

Supporting Information

Copper-catalyzed S-methylation of sulfonyl hydrazides with TBHP for the synthesis of methyl sulfones in water

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General Remarks

All substrates were purchased commercially without further purification. The yields were determined based on sulfonyl hydrazides.

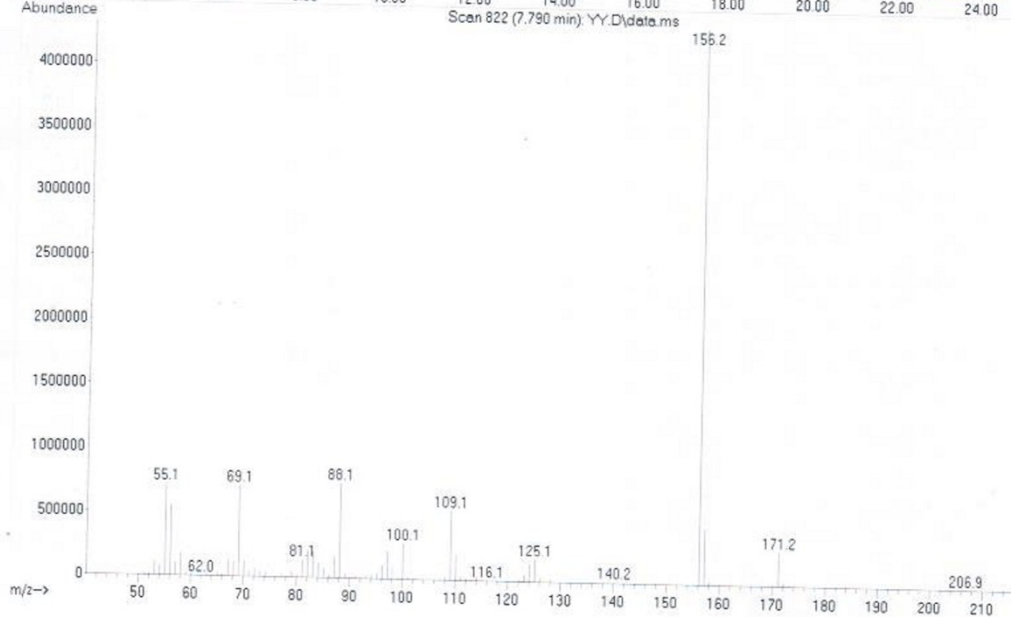
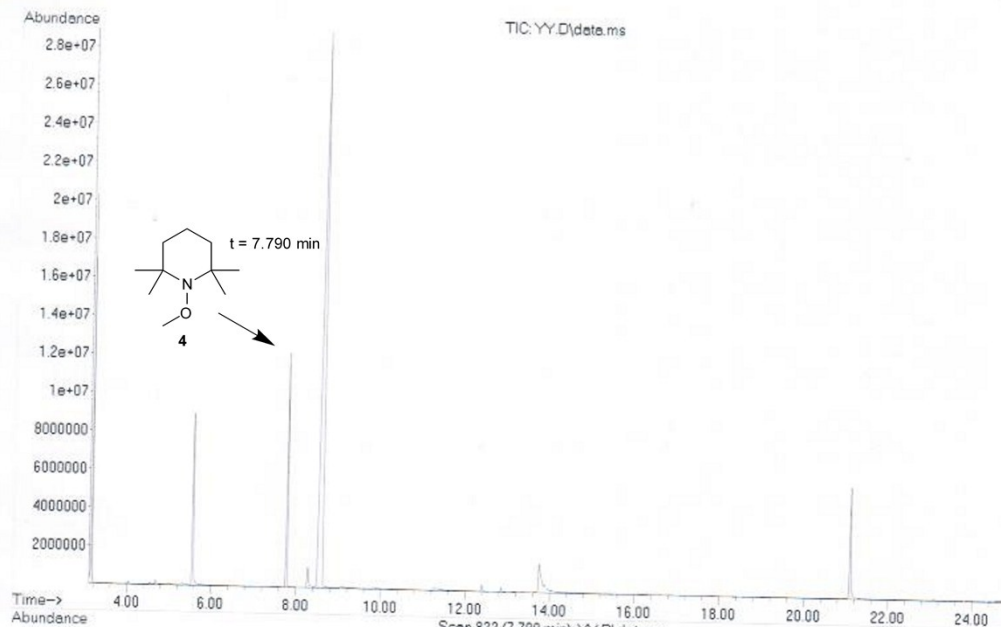
¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC-300 FT spectrometer at 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively, with tetramethylsilane as an internal reference. Chemical shifts (δ) and coupling constants (J) were expressed in ppm and Hz, respectively. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a LC-TOF spectrometer (Micromass). GC-MS samples were recorded on an Agilent Technologies 7890A-5975C GC-MS system.

General procedures for the synthesis of Arylsulfonyl Hydrazides

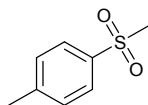
Arylsulfonyl hydrazides **2b-2s** were prepared according to the literature procedure.^[1] To a solution of an arylsulfonyl chloride (3.0 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (15 mL), was added hydrazine monohydrate (375 mg, 7.5 mmol) dropwise under nitrogen at 0 °C. After vigorous stirring for 30 min at 0 °C, the reaction mixture was added ethyl acetate (60 mL), and washed with saturated brine (3 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, concentrated and added to hexane (12 mL) over 5 min. The mixture was filtered, and the collected solid was dried in vacuum.

GC-MS analysis for the TEMPO-CH₃ adduct 4

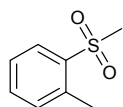
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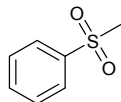
Characterization data of products



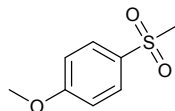
1-methyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3aa).^[1] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (88 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.84-7.82 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.38-7.36 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 144.7, 137.7, 130.0, 127.3, 44.6, 21.6.



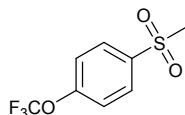
1-methyl-2-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3ba).^[1] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light yellow oil (83 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.04-8.02 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 138.7, 137.5, 133.7, 132.7, 129.2, 126.7, 43.7, 20.3.



methylsulfonylbenzene (3ca).^[1] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light yellow oil (78 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 2H), 3.04 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 140.6, 133.7, 129.4, 127.3, 44.5.

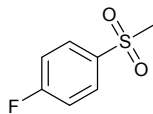


1-methoxy-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3da).^[1] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light yellow solid (81 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.89-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 163.7, 132.3, 129.5, 114.5, 55.7, 44.8.

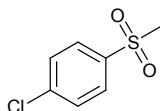


1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (3ea).^[2] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light yellow oil (70% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.07 (s, 3H),

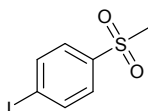
7.41 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 43.5, 120.2, 120.5 (q, $J = 258.3$ Hz), 128.8, 137.8, 152.0 (q, $J = 1.5$ Hz).



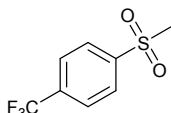
1-fluoro-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3fa).^[1] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light yellow oil (90 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.00-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 3.07 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 165.8 (d, $J = 254$ Hz), 136.7 (d, $J = 3$ Hz), 130.3 (d, $J = 10$ Hz), 116.7 (d, $J = 23$ Hz), 44.7.



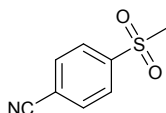
1-chloro-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3ga).^[1] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (84 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.91-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.54 (m, 2H), 3.06 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 140.5, 139.1, 129.7, 128.9, 44.5.



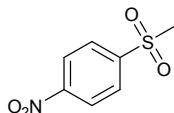
1-iodo-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3ha).^[3] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (58 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.96-7.94 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.67-7.65 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 3.05 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 140.2, 138.7, 128.8, 101.6, 44.5.



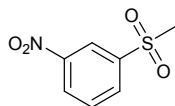
1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3ia).^[4] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (73 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.12-8.10 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.87-7.85 (d, 2H, $J = 8$ Hz), 3.09 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 144.0, 135.6 ($J = 33$ Hz), 128.1, 126.6 (q, $J = 7$ Hz), 123.1 (q, $J = 272$ Hz), 44.3.



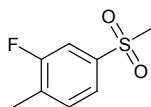
4-(methylsulfonyl)benzonitrile (3ja).^[5] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (56 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.03-8.01 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.84-7.82 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 3.03 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 143.5, 132.2, 127.2, 116.6, 116.0, 43.2.



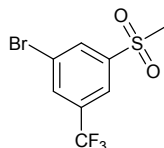
1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-nitrobenzene (3ka).^[1] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (73 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.45-8.43 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 8.18-8.16 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 3.13 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 150.9, 146.0, 129.0, 124.6, 44.3.



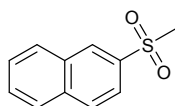
1-(methylsulfonyl)-3-nitrobenzene (3la).^[6] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light yellow solid (65 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.81 (s, 1H), 8.55-8.52 (m, 1H), 8.32-8.29 (m, 1H), 7.86-7.82 (m, 1H), 3.15 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 148.5, 142.6, 133.0, 130.9, 128.3, 122.9, 44.4.



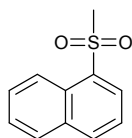
2-fluoro-1-methyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3na). The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a colorless oil (77 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.65-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 160.9 (d, *J* = 249 Hz), 139.72, 132.5 (d, *J* = 6 Hz), 131.9 (d, *J* = 18 Hz), 122.9 (d, *J* = 4 Hz), 114.3 (d, *J* = 26 Hz), 44.5, 14.8 (d, *J* = 4 Hz). HRMS [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₈H₁₀FO₂S: 189.0386, found : 189.0388.



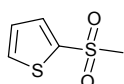
1-bromo-3-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3oa).^[7] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (68 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 3.13 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 143.4, 133.8, 133.7 (q, *J* = 68 Hz), 133.6 (q, *J* = 3 Hz), 124.1, 123.2 (q, *J* = 3 Hz), 122.2 (q, *J* = 271 Hz), 44.4.



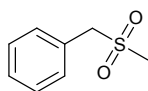
2-(methylsulfonyl)naphthalene (3pa).^[8] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (81 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.03-8.00 (m, 2H), 7.95-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.62 (m, 2H), 3.13 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 137.5, 135.3, 132.2, 129.7, 129.42, 129.3, 129.1, 128.0, 127.8, 122.1, 44.6.



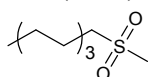
1-(methylsulfonyl)naphthalene (3qa).^[5] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light blue oil (59 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.74-8.72 (m, 1H), 8.35-8.33 (m, 1H), 8.14-8.12 (m, 1H), 7.99-7.97 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.58 (m, 2H), 3.22 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 135.6, 135.2, 134.2, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 127.1, 124.5, 123.9, 44.3.



2-(methylsulfonyl)thiophene (3ra).^[5] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light yellow oli (69 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.73-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 141.8, 133.7, 133.5, 127.9, 46.1.



(methylsulfonylmethyl)benzene (3sa).^[9] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a light yellow solid (71 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.40 (m, 5H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 130.9, 130.5, 129.2, 129.0, 61.3, 39.0.

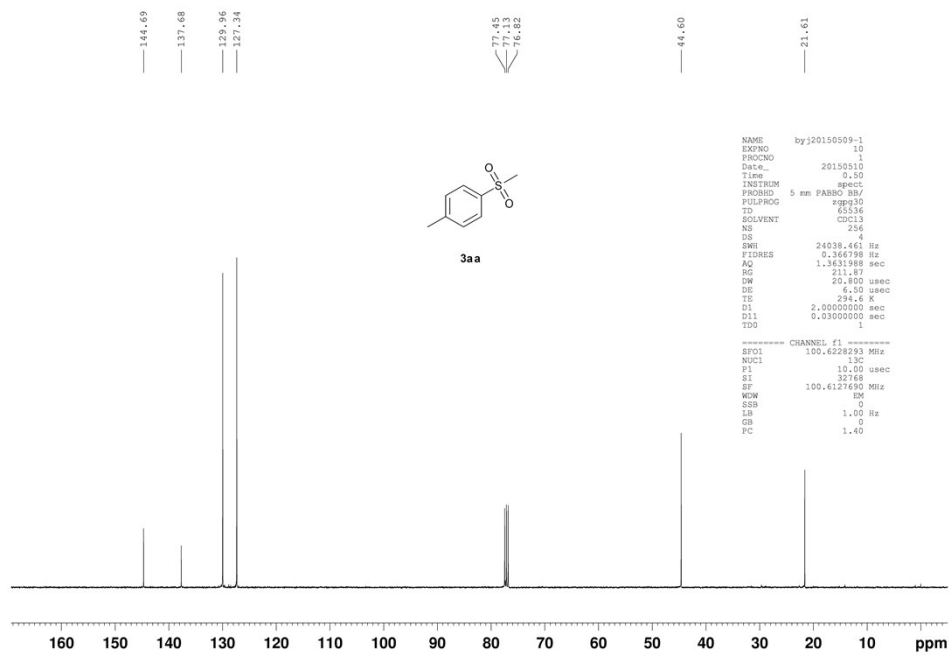
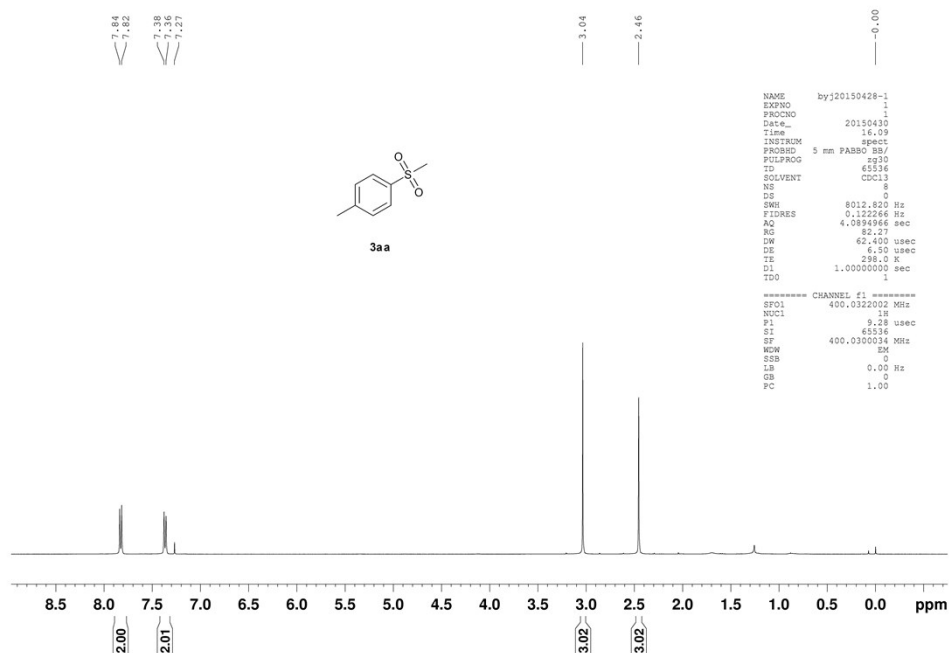


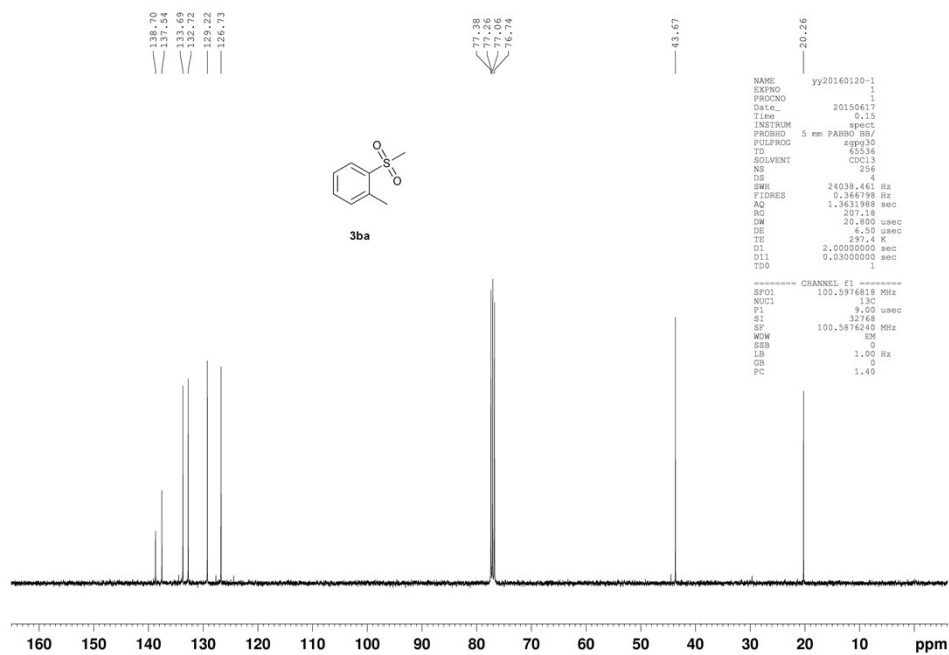
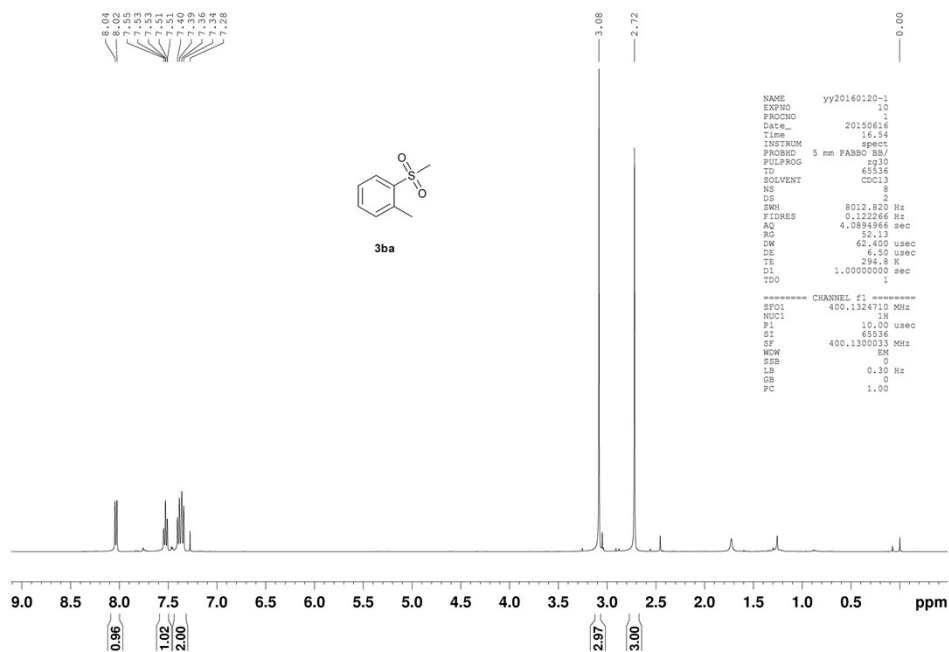
1-(methylsulfonyl)octane (3ta).^[10] The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure and purified by column chromatography (Petroleum Ether: EtOAc = 3:1) to give a white solid (62 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.02-2.98 (m, 2H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 1.89-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.46-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.28 (m, 8H), 0.90-0.87 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 54.9, 40.4, 31.7, 29.0, 28.9, 28.4, 22.6, 22.5, 14.1.

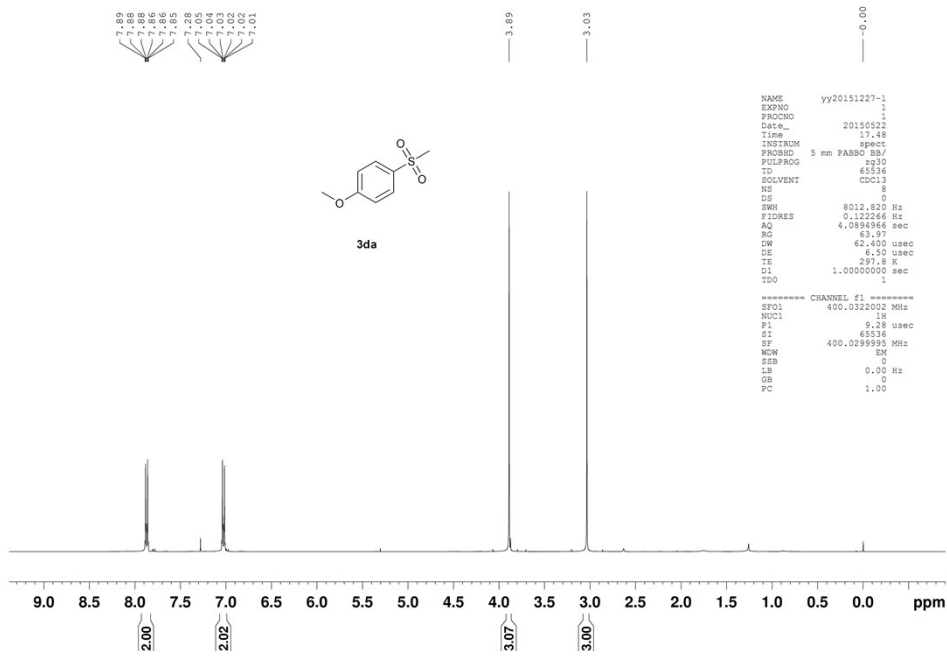
Reference

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NMR Spectra of products





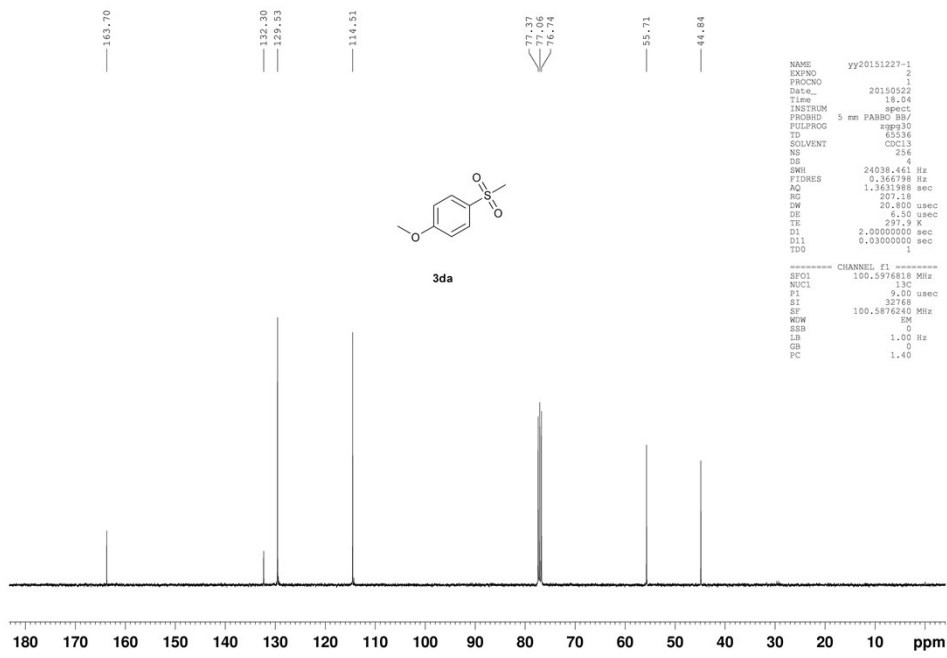


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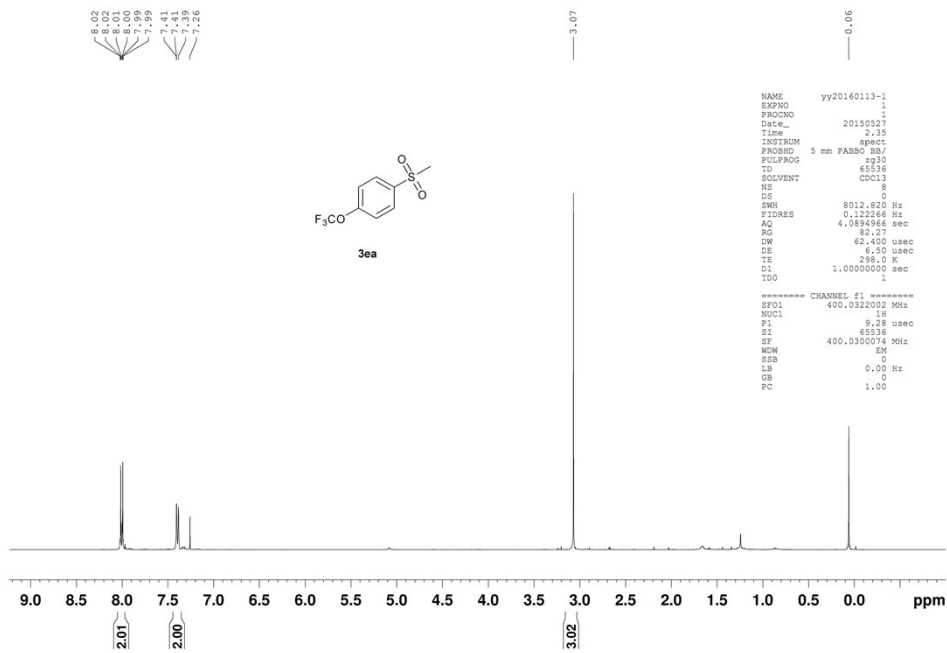


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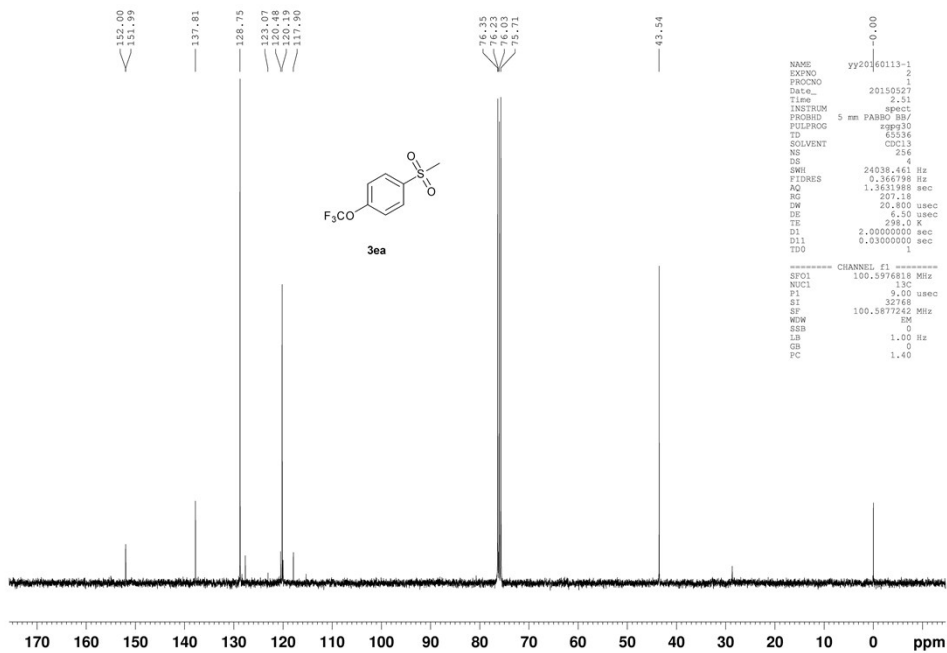
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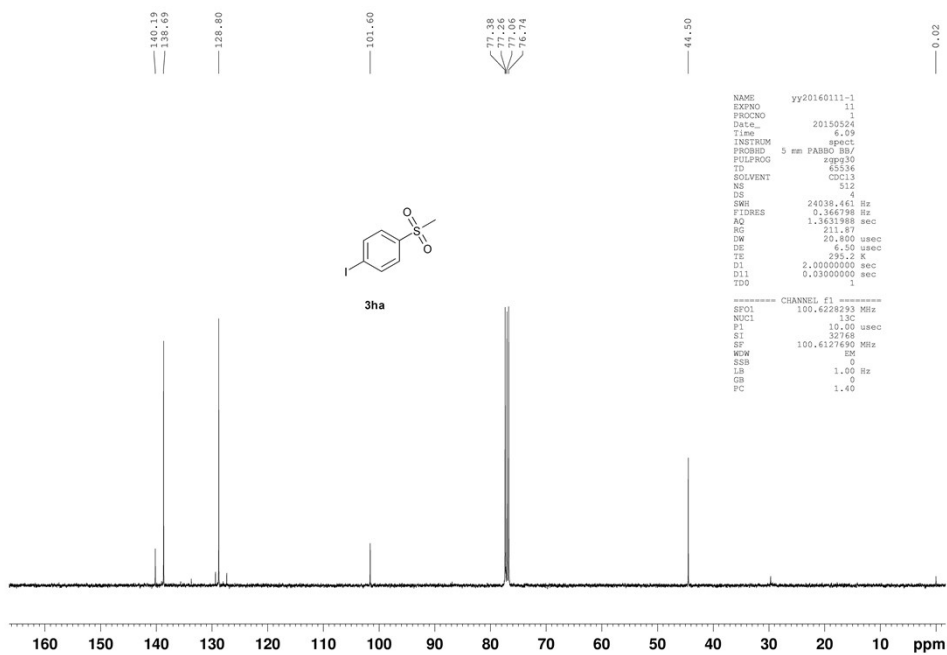
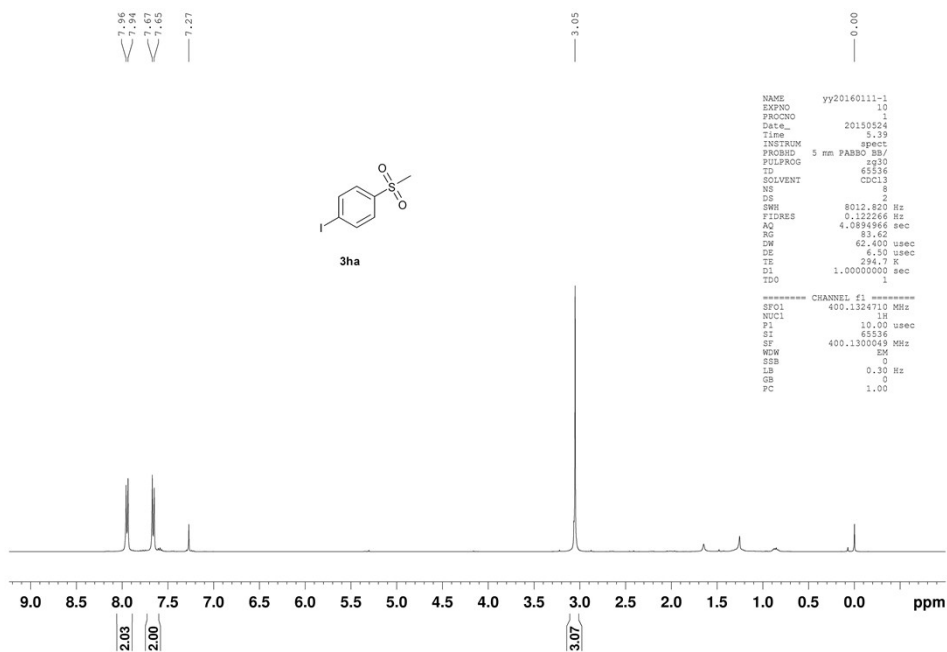
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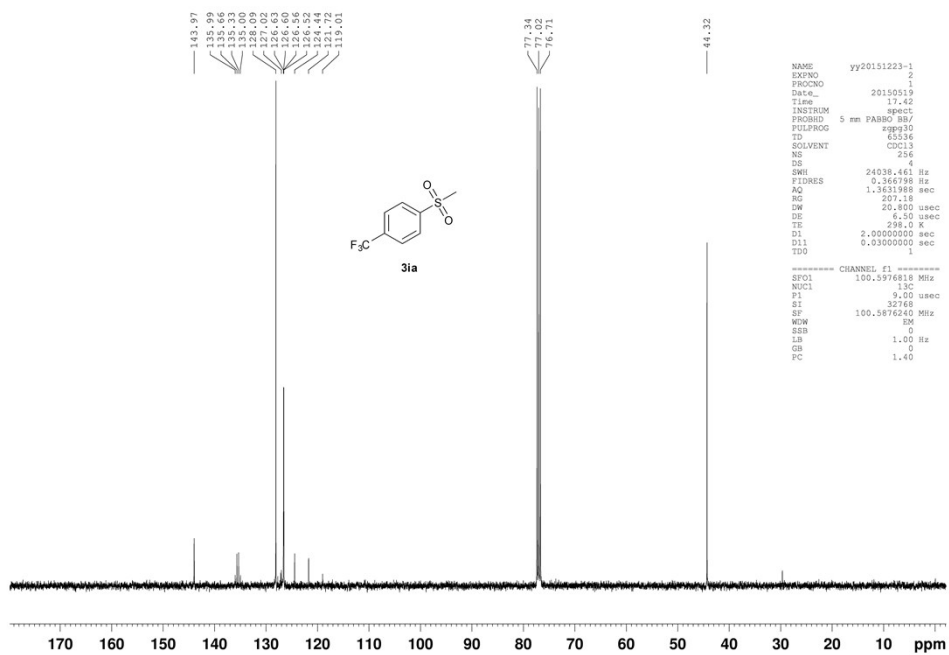
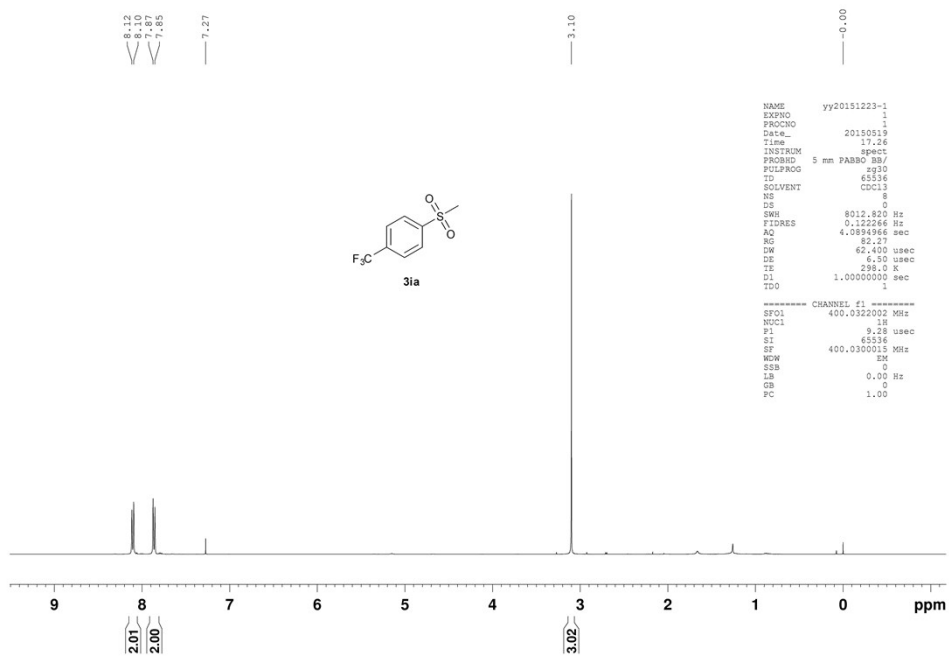


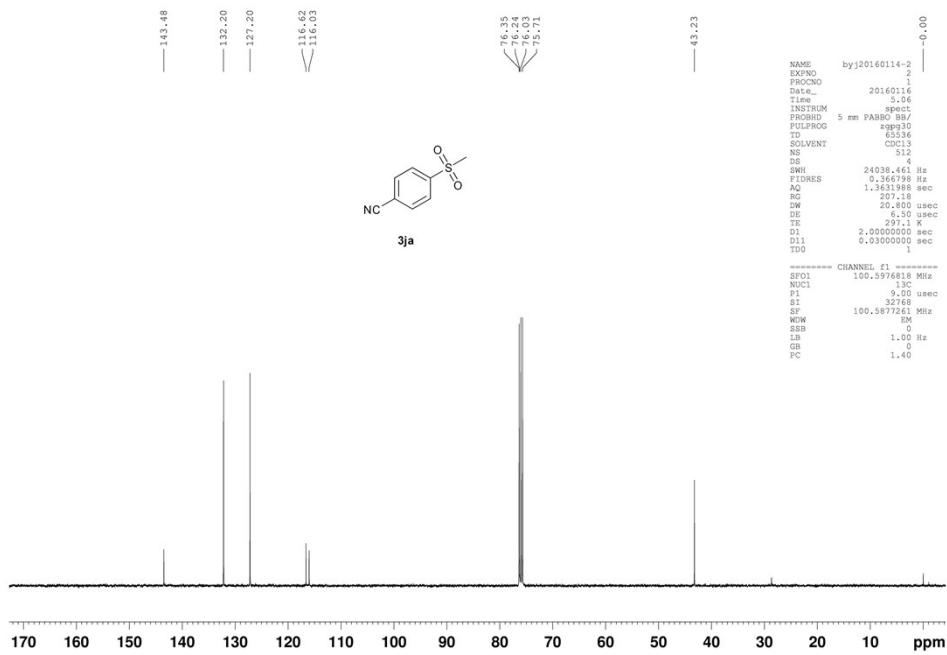
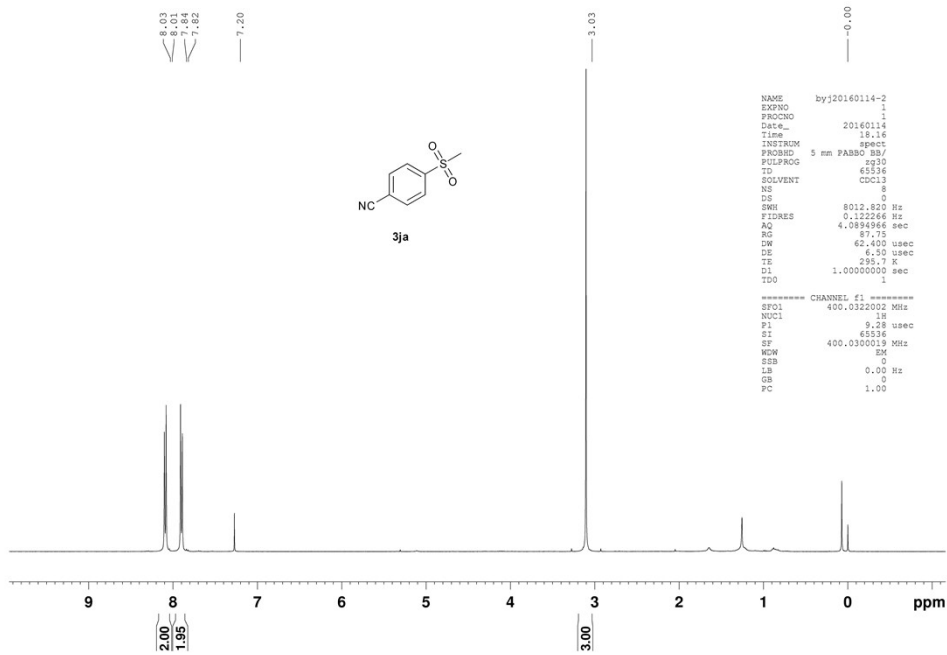
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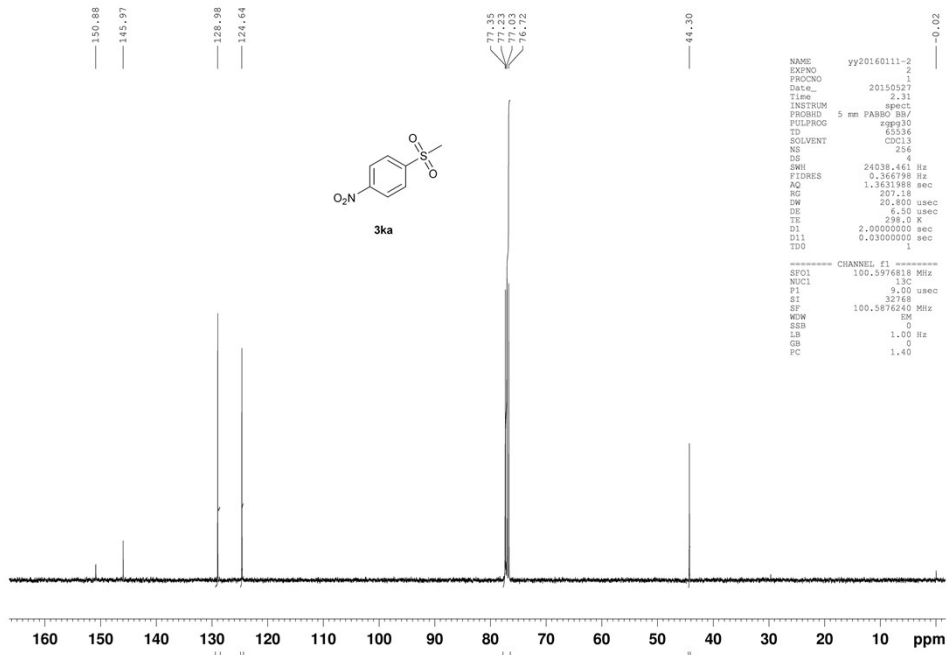
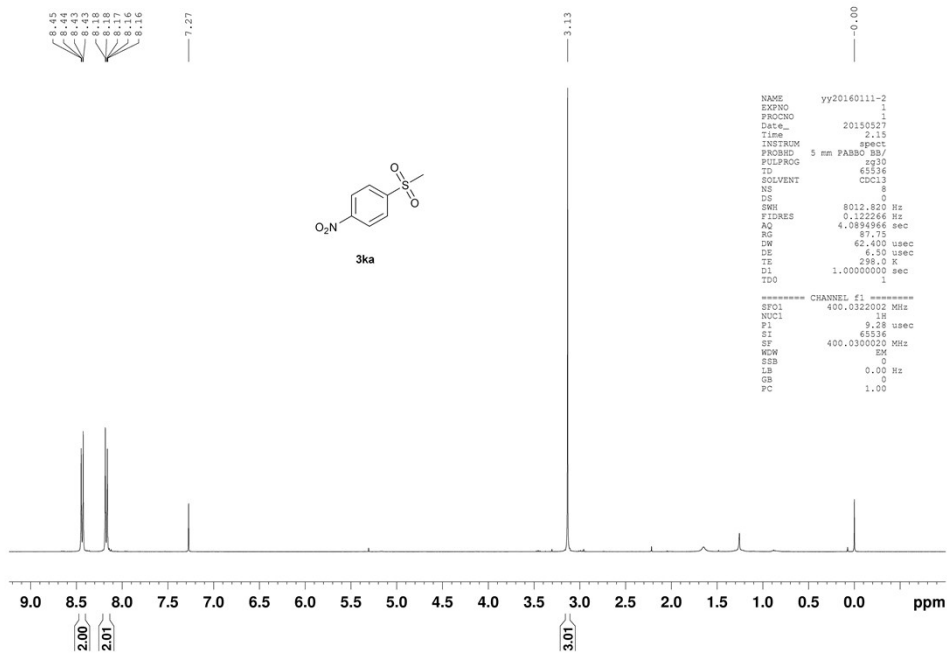
NAME yy20160113-1
EXPNO 2
PROCNO 1
Date_ 20150527
Time 2.51
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB/
PULPROG zgpg30
TD 65536
SOLVENT cdcl3
NS 256
DS 4
SWH 24838.465 Hz
FIDRES 0.366798 Hz
AQ 1.3631988 sec
RG 321.18
DW 20.800 usec
DE 6.50 usec
TE 298.0 K
D1 2.0000000 sec
D11 0.03000000 sec
TD0 1
----- CHANNEL f1 -----
SFO1 100.6276818 MHz
NUC1 13C
P1 9.00 usec
SI 32768
SF 100.6277242 MHz
WDW EM
SSB 0
LB 1.00 Hz
GB 0
PC 1.40

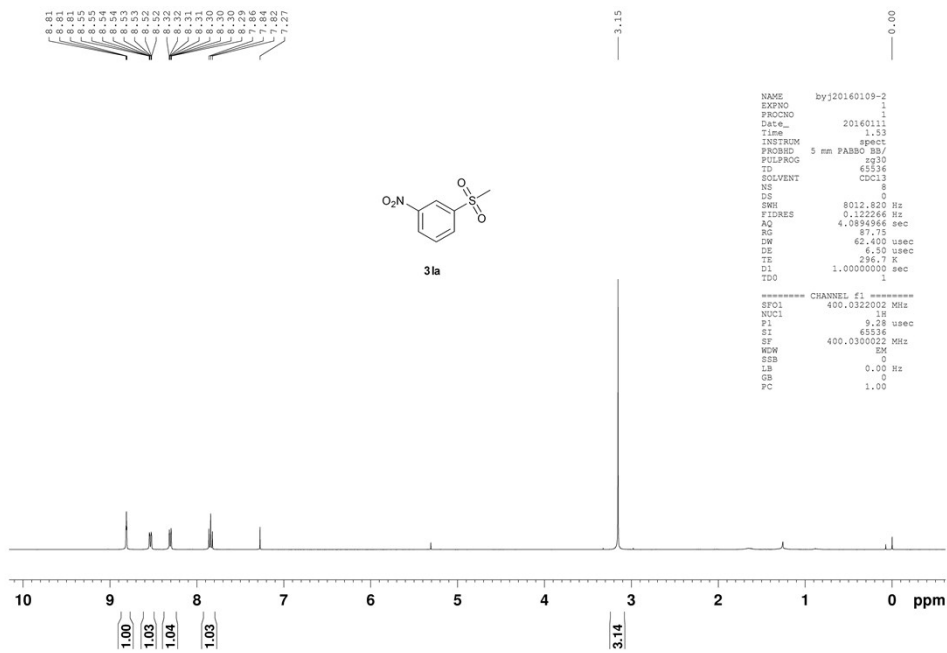
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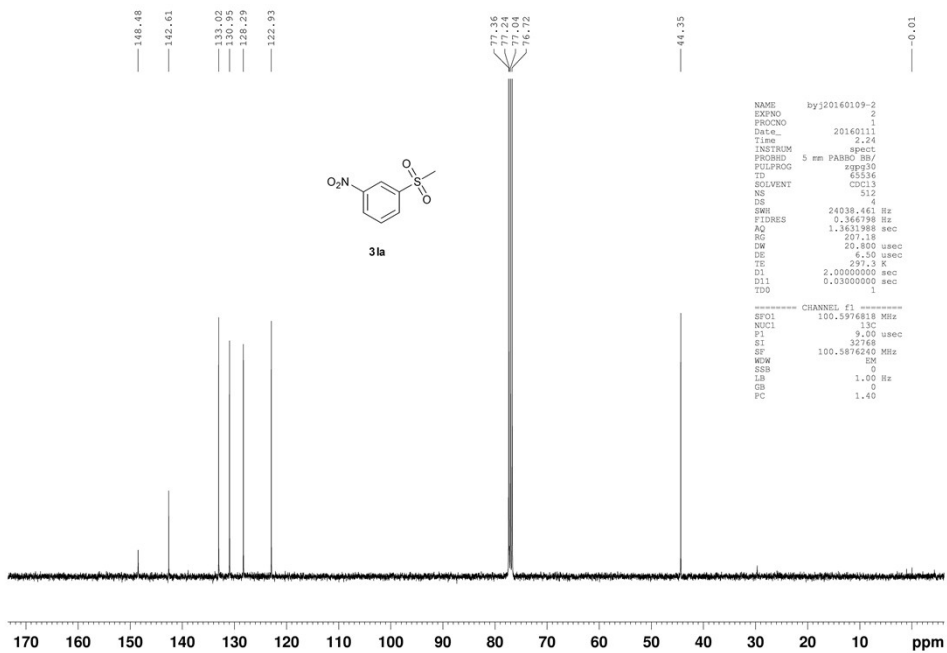




```

NAME      byj20160109-2
EXPNO    1
PROCNO   1
Date_    20160111
Time     1.53
INSTRUM  spect
PROBHD   5 mm PABBO BB/
PULPROG  zg30
TD        65536
SOLVENT  cdcl3
NS        8
DS        0
SWH       8012.820 Hz
FIDRES   0.122266 Hz
AQ        4.0894966 sec
RG         27.75
DW        62.400 usec
DE        6.50 usec
TE        296.7 K
D1        1.0000000 sec
TDD       1
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
SFO1     400.032002 MHz
NUC1      1H
P1        9.28 usec
SI        65536
SF        400.030002 MHz
WDW       EM
SSB       0
LB        0.00 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.00

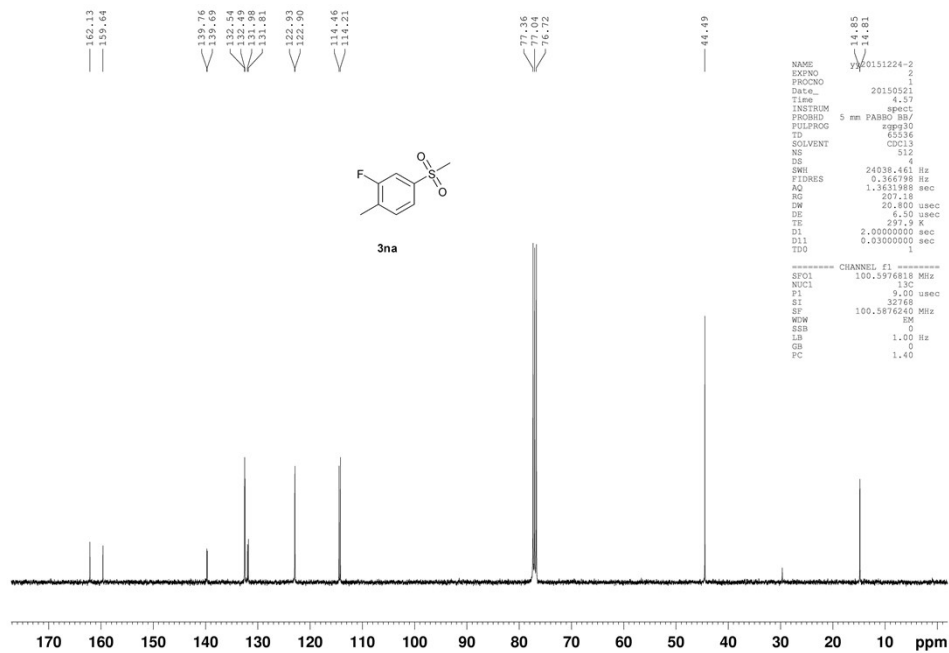
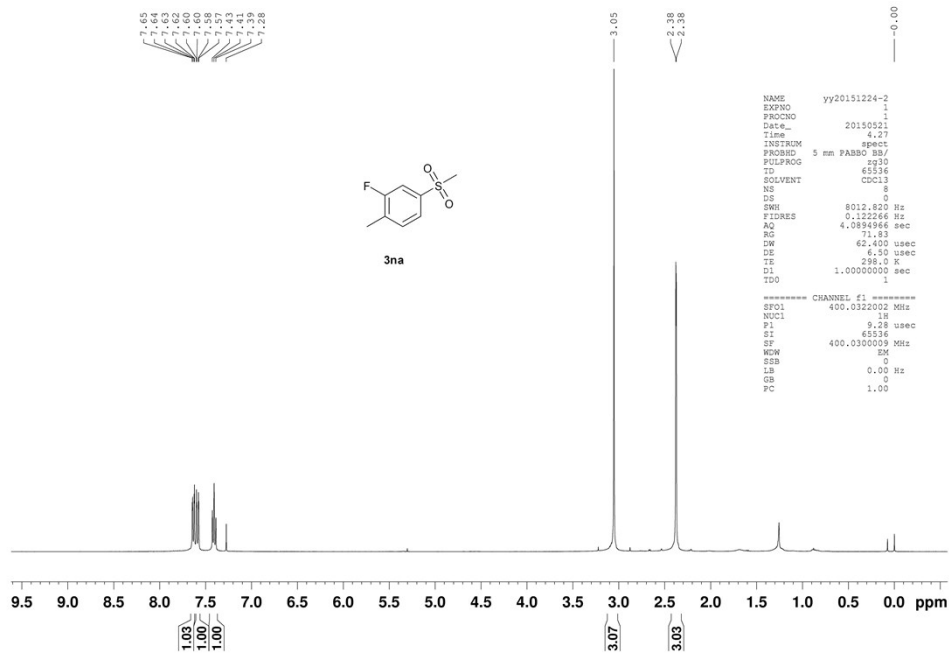
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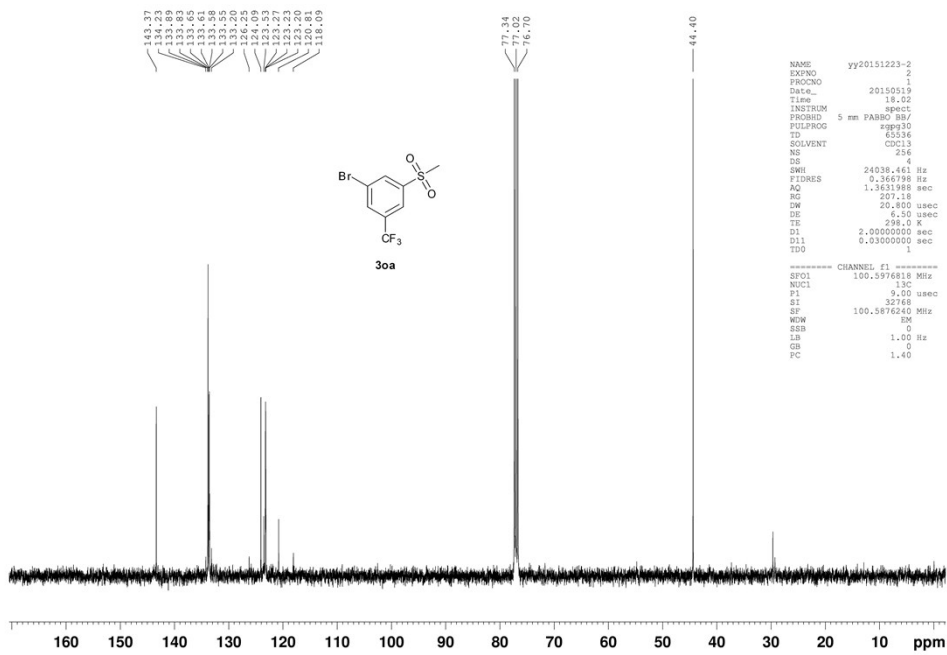
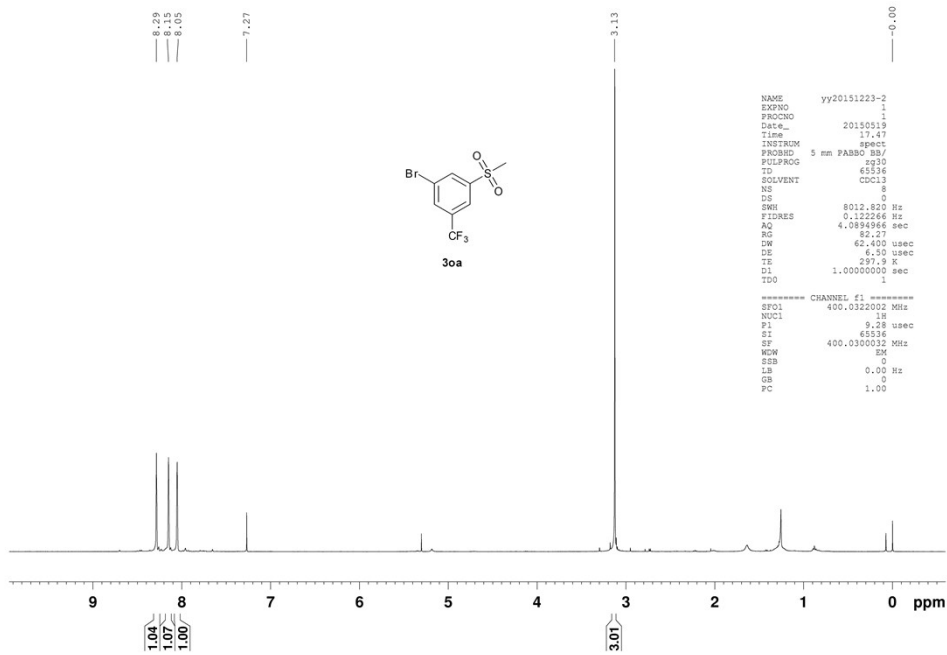


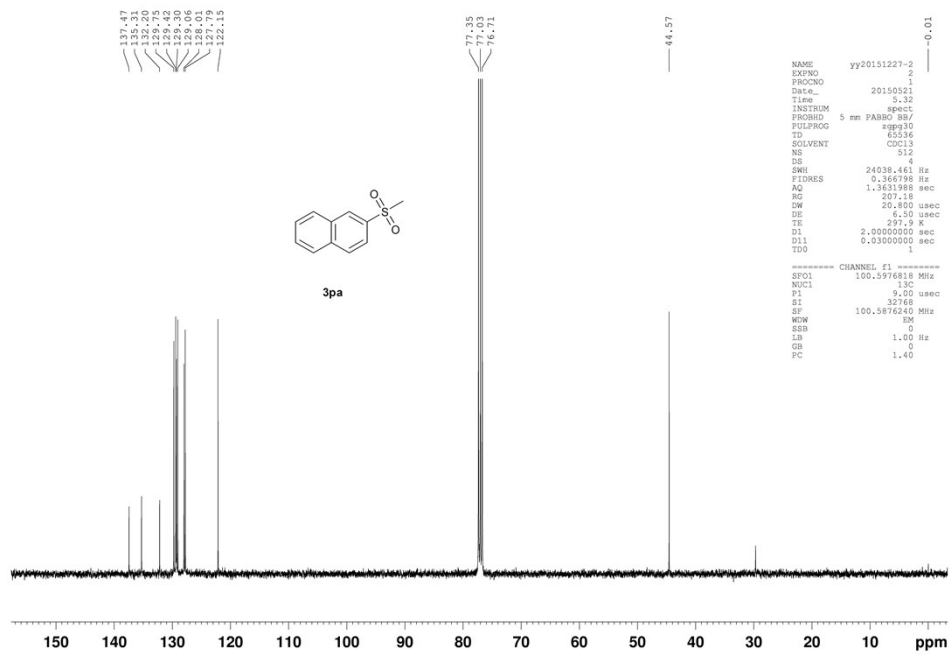
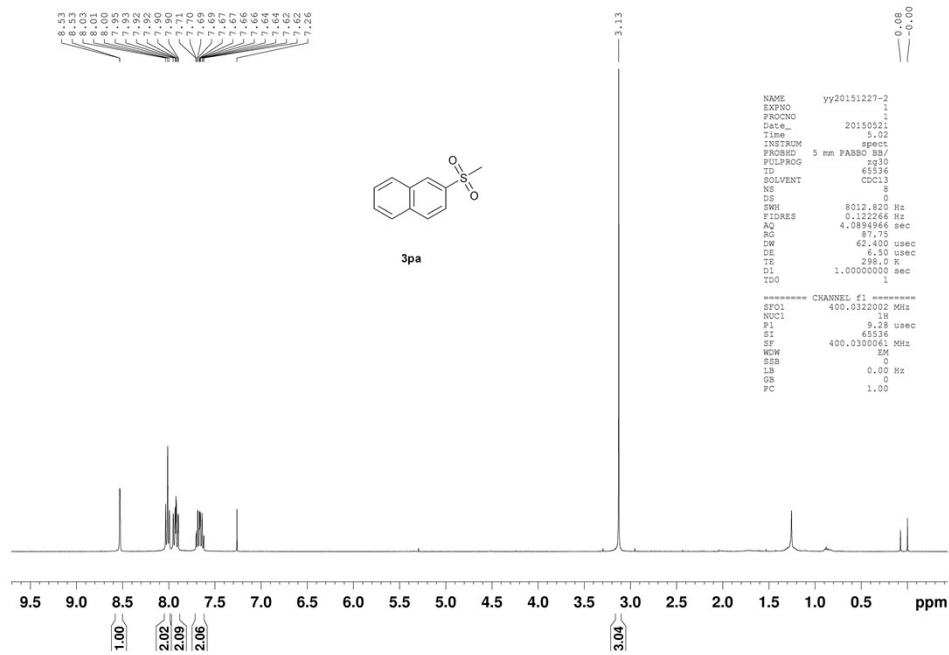
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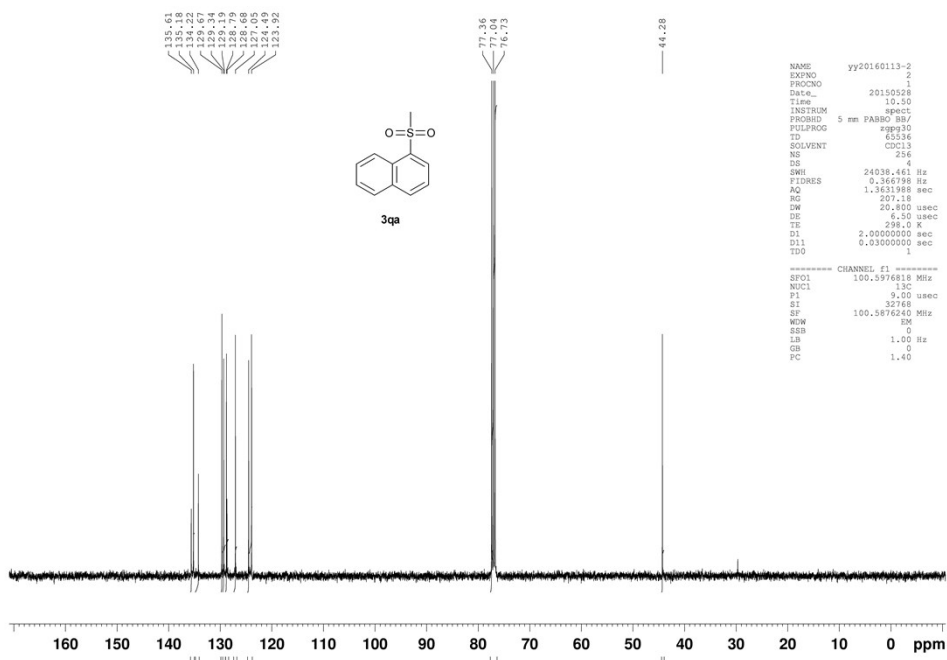
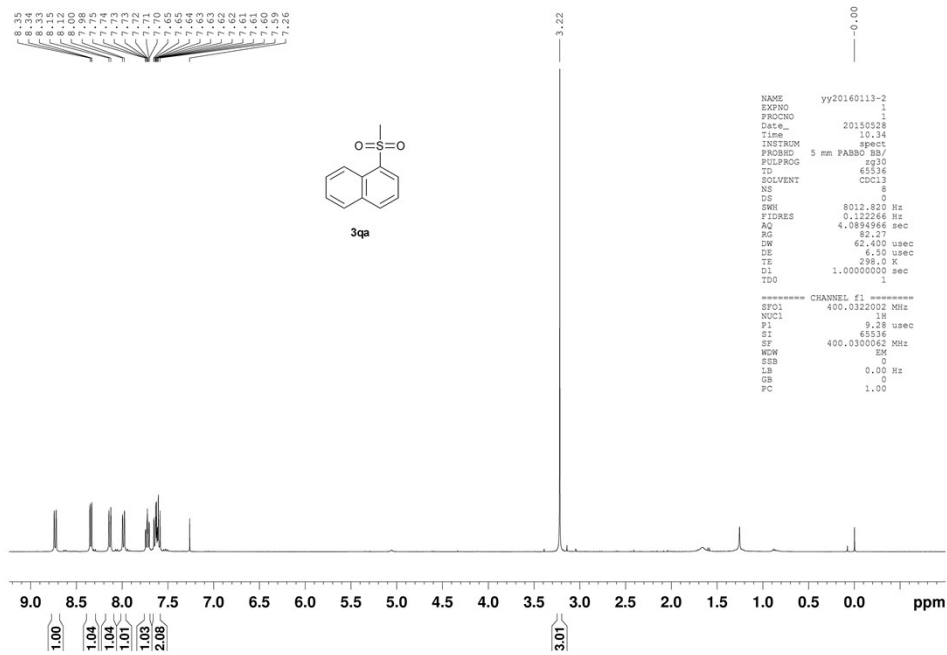
NAME      byj20160109-2
EXPNO    2
PROCNO   1
Date_    20160111
Time     2.24
INSTRUM  spect
PROBHD   5 mm PABBO BB/
PULPROG  zgpg30
TD        65536
SOLVENT  cdcl3
NS        4
DS        0
SWH       24038.461 Hz
FIDRES   0.366798 Hz
AQ        1.3531988 sec
RG         207.18
DW        20.800 usec
DE        6.50 usec
TE        291.3 K
D1        2.0000000 sec
D11       0.0300000 sec
TDD       1
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
SFO1     100.5976818 MHz
NUC1      13C
P1        9.00 usec
SI        32768
SF        100.5876240 MHz
WDW       EM
SSB       0
LB        1.00 Hz
GB        0
PC        1.40

```









```

NAME yy20160113-2
EXPNO 1
PROCNO 1
Date_ 20150528
Time 10.34
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB/
PULPROG zg30
TD 65536
SOLVENT cdcl3
NS 8
DS 0
SWH 8012.820 Hz
FIDRES 0.122266 Hz
AQ 4.0894966 sec
RG 32.27
DW 62.400 usec
DE 6.50 usec
TE 298.0 K
D1 1.0000000 sec
TD0 1
----- CHANNEL f1 -----
SFO1 400.032002 MHz
NUC1 1H
P1 9.28 usec
SI 65536
SF 400.0300062 MHz
WDW EM
SSB 0
LB 0.00 Hz
GB 0
PC 1.00

```

```

NAME yy20160113-2
EXPNO 2
PROCNO 1
Date_ 20150528
Time 10.50
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB/
PULPROG zgpg30
TD 65536
SOLVENT CDCl3
NS 256
DS 4
SWH 24838.465 Hz
FIDRES 0.366798 Hz
AQ 1.3631988 sec
RG 301.18
DW 20.800 usec
DE 6.50 usec
TE 298.0 K
D1 2.0000000 sec
D11 0.03000000 sec
TD0 1
----- CHANNEL f1 -----
SFO1 100.6261818 MHz
NUC1 13C
P1 9.00 usec
SI 32768
SF 100.6261818 MHz
WDW EM
SSB 0
LB 1.00 Hz
GB 0
PC 1.40

```

