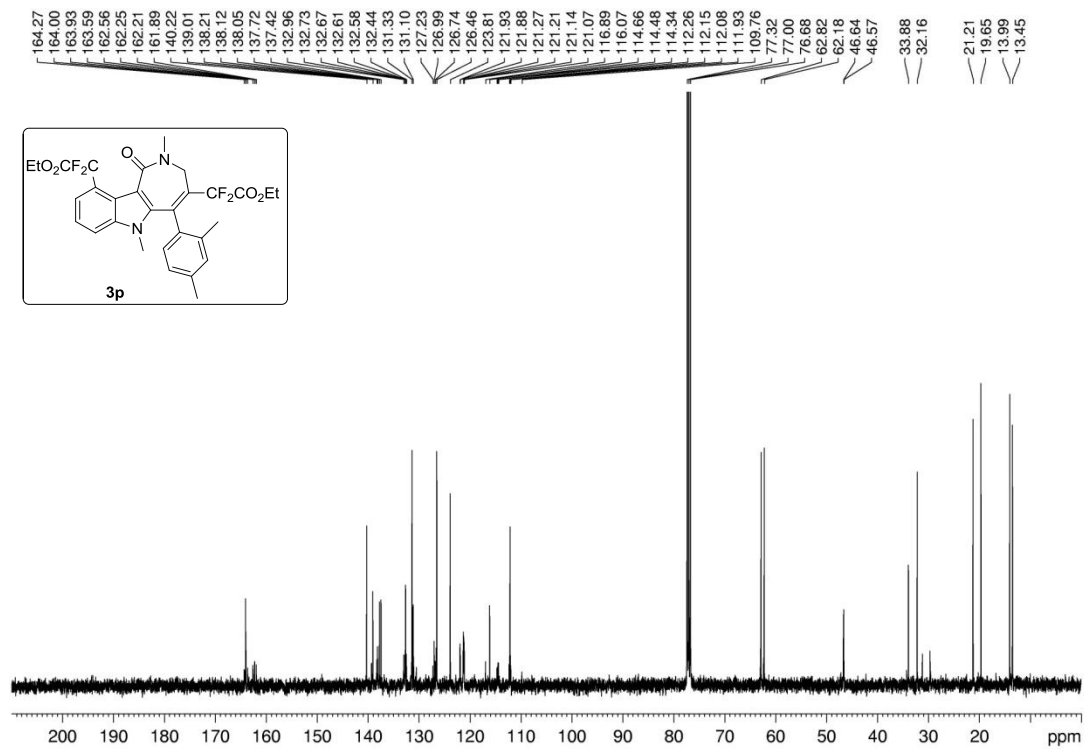
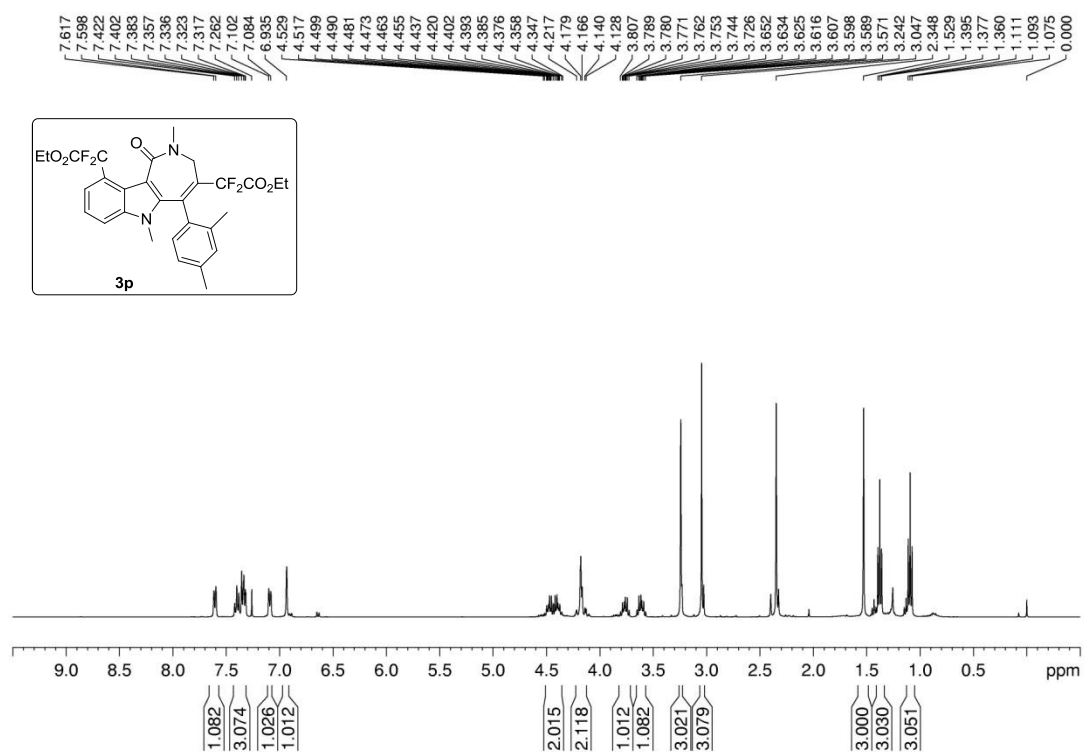


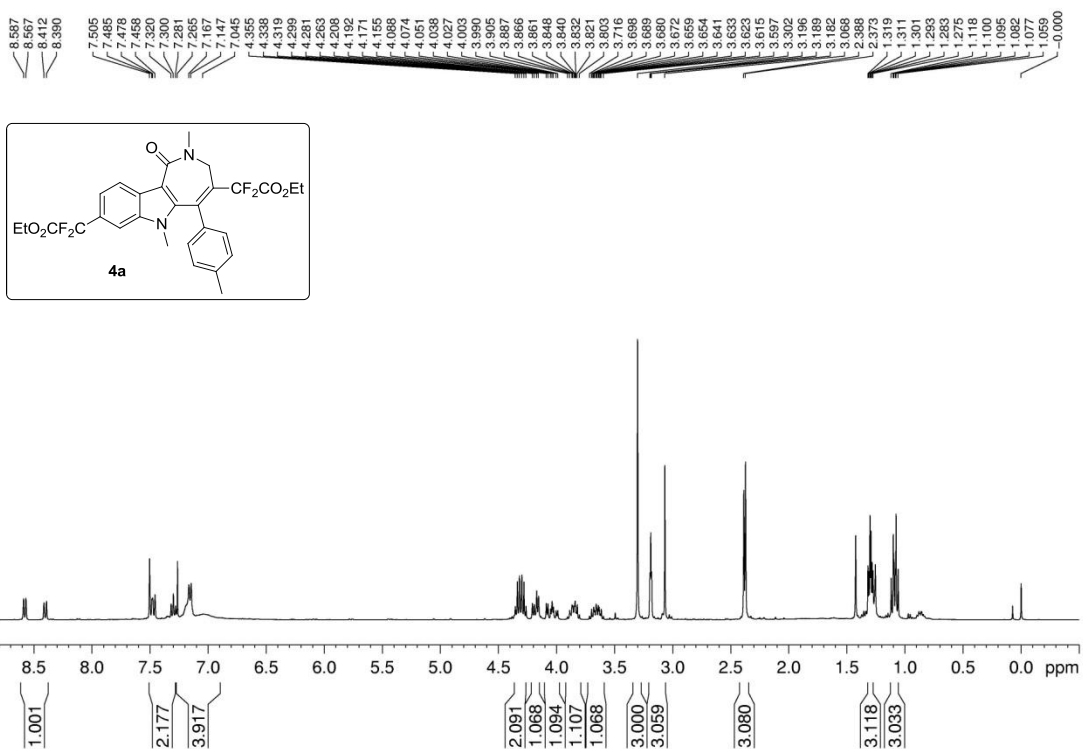
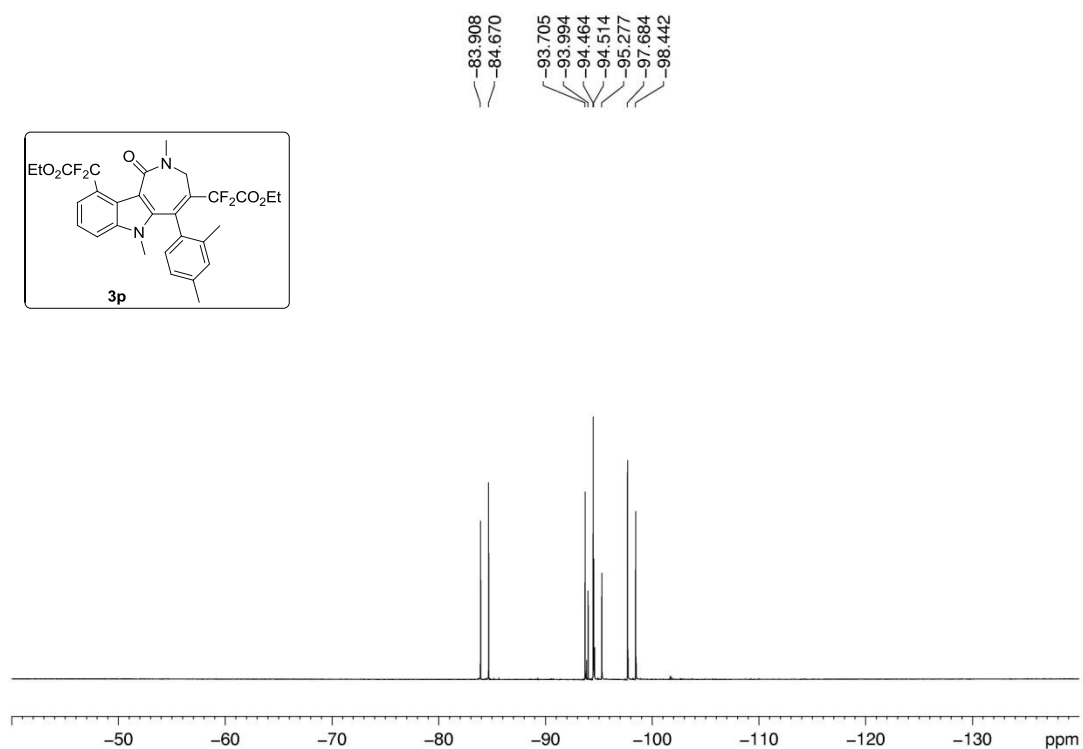
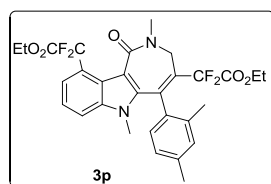


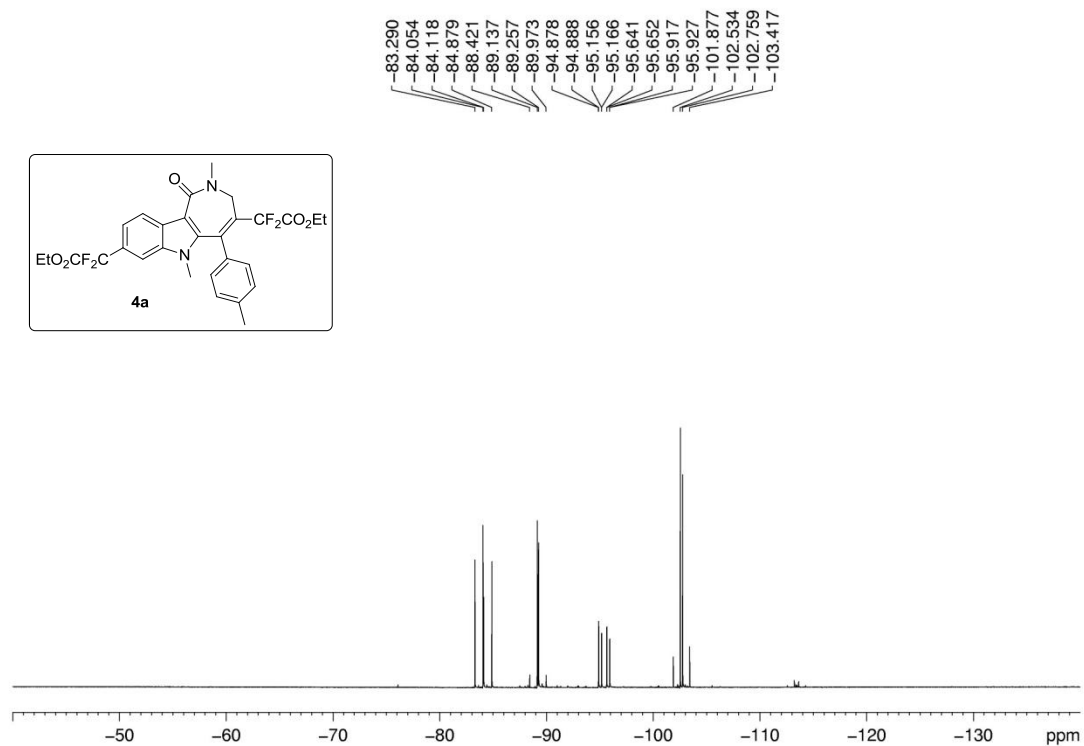
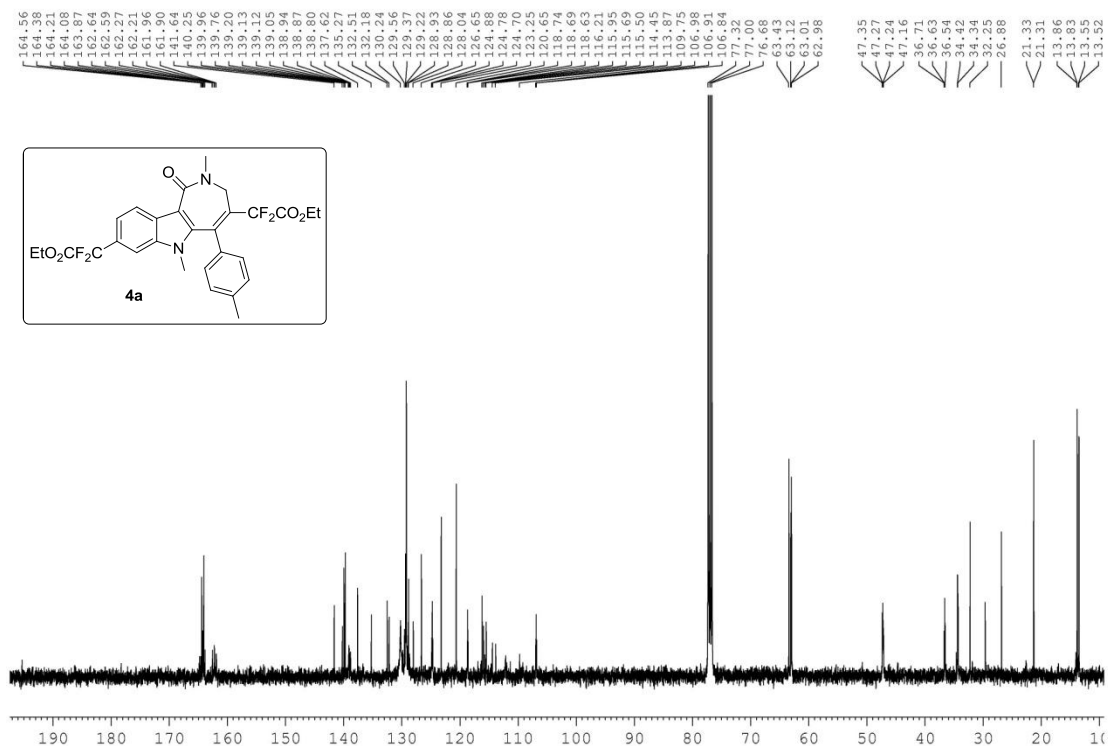


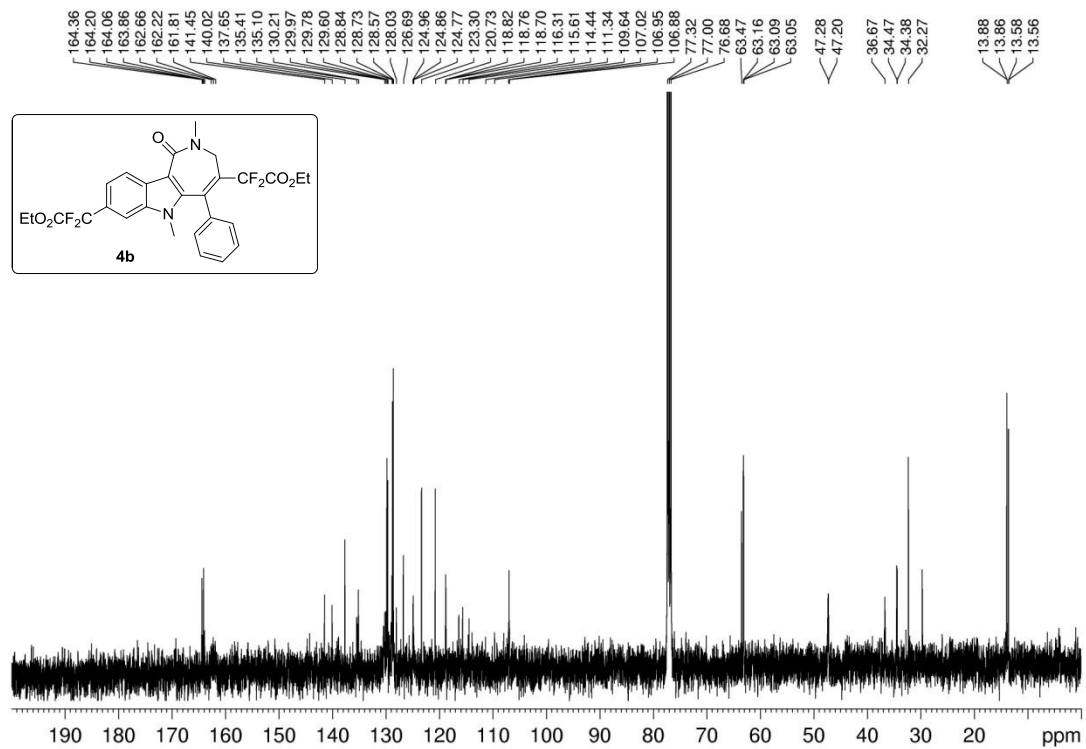
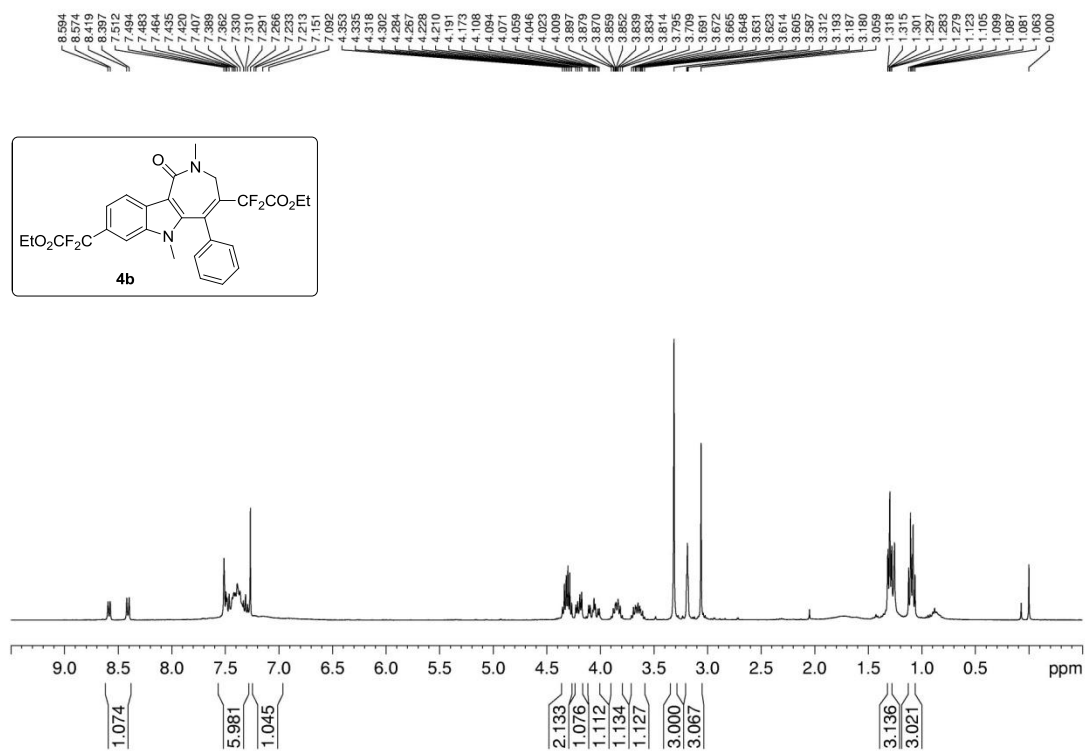


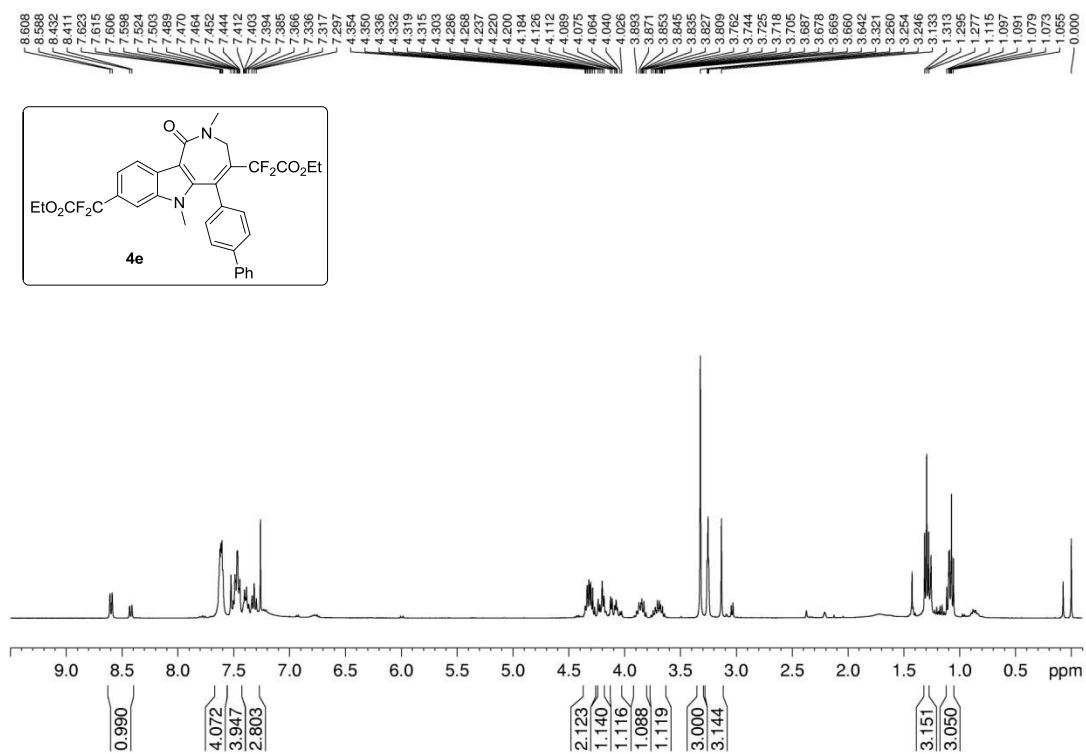
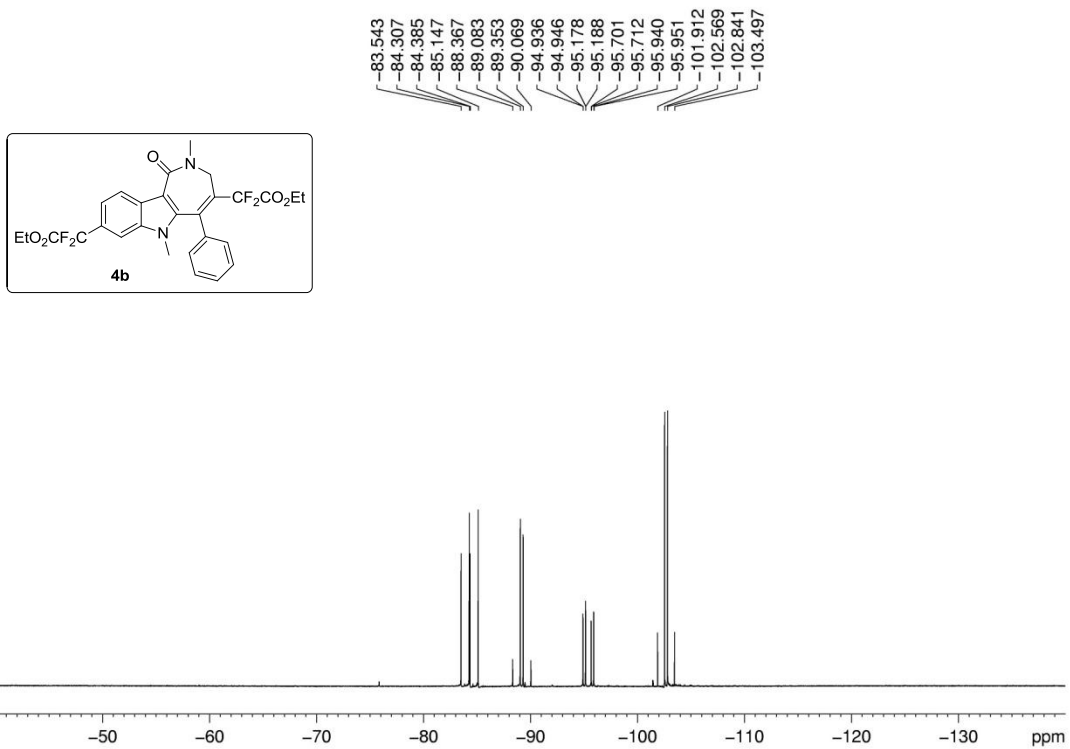


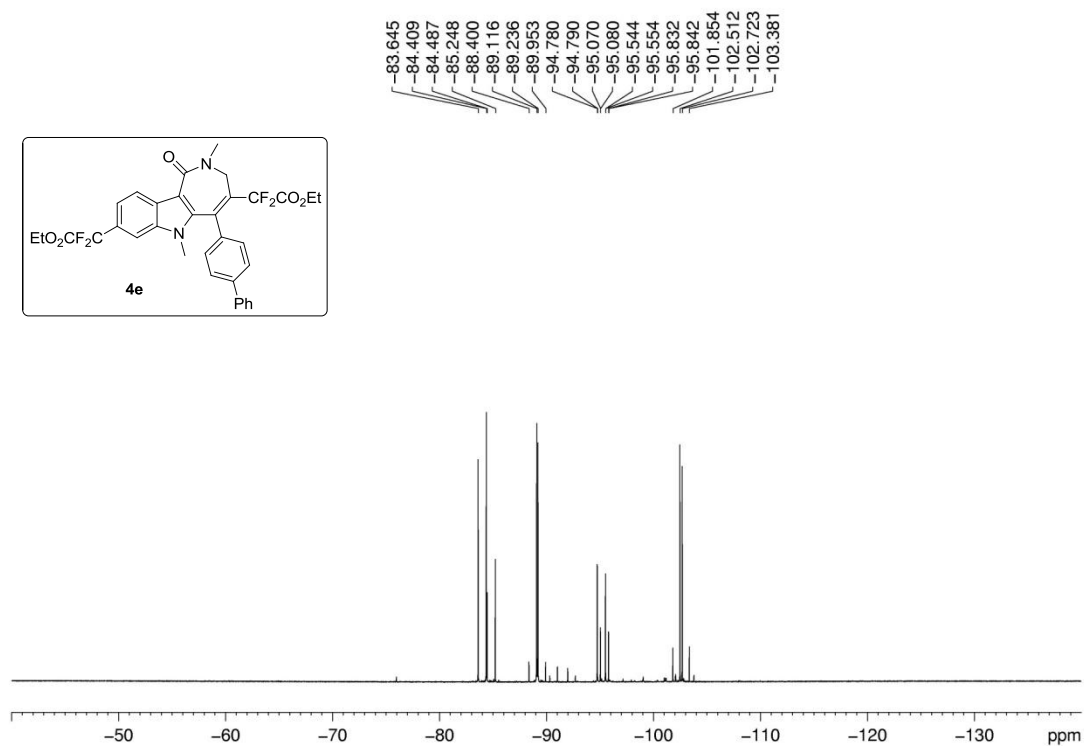
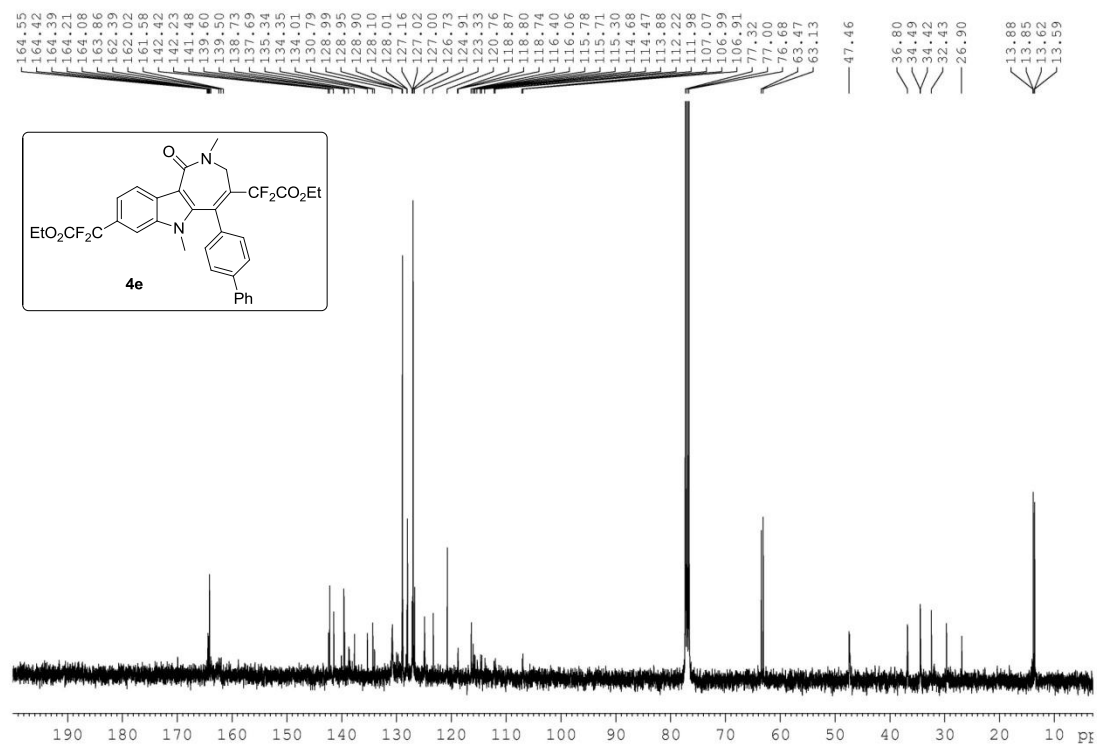


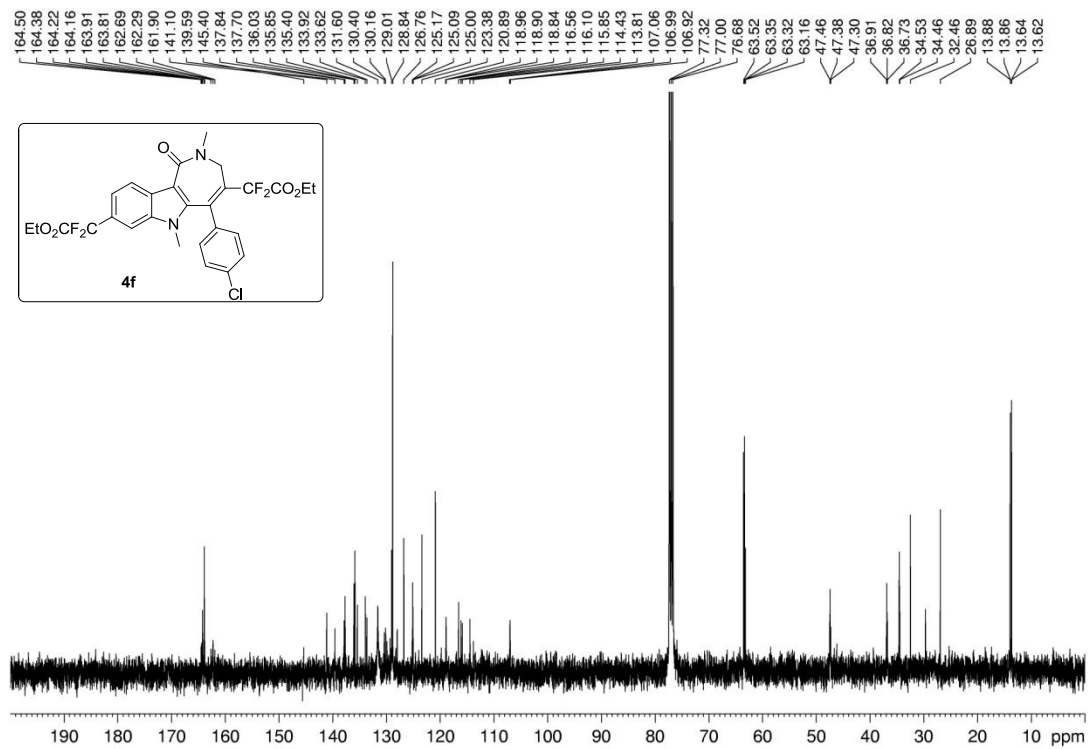
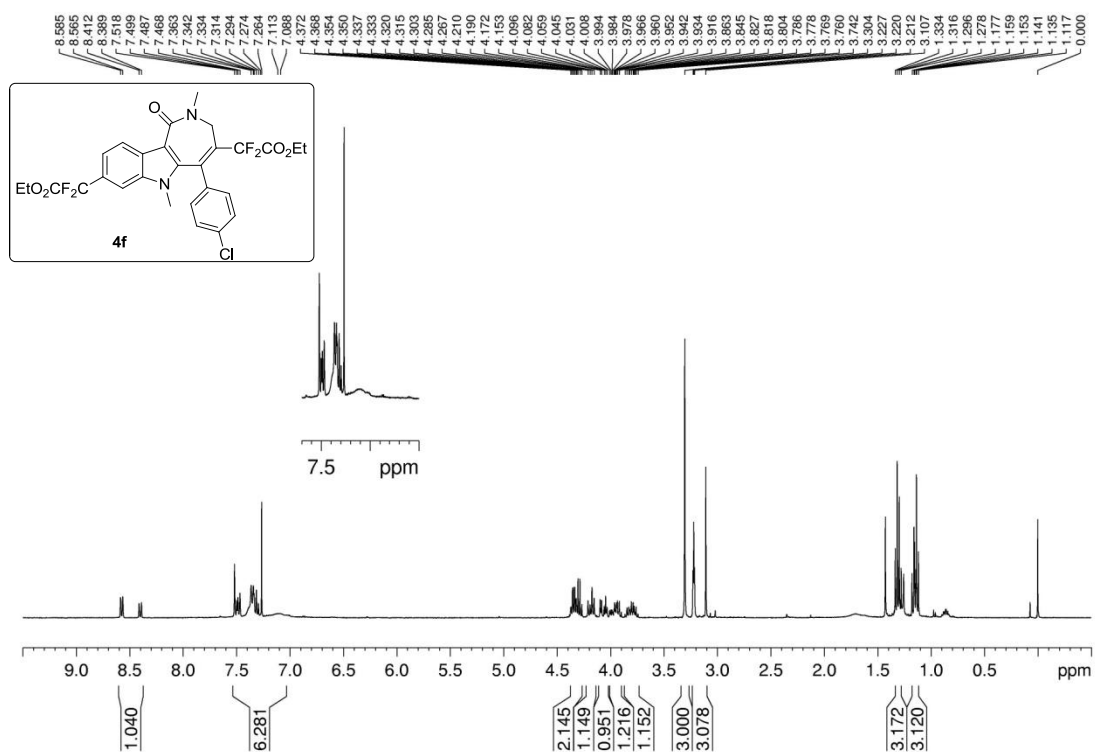


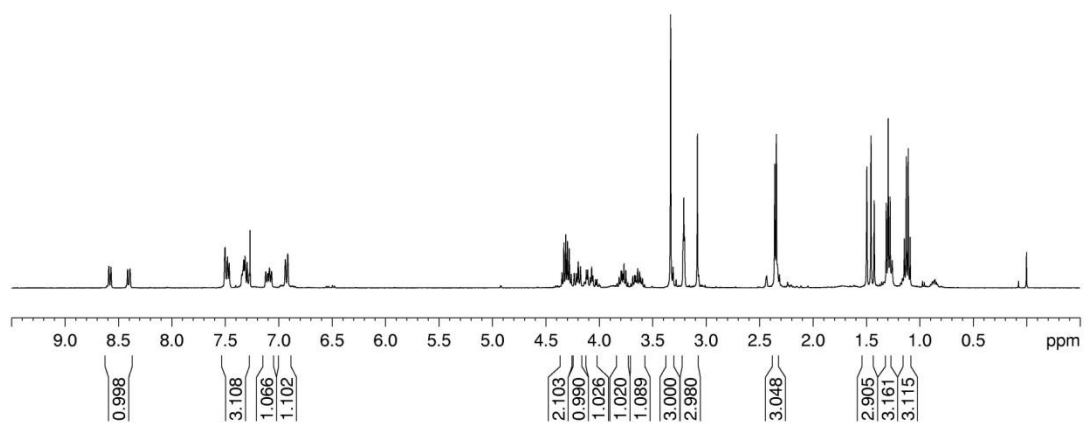
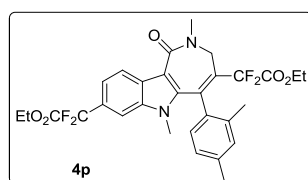
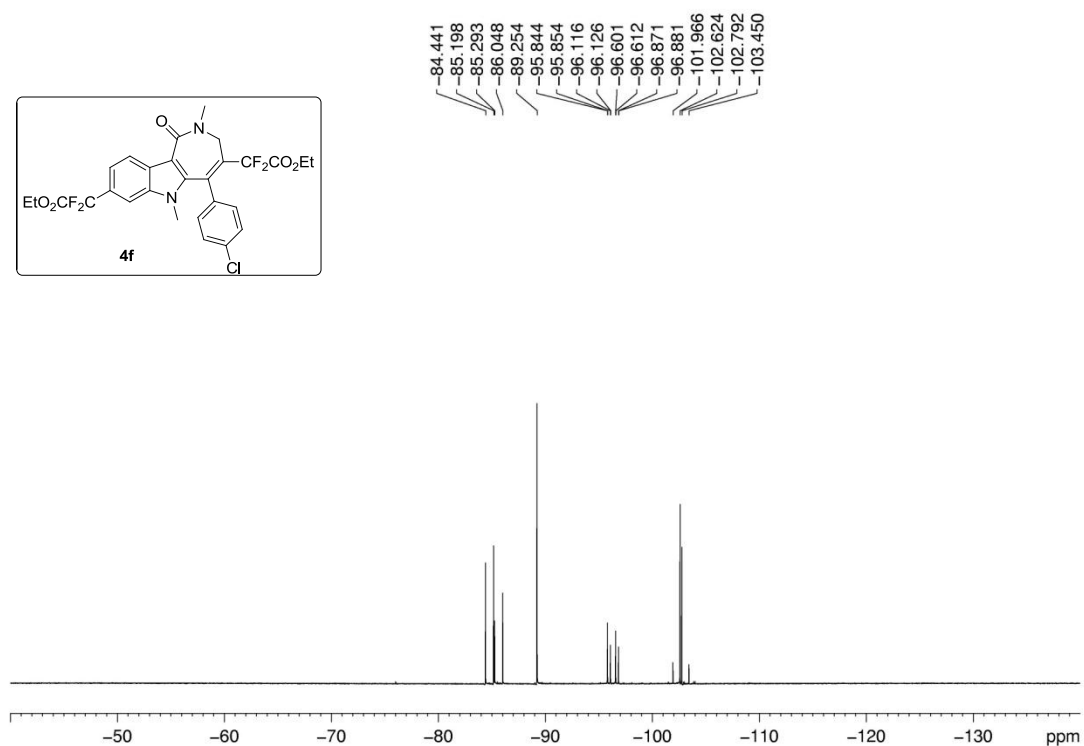
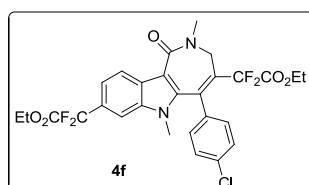


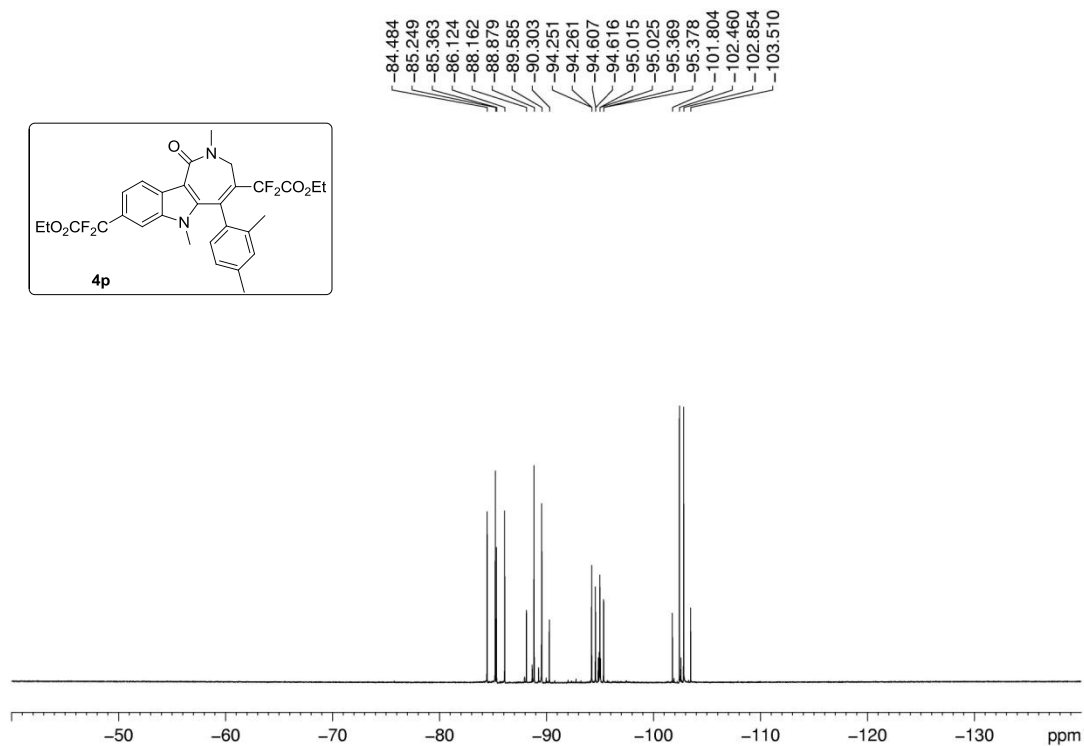
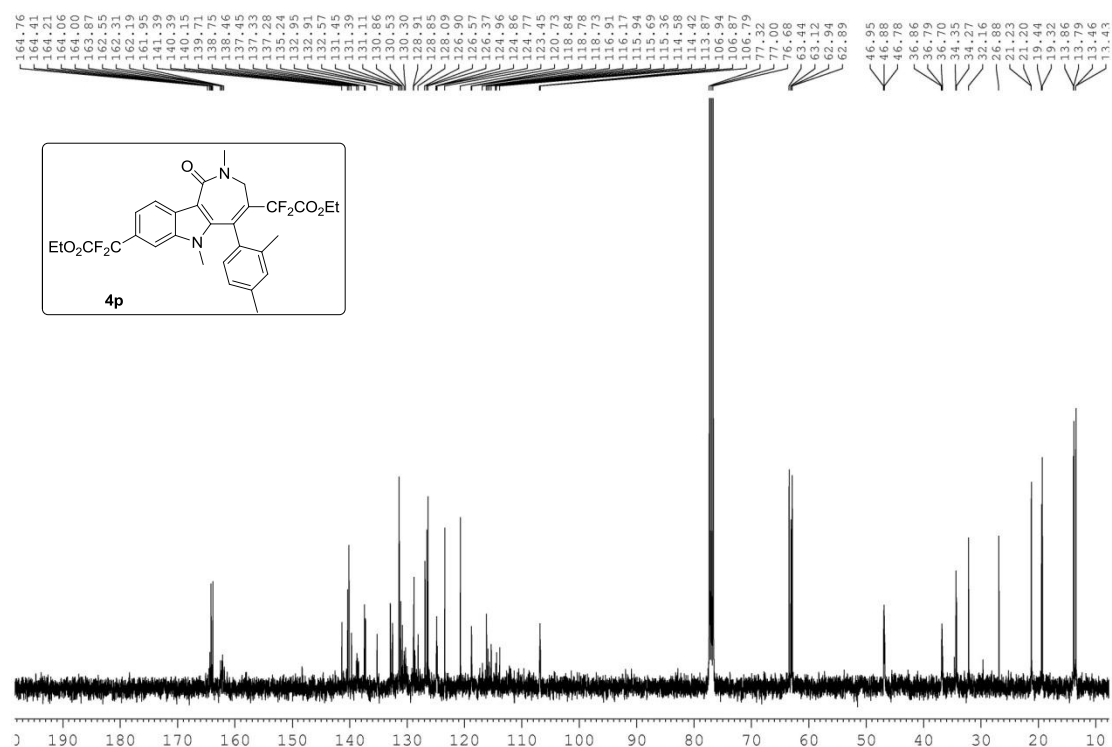












11. The ratio of 3 and 4 was determined by crude ^1H NMR spectra

