

## Supporting Information

### **A Well-defined Low-Valent Cobalt Catalyst $\text{Co}(\text{PMe}_3)_4$ with Dimethylzinc : A Simple Catalytic Approach for the Reductive Dimerization of Benzyl Halides**

Brendan J. Fallon, Vincent Corcé, Muriel Amatore, Corinne Aubert, Fabrice Chemla, Franck Ferreira, Alejandro Perez-Luna, Marc Petit\*

Institut Parisien de Chimie Moléculaire, UMR 8232, Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris 6,  
Case 229, 4 Place Jussieu, 75252 Paris, France

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## I. General information:

Commercial reagents were purified prior to use following the guidelines of Perrin and Armarego.<sup>1</sup> Tetrahydrofuran was purified by mean of distillation under dry nitrogen atmosphere on benzophenone/sodium and degassed by freeze-pump-thaw technique. Organic solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure on a Büchi rotary evaporatory. Chromatographic purifications of products were accomplished using force-flow chromatography on Davisil (LC60A) SI 60 Å (40 – 63 µm) silica gel according to the method of Still.<sup>2</sup> Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck 60 F254 silica gel plates. TLC visualization was performed by fluorescence quenching ( $\lambda = 254$  nm), dipping in  $\text{KMnO}_4$  or *para*-anisaldehyde stains. Filtrations through Celite were performed using Hyflo Super Cel from Fluka.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 AVANCE or 300 AVANCE (400 and 300 MHz respectively) and are referenced relative to residual  $\text{CDCl}_3$  protons signals at  $\delta$  7.26 ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 AVANCE or 300 AVANCE (100 and 75 MHz respectively) and are referenced relative to  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at  $\delta$  77.00 ppm.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 AVANCE (376 MHz) and are referenced relative to  $\text{CFCl}_3$  at  $\delta$  0.00 ppm. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$  ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, qt = quintuplet, m = multiplet, bs = broad signal), coupling constant (Hz) and integration. IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 (ATR diamond) and are reported in terms of frequency of absorption ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). High-resolution mass spectra were obtained from the Laboratoire Structure et Fonction de Molécules Bioactives (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris 6).

## II. Mechanistic studies:

### Role of Zinc in the reaction: see table 2 in communication for details

A number of control experiments were ran in order to determine the role of dimethyl zinc.

- 1. Absence of Me<sub>2</sub>Zn:** The reaction of **1a** with Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> 10 mol %, 66 °C, 10 mins, THF) in the absence of Me<sub>2</sub>Zn yields the desired product of homo-coupling **2a** with a conversion of ~20 % as determined by gas chromatography (GC) using decan as internal standard. This suggests Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> is capable of performing two single electron transfers and the catalytic activity is likely to be lost due to the formation of X<sub>2</sub>Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (where X = Br, Cl)
- 2. Use of ClCo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> as catalyst:** Based on our previous result in the absence of zinc we hypothesised that a two electron transfer process was in operation for catalyst Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>. Thus in the presence of ClCo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> we expected that only a single electron transfer could be achieved therefore facilitating a single homo-coupling cycle. Gratifyingly this proved to be the case. The reaction of **1a** under standard reaction conditions ClCo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> 10 mol %, 66 °C, 10 mins, THF) in the absence of Me<sub>2</sub>Zn yielded the desired product of homo-coupling with a conversion of ~10 % as determined by GC.

If our proposed theory was correct and the catalytic activity was loss due to the generation of X<sub>2</sub>Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> then the introduction of Me<sub>2</sub>Zn into the reaction with ClCo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> should regenerate the active cobalt(0) Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> through a transmetalation process followed by loss of ethane gas. Pleasingly this proved to be the case and we could efficiently reactivate the catalyst by introduction of Me<sub>2</sub>Zn (0.6 equiv).

- 3. Use of Cl<sub>2</sub>Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> as catalyst:** As further proof of the regeneration of our cobalt catalyst through a transmetalation step followed by elimination of ethane we performed a series of experiments with Cl<sub>2</sub>Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. As expected no conversion to the desired homo-coupling product was observed through the introduction of Cl<sub>2</sub>Co(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (20 mol %) at 66 °C, for 10 mins. However, by introducing Me<sub>2</sub>Zn (0.6 equiv) (gaseous evolution observed) we could regenerate the active catalytic species and the desired homo-coupling product was observed.
- 4. Use of ClCo(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> as catalyst.**  
As previously reported the use of stoichiometric amounts of ClCo(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> could generate the homo-coupling product. However, the catalyst could not be efficiently regenerated in the presence of Me<sub>2</sub>Zn (1.2 equiv). This suggests an important role for the phosphine ligand.

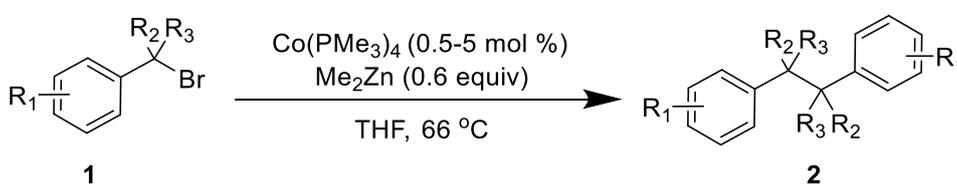
### III. Preparation of starting materials:

The following cobalt catalysts were synthesized according to literature methods and showed good agreement with the literature data.

- $\text{Co}(\text{PMe}_3)_4$ <sup>3</sup>
- $\text{ClCo}(\text{PMe}_3)_3$ <sup>4</sup>
- $\text{Cl}_2\text{Co}(\text{PMe}_3)_3$ <sup>5</sup>

### IV. Characterization of compounds:

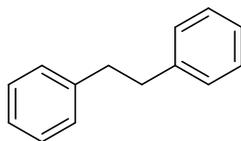
#### General procedure for the cobalt catalyzed homo-coupling of benzyl halides:



To a solution of  $\text{Co}(\text{PMe}_3)_4$  (0.5-5 mol %) in degassed THF (0.5 mL) was added 1.0 M  $\text{Me}_2\text{Zn}$  in hexane (0.3 mL, 0.3 mmol) followed by benzyl halide (**1**; 0.5 mmol) at ambient temperature. The reaction was then transferred to an oil bath and heated to 66 °C for between 10-60 mins. The resulting mixture was quenched with 10 % HCl, and extracted with AcOEt. The AcOEt layer was washed with brine and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica to give the desired product.

**Spectroscopic data:**

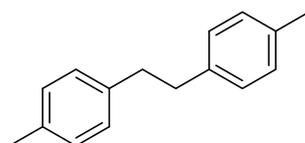
**1,2-Diphenylethane (2a) :**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 50.5–51.0 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ: 7.25–7.30 (m, 4H) 7.18–7.21 (m, 6H), 2.92 (s, 4H), **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 141.8 (2C), 128.5(4C), 128.4 (4C), 125.9 (2C), 38.0 (2C). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):** **v max** 3005, 2900, 2845, 1775, 1505, 1401 Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

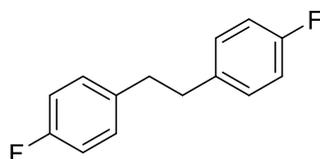
**1,2-di-*p*-tolylethane (2b):**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 78.5–79.5 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.12 (s, 8H), 2.90 (s, 4H), 2.36 (s, 6H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 138.8 (2C), 135.2 (2C), 128.9 (4C), 128.2 (4C), 37.6 (2C), 21.0 (2C). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):** **v max** 2901, 2839, 1498, 1412. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

**1,2-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethane (2c):**

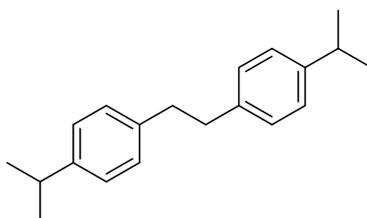


Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 91.0-92.0 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.03 – 6.97 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 3.2 Hz, 4H), 6.91 – 6.83 (app. t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 2.79 (s, 4H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 161.3 (d, *J* = 243.7 Hz, 2C), 136.9 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 2C), 129.8 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz(4C)), 115.1 (d, *J* = 21.6 Hz,

4C), 37.2 (2C). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  max 2901, 1530, 1216. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

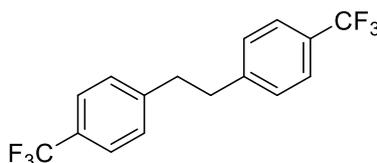
**1,2-Bis(4-isopropylphenyl)ethane (2d):**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>

Colorless solid; m.p. 94–96 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.19 (s, 8H), 2.97 – 2.86 (m, 6H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 12H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  146.4 (2C), 139.4 (2C), 128.2(4C), 126.3(4C), 37.6(2C), 33.7(2C), 24.1(4C). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  max 2956, 2856, 1513, 1459, 1142, 827. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>7</sup>

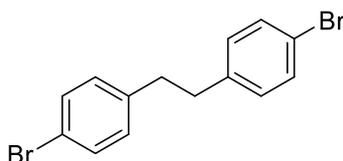
**1,2-Bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethane (2e):**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>6</sub>

Colorless solid; m.p. 81-83 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.57 – 7.51 (app. d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.28 – 7.23 (app. d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 3.00 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  145.0 (2C), 128.7, 128.4, 125.3 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 37.2 (2C). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -62.3. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  max 2955, 2866, 1616, 1321, 1173, 1115, 1069, 834. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values<sup>8</sup>

**1,2-Bis(4-bromophenyl)ethane (2f):**

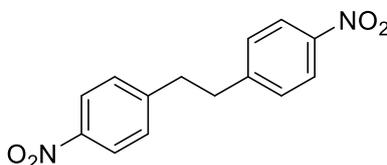


Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>

Colorless solid; m.p. 117–118 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.42 – 7.35 (app. d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 7.03 – 6.96 (app. d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 2.85 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  140.0 (2C),

131.4 (4C), 130.2 (4C), 119.8 (2C), 37.0 (2C). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  max 2922, 1479, 1285. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

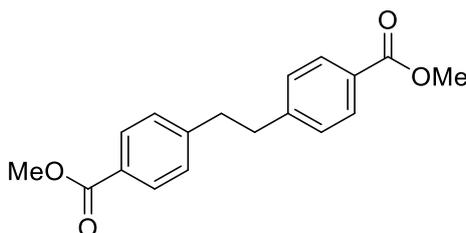
**1,2-Bis(4-nitrophenyl)ethane (2g):**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

Yellow solid; m.p. 175–177 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.17 – 8.12 (app. d, J = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.30 – 7.26 (app. d, J = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 3.08 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.0 (2C), 146.7 (2C), 129.2 (4C), 123.8 (4C), 36.9 (2C). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  max 3007, 2934, 1595, 1512, 1341, 854. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>7</sup>

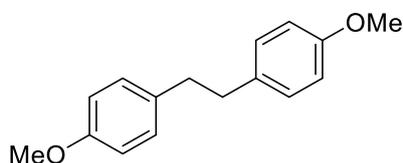
**Dimethyl 4,4'-(ethane-1,2-diyl)dibenzoate (2h)**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

Colorless solid; m.p. 120-121 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.97 – 7.90 (app. d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.22 – 7.16 (app. d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 3.90 (s, 6H), 2.98 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.0 (2C), 146.4 (2C), 129.7 (4C), 128.5 (4C), 128.1 (2C), 52.0 (2C), 37.4 (2C). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu$  max 2957, 1702, 1301, 1104. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

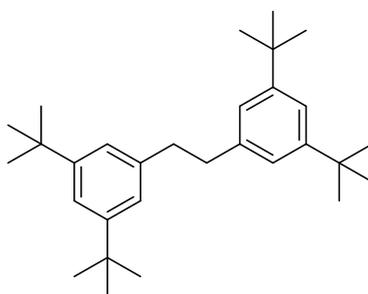
### 1,2-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethane (i)



Chemical Formula: C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Colourless solid; **m.p.** 128-130 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.05 – 6.97 (app. d, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 6.79 – 6.70 (app. d, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 3.72 (s, 6H), 2.76 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 157.7 (2C), 133.9 (4C), 129.3 (4C), 113.7 (2C), 55.2 (2C), 37.2 (2C). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): **v max** 2964, 2932, 2852, 1610, 1510, 1302, 1030, 832. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>8</sup>

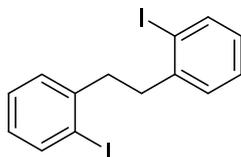
### 1,2-Bis(3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)ethane (2j)



Chemical Formula: C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>46</sub>

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 94-96 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 4H), 2.93 (s, 4H), 1.32 (s, 36H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 150.5 (4C), 141.0 (2C), 122.5 (4C), 119.8 (2C), 38.6 (2C), 34.7 (4C), 31.5 (12C). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): **v max** 1675, 1402, 1248. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>8</sup>

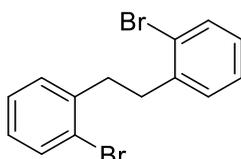
**1,2-Bis(2-iodophenyl)ethane (2k):**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>I<sub>2</sub>

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 100-102°C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.87 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.22 (m, 4H), 6.94 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.1, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 3.03 (s, 4H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 143.7 (2C), 139.4 (2C), 129.7 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 128.0 (2C), 100.6 (2C), 41.2 (2C). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):** **v max** 2946, 2861, 1428, 1204, 1048, 951. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>9</sup>

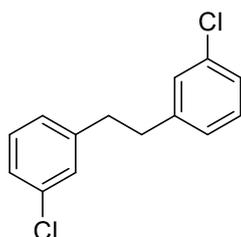
**1,2-Bis(2-bromophenyl)ethane (2l)**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 79-81°C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.55 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 4H), 7.08 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 6.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.05 (s, 4H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 140.5 (2C), 132.8 (2C), 130.6 (2C), 127.8 (2C), 127.4 (2C), 124.4 (2C), 36.4 (2C). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):** **v max** 3021, 2961, 1528, 1404. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

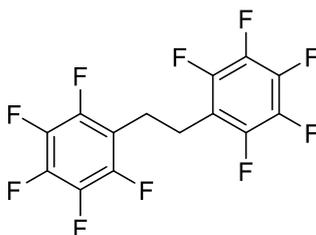
**1,2-Bis(3-chlorophenyl)ethane (2m)**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 54-56°C.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.23 – 7.16 (m, 6H), 7.07 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 2.89 (s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  143.1 (2C), 134.1 (2C), 129.6 (2C), 128.5 (2C), 126.6 (2C), 126.3 (2C), 37.2 (2C). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):**  $\nu$  max 2948, 2860, 1596, 1573, 1476, 1429, 1077, 817, 747. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>10</sup>

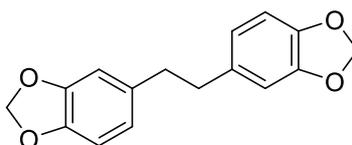
### 1,2-Bis(perfluorophenyl)ethane (2n)



Chemical Formula:  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_4\text{F}_{10}$

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 102-104 °C.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.02 (s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz, Chloroform-d)  $\delta$  146.3 (ddt,  $J = 12.5, 8.3, 4.1$  Hz), 143.8 (ddd,  $J = 15.3, 8.3, 4.0$  Hz), 141.6 – 141.1 (m), 138.72 (tdd,  $J = 17.5, 12.9, 6.7$  Hz), 136.4 – 135.8 (m), 112.7 (td,  $J = 18.7, 4.0$  Hz), 21.8.  $^{19}\text{F NMR}$  (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -144.3 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 22.6$  Hz), -155.82 (t,  $J = 20.8$  Hz), -162.1 (td,  $J = 9.1, 13.3$  Hz). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):**  $\nu$  max 2959, 2926, 1521, 1184, 1124, 960. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

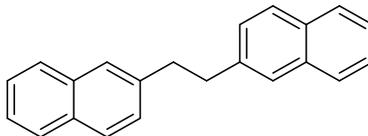
### 1,2-Bis(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)ethane (2o)



Chemical Formula:  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 133-135 °C.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.76 – 6.58 (m, 6H), 5.92 (s, 4H), 2.80 (s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.5 (2C), 145.6 (2C), 135.4 (2C), 121.2 (2C), 108.9 (2C), 108.1 (2C), 100.7 (2C), 37.8 (2C). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):**  $\nu$  max. 2901, 1200, 1067. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

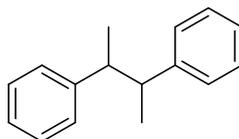
### 1,2-Di(naphthalen-2-yl)ethane (2p)



Chemical Formula: C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>18</sub>

Colorless solid; **m.p.** 181-183 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.85 – 7.76 (m, 6H), 7.68 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 3.20 (s, 4H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 139.2 (2C), 133.6 (2C), 132.0 (2C), 127.9 (2C), 127.6 (2C), 127.4 (2C), 127.3 (2C), 126.5 (2C), 125.9 (2C), 125.1 (2C), 38.0 (2C). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): v max** 2935, 2914, 1598, 1452, 862, 775. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>11</sup>

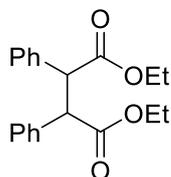
### 2,3-Diphenylbutane (2q):



Chemical Formula: C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>

Colourless oil, isolated as a mixture of *dl* and *meso* compounds (48/52). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 7.32 – 7.12 (m, 12H), 7.10 – 7.05 (m, 3H), 3.01 (m, 2H, *dl* isomer), 2.86 (m, 2H, *meso* isomer), 1.38 – 1.31 (m, 6H, *dl* isomer), 1.12 – 1.06 (m, 6H, *meso* isomer). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 146.5 (2C), 145.8 (2C), 128.3 (4C), 127.8 (4C), 127.8 (4C), 127.6 (4C), 126.0 (2C), 125.7 (2C), 47.3 (2C), 46.5 (2C), 21.0 (2C), 17.9 (2C). **IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): v max** 2970, 2957, 1684, 1601, 1540, 1492, 697. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>6</sup>

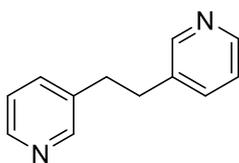
**Diethyl 2,3-diphenylsuccinate (2r):**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

White solid. mp 138-139 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.57 – 7.49 (m, 4H), 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 6H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 3.97 – 3.80 (m, 4H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 6H). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν max 3000, 1750, 1250, 1020, 750. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>13</sup>

**1,2-Di(pyridin-3-yl)ethane (2s):**

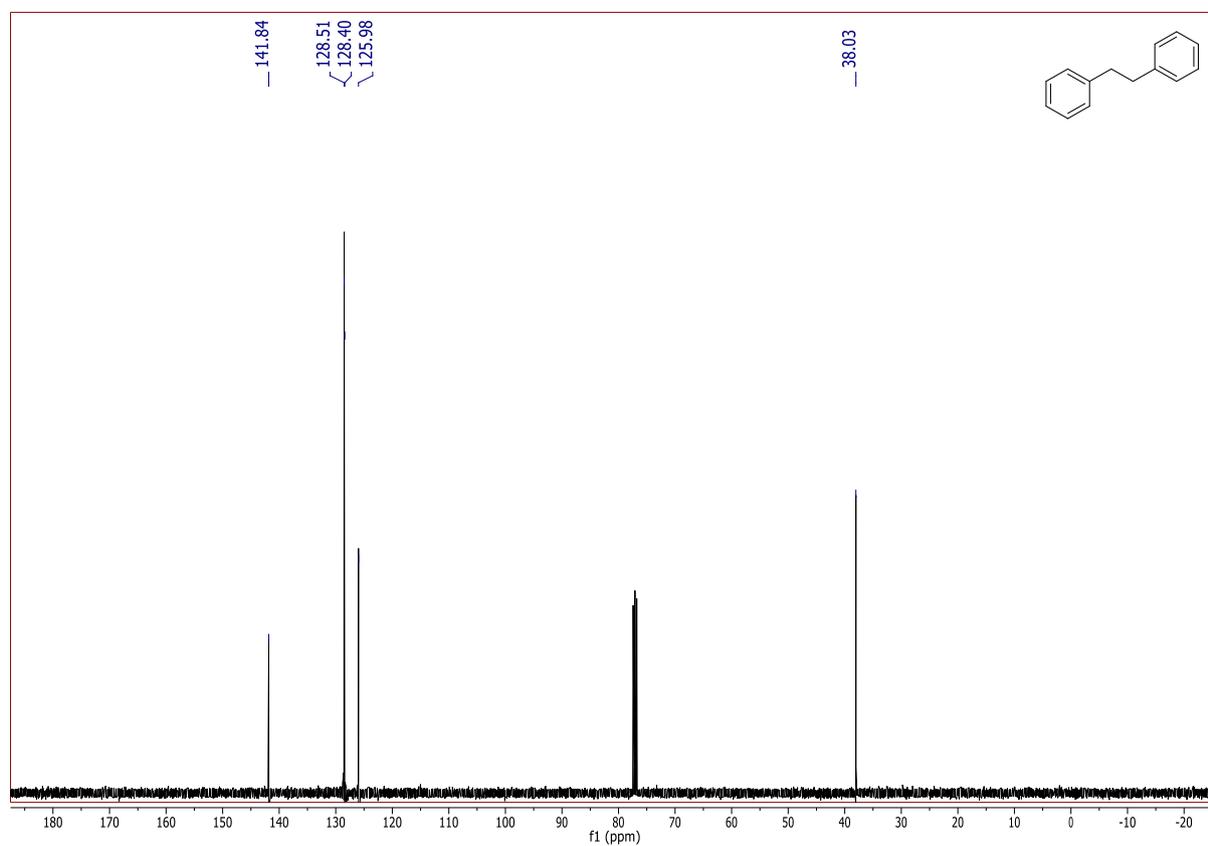
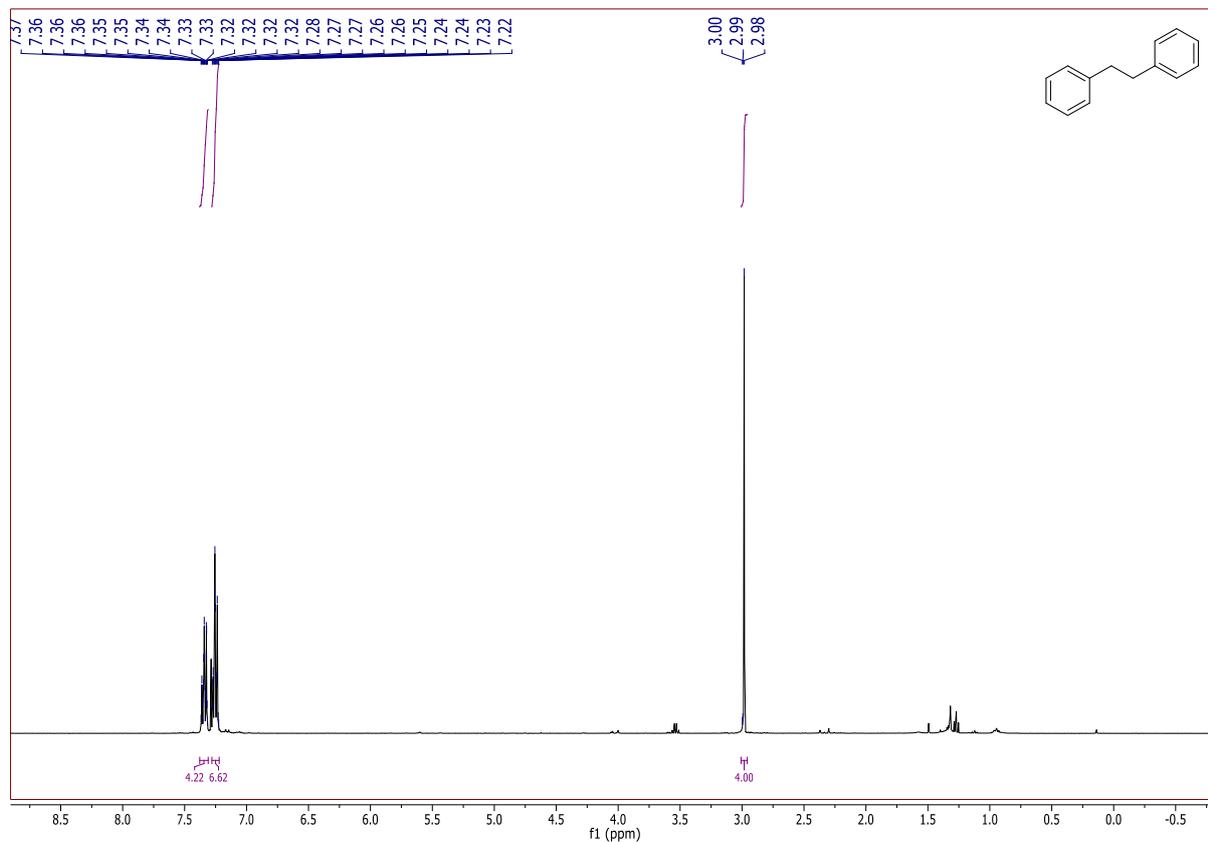


Chemical Formula: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>

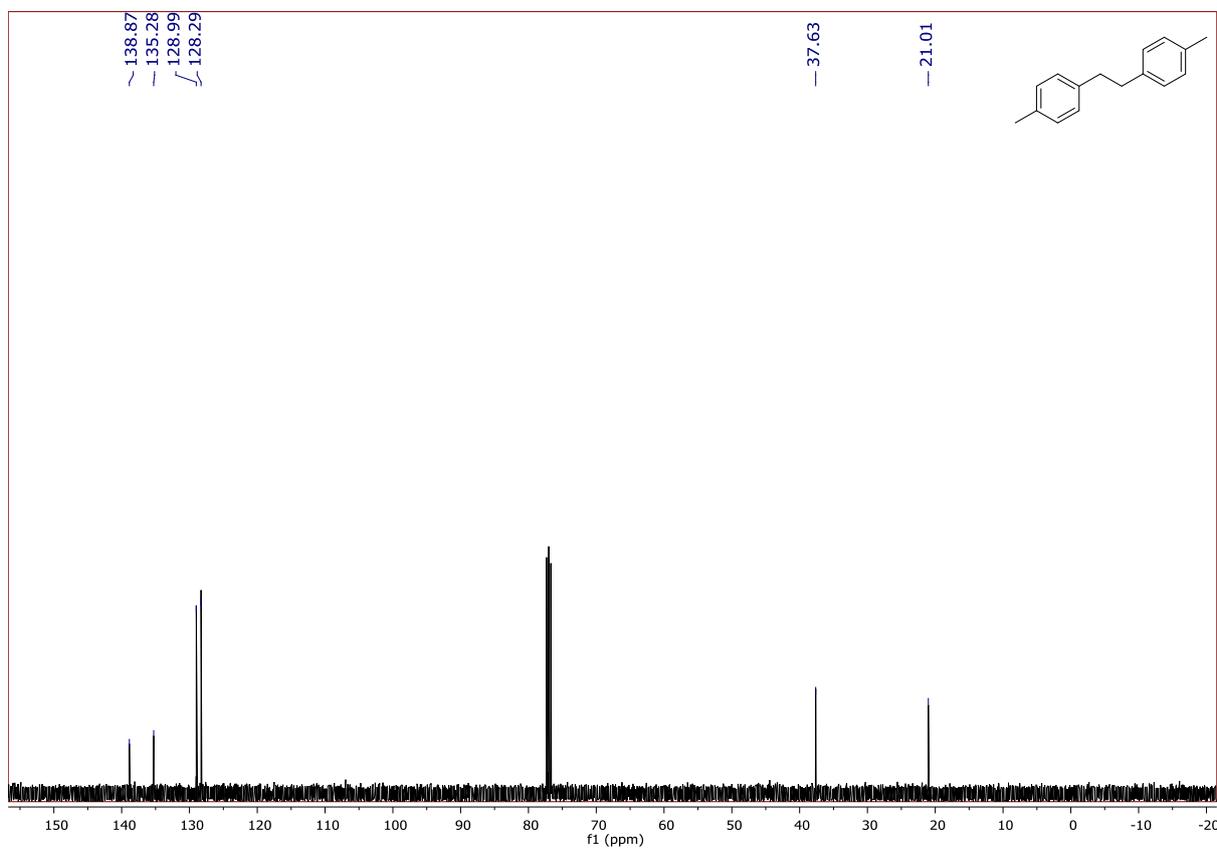
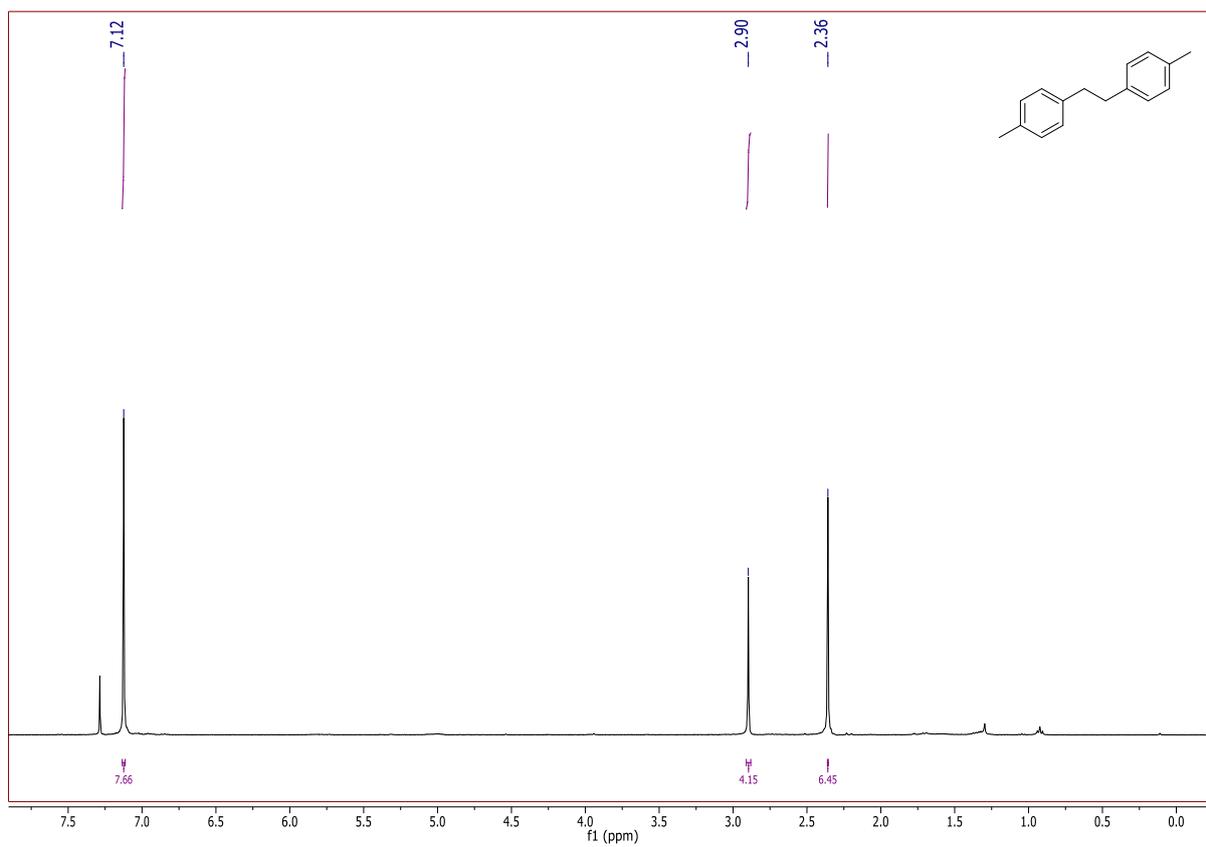
Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.41 – 8.35 (m, 4H), 7.36 (dt, J = 7.8, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (ddd, J = 7.8, 4.8, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 2.87 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 149.9 (2C), 147.7 (2C), 135.9 (2C), 135.9 (2C), 123.3 (2C), 34.5 (2C). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν max 2994, 2918, 1593, 1479, 1424, 1100, 808, 713. Spectral data in good accordance with reported literature values.<sup>12</sup>

NMR Spectra:

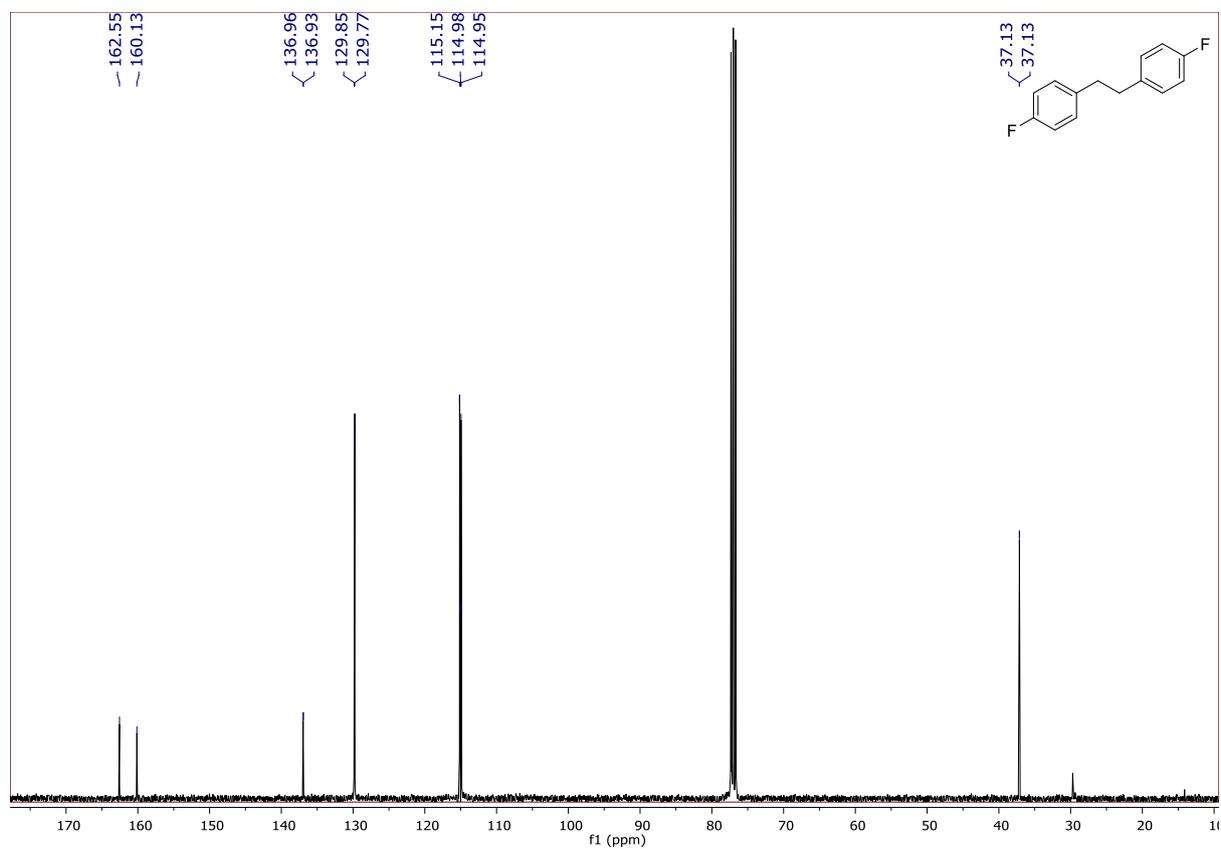
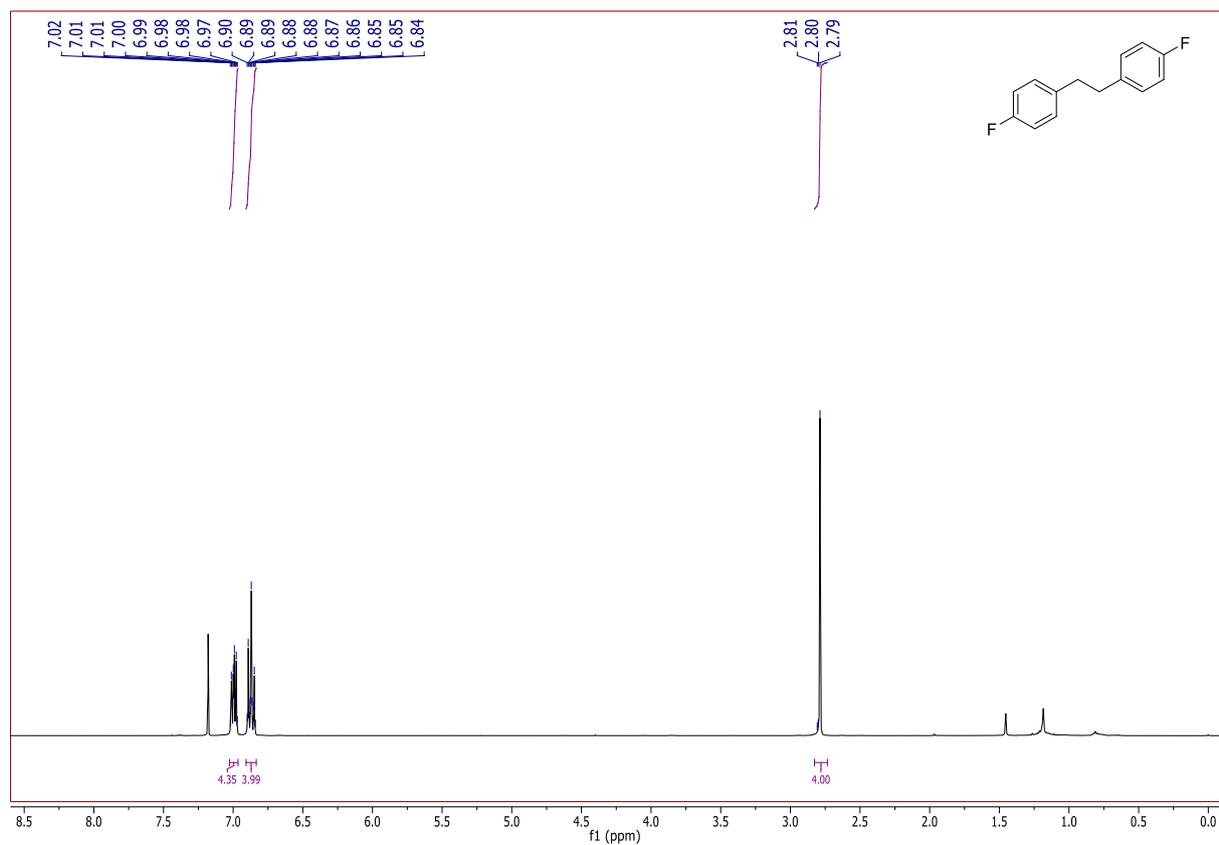
**1,2-diphenylethane (2a):**



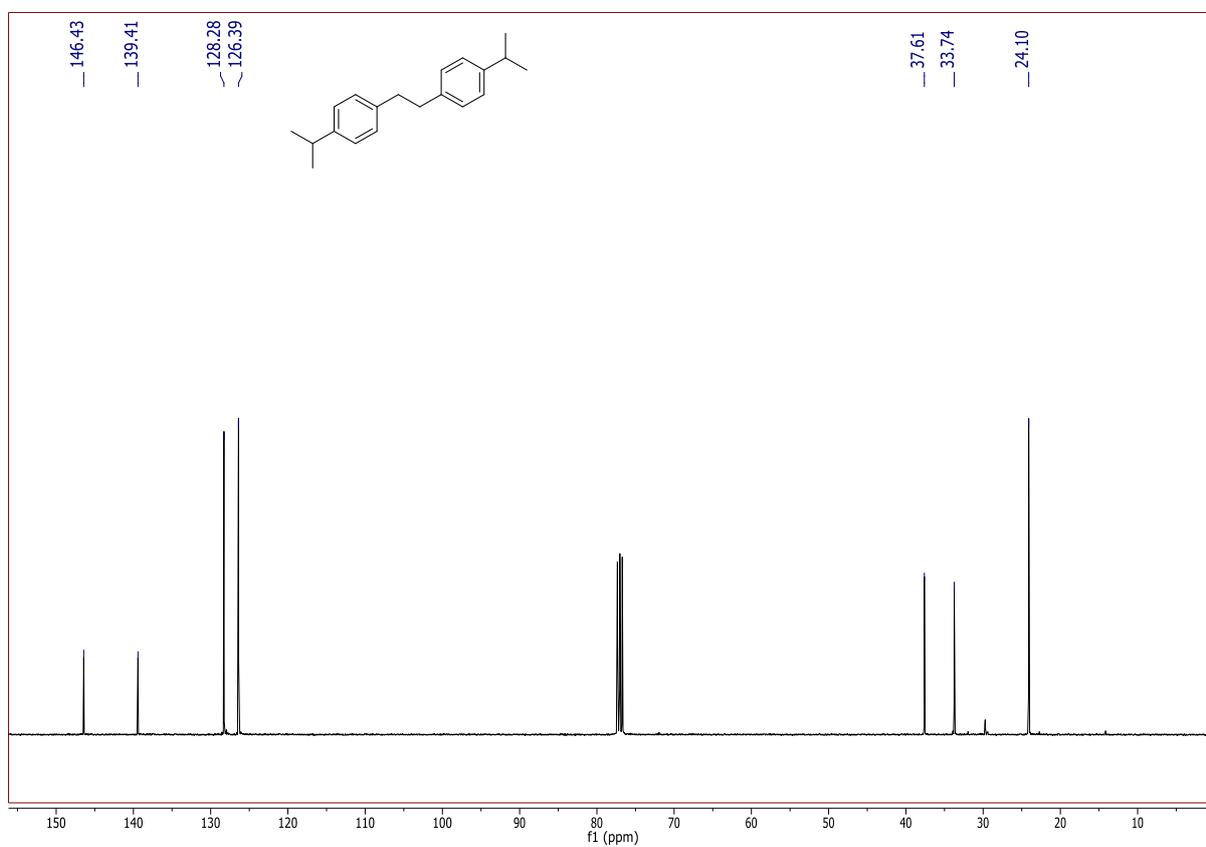
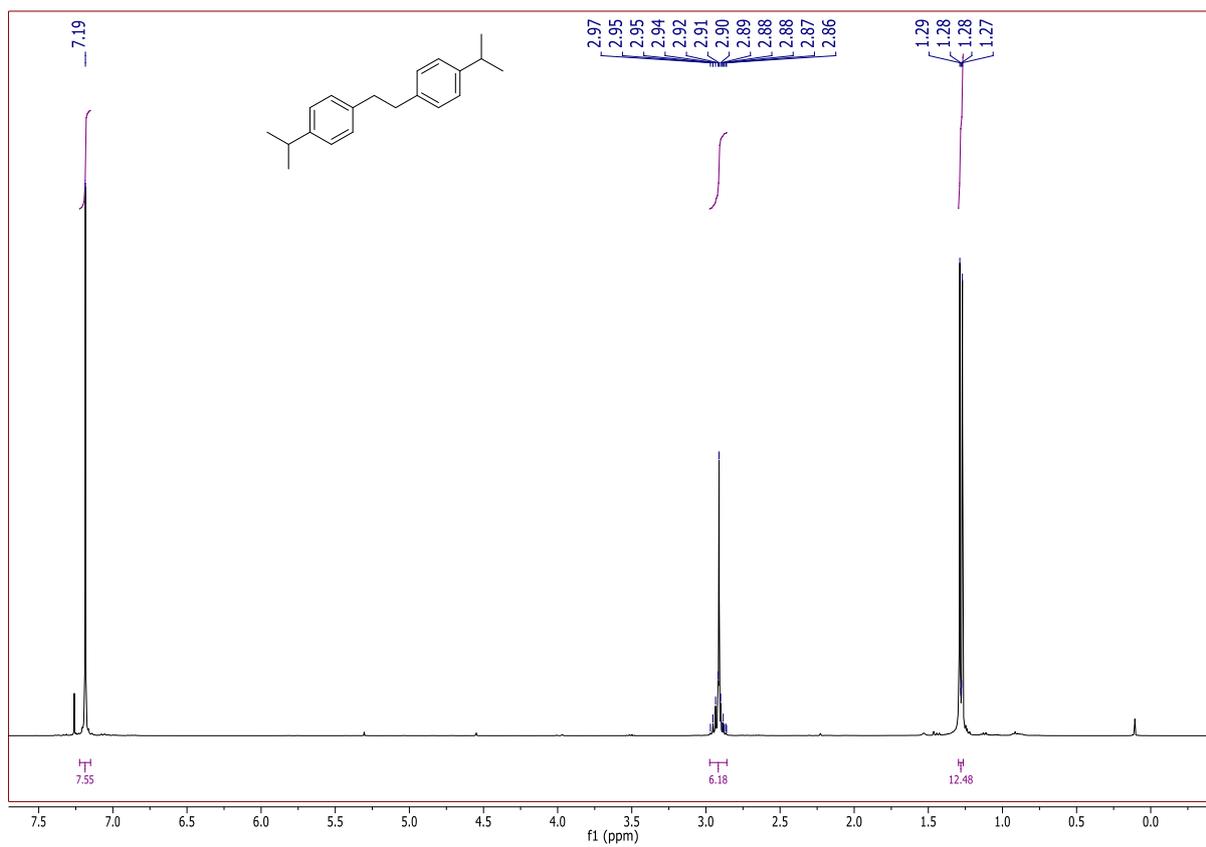
**1,2-di-*p*-tolylethane (2b):**



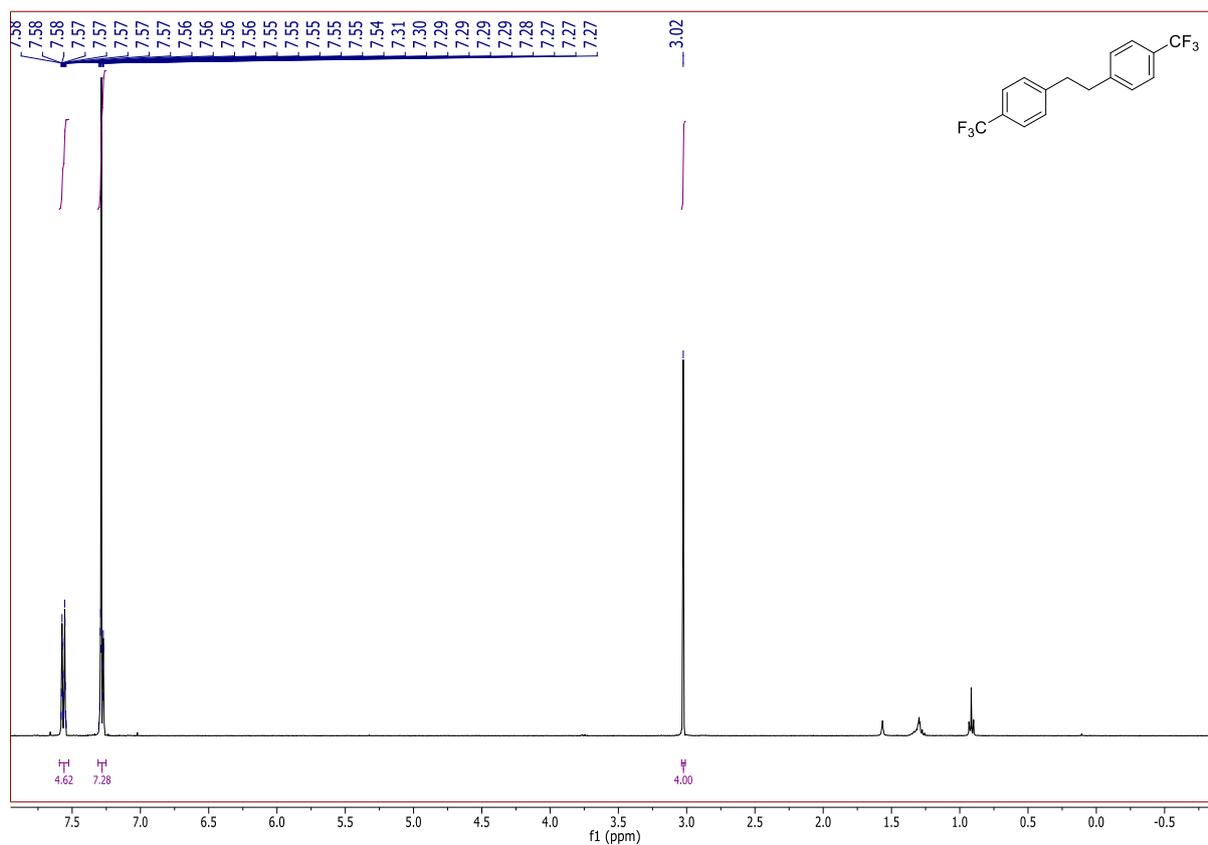
### 1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethane (2c):

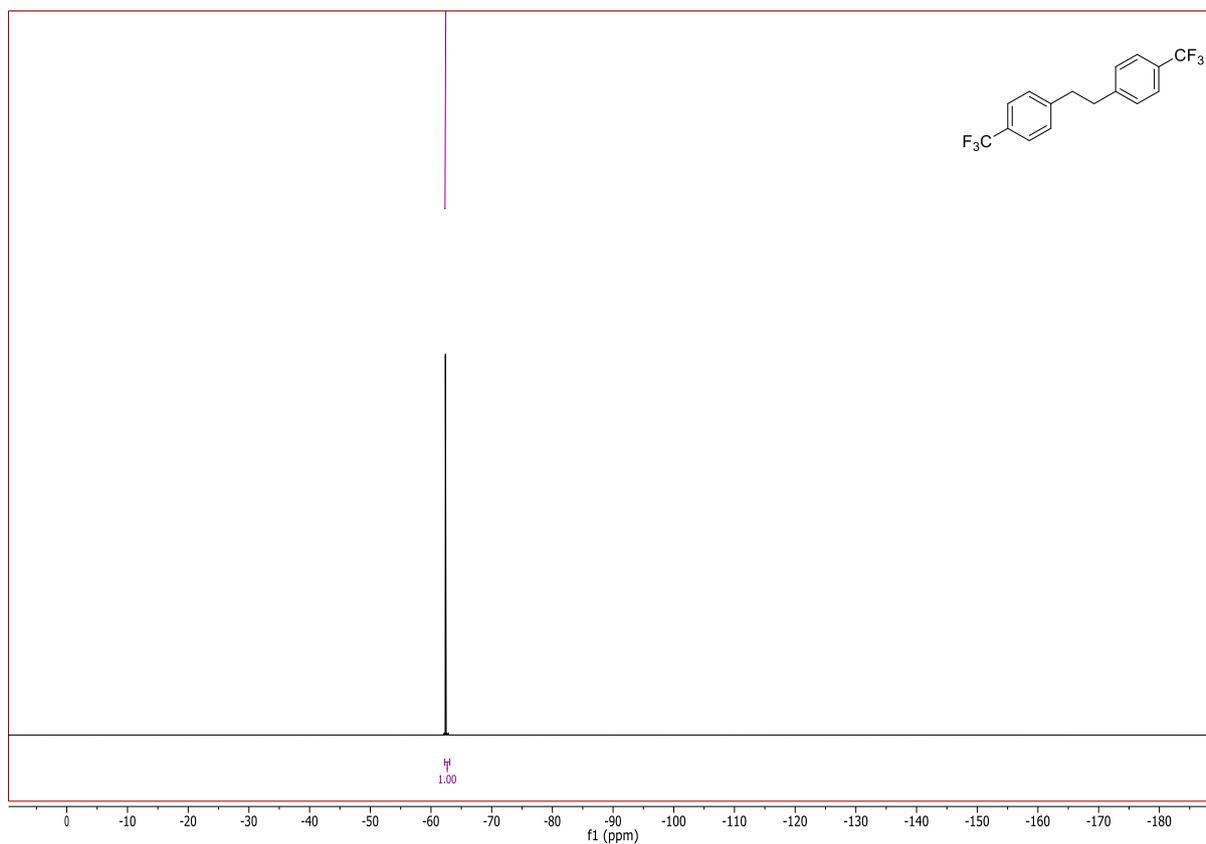


# 1,2-bis(4-isopropylphenyl)ethane (2d)

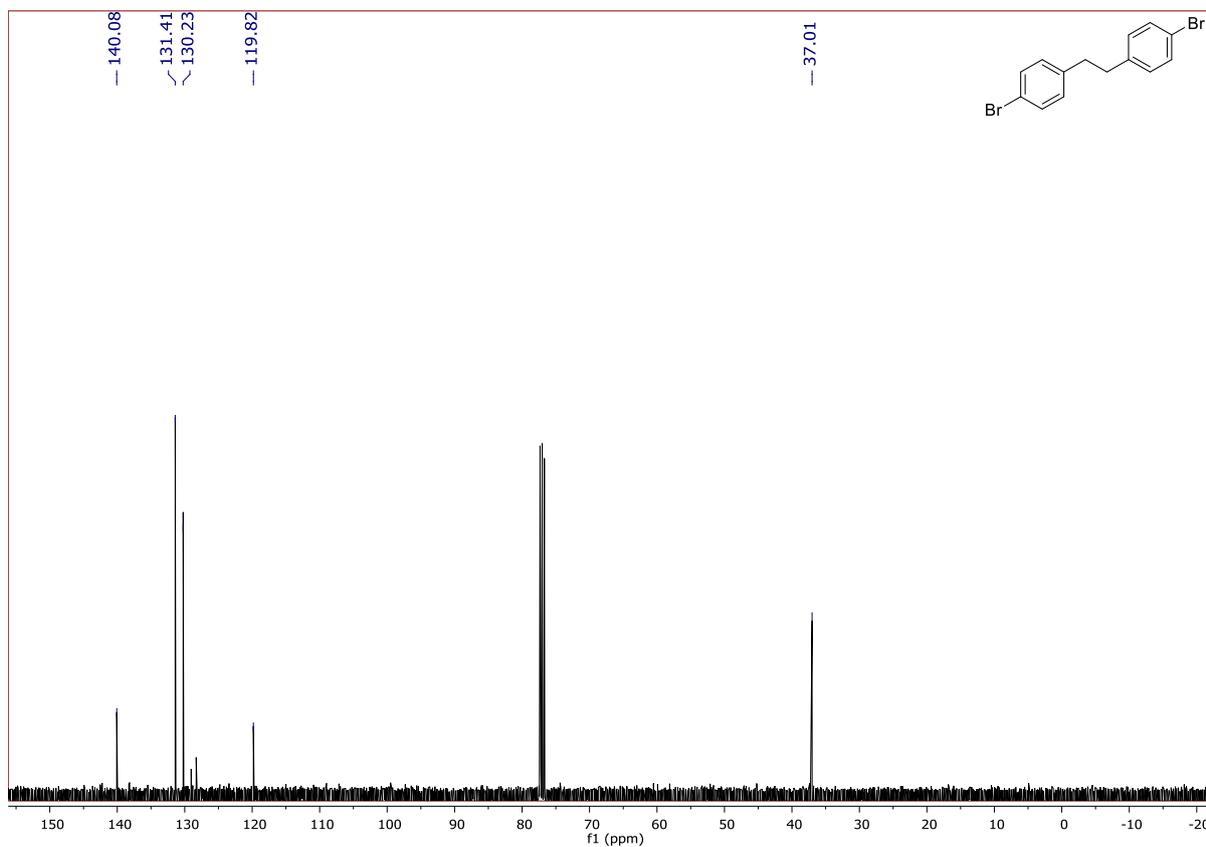
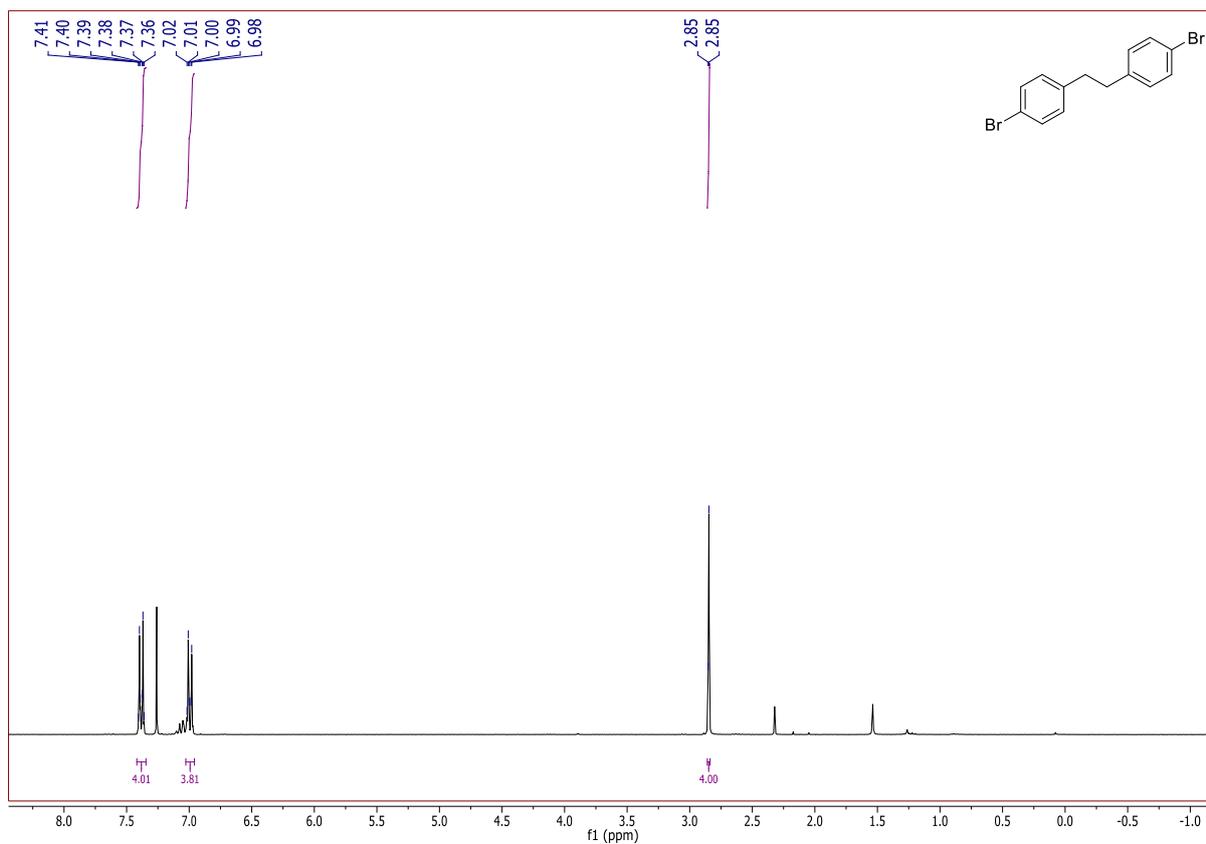


### 1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethane (2e):

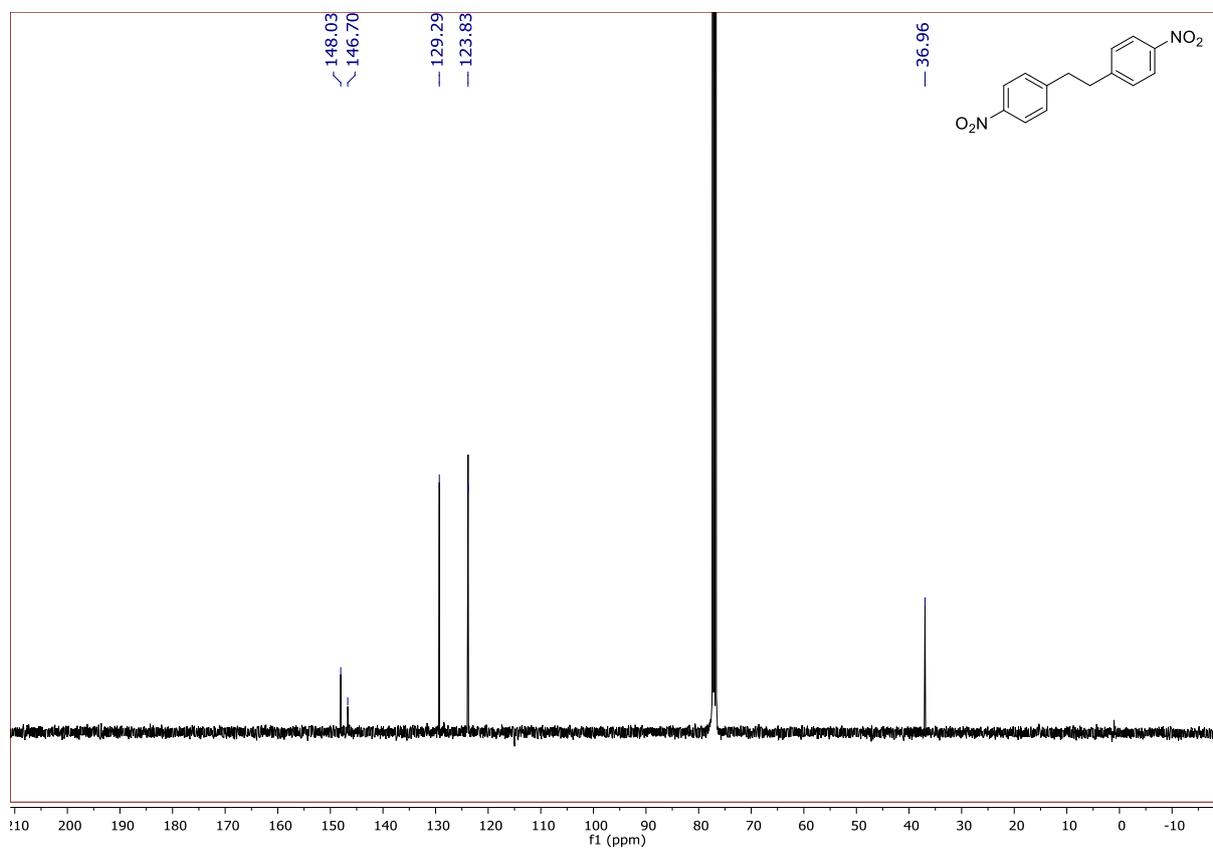
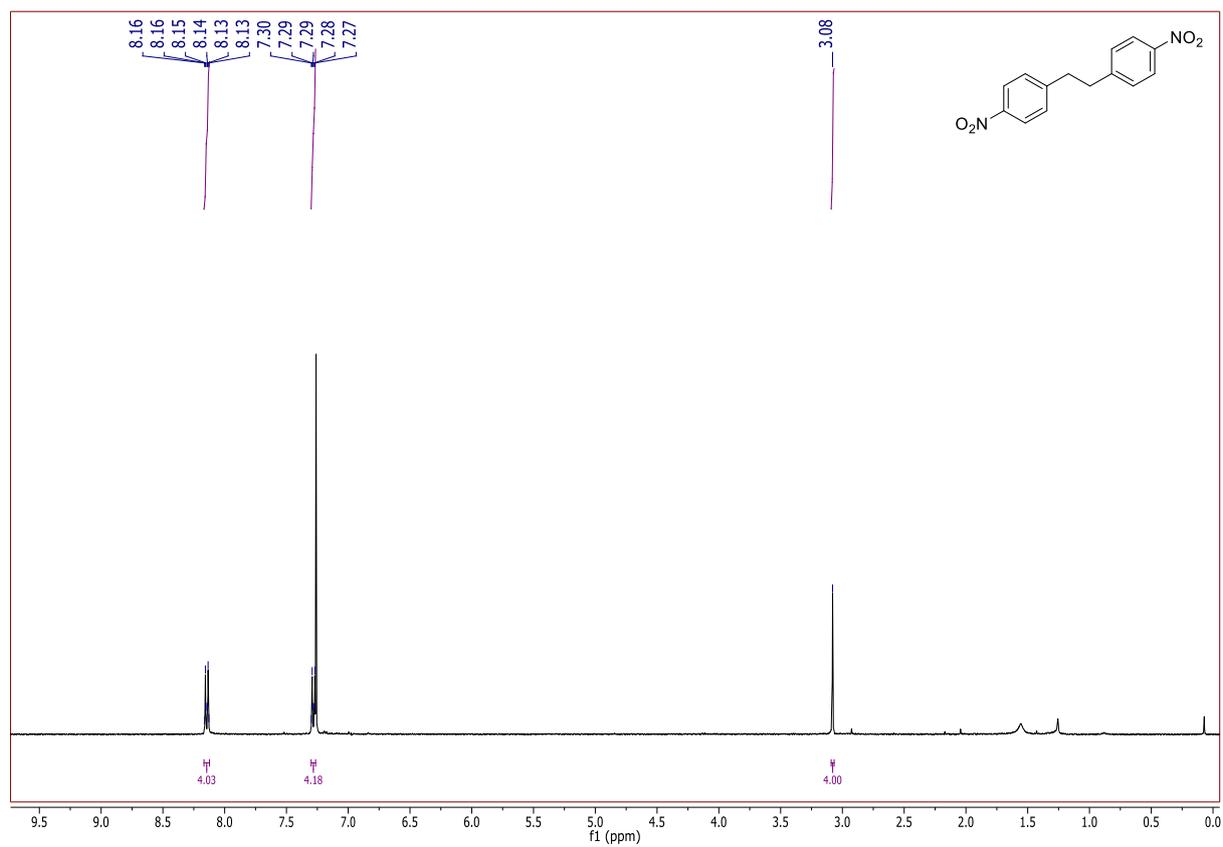




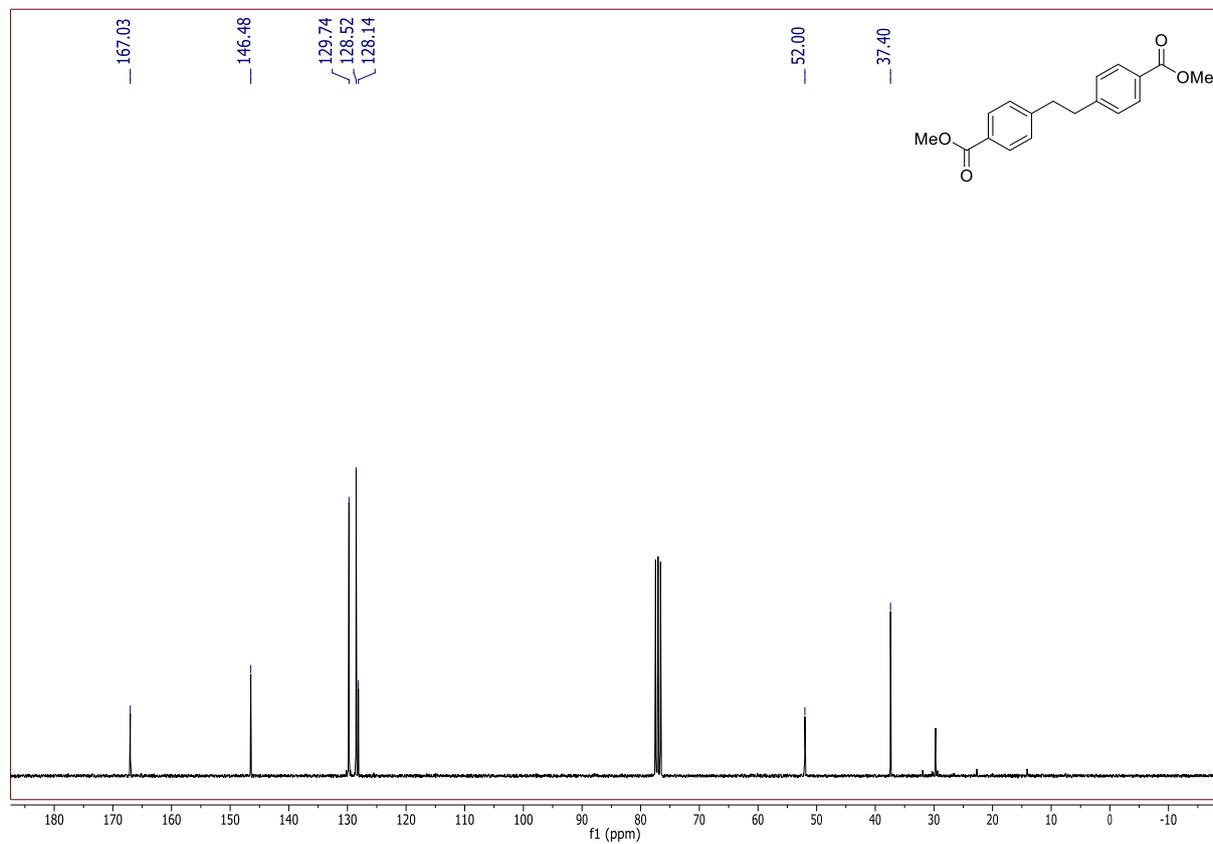
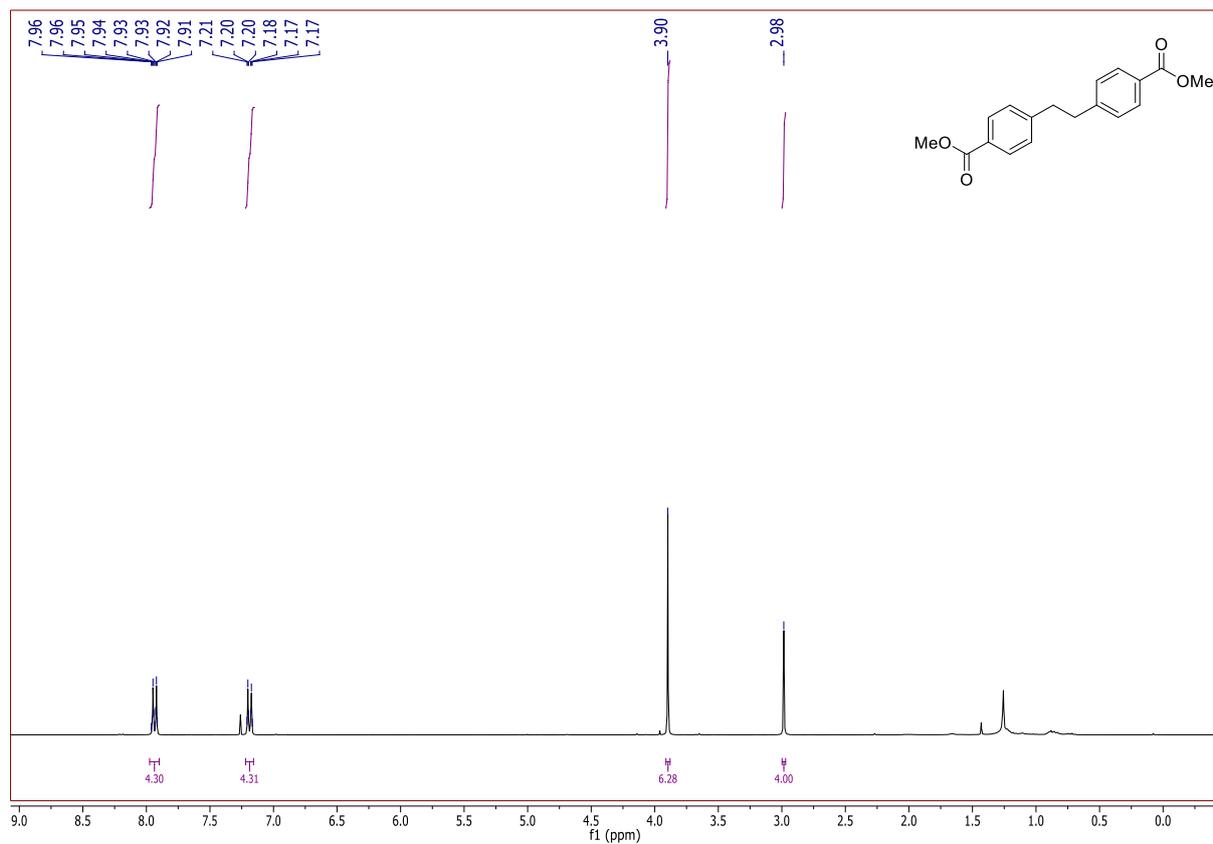
# 1,2-bis(4-bromophenyl)ethane (2f)



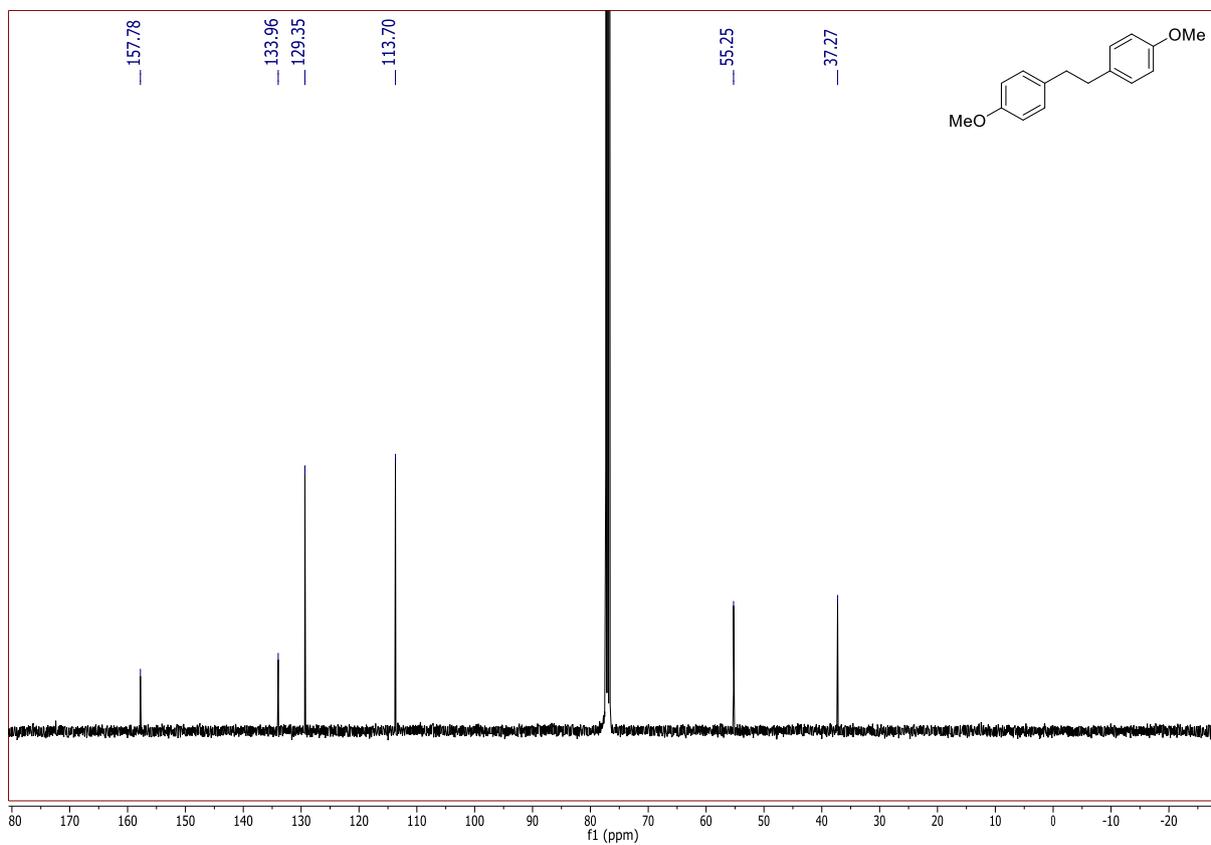
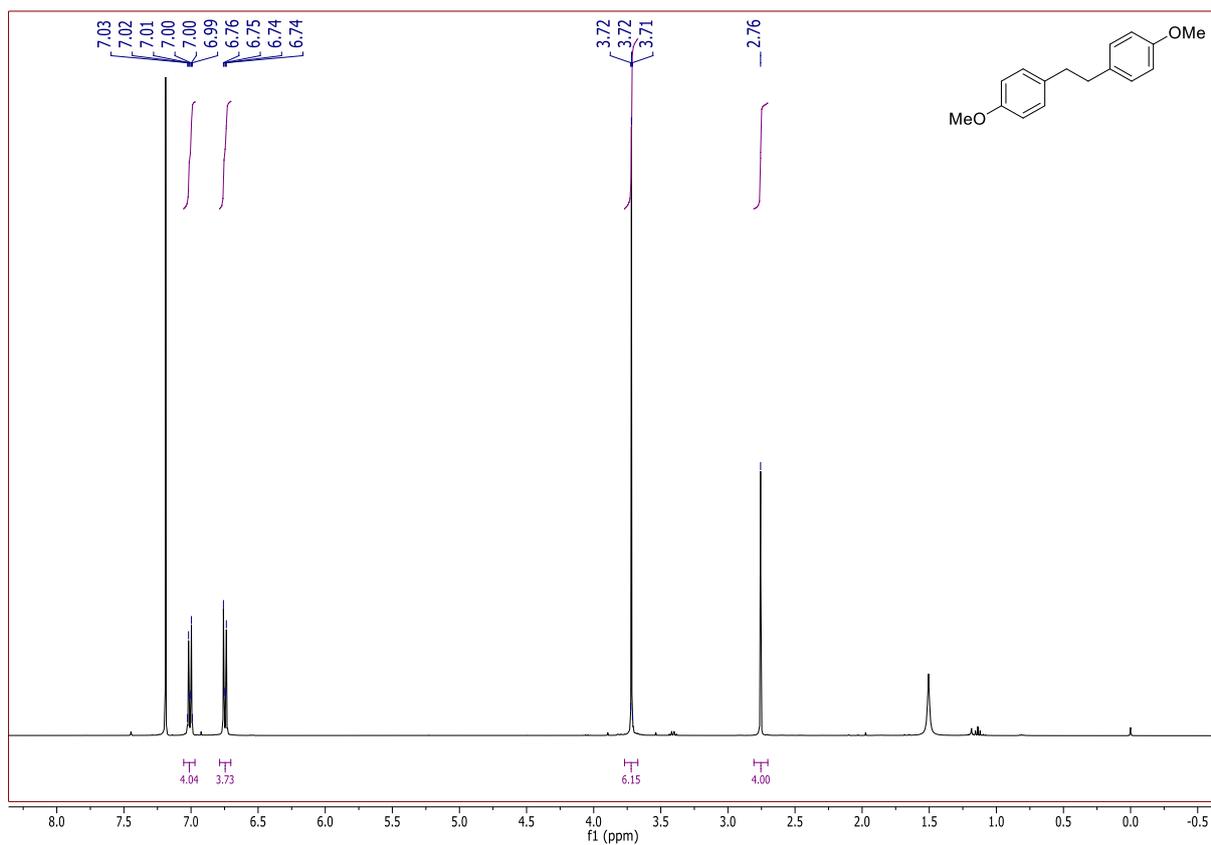
# 1,2-bis(4-nitrophenyl)ethane (2g)



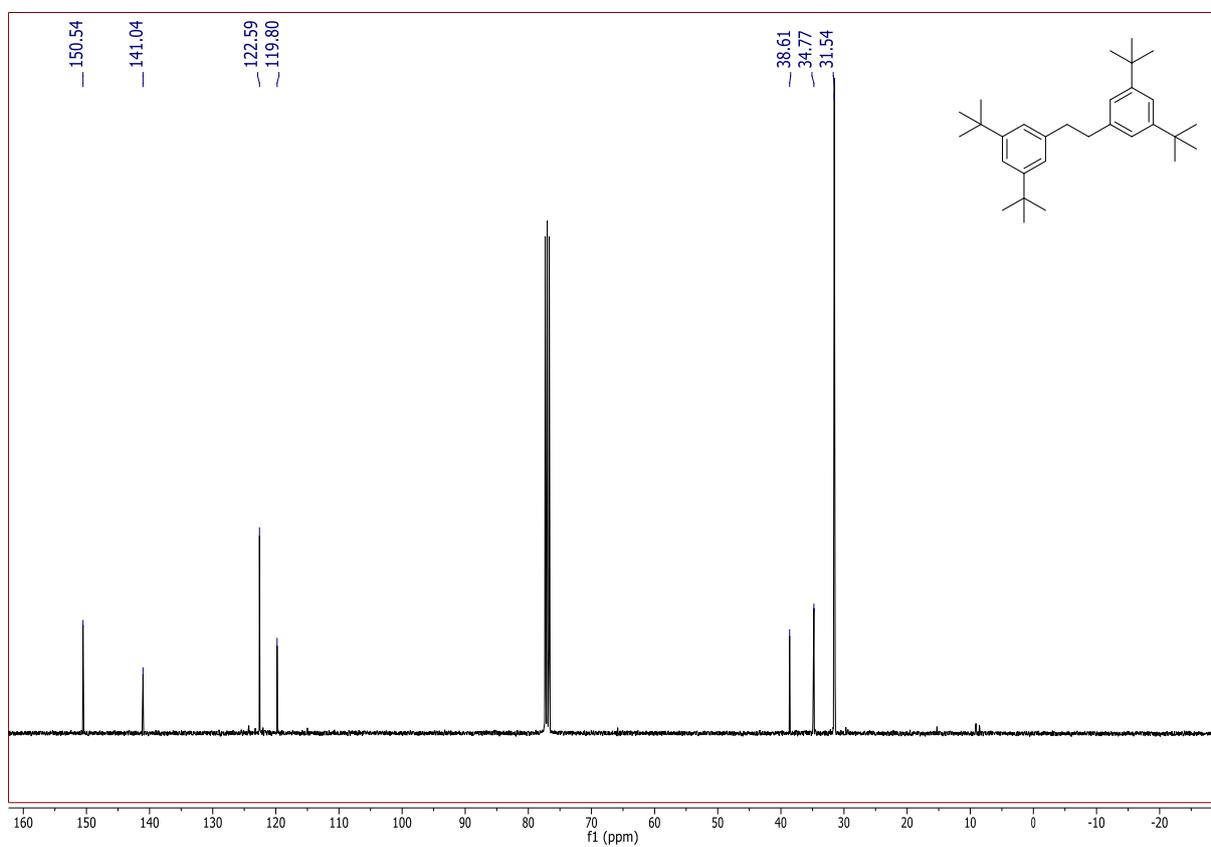
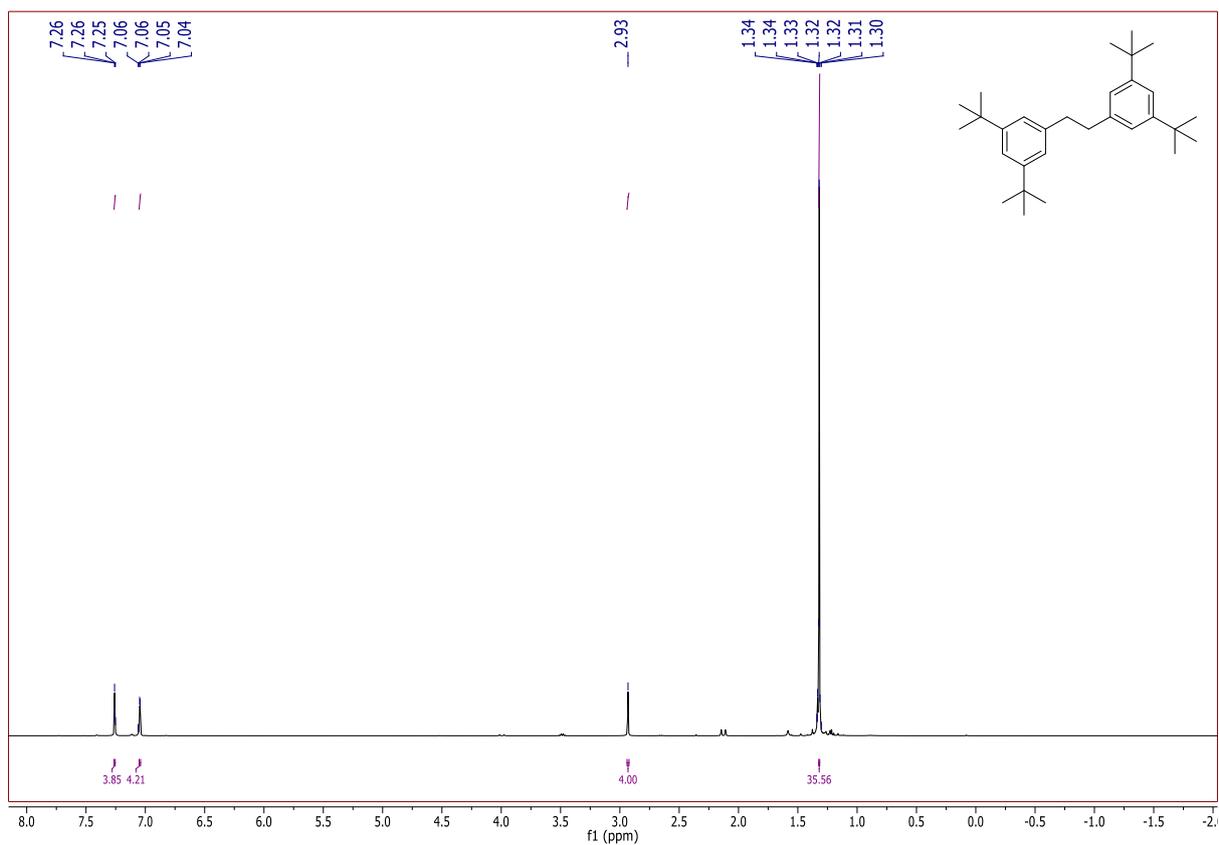
**dimethyl 4,4'-(ethane-1,2-diyl)dibenzoate (2h)**



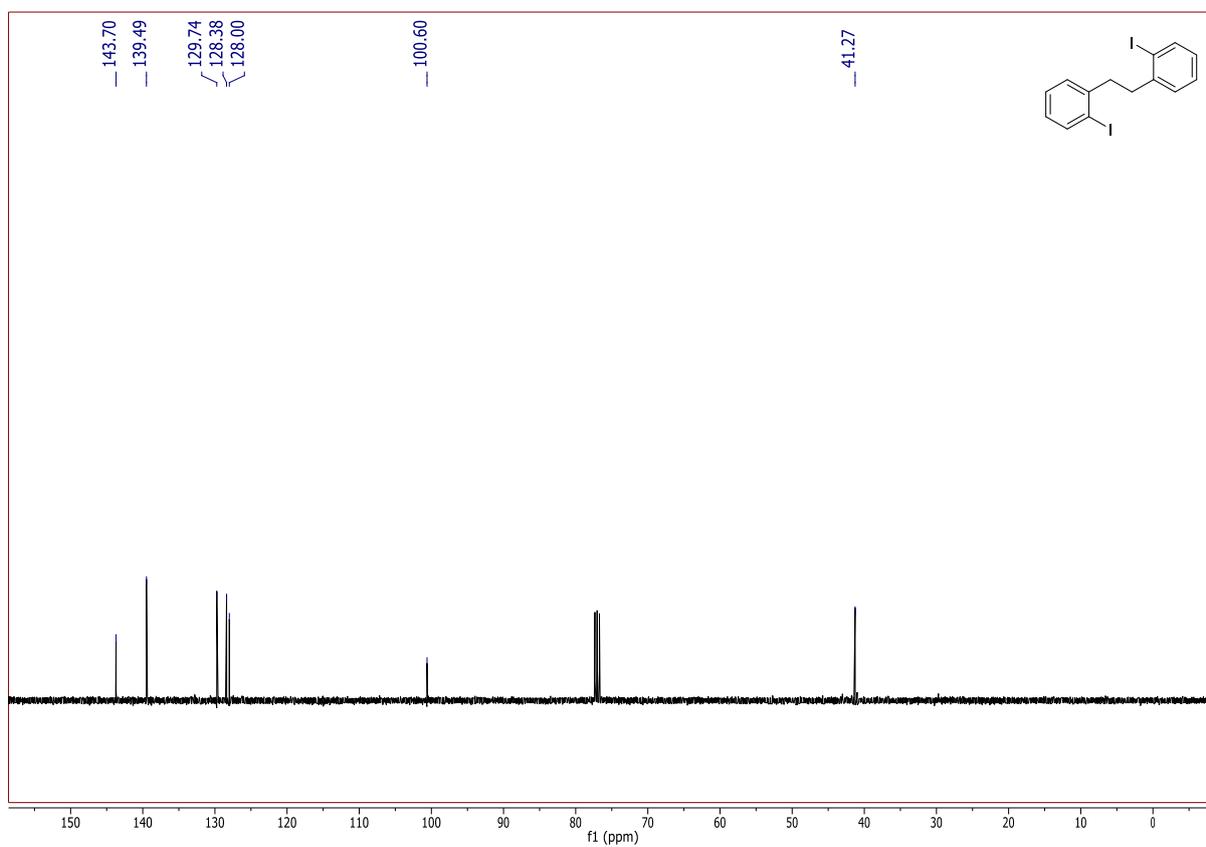
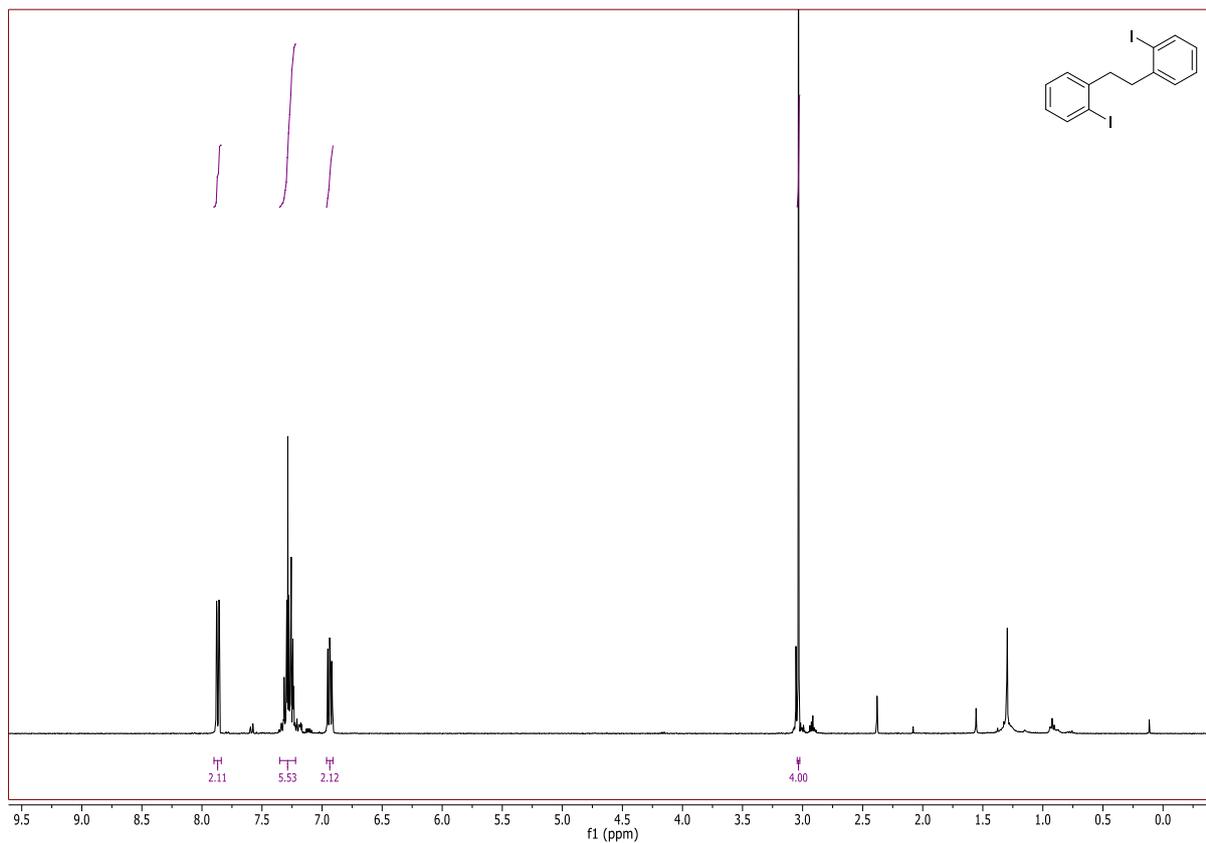
# 1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethane (2i)



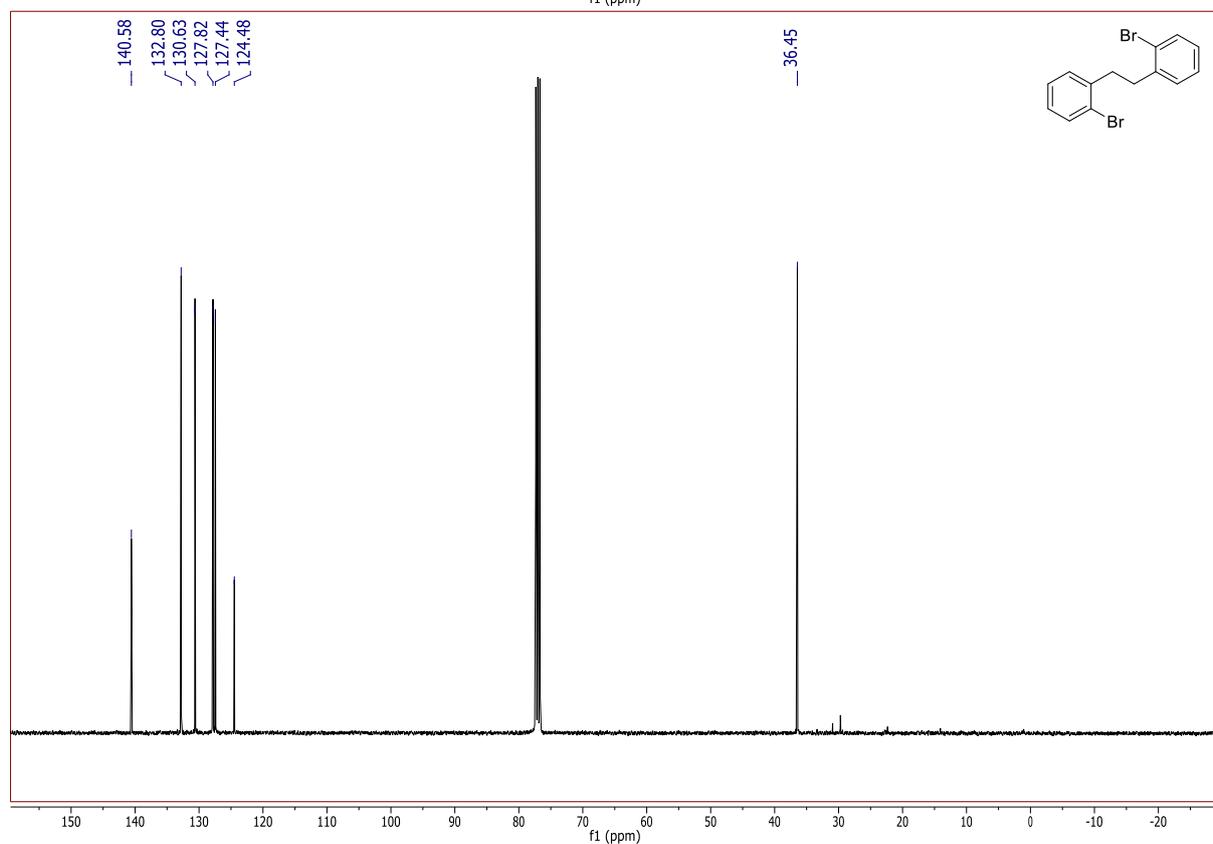
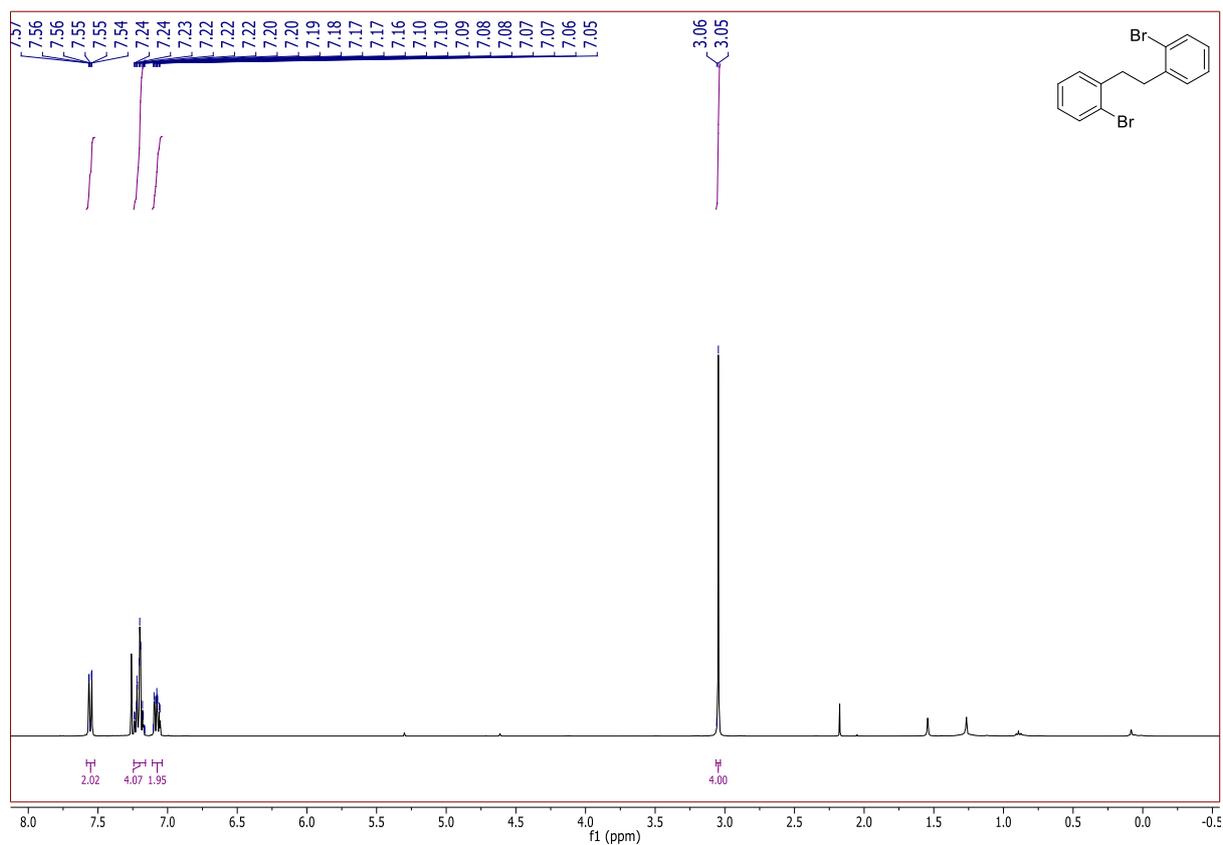
# 1,2-bis(3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)ethane (2j)



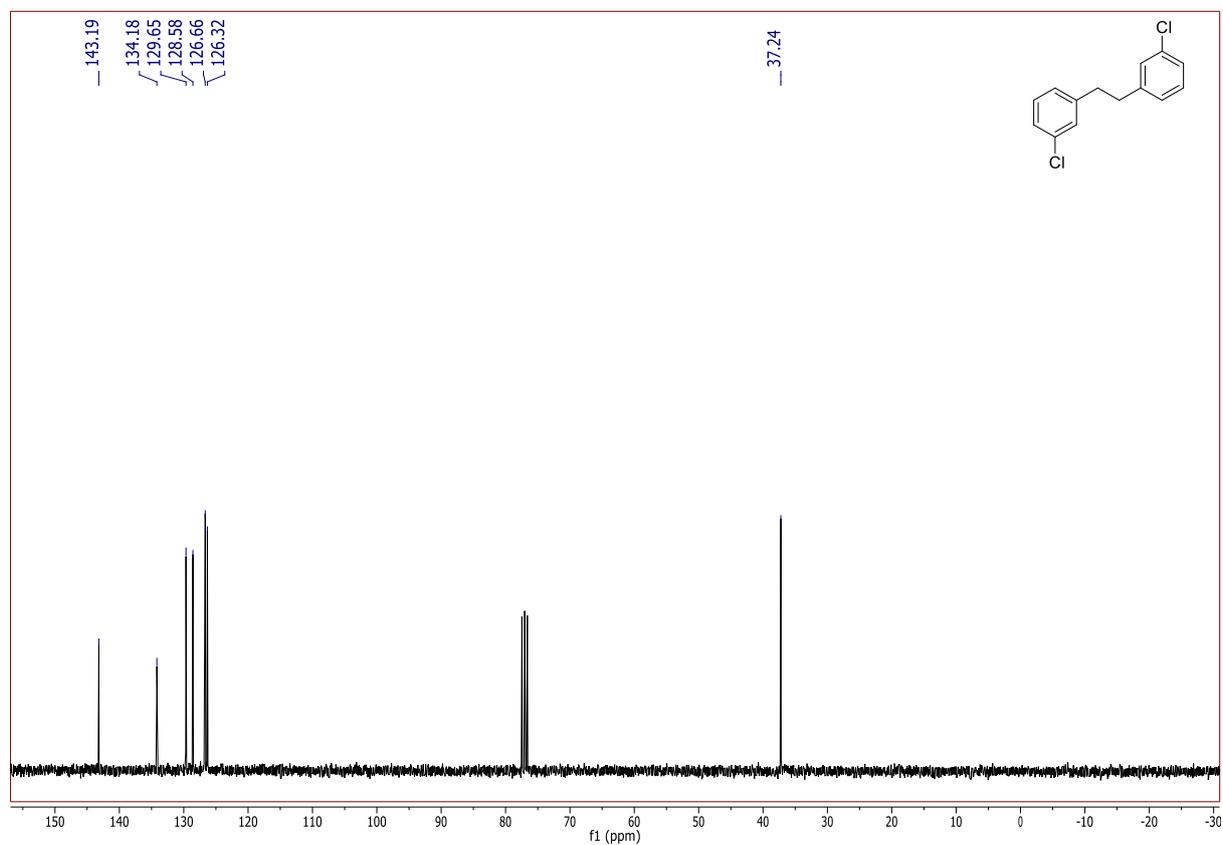
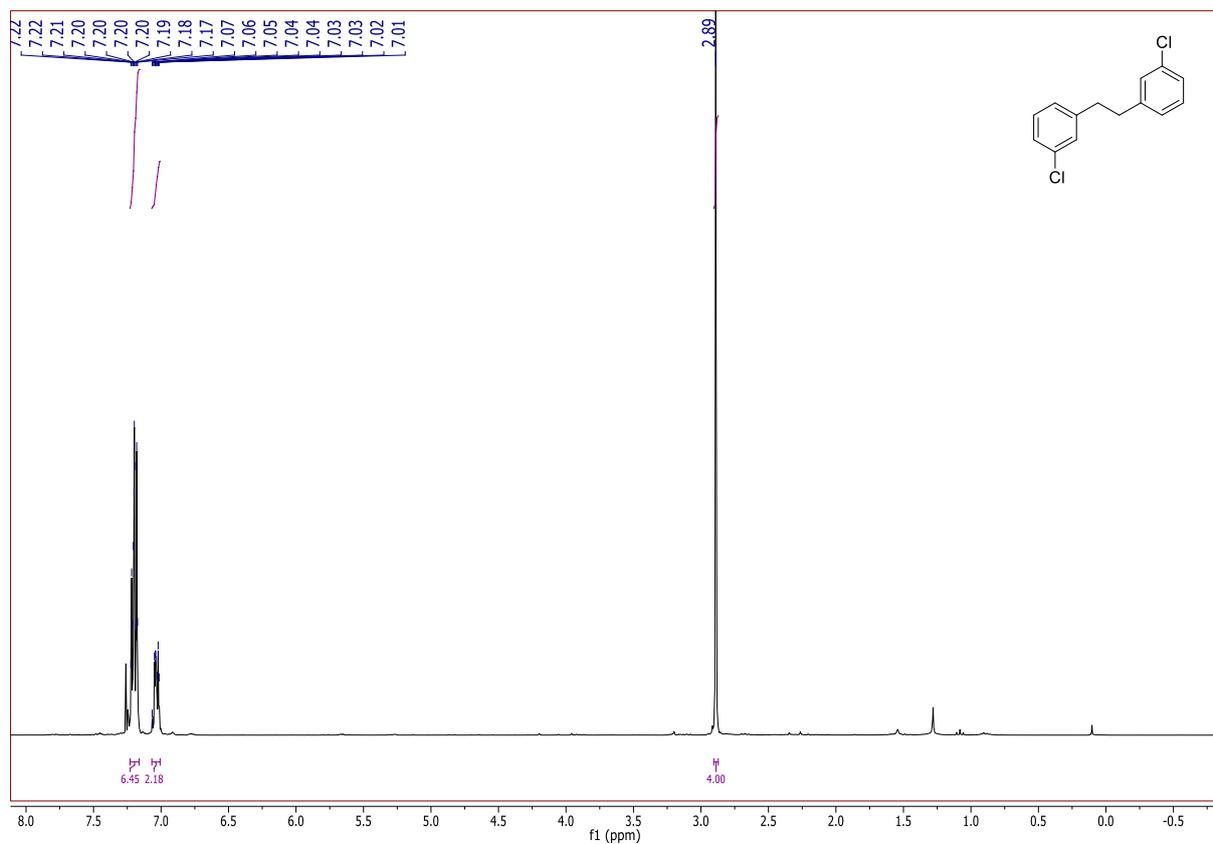
# 1,2-bis(2-iodophenyl)ethane (2k)



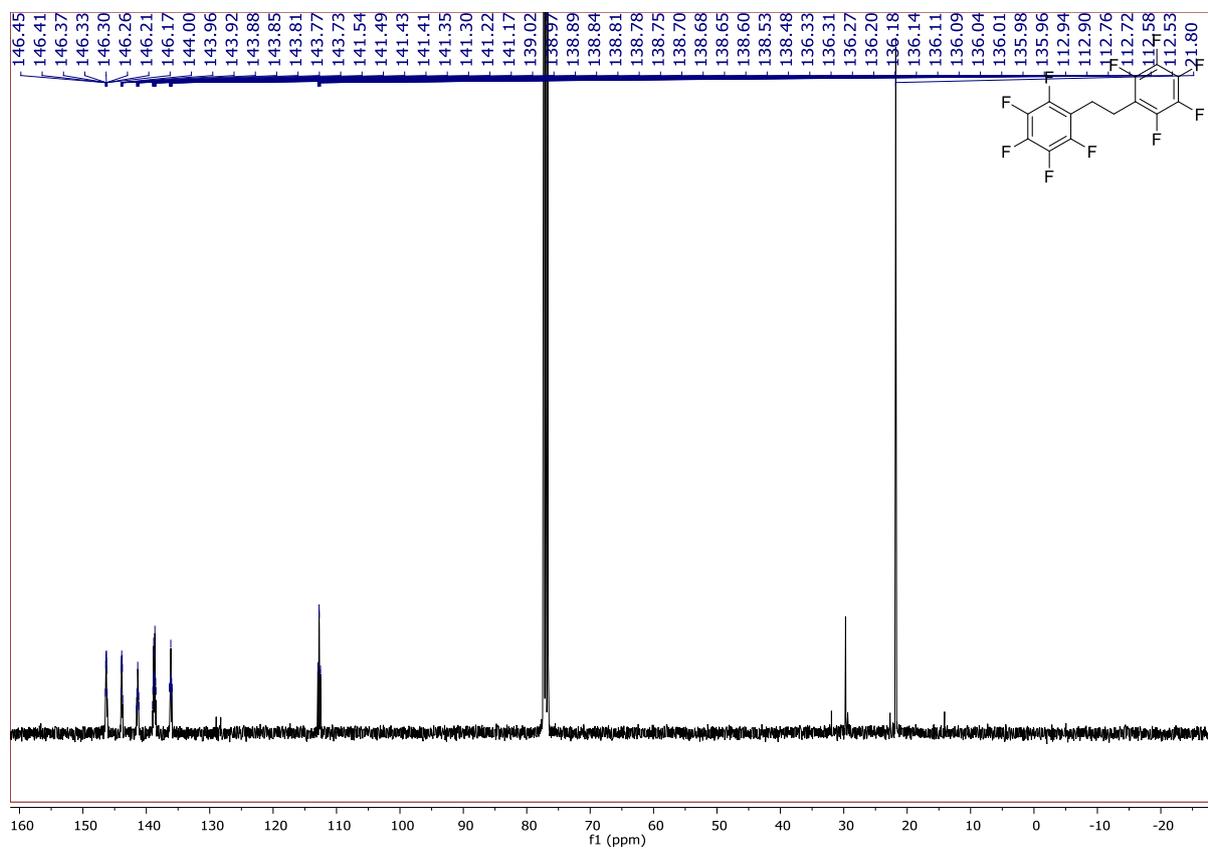
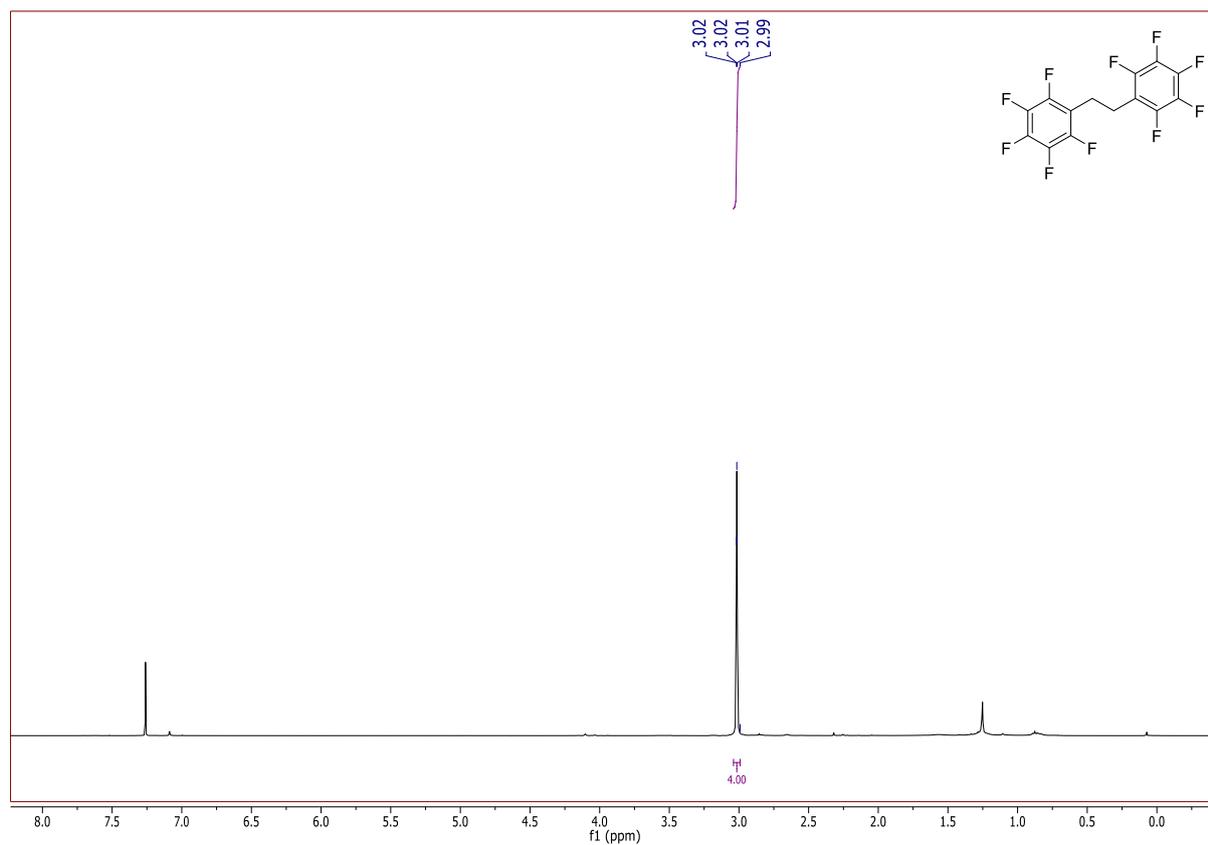
# 1,2-bis(2-bromophenyl)ethane (2I)

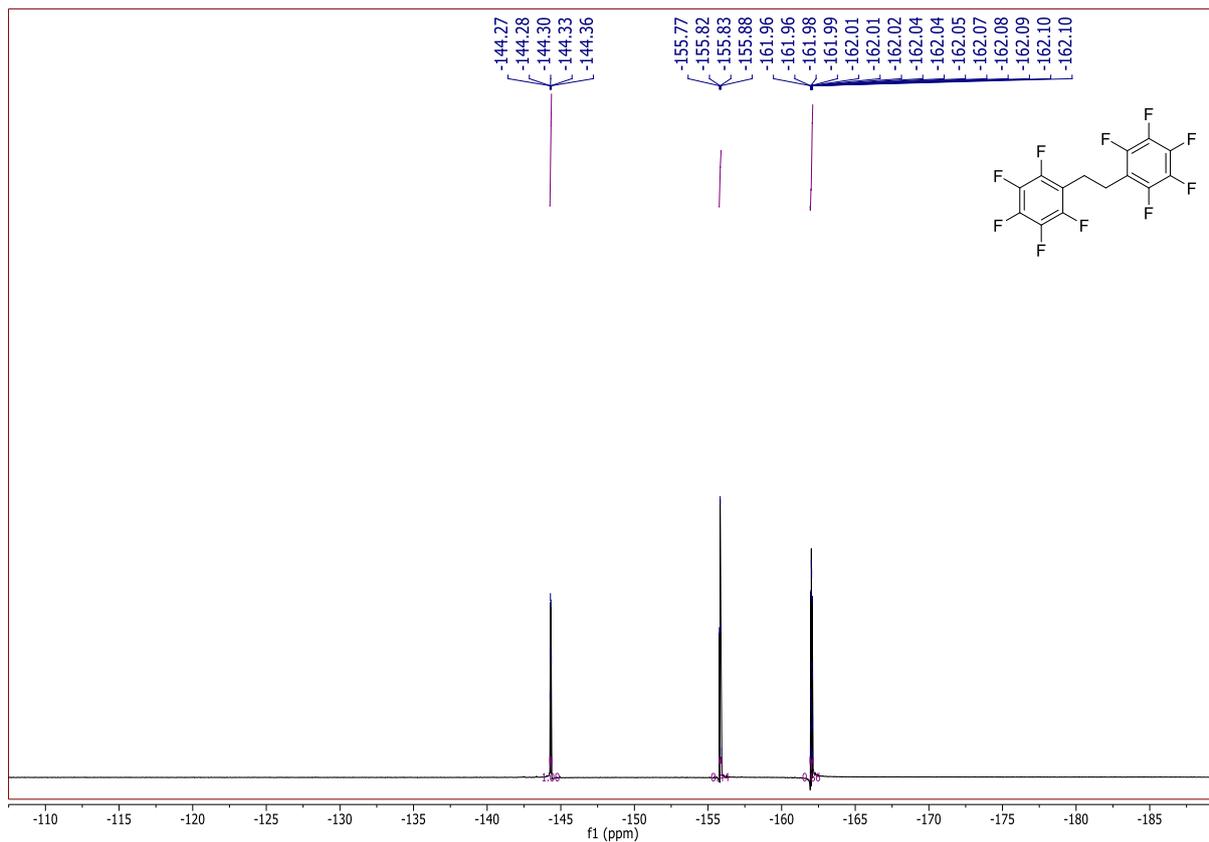


# 1,2-bis(3-chlorophenyl)ethane (2m)

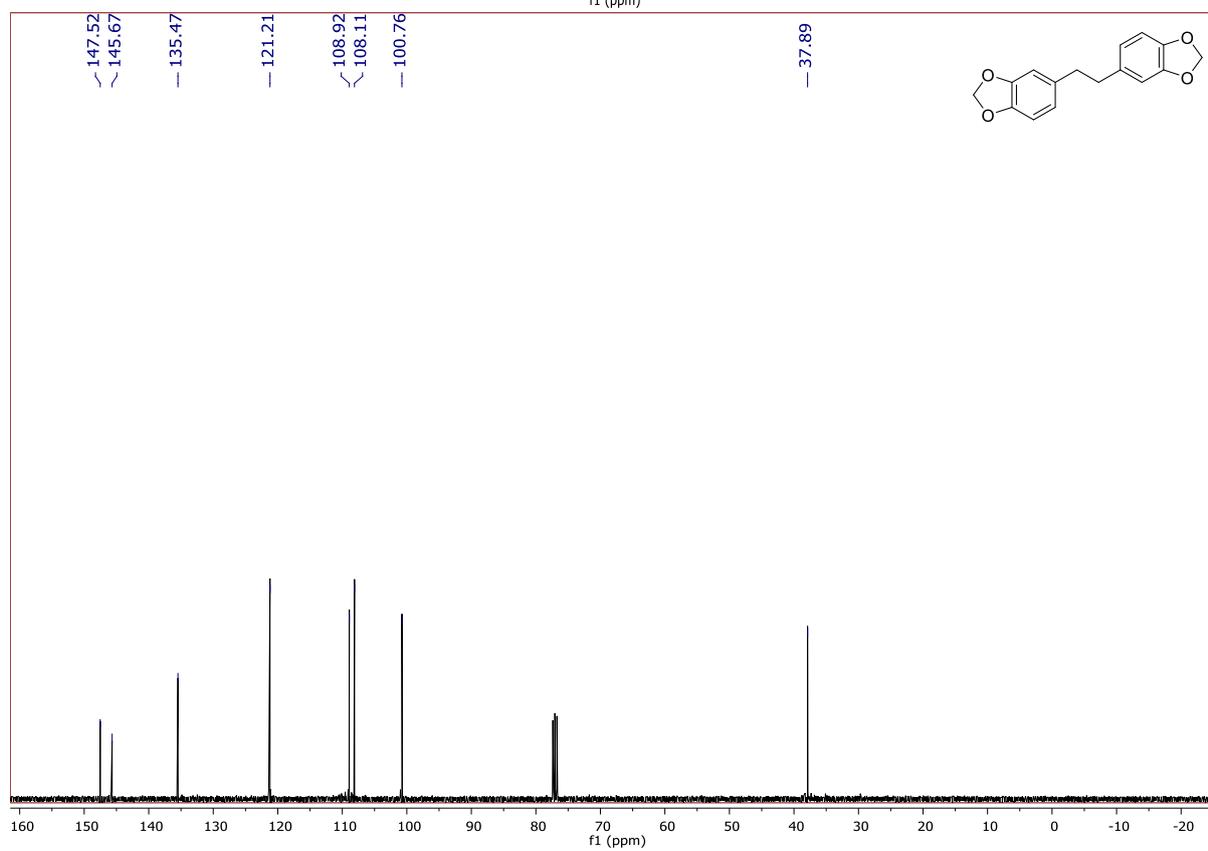
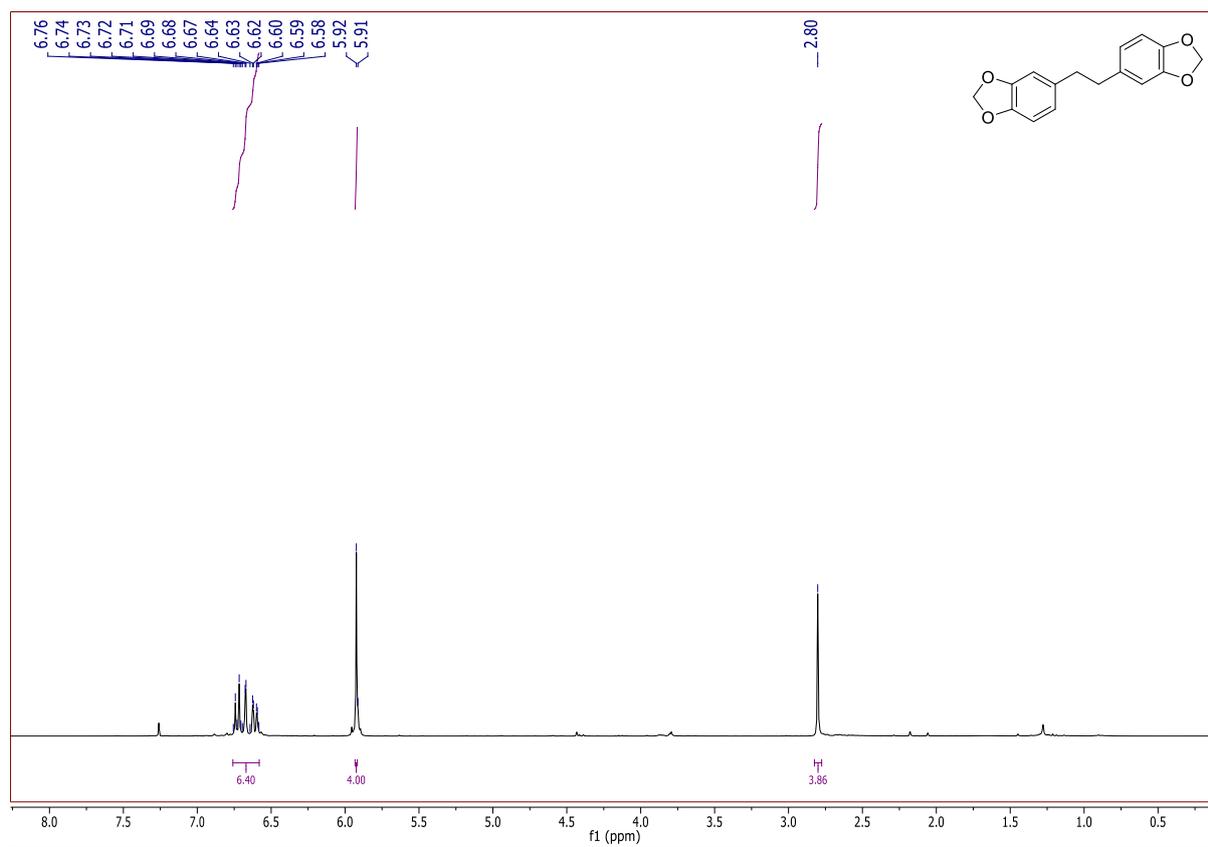


# 1,2-bis(perfluorophenyl)ethane (2n)

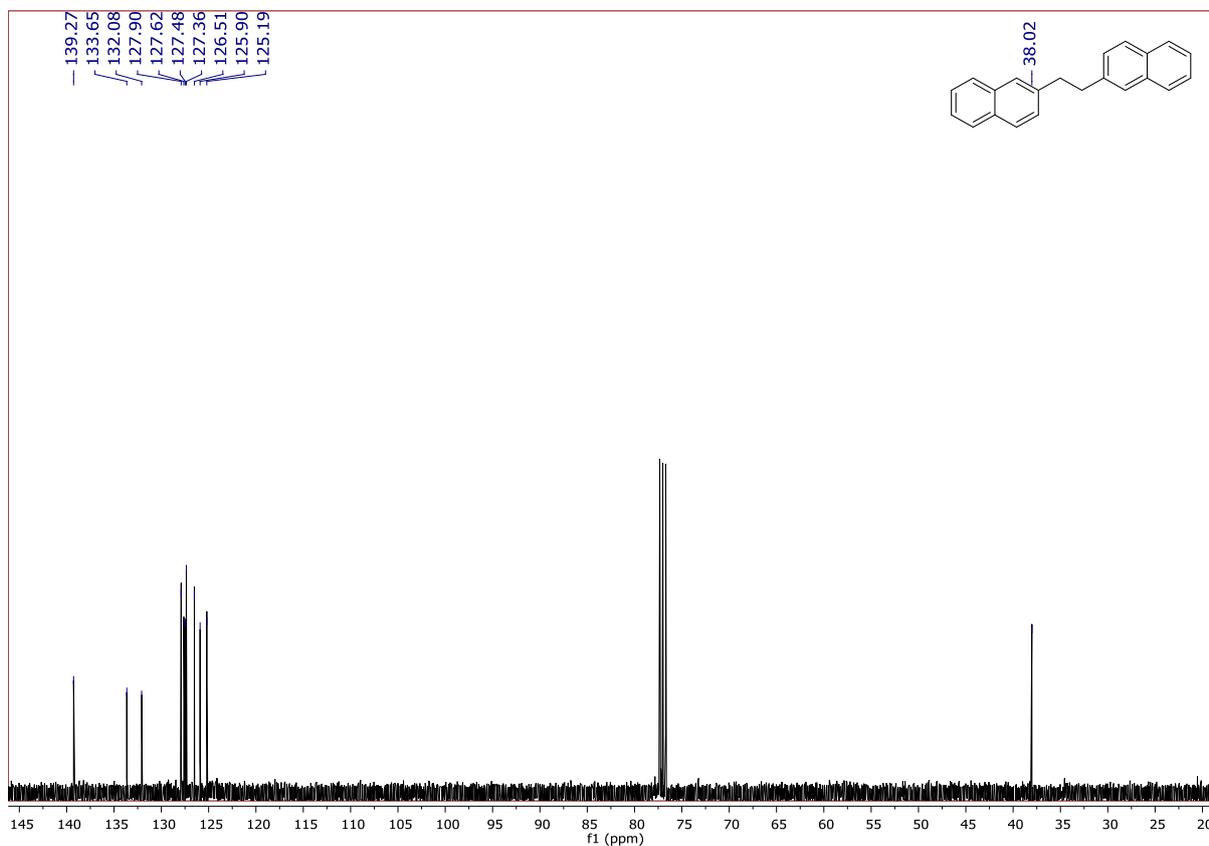
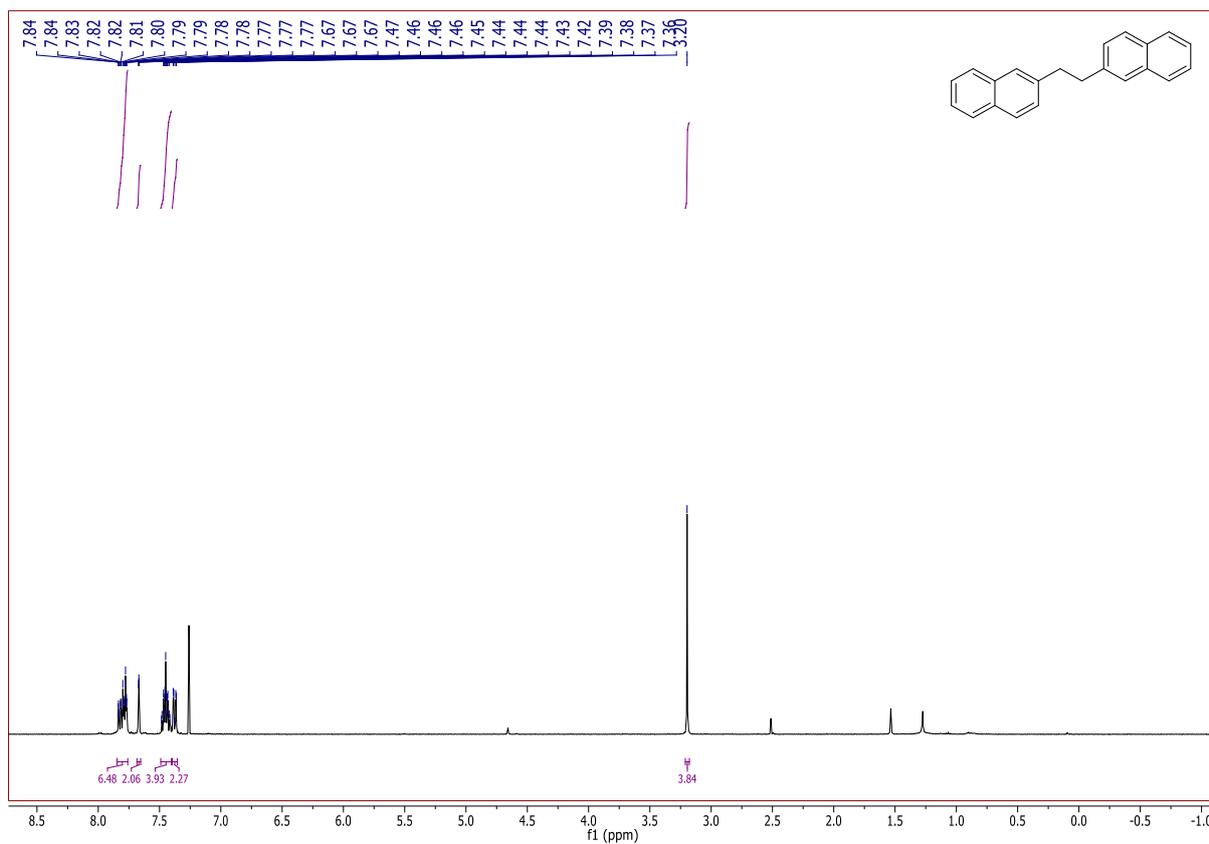




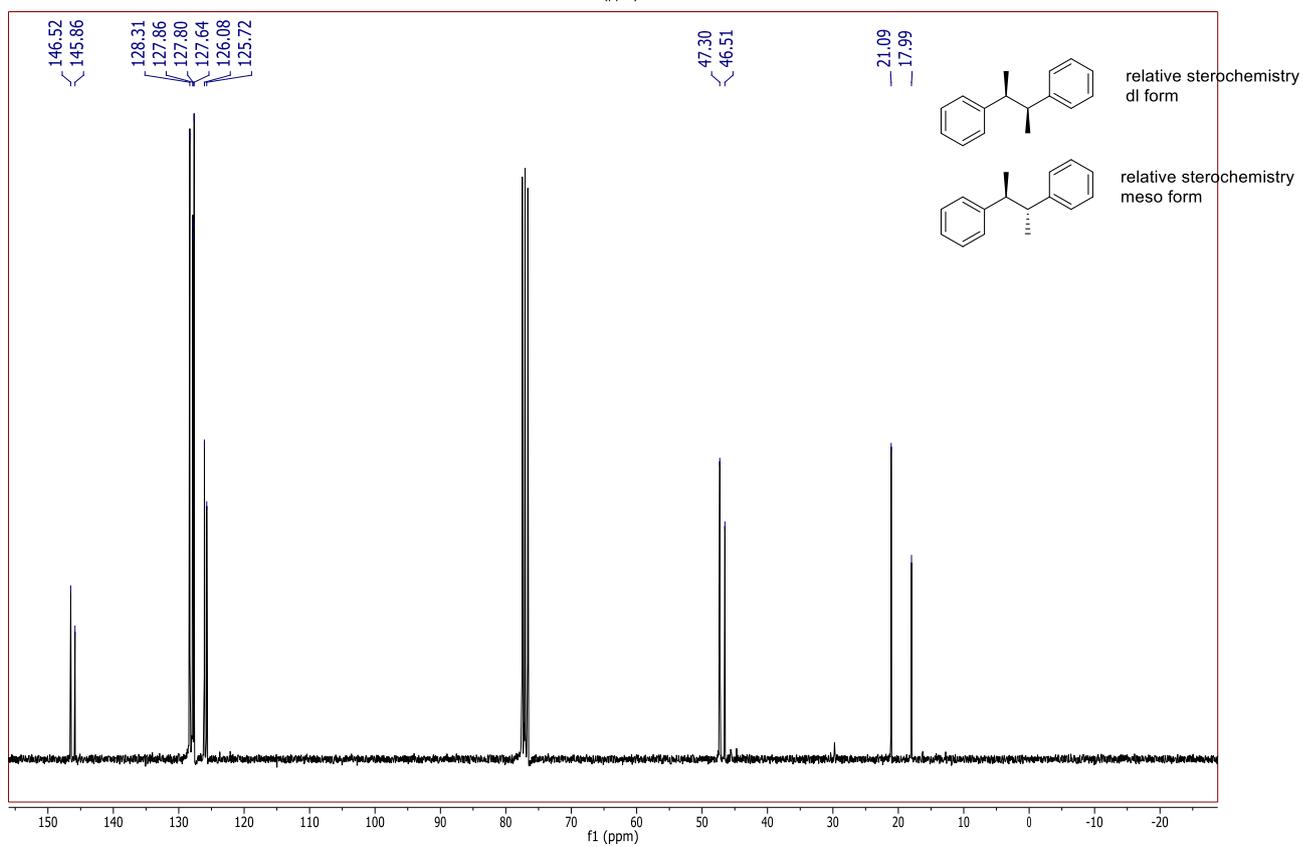
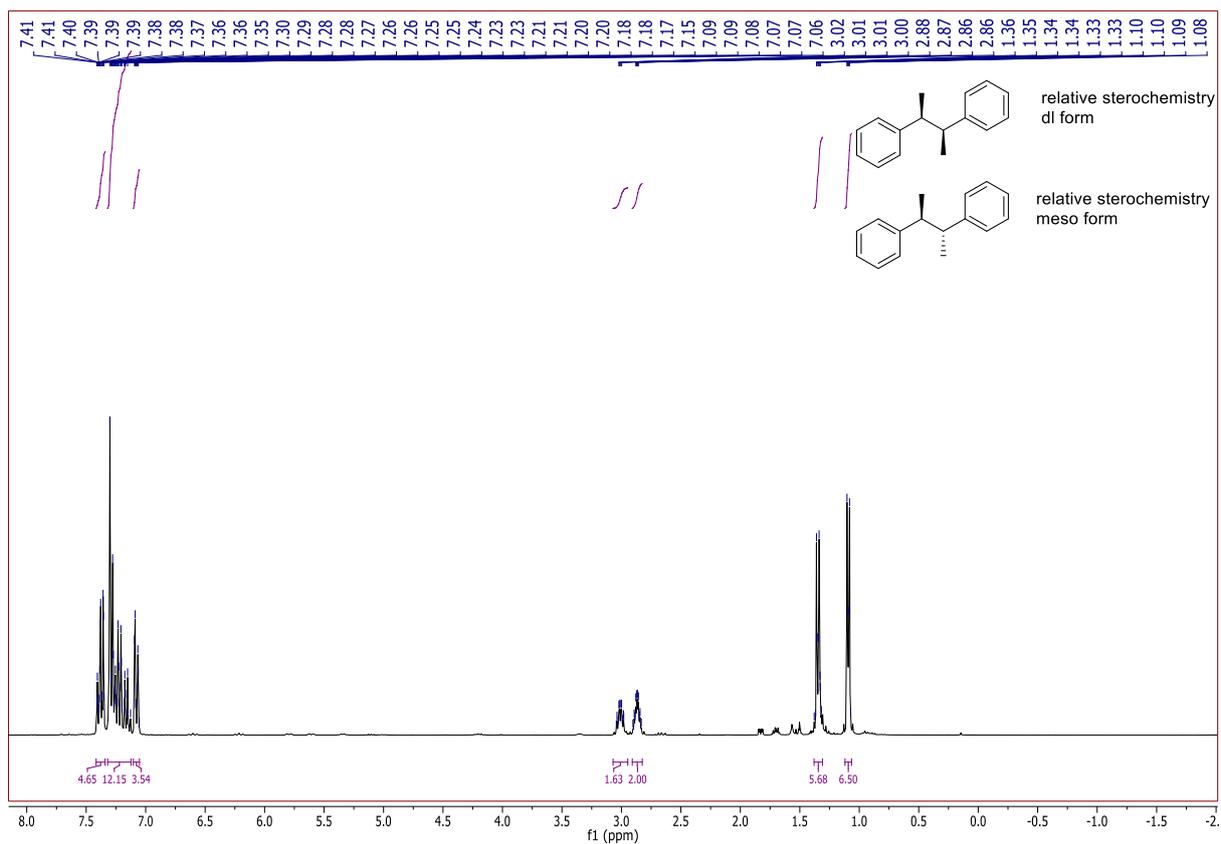
### 1,2-Bis(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)ethane (2o)



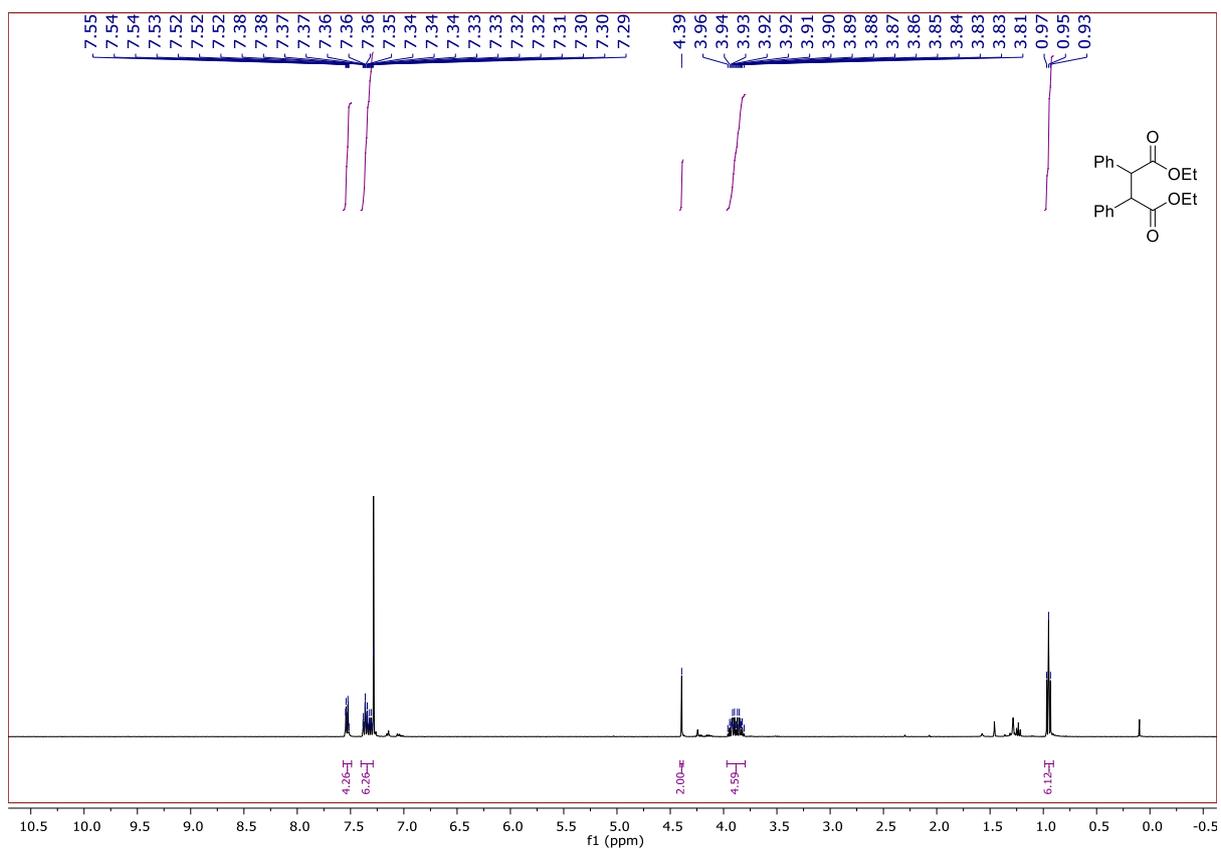
### 1,2-di(naphthalen-2-yl)ethane (2p)



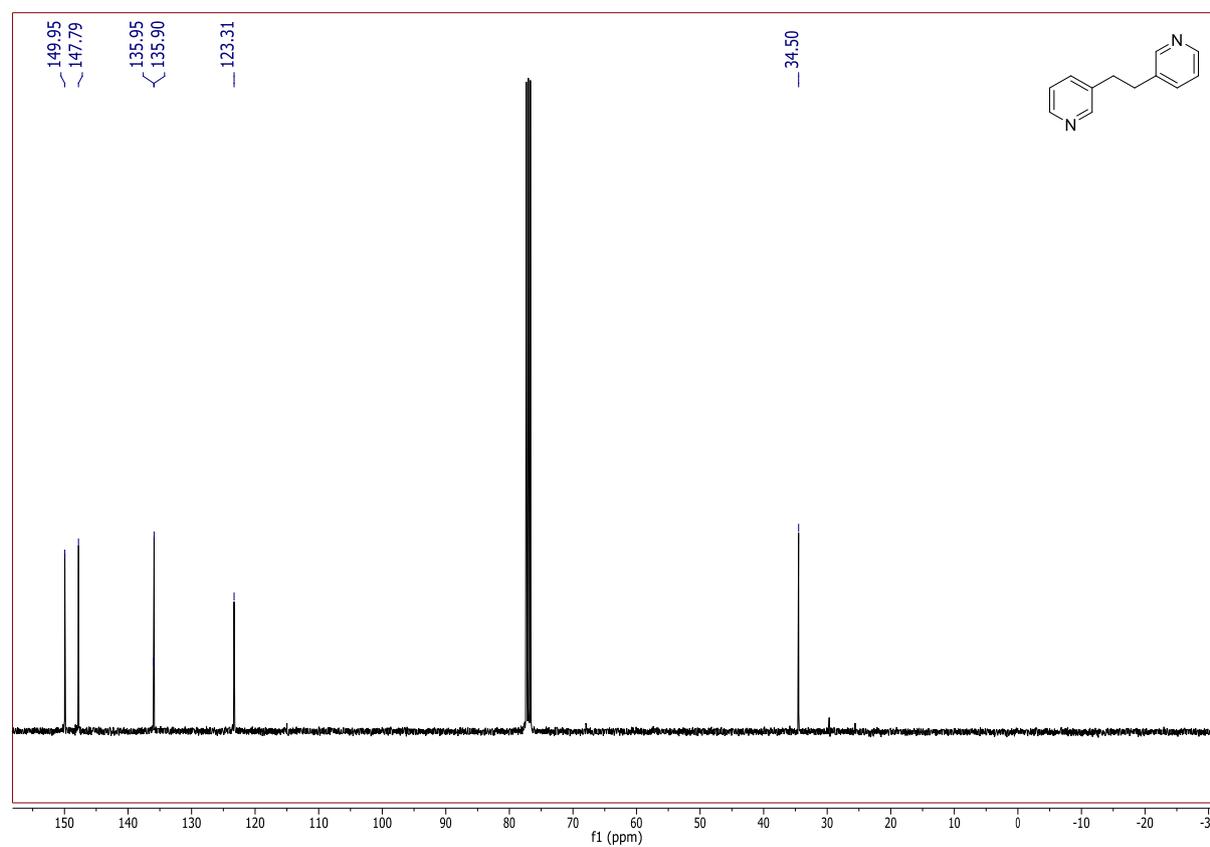
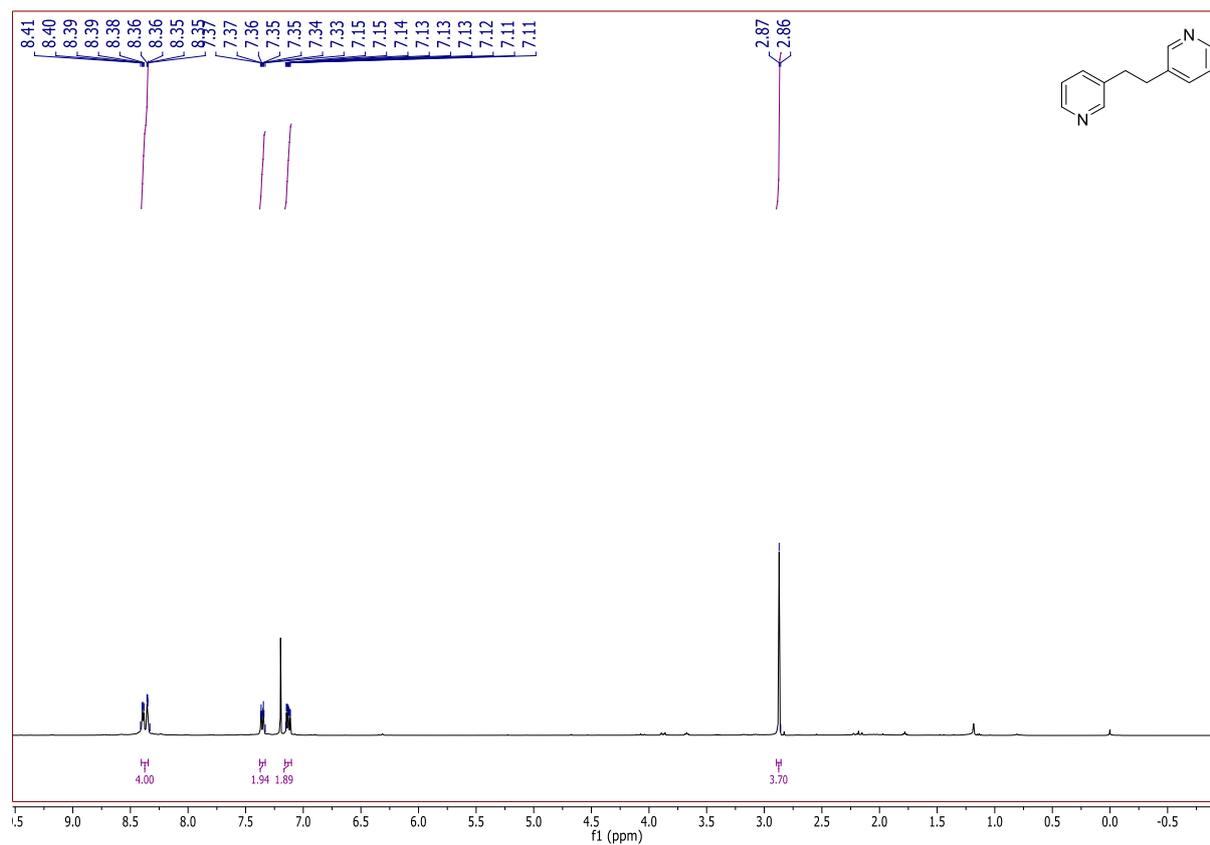
### butane-2,3-diylidibenzene (2q)



# Diethyl 2,3-diphenylsuccinate (2r)



### 1,2-di(pyridin-3-yl)ethane (2s)



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