

Supporting information for

***p*-Toluenesulfonic acid catalyzed single pot synthesis of tetracyclic 1,2-Dihydroquinolines: a metal free approach**

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Table Of Contents

(1) General Procedure and characterisation data.....	S2-S7
(2) Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra.....	S8-S26

General:

Commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR experiments were performed on a Bruker AVANCE 400 MHz instrument, operating at 400 MHz for protons and 100 MHz for carbon nuclei. Data for ^1H NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ) in parts per million (multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), integration). Data for ^1H NMR spectra are referenced to the center line of CDCl_3 (δ 7.26) as the internal standard. Data for ^{13}C NMR spectra are referenced to the center line of CDCl_3 (δ 77.0). High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on a mass spectrometer in ESI or EI mode using a TOF mass analyzer. Reaction progress was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC, Merck, Inc., silica gel 60 F254), visualized under UV light, and plates were developed using iodine. Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel 100 – 200 mesh. Melting points were determined using Buchi apparatus and are uncorrected.

General Procedure for the *p*-TSA-Catalyzed Synthesis of 2,2,4-Trialkyl-1,2-dihydroquinolines 8a–l (Method A). In a reaction vial containing a magnetic stir bar, was taken a mixture of aniline 6a–l (1.0 molar equiv), ketone 7 (5.0 molar equiv) and *p*-toluene sulfonic acid (0.2 molar equiv) in DMF (1 mL per mmol of substrate). Reaction vial was capped and stirred at the specified temperature (140°C) until complete disappearance of the starting material was observed by TLC. The reaction was transferred to a separatory funnel containing water and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over Na_2SO_4 , and solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution with EtOAc and hexanes).

General Procedure for the *p*-TSA-Catalyzed Synthesis of 2,2,4-Trialkyl-1,2-dihydroquinolines 10a–g (Method B). In a reaction vial containing a magnetic stir bar, was taken a mixture of aniline (1.0 molar equiv), *p*-toluene sulfonic acid (0.2 molar equiv) in Ketone (2 mL per mmol of substrate) as a solvent. Reaction vial was capped and stirred at the specified temperature (100°C) until complete disappearance of starting material was observed by TLC. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and residue was diluted with diethyl ether 50 mL., transferred to a separatory funnel containing water and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, and solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution with EtOAc and hexanes).

1,2,3,5-Tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentane] (8a). Pale yellow solid; yield: 45%; mp: 83-84 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.96 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (br s, 1H), 2.72–2.63 (m, 2H), 2.58–2.47 (m, 2H), 2.10–1.98 (m, 2H), 1.97–1.85 (m, 2H), 1.84 – 1.64 (m, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.6, 138.7, 132.1, 127.5, 123.3, 120.4, 117.1, 112.2, 65.1, 39.6, 32.2, 31.2, 23.9, 22.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₉N [M+H]⁺ *m/z* = 225.1517, found 225.1513.

8-Methyl-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentane] (8b) White solid; yield: 46%; mp: 82-84 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 6.64 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.61 (br s, 1H), 2.55–2.40 (m, 4H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.92 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.82–1.70 (m, 4H), 1.65–1.57 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.35 , 139.20 , 132.19 , 127.89 , 126.28 , 123.92 , 112.33 , 77.23 , 65.05 , 39.43 , 32.23 , 31.22 , 23.96 , 22.47 , 20.72; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₁N [M+H]⁺ *m/z* = 239.1674, found 239.1671.

8-Chloro-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentane] (8c) White solid; yield: 21%; mp: 106-108 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 6.82 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (br s, 1H), 2.50–2.42 (m, 4H), 1.92 (quint, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.87–1.70 (m, 4H), 1.67–1.48 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 142.3, 139.9, 130.1, 126.7, 122.0, 120.3, 118.3, 112.8, 64.2, 40.4, 31.8, 30.5, 23.8, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₈ClN [M+H]⁺ *m/z* = 259.1128, found 259.1128.

7-Methoxy-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentane] (8e) White solid; yield: 76%; mp: 108-110 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (br s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.69–2.59 (m, 2H), 2.55–2.45 (m, 2H), 2.05–1.97 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.84 (m, 2H), 1.80–1.64 (m, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.6, 143.9, 135.9, 131.7, 124.1, 114.2, 102.0, 98.3, 65.1, 55.1, 39.8, 32.0, 31.2, 23.9, 22.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₁NO [M+H]⁺ *m/z* = 255.1623, found 255.1621.

7-Methyl-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentane] (8f) White solid; yield: 73%; mp: 77-79 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 6.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 6.22 (d, *J* = 7.6Hz, 1H), 5.73 (br s, 1H), 2.50–2.41 (m, 4H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.91 (quint, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.84–1.70 (m, 4H), 1.65–1.49 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.5, 137.6, 137.3, 132.0, 123.1, 117.9, 112.8, 65.1, 39.7, 32.1, 31.2, 23.9, 22.4, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₁N [M+H]⁺ *m/z* = 239.1674, found 239.1669.

7-Chloro-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentane] (8g) White solid; yield: 30%; mp: 68-69 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (br s, 1H), 2.68–2.59 (m, 2H), 2.56–2.47 (m, 2H), 2.03 (quint, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.96–1.85 (m, 2H), 1.84–1.64 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.6, 138.9, 132.5, 131.4, 124.1, 118.8, 116.8, 111.7, 65.2, 40.1, 32.2, 31.1, 23.9, 22.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₈ClN [M+H]⁺ m/z = 259.1128, found 259.1123.

N-(1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentan]-7-yl)acetamide (8h)

Yellow solid; yield: 76%; mp 236–238 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.57 (br s, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.94 (br s, 1H), 2.50–2.39 (m, 4H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.90 (quint, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.83–1.74 (m, 4H), 1.64–1.49 (m, 4H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 168.2, 144.2, 139.2, 136.9, 131.0, 123.1, 115.1, 106.7, 103.0, 64.6, 40.8, 32.1, 31.0, 24.5, 24.4, 22.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₂N₂O [M+H]⁺ m/z = 282.1732, found 282.1728.

6-Methoxy-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentane] (8i) Pale

yellow solid; yield: 20%; mp 95-96 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.69–6.54 (m, 3H), 4.47 (br s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.71–2.64 (m, 2H), 2.57– 2.50 (m, 2H), 2.03 (quint, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.94–1.86 (m, 2H), 1.83–1.75 (m, 4H), 1.72–1.65 (m, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.2, 138.6, 132.1, 132.1, 120.3, 116.1, 115.7, 109.0, 64.6, 55.6, 40.0, 32.2, 31.4, 23.9, 22.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₁NO [M+H]⁺ m/z = 255.1623, found 255.1625.

6-Methyl-1,2,3,5-tetrahydrospiro[cyclopenta[c]quinoline-4,1'-cyclopentane] (8j) White

solid; yield: 12%; mp 69-70 °C; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.88 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (br s, 1H), 2.73–2.65 (m, 2H), 2.59–2.50 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.04 (quint, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 1.97–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.85– 1.69 (m, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.5, 138.2, 132.5, 128.9, 121.4, 119.7, 119.0, 116.4, 65.0, 40.0, 32.2, 31.4, 23.8, 22.5, 17.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₁N [M+H]⁺ m/z = 239.1674, found 239.1669.

7',8',9',10'-tetrahydro-5'H-spiro[cyclohexane-1,6'-phenanthridine] (8k) Oil; yield: 40%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.09 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (br s, 1H), 2.43–2.37 (m, 2H), 2.17–2.11 (m, 2H), 1.82–1.66 (m, 8H), 1.65–1.59 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.41 (m, 4H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.0, 135.9, 127.1, 125.2, 124.3, 122.1, 117.9, 113.6, 77.1, 54.6, 32.4, 25.4, 25.2, 24.9, 23.1, 22.4, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₃N [M+H]⁺ *m/z* = 253.1830, found 253.1831.

3'-methoxy-7',8',9',10'-tetrahydro-5'H-spiro[cyclohexane-1,6'-phenanthridine] (8l) White solid; yield: 63%; mp 102-103 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (br s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.41–2.33 (m, 2H), 2.16–2.09 (m, 2H), 1.80–1.41 (m, 14H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 143.4, 133.2, 124.9, 123.1, 118.0, 102.9, 99.4, 55.1, 54.7, 32.5, 25.4, 25.3, 24.7, 23.2, 22.5, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₉H₂₅NO [M+H]⁺ *m/z* = 283.1936, found 283.1934.

2,2,4-Trimethyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (10a) Oil; yield: 43%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.06 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (q, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (br s, 1H), 1.99 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (s, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.2, 128.6, 128.39, 128.36, 123.6, 121.6, 117.2, 113.0, 51.8, 31.0, 18.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₅N [M+H]⁺ *m/z* = 173.1204, found 173.1208.

7-Methoxy-2,2,4-trimethyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (10b) White solid; yield: 56%; mp 68–69 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 3.78 (br s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 6H); ¹³C-

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.2, 144.7, 130.6, 128.2, 126.2, 124.7, 115.3, 102.3, 98.6, 55.1, 51.9, 31.1, 18.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₃H₁₇NO [M+H]⁺ m/z = 203.1310, found 203.1306.

2,2,4,7-tetramethyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (10c) Oil; yield: 52%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.00 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (br s, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.01 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (s, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.23, 138.32, 128.53, 127.46, 123.60, 119.18, 118.10, 113.68, 51.86, 31.04, 21.45, 18.68; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₃H₁₇N [M+H]⁺ m/z = 187.1361, found 187.1361.

7-chloro-2,2,4-trimethyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (10d) Oil; yield: 45%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.22, 133.54, 128.44, 127.84, 124.67, 120.06, 116.95, 112.47, 52.15, 31.10, 18.57; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₄ClN [M+H]⁺ m/z = 207.0815, found 207.0817.

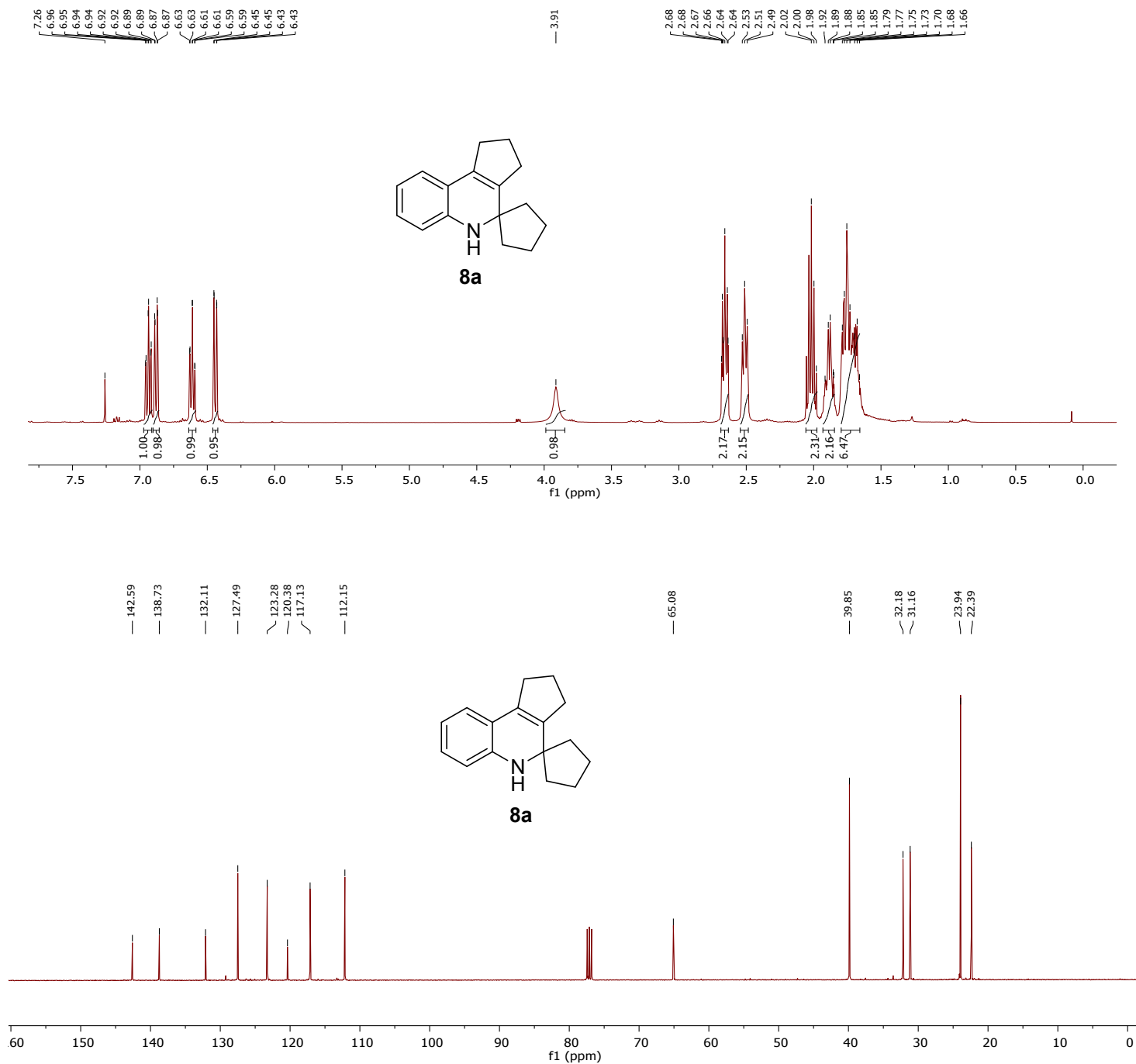
2,4-diethyl-2-methyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (10e) Oil; yield: 45%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.13 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (br s, 1H), 2.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.61 – 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.96, 134.80, 128.20, 125.11, 123.22, 120.60, 116.70, 112.83, 54.61, 36.51, 29.45, 24.62, 12.94, 8.59; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₉N [M+H]⁺ m/z = 201.1517, found 201.1518.

2,4-Diethyl-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (10f) White solid; yield: 60%; mp 60–61 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.03 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (br s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.39 (q, J = 7.2

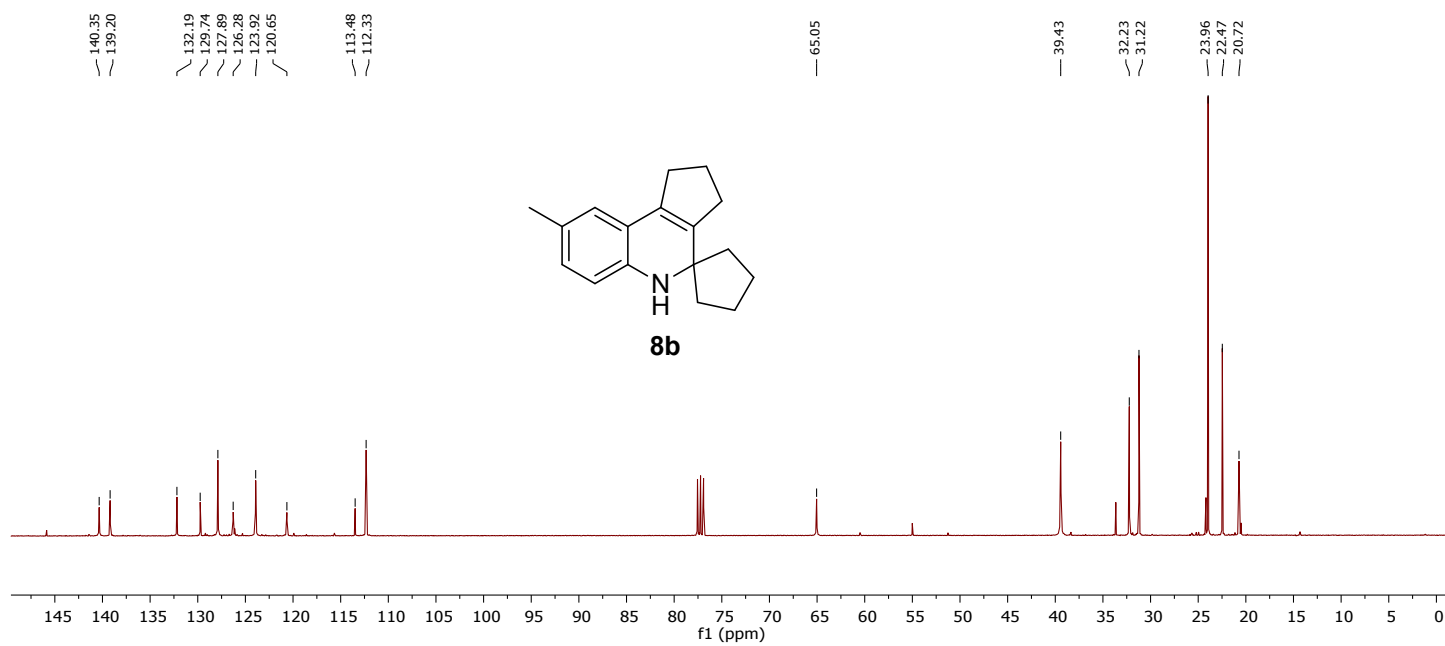
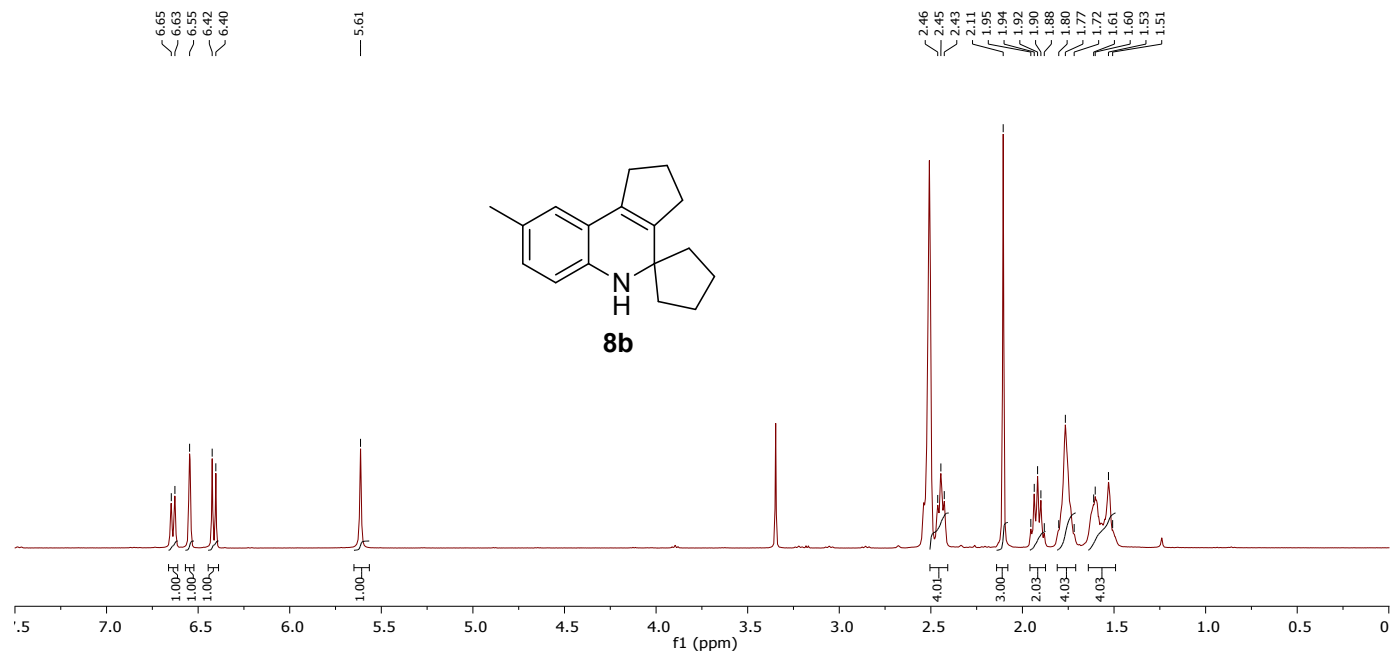
Hz, 2H), 1.58–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.0, 145.4, 134.5, 124.2, 122.6, 114.3, 101.8, 98.4, 55.0, 54.8, 36.5, 29.5, 24.7, 12.9, 8.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ $m/z = 231.1623$, found 231.1622.

2,4-diethyl-2,7-dimethyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (10g) Oil; yield: 45%; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.01 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 3.87 (br s, 1H), 2.41 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.60 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.94, 138.11, 134.75, 124.13, 123.16, 118.12, 117.56, 113.46, 54.61, 36.50, 29.47, 24.67, 21.37, 13.00, 8.61; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ $m/z = 215.1674$, found 215.1674.

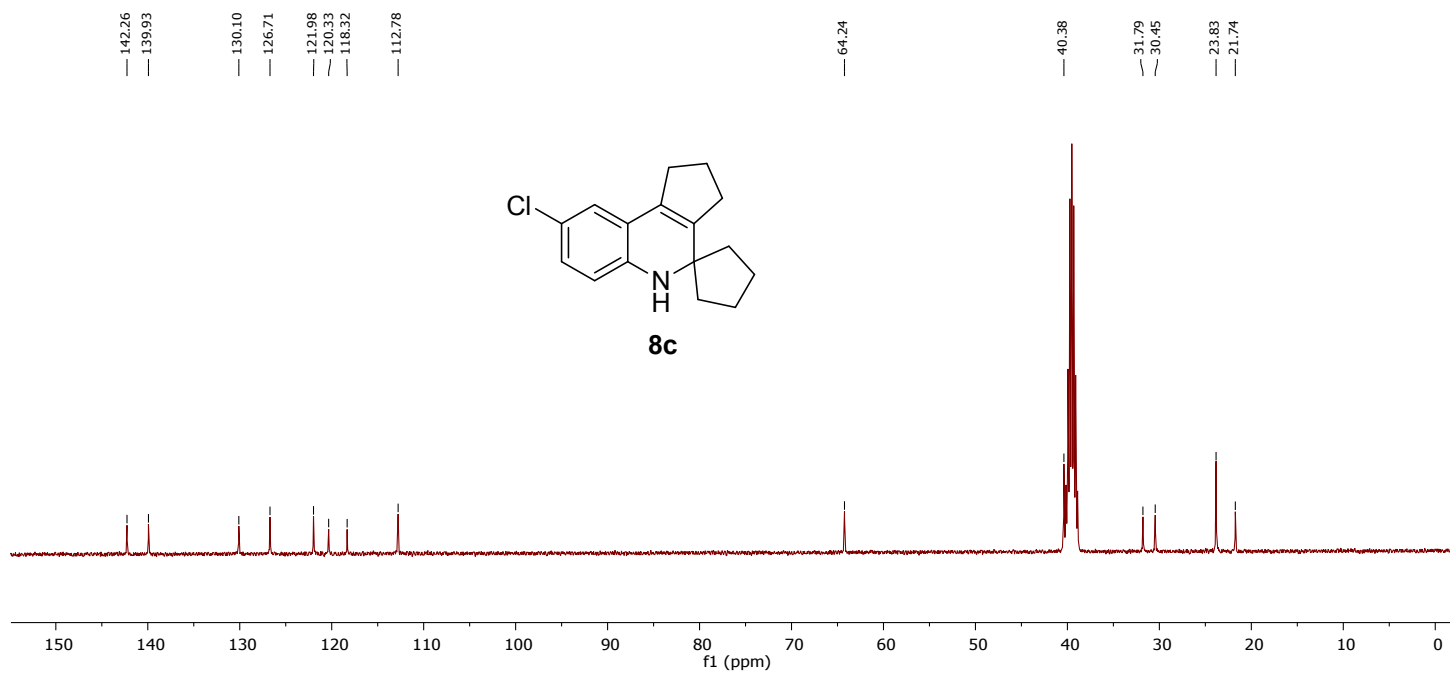
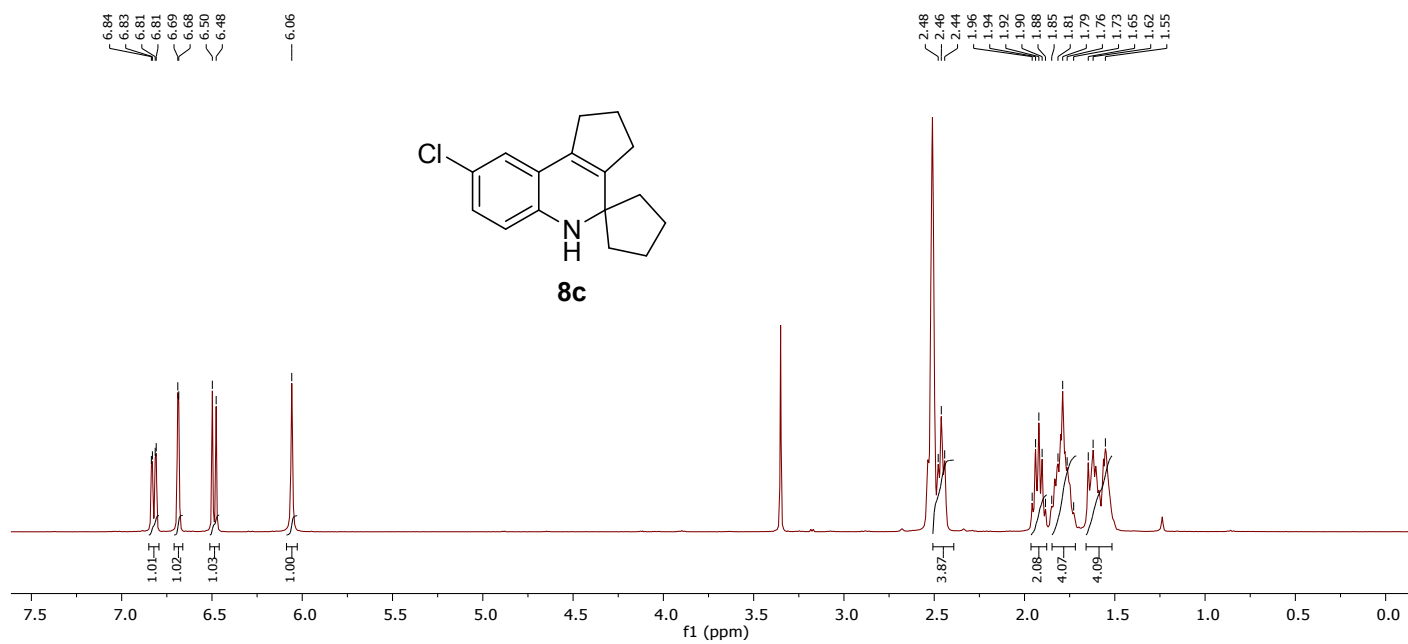
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 8a



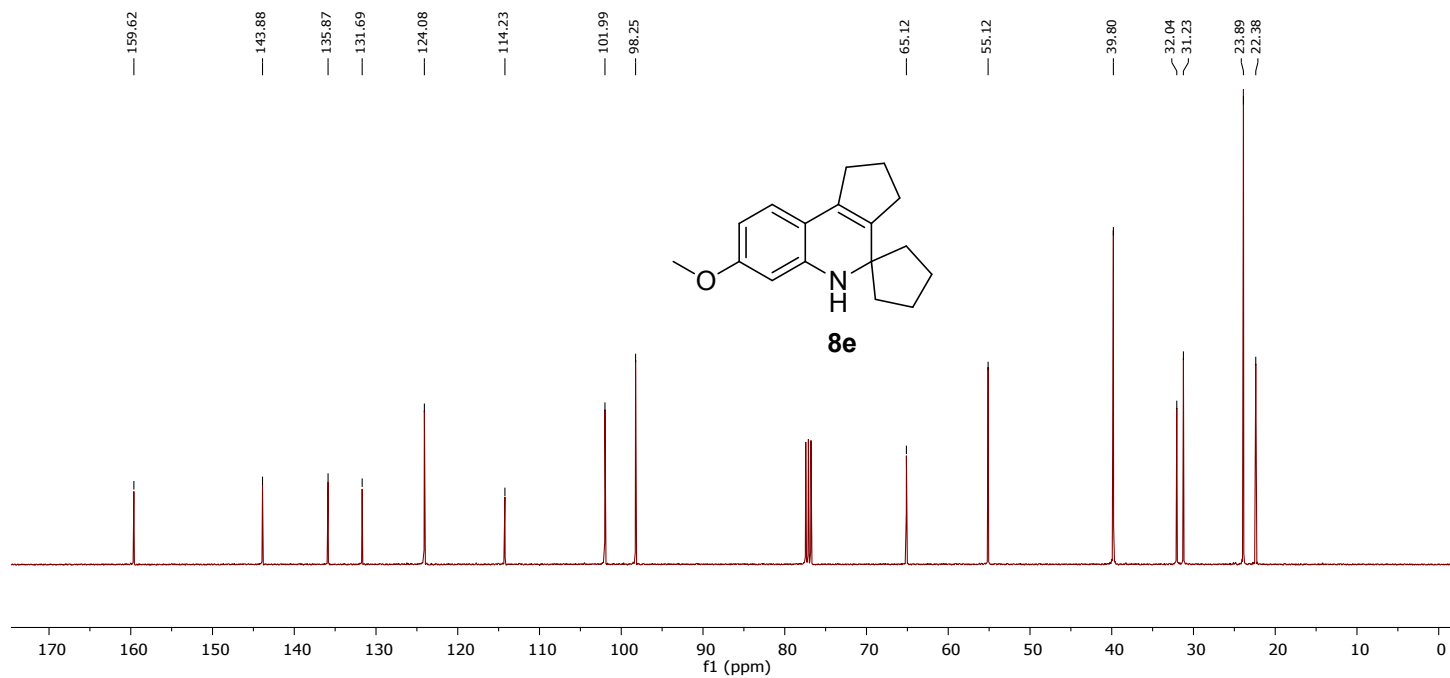
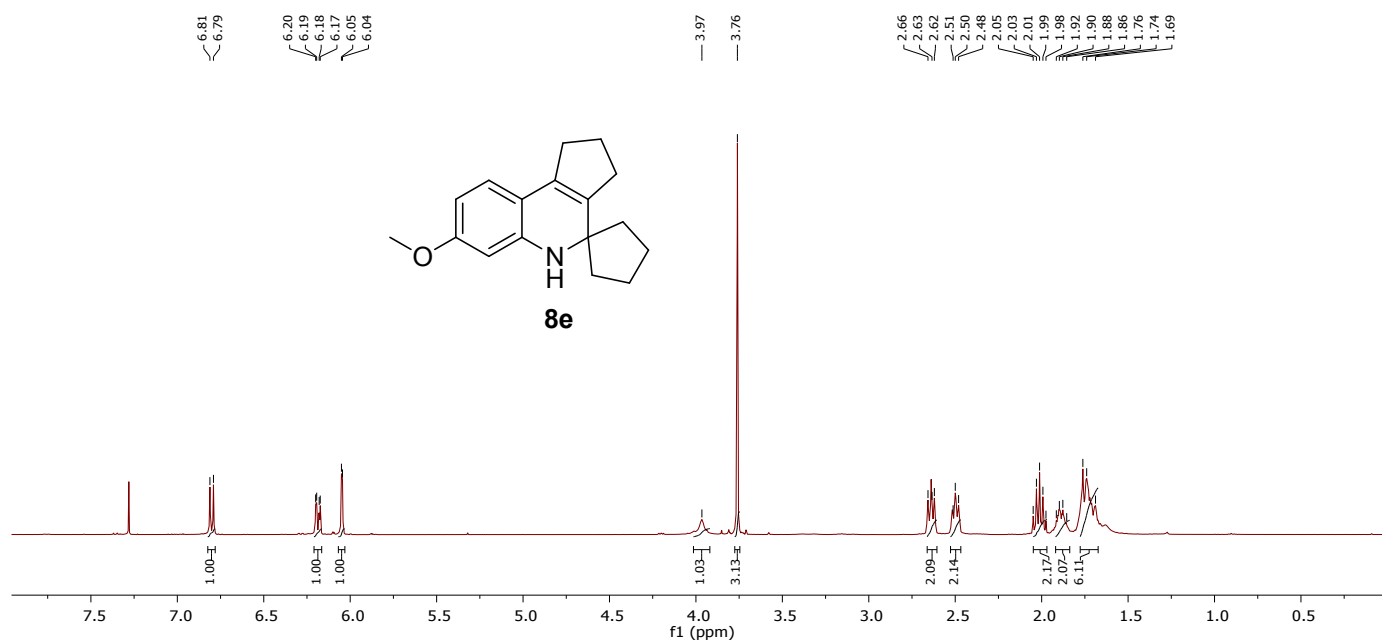
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 8b



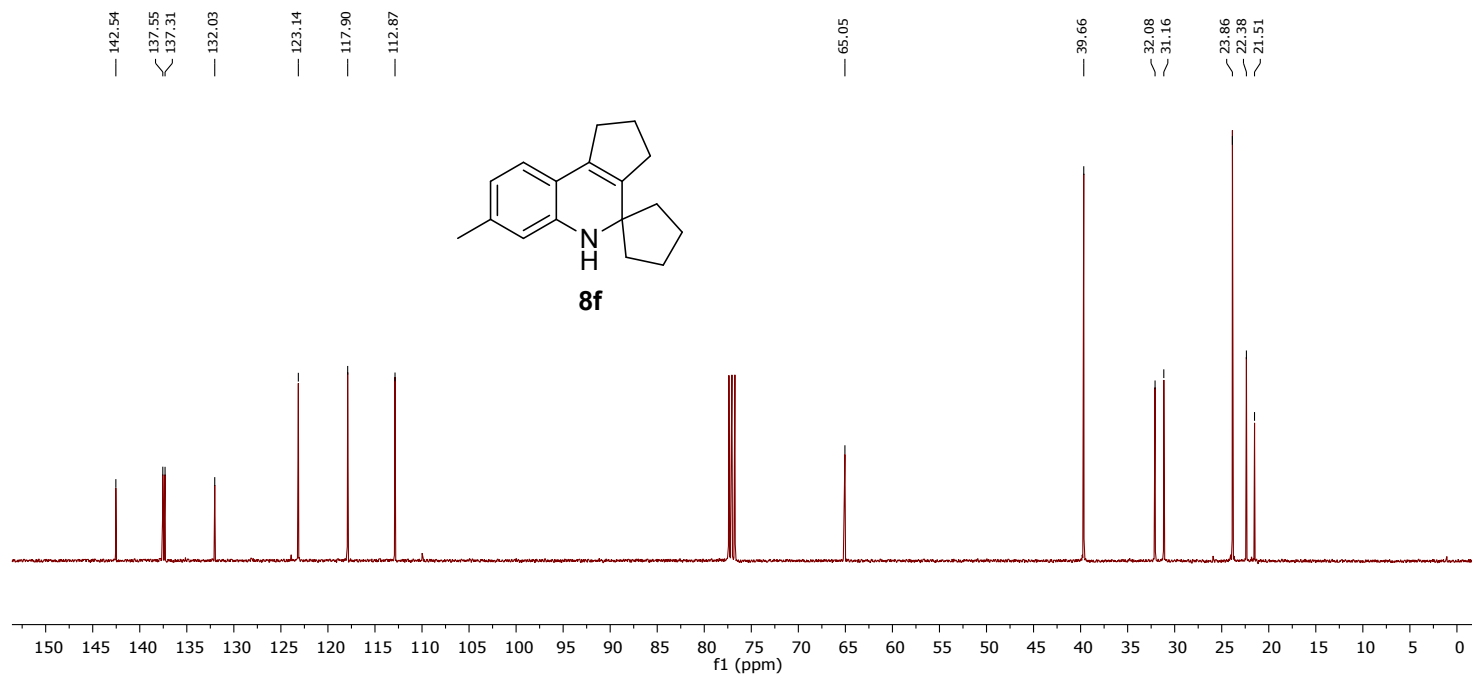
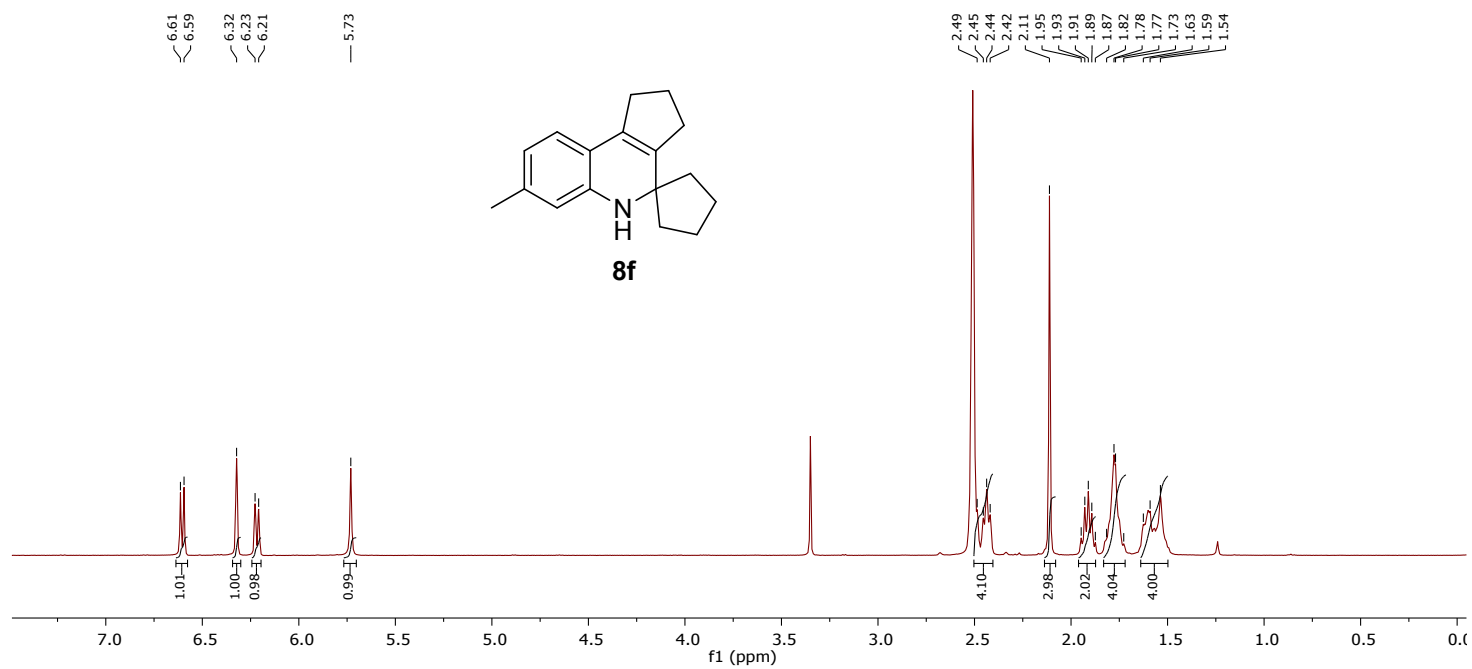
^1H and ^{13}C spectra of compound **8c**



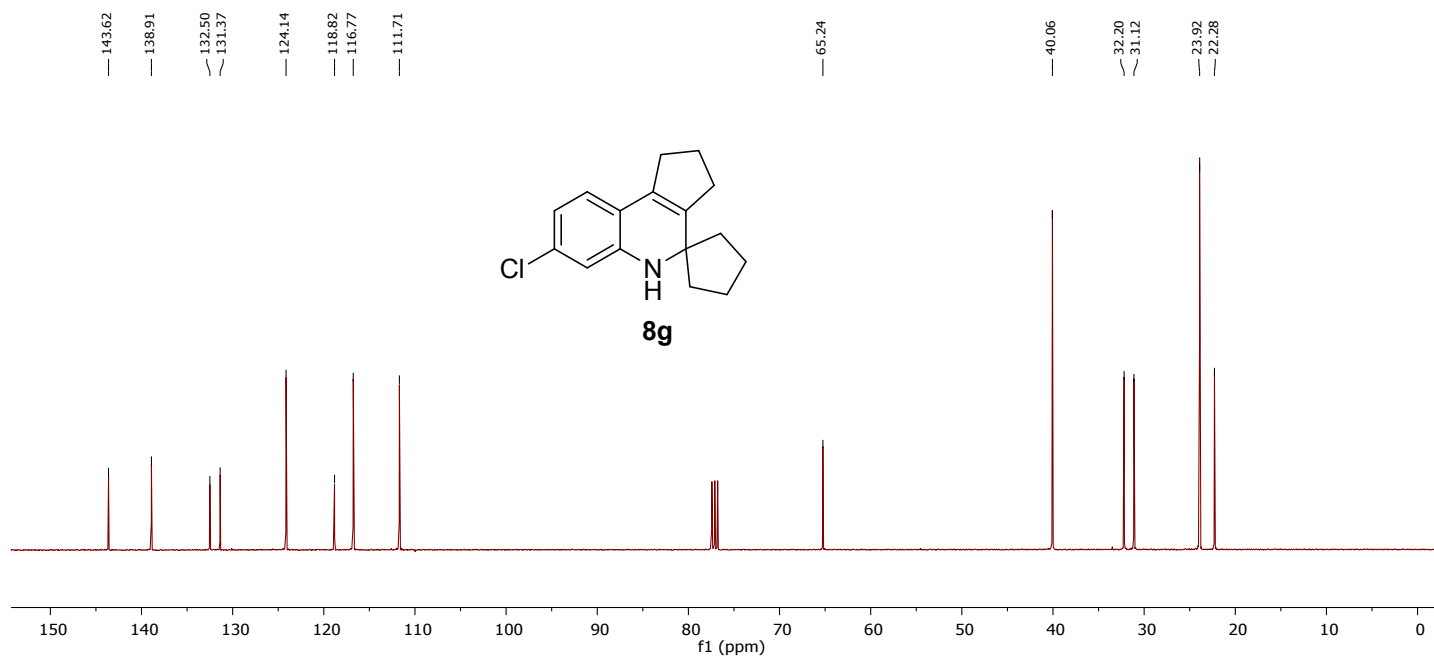
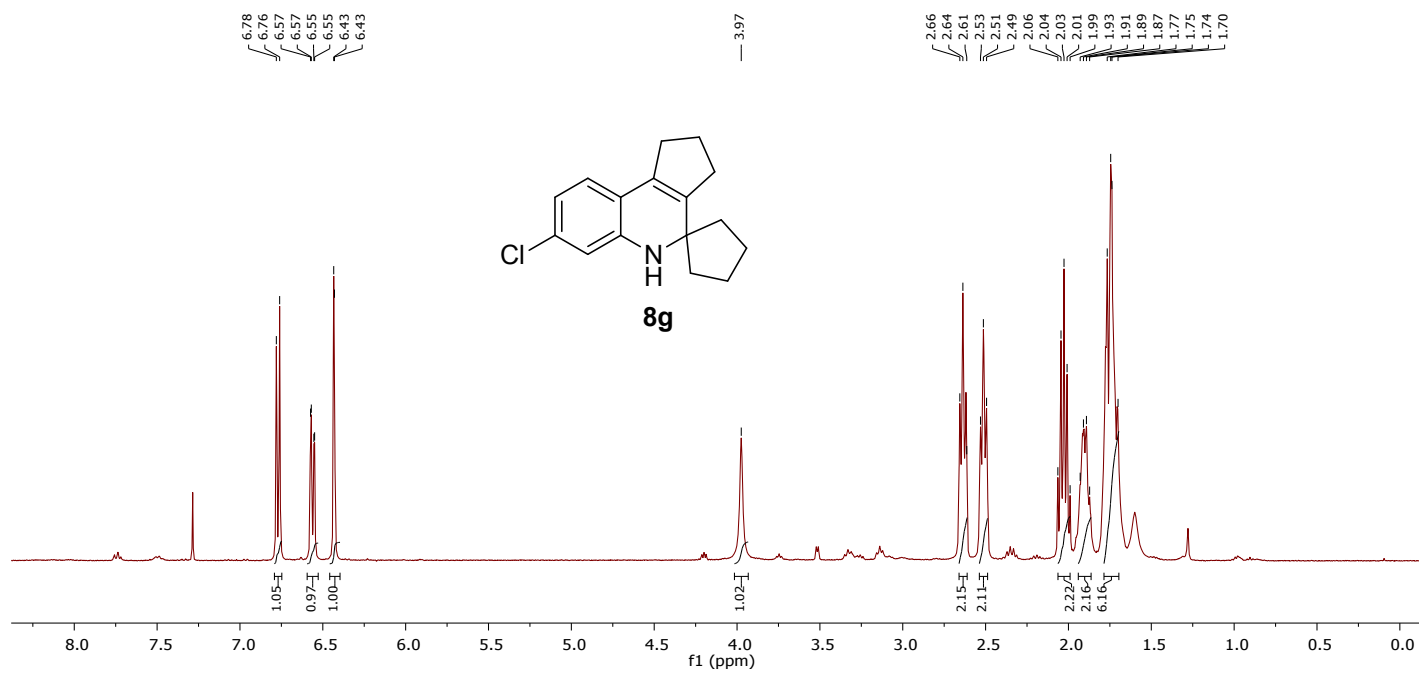
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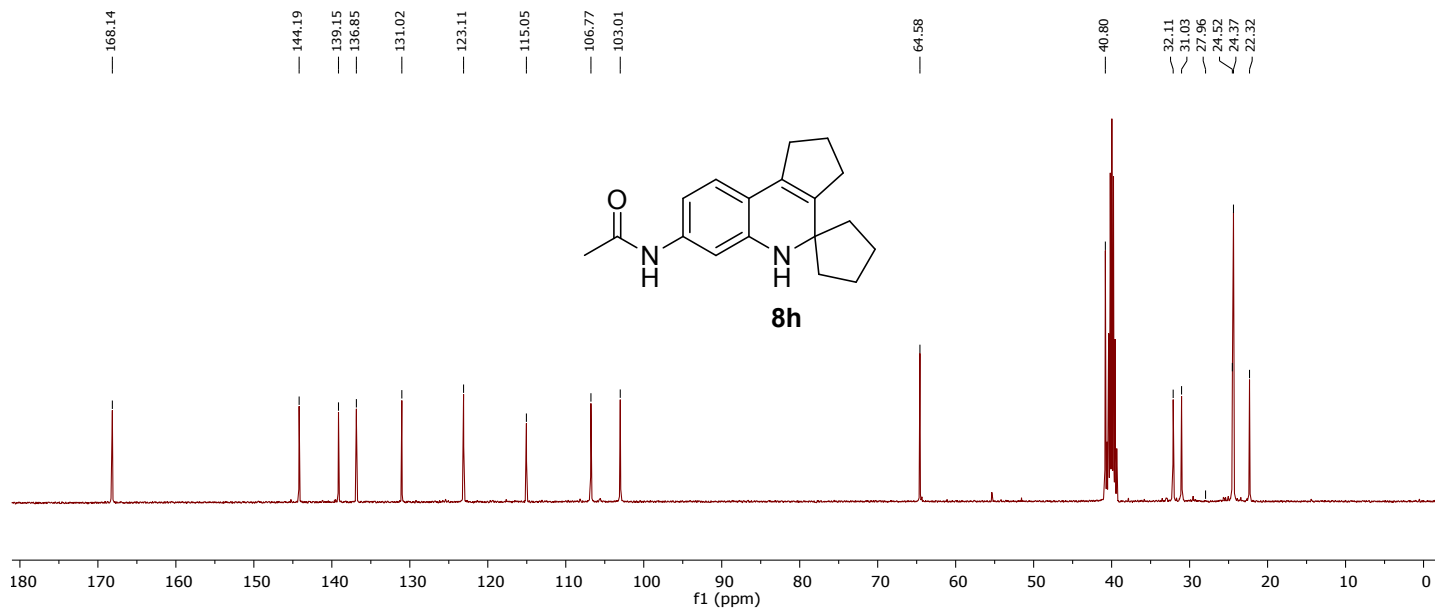
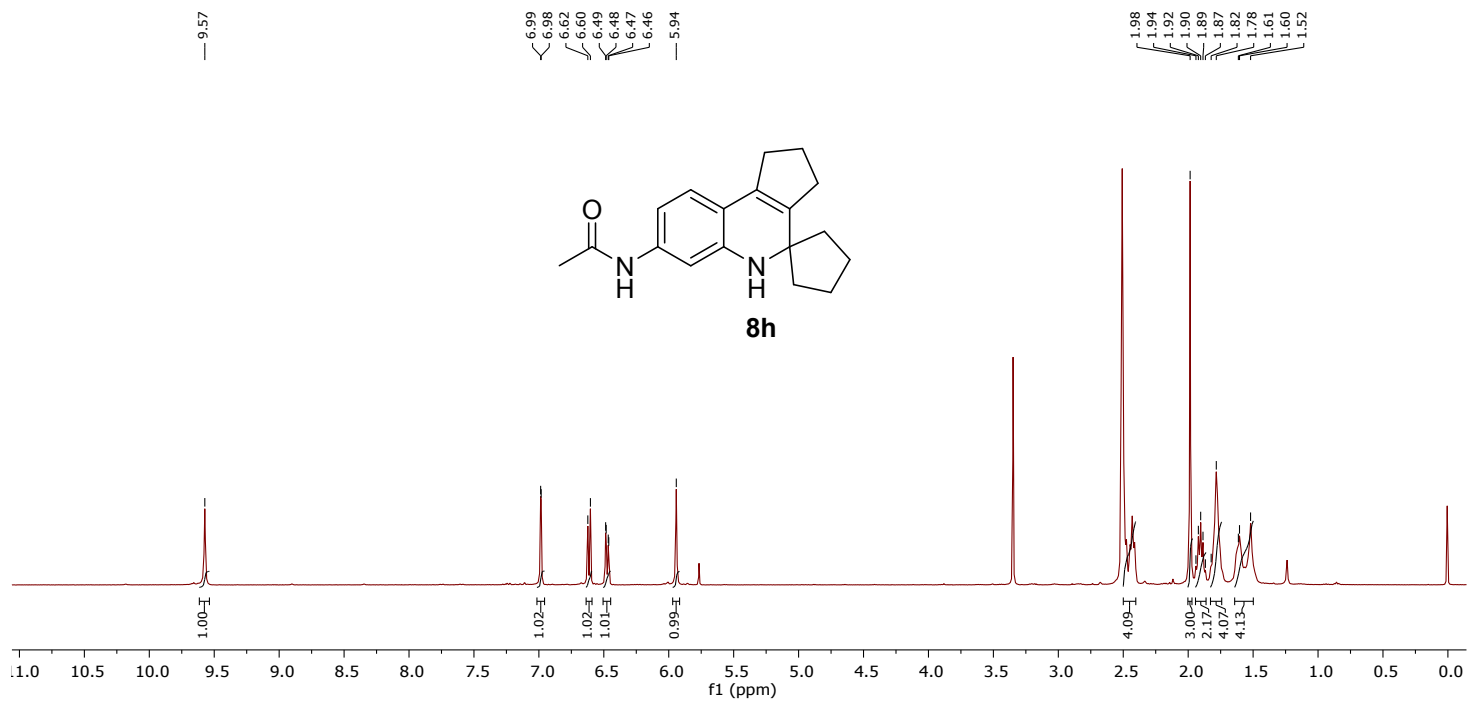
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 8f



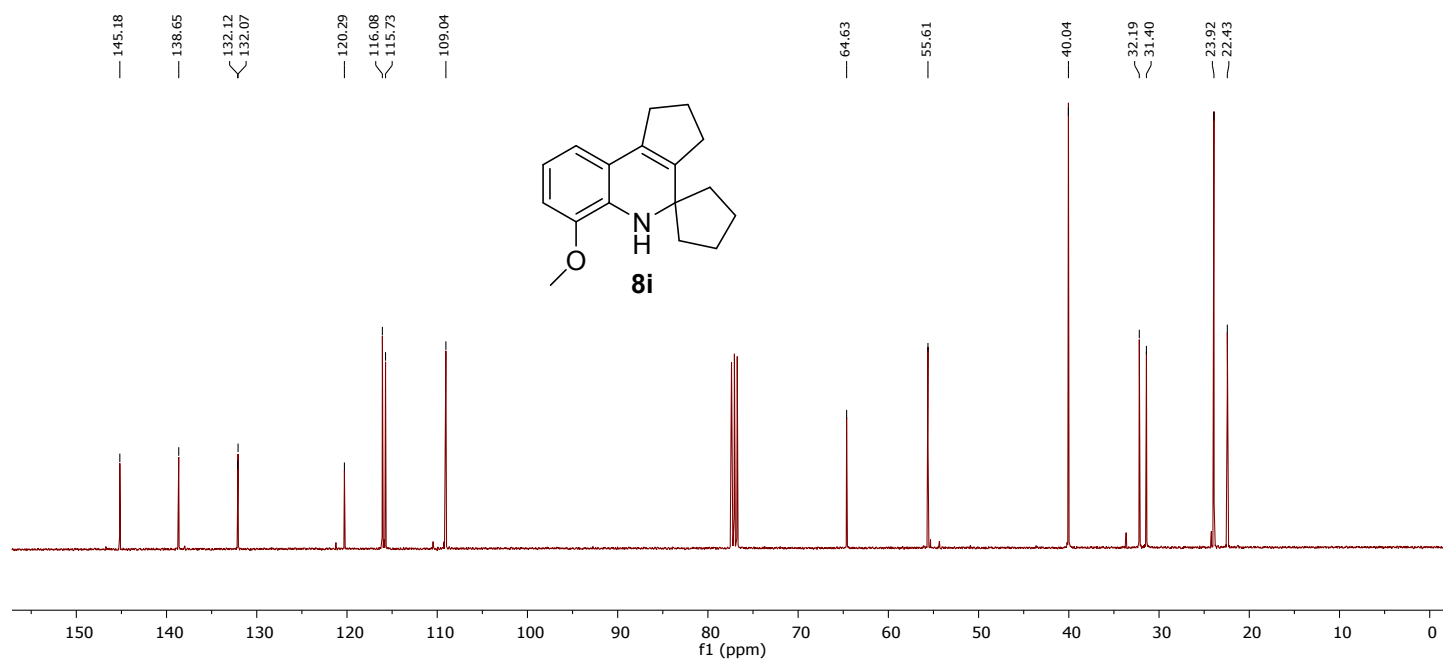
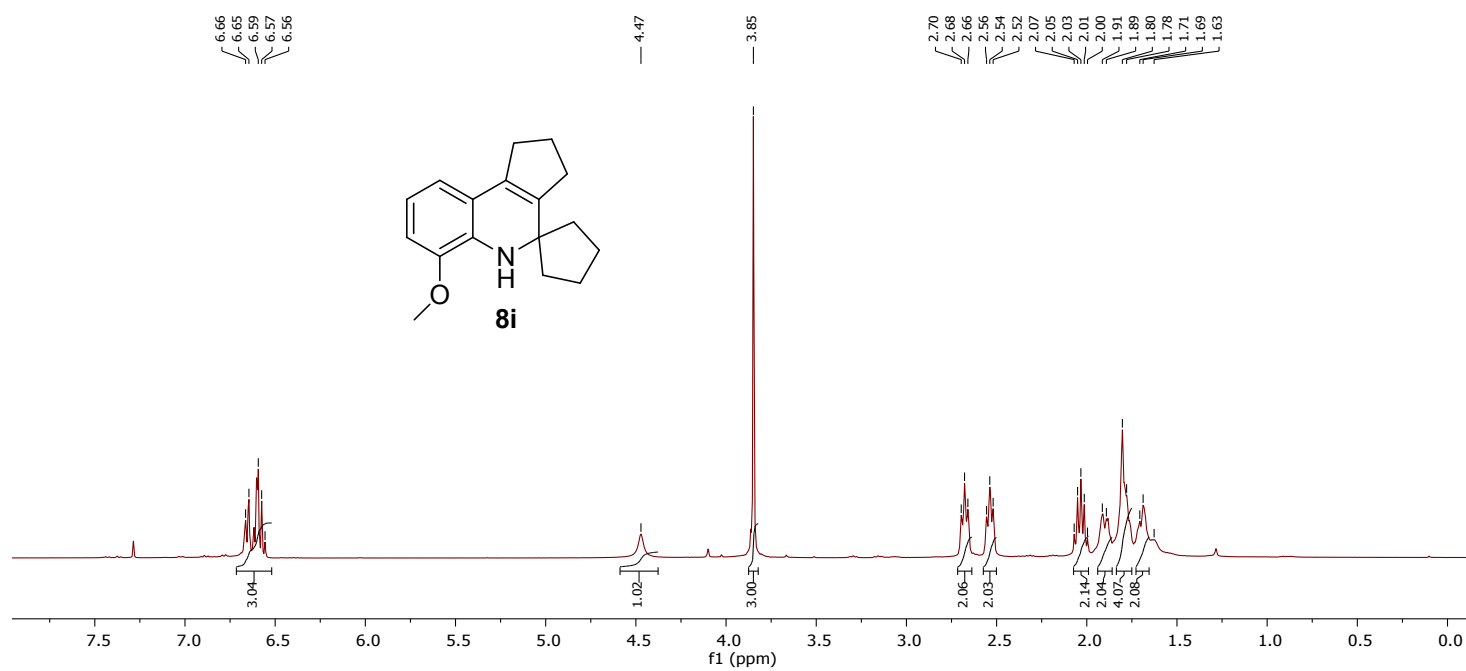
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 8g



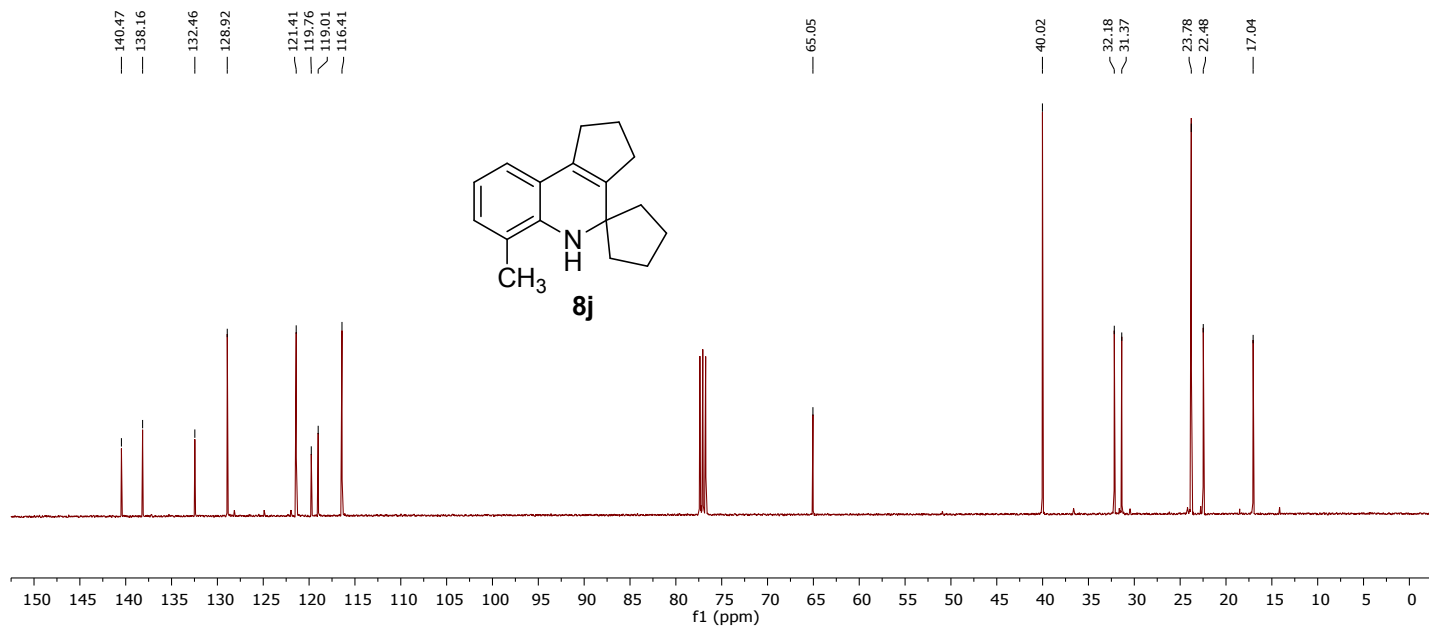
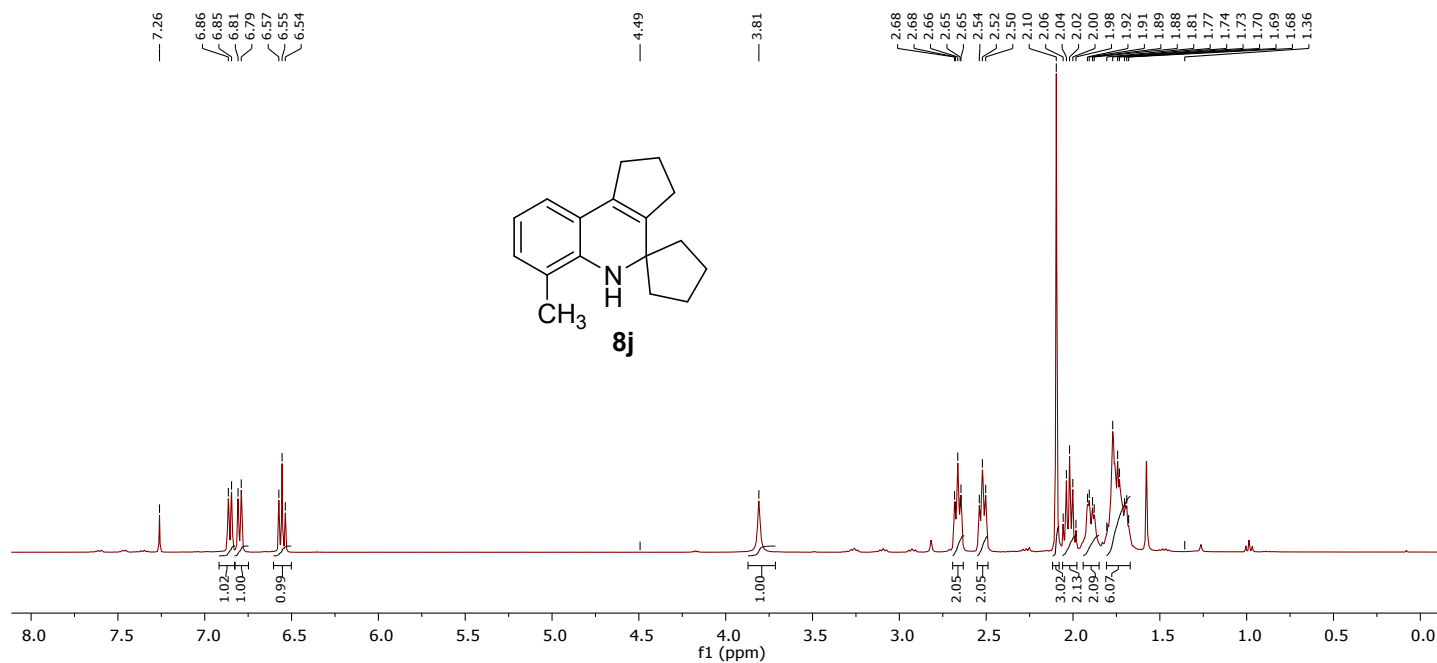
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 8h



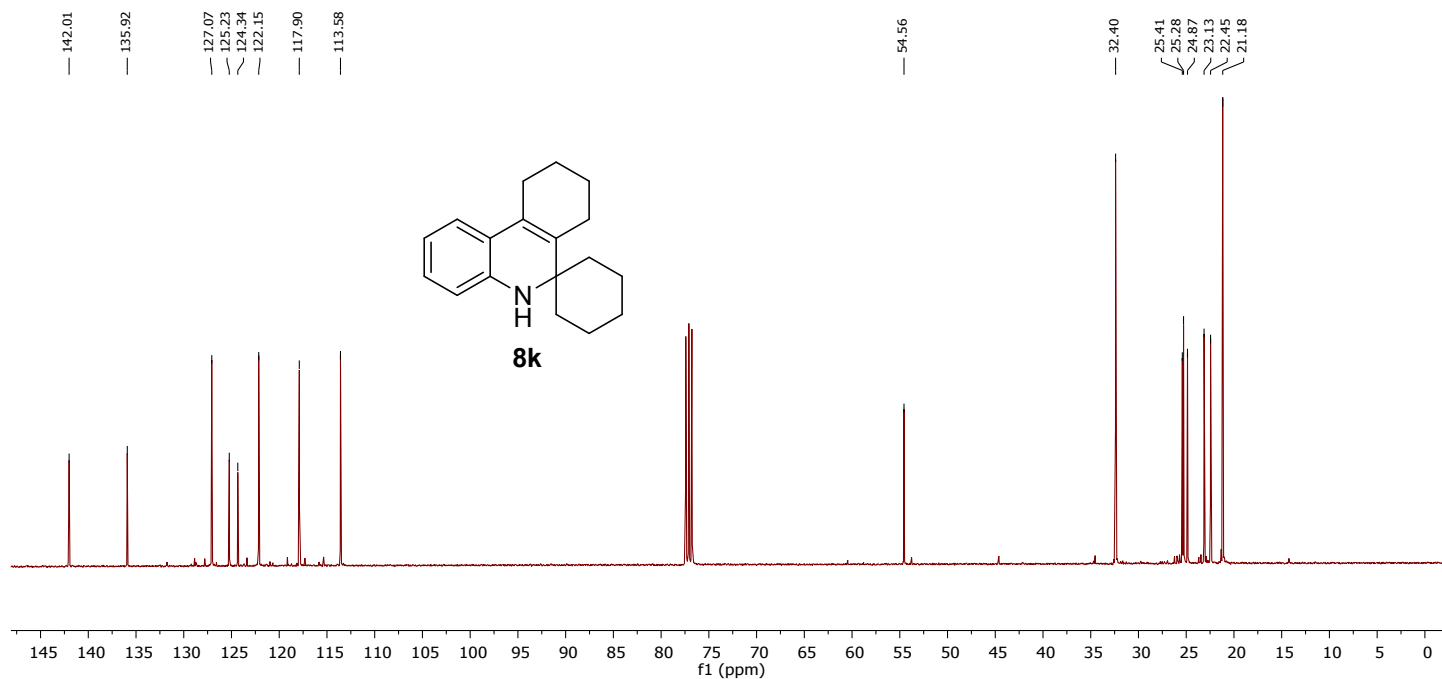
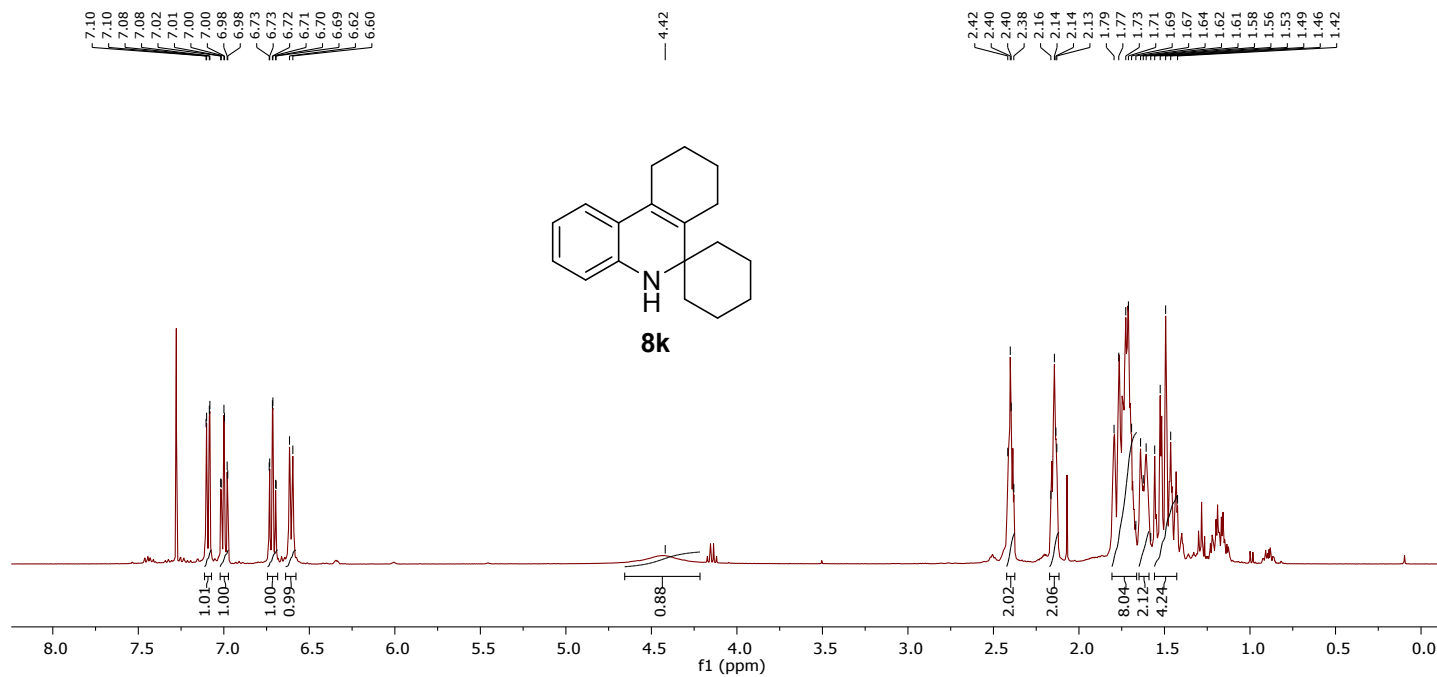
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 8i



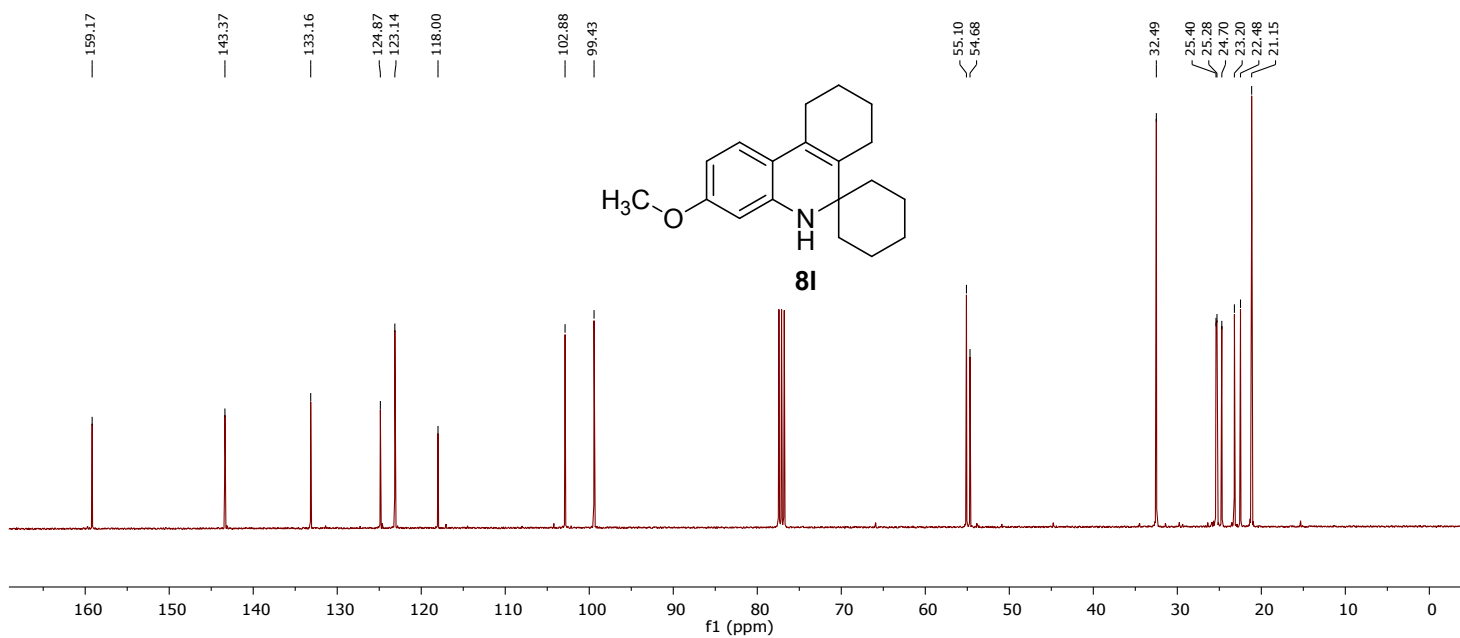
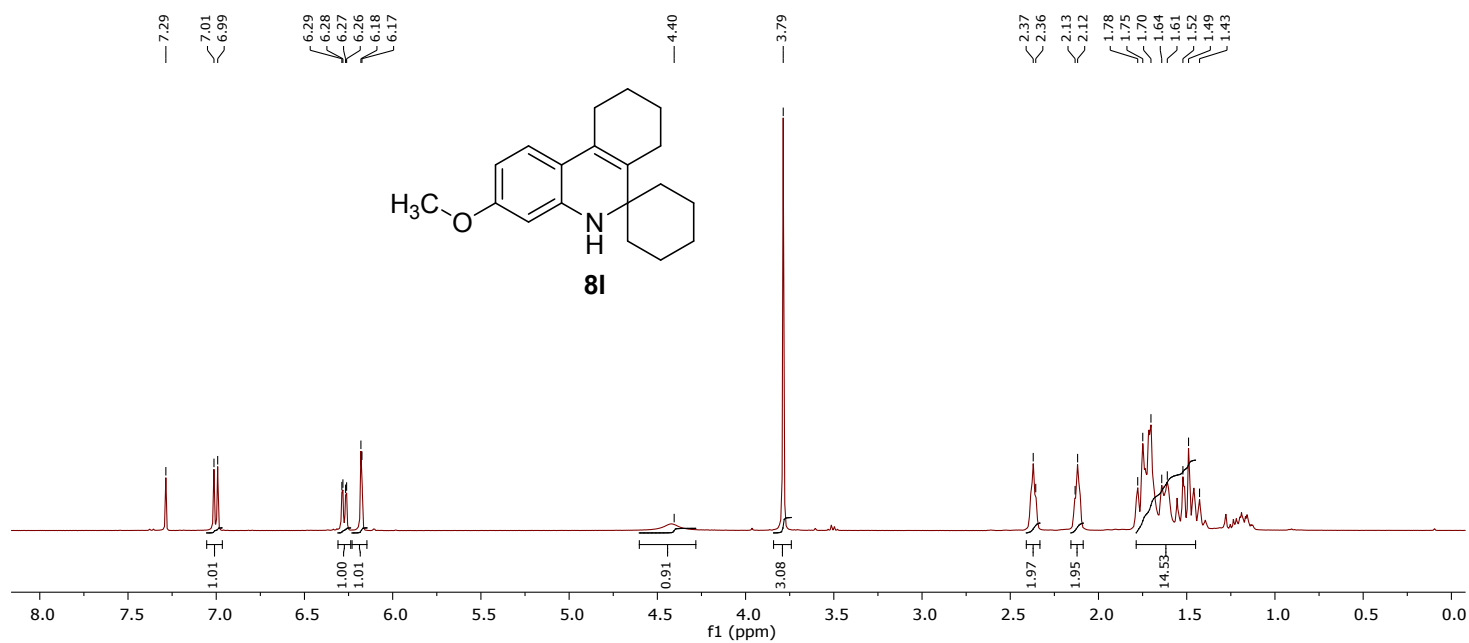
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 8j



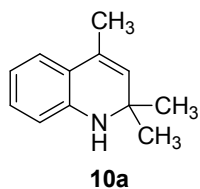
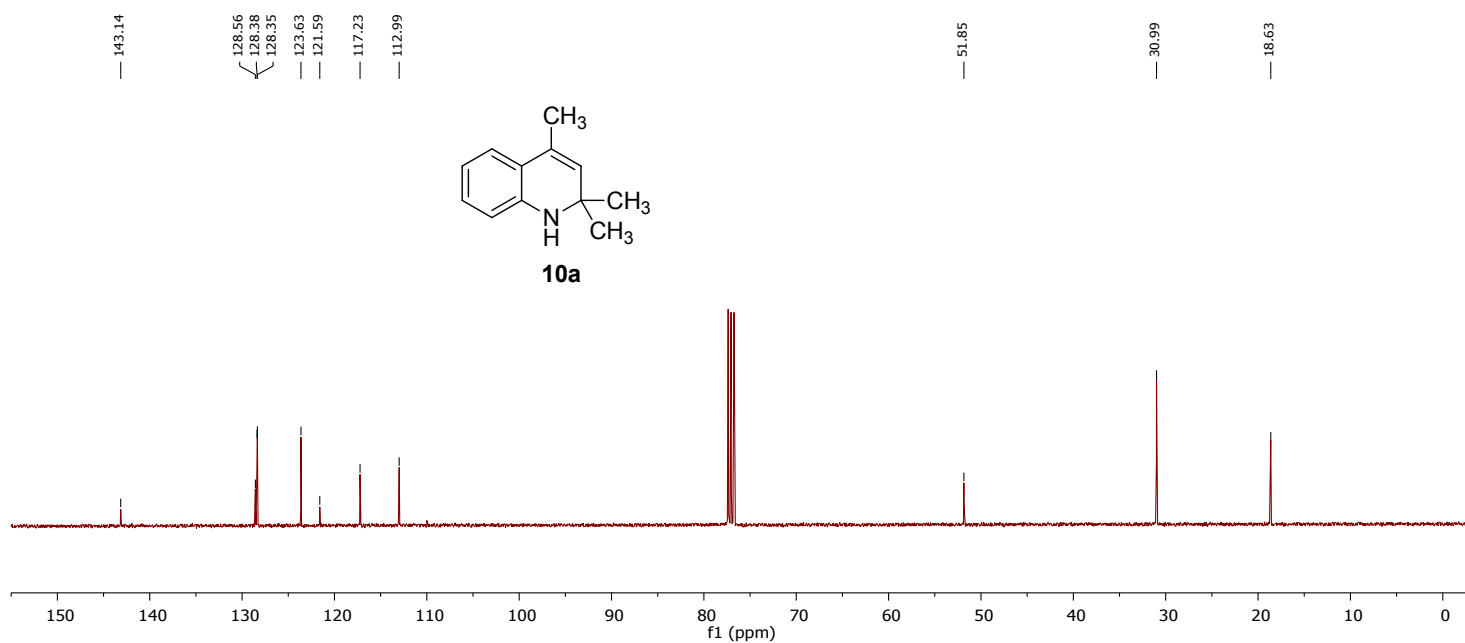
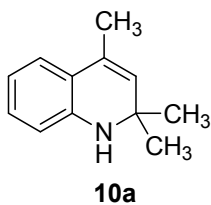
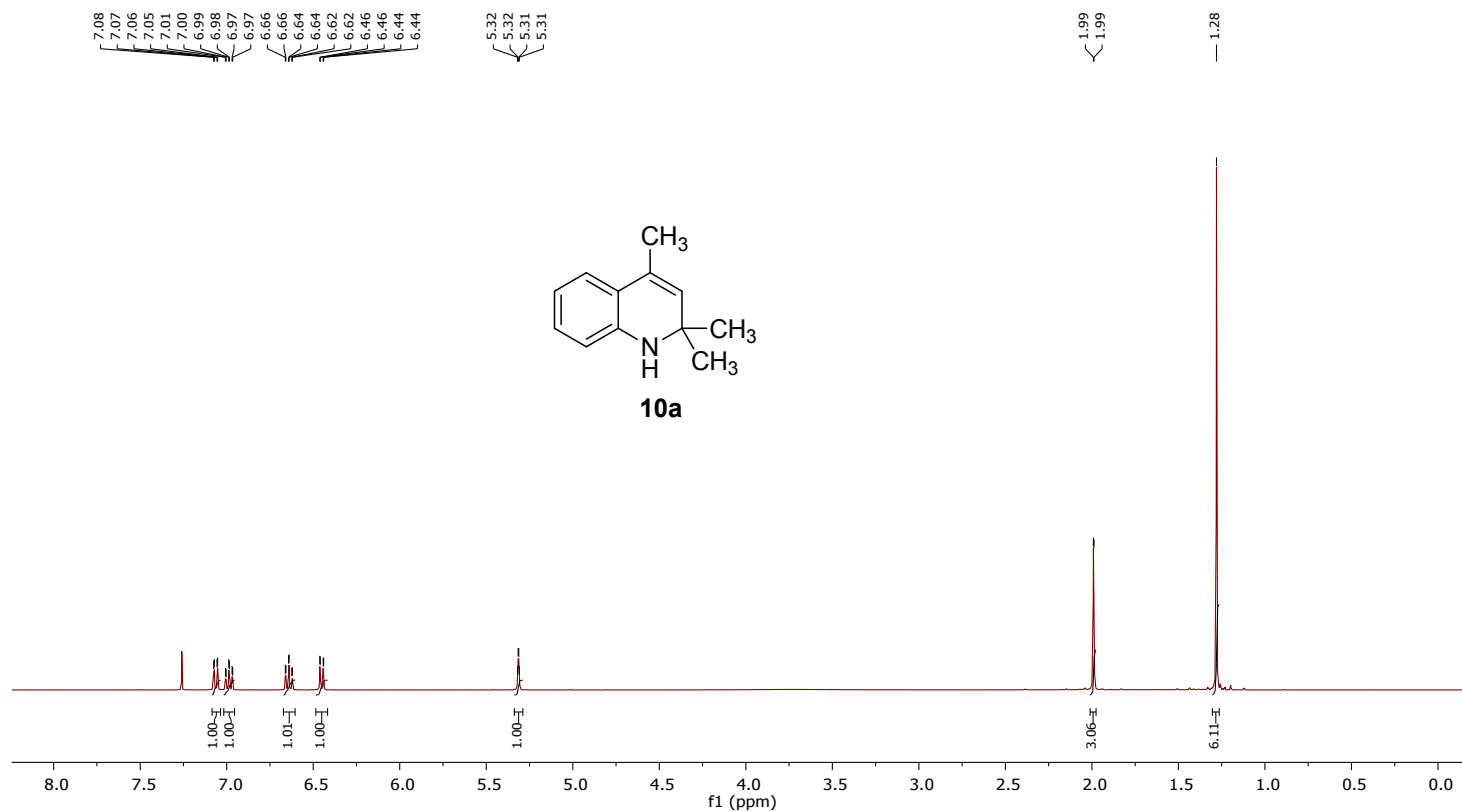
^1H and ^{13}C spectra of compound 8k



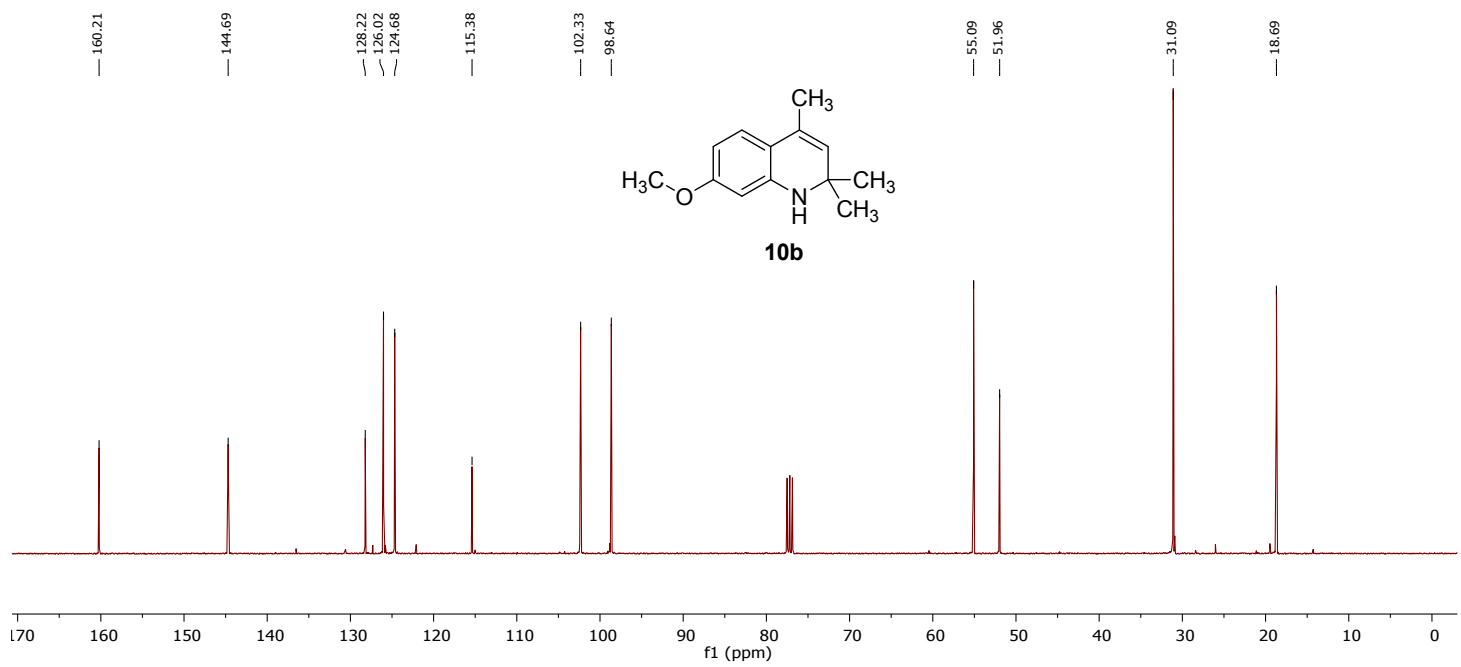
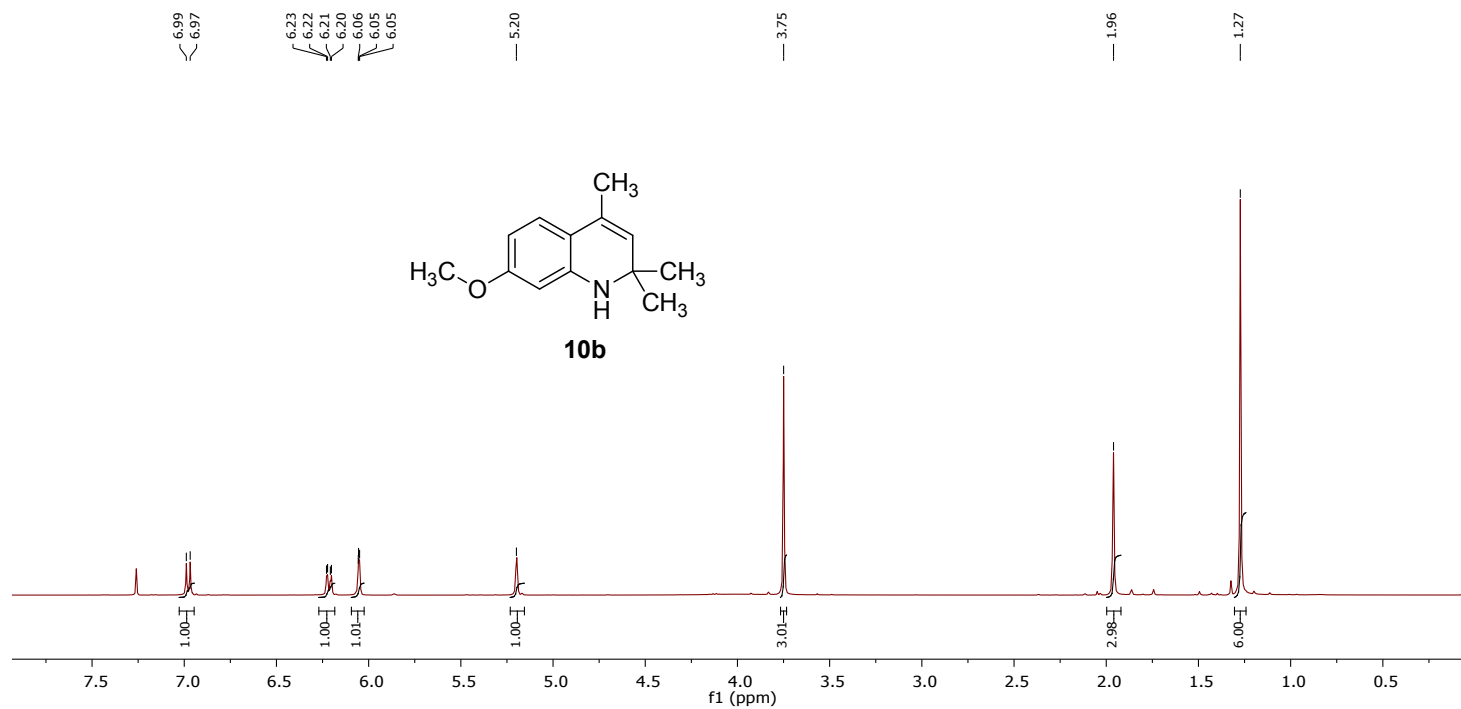
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 8I



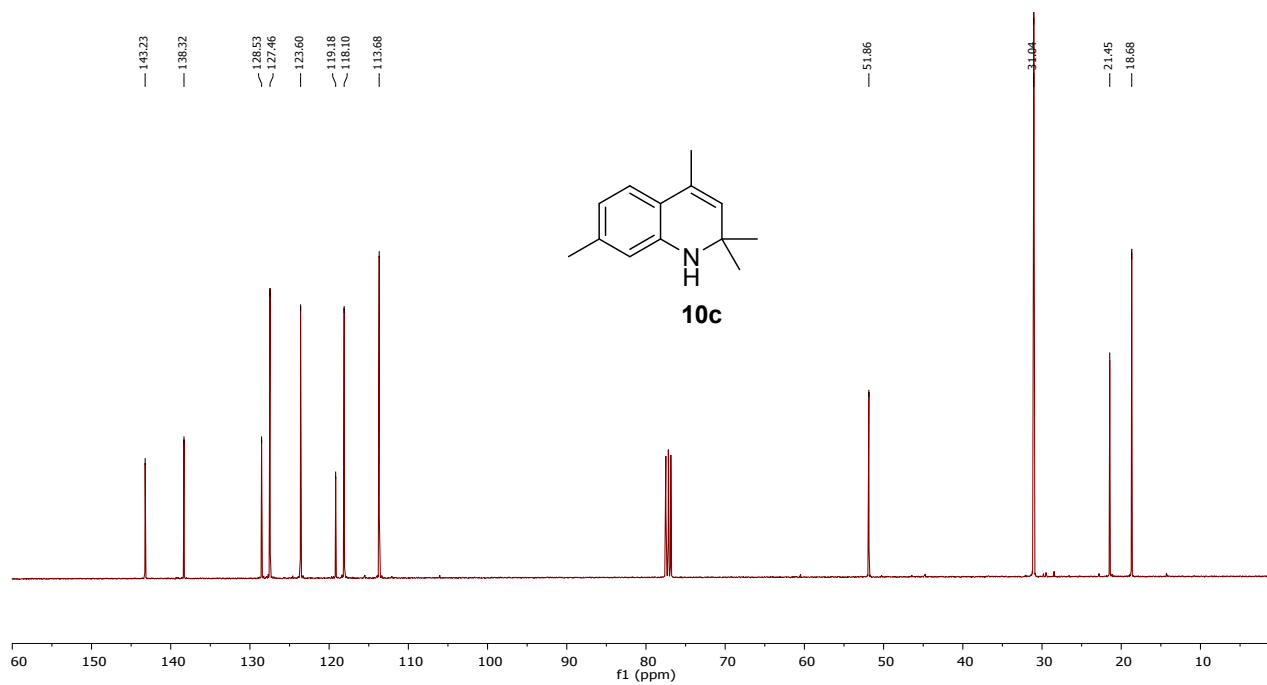
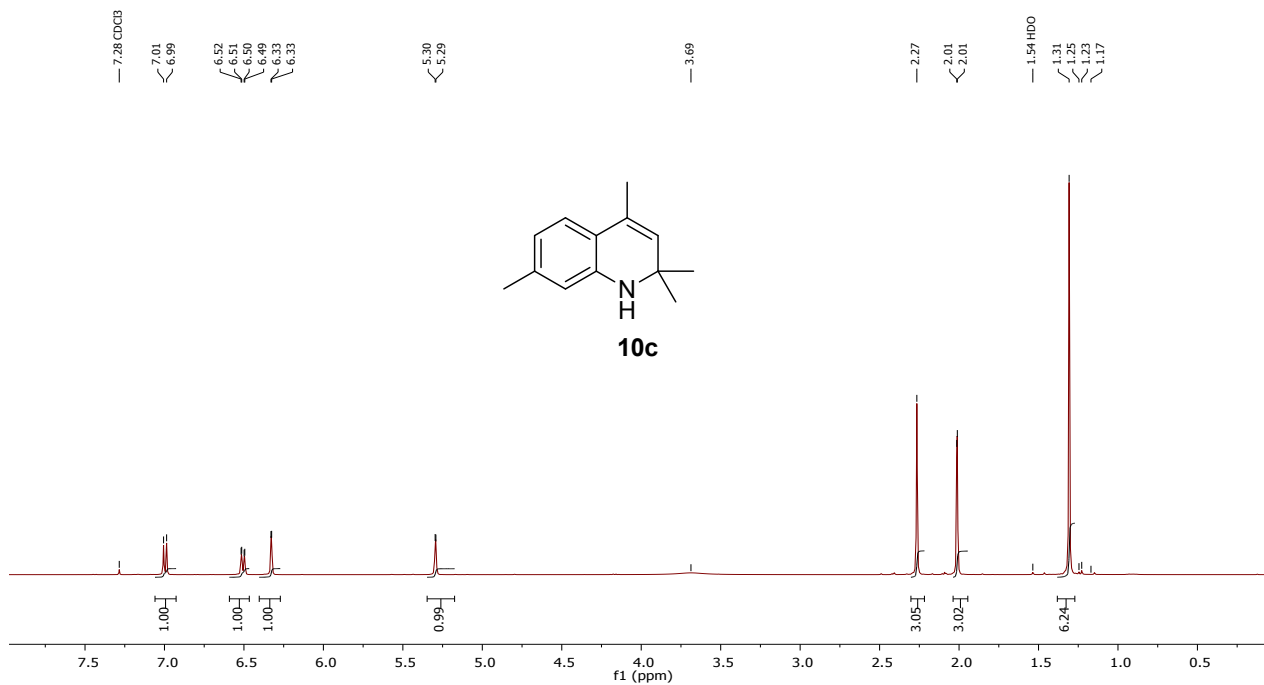
¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 10a



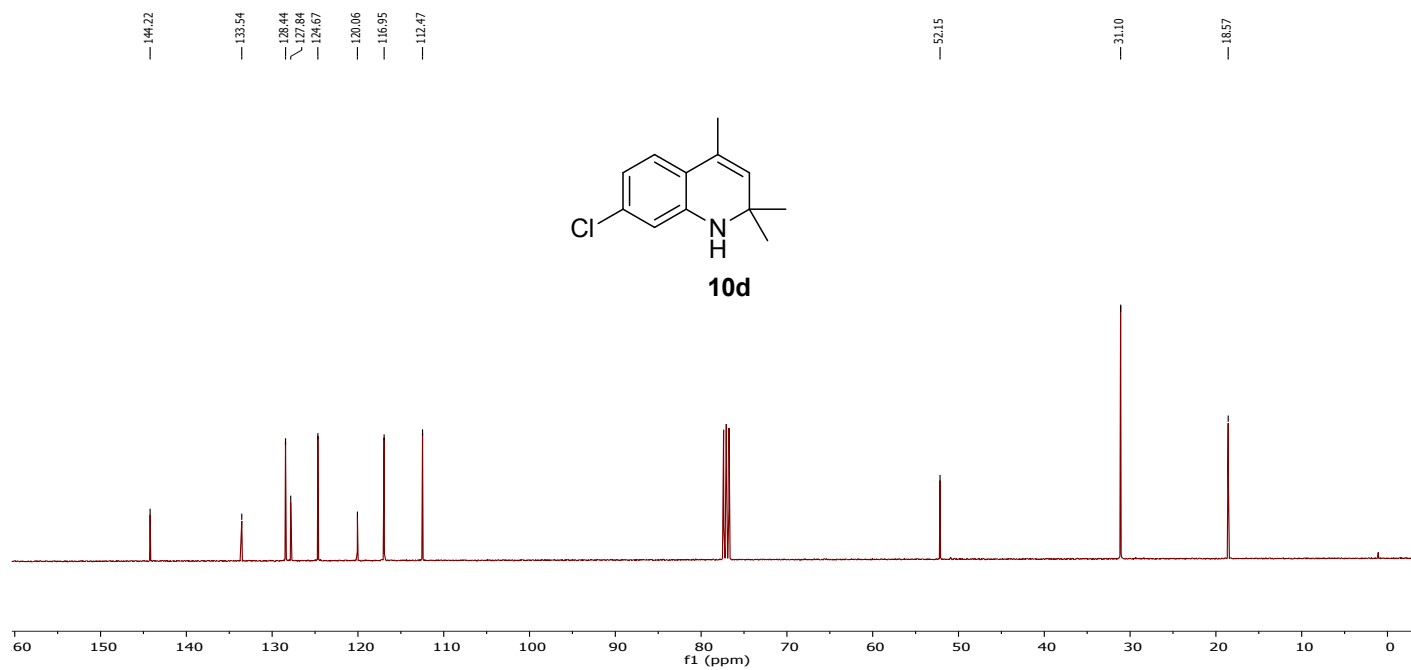
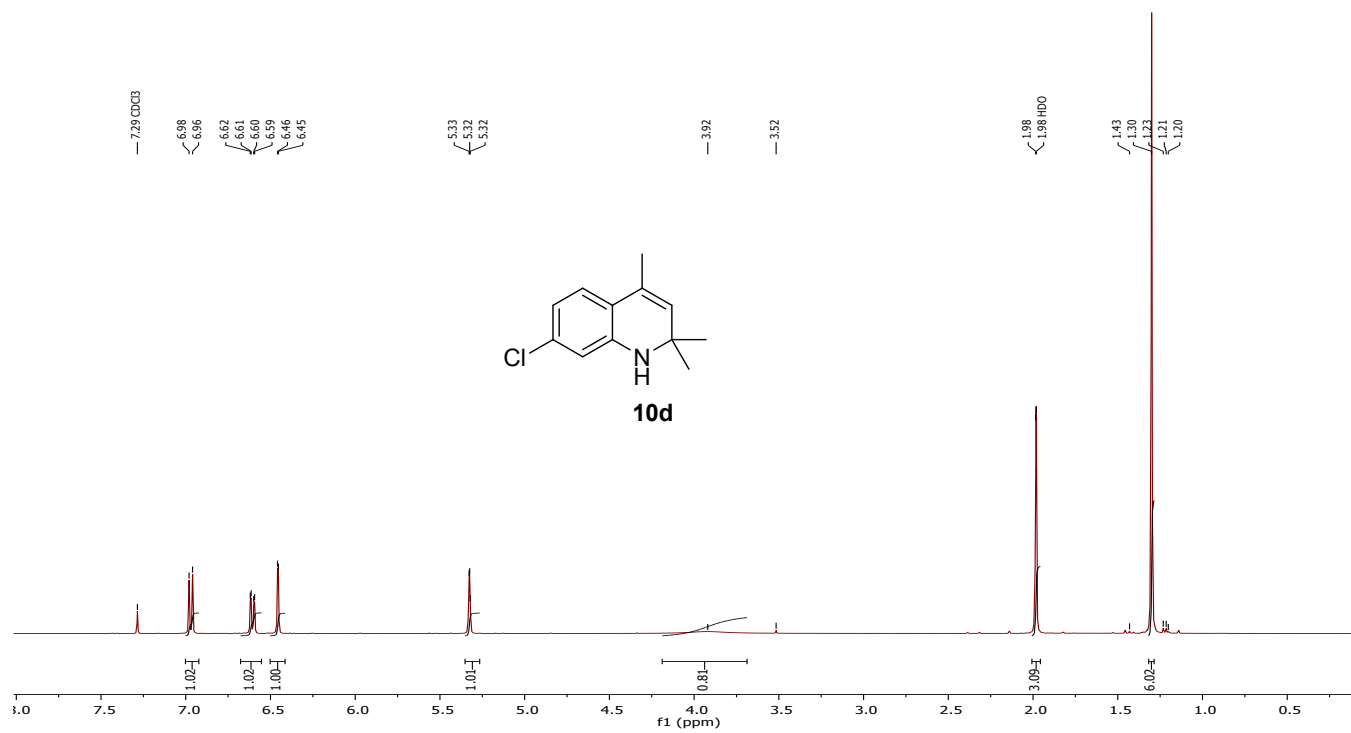
^1H and ^{13}C spectra of compound 10b



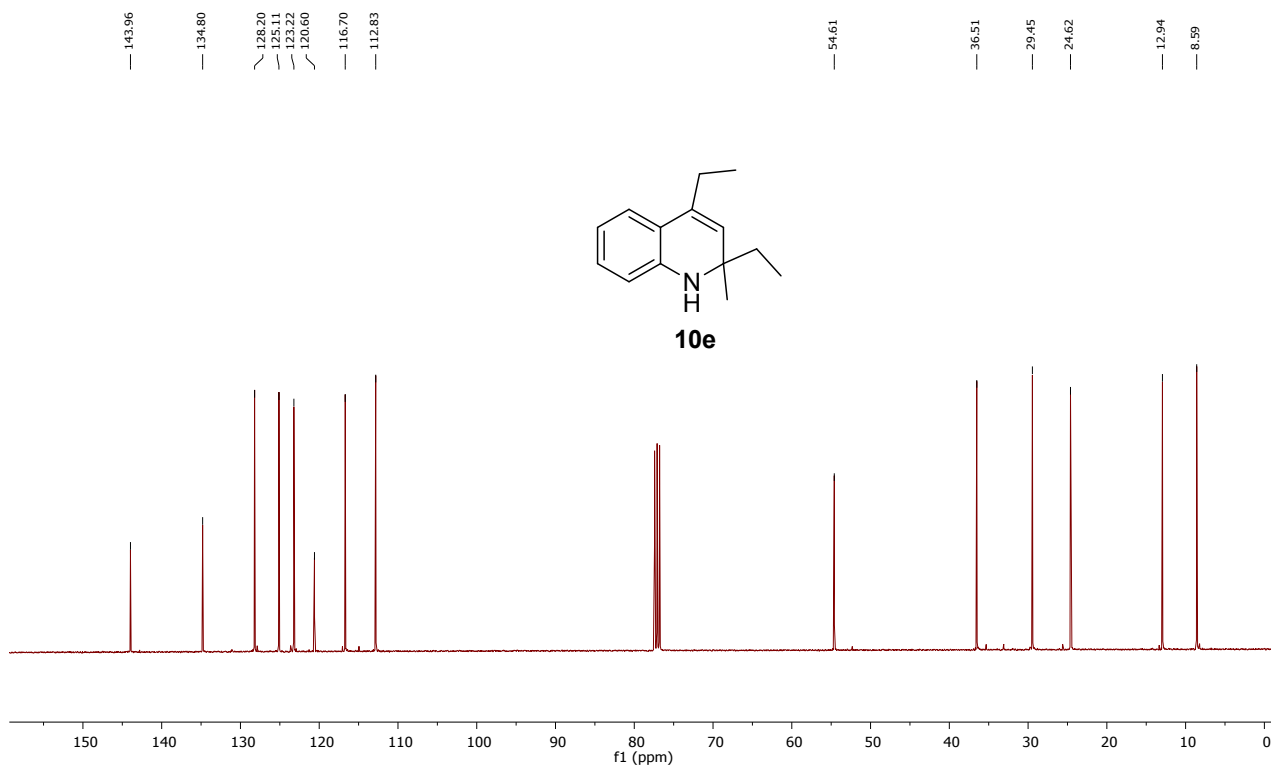
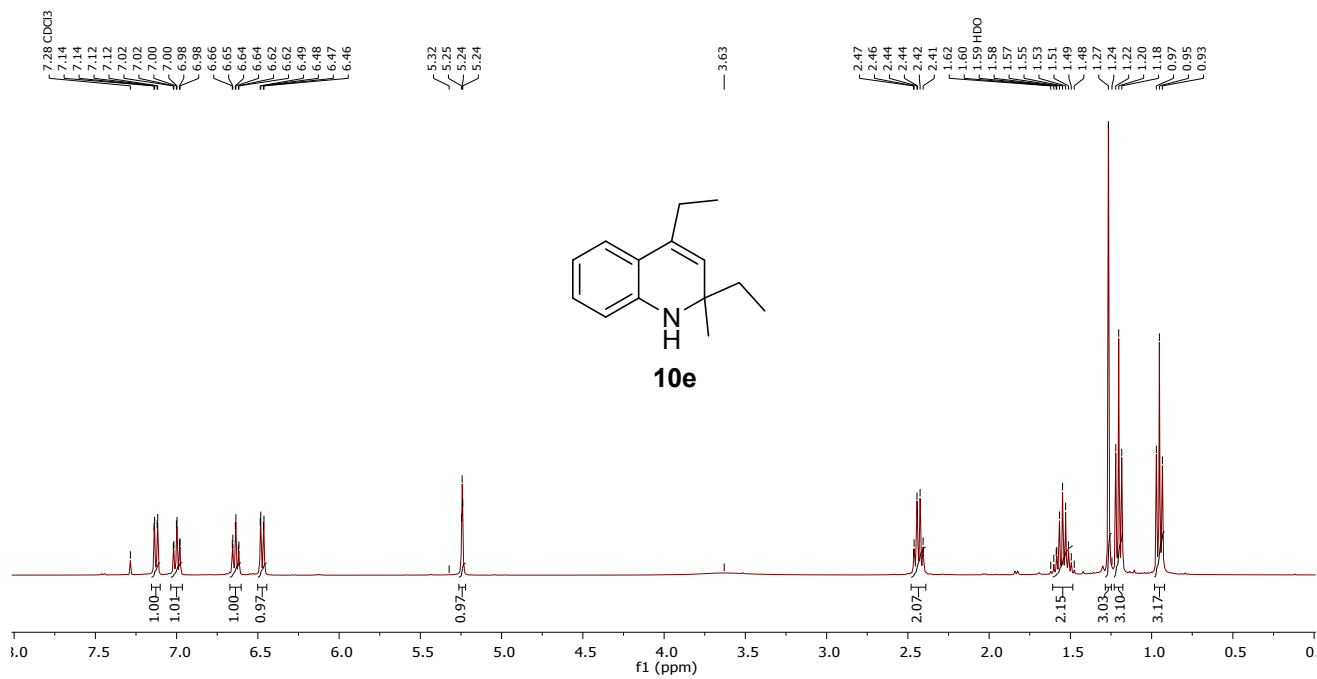
^1H and ^{13}C spectra of compound 10c



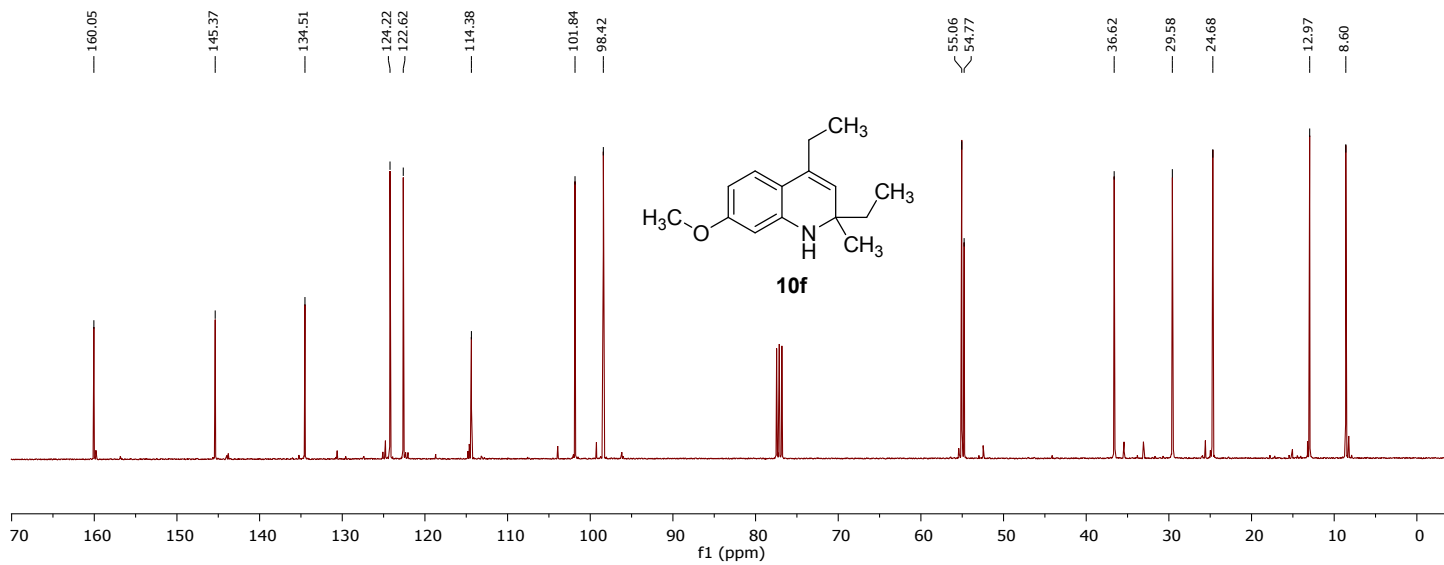
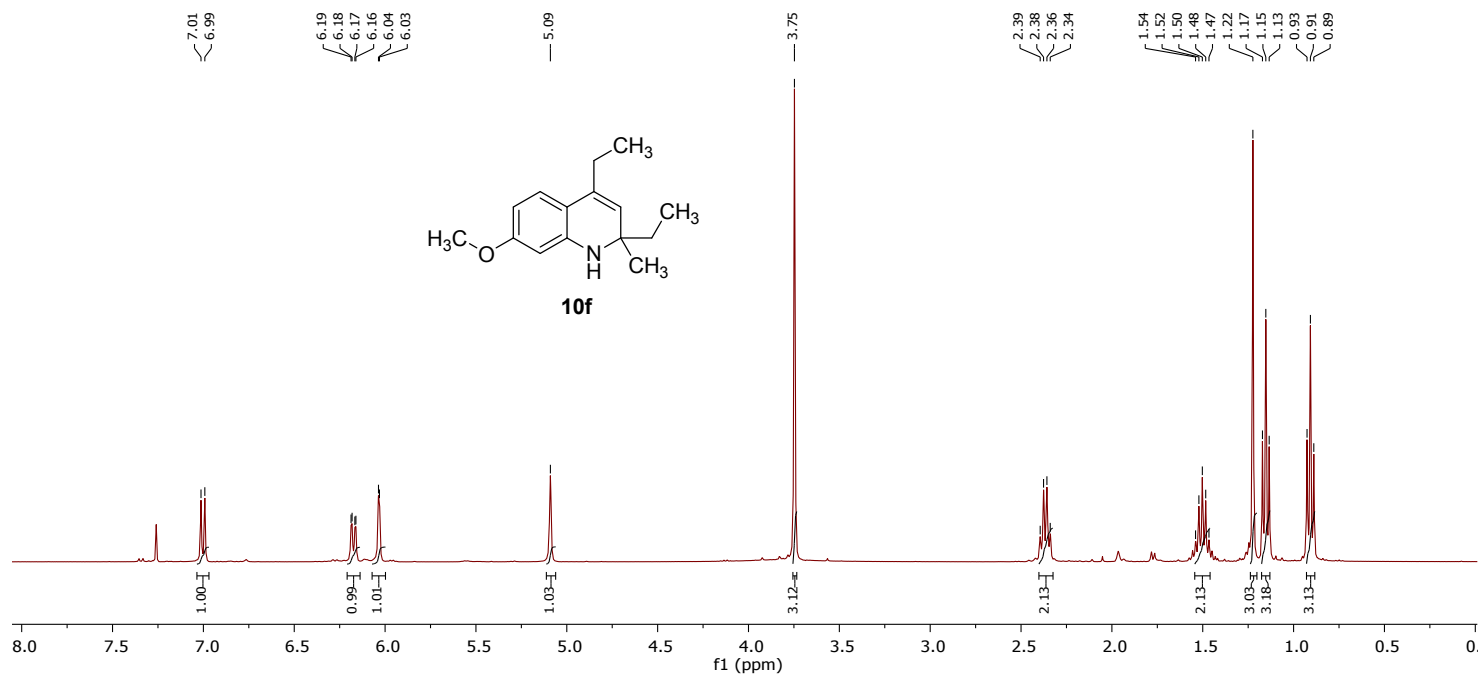
^1H and ^{13}C spectra of compound 10d



^1H and ^{13}C spectra of compound 10e



¹H and ¹³C spectra of compound 10f



^1H and ^{13}C spectra of compound 10g

