

Supporting information for

Palladium-Catalyzed Paraformaldehyde Insertion: A Three-Component Synthesis of Benzofurans

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General information:

All experiments were carried out under an atmosphere of air. Flash column chromatography was performed over silica gel 48-75 μm . ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker-AV (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) instrument internally referenced to SiMe_4 or chloroform signals. MS analyses were performed on an Agilent 5975 GC-MS instrument (EI). The new compounds were characterized by ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, MS and HRMS. The structures of known compounds were further corroborated by comparing their ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR data and MS data with those of literature. The substrates **1c**, **1d**, **1m**, **2j** were synthesized following the literature procedures. All other chemicals and solvents were used as received from commercial sources without further purification.

General Procedure for the preparation of substrates (1c, 1d, 1m, 2j):Substrate **1c**^[1]:

Bromine (11.6 mL, 0.23 mol) was added slowly to a cooled 0 °C of 4-ethylphenol (25 g, 0.21 mol) dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (125 mL). After the addition was complete the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 minutes and then quenched with 1 M NaOH. The reaction mixture was diluted with H_2O and the layers separated. The organic layer was concentrated to an orange oil. Purification by flash column chromatography (0 percent to 5% ethyl acetate in petroleum ether) gave the title compound **1c** as a clear oil.

Substrate **1d**^[2]:

To a solution of 4-propylphenol (20 mmol) in chloroform (20 mL), NaHCO_3 (2 g, 24 mmol) was added. The resulting suspension was cooled to 0 °C. While a solution of elementary bromine (1.12 mL, 22 mmol) in chloroform (8 mL) was slowly added, the suspension was vigorously stirred. After completion of the reaction, monitored by TLC the suspension was filtered. The filter with the solid residue was rinsed once with 50 mL of chloroform. The combined organic solution was evaporated under reduced pressure. The final work up of **1d** was done either by distillation or by column chromatography (petroleum ether: ethyl acetate = 9:1).

Substrate **1m**^[3]:

To a solution of 3,4-dimethylphenol (2.48 g, 20.3 mmol, 1 equiv) in dichloromethane (200 mL) at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ was added dropwise bromine (1.05 mL, 20.3 mmol, 1 equiv). After 1 h, 1 M Na_2SO_3 was added and the cold bath was removed. After warming to ambient temperature, the dichloromethane layer was separated, dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo to provide **1m** as a yellow solid.

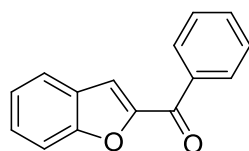
Substrate **2j**^[4]:

2-Acetylthiophene (6 g, 47.6 mmol) was dissolved in chloroform (60 mL) and added to a slurry of CuBr_2 (13.5 g, 60.4 mmol) in ethyl acetate (120 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 6 h and then filtered while still hot through a celite pad. The filtrate cake was washed with ethyl acetate and the combined filtrate was evaporated to give **2j**.

General procedure for preparation of **3a**:

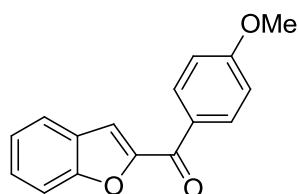
A 10 mL oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with $\text{Pd}(\text{COD})\text{Cl}_2$ (2.9 mg, 0.01 mmol), diphenyl-2-pyridylphosphine (dpppy, 5.3 mg, 0.02 mmol), K_2CO_3 (83.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 23 μL , 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DMSO (0.8 mL). The resulting solution was sealed under air and stirred at $140\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (neutral aluminum oxide, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3a** as white solid; yield: 36.0 mg (81%).

Benzofuran-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (3a, CAS: 6272-40-8)^[5]



^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.06-8.04 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 184.4, 156.0, 152.3, 137.3, 132.9, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 127.0, 124.0, 123.3, 116.5, 112.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 222 (100), 194, 145, 105, 77.

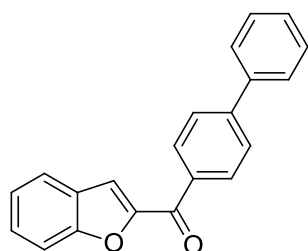
Benzofuran-2-yl(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (3b, CAS: 63157-19-7)^[6]



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethanone (**2b**, 68.7 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3b** as white solid; yield 64%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 182.2, 163.7, 155.9, 153.4, 132.0, 130.1, 127.8, 127.1, 123.9, 123.1, 114.8, 114.0, 112.5, 55.5; MS (EI) m/z (%) 252, 221, 135 (100), 107, 77.

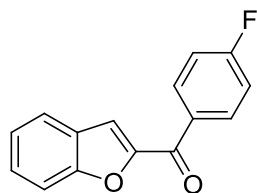
[1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl(benzofuran-2-yl)methanone (3c, CAS: 82158-42-7)^[7]



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-bromoethanone (**2c**, 82.5 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3c** as white solid; yield 81%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.78-7.74 (m, 3H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 183.8, 156.0, 152.5, 145.7, 139.9, 135.9, 130.1, 129.0, 128.3, 128.3, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 124.0, 123.3, 116.2, 112.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 298, 221, 181 (100), 152, 77.

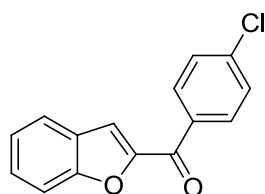
Benzofuran-2-yl(4-fluorophenyl)methanone (3d, CAS: 27044-77-5)^[6]



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone (**2d**, 65.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3d** as white solid; yield 46%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.14 (dd, $J_1 = 8.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 182.5, 165.5 (d, $J = 253.3$ Hz), 155.8, 151.9, 133.2 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 132.0 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz), 128.3, 126.7, 123.9, 123.2, 116.2, 115.6 ($J = 21.8$ Hz), 112.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 240, 145, 123 (100), 95, 89.

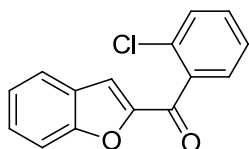
Benzofuran-2-yl(4-chlorophenyl)methanone (3e, CAS: 27052-20-6)^[5]



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethanone (**2e**, 70.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3e** as white solid; yield 40%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.04 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.75-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.35 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 182.9, 156.0, 152.0, 139.4, 135.4, 130.9, 128.9, 128.5, 126.9, 124.1, 123.3, 116.5, 112.5; MS (EI) m/z (%) 256, 221, 139 (100), 89, 75.

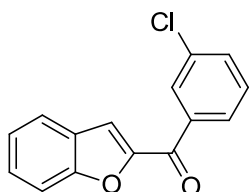
Benzofuran-2-yl(2-chlorophenyl)methanone (3f)^[5]



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(2-chlorophenyl)ethanone (**2f**, 70.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3f** as yellow liquid; yield 40%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 7.79 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 183.8, 156.4, 151.9, 137.4, 131.8, 131.7, 130.3, 129.3, 128.9, 127.0, 126.6, 124.1, 123.5, 117.7, 112.7; MS (EI) m/z (%) 256, 221, 145 (100), 111, 75.

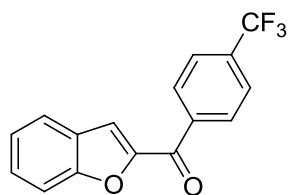
Benzofuran-2-yl(3-chlorophenyl)methanone (**3g**)



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(3-chlorophenyl)ethanone (**2g**, 70.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3g** as white solid; yield 41%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.36 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 182.8, 156.1, 151.9, 138.7, 134.8, 132.8, 129.9, 129.4, 128.7, 127.6, 126.8, 124.1, 123.4, 116.8, 112.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 256, 221, 145 (100), 89, 75; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ = 257.0369$, found = 257.0365.

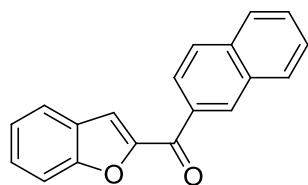
Benzofuran-2-yl(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone (**3h**, CAS: 512171-87-8)^[81]



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethanone (**2h**, 80.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3h** as white solid; yield 60%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.16 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 183.1, 156.2, 151.9, 140.1, 134.2 (q, $J = 32.6$), 129.8, 128.9, 126.9, 125.6 (q, $J = 3.6$), 125.0, 124.2, 123.4, 117.0, 112.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 290, 221, 145 (100), 105, 89.

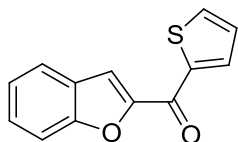
Benzofuran-2-yl(naphthalen-2-yl)methanone (**3i**)



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)ethanone (**2i**, 74.7 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3i** as white solid; yield 45%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.10-8.08 (m, 1H), 8.02-7.92 (m, 3H), 7.77-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.70-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.52 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 184.2, 156.0, 152.5, 135.5, 134.5, 132.4, 131.1, 129.5, 128.5, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 127.0, 126.9, 125.2, 124.0, 123.3, 116.4, 112.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 272 (100), 244, 155, 127, 77; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ = 273.0916$, found = 273.0912.

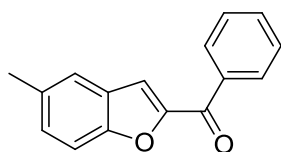
Benzofuran-2-yl(thiophen-2-yl)methanone (**3j**)^[9]



The reaction was conducted with methyl 2-bromophenol (**1a**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethanone (**2j**, 61.5 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3j** as brown solid; yield 52%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.34-8.33 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.73 (m, 3H), 7.66-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.51 (q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 175.0, 155.8, 152.6, 142.3, 134.6, 134.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.0, 124.0, 123.3, 114.6, 112.4; MS (EI) m/z (%) 228, 200, 145, 111 (100), 89.

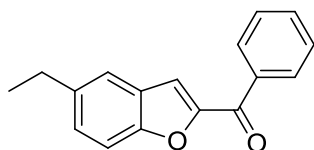
(5-Methylbenzofuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3k**, CAS: 101277-97-8)^[10]



The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-4-methylphenol (**1b**, 37.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3k** as white solid; yield 51%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.05-8.03 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 184.4, 154.6, 152.4, 137.3, 133.6, 132.8, 120.0, 129.4, 128.5, 127.1, 122.7, 116.3, 112.1, 21.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 236, 207 (100), 159, 105, 77.

(5-Ethylbenzofuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3l**)

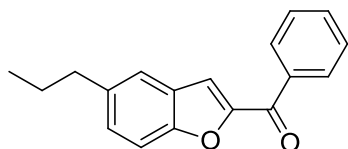


The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-4-ethylphenol (**1c**, 40.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol).

The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3l** as yellow liquid; yield 62%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 1H), 2.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.31-1.28 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 184.4, 154.7, 152.4, 140.2, 137.3, 132.8, 129.4, 129.0, 128.5, 127.1, 121.5, 116.5, 112.2, 28.7, 16.3; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 250, 235 (100), 207, 105, 77; HRMS calcd. for: C₁₇H₁₅O₂ [M+H]⁺ = 251.1072, found = 251.1069.

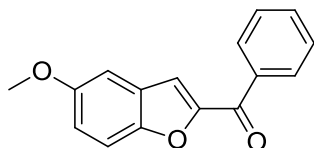
Phenyl(5-propylbenzofuran-2-yl)methanone (**3m**)



The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-4-propylphenol (**1d**, 43.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3m** as yellow liquid; yield 77%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 1H), 2.70 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.73-1.64 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 184.4, 154.7, 152.4, 142.5, 137.3, 132.8, 129.5, 129.4, 128.5, 127.0, 122.2, 116.4, 112.1, 37.8, 24.9, 13.7; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 264, 235 (100), 207, 105, 77; HRMS calcd. for: C₁₈H₁₇O₂ [M+H]⁺ = 265.1229, found = 265.1218.

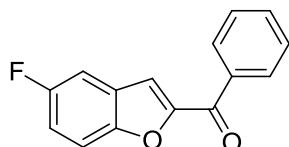
(5-Methoxybenzofuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3n**, 383159-30-6)^[11]



The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-4-methoxyphenol (**1e**, 40.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3n** as white solid; yield 60%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.05 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.11 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 184.2, 156.7, 153.0, 151.2, 137.3, 132.8, 129.5, 128.5, 127.5, 118.5, 116.4, 113.2, 104.0, 55.9; MS (EI) m/z (%) 252 (100), 207, 175, 105, 77.

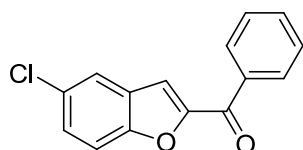
(5-Fluorobenzofuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3o)



The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-4-fluorophenol (**1f**, 38.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3o** as white solid; yield 78%.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.05 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 184.1, 159.6 (d, $J = 239.6$ Hz), 153.8, 152.3, 137.0, 133.1, 129.5, 128.6, 116.7 (d, $J = 26.7$ Hz), 116.1, 116.0, 113.6 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz), 108.2 (d, $J = 24.8$ Hz); MS (EI) m/z (%) 240, 223, 163, 105 (100), 77; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{FO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ = 241.0665$, found = 241.0659.

(5-Chlorobenzofuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3p, CAS: 100914-68-9)^[5]

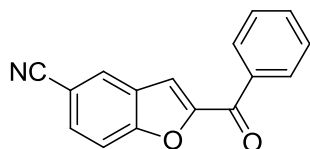


The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-4-chlorophenol (**1g**, 41.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3p** as white solid; yield 68%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.05-8.04 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 184.1, 154.2, 153.3,

136.8, 133.1, 129.6, 129.4, 128.6, 128.6, 128.2, 122.6, 115.4, 113.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 256, 221, 179, 105 (100), 77.

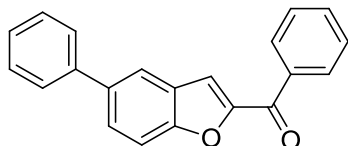
2-Benzoylbenzofuran-5-carbonitrile (**3q**)



The reaction was conducted with 3-bromo-4-hydroxybenzonitrile (**1h**, 39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **3q** as white solid; yield 42%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (s, 2H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 183.7, 157.1, 154.0, 136.5, 133.5, 131.1, 129.5, 128.7, 128.5, 127.6, 118.6, 115.0, 113.9, 108.3; MS (EI) m/z (%) 247, 230, 190, 105 (100), 77; HRMS calcd. for: C₁₆H₁₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺ = 248.0712, found = 248.0710.

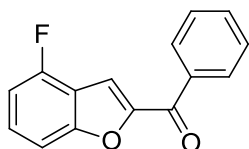
Phenyl(5-phenylbenzofuran-2-yl)methanone (**3r**, CAS: 102183-99-3)



The reaction was conducted with 3-bromo-(1,1'-biphenyl)-4-ol (**1i**, 49.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3r** as white solid; yield 70%.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 184.3, 155.5, 152.8, 140.8, 137.7, 137.1, 132.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 121.4, 116.6, 112.7; MS (EI) m/z (%) 298 (100), 221, 165, 105, 77.

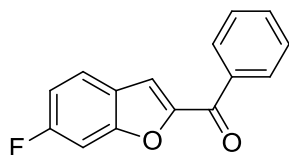
(4-Fluorobenzofuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3s**)



The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-3-fluorophenol (**1j**, 38.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3s** as white solid; yield 58%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.05 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.68-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 183.9, 157.0 (d, $J = 252.6$ Hz), 152.0, 136.8, 133.1, 129.4, 129.0 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz), 128.6, 116.8, (d, $J = 21.9$ Hz), 112.3, 109.1 (d, $J = 18.4$ Hz), 108.7, 108.6; MS (EI) m/z (%) 240, 223, 163, 105 (100), 77; $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{FO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ = 241.0665$, found = 241.0659.

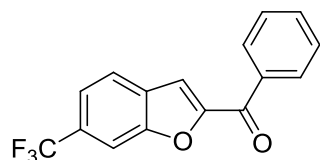
(6-Fluorobenzofuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3t**)



The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-5-fluorophenol (**1k**, 38.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3t** as white solid; yield 66%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.05-8.03 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.35 (s, 1H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 183.9, 163.2 (d, $J = 246.7$ Hz), 137.1, 133.0, 129.4, 128.6, 128.6, 124.1 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz), 123.4, 116.3, 116.2, 113.2 (d, $J = 24.6$ Hz), 100.0 (d, $J = 26.5$ Hz); MS (EI) m/z (%) 240, 223, 163, 105 (100), 77; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{FO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ = 241.0665$, found = 241.0660.

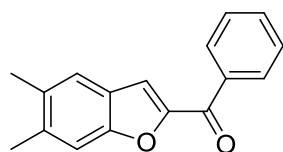
Phenyl(6-(trifluoromethyl)benzofuran-2-yl)methanone (**3u**)



The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenol (**1l**, 48.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3u** as white solid; yield 50%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.08 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.87-7.85 (m, 1H), 7.69-7.65 (s, 1H), 7.61-7.54 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 183.9, 154.8, 154.5, 136.7, 135.1, 134.5, 133.4, 129.6, 128.7, 123.9, 122.6, 120.8 (q, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 115.1, 110.3 (q, $J = 4.1$ Hz); MS (EI) m/z (%) 290, 262, 213, 105 (100), 77.

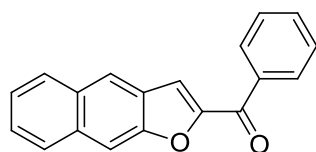
(5,6-Dimethylbenzofuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3v**)



The reaction was conducted with 2-bromo-4,5-dimethylphenol (**1m**, 40.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3v** as white solid; yield 68%.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.02 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.64-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 184.3, 155.4, 151.9, 138.6, 137.5, 133.0, 132.6, 129.4, 128.4, 125.0, 122.9, 116.6, 112.7, 20.9, 20.0; MS (EI) m/z (%) 250 (100), 235, 173, 105, 77; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ = 251.1072$, found = 251.1068.

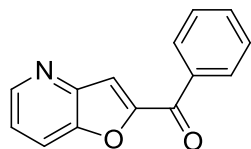
Naphtho[2,3-b]furan-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (**3w**, CAS: 82158-50-7)



The reaction was conducted with 3-bromonaphthalen-2-ol (**1n**, 44.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **3w** as yellow liquid; yield 52%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (s, 2H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.54(m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 183.8, 154.5, 151.9, 137.4, 132.7, 130.5, 130.1, 129.4, 129.1, 128.5, 128.2, 127.4, 125.5, 123.3, 122.9, 115.5, 112.8; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 272 (100), 195, 139, 105, 77; HRMS calcd. for: C₁₉H₁₃O₂ [M+H]⁺ = 273.0916, found = 273.0910.

Furo[3,2-b]pyridin-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (**3x**)^[12]



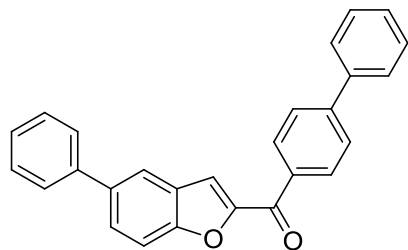
The reaction was conducted with 2-chloropyridin-3-ol (**1o**, 25.9 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-bromo-1-phenylethanone (**2a**, 60 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to give **3x** as white solid; yield 32%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 8.72-8.71 (m, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 184.1, 154.4, 149.4, 147.9, 146.2, 136.6, 133.4, 129.5, 128.7, 122.3, 119.8, 116.5; MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 223, 207, 146, 105 (100), 77.

When 2-bromopyridin-3-ol (**1p**, 34.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used, the reaction yield for **3x** is 70%.

When 2-iodopyridin-3-ol (**1q**, 44.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used, the reaction yield for **3x** is 72%.

[1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl(5-phenylbenzofuran-2-yl)methanone (**3y**, 1370015-91-0)^[13]



The reaction was conducted with 3-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ol (**1i**, 49.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), paraformaldehyde (15.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-bromoethanone (**2c**, 82.5 mg, 0.3 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give **3y** as white solid; yield 65%.

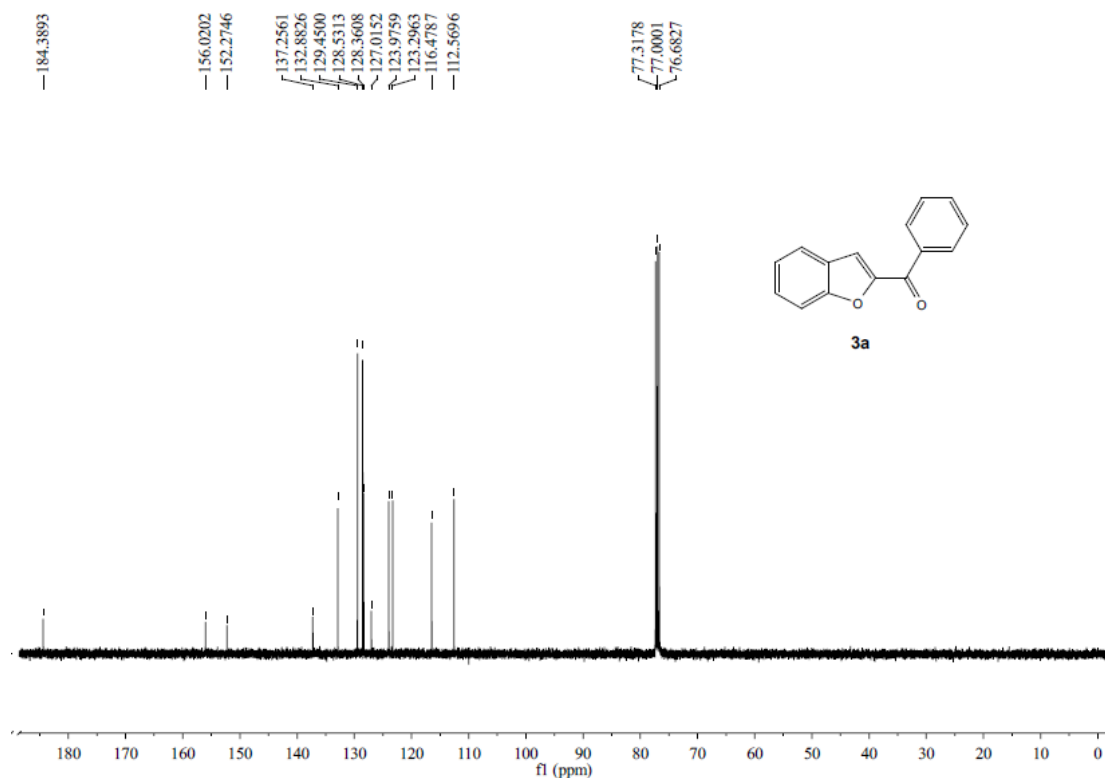
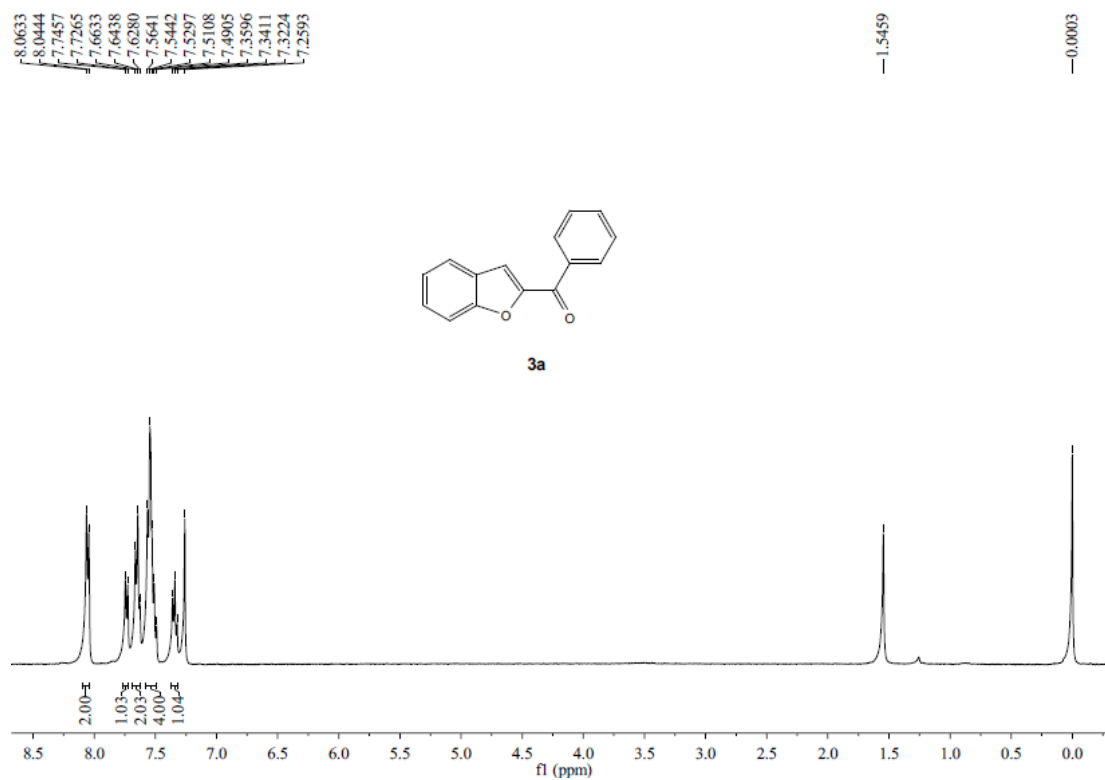
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 8.18 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.79-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.74-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.69-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.52-7.36 (m, 7H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 183.7, 155.5, 153.0, 145.8, 140.8, 139.8, 137.8, 135.8, 130.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3, 128.2, 127.6, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 121.5, 116.4, 112.7; HRMS calcd. for: $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ = 375.1385, found = 375.1378.

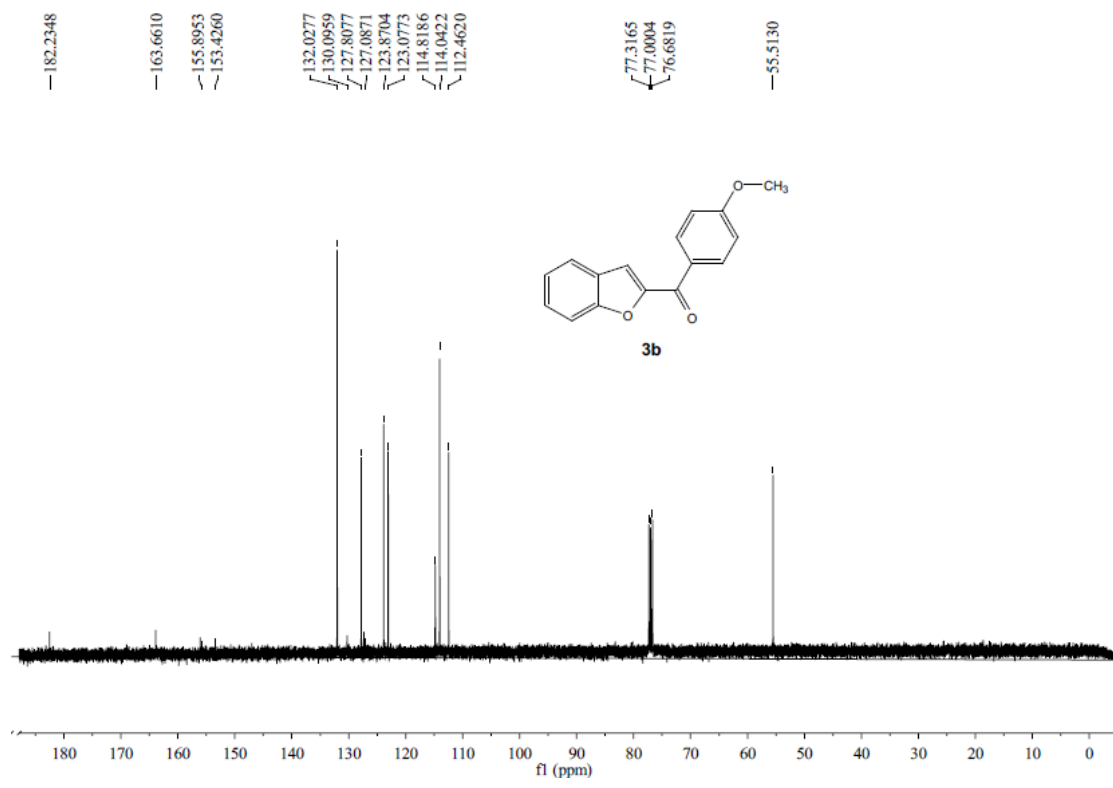
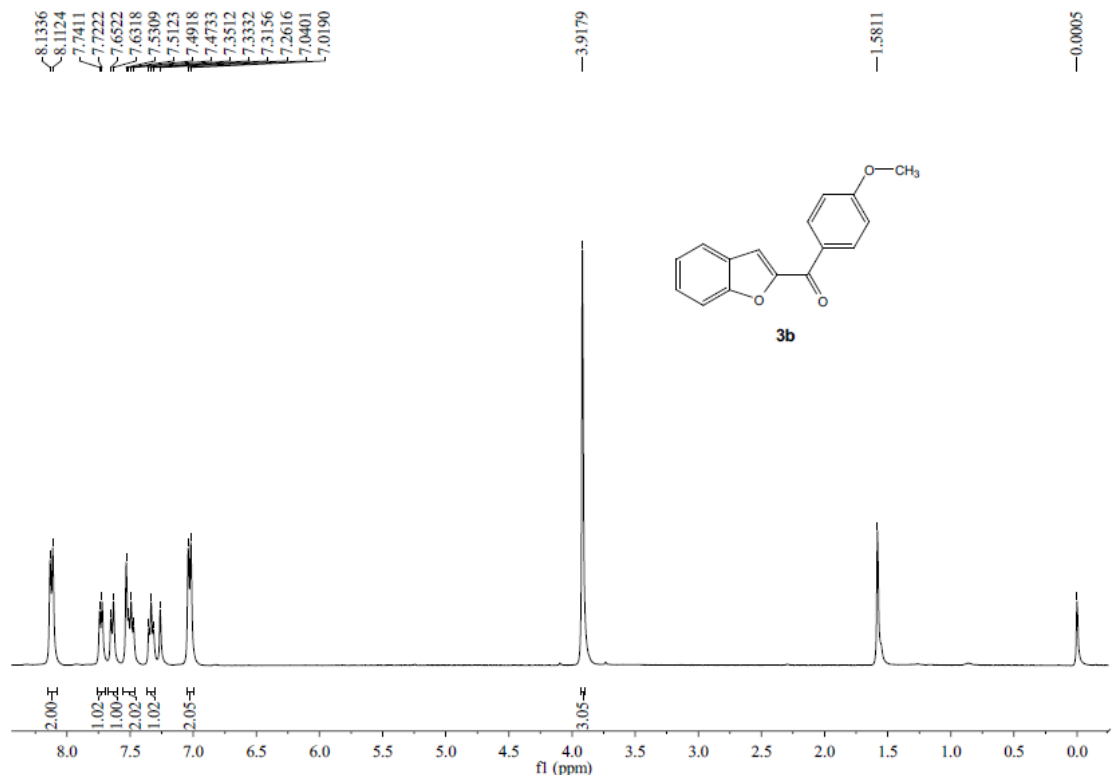
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¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra for all products

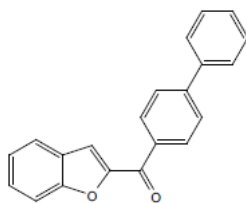




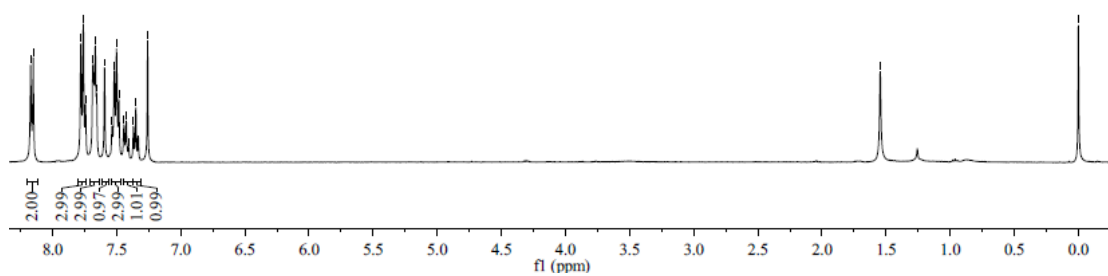
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3c



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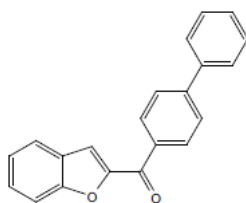
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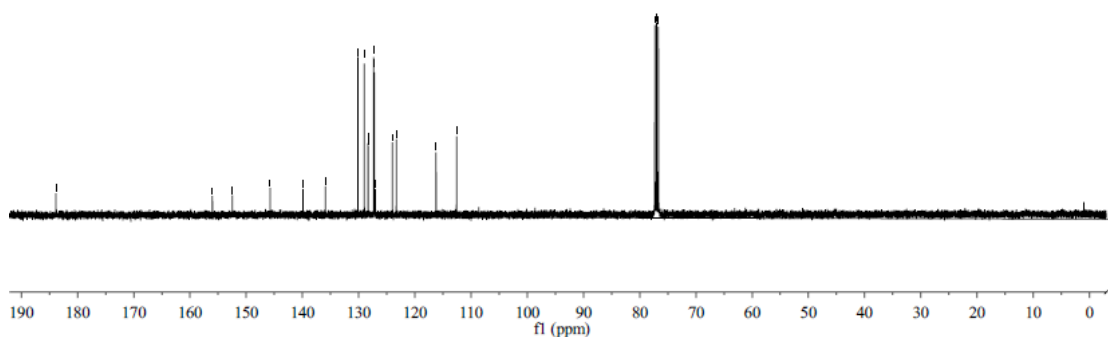
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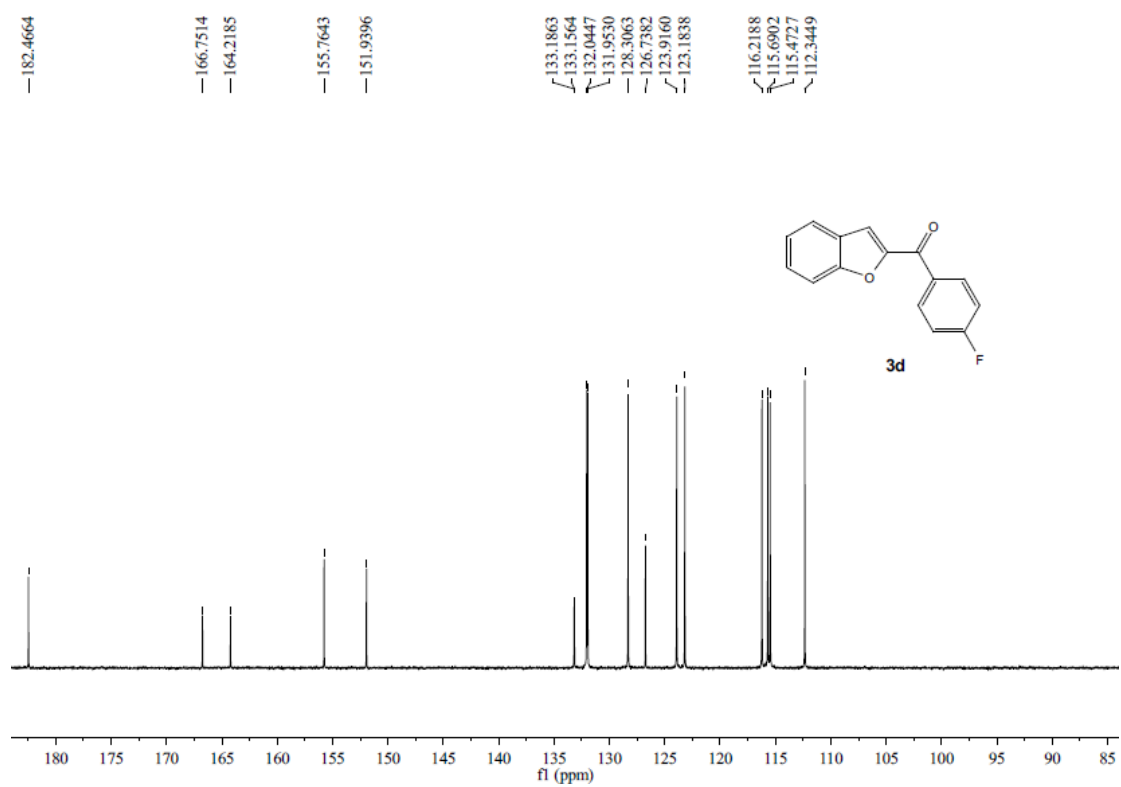
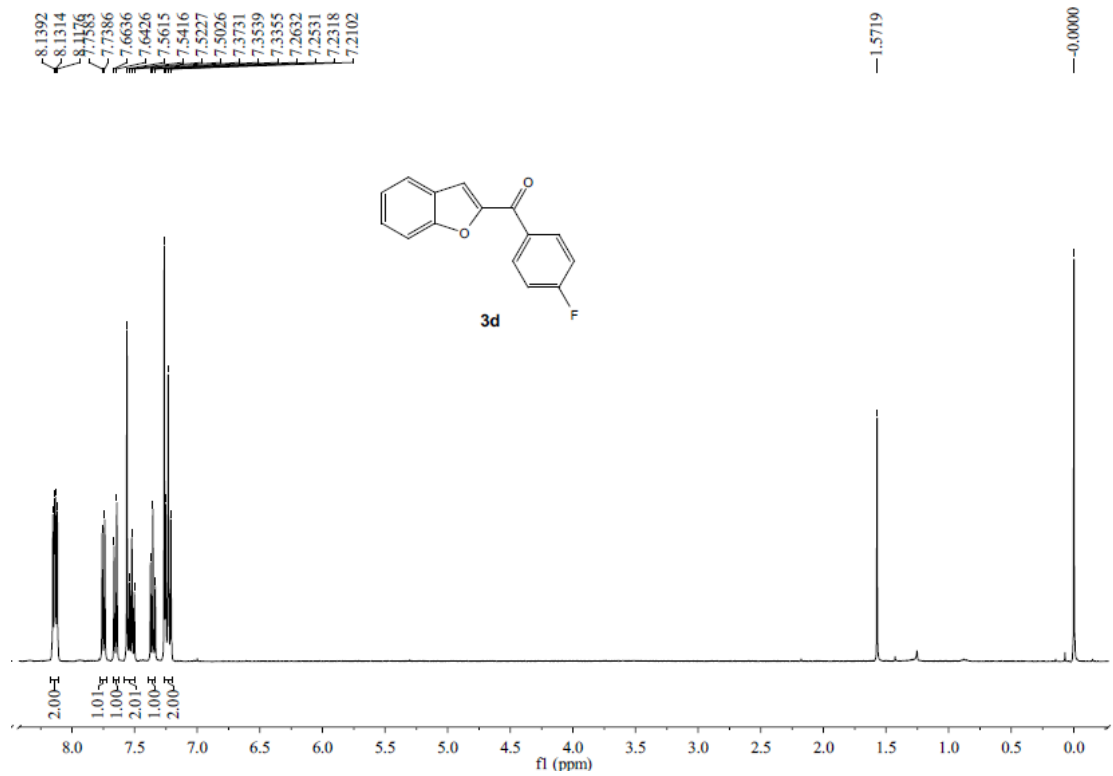
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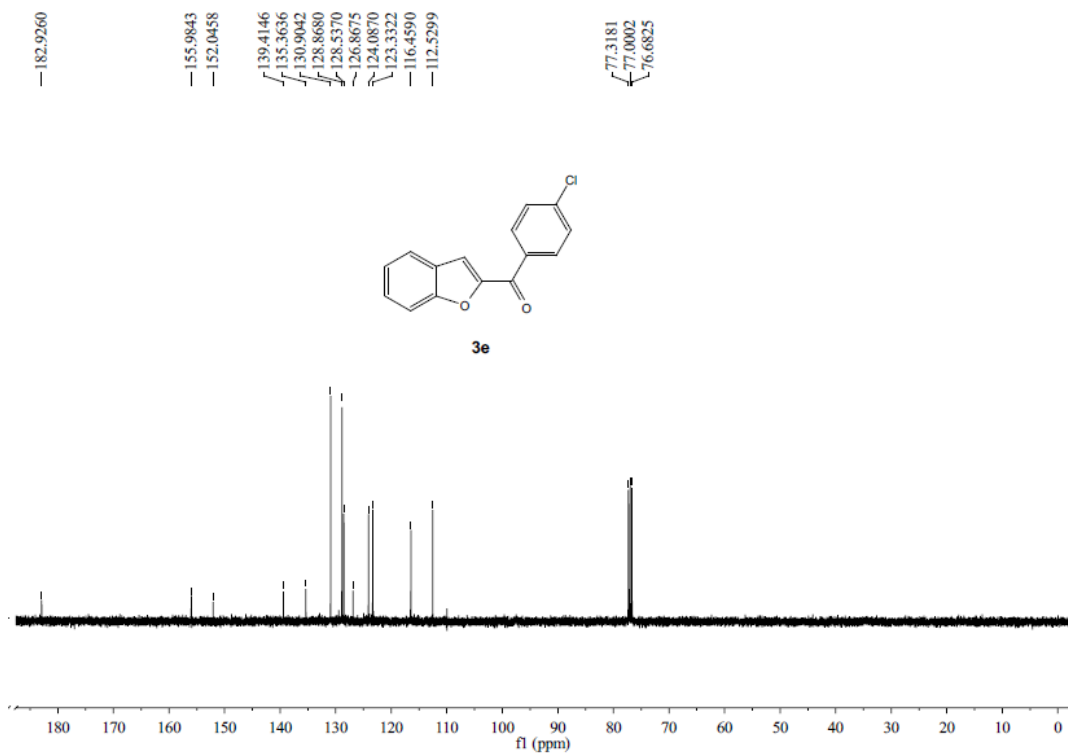
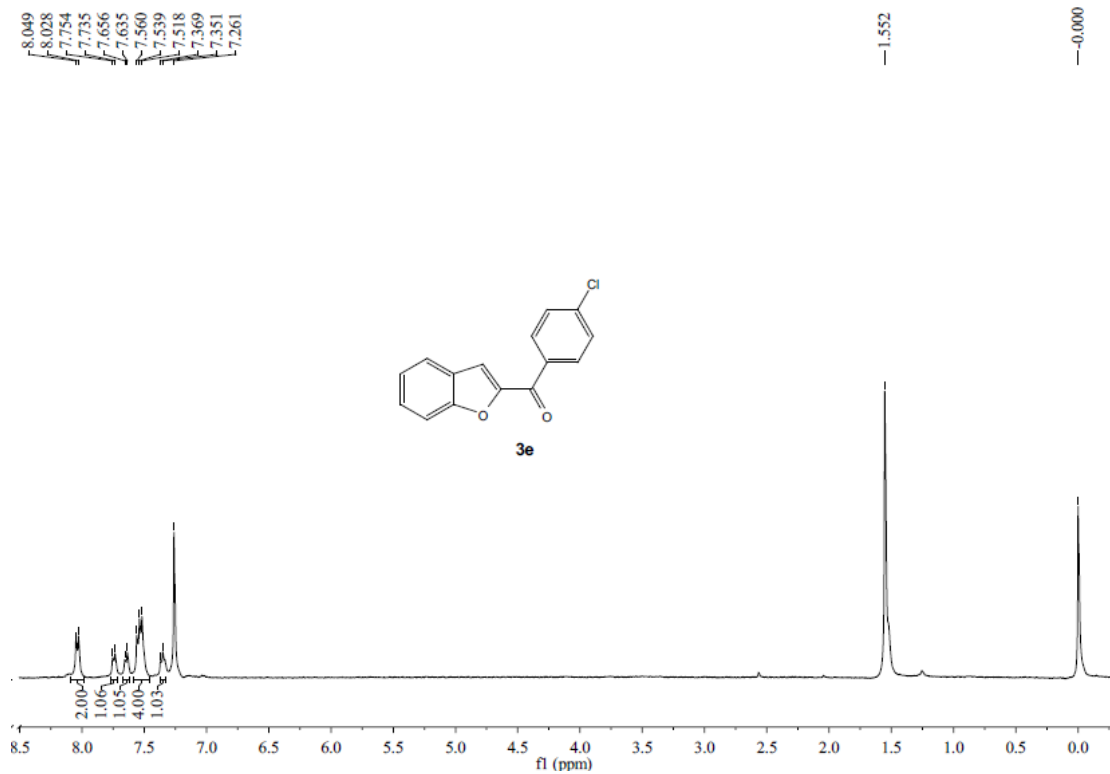
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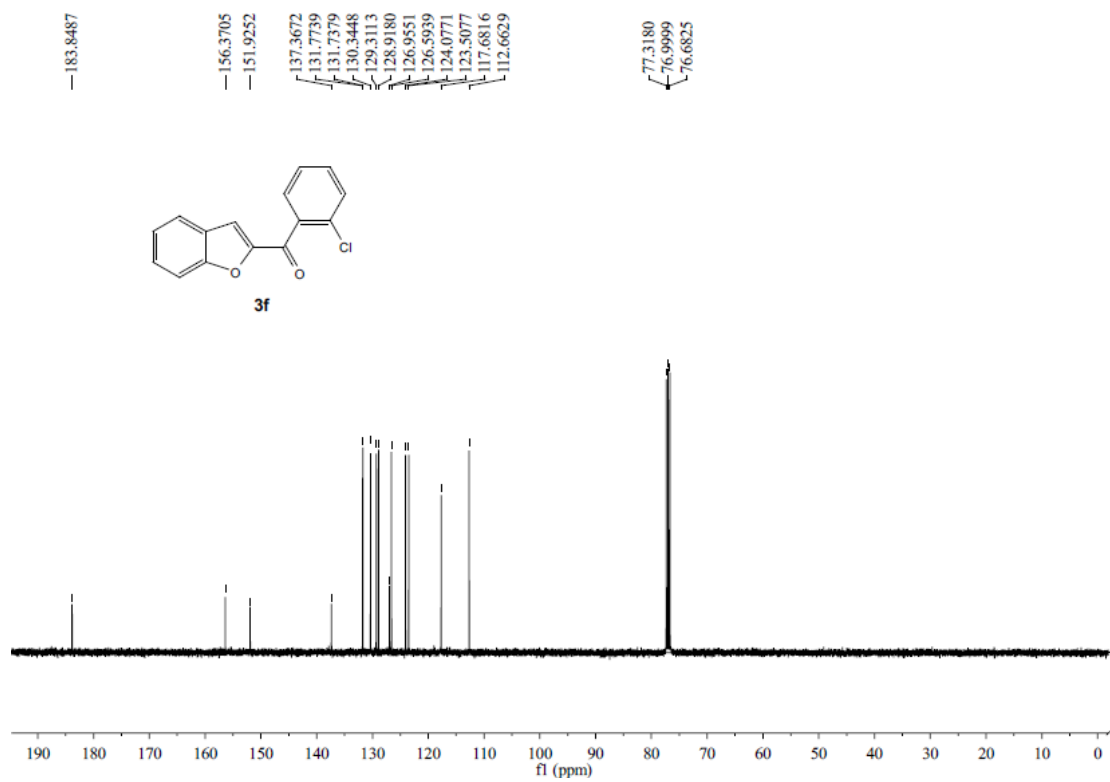
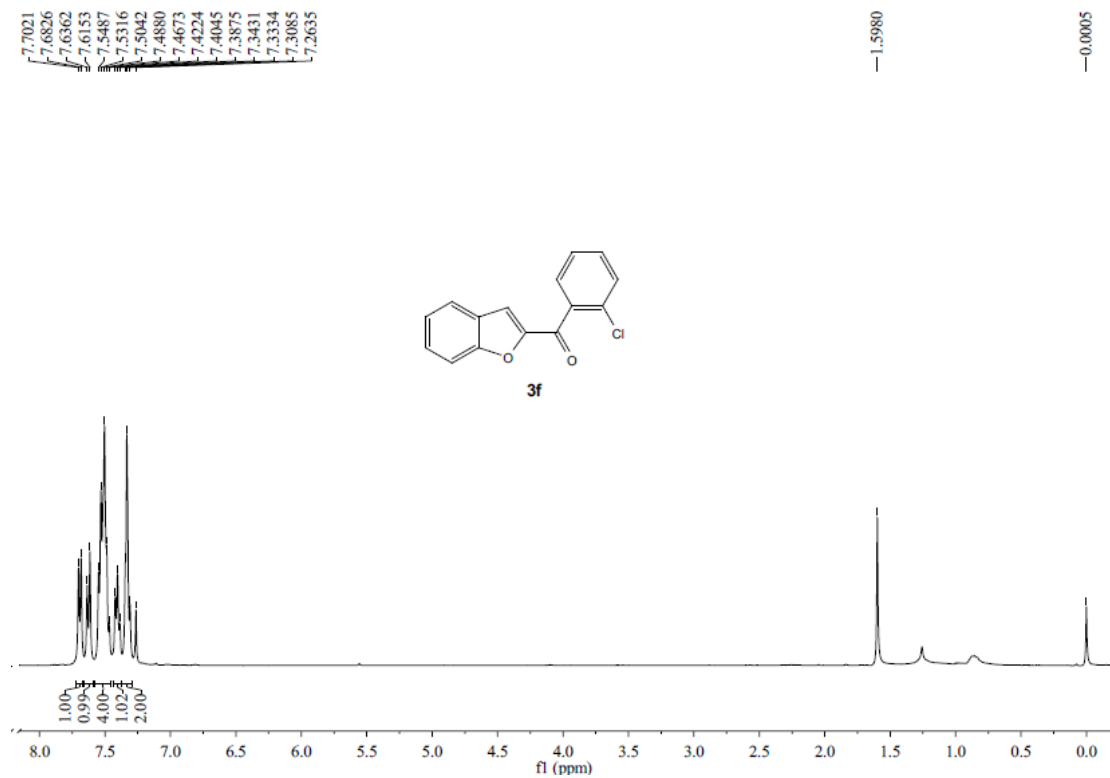


3c





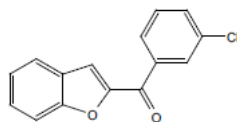




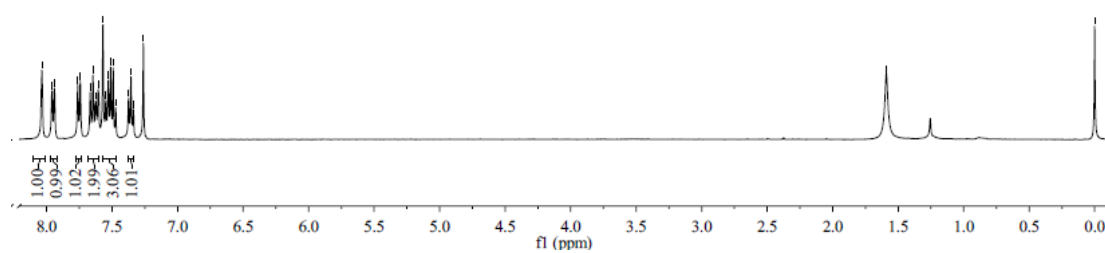
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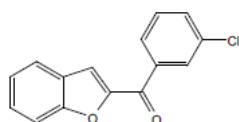
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