

## Supporting information for

# Lewis acid-catalyzed 2-arylquinazoline formation from *N'*-arylbenzimidamides and paraformaldehyde

Xiufang Cheng,<sup>a</sup> Huamin Wang,<sup>a</sup> Fuhong Xiao<sup>a\*</sup> and Guo-Jun Deng<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Key Laboratory of Environmentally Friendly Chemistry and Application of Ministry of Education, College of Chemistry, Xiangtan University, Xiangtan 411105, China; Fax: (+86)-731-58292251; e-mail: gjdeng@xtu.edu.cn; fhxiao@xtu.edu.cn

## Table of Contents

<b>1. General information</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Substrate preparation</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>3. General experimental procedure</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Characterization data of products</b>	<b>3-15</b>
<b>5. References</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6. Control experiments</b>	<b>16-18</b>
<b>7. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of products</b>	<b>19-49</b>

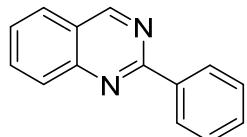
### General information:

All experiments were carried out under an atmosphere of O<sub>2</sub>. Flash column chromatography was performed over silica gel 48-75  $\mu$ m. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker-AV (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) instrument internally referenced to SiMe<sub>4</sub> or chloroform signals. MS analyses were performed on an Agilent 5975 GC-MS instrument (EI). The new compounds were characterized by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, MS and HRMS. The structures of known compounds were further corroborated by comparing their <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR data and MS data with those of literature. The substrates **1a-1aa** were synthesized following the literature procedures<sup>[1]</sup>. All other chemicals and solvents were used as received from commercial sources without further purification.

### General procedure for preparation of 2:

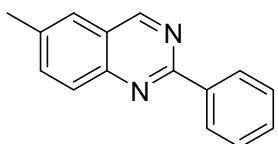
A 10 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with BF<sub>3</sub> · Et<sub>2</sub>O (2.5 uL, 0.01 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> 27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), (Z)-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1a**, 39.3, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol) and DMSO (0.8 mL). The resulting solution was sealed under O<sub>2</sub> and stirred at 140 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2a** as light yellow solid; yield: 38.0 mg (92%).

#### **2-phenylquinazoline (2a, CAS: 25855-20-3)<sup>[2]</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  9.48 (s, 1H), 8.63-8.60 (m, 2H), 8.11-8.09 (m, 1H), 7.95-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.49 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  161.1, 160.5, 150.8, 138.0, 134.1, 130.6, 128.6, 128.6, 128.6, 127.2, 127.1, 123.6 ; MS (EI) m/z (%) 206, 197, 179, 105 (100), 77.

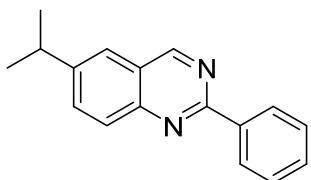
#### **6-methyl-2-phenylquinazoline (2b, CAS: 121910-86-9)<sup>[3]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with methyl (Z)-*N'*-(p-tolyl)benzimidamide (**1b**, 42.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2b** as light yellow solid; yield 90%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.39 (s, 1H), 8.61-8.58 (m, 2H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160, 159.7, 149.1, 137.7, 137.6, 136.7, 130.5, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 125.8, 123.5, 21.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 220 (100), 193, 165, 110, 77.

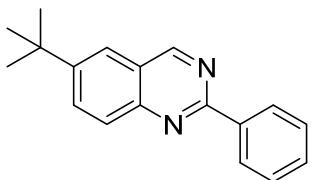
#### 6-isopropyl-2-phenylquinazoline (**2c**)



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-*N'*-(4-isopropylphenyl)benzimidamide (**1c**, 47.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2c** as light yellow solid; yield 84%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.43-9.42 (m, 1H), 8.61-8.58 (m, 2H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.81 (s, 1H), 7.73-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 3H), 3.17-3.10 (m, 1H), 1.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.5, 160.0, 149.7, 148.2, 138.2, 134.2, 130.4, 128.6, 128.4, 123.6, 123.0, 34.1, 23.7; MS (EI) m/z (%) 248, 233 (100), 206, 103, 77; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 249.13863, found = 249.13845.

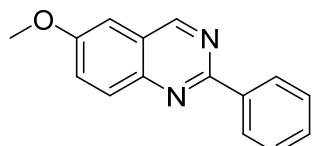
#### 6-(*tert*-butyl)-2-phenylquinazoline (**2d**)



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)benzimidamide (**1d**, 50.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2d** as light yellow solid; yield 90%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 8.61-8.58 (m, 2H), 8.03-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.7, 160.3, 150.4, 149.4, 138.2, 133.1, 130.3, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 123.4, 121.9, 35.1, 31.0; MS (EI) m/z (%) 262, 247 (100), 220, 116, 77; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>[M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 263.15428, found = 263.15412.

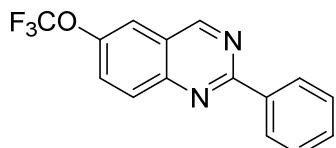
**6-methoxy-2-phenylquinazoline (2e, CAS: 34637-66-6)<sup>[2]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzimidamide (**1e**, 45.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2e** as light yellow solid; yield 75%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.37 (s, 1H), 8.58-8.56 (m, 2H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.15 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 159.3, 158.8, 158.2, 146.9, 138.1, 130.2, 130.1, 128.6, 128.1, 127.2, 124.4, 103.8, 55.7; MS (EI) m/z (%) 236 (100), 221, 193, 106, 63.

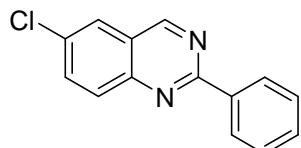
**2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethoxy)quinazoline (2f)**



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)benzimidamide (**1f**, 56.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2f** as light yellow solid; yield 84%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 8.62-8.60 (m, 2H), 8.15-8.13 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.6, 160.3, 149.1, 147.1 (q, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 137.5, 131.2, 131.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 123.5, 121.8, 117.0; MS (EI) m/z (%) 290 (100), 263, 166, 103, 63; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = - 57.90 ppm; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 291.07397, found = 291.07371.

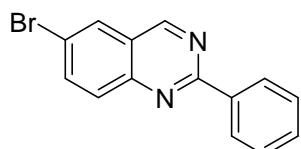
**6-chloro-2-phenylquinazoline (2g, CAS: 580-53-0)<sup>[2]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-*N'*-(4-chlorophenyl)benzimidamide (**1g**, 46.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2g** as light yellow solid; yield 80%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.41(s, 1H), 8.61-8.59 (m, 2H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.85-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.52 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.2, 159.5, 149.2, 137.5, 135.0, 132.7, 130.8, 130.3, 128.7, 128.5, 125.8, 123.9; MS (EI) m/z (%) 240 (100), 213, 178, 120, 75.

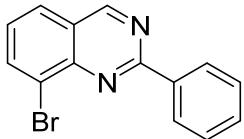
**6-bromo-2-phenylquinazoline (2h)<sup>[4]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-*N'*-(4-bromophenyl)benzimidamide (**1h**, 55.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2h** as light yellow solid; yield 65%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.40 (s, 1H), 8.61-8.59 (m, 2H), 8.10-8.09 (m, 1H), 7.97-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.52 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.2, 159.4, 149.3, 137.6, 137.5, 130.9, 130.4, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 124.4, 120.7; MS (EI) m/z (%) 284 (100), 257, 178, 151, 75.

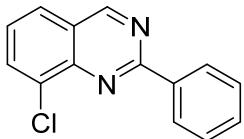
**8-bromo-2-phenylquinazoline (2i)**



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-(2-bromophenyl)benzimidamide (**1i**, 55.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2i** as light yellow solid; yield 65%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 8.73-8.71 (m, 2H), 8.23-8.21 (m, 1H), 7.91-7.89 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.6, 160.9, 148.1, 137.5, 137.4, 131.1, 128.8, 128.7, 127.6, 126.7, 124.7, 124.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 284 (100), 257, 178, 151, 75; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 285.00219, found = 285.00211.

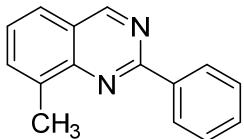
**8-chloro-2-phenylquinazoline (2j, CAS: 58058-52-9)<sup>[5]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-(2-chlorophenyl)benzimidamide (**1j**, 46.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2j** as light yellow solid; yield 68%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.55-9.54 (m, 1H), 8.16-8.13 (m, 1H), 8.03-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.4, 160.7, 147.2, 137.5, 133.9, 133.2, 131.1, 128.8, 128.7, 127.1, 126.0, 124.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 240 (100), 213, 178, 151, 75.

**8-methyl-2-phenylquinazoline (2k, CAS: 58058-51-8)<sup>[3]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-(o-tolyl)benzimidamide (**1k**, 42.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2k** as light yellow solid; yield 91%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.43 (s, 1H), 8.68-8.66 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.48 (m, 4H), 2.87 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.5, 159.8, 149.6, 138.3, 137.1, 133.8, 130.4, 128.6, 128.5, 126.9, 124.8, 123.4, 16.9; MS (EI) m/z (%) 220 (100), 193, 165, 110, 77.

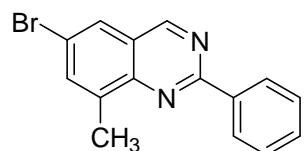
### 6,8-dimethyl-2-phenylquinazoline (2l)



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-N<sup>t</sup>-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)benzimidamide (**1l**, 44.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2l** as light yellow solid; yield 89%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.33 (s, 1H), 8.66-8.63 (m, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 4H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 159.3, 158.6, 148.4, 137.9, 137.2, 136.7, 136.6, 130.4, 128.6, 128.3, 123.6, 123.3, 21.6, 16.8; MS (EI) m/z (%) 234 (100), 206, 165, 103, 77; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 235.12298, found = 235.12278.

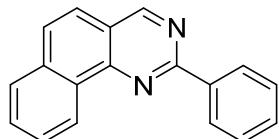
### 6-bromo-8-methyl-2-phenylquinazoline (2m)



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-N<sup>t</sup>-(4-bromo-2-methylphenyl)benzimidamide (**1m**, 57.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2m** as light yellow solid; yield 76%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.34 (s, 1H), 8.65-8.63 (m, 2H), 7.91-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.82-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 3H), 2.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.1, 159.4, 148.9, 139.6, 137.9, 137.0, 130.7, 128.6, 128.5, 126.8, 124.4, 120.4, 16.7; MS (EI) m/z (%) 298 (100), 192, 165, 89, 63; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 299.01784, found = 299.01812.

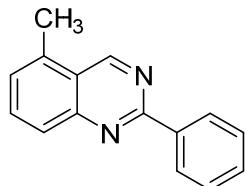
**2-phenylbenzo[*h*]quinazoline (2n, CAS: 88737-72-8)<sup>[4]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-(naphthalen-1-yl)benzimidamide (**1n**, 49.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2n** as light yellow solid; yield 94%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  9.47-9.42 (m, 2H), 8.78-8.75 (m, 2H), 7.96-7.94 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.74 (m, 4H), 7.61-7.52 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  161.0, 158.5, 150.8, 138.2, 135.5, 130.6, 130.3, 130.2, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.4, 124.9, 122.9, 121.4; MS (EI) m/z (%) 256 (100), 229, 152, 126, 76.

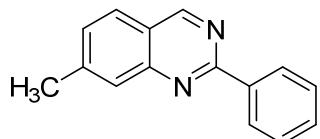
**7-methyl-2-phenylquinazoline (2o)**



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-(naphthalen-1-yl)benzimidamide (**1o**, 42.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2o** as light yellow solid; yield 58%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  9.67-9.67 (m, 1H), 8.63-8.60 (m, 2H), 7.94-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.79-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.38 (m, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  160.6, 157.5, 151.2, 138.0, 135.4, 133.9, 130.5, 128.6, 128.5, 127.8, 126.8, 122.7, 17.5; MS (EI) m/z (%) 220 (100), 193, 165, 110, 77; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 221.10732, found = 221.10700.

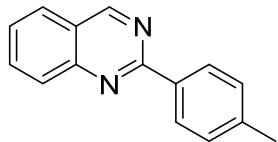
**5-methyl-2-phenylquinazoline (2o', CAS: 1600535-89-4)<sup>[6]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-N'-(naphthalen-1-yl)benzimidamide (**1o**, 42.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2o'** as light yellow solid; yield 20%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.39 (s, 1H), 8.61-8.59 (m, 2H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.43 d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.1, 159.9, 151.1, 145.2, 138.2, 130.5, 129.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.6, 126.8, 121.9, 22.4; MS (EI) m/z (%) 220 (100), 193, 165, 110, 77.

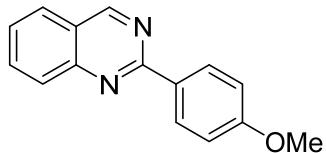
**2-(*p*-tolyl)quinazoline (**2p**)<sup>[2]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-4-methyl-N'-phenylbenzimidamide (**1p**, 42.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2p** as light yellow solid; yield 86%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.45 (s, 1H), 8.52-8.50 (m, 2H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.1, 160.4, 150.7, 140.8, 135.3, 134.0, 129.4, 128.5, 127.1, 127.0, 123.4, 21.5; MS (EI) m/z (%) 220 (100), 193, 165, 89, 76.

**2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinazoline (**2q**, CAS: 67205-04-3)<sup>[2]</sup>**

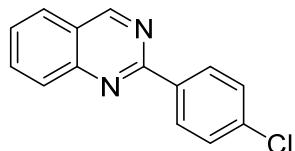


The reaction was conducted with (Z)-4-methoxy-N'-phenylbenzimidamide (**1q**, 45.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2q** as light yellow solid; yield 61%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.8, 160.8, 160.4, 150.7, 134.0, 130.6, 130.2, 128.3, 127.1, 126.8, 123.3, 113.9, 55.4; MS (EI) m/z (%) 236 (100), 209, 169, 103, 76.

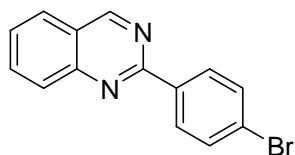
**2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinazoline (2r)<sup>[2]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-4-chloro-N'-phenylbenzimidamide (**1r**, 46.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2r** as light yellow solid; yield 88%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 8.60-8.57 (m, 2H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.5, 160.0, 150.6, 136.8, 136.4, 134.3, 129.8, 128.8, 128.5, 127.4, 127.1, 123.5; MS (EI) m/z (%) 240 (100), 213, 178, 102, 76.

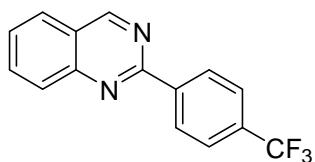
**2-(4-bromophenyl)quinazoline (2s, CAS: 1222094-28-1)<sup>[2]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-4-bromo-N'-phenylbenzimidamide (**1s**, 55.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2s** as light yellow solid; yield 85%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 8.53-8.51 (m, 2H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.63 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.5, 160.1, 150.7, 136.9, 134.3, 131.8, 130.1, 128.6, 127.5, 127.1, 125.4, 123.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 284 (100), 257, 178, 102, 76.

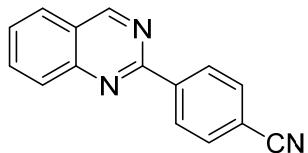
**2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)quinazoline (2t, CAS:1208258-10-2)<sup>[7]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-phenyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzimidamide (**1t**, 52.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2t** as light yellow solid; yield 90%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.51 (s, 1H), 8.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.99-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.6, 159.6, 150.6, 141.3, 134.4, 134.4, 132.1 (q, *J* = 32.1 Hz), 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 127.2, 125.5 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.8; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = -62.67 ppm; MS (EI) m/z (%) 274 (100), 247, 178, 102, 76.

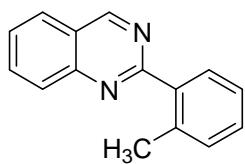
#### 4-(quinazolin-2-yl)benzonitrile (**2u**)



The reaction was conducted with (*Z*)-*N'*-phenyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzimidamide (**1u**, 44.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2u** as light yellow solid; yield 66%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.53 (s, 1H), 8.79-8.77 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.02-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.85-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.7, 159.1, 150.6, 142.1, 134.5, 132.4, 129.0, 128.8, 128.2, 127.2, 123.8, 118.9, 113.8; MS (EI) m/z (%) 231 (100), 204, 177, 102, 76; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 232.08692, found = 232.08693.

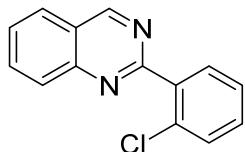
#### 2-(o-tolyl)quinazoline (**2v**, CAS: 1208259-15-7)<sup>[2]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-2-methyl-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1v**, 42.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2v** as light yellow solid; yield 60%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.51-9.51 (m, 1H), 8.11-8.09 (m, 1H), 7.98-7.89 (m, 3H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.35 (m, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 164.0, 160.1, 150.3, 138.5, 137.3, 134.1, 131.3, 130.6, 129.3, 128.5, 127.5, 127.0, 126.0, 122.9, 21.0; MS (EI) m/z (%) 220 (100), 190, 165, 89, 77.

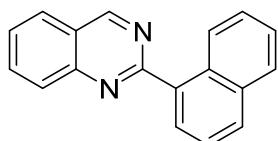
**2-(2-chlorophenyl)quinazoline (2w, CAS: 1353000-32-4)<sup>[7]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-2-methyl-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1w**, 46.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2w** as light yellow solid; yield 50%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.54-9.54 (m, 1H), 8.16-8.13 (m, 1H), 8.02-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 161.9, 160.2, 150.3, 138.2, 134.4, 132.9, 131.8, 130.5, 130.3, 128.6, 128.0, 127.1, 126.9, 123.2; MS (EI) m/z (%) 240, 205 (100), 178, 102, 76.

**2-(naphthalen-1-yl)quinazoline (2x, CAS: 93656-11-2)<sup>[2]</sup>**

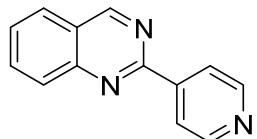


The reaction was conducted with (Z)-2-methyl-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1x**, 49.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2x** as light yellow solid; yield 75%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.61 (s, 1H), 8.70-8.68 (m, 1H), 8.20-8.16 (m, 2H), 8.05-7.93

(m, 4H), 7.74-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  163.4, 160.4, 150.5, 136.3, 134.3, 134.1, 131.1, 130.4, 129.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 127.1, 126.8, 125.9, 125.8, 125.3, 123.1; MS (EI) m/z (%) 255 (100), 228, 201, 153, 77.

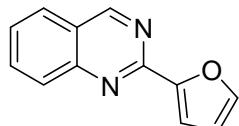
**2-(pyridin-4-yl)quinazoline (2y, CAS: 1208259-13-5)<sup>[7]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-2-methyl-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1y**, 39.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2y** as light yellow solid; yield 92%.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  9.53 (s, 1H), 8.82 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.49-8.48 (m, 2H), 8.16-8.14 (m, 1H), 8.01-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  160.7, 158.9, 150.5, 150.4, 145.3, 134.5, 128.8, 128.3, 127.1, 124.1, 122.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 207 (100), 179, 153, 129, 76.

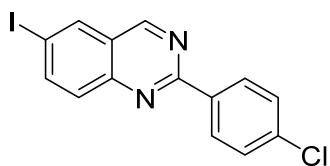
**2-(furan-2-yl)quinazoline (2z)<sup>[2]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-2-methyl-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1z**, 37.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2z** as light yellow solid; yield 62%.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  9.40-9.37 (m, 1H), 8.14-8.08 (m, 1H), 7.94-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 6.64-6.62 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  160.7, 154.1, 152.5, 150.4, 145.3, 134.4, 128.3, 127.2, 123.3, 114.0, 112.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 196 (100), 168, 140, 98, 76.

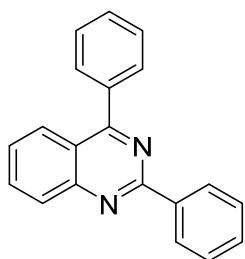
**2-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-iodoquinazoline (2aa)**



The reaction was conducted with (Z)-4-chloro-*N'*-(4-iodophenyl)benzimidamide (**1aa**, 71.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2aa** as light yellow solid; yield 80%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 9.36 (s, 1H), 8.57-8.54 (m, 2H), 8.32-8.32 (m, 1H), 8.15-8.12 (m, 1H), 7.82-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.3, 159.2, 149.7, 143.0, 137.2, 136.1, 135.9, 130.2, 129.9, 128.9, 125.0, 92.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 366 (100), 339, 212, 102, 75; HRMS calcd. for: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ClI[M] = 366.94935, found = 366.94911.

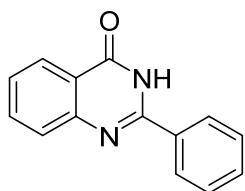
**2,4-diphenylquinazoline (2ab, CAS: 31730-65-1)<sup>[8]</sup>**



A 10 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with BF<sub>3</sub> · Et<sub>2</sub>O (2.5 uL, 0.01 mmol), (Z)-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1a**, 39.3, 0.2 mmol), benzaldehyde (31.8 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DMSO (0.8 mL). The resulting solution was sealed under O<sub>2</sub> and stirred at 140 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **2ab** as light yellow solid; yield 62%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.71-8.69 (m, 2H), 8.17-8.11 (m, 2H), 7.90-7.86 (m, 3H), 7.61-7.49 (m, 7H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 168.4, 160.3, 152.0, 138.3, 137.7, 133.6, 130.5, 130.2, 130.0, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 127.0, 121.7; MS (EI) m/z (%) 282 (100), 205, 179, 103, 76.

**2-phenylquinazolin-4(3*H*)-one (3a, CAS: 1022-45-3)<sup>[2]</sup>**



A 10 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with **2a** (20.6 mg, 0.1 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (6.8 mg, 0.2 mmol). The reaction vessel was purged three times with O<sub>2</sub>, and HOAc (0.5 mL) was added to the sealed reaction vessel by syringe. The resulting solution was stirred at 55 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5 : 1) to give **3a** as pale yellow solid; yield: 21.1 mg (95%).

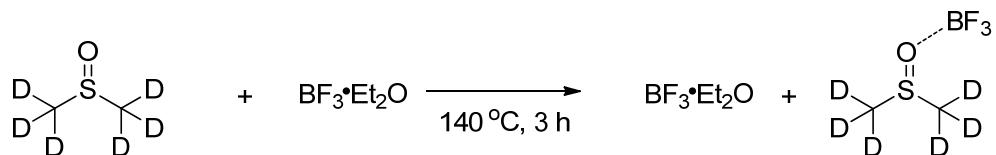
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 11.11 (s, 1H), 8.35-8.32 (m, 1H), 8.22-8.20 (m, 2H), 7.89-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 164.0, 151.8, 149.5, 149.5, 134.9, 132.8, 131.6, 129.0, 128.0, 127.5, 126.8, 126.3, 120.8; MS (EI) m/z (%) 222, 178, 119 (100), 92, 77.

## Reference

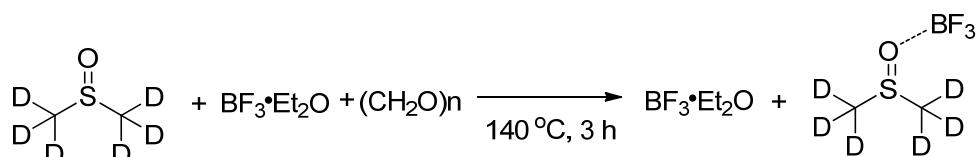
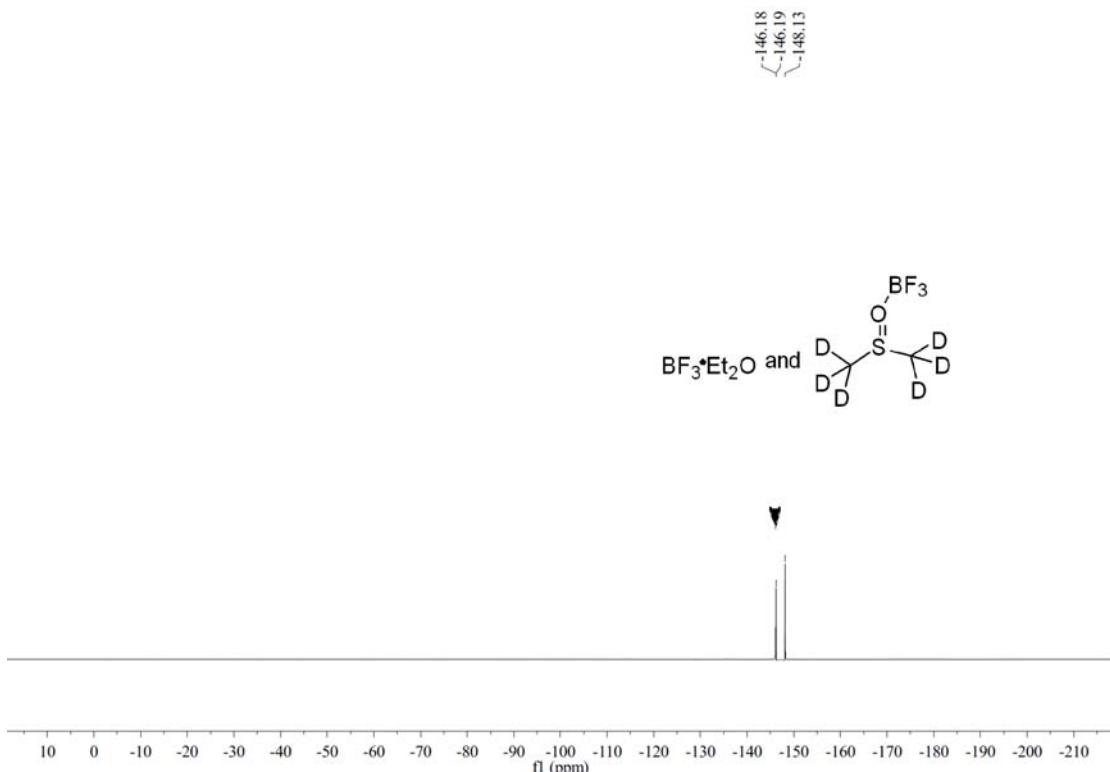
1. Velavan; Sumathi; Balasubramanian. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2014**, 2014, 5806
2. Wang, H. M.; Chen, H.; Chen, Y.; Deng, G. *J. Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2014**, 12, 7792.
3. Chen, Z. Y.; Chen, J. X.; Liu, M. C.; Ding, J. C.; Gao, W. X.; Huang, X. B.; Wu, H. Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, 78, 11342.
4. Lv, Y. H.; Li, Y.; Xiong, T.; Pu, W. Y.; Zhang, H. W.; Sun, K.; Liu, Q.; Zhang, Q. *Chem. Commun.* **2013**, 49, 6439.
5. Gilchrist et al. *Journal of the chemical society, Perkin Transactions 1: Organic and Bio-Organic Chemistry* (1972-1999), **1975**, 1969.
6. Omar, M. A.; Conrad, J.; Beifuss, U. *Tetrahedron* **2014**, 70, 3061.
7. Fan, X.; Li, B.; Guo, S. H.; Wang, Y. Y.; Zhang, X. Y. *Chem. Asian J.* **2014**, 9, 739.
8. Su, X.; Chen, C.; Wang, Y.; Chen, J. J.; Lou, Z. B.; Li, M. *Chem. Commun.* **2013**, 49, 6752.

## Control experiments

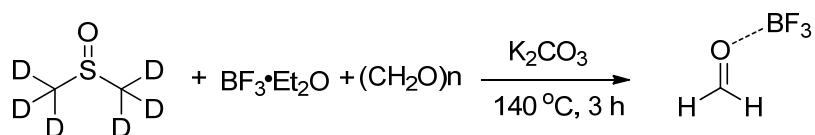
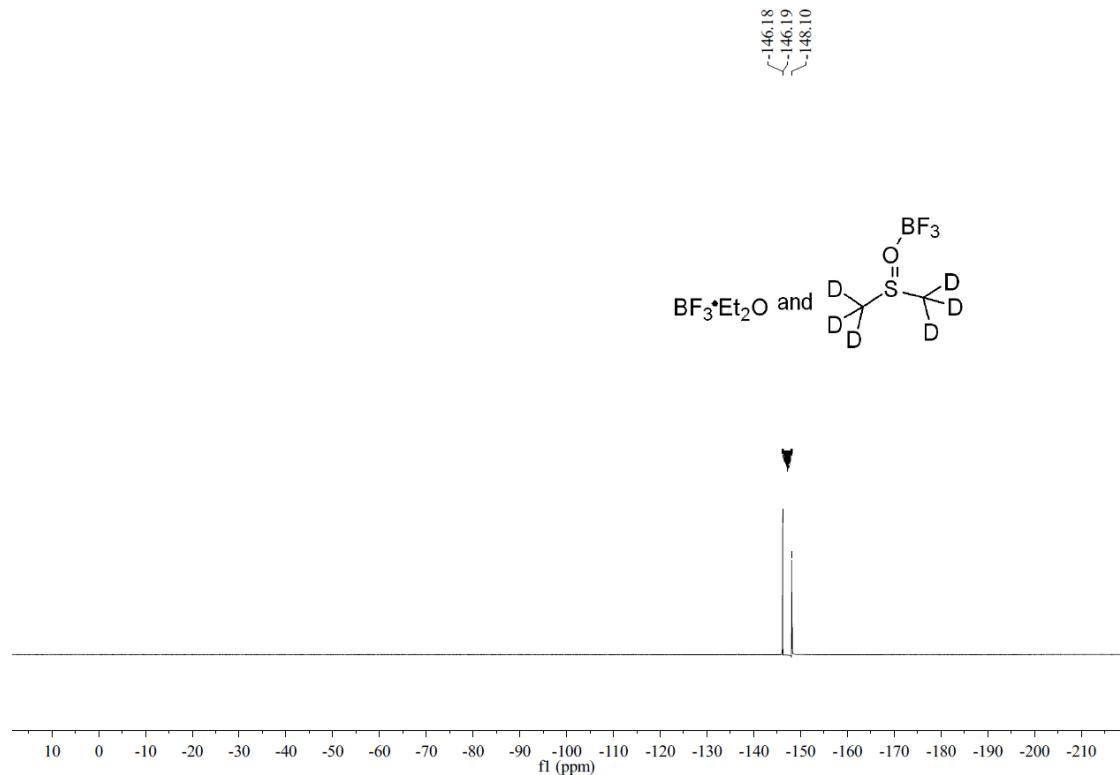
### (1) Base effects of paraformaldehyde



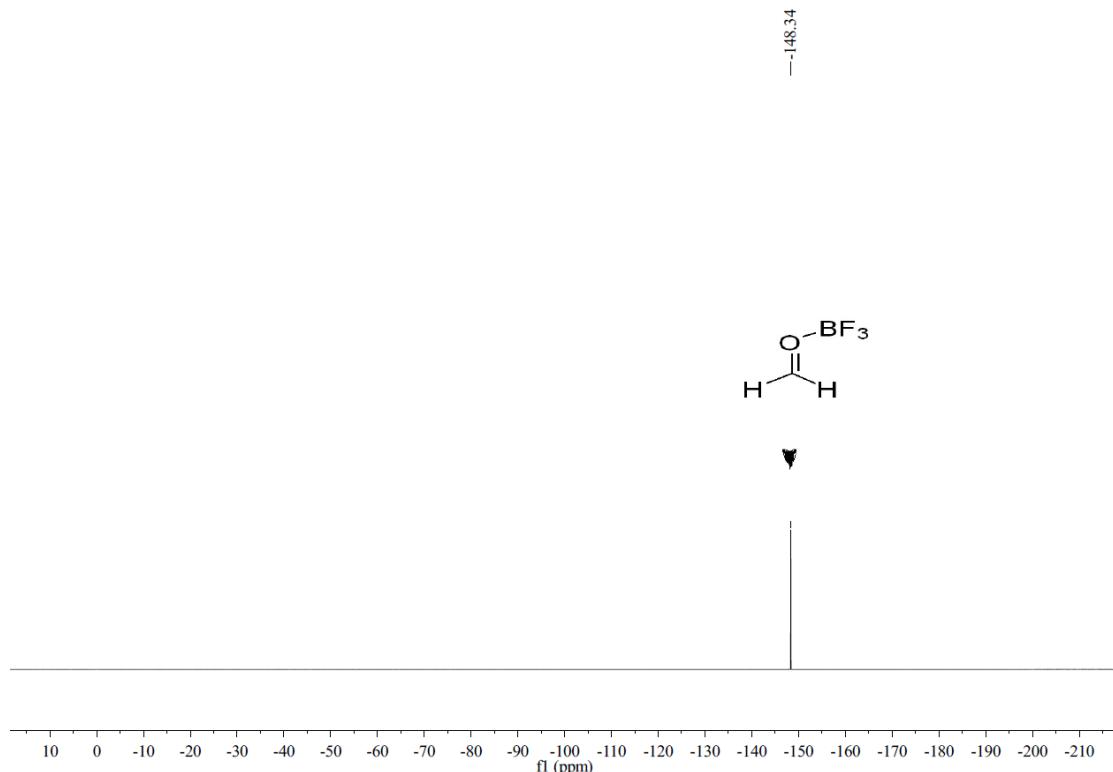
Reaction conditions: A 10 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (0.2 mmol, 28.4 mg) and DMSO-D6 (0.4 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at 140 °C for 3 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the crude reaction mixture was detected on the base of  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR, the result was shown below.



Reaction conditions: A 10 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (0.2 mmol, 28.4 mg), paraformaldehyde (0.6 mmol, 18 mg) and DMSO-D6 (0.4 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at 140 °C for 3 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the crude reaction mixture was detected on the base of  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR, the result was shown below.



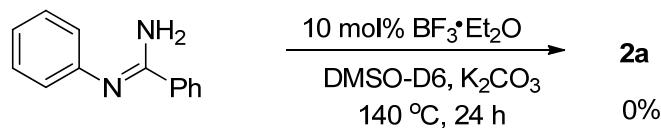
Reaction conditions: A 10 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (0.2 mmol, 28.4 mg), paraformaldehyde (0.6 mmol, 18 mg),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.2 mmol, 27.6 mg) and DMSO-D6 (0.4 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at 140 °C for 3 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the crude reaction mixture was detected on the base of  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR, the result was shown below.



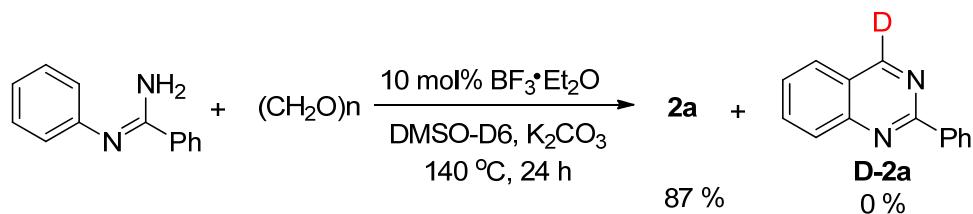
These results showed that  $K_2CO_3$  played a role, as promoting paraformaldehyde to formaldehyde.

## (2) The elucidation of the carbon source

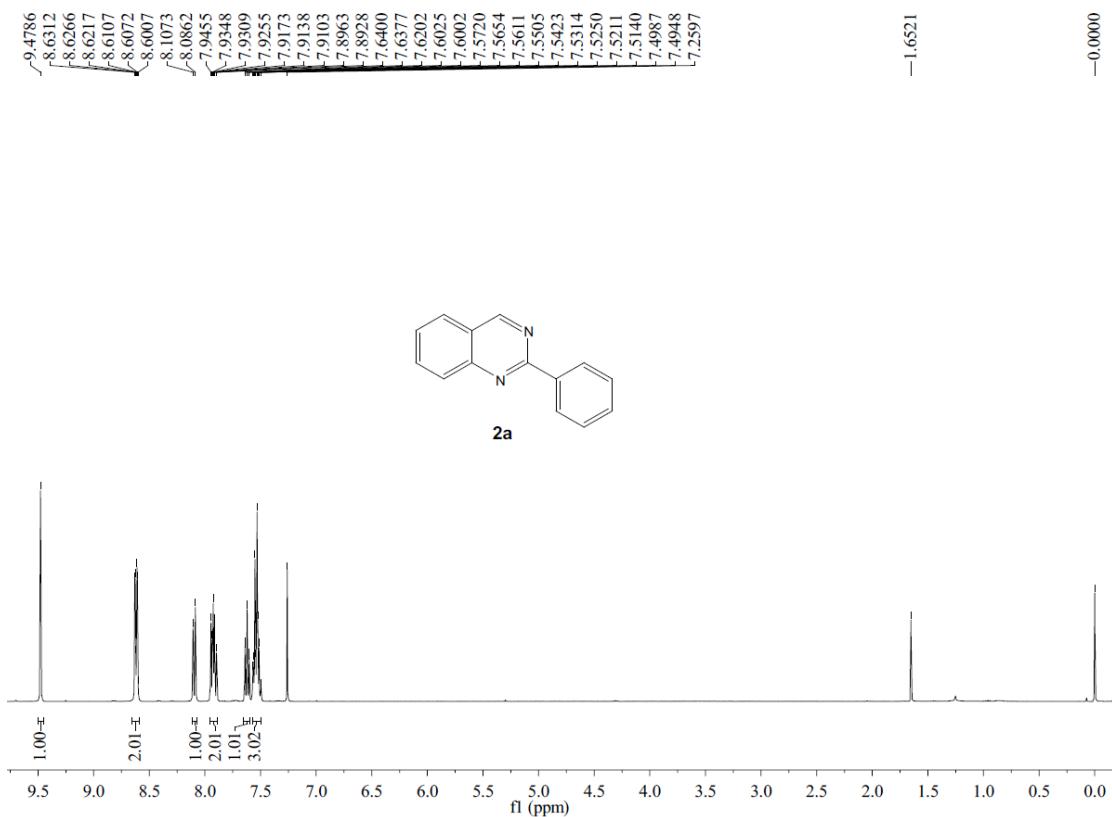
$BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$  (2.5  $\mu$ L, 0.01 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), (*Z*)-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1a**, 39.3, 0.2 mmol) and DMSO-D6 (0.5 mL) was sealed under  $O_2$  and stirred at 140  $^{\circ}C$  for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, **2a** was not detected by GC-MS and materials were all recovered.

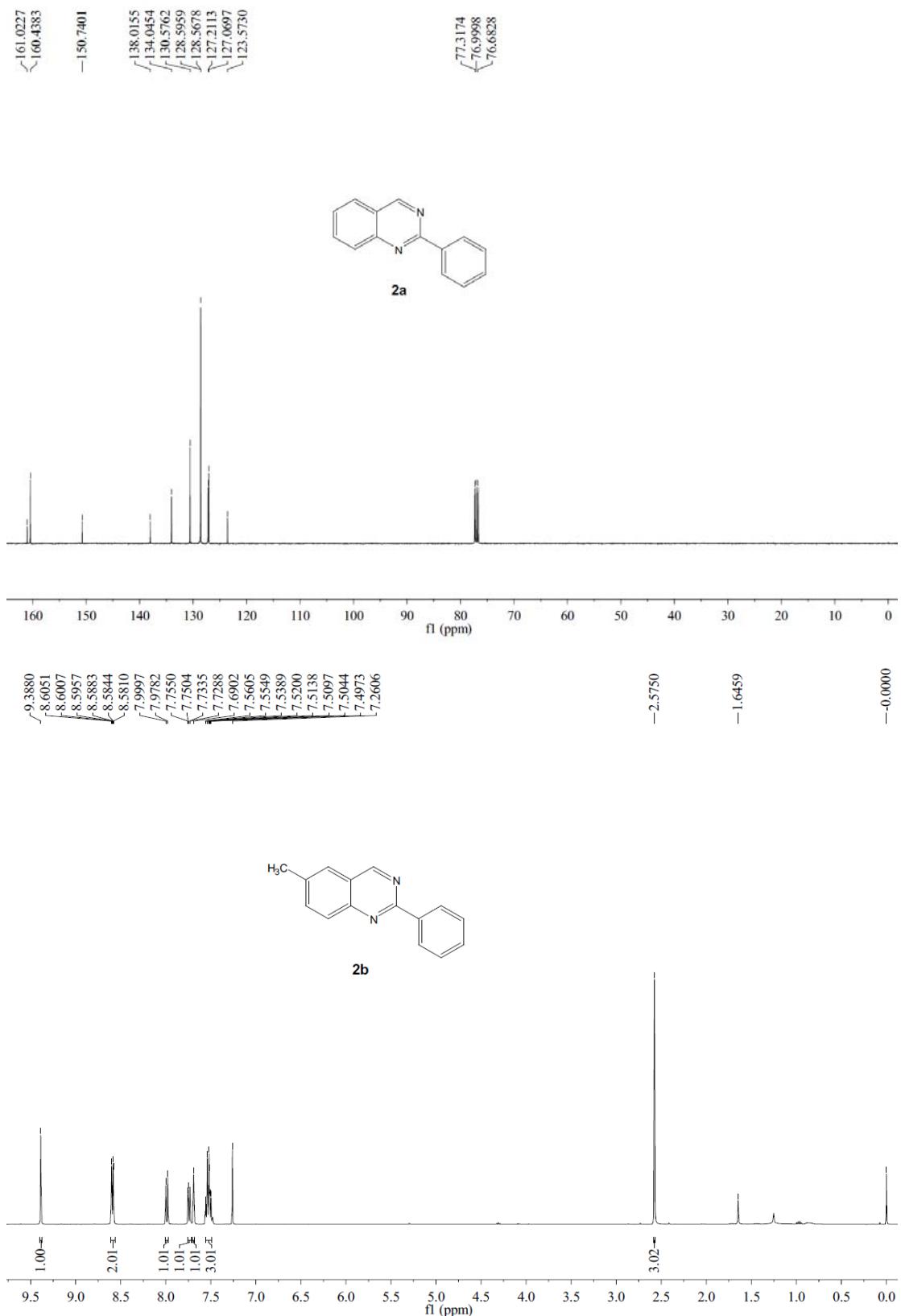


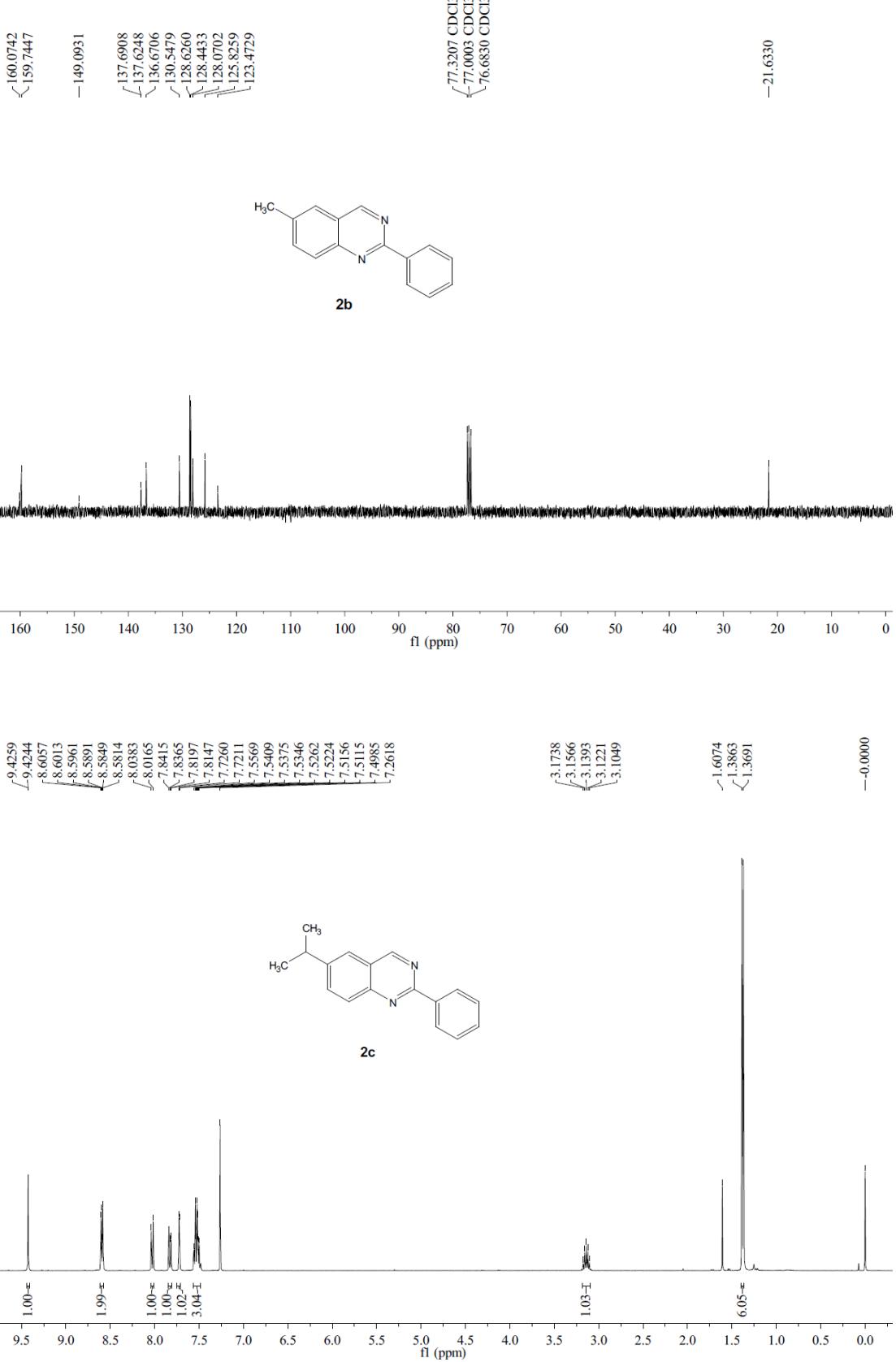
$BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$  (2.5  $\mu$ L, 0.01 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), (*Z*)-*N'*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1a**, 39.3, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol) and DMSO-D6 (0.5 mL) was sealed under  $O_2$  and stirred at 140  $^{\circ}C$  for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, **2a** was detected by GC-MS in 87% yield and the deuterated product **D-2a** was not detected.

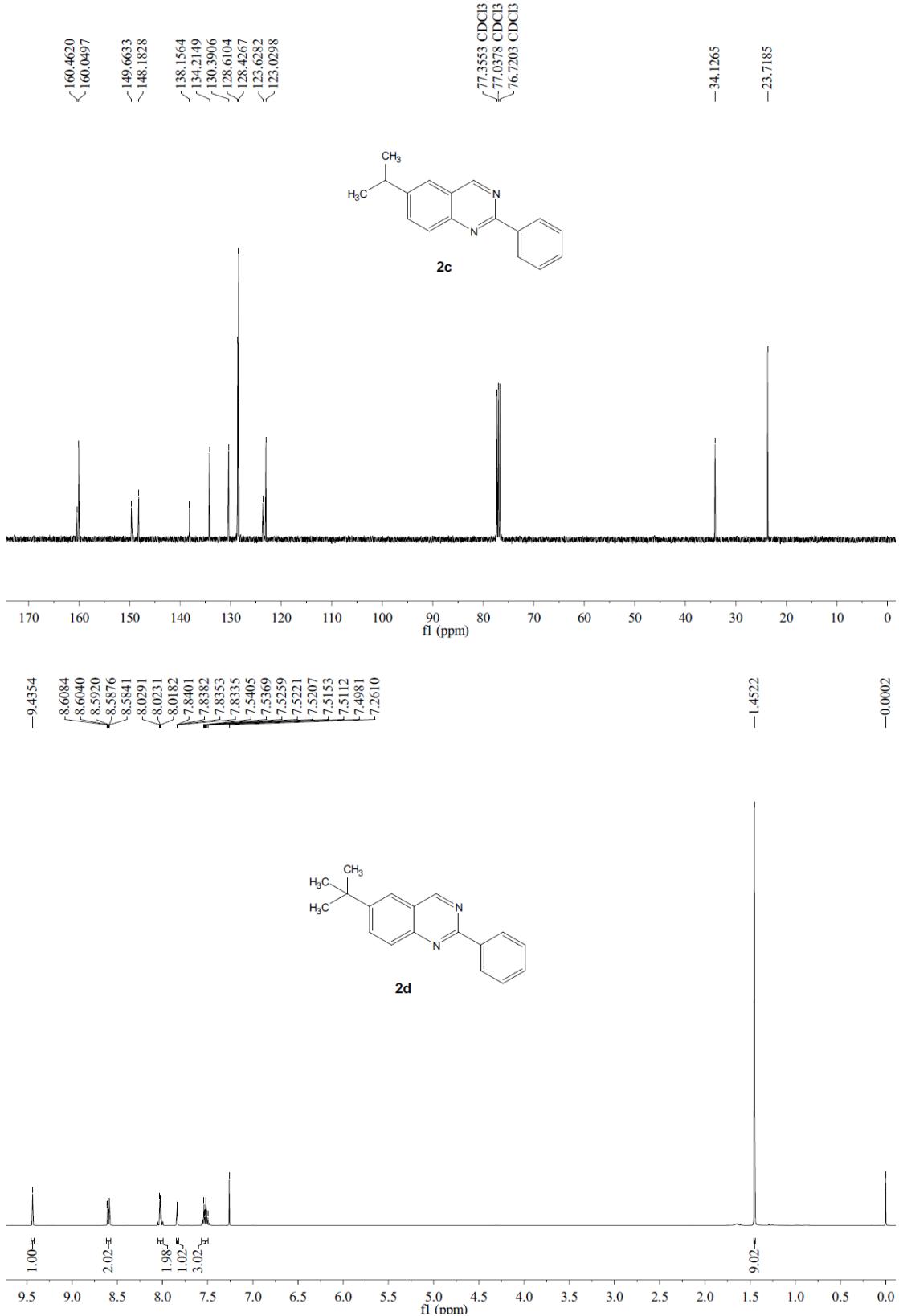


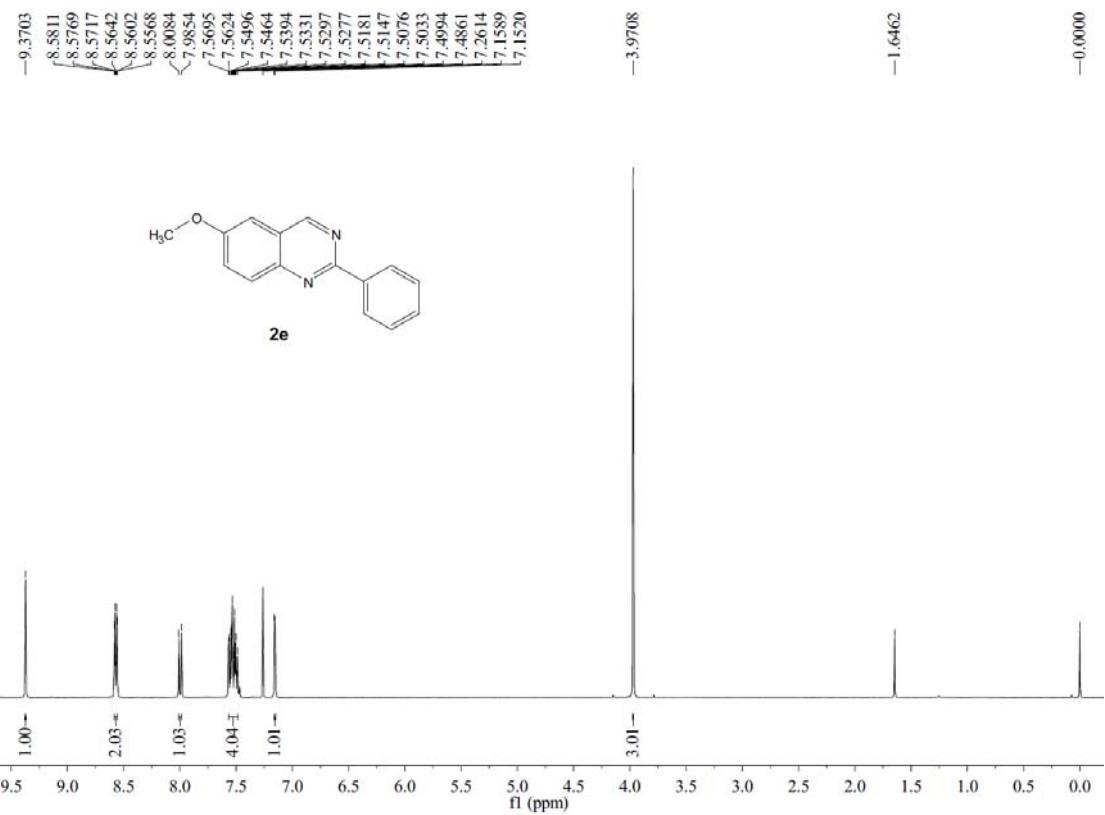
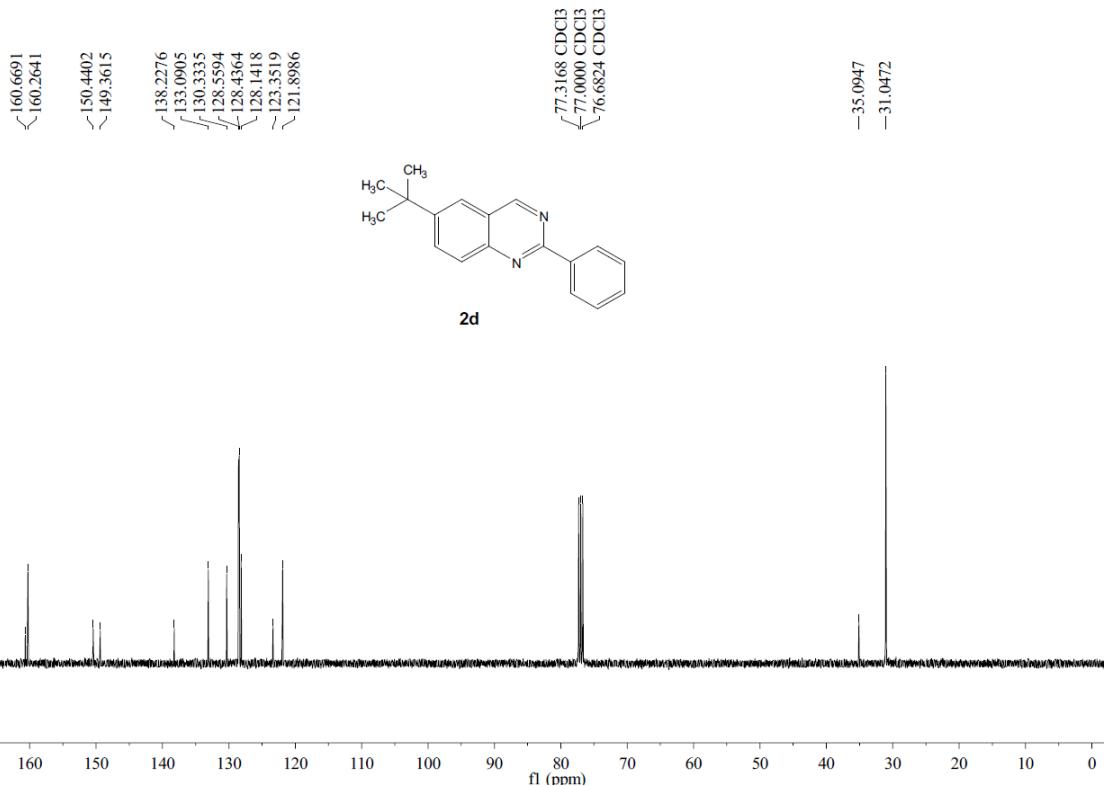
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for all products**

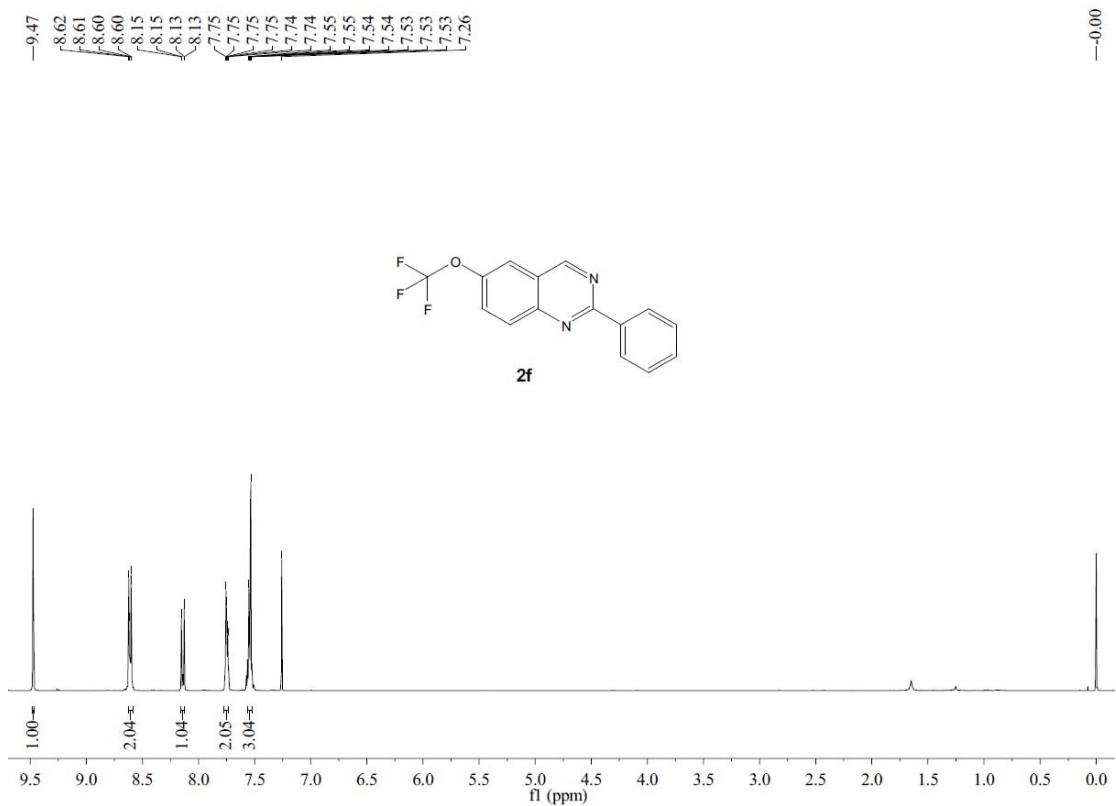
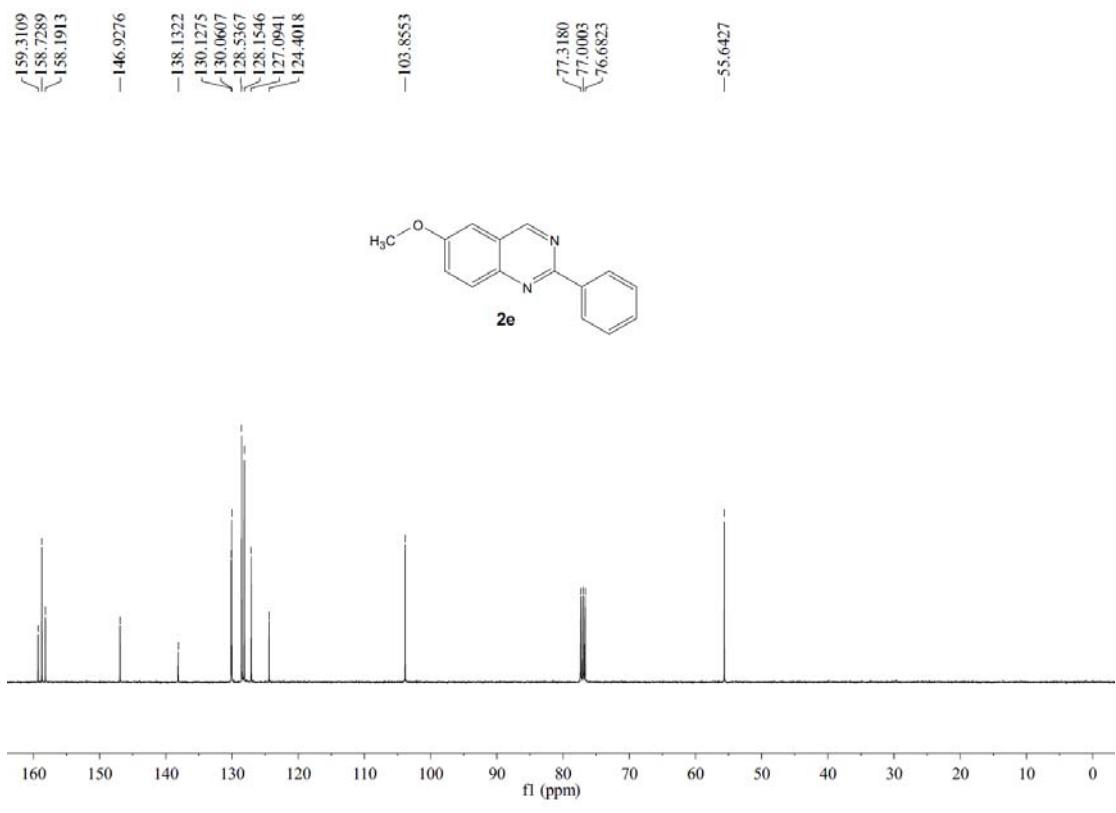


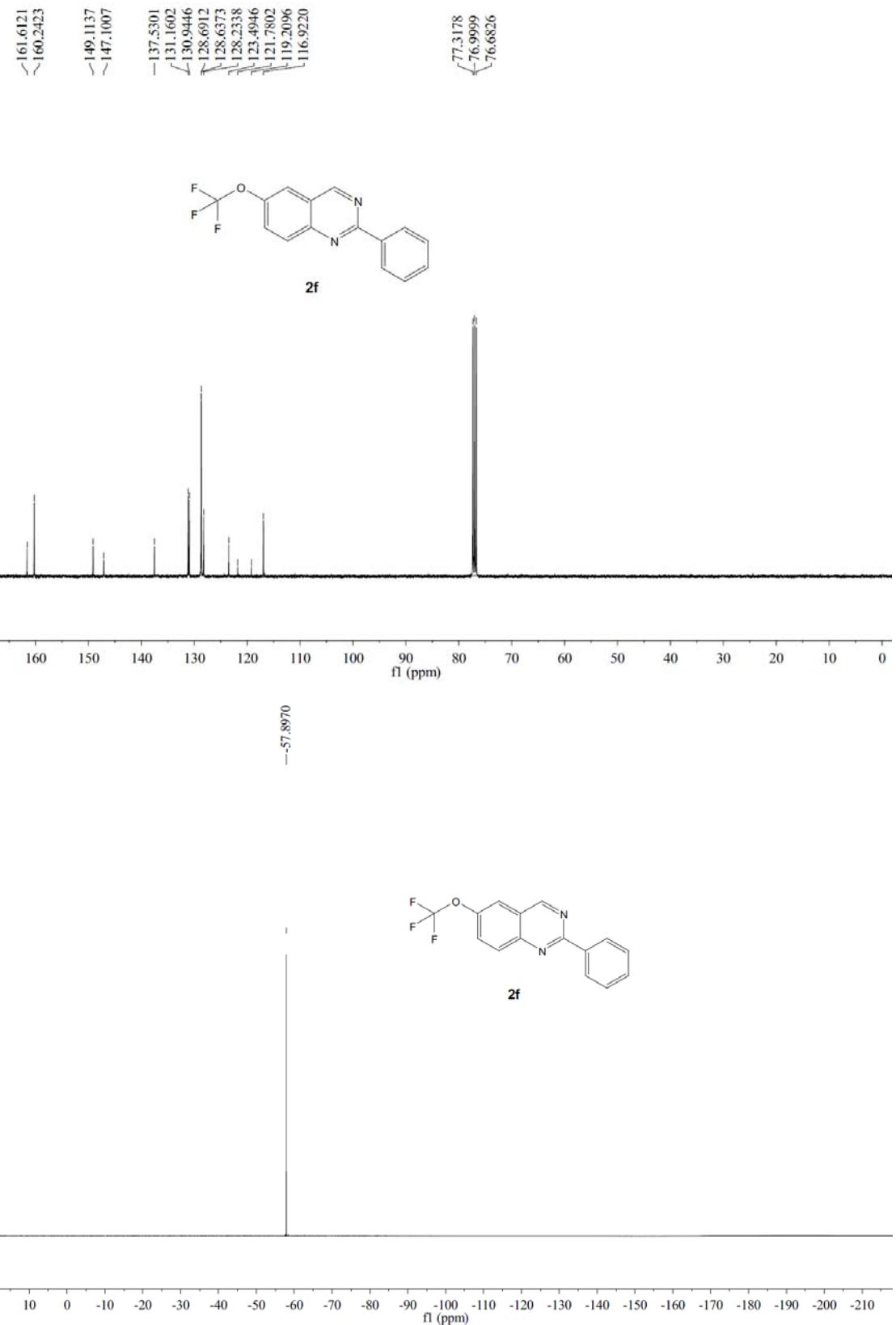


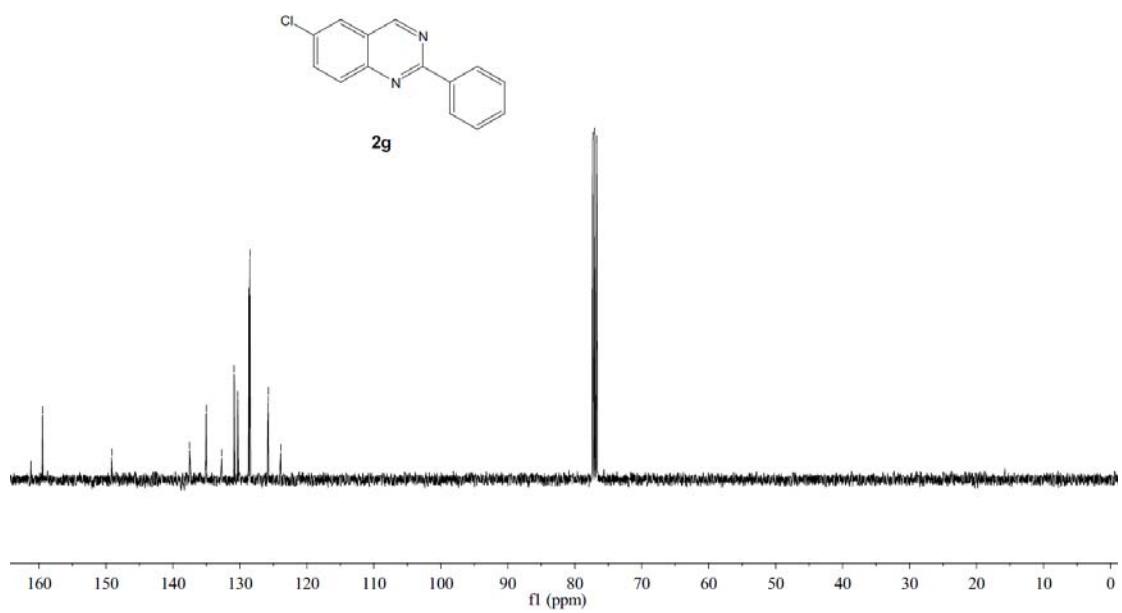
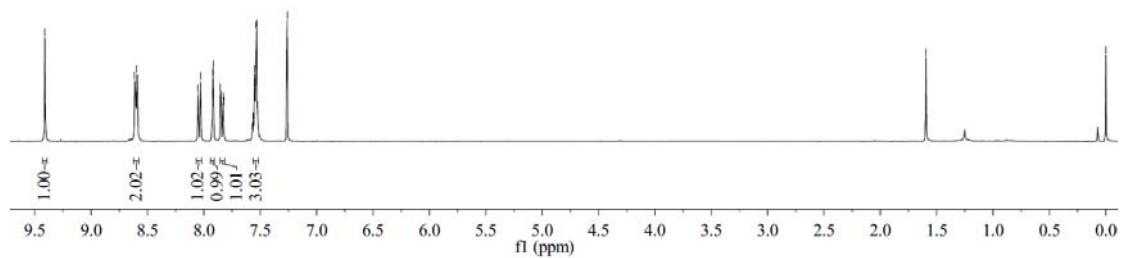


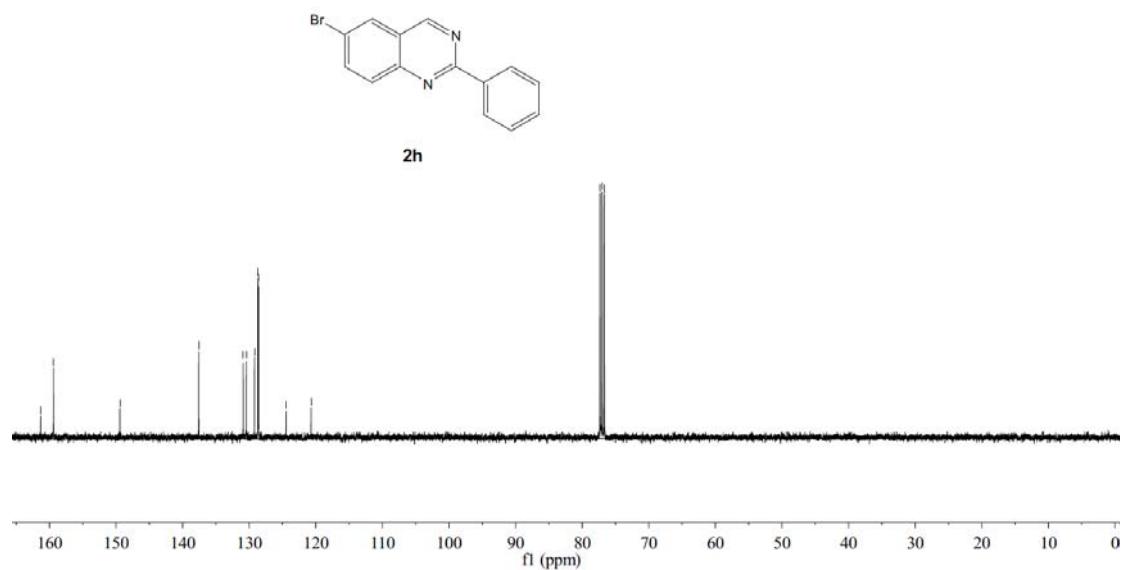
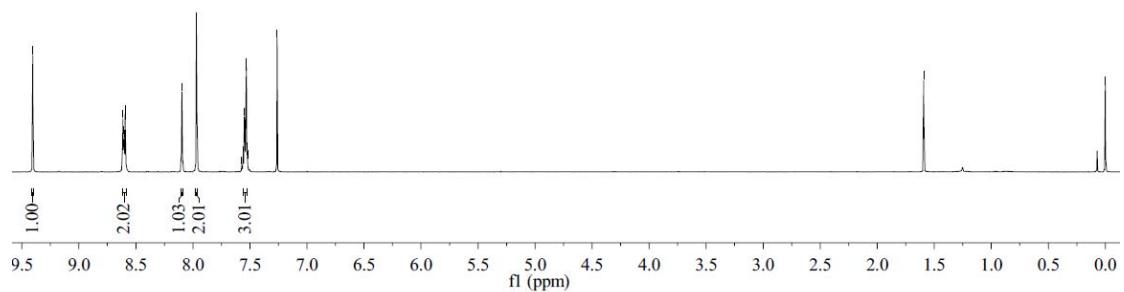


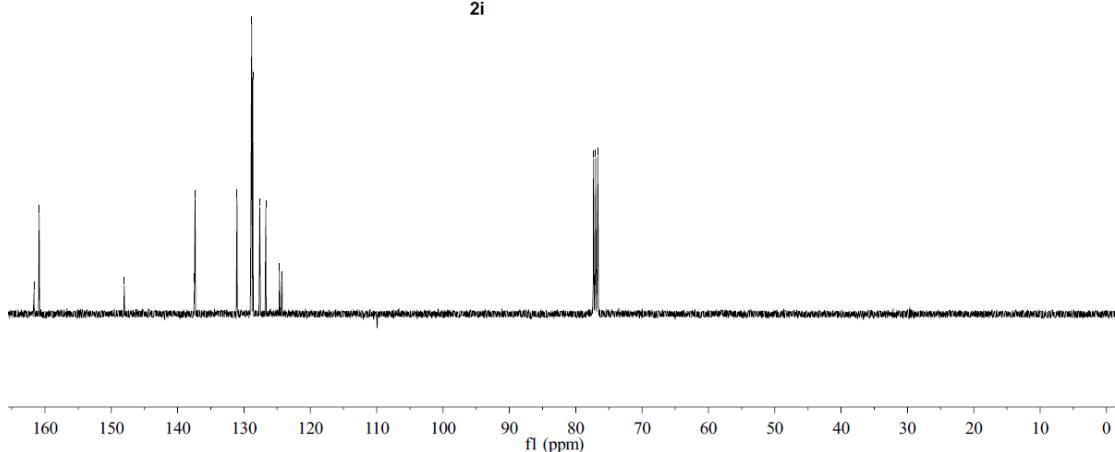
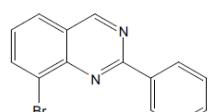
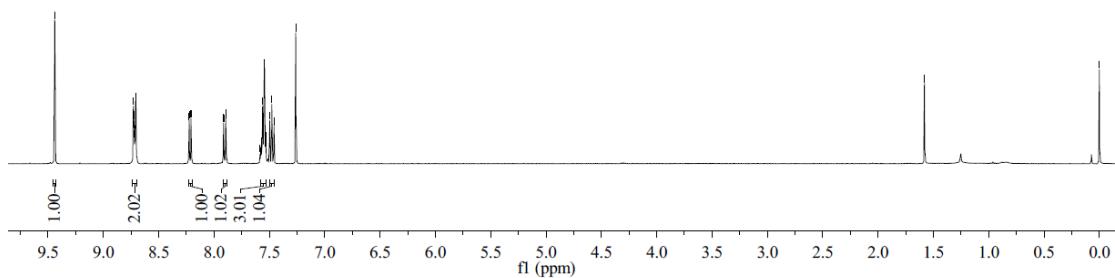
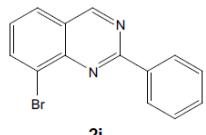
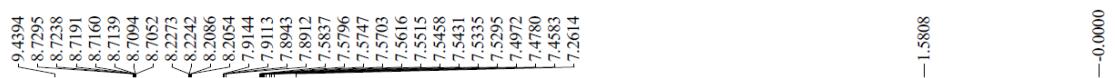


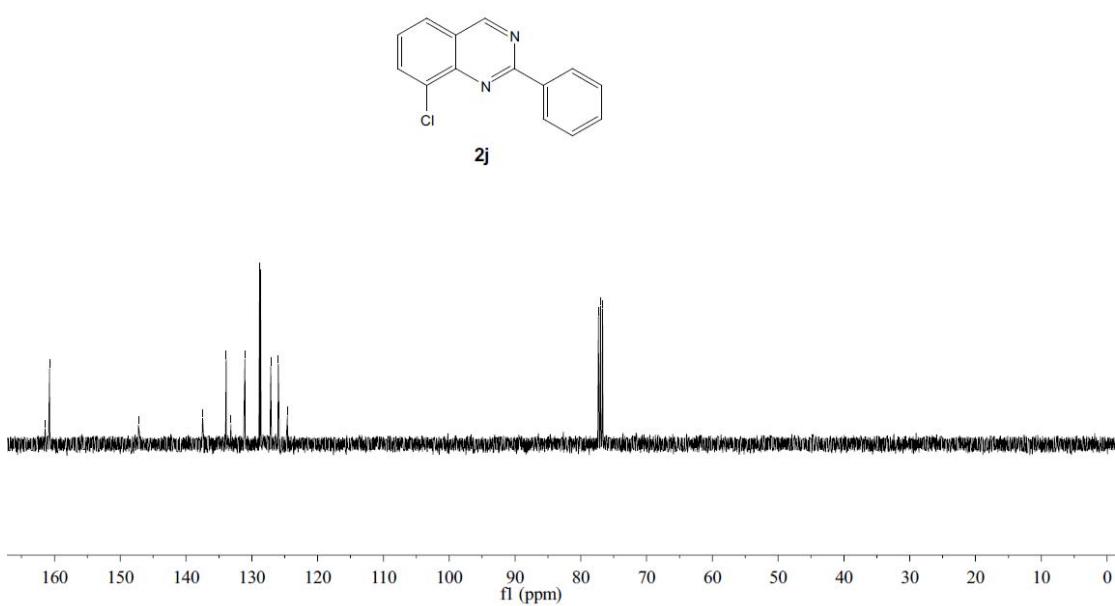
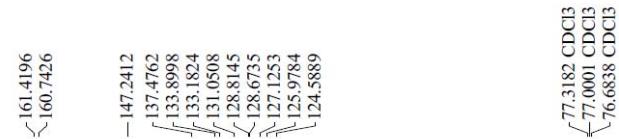
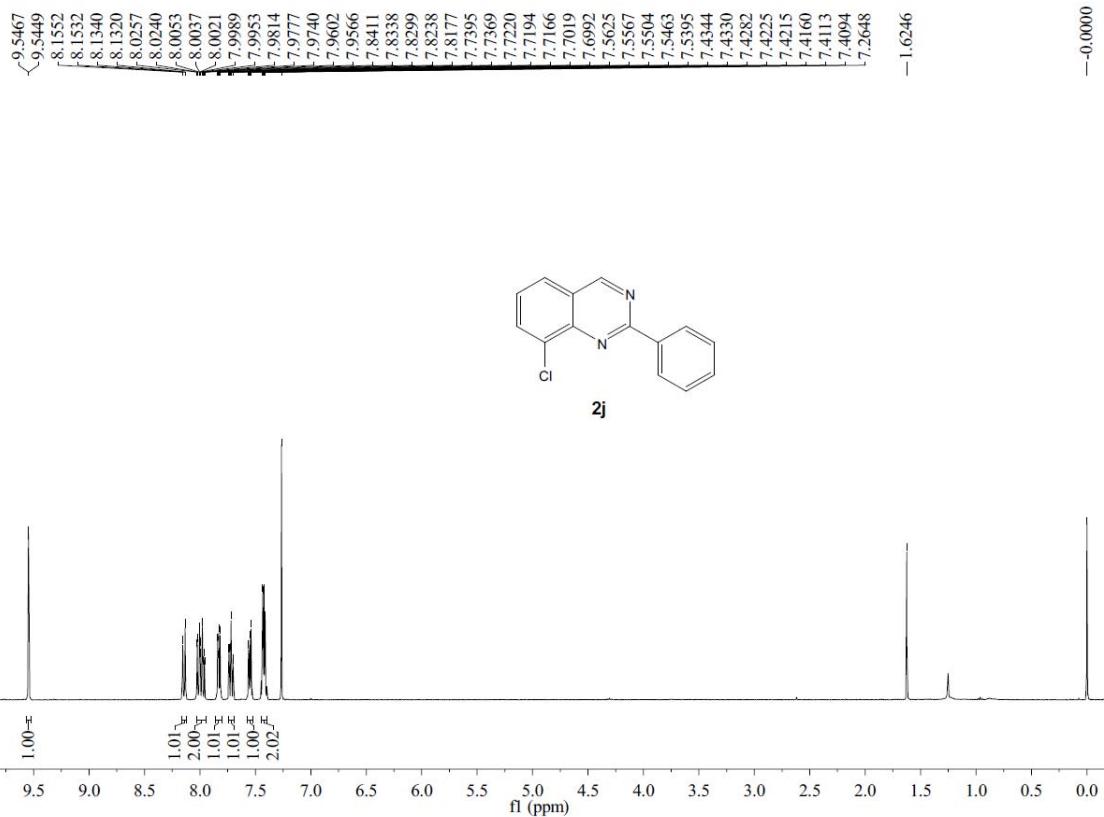


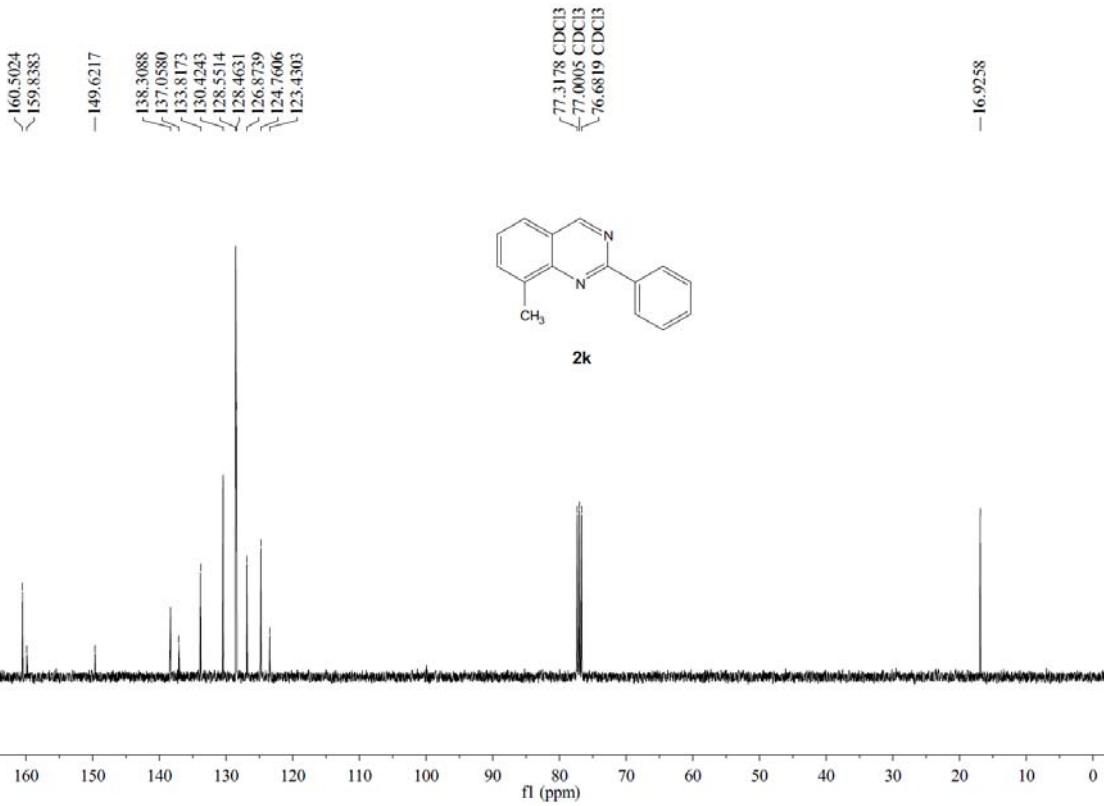
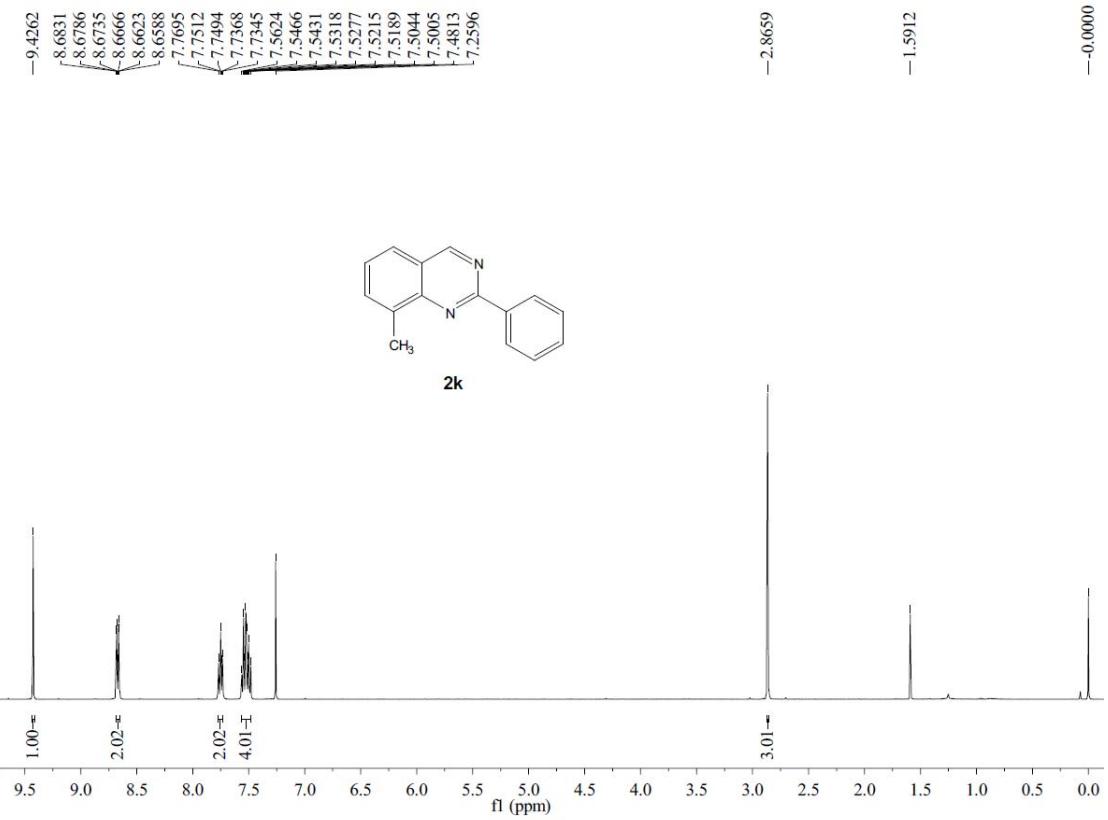


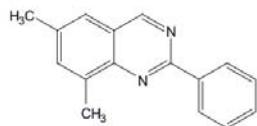




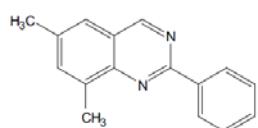
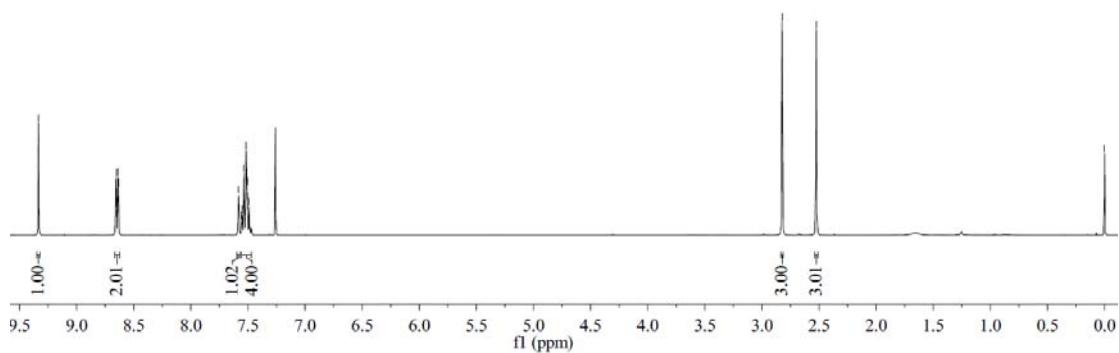




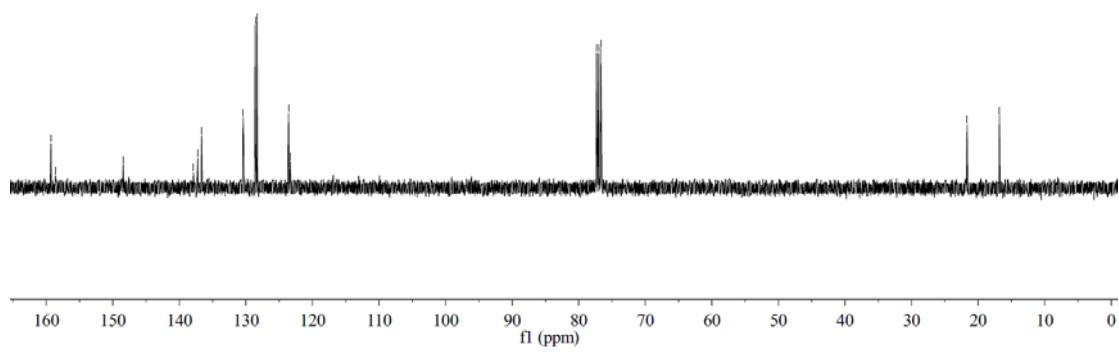


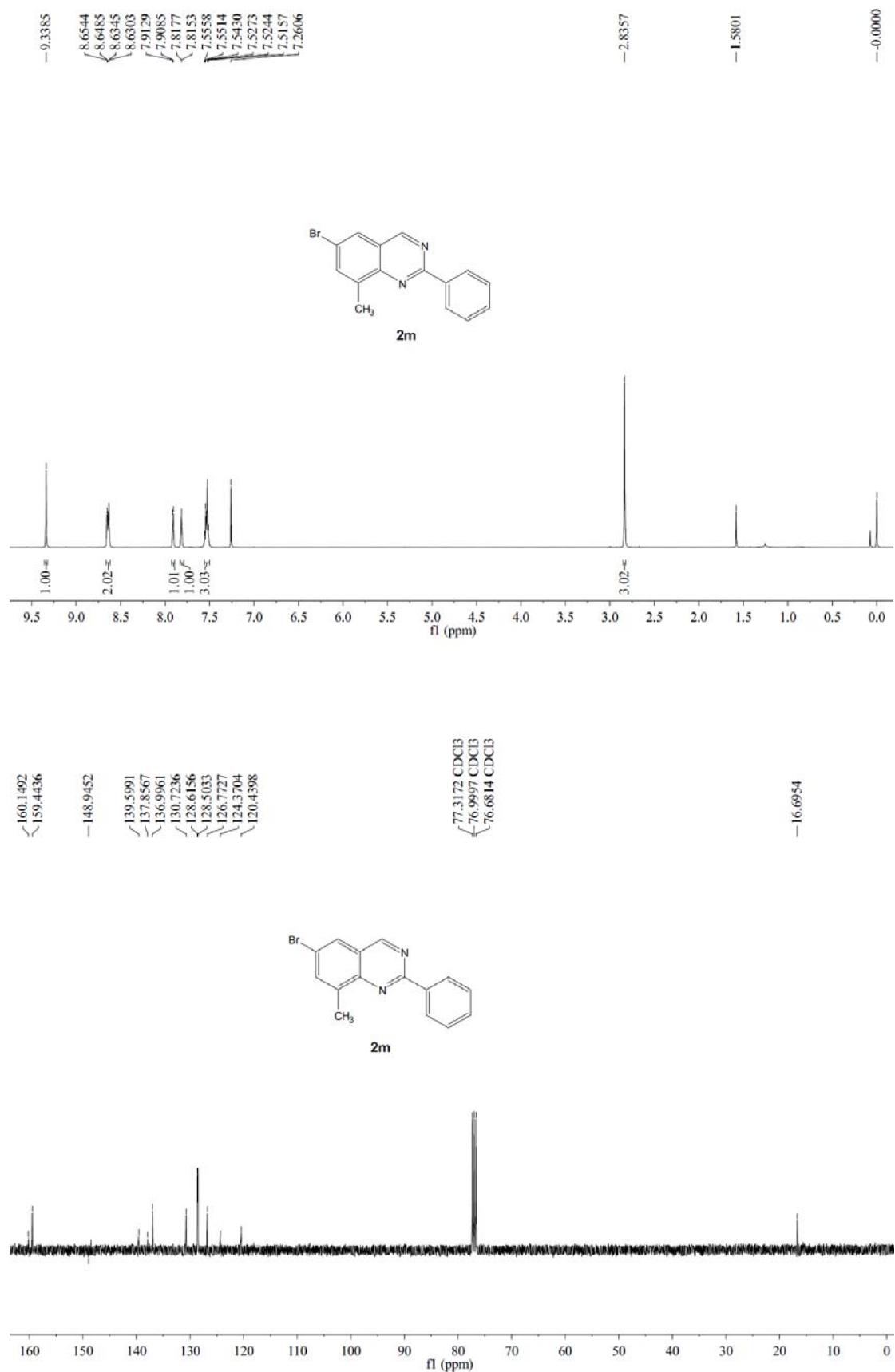


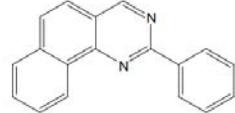
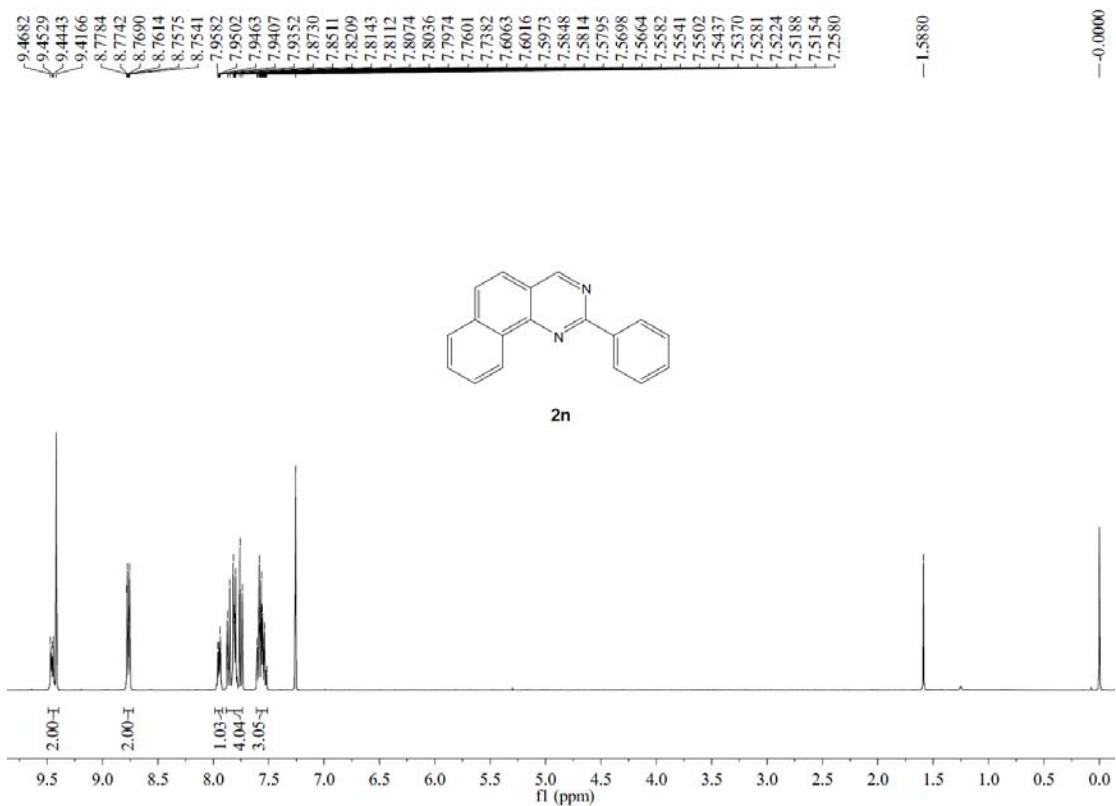
21



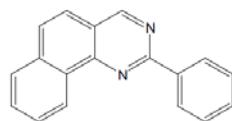
21



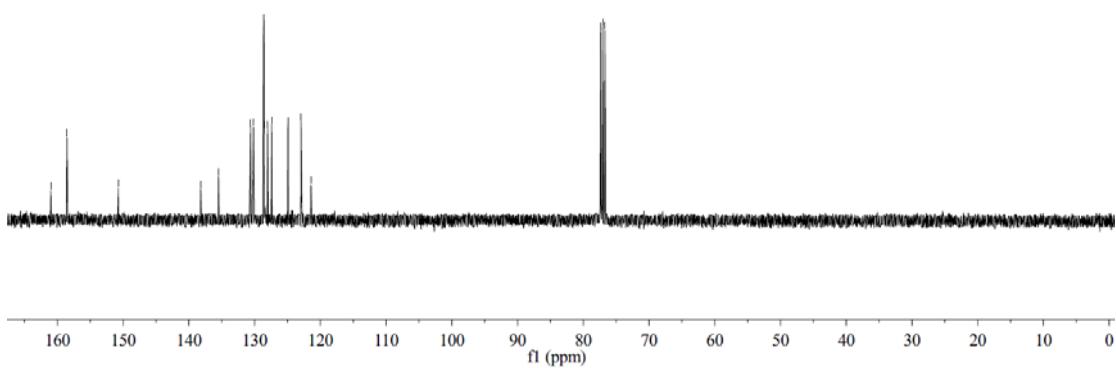




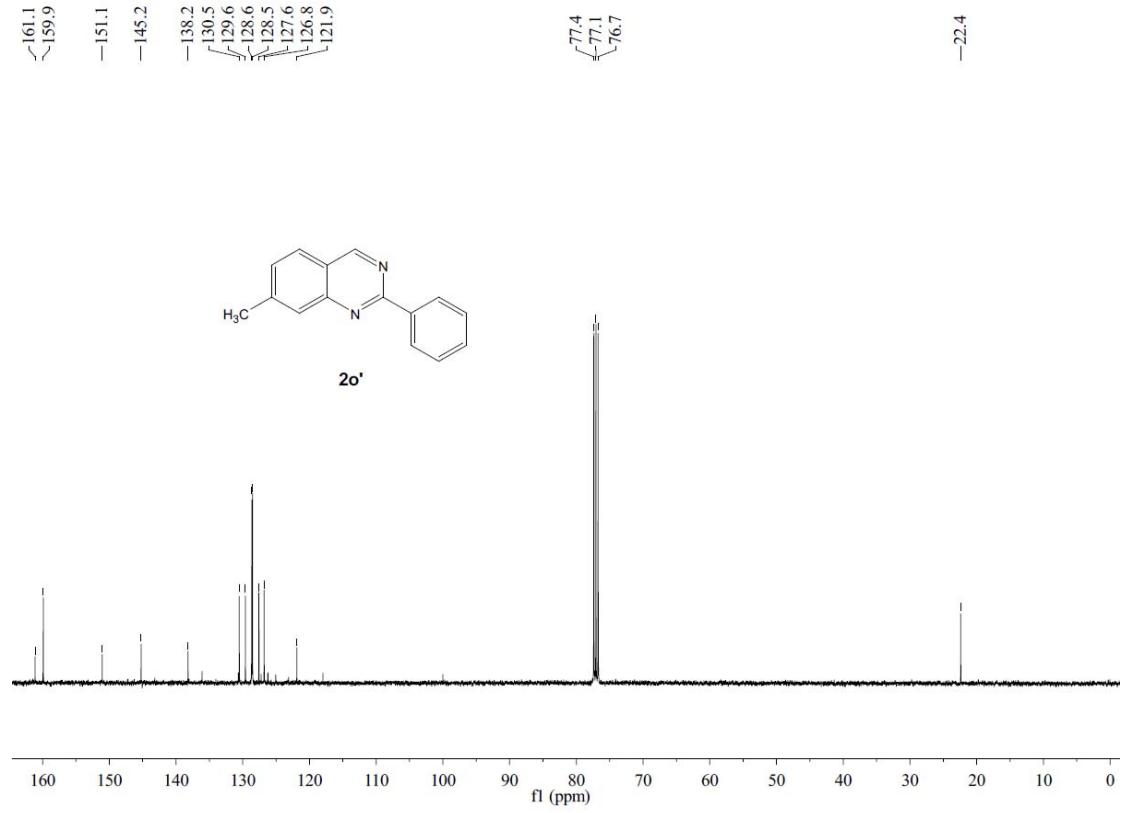
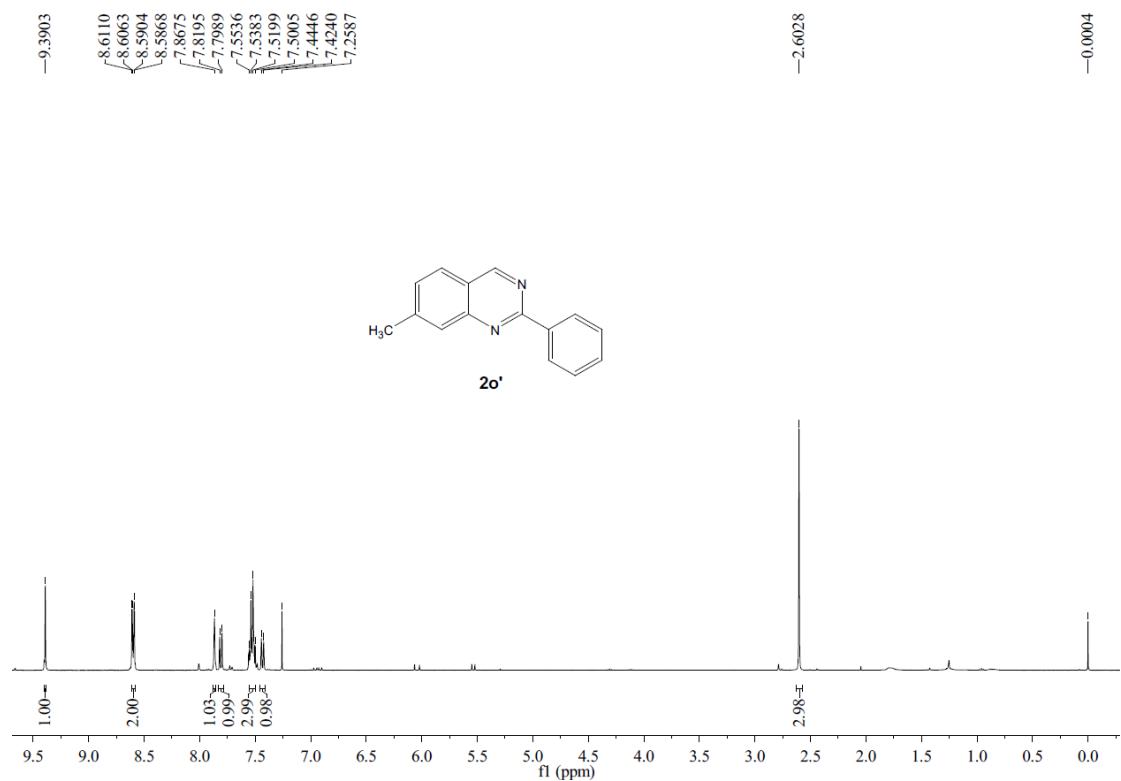
2n

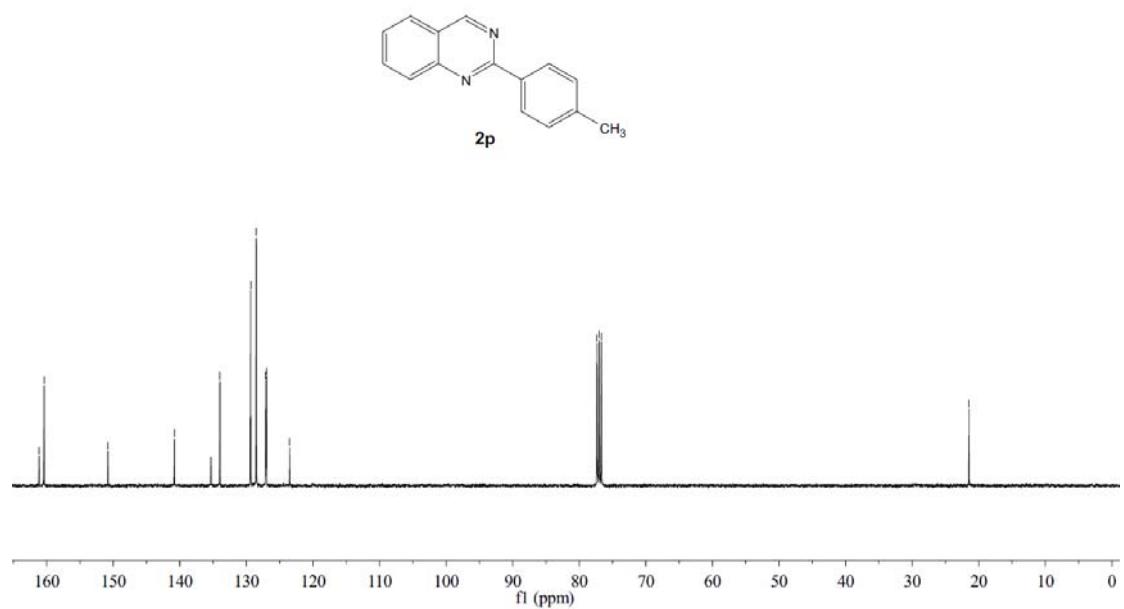
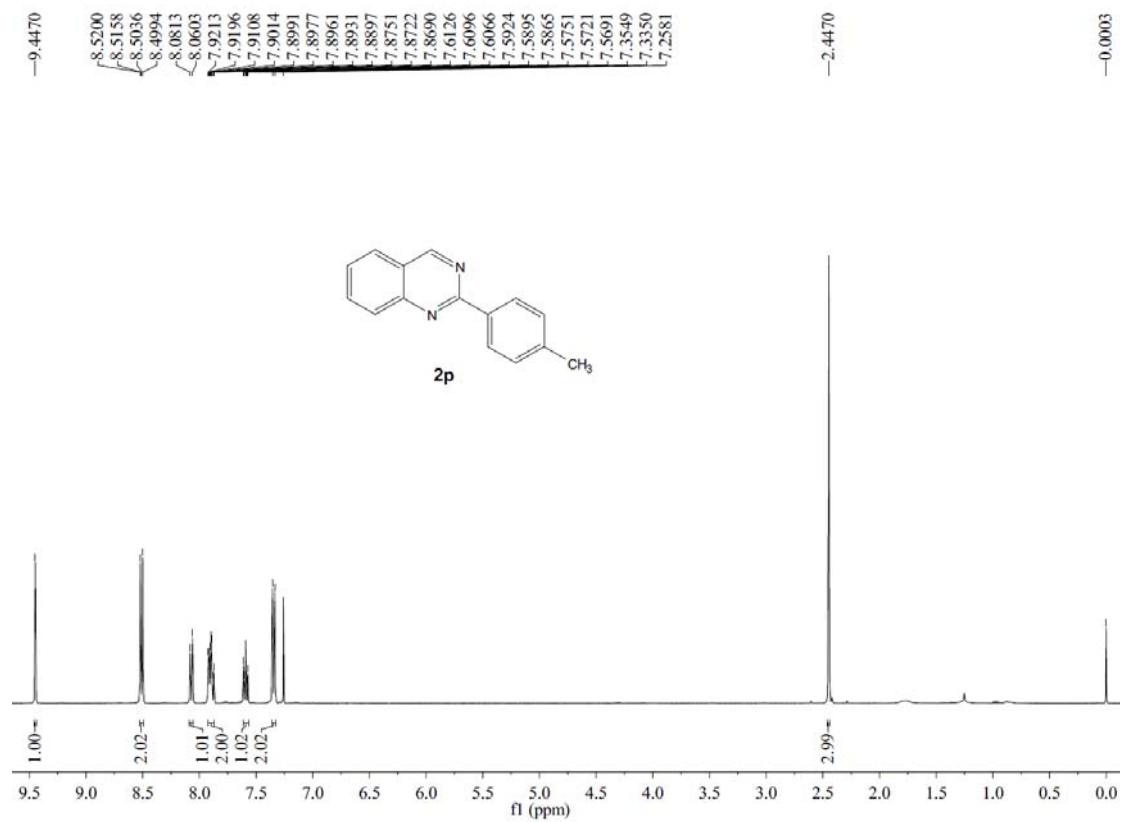


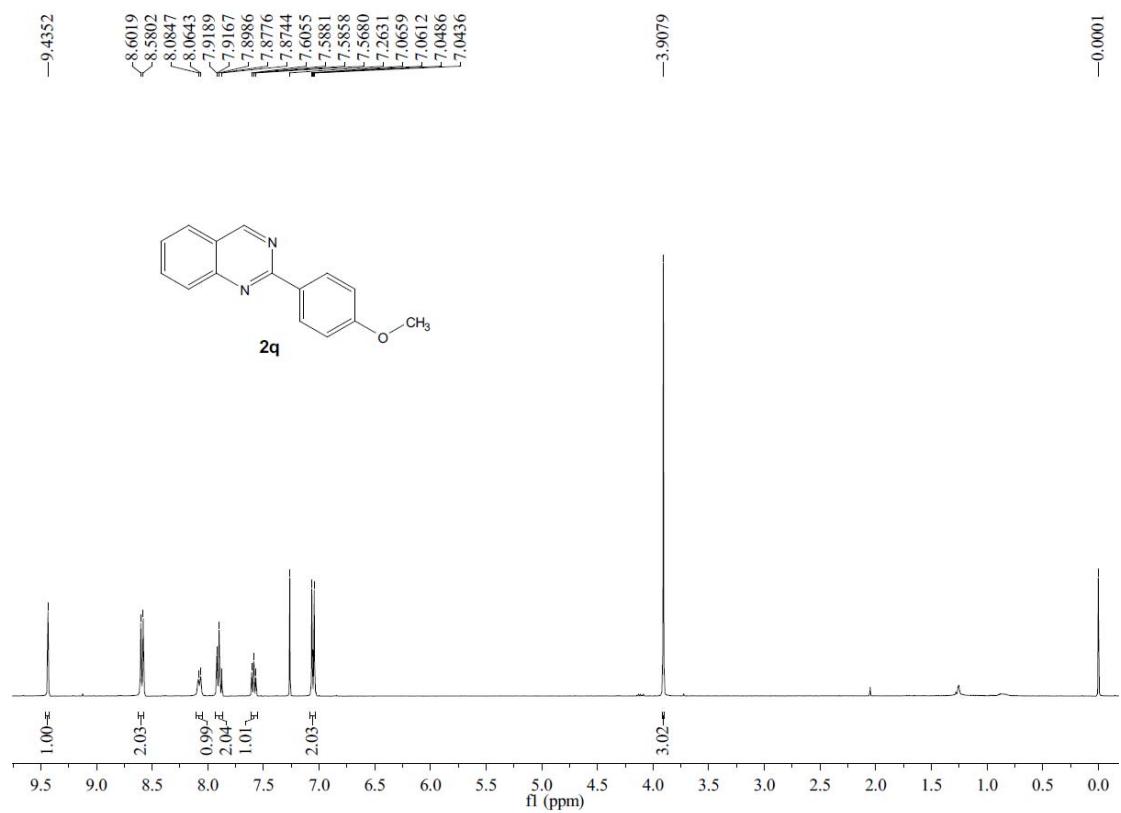
2n

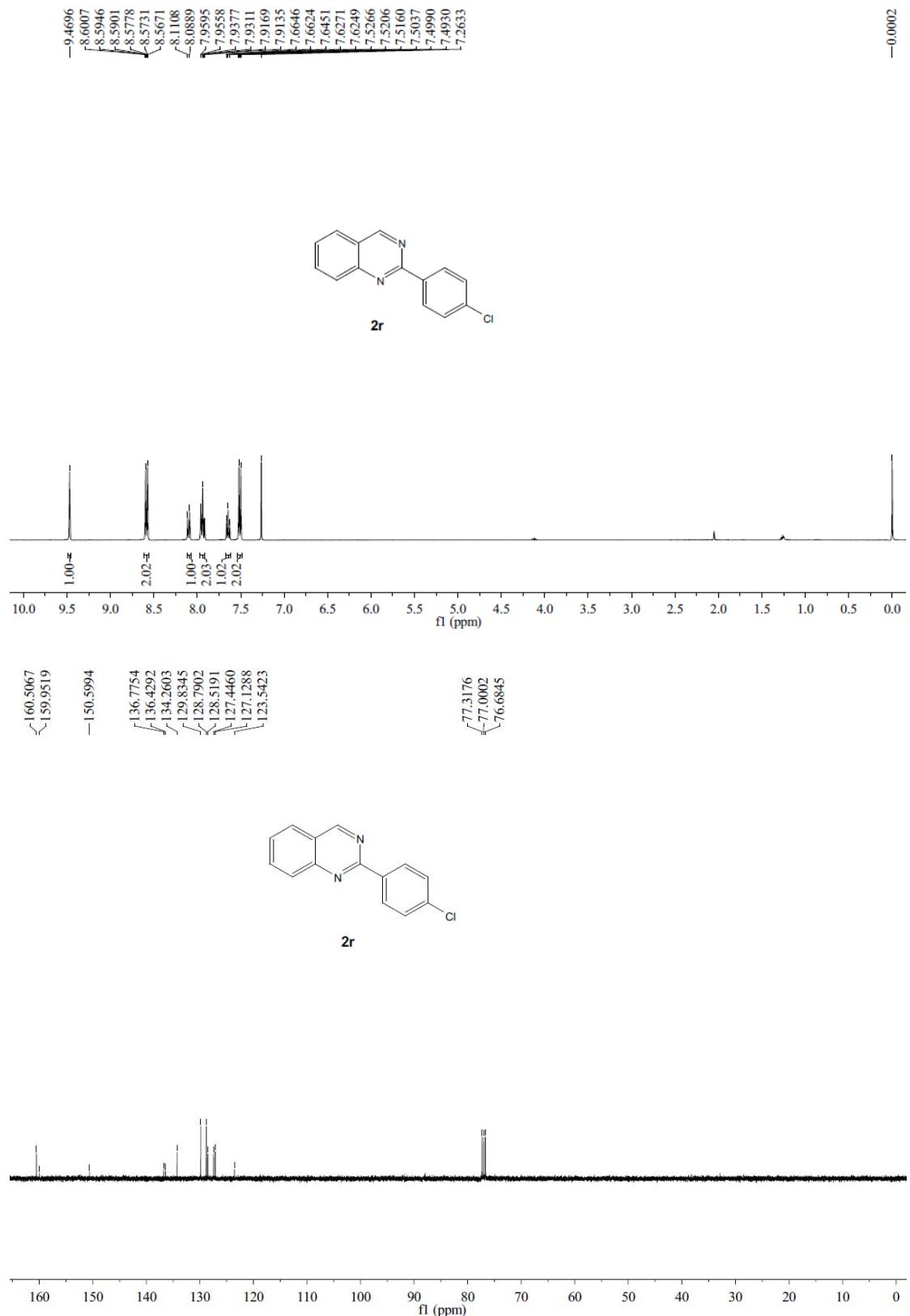






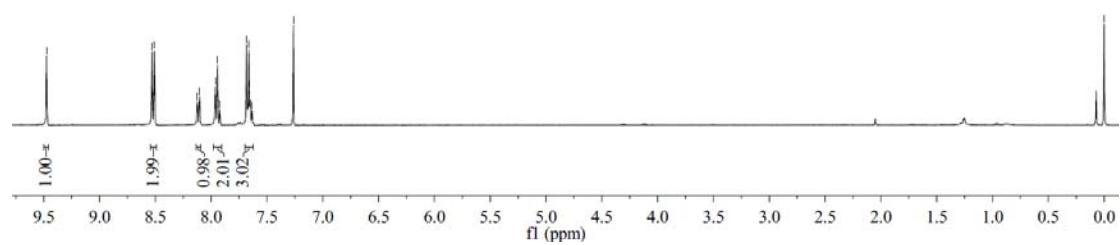








**2s**



**2s**

